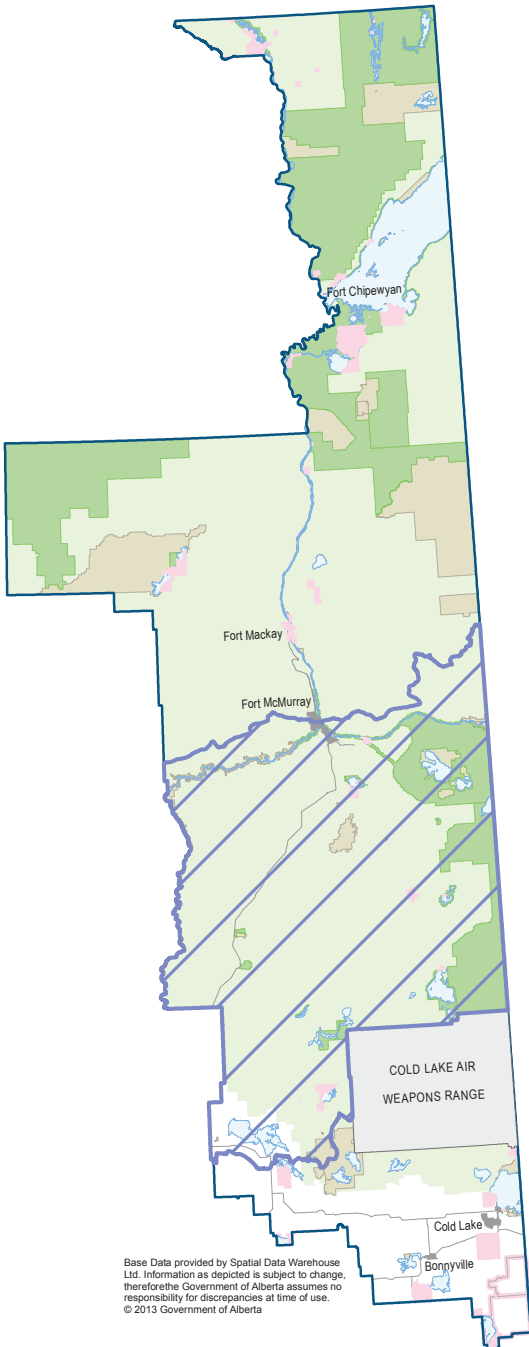


Lower Athabasca Regional Plan Strategies



As part of the ongoing implementation of the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP), the Government of Alberta is moving forward with the development of several key planning initiatives – among them a Biodiversity Management Framework, Landscape Management Plan and the South Athabasca Oil Sands Regional Strategic Assessment and Sub-regional Plan.



The LARP identifies strategic directions that will improve our ability to achieve desired economic, environmental and social outcomes in the region.

These initiatives specifically support the following LARP outcomes and key objectives:

- **Outcome 1:**
The economic potential of the oil sands resource is optimized.
- **Outcome 3:**
Landscapes are managed to maintain ecosystem function and biodiversity.
 - Objective: Regional biodiversity objectives are developed for various indicators of terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity.
 - Objective: Land disturbance impacts to biodiversity should be avoided or mitigated.

Related Information

[Landuse Framework](#)

Biodiversity Management Framework

Strategy: Develop a biodiversity management framework (BMF) for public land in the Green Area.

Under the LARP, management frameworks are a key approach for managing the long-term cumulative effects of development at a regional level. The BMF will identify indicators and objectives, and describe monitoring and reporting requirements on important biodiversity elements (including both species and habitats in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems) that are affected by land-use activity in the Lower Athabasca Region. The BMF will complement, but not replace, existing policies, legislation, regulation and management tools. It will provide guidance for land management as it relates to regional biodiversity objectives and outcomes.

Landscape Management Plan

Strategy: Develop a landscape management plan (LMP) for public land in the Green Area in the region.

The landscape management plan will support the achievement of the LARP, specifically the BMF, other relevant provincial policy and outcomes by defining specific actions to manage the cumulative effects of human activities on air, land, water and biodiversity. The plan will develop strategies to coordinate and manage linear footprint, land disturbance and motorized public access in key sub-regional areas. The LMP will define individual areas to address specific resource management issues. These strategies will include the South Athabasca Oil Sands Sub-regional Plan, Moose Lake Access Management Plan and a land disturbance plan for the North Athabasca River. The LMP will also link and be consistent with the outcomes of other concurrent regional planning initiatives such as caribou range plans.

South Athabasca Oil Sands Regional Strategic Assessment and Sub-regional Plan

Sub-Strategy: Develop a sub-regional plan using a strategic environmental assessment for the south Athabasca oil sands area.

The South Athabasca Oil Sands Regional Strategic Assessment (SAOS RSA), will examine the potential cumulative effects of three energy development scenarios in an area between Fort McMurray and Lac La Biche that will likely see significant development of bitumen resources over the next several decades.

The SAOS RSA is intended to increase understanding of the potential social, economic and environmental effects of in situ oil sands activities in the SAOS area before they occur. This proactive approach will assist in informing decision-making through the sub-regional plan. The sub-regional plan will provide direction to provincial departments, municipalities, boards and agencies for land use in the SAOS area. It may also enhance the province's regulatory approach for in situ development in the area.