

Powell River Regional District

TEXADA AIRPORT

Wildlife Management Plan

Submitted November 2008 by Mike Bolch

Texada Island Airport Wildlife Management Plan

Contents	Page
Distribution List.....	ii
1. Introduction	1
2. Identified Wildlife Habitats.....	1
3. Identified Wildlife	2
4. Wildlife Management.....	3
5. Wildlife Interaction Reporting	4
6. Plan Administration	4

Distribution List:

(Updates to this Wildlife Management Plan will be circulated to this list.)

Name and Title	Agency	Copies
Flight Service Station	Navigation Canada	1
President	KD Air Corporation	1
Accountable Executive	Powell River Regional District	1
Airport Manager	Powell River Regional District	1
Airport Caretaker	Powell River Regional District	1
Civil Aviation Inspector	Transport Canada	1

1. Introduction

- a) The Texada Island Airport is located on the west coast of Texada Island, approximately 6 km. northwest of Gillies Bay at a coordinate of N 49^o 41' 38.500" W 124^o 31' 03.950" with an elevation of 325.8 ft. Lands to the south, east and west are all privately owned large vacant and forested parcels. To the north is one of Texada Island's large quarrying operations.
- b) Appendix A is a 1:50,000 scale topographical Location Map.
- c) The airport is owned and operated by the Powell River Regional District and is open 24 hours a day with a full-time Airport Caretaker residing on site.
- d) The airport is primarily used by KD Air Corporation for scheduled passenger service seven days a week utilizing a PIPER 310 or 350 Navajo or CESSNA 172 SKYHAWK, depending on the number of scheduled passengers. The airport is also used by private local aircraft operators, the majority of whom are utilizing single engine, fixed/high wing aircraft. All aircraft using the Texada Island Airport average 3,000 movements of air traffic per year.
- e) The airport has a 75 ft. by 3,000 ft. paved runway with paved taxiway and apron and a parking area with cable tie-downs for approximately 20 planes. There is one terminal building which also doubles as the Airport Caretaker's residence and a number of hangers. There are no refueling facilities on the airstrip, no control tower and no runway lights. A windsock is the only navigational aid at the facility.
- f) There has never been a wildlife/aircraft interaction reported at the Texada Airport.

2. Identified Wildlife Habitats

- a) The ecology in and around the Texada Airport is limited to grass fields, forested areas (western red cedar and sitka spruce) and a small wetland area on the northeast side of the end of the runway.
- b) Appendix B is a 1:7,500 scale aerial photograph delineating primary wildlife habitats and vegetation communities.
- c) There is an active "Transfer Station" site approximately 7 kilometers to the southeast of the Texada Airport. The facility is owned and operated by the Powell River Regional District and is only used for the collection of scrap metal, white goods and tires. No household garbage, construction/demolition waste or land clearing debris is accepted.
- d) Cranby Lake lies approximately .3 km. to the east of the Texada Airport and the Strait of Georgia lies about .4 km. to the west.
- e) Appendix C is a 1:70,000 scale cadastral map depicting key hazardous land uses and potential wildlife attractants.

3. Identified Wildlife

- a) After consulting with the Airport Caretaker and local private operators, we have identified the following wildlife species as being in the area and posing some risk to the flying community:

Birds

Canada Goose	Sometimes forage airside on turf. Frequent fly-overs from April – September. Generally tends to be more active just before dusk and after dawn. Sometimes in moderate-sized flocks (e.g., 50).
Red-tailed Hawk	Low numbers flying over airport. Resting in tall trees. Scavenging near airport terminal and vicinity.
Eagle	Resting in near-by forest area. Feeding on small rodents.
Vulture	Resting in near-by forest area. Scavenging near airport terminal and vicinity.
Crow	Resting in tall trees. Scavenging near airport terminal and vicinity.

Raven	Regular fly-overs. Sometimes in moderate-sized flocks (e.g., 50). Resting in tall trees. Scavenging near airport terminal and vicinity.
Junco/Robin/Starlings/Swallows	Feeding in airport grass area.
Blue Heron	Low numbers flying over airport. Low slow flight across airfield. Low maneuverability.

Mammals

Texada Deer	Feeding on forbs and wetland plants, movement between forested areas.
Raccoon	Dwelling in near-by forest area.
Meadow Vole	Forages airside. Occasionally seen crossing runway.

Amphibians & Reptiles

Frog	Forages airside. Occasionally seen crossing runway.
Newt	Forages airside. Occasionally seen crossing runway.

- b) To the best of our knowledge and based on available information there is no endangered wildlife or plants on the airport lands.

4. Wildlife Management

- a) It shall be the practice of the Texada Airport to wherever reasonably, efficiently, effectively and humanely remove or restrict the movement of wildlife at the Texada Airport.
- b) The following deterrent activities shall be utilized for the minimization of wildlife movement at the Texada Airport:
 - i.* Chasing.
 - ii.* Habitat removal – ensure that any habitats that might attract wildlife on airport lands are kept to a minimum.
 - iii.* Interference with nesting.
 - iv.* All garbage bins on site will be wildlife proof.
 - v.* Ensuring proper storage or disposal of food sources.
 - vi.* Prohibiting the feeding of wildlife on airport lands.
 - vii.* Inspection of the airstrip done twice daily by the Airport Caretaker using high voltage lighting for inspections done in the dark.
 - viii.* Noise makers used by the Airport Caretaker.
 - ix.* No firearms located on site, however should the need arise, the Airport Manager will maintain a current Possession and Acquisition Licence.
- c) The following species specific techniques will be utilized:
 - x.* Canada Goose – Geese will not be tolerated on airport property. Geese will immediately be chased off any and all airport property. Although nesting is generally not an issue it will not be tolerated.
 - xi.* Other Birds – No nesting will be tolerated by any species of bird on airport property. We will work with the care taker and hangar owners to ensure that no nesting occurs in hangars or the airport facility buildings. The grasslands surrounding the airport will be cut and monitored on a regular basis.
 - xii.* Texada Deer – There is a zero tolerance policy for deer on airport property. Deer will be chased from the airport whenever they are seen. Removal of vegetative cover and trees in the airport perimeter will also curtail deer movement in the property. Noise makers will be used as required.
 - xiii.* Raccoon – Raccoon sitings at the airport are curtailed by wildlife proof garbage bins and the appropriate storage and disposal of food as well as by the removal of vegetative cover and trees in the airport perimeter. Raccoons will be chased away and noise makers will be used as required.
 - xiv.* Meadow Vole - This species will be carefully monitored for changes in numbers or behavior. Dens/holes/nests on the airport property will be destroyed as located to reduce the potential for young, inexperienced animals wandering airside.
 - xv.* Amphibians and Reptiles will be monitored and swept off the airstrip as required.

5. Wildlife Interaction Reporting

- d) When there is a wildlife near miss or strike, the Airport Caretaker will supply the Airport Manager with the necessary details by filling out and forwarding the form attached as Appendix D. The Airport Manager will file a Bird/Wildlife Strike Report online at <http://www.tc.gc.ca/aviation/applications/birds/en/default.asp>.
- e) A copy of the report shall be forwarded to Transport Canada within 30 days of the strike or near miss.
- f) Wildlife remains that are found within 200 feet of the Texada Airport runway or an airside pavement area are presumed to be a wildlife strike unless another cause of death is identified and the same reporting practices will be followed.

6. Wildlife Management Plan Administration

- a) The Airport Caretaker answers to the Airport Manager who answers to the Administrator of the Powell River Regional District. The Regional District Board is the governing body to which all staff members are responsible. The Texada Airport Advisory Committee is made up of private aircraft operators. The Committee meets regularly with the Airport Manager and the Director for Electoral Area “D” (Texada Island) to discuss current issues related to the operation of the airport.
- b) The Airport Manager shall be trained in, or have knowledge of the following areas:
 - i. Nature and extent of the wildlife management problem at the Texada Airport.
 - ii. Regulations, standards and guidance materials related to airport wildlife management programs including any matter covered in the *Wildlife Control Procedures Manual* (TP 11500); any matter covered in the *Sharing the Skies An Aviation Industry Guide to the Management of Wildlife Hazards* document (TP 13549).
 - iii. Rare and endangered species and species of special concern, including related regulations and policies.
 - iv. Bird ecology, biology, and identification.
 - v. Mammal ecology, biology and identification.
 - vi. Habitat management.
 - vii. Land use policies in the airport area, including the need to address the recommendations in the *TP 1247 - Aviation - Land Use in the Vicinity of Airports* in the Texada Island Official Community Plan and the Texada Island Zoning Bylaw.
 - viii. Wildlife management, control and removal measures.
 - ix. Firearm safety.

- c) The Airport Manager, who can be reached at (604) 483-3231, will be responsible for the following duties:
 - i) Implementation, coordination and supervision of this Wildlife Management Plan.
 - ii) Implementation and supervision of the Wildlife Management Log (e.g., including strike data, details on wildlife numbers and activity; Wildlife Management Plan measures undertaken, firearm use details; details on the use of lethal reinforcement and monthly summaries).
 - iii) Co-ordination of the monitoring program.
 - iv) Preparation and submission of near miss and strike reports, the annual strike report and two year updates of the Wildlife Management Plan.
 - v) Ensuring that Airport operations are consistent with the requirements of this Wildlife Management Plan.
 - vi) Acquisition of the various permits (federal firearm permits and federal kill permits for migratory birds) and ensuring that they are current and present on-site.
 - vii) Selective shooting at the airport to reinforce deterrents.
 - viii) Provision and development of training and awareness programs and maintenance of records of all training received and provided.
 - ix) Ensuring that the necessary wildlife deterrent equipment is available.

- d) The Airport Caretaker, who can be reached at (604) 486-7268, will be responsible for the following duties:
 - i) Undertake all necessary deterrent activities.
 - ii) Communicate any potential wildlife risk directly with air traffic via radio contact.
 - iii) Supply the Airport Manager with a monthly Wildlife Management Log attached as Appendix D.
 - iv) Supply the Airport Manager with the necessary details of any wildlife strike or near miss by filling out and forwarding the form attached as Appendix E.

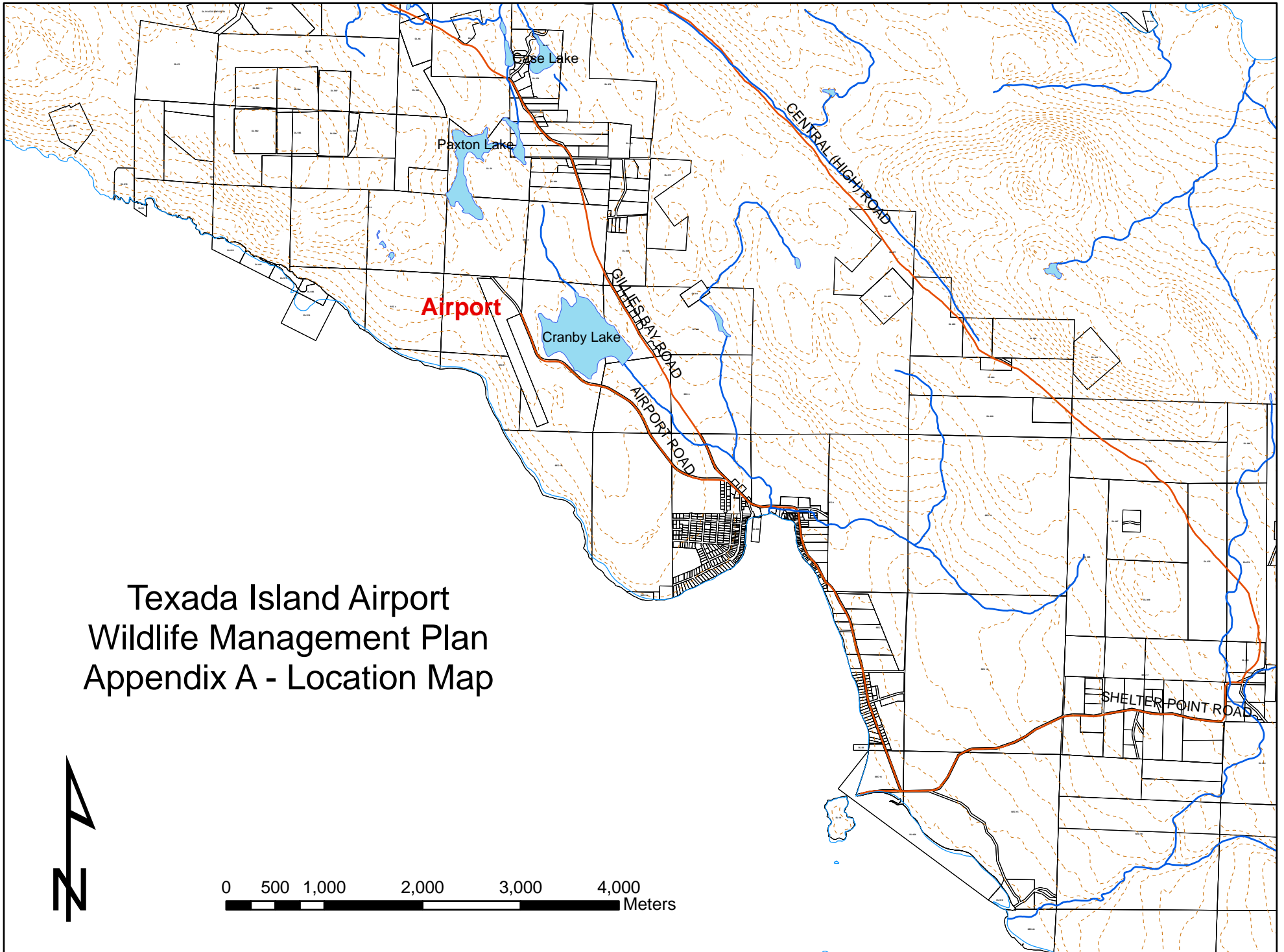
- e) Training will be accessed through any available means including reviewing Transport Canada reference materials, courses supplied by private third party vendors or through airport associations.

- f) Where a wildlife hazard is identified that is not going to be effectively managed through the techniques described in Section 4 of this Plan, a NOTAM shall be issued to advise pilots of the potential wildlife interaction.

- g) Current copies of this plan will be located at the Texada Airport office and at the Powell River Regional District office and shall, on request by the Minister, be made available to the Minister.

h) This plan will be formally reviewed every two years. Amendments to this Wildlife Management Plan will be made under the circumstances listed below. Should any amendments be made, updated copies will be submitted to all agencies listed on the Distribution List on Page i. of this document within 30 days of the amendment.

- An amendment is necessary as a result of the review of this Wildlife Management Plan which conducted every two years.
- An incident has occurred in which a turbine powered aircraft collided with wildlife other than a bird and suffered damage, collided with more than one bird or ingested a bird through an engine.
- A variation in the presence of wildlife hazards, including those referred to in section 322.302 of the *Airport Standards—Airport Wildlife Planning and Management*, has been observed in an airport flight pattern or movement area.
- There has been a change:
 - in the wildlife management procedures or in the methods used to manage or mitigate wildlife hazards,
 - in the types of aircraft at the airport, or
 - in the types of aircraft operations at the airport.

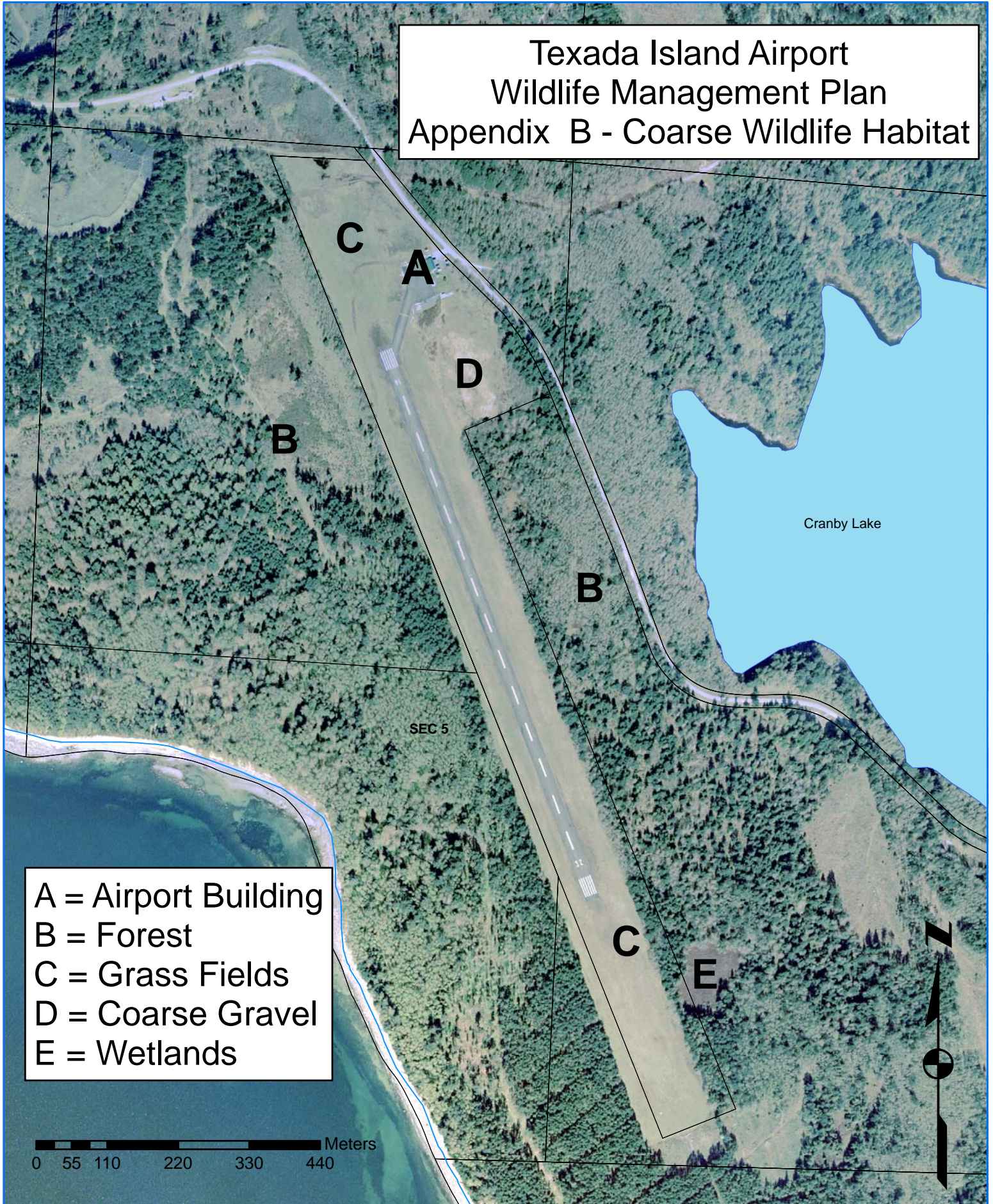


Texada Island Airport
Wildlife Management Plan
Appendix A - Location Map



0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 Meters

Texada Island Airport
Wildlife Management Plan
Appendix B - Coarse Wildlife Habitat



- A = Airport Building
- B = Forest
- C = Grass Fields
- D = Coarse Gravel
- E = Wetlands

0 55 110 220 330 440 Meters



Texada Island Airport Wildlife Management Plan Appendix C - Key Hazardous Land Uses

