

Protecting biodiversity

Bell recognizes that the first step to protecting the environment and at-risk species is to be vigilant when deploying and maintaining our network. Accordingly, we conduct environmental assessments for our network projects and apply mitigation measures to minimize potential impact on natural habitats and to obtain regulatory approvals, especially when working in sensitive areas. Bell strictly adheres to all conditions when regulatory approvals are required.

We have developed an internal program for evaluating and minimizing the impact that network projects may have on the environment. The evaluation process is intended mainly for project managers and applies to all project steps, including planning, design, construction, maintenance, and decommissioning. For instance, we avoid the use of treated wood poles in sensitive areas, using cedar poles instead.

Bell also protects biodiversity through property landscaping management. We developed measures to minimize the use of products that have adverse effects on natural habitats and at-risk species.

Tree management

Biodiversity conservation is a primary way to protect the integrity of our waters, soils, and climate, and reducing the potential for resource scarcity is essential to our business continuity. We therefore make every effort to minimize tree trimming, cutting, and clearing during network deployment, while maintaining network integrity. In the interest of biodiversity protection, employees are educated through our tree management directive about when and how they can cut or prune trees and handle wood residues.

Did you know?

- Only 2% of our network projects have the potential to negatively impact plant, animal, or insect life.

Examples of how we manage these impacts:

- When birds nest in areas targeted for construction, we rearrange work schedules accordingly as much as reasonably possible
- When small animals chew through our cables, we use non-harmful mechanical and physical methods to discourage them
- When pests affect operations, we use mechanical, physical, and biological control methods before resorting to pesticides. We use higher-impact pesticides when reduced-risk pesticides have failed, and only with the evaluation by and permission from the Corporate responsibility and environment governance team



Pest management

The outdoor application of pesticides on the company's properties is another environmental concern that may present a risk to biodiversity and human health. However, the nature of our business sometimes requires that we control the proliferation of vegetation, so that it does not restrict access to telecommunication cables, for instance, and for safety. To address these issues, Bell's integrated pest management directive establishes a framework for indoor and outdoor pest control, in compliance with applicable legislation and best practices. Since the use of reduced-risk pesticides may also cause environmental impacts and pose risks to human health, Bell promotes the use of physical and mechanical methods, such as pruning and clearing, to control the spread. We permit the use of pesticides only once these other methods have proved to be unsuccessful.