

Report on the implementation of the section 11 agreement for the conservation and recovery of the woodland caribou in Alberta

2022-2023

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1. Executive Summary

In October 2020, Alberta and Canada signed the Agreement for the Conservation and Recovery of the Woodland Caribou in Alberta to facilitate woodland caribou recovery in the province. Woodland caribou (both southern mountain and boreal) are designated as a Threatened species under Alberta's *Wildlife Act* and Canada's *Species at Risk Act*. Alberta is committed to implementing this Agreement which supports provincial caribou recovery efforts including landscape-level planning, habitat conservation, management and recovery planning, caribou mortality and population management, and caribou population and habitat monitoring.

Alberta and Canada agreed to report on progress towards the commitments in this Agreement. This report provides a summary of progress made and actions undertaken from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023, and in some cases includes information prior to 2022 to aid interpretation and enhance recent context for woodland caribou conservation in Alberta.

There are twelve boreal and three southern mountain woodland caribou local populations remaining on Alberta's Crown lands. Alberta annually monitors population growth for all provincially managed caribou populations. Monitoring and reporting of caribou population and habitat occurs at the local population scale. Assessment of annual population growth data indicates that most woodland caribou populations in Alberta have demonstrated substantial declines over the years of population growth monitoring. To support population recovery, Alberta is delivering wolf population reduction programs annually within and adjacent to nine caribou ranges. This program is necessary to avoid the extirpation of the caribou local populations, given excessive levels of caribou mortality from predation associated with current levels of human-caused habitat loss and alteration. Additional efforts, such as adjustments to licensed hunting opportunities for other ungulate species have been put in place for some caribou ranges.

Ranges estimated to have the least (less than 5%) undisturbed habitat in 2022 and 2023 include Little Smoky, Slave Lake, Chinchaga, and Nipisi. Ranges estimated to have less than 10% undisturbed habitat in 2022 and 2023 include Bistcho, and East Side Athabasca River. The A la Peche and Redrock-Prairie Creek summer ranges and the Caribou Mountains range have the largest estimated amounts of undisturbed habitat (greater than 50%); however, the winter ranges of the A la Peche and Redrock-Prairie Creek local populations contain notably less than 30% undisturbed habitat. "Footprint" in the context of caribou recovery are anthropogenic features which result in change or loss of caribou habitat within woodland caribou local population ranges. "Disturbance" refers to areas of footprint (and any associated disturbance buffers) and areas burned by wildfire within 40 years, as per nationally defined methods of critical habitat identification for the species (Environment Canada, 2011).

Alberta is advancing caribou conservation and recovery through sub-regional planning that brings together stakeholders as well as some First Nations, Métis communities and organizations through Ministerial task forces. These multi-stakeholder task forces provide recommendations for consideration by government in the development of sub-regional plans. Task forces leverage local knowledge and experience to gain insight on social, environmental and economic interests while providing those who live, work and recreate in these areas the opportunity to participate in land use planning processes. In 2022, Alberta approved two sub-regional plans, while four additional sub-regional planning processes were ongoing throughout 2022 and 2023. Alberta continues to develop guidance and direction for forest management planning, and harvest operations as well as access management plans to be incorporated into these sub-regional plans.

Alberta continues to develop a 5-year strategic program plan to identify priority areas for caribou habitat restoration and is updating the draft *Provincial Restoration and Establishment Framework for Legacy Seismic Lines*. In 2022, under the Caribou Habitat Recovery Program, Alberta planned the restoration of 525 km of legacy seismic lines in two caribou ranges. A total of 1,000 km of legacy seismic lines were treated in the Little Smoky caribou range in 2022. In 2023, planning was in progress for the restoration of over 500 km of legacy seismic lines in the East Side of Athabasca (ESAR) caribou range. A total of 880 km of legacy seismic lines were treated in the Little Smoky caribou range in 2023; restoration of 725 km of legacy seismic lines was initiated in the A la Peche, Little Smoky and Cold Lake caribou ranges in 2023.

A monitoring and reporting framework for caribou habitat disturbance and recovery is being developed, to provide regular assessment and reporting on: the proportions of undisturbed habitat, biophysical habitat, and habitat disturbance from wildfire and anthropogenic features (including forest harvest and establishment of new footprint) for each local caribou population range.

For further information on report components, the reader is encouraged to refer to the First report on the implementation of the section 11 agreement for the conservation and recovery of the woodland caribou in Alberta (Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, 2024b).

2. Introduction

In October 2020, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) signed the Agreement for the Conservation and Recovery of the Woodland Caribou in Alberta (referred to here as the “Agreement”) to facilitate woodland caribou recovery in Alberta. As part of the Agreement, Alberta and Canada agreed to report on progress towards the commitments. This report provides a summary of progress made and actions undertaken by Alberta from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023. Additional information collected prior to 2022 has been included in some cases, to provide context for woodland caribou conservation in Alberta.

In Alberta, two types of woodland caribou (southern mountain and boreal) are designated as Threatened under both Alberta’s *Wildlife Act 2000* (AB), c W-10 and Canada’s *Species at Risk Act, SC 2022, c 29* (SARA). Two federal recovery strategies, one for boreal woodland caribou and one for southern mountain woodland caribou, outline population and distribution objectives, and critical habitat outcomes to enable woodland caribou conservation and recovery.

Alberta is taking a leadership role on caribou recovery in alignment with the province’s authority for management of provincial Crown land. Alberta is committed to the implementation of this Agreement which supports provincial caribou recovery efforts and formalizes cooperation between the two jurisdictions, including enabling allocation of federal funding to support caribou conservation and recovery efforts in Alberta. Actions outlined in the Agreement include landscape planning, habitat conservation, management and recovery planning, population and habitat monitoring, and mortality and population management.

The main body of this report summarizes actions and progress towards meeting commitments listed in the Agreement. Additional information is provided in appended Annexes. Annex 1 provides details on deliverables in the Agreement (Appendix B). Annex 2 reports on caribou population monitoring results. Annex 3 reports on habitat monitoring results. Annex 4 summarizes engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations through sub-regional planning processes in 2022 and 2023.

3. Progress On Recovery Actions

3.1 Landscape planning (Annex A, Table A)

Sub-regional planning

Alberta is using a sub-regional planning approach to advance caribou conservation and recovery. Sub-regional plans maintain or re-establish ecological processes, including landscape and habitat intactness. In addition to addressing caribou recovery and habitat intactness, the sub-regional plans consider a broad range of land uses to support environmental and conservation outcomes, Indigenous traditional use, recreation, and economic development. Sub-regional planning is a means to bring stakeholders together as well as some First Nations, Métis communities and organizations, through Ministerial task forces to develop recommendations for consideration by government in the development of plans (Figure 1). Task forces leverage local knowledge and experience to gain insight on social, environmental and economic interests while providing those who live, work and recreate in these areas the opportunity to participate in land use planning processes. Task force membership is adjusted for each sub-region to ensure relevant, local viewpoints are considered. Task forces typically have representation from industry, the recreational sector, registered trappers, Indigenous communities and organizations, non-governmental organizations, and municipalities. In 2022, two sub-regional plans were approved; throughout 2022 and 2023, planning processes for four other sub-regions were underway. Table 1 identifies the current state of sub-regional planning showing progress for six of the 11 intended sub-regional plans being developed.

In addition to the efforts on the development of sub-regional plans in 2022 and 2023, Alberta advanced development of a system to enable the evaluation of project footprint to support regulatory decision makers in implementation of sub-regional plans. As sub-regional plans are approved, this tool will incorporate the sub-regional plan requirements to support decision making. This initiative will also support landscape data management and tracking of restoration and habitat into the future.

Caribou Sub-Regional Planning Process

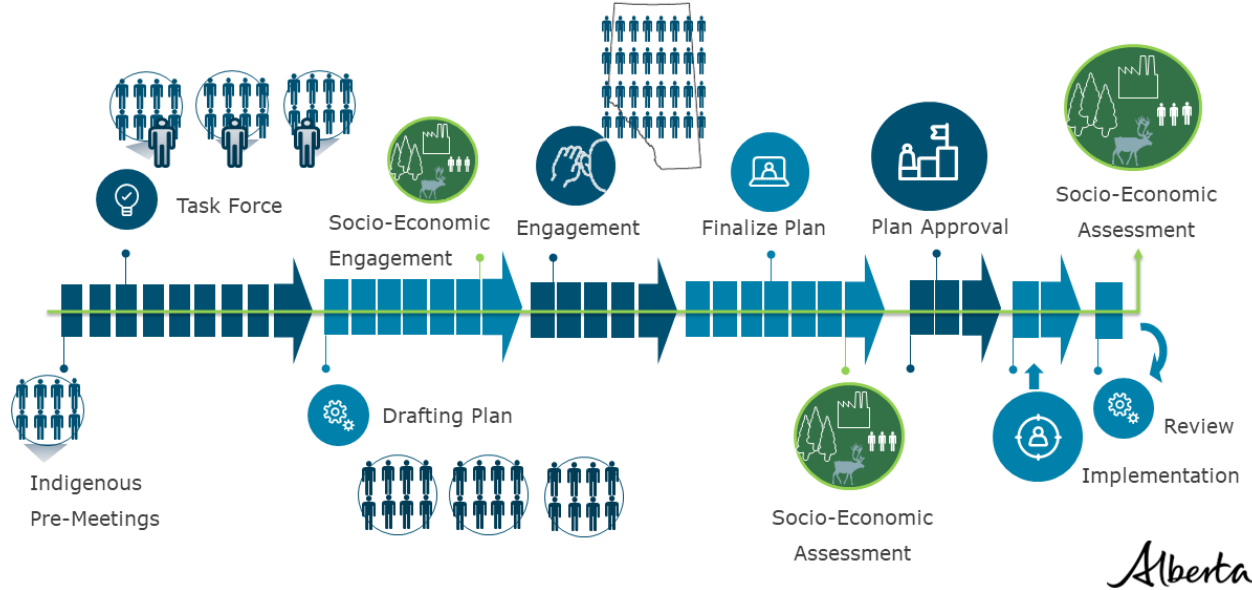


Figure 1. Alberta's sub-regional planning process. Socio-economic assessments are ongoing throughout the sub-regional planning process.

Table 1. Status of Alberta sub-regional planning in 2022 and 2023. Sub-regions that do not yet have planning underway are not included in the table.

Sub-Regional Plan (Caribou Range and Local Populations)	Sub-Regional Planning Achievements							
	Indigenous Pre-Meetings	Task Force Launch	Final Task Force Recommendations	Sub-Regional Plan Drafting	Public Engagement	Socio-Economic Assessment	Sub-Regional Plan Approval	Enactment of Regulations
<i>Cold Lake (Cold Lake & Christina)</i>	-	Nov. 2019	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020 – Mar. 2021	Mar. - May 2021	2020-2022	Apr 2022	
<i>Wandering River (East Side Athabasca River)</i>	May – Jul. 2021	Jul. 2021	Jun. 2022	Sep. 2022 - present				
<i>Bistcho Lake (Bistcho)</i>	-	Nov. 2019	Nov. 2019	May 2020 – Mar. 2021	Mar. - May 2021	2020-2022	Apr 2022	
<i>Upper Smoky (Redrock-Prairie Creek & Narraway)</i>	-	Nov. 2019	Feb. 2021	Jan. 2022 - present				
<i>Berland (Little Smoky, A la Pêche)</i>	Apr. – Jul. 2021	Jul. 2021	Mar. 2023					
<i>Chinchaga (Chinchaga, Deadwood)</i>	May 2022	Jun. 2022	Feb. 2023					

3.2 Habitat conservation, management, and recovery (Annex 1, Table B)

Restoration

Alberta is committed to the restoration of legacy seismic lines within caribou ranges, as a key action to support the recovery of caribou habitat, and reduce predator abundance, occurrence, and travel within caribou ranges. “Footprint” in the context of caribou recovery are anthropogenic features (i.e., human caused) which result in the change or loss of caribou habitat in woodland caribou local population ranges (Environment and Climate Change Canada and Alberta Environment and Parks, 2020). “Disturbance” refers to areas of footprint and areas within 500 metres of specified footprint as well as areas burned by wildfire within 40 years, aligning with nationally defined methods of critical habitat identification for the species (Environment Canada, 2011). Land-use footprint contributes to vegetation and landscape changes that typically remove or degrade caribou habitats, increase the occurrence and abundance of alternate prey species (i.e., deer, moose, elk), thereby increasing the occurrence and abundance of predators (i.e., wolves, bears, cougars), and facilitate predator travel and hunting efficiency. Caribou are negatively affected by all of these factors.

In 2017, EPA established the Caribou Habitat Recovery Program (CHRP), to target the restoration of legacy seismic footprint within caribou ranges. As of 2022, Alberta has identified 209,000 km of legacy seismic lines within the 15 caribou ranges in the province, which also includes legacy seismic line footprint within protected areas. This calculation has been refined from previous estimates through updates to datasets and analysis of legacy seismic line conversion to other land uses. Alberta continues to develop a 5-year strategic program plan identifying priority areas for restoration in alignment with sub-regional

planning. Further details on the amount of legacy seismic lines within each caribou range can be found in Annex 3, Table A3.3.

Alberta has developed the draft *Provincial Restoration and Establishment Framework for Legacy Seismic Lines in Alberta* (Alberta Environment and Parks, 2017a) ('the framework') to outline restoration targets, objectives and procedures for projects under the CHRP. Under this framework, legacy seismic restoration is outlined in a process of planning, treatment and monitoring. By using this framework, the CHRP seeks to reduce landscape fragmentation by re-establishing trees, protecting existing regeneration and limiting human and predator movements on legacy seismic lines.

In 2021, Alberta began to update this framework to ensure it identifies restoration and vegetation establishment guidelines specific to all caribou ranges. Updates to the framework will include a component focusing on Indigenous inclusion.

A database is in development for the CHRP to enable further program efficiency and data management; this is anticipated to be completed in 2025.

As identified in the EPA Ministry Business plan for 2023-2026 (Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, 2023), Alberta has developed a performance measure and a performance indicator related to legacy seismic lines. These performance metrics were published in the EPA Ministry Business Plan for 2024-2027 (Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, 2024a).

The following map and text are included to provide an update on CHRP activities in 2022 and 2023.

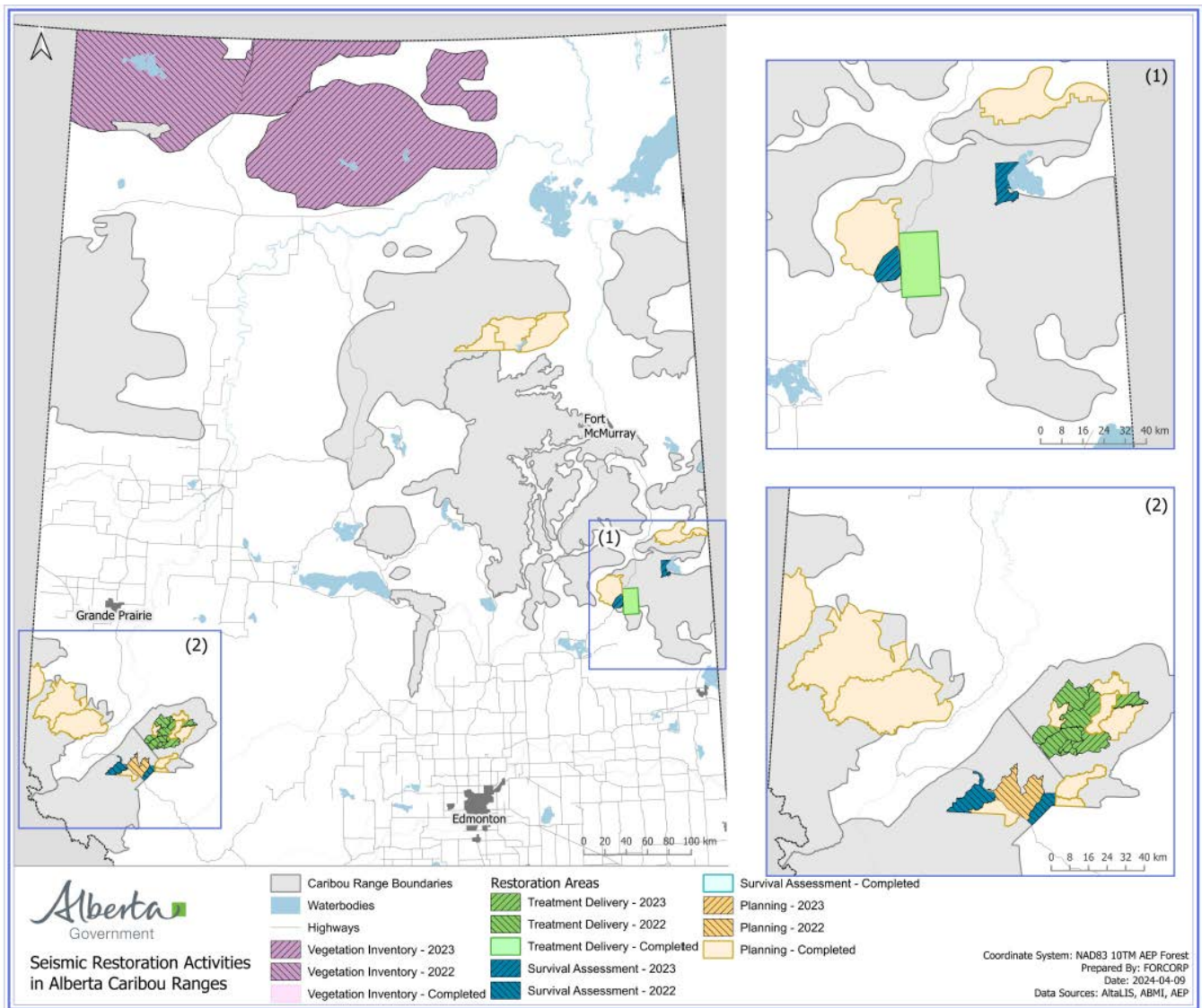


Figure 2. Map of work completed by the Caribou Habitat Recovery Program in 2022, 2023 and previous years. Further details on the amount of legacy seismic lines treated within each caribou range can be found in Annex 3, Table A3.3.

Seed Collection

In 2022, the CHRP collected black spruce and jack pine seeds from the Red Earth caribou range. Black spruce, Engelmann spruce, and tamarack seeds were also collected from the Little Smoky, A la Peche, Narraway and Redrock-Prairie Creek caribou ranges in 2022. These seeds will be used for planting on legacy seismic lines, adhering to the Alberta Forest Genetic Resource Management and Conservation Standards.

Vegetation Inventory

Vegetation inventory information (based on aerial photography) is collected and interpreted to inform restoration planning.

The vegetation inventories for the Bistcho Lake and Yates caribou ranges were completed in 2022. The vegetation inventory for the Caribou Mountains range was completed in 2023. Vegetation inventories were underway throughout 2022 and 2023 for the Chinchaga, Richardson, and West Side of Athabasca River (WSAR) caribou ranges.

Restoration Planning

In 2022, under the CHRP, Alberta planned for the restoration of 525 km of legacy seismic lines, which included:

- 200 km in the A la Peche caribou range
- 325 km in the Little Smoky caribou range.

In 2023, under the CHRP, planning was in progress for the restoration of over 500 km of legacy seismic lines in the East Side of Athabasca (ESAR) caribou range.

Restoration Treatment

In 2022, under the CHRP, a total of 1,000 km of legacy seismic lines were treated in the Little Smoky caribou range.

In 2023, under the CHRP, a total of 880 km of legacy seismic lines were treated in the Little Smoky caribou range. Restoration of an additional 725 km of legacy seismic lines was in progress in the A la Peche, and Little Smoky caribou ranges in 2023. The results of these treatments will be reported in the future.

Restoration Monitoring

Survival assessments (completed 2-5 years after treatment) were conducted on 86 km of treated legacy seismic lines in the A la Peche caribou range in the fall of 2022. In 2023, survival assessments were conducted on 392 km of treated legacy seismic lines in the Cold Lake caribou range. Due to the infancy of the program, there were no treatment sites ready for establishment assessment (completed 8-10 years after treatment) in 2022 or 2023.

Industry Contributions to Caribou Habitat Restoration

In consideration of sub-regional planning progress to date in the Cold Lake sub-region, habitat restoration activities have also been undertaken by several members of industry. For example, Cenovus Energy has treated over 1,300 km of linear features since 2008 under the Cenovus Caribou Habitat Restoration Project, largely in the Cold Lake caribou range. Additionally, through the Little Smoky Caribou Herd Development Agreement, Kiwetinohk Energy Corp. is contributing \$3.5 million over 10 years to the CHRP. Alberta continues to explore additional opportunities for energy and forestry sector involvement in caribou habitat restoration beyond regulatory requirements.

Forest Harvest Management

Alberta supports the principles of sustainable forest management and responsible stewardship. Forest management planning is essential to sustainable forest management in Alberta, thus policy processes and regulatory requirements are in place to guide forest management planning work. Further guidance and direction for forest management planning and harvest operations will be developed during sub-regional planning and will be incorporated into sub-regional plans. In caribou ranges where sub-regional plans are not yet approved, companies will continue to follow Forest Management Plans as approved by Alberta Forestry and Parks (AFP), unless otherwise directed.

Bistcho Lake and Cold Lake Sub-Regions

The harvest timing sequences developed for the Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake sub-regions were finalized and publicly released with the Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake sub-regional plans in April 2022 (Alberta Environment and Parks, 2022a, b).

Since the plans' approvals, companies have begun stand-level planning of harvest timing sequences and the associated requirements for forest harvest within these two sub-regions. These harvest plans are anticipated to meet the timelines outlined in the Bistcho Lake and Cold Lake sub-regional plans. Forestry companies operating within the sub-regions continue to work with AFP staff to manage their activities in alignment with the sub-regional plans and caribou recovery goals within the sub-region.

Wandering River Sub-Region

The Wandering River Forestry Working Group was initiated in October 2022. The working group's role is to support the development and assessment of forest harvest options for caribou range inside the Wandering River sub-region. This work continued through 2023.

Upper Smoky Sub-Region

Scenario evaluation and option development for forest harvest management for the Upper Smoky sub-region was underway throughout 2022.

In 2023, option development and refinement continued for forest harvest management.

Wildfire Management Planning

The purpose of wildfire management planning in Alberta is to direct wildfire suppression and mitigation strategies. AFP defines priorities for wildfire management based on the following values: human life, communities, watersheds and sensitive soils, natural resources, and infrastructure critical to life, safety, or regional economies. Caribou values fall within the natural resource priority.

In 2022, Whitecourt and Slave Lake Wildfire Management Plans, inclusive of caribou range boundaries, were under development.

All wildfires that escaped control in the Forest Protection Area in 2022 were assessed using the Wildfire Analysis and Strategy (WAS). The WAS assesses approved priorities for wildfire management and other factors, and develops objectives to determine how the wildfire will be managed. Wildfires were managed in accordance with the approved priorities for management as defined above.

In 2023, development of new wildfire modelling approaches and outputs to inform sub-regional plans was underway by AFP.

The development of the Whitecourt and Slave Lake Wildfire Management Plans continued throughout 2023, and both are expected to be finalized in 2024. Caribou range boundaries have been provided to inform planning strategies. It is anticipated that plan development for the High Level Forest Area will commence in the fall of 2024.

The 2023 wildfire season was extreme; a large number of communities were threatened throughout Alberta. All wildfires in Alberta received initial action per AFP policy with the objective of containing each fire. All wildfires that escaped control in the Forest Protection Area in 2023 were further assessed using the WAS. Due to the substantial number of large escaped wildfires and limited availability of resources early in the fire season, the focus of suppression efforts was directed on protecting human life and communities for sustained action fires. Wildfires that were not near communities received a lower number of resources and were monitored and managed accordingly until resources became available to suppress them. As the fire situation de-escalated later in the 2023 season, the decision was made to revert to the provincial wildfire management priorities, including natural resource priorities such as caribou values.

The departments of AFP and EPA continue to investigate potential strategies to inform wildfire risk planning with caribou range values and sub-regional planning objectives.

Management of Energy Sector Activities

Voluntary agreements

The Kitaskino Nuwenënë Wildland Provincial Park (KNW) was expanded by over 152,000 hectares in 2022. The expansion of the KNW was enabled by the voluntary surrender of Crown mineral agreements by several companies. Collaboration between the Alberta government, federal government, Indigenous communities, and industry made the expansion possible. This included leadership by the Mikisew Cree First Nation to recognize this area. Almost all of the KNW expansion (97.95% or 140,799 ha) overlaps the Red Earth caribou range.

In 2022, the transfer of the Little Smoky Caribou Herd Development Agreement from Ovintiv Canada ULC to Kiwetinohk Energy Corp. (Kiwetinohk) was completed. Throughout 2022 and 2023, Alberta continued to implement the agreement with Kiwetinohk. Under this agreement, Kiwetinohk has agreed to restricted access to certain lands and to pay \$3.5 million over 10 years to the CHRP.

No new voluntary agreements were completed in 2023.

Site Closure and Rehabilitation (Figure 3, Figure 4, Figure 5, Annex 3, Table A3.6)

Alberta's Site Rehabilitation Program launched on May 1, 2020, providing the oilfield service sector the opportunity to access up to \$1 billion from the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan. It provided relief funding to eligible oil

field service workers to perform well, facility, pipeline, and oil and gas site closure work. Closure work includes infrastructure abandonment/decommissioning, followed by site closure work including Phase 1 environmental site assessments, Phase 2 environmental site assessments (if contamination is likely), remediation (if contamination was confirmed in the Phase 2 environmental site assessment), and reclamation.

The \$1 billion grant funding was made available in eight funding periods, each with targeted priorities, application criteria, and timelines. Under Period 8, which commenced on August 9, 2021, \$100 million was allocated for three species at risk: caribou, sage-grouse and native trout. During this period, \$33 million was specifically allocated for post-abandonment closure work in caribou ranges including Bistcho Lake, Chinchaga, A la Peche, Cold Lake, Little Smoky, Narraway, and Redrock-Prairie Creek. Licensees could allocate funding from other funding periods to closure work in caribou ranges if the well, facility, or pipeline met the application criteria for the funding period. For example, a licensee could use their Period 5 allocation to abandon wells or conduct other types of closure work within caribou ranges.

Oil field service companies could submit applications for Period 8 and all other active funding periods until March 31, 2022 and invoices were required by February 14, 2023 for grant funded work, marking the end of the program.

At the conclusion of the program, approximately \$863 million in grant funding was provided to more than 550 Alberta-based companies. Work was completed throughout the province, including within caribou ranges.

In July 2020, Alberta Energy and Minerals announced the new Liability Management Framework. In 2021, under this framework, the Inventory Reduction Program established mandatory annual closure spending quotas for site cleanup that every oil and gas licensee with an inactive inventory must adhere to. The intent of the program is to ensure that inactive sites are cleaned up, provide flexibility for licensees to close sites in a cost effective and efficient manner, and drive consistent economic activity in the oil field and environmental services sectors. The Alberta Energy Regulator required the oil and gas sector to spend \$422 million on closure activities in 2022. The industry-wide spending level is set annually and increased to \$700 million for both 2023 and 2024.

Closure activities that occurred in caribou ranges in 2022 and 2023 include activities conducted under both the Site Rehabilitation Program and the Inventory Reduction Program. Further details on funding spent on closure activities in 2022 and 2023 can be found in Figures 3 and 4, respectively. Facility and well reclamation certification occurred under both programs; further details can be found in Figure 5. A summary of this information can be found in Annex 3, Table A3.6.

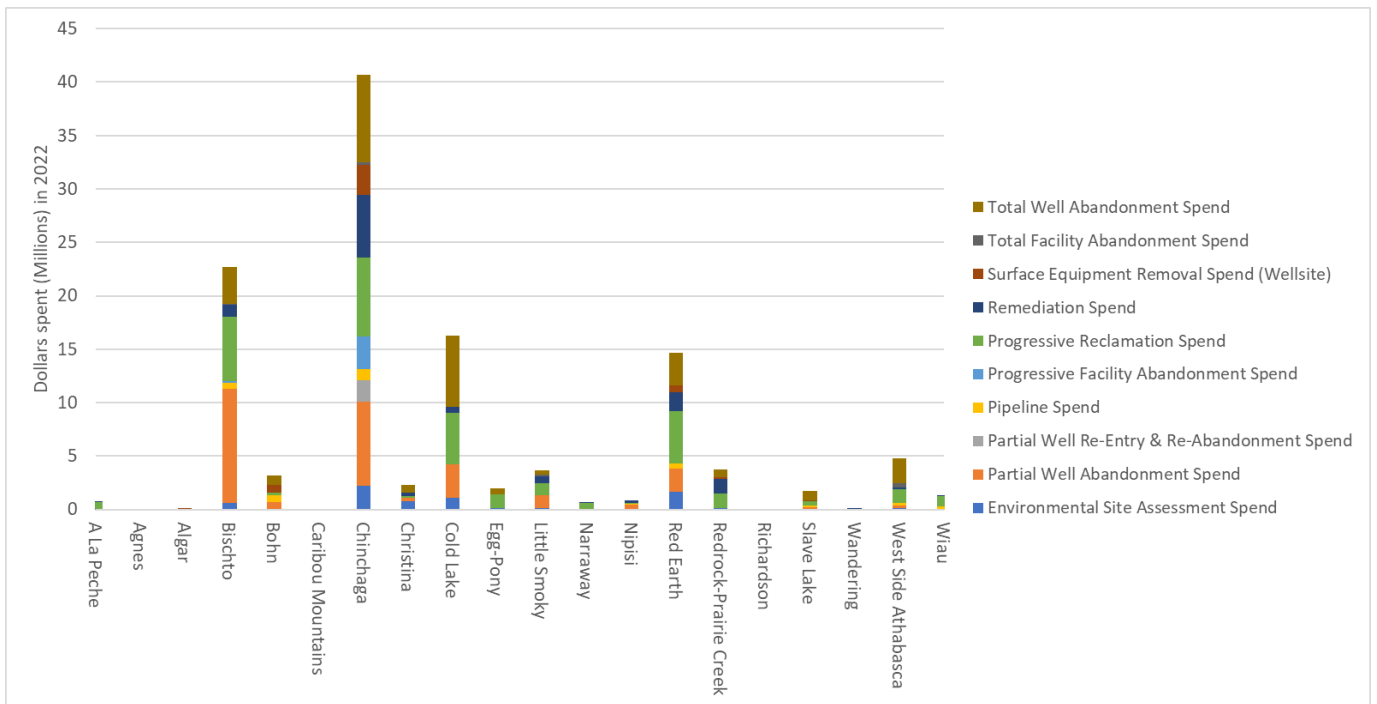


Figure 3. Total funding spent under the Site Rehabilitation Program and Inventory Reduction Program in 2022 by activity type in each caribou range. Further detail can be found in Annex 3, Table A3.6.

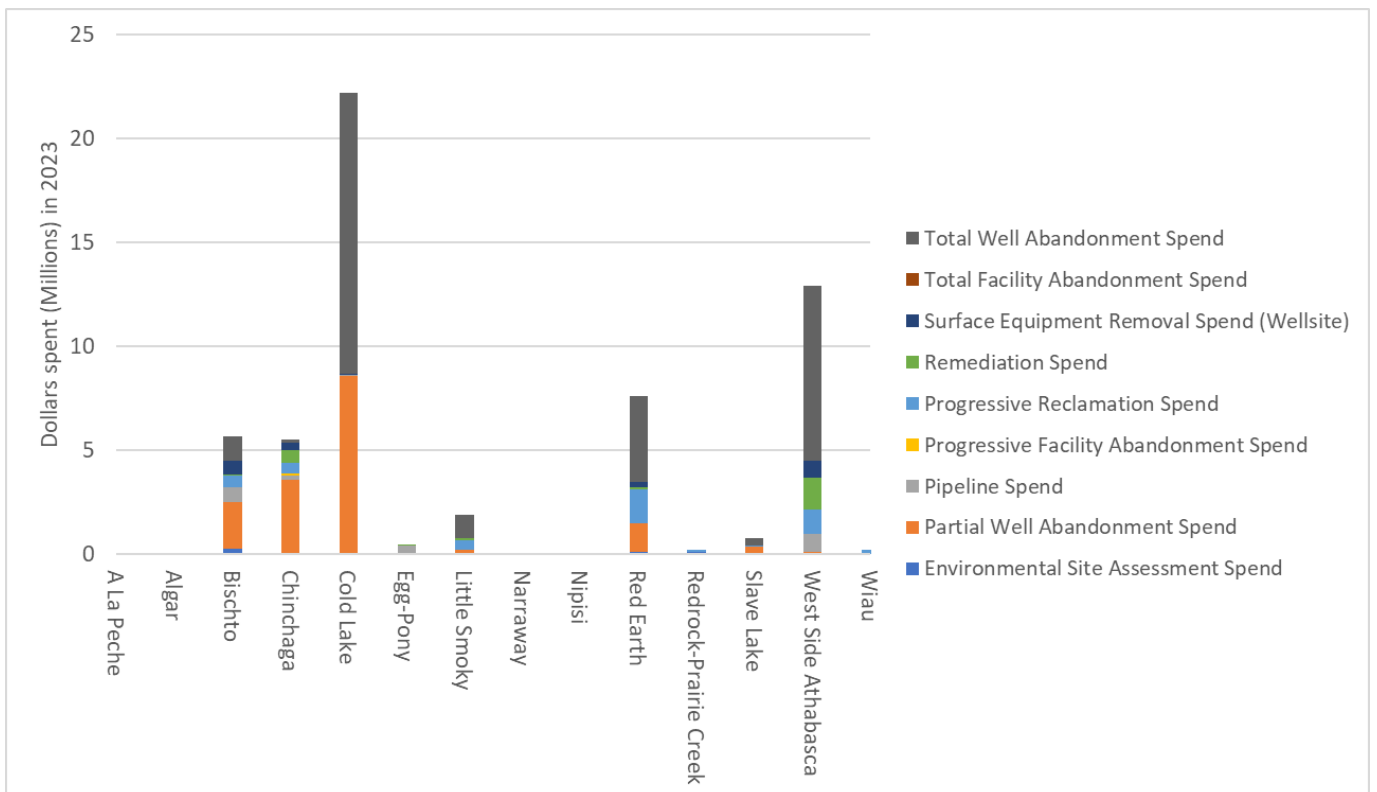


Figure 4. Total funding spent under the Site Rehabilitation Program and Inventory Reduction Program in 2023 by activity type in each caribou range. Further detail can be found in Annex 3, Table A3.6.

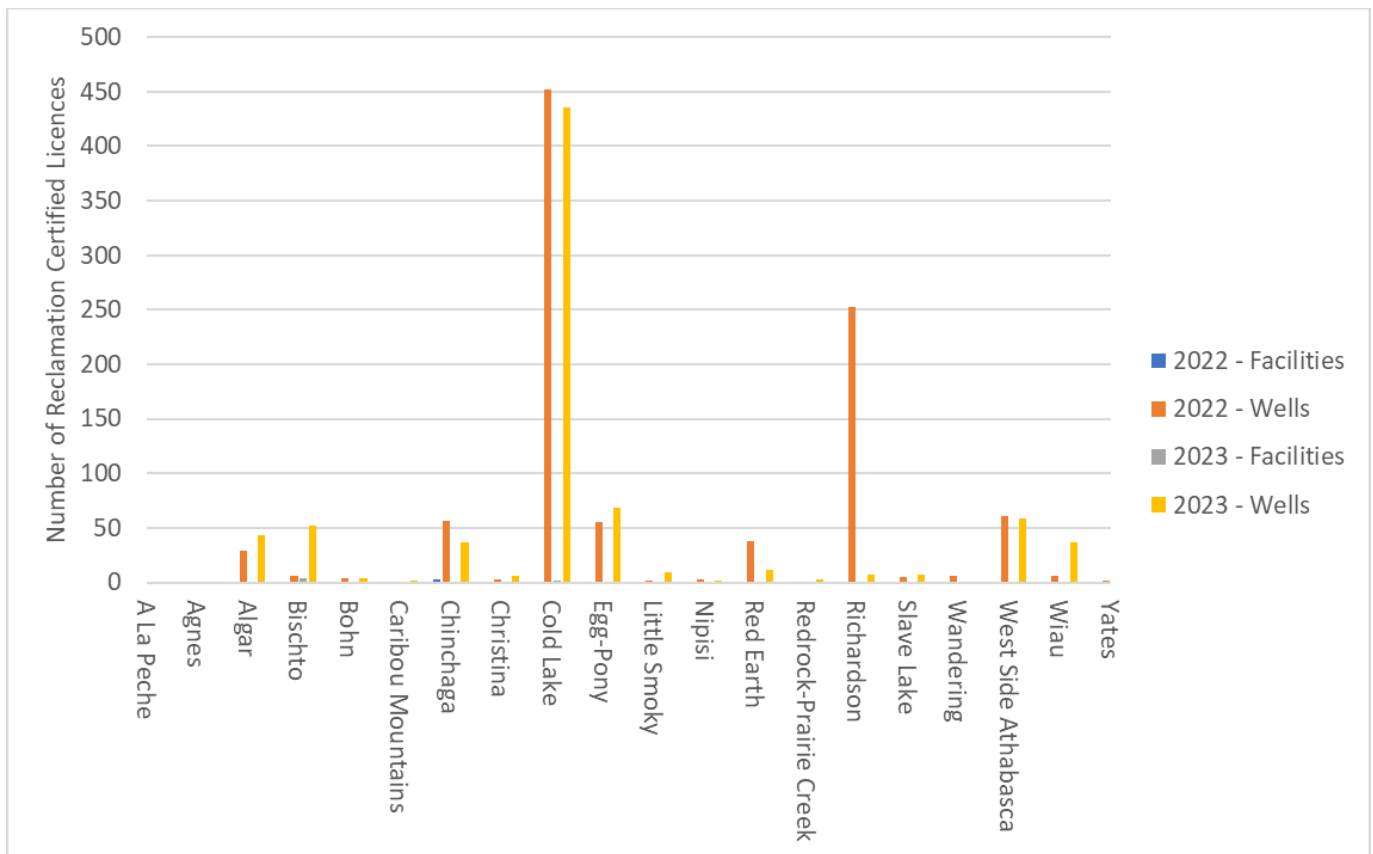


Figure 5. Sum of facilities and wells that were reclamation certified under the Site Rehabilitation Program and Inventory Reduction Program in 2022 and 2023 by caribou range. Further detail can be found in Annex 3, Table A3.6.

Access management planning

Access management plans are developed during sub-regional planning and are incorporated into sub-regional plans. The plans consider access requirements for resource development, and seek to reduce potential negative implications for wetlands, caribou populations and habitat, and other wildlife species. Over time, the access management plans seek to enable efficient placement of roads by all sectors, and reduce the footprint of roads. Access management plans also consider land users such as Indigenous communities and organizations, recreational users, as well as others.

Bistcho Lake and Cold Lake Sub-Regions:

The access management plans for the Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake sub-regions were finalized and publicly released with the Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake sub-regional plans in April 2022.

The access management plans are being implemented within the Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake sub-regions. In addition, to support the riparian area policy direction in the plan, a spatial layer for the Cold Lake sub-region providing additional detail on the riparian areas was completed in October 2022.

Wandering River Sub-Region:

Access management planning in the Wandering River sub-region was initiated in the fall of 2022 and has continued throughout 2023.

Working groups met throughout 2023 to discuss and develop options for enabling and managing access footprint in the sub-region to inform sub-regional planning. Proposed approaches are being assessed and refined to determine their suitability for achieving caribou recovery objectives.

Upper Smoky Sub-Region:

Access management planning continued in 2022 and 2023, focusing on enabling access for forest harvesting, petroleum and natural gas, and other land-use activities and values while achieving caribou recovery objectives.

Land Use Management Regulation and Approvals

Land uses on public land are managed under the *Public Lands Act* and the Public Lands Administration Regulation, which establish operating guidelines and requirements for land use activities on public lands. The Master Schedule of Standards and Conditions (MSSC) and accompanying Wildlife Sensitivity Data Sets are used together to identify areas where specific approval conditions and standards for industrial land uses apply. The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) is responsible for reviewing and approving *Public Lands Act* applications related to energy and mineral resource development, while EPA reviews and approves all other *Public Lands Act* applications. Forestry operations (except for *Public Lands Act* related applications) are managed under the *Forests Act* and are subject to requirements under that legislation and regulations and are reviewed and approved by AFP.

“Approval Standards” are MSSC specifications that outline the expectations and requirements for land use applications and activities. An applicant can seek to have standards not applied to an approval, making this request through a non-standard application process. Non-standard applications within caribou ranges are referred by the AER to EPA. The population and habitat implications for caribou of each non-standard application, and adequacy of the proposed mitigation are assessed by EPA and recommendations are made to the AER for consideration during the approval process. The assessments are based on caribou habitat needs and ecology, as guided by provincial and federal conservation and recovery directions and objectives. This includes providing information and recommendations related to impacts on caribou populations, their occupancy, and both the presence of biophysical critical habitat and disturbance of critical habitat. The number of non-standard applications within caribou ranges during January 2022 to December 2023 are included in Table B.5 within Annex 1.

3.3 Mortality and population management (Annex 1, Table C)

Predator Management

Alberta is delivering wolf population reduction programs annually within and adjacent to nine caribou ranges (Southern Mountain Ranges: A la Peche, Narraway, and Redrock-Prairie Creek; Boreal Ranges: Chinchaga, Cold Lake, East Side Athabasca River, Little Smoky, Nipisi and Slave Lake). This program is necessary to halt declines and avoid the extirpation of the caribou local populations, given excessive levels of caribou mortality from predation associated with current levels of human-caused habitat change and loss. Alberta’s goal for wolf management is to reduce wolf populations annually to levels that enable caribou population persistence by contributing to caribou population stability or growth. Information on wolf population management is included for each range in Annex 2. Annual wolf population reductions are primarily achieved through government led actions during the winter season. In addition, a program with the Alberta Trappers Association (ATA) to provide incentives for trapping effort by Registered Fur Management Area (RFMA) holders is ongoing. Results showing RFMA holder participation in this program for 2022 and 2023 are included in Annex 1, Table C.

The Nipisi and Slave Lake woodland caribou local populations are at critically low population levels. Both populations are spatially isolated from other caribou populations and extremely vulnerable to extirpation because of current landscape conditions and resulting high predator densities. The implementation of predator control in these two ranges was initiated in winter of 2022 (ATA incentive program only) and expanded in 2023 (government aerial control and ATA incentive program). These actions represent substantive and responsive actions to reduce the immediate risk of further declines in both populations.

Captive Rearing

The creation of a woodland caribou rearing facility was previously proposed for placement in the Little Smoky caribou range (see draft Provincial Woodland Caribou Range Plan (Alberta Environment and Parks, 2017b)). During the reporting period, Alberta did not advance on this proposed action in favour of development and implementation of other caribou and land management plans and actions. Alberta continues to assess the need for and effectiveness of additional recovery actions for all caribou local populations as supported by best available information and science through an adaptive management approach to caribou recovery.

Management of Human-Caused Mortality

The removal of any caribou from small or declining caribou populations challenges caribou conservation and recovery. Alberta continues to gather information on sources of caribou mortalities in Alberta, including natural and human caused mortalities. Alberta's *Wildlife Act* and associated Regulations do not allow for caribou harvest, except for those with Indigenous-specific hunting rights such as constitutionally recognized rights. In a typical year, there are confirmed occurrences and unconfirmed reports of caribou being harvested by either those with Indigenous-specific hunting rights or of illegal caribou harvest by others. Any harvest of caribou could delay or compromise recovery. Alberta continues to assess the need for additional conservation measures related to harvest management to prevent extirpation of caribou local populations.

Road mortality can result in both loss of individual caribou and impact recovery for small local populations. For example, in previous years the A la Peche population has been subject to very high annual mortality rates because of vehicle collisions on Highway 40. To aid recovery efforts of the Little Smoky and A la Peche caribou populations, EPA continued to support the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation by providing financial support for their Caribou Patrol Program. Initiated in 2012, this program includes patrolling of Highway 40 and other roads that intersect with these caribou ranges during periods of caribou migration to monitor caribou activity, collect data, and actively haze caribou from roadways. The Caribou Patrol Program also includes education and awareness campaigns with presentations to school children, industrial operators, and the public to teach "caribou friendly behaviours".

Alternate Prey Management

Moose, elk, and deer can indirectly affect caribou populations as they are alternative prey which support predator populations and wolf population management can directly affect population growth of these ungulates. Alberta's goal is to enable increased harvesting of ungulates where necessary, to avoid excessive levels of alternative prey population growth in and adjacent to caribou ranges where the annual wolf population reduction program is being implemented. Harvesting of ungulate populations to mitigate excessive population growth is achieved through harvest by those with Indigenous-specific constitutionally recognized rights to harvest, and through provision of additional licensed hunting opportunities. Adjustments to licensed hunting opportunities, in alignment with wolf population management, have been put in place for portions of the Redrock-Prairie Creek, Little Smoky, and A la Peche caribou ranges to mitigate the negative impacts of alternative prey populations on caribou.

EPA conducts ungulate population assessments in select caribou ranges to assist with adjustments to licensed hunting opportunities for alternate prey species. In winter 2023, alternate prey population surveys were conducted within Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 352, 353, 441, and portions of 344 and 440 where ongoing wolf population management programs are underway (Government of Alberta, 2024). This information was used to assess the status of moose populations and inform allocation of resident licenced opportunity to maintain the population but avoid accelerated growth in moose populations caused by wolf reduction actions for caribou recovery.

3.4 Population monitoring (Annex 1, Table D)

Population Monitoring

There are twelve boreal and three southern mountain woodland caribou populations remaining on Alberta's Crown lands, as well as one remaining population in Jasper National Park on lands managed by the federal government. Over the last century the occurrence and distribution of woodland caribou has greatly declined in Alberta, particularly along the eastern slopes of the province.

Alberta monitors caribou at the local population scale, which includes more detailed separation of distinct local populations. In some cases, however, monitoring is also conducted at a broader geographic scale, such as the East Side of the Athabasca, Red Earth and Chinchaga ranges, which each represent administrative groupings of several caribou local populations. EPA's ongoing caribou population monitoring program monitors caribou movement, distribution, habitat use and caribou vital rates (described further below). Monitoring data also informs the assessment of range boundaries (both local population and administrative range groupings) to support any necessary adjustments to delineated boundaries; updates of federal recovery strategies and provincial recovery plans; updates to commitments under this Agreement; and land management and population management approaches used.

Population Growth

Alberta estimates population growth annually for all 15 provincially managed caribou populations. The annual caribou population growth, termed lambda (λ), represents the growth or decline in the population size year over year. An estimated

lambda of 1.0 represents no net change in the population size, lambda >1.0 or <1.0 represents annual population growth or population decline, respectively (Annex 2, Table A2.1 and Figure A2.1).

It is inherently difficult to track caribou population growth and changes in population size from year to year, because caribou occur at low densities over large landscapes making a complete population inventory impracticable. To overcome this challenge, Alberta monitors the vital rates of a collared subsample of adult female caribou in each population. Vital rate monitoring includes estimating annual rates for adult female survival and calf recruitment (9 months in age) within local populations, which together allow for the estimation of caribou population growth. A collared subsample of 20 to 30 caribou provides a reasonably precise estimate of population growth and associated vital rates.

When a population has less than 10 collars deployed, vital rate estimates become less precise, increasing the uncertainty around estimated mean lambda. In smaller local populations, such as Deadwood, Nipisi and Slave Lake, it is difficult to deploy greater than 10 collars, due to challenges in locating enough uncollared adult females and groups. For populations that are part of a larger administrative range, such as in East Side of the Athabasca River, Red Earth and Chinchaga, Alberta may choose to deploy fewer collars within a local population and instead utilize the aggregate vital rates from the larger administrative range. Overall, Alberta's monitoring program balances both numbers of deployed collars and desired precision in estimates of vital rates while avoiding undue harm to the health of individual caribou that could result from excessive capture and handling. Within the first implementation report (Alberta Environment and Protected Areas 2024b), annual estimates of population growth rates for local populations within the East Side Athabasca and Chinchaga administrative ranges were estimated using the average female survival rate measured at the administrative range. While this approach provides more precise estimates due to larger sample sizes, it may not reflect effects at each local population. This report provides estimates of annual population growth using adult female survival estimates for each constituent local population. For small populations, interpretation of trends may be considered at the larger administrative range.

Assessment of annual population growth data indicates that most woodland caribou populations in Alberta have demonstrated substantial declines over the years of population growth monitoring. Multiple years of negative population growth is indicative of caribou population decline and can result in substantial reductions in the number of caribou in a given population. Annual wolf population reductions, achieved through the lethal removal of wolves, has reduced the occurrence of negative population growth for multiple caribou populations and resulted in stable to positive growth in most cases. In the absence of wolf population management, it is expected these caribou populations would return to a state of negative population growth (particularly due to low or negligible calf survival) and return to being on a path to extirpation.

Population Distribution

In recent years some caribou populations have demonstrated dramatic declines in range level occupancy and distribution. This has been particularly evident for the caribou populations in west-central Alberta, with large declines in distribution evident for the Redrock-Prairie Creek, Narraway, A la Peche and Little Smoky populations. In response to anthropogenic habitat change, the Redrock-Prairie Creek, Narraway and A la Peche populations are increasingly demonstrating reduced annual migration to their forested foothills traditional winter ranges (Williams et al. 2021). These populations are increasingly restricted to mountainous areas on a year around basis. Mountainous areas are suboptimal winter habitat for these caribou, and this increasingly restricted distribution contributes to elevated rates of caribou mortality. Delivery of wolf management has stabilized and created marginal population growth for the Redrock-Prairie Creek, Narraway, and Little Smoky populations, however, population growth has not been consistent or robust.

Population Estimation

Alberta has estimated population size for selected caribou populations using a non-invasive capture-mark-recapture sampling procedure, based on collection of fecal DNA. Selected ranges are surveyed multiple times in a single winter to collect caribou fecal pellet samples within caribou ranges and samples submitted for subsequent genotyping and identification of unique genotype profiles. This work provides point in time estimates of caribou population numbers. Since 2012-13, the province has completed population estimation surveys, based on fecal DNA collections, in 11 of the 15 provincially managed caribou populations, which includes a population survey completed in 2023. In winter 2023, the province of Alberta including coordination with Government of British Columbia, completed a fecal DNA survey within the Chinchaga Range and constituent local populations in the area. Alberta continues to assess the need for additional population estimation efforts at the range and local population levels and undertakes these estimations when required (Annex 2, Table A2.1).

3.5 Habitat monitoring (Annex 1, Table D)

Habitat Monitoring

The annual monitoring and reporting framework for caribou habitat disturbance and recovery provides annual assessment and reporting on undisturbed habitat, biophysical habitat, wildfire disturbance, anthropogenic features, and estimated forest harvest and approvals. Disturbance metrics and habitat availability for each caribou range was calculated using nationally defined critical habitat for the species (Environment Canada, 2011) with buffered anthropogenic features and un-buffered wildfire areas. Fire data from AFP (Alberta Wildfire), and anthropogenic features from Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI) (Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute and Alberta Human Footprint Monitoring Program, 2022) were used to represent disturbed habitat up to 2019. This was augmented with remote-sensed data (Chowdhury, 2021) to estimate habitat disturbance in 2022 and 2023.

To augment the identification of caribou biophysical habitat as described in the federal caribou recovery strategies (Environment Canada, 2012), Alberta developed a classification system outlined in Methods for Refining Federal Classification of Woodland Caribou Biophysical Critical Habitat for Alberta (Alberta Environment and Parks, 2018). For reporting purposes under the Agreement, biophysical habitat was approximated for years 2019, 2022 and 2023 by removing areas recently subject to fires, and new anthropogenic features (based on 2019 ABMI human footprint and Chowdhury 2021). Undisturbed biophysical habitat was calculated similarly, but also removes habitat within 500 metres of an anthropogenic footprint.

In addition to the anthropogenic features observed on the landscape, there were ongoing applications and approvals during 2022 and 2023 for industry and natural resource activities that contribute to future footprint. These disturbances were estimated to understand the area of potential footprint that may be observed on the landscape in 2023 and 2024, respectively. To estimate approved disturbances in 2022, forestry approvals were calculated using the most recently available spatial harvest sequence information for each forest management unit, and all other approvals were derived from those recorded spatially in Alberta's Digital Integrated Dispositions (DIDs) mapping program. Approvals recorded in DIDs include linear approvals (industrial activities approved for power lines, pipelines, and roads) and energy and mining approvals (industrial activities approved for petroleum and natural gas, coal, metallic and industrial metals, and surface material extraction). These estimated approvals were summed to depict the total estimated footprint area of approvals in 2022 and 2023.

For illustration purposes, range-specific values are reported for caribou local populations and seasonal ranges, resulting in a total of 26 local population ranges (including summer and winter ranges for Redrock-Prairie Creek and A la Pêche). Annex 3 and the text below provide results of the habitat monitoring analysis for all caribou ranges (including local populations and administratively defined groupings).

Undisturbed Caribou Range Habitat (Figure 6, Figure 7, Annex 3, Table A3.1, Table A3.2, Figure A3.1)

Undisturbed critical habitat was quantified using disturbance assessments from fires and anthropogenic footprint. Fires were considered as a disturbed area if they had burned within 40 years and had a burn class between 3-5, indicating the severity to burn at least half of the polygon area. Most footprints were buffered by 500m to represent anthropogenic disturbance. Some features were excluded including reclaimed areas, low impact seismic lines, and the vegetated edges of some railways and roads.

The 26 local population ranges (including summer and winter ranges for Redrock-Prairie Creek and A la Pêche) and the percent of total undisturbed habitat in 2022 and 2023 are illustrated in Figure 6 and Figure 7. Table A3.1 provides a summary of total undisturbed habitat (ha) and the proportion (%) of each range that was undisturbed habitat in 2010, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Ranges estimated to have the least (i.e., less than 5%) undisturbed habitat in 2022 include Little Smoky (0.7%), Slave Lake (1%), Wiau local population (2.3%), Egg-Pony local population (2.5%), Chinchaga (3%), including the Deadwood (2.7%) and Chinchaga (3%) local populations, and Nipisi (4.2%). Ranges estimated to have less than 10% undisturbed habitat in 2022 include the Wandering local population (5.1%), Bistcho (6.8%), Christina local population (7.4%), and East Side Athabasca River (9.9%). The A la Pêche (91.3%) and Redrock-Prairie Creek (82.1%) summer ranges and the Caribou Mountains (52.6%) have the largest estimated amounts of undisturbed habitat in 2022; however, the A la Pêche (12.5%), and Redrock-Prairie Creek (28.5%) winter ranges contain notably less undisturbed habitat than their summer ranges.

Ranges estimated to have the least (i.e., less than 5%) undisturbed habitat in 2023 include Little Smoky (0.7%), Slave Lake (1%), Wiau local population (2.3%), Egg-Pony local population (2.5%), Chinchaga (2.9%), including the Deadwood (2.4%) and Chinchaga (3%) local populations, and Nipisi (4.1%). Ranges estimated to have less than 10% undisturbed habitat in 2023 include the Wandering local population (5.1%), Bistcho (6.4%), Christina local population (6.9%), and East Side Athabasca

River (9.8%). The A la Peche (91.3%) and Redrock-Prairie Creek (82%) summer ranges have the largest estimated amounts of undisturbed habitat in 2023; however, the A la Peche (12.5%), and Redrock-Prairie Creek (28.4%) winter ranges contain notably less undisturbed habitat than their summer ranges.

Figure A3.1 and Table A3.2 of Annex 3 provide a summary of lands designated for protection under provincial legislation in caribou ranges.

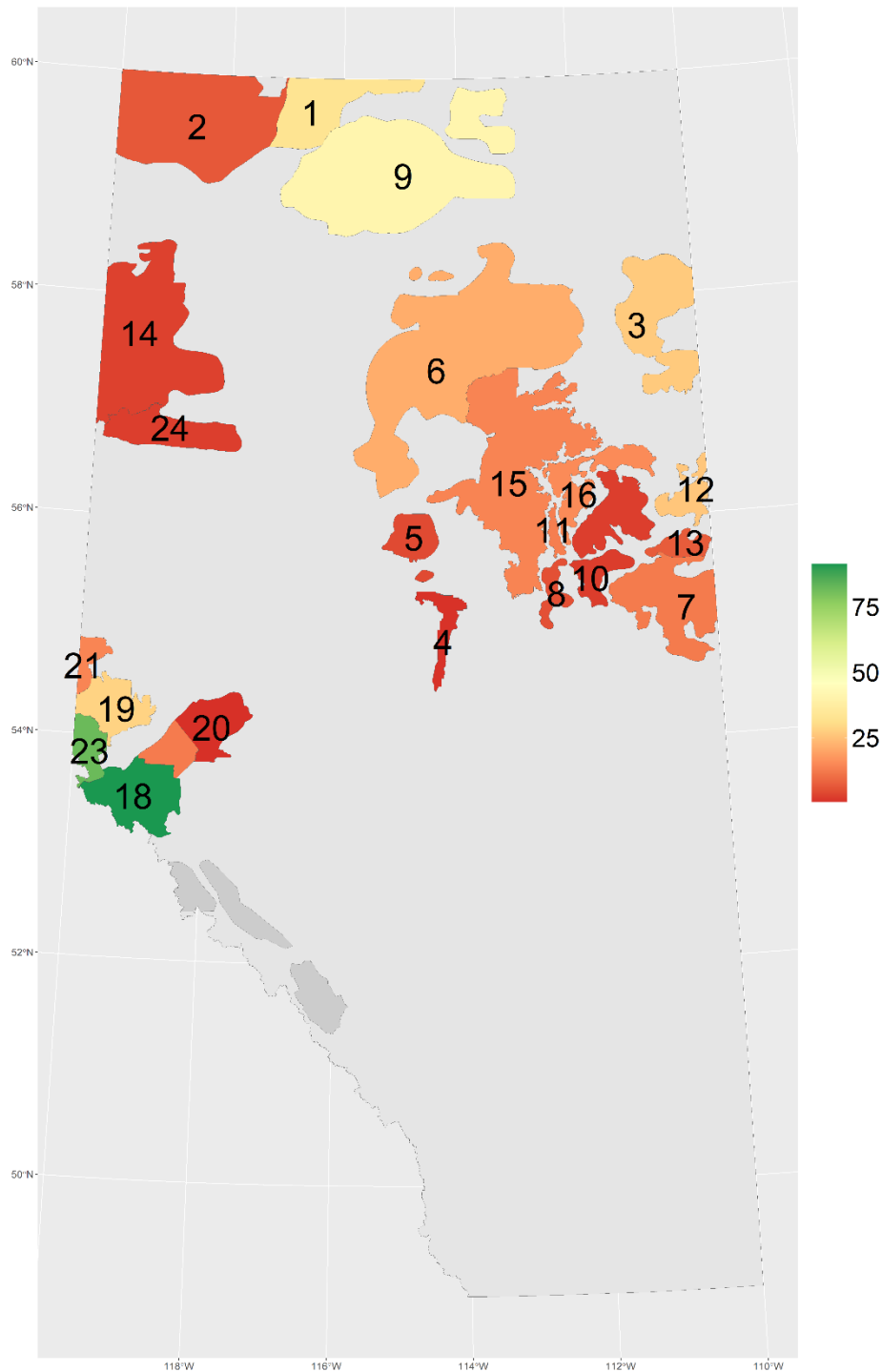


Figure 6. Undisturbed habitat (%) in Alberta's local population caribou ranges. Local populations (including summer and winter ranges) are identified by number: 1 – Yates, 2 – Bistcho, 3 – Richardson, 4 – Slave Lake, 5 – Nipisi, 6 – Red Earth, 7 – Cold Lake, 8 – Wandering, 9 – Caribou Mountains, 10 – Wiau, 11 – Agnes, 12 – Bohn, 13 – Christina, 14 – Chinchaga, 15 – West Side Athabasca River, 16 – Algar, 17 – Egg-Pony, 18 – A la Peche summer, 19 – Redrock-Prairie Creek winter, 20 – Little Smoky, 21 – Narraway, 22 – A la Peche winter, 23 – Redrock-Prairie Creek summer, 24 – Deadwood.

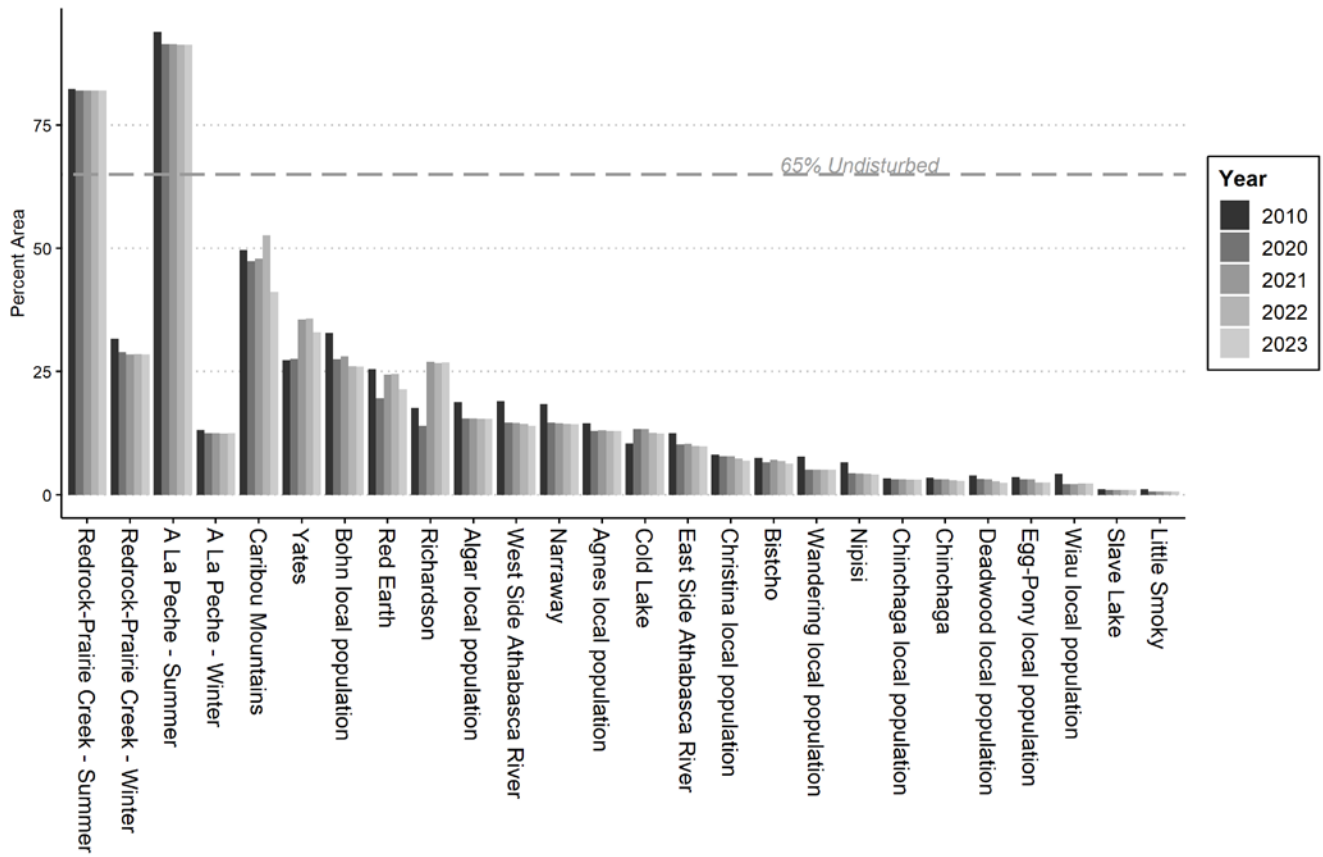


Figure 7. Cumulative percent of undisturbed habitat in 2010, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 in each caribou range (including local populations and seasonal ranges). Also see Annex 3, Table A3.1.

Caribou Biophysical Habitat (Figure 8, Annex 3, Table A3.1)

Table A3.1 summarizes biophysical critical habitat for each caribou range in 2022 and 2023. Figure 8 illustrates biophysical critical habitat for each caribou range in both years.

2022

Ranges estimated in 2022 to have least undisturbed biophysical habitat (i.e., less than 5%) include: Slave Lake (0.3%), Little Smoky (0.5%), Chinchaga (1.6%), including Chinchaga (1.5%) and Deadwood (2%) local populations, Wiau local population (1.6%), Nipisi (1.6%), Egg-Pony local population (1.7%), Bistcho (2.7%), and Wandering local population (2.7%). During 2022, the Caribou Mountains range gained undisturbed biophysical habitat (**Figure 8**) due to biophysical habitat returns from the recovery of forest fire after 40 years.

Ranges estimated to have the most undisturbed biophysical habitat in 2022 include: Caribou Mountains (38.9%), and the summer ranges of A la Peche (74.3%) and Redrock-Prairie Creek (75.4%). However, the A la Peche (8.2%), and Redrock-Prairie Creek (23.3%) winter ranges have notably less undisturbed biophysical habitat than their summer ranges.

2023

Ranges estimated in 2023 to have least undisturbed biophysical habitat (i.e., less than 5%) include: Slave Lake (0.2%), Little Smoky (0.5%), Chinchaga (1.5%), including Chinchaga (1.5%) and Deadwood (1.7%) local populations, Wiau local population (1.6%), Nipisi (1.5%), Egg-Pony local population (1.6%), Bistcho (2.3%), and Wandering local population (2.7%).

Ranges estimated to have the most undisturbed biophysical habitat in 2023 include the summer ranges of A la Peche (74.3%) and Redrock-Prairie Creek (75.4%). However, the A la Peche (8.2%), and Redrock-Prairie Creek (23.3%) winter ranges have notably less undisturbed biophysical habitat than their summer ranges.

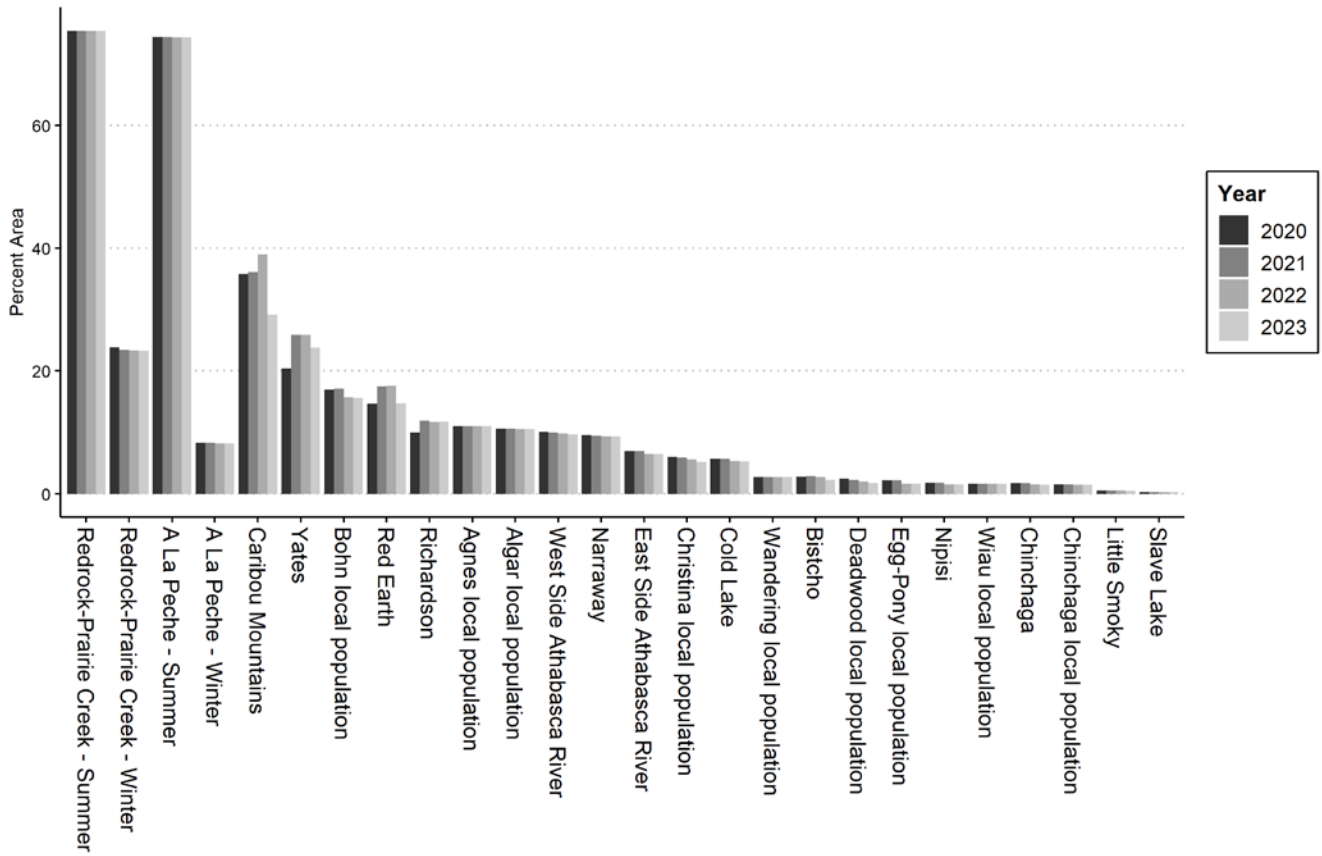


Figure 8. Cumulative percent of undisturbed biophysical habitat in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 in each caribou range (including local populations and seasonal ranges).

Wildfire Disturbance (Figure 9, Annex 3, Table A3.3)

Table A3.3 and Figure 9 provide summaries of wildfire disturbance (ha) and the proportion (%) of wildfire disturbance in each caribou range for 2010, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Using AFP historical wildfire polygons, wildfire disturbance in each range is the total area disturbed by fire within 40 years, with burn class between 3-5 (Figure 9).

2022

Ranges of local populations most impacted by wildfire (>50%), as of 2022, include Wiau local population (56%) and Richardson (51.3%). Caribou local populations that had more than 30% of the range area disturbed by wildfires in the past 40 years (between 1982 and 2022) include: Algar local population (37.5%), Slave Lake (36.7%), Bistcho (33.1%) and Egg-Pony local population (32.8%).

2023

Ranges of local populations most impacted by wildfire (>50%), as of 2023, include Wiau local population (56%) and Richardson (51.3%). Caribou local populations that had more than 30% of the range area disturbed by wildfires in the past 40 years (between 1983 and 2023) include: Slave Lake (38.8%), Bistcho (38.1%), Algar local population (37.5%), Caribou Mountains (33.1%), Egg-Pony local population (33.2%), and Nipisi (30.4%).

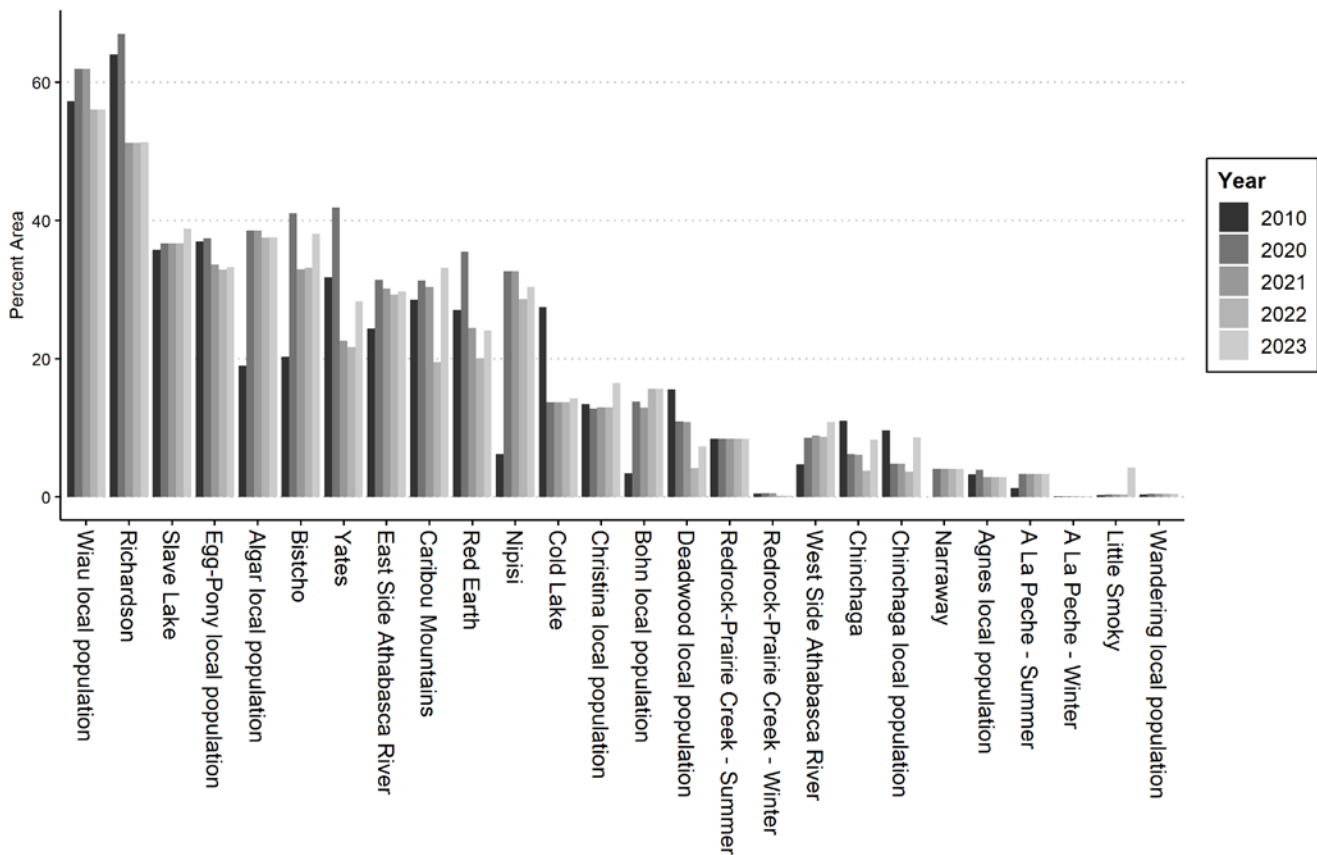


Figure 9. Percent of area disturbed by wildfire (within 40 years) in 2010, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 in each caribou range (including local populations and seasonal ranges).

Anthropogenic Features (Figure 10, Annex 3, Table A3.3)

Estimates of disturbance in caribou ranges do not fully enable assessment of increases or decreases in the occurrence of footprint features over time, since developments may be created or restored within associated disturbance buffers. Annex 3, Table A3.3 and Figure 10 estimate the change in un-buffered footprint in caribou ranges between 2010, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. This assessment was based on ABMI Human Footprint polygons (2021) and satellite data (Chowdhury 2021). Some anthropogenic features were excluded including reclaimed areas, low impact seismic lines, and the vegetated edges of some railways and roads.

Over the period 2010 to 2023 the percentage of caribou range covered by footprint increased in all ranges, except for the A la Peche and Redrock-Prairie Creek summer ranges.

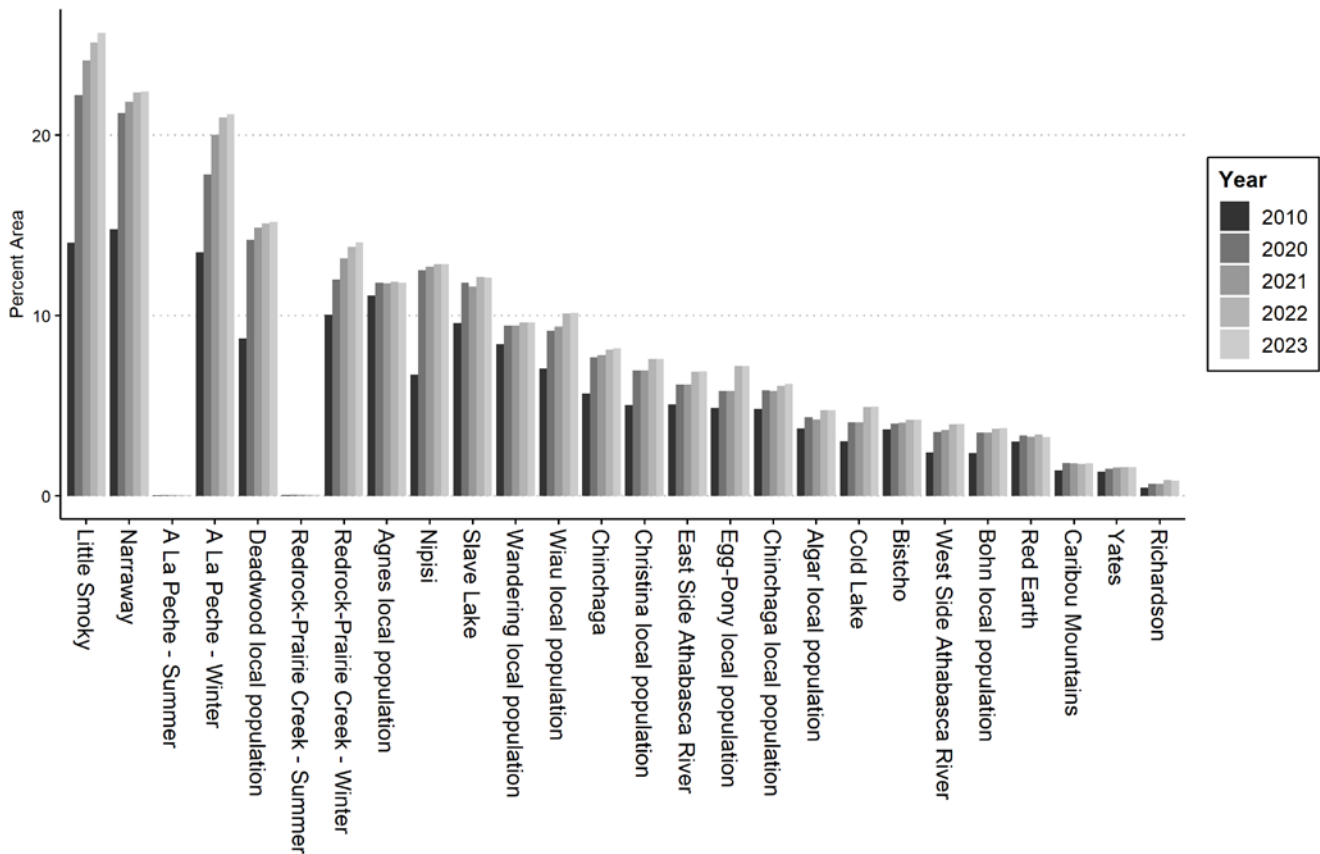


Figure 10. Percent of un-buffered anthropogenic features in 2010, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 in each caribou range (including local populations and seasonal ranges).

Estimated Approvals (Annex 3, Table A3.5)

Working landscapes are intended to be managed for multiple environmental, social, and economic objectives. These objectives include environmental conservation, as well as human use for social and economic values. Working landscapes include natural resource industry activity and will also support traditional use, recreational use, and biodiversity objectives - including species at risk recovery.

2022

In addition to the anthropogenic features observed on the landscape in 2022, there were ongoing approvals for industry and natural resource activities that may contribute to future footprint on the landscape. Table A3.5 in Annex 3, provides a summary

of the potential estimated footprint that may be realized in 2023, as a percentage of the area of each caribou range, resulting from 2022 approvals.

2023

In addition to the anthropogenic features observed on the landscape in 2023, there were ongoing approvals for industry and natural resource activities that may contribute to future footprint on the landscape. Table A3.5 in Annex 3, provides a summary of the potential estimated footprint that may be realized in 2024, as a percentage of the area of each caribou range, resulting from 2023 approvals.

Deviation from Expected Sub-Regional Outcomes

Projecting land use in Alberta's caribou ranges depends on industrial developments (primarily from the energy and forestry sectors) and natural disturbance (primarily fire). Forest harvest sequences are used to project patterns of harvest by decade, and energy sector projections are used to estimate potential future well sites. Both features (forest harvest areas and well sites) have forecast roads which are additive to the existing road network. Both feature types are organized by decade. These projections provide EPA's most reasonable estimate for the features that will be on the landscape at ten-year increments. In summary, EPA's projections include harvest areas, wells, and their road networks but do not include fires.

Comparing a current state to projected conditions considers two important factors. First, because of the time scale of sub-regional plans, comparison between current state and projected states of the sub-regional plans are possible only by decade. Second, the current state will likely differ from the projected state because fires are not projected. The total area of disturbance will be the most appropriate metric to compare, but it is likely the omission of fire from projections will impact projection accuracy.

Sub-regional plans are being developed to identify the area, amount, and type of anthropogenic footprint expected within each caribou range. Alberta is committed to tracking and reporting on expected footprint identified in sub-regional plans and the actual footprint on the landscape, approved by regulators.

4. Progress On Commitments

4.1 Collaboration

Information Sharing and Implementation Committee

Alberta and Canada established an implementation committee in October 2021 to provide direction for the implementation of the Agreement. Highlights from 2022 and 2023 included regular meetings of the implementation committee to discuss progress on sub-regional planning, caribou recovery and monitoring activities. In the spirit of the Agreement, regular communication and sharing of materials continues between the federal and provincial governments as part of ongoing collaboration and cooperation.

4.2 Engagement Summary

Sub-regional planning engagement

There are differences across the sub-regions, including different communities and resource users, resource availability, variation in the factors affecting caribou populations, and differences in societal and Indigenous community values and expectations. As a result, Alberta is committed to engaging First Nations and Métis communities and organizations, local communities, and stakeholders in each sub-region throughout the planning processes. In addition, the processes include engagement with the general public before draft sub-regional plans are finalized and advanced for review by government.

In 2022 and 2023, Alberta continued to host meetings with First Nations and Métis communities and organizations before launching task forces to support their participation in the task force and sub-regional planning processes. This component of the process is used to inform and engage interested First Nations and Métis communities and organizations of upcoming planning and processes (Figure 1). These meetings include sharing information that there will be opportunities to communicate Indigenous values and recommendations to the task force, and opportunities to provide additional advice to government. An overview of funding available to support communities' and organizations' participation in the process is also provided.

In 2022 and 2023, Indigenous working groups were struck for several sub-regional planning initiatives. Working groups provide an opportunity for discussions with Indigenous communities and organizations about land-use in the sub-region. Capacity funding is offered to Indigenous organizations and communities participating in sub-regional planning work, including Indigenous working group participation. Participation from Indigenous communities and organizations on these Indigenous working groups in 2022 and 2023 is summarized in Annex 4.

Bistcho Lake and Cold Lake Sub-Regions

There was no external engagement for the Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake sub-regions in 2022 or 2023, as Alberta was working towards developing draft regulations to support the implementation of the approved plans.

Berland Sub-Region

Engagement for the Berland sub-region in 2022 focused on the continuation of the task force process. Participants in the task force included industry representatives for the oil and gas, coal, and forestry sectors, trapping, tourism, environmental non-government organizations, small business and municipality representatives. Capacity funding was made available for Indigenous participants.

Two final Berland Task Force meetings were held in 2023 to provide participants an opportunity to check in with their constituents and confirm level of support/non-support for the recommendations generated by the task force. The task force recommendations report will provide guidance for the development of the sub-regional plan.

Chinchaga Sub-Region

In 2022, the planning efforts for the Chinchaga sub-region focused on pre-meetings with Indigenous representatives, the launch of the task force, and task force meetings. In 2023, the planning efforts for the Chinchaga sub-region focused on concluding task force meetings and completion of the task force recommendations report.

The inclusion of pre-meetings with Indigenous representatives increased opportunities for First Nations and Métis communities and organizations' participation in the task forces and sub-regional planning processes. Twenty-four First Nations and Métis communities and organizations were informed about the sub-regional task force and planning process for the Chinchaga sub-region and capacity funding was made available for participants.

The energy sector, forestry sector, trappers, tourism, recreational users, the small business sector, environmental non-government organizations, municipalities and Indigenous community and organizational representatives participated in the Chinchaga sub-region task force process. The task force met over eight months (June 2022 until February 2023) and developed recommendations which addressed caribou recovery priorities, as well consideration for multi-species conservation, socio-economic opportunities, recreational pursuits and other societal interests, and impact on the exercise of First Nations' Treaty rights and traditional uses, and/or Metis Settlement members' harvesting and traditional use activities.

Upper Smoky Sub-Region

In 2022 and 2023, the planning efforts for the Upper Smoky sub-region focused on subject-specific working group meetings, and included interests related to forestry, oil and gas, recreational users, tourism, sand and gravel, coal, peat, access management, and biodiversity and conservation, and Indigenous communities and organizations.

The Indigenous working group for the Upper Smoky sub-region planning process was struck in January 2022. Invitations to participate, including offers of capacity funding, were sent to twelve First Nations and Métis communities and organizations. From these, eleven elected to participate in the planning process and were provided with capacity funding to support their involvement in the working group. The Indigenous working group had a combination of virtual meetings and in-person workshops in 2022, and in-person meetings in 2023. A workbook summarizing Indigenous perspectives, and seeking validation and additional insights, was shared with the twelve Indigenous communities and organizations, providing another avenue for engagement.

Wandering River Sub-Region

The Wandering River Task Force, including representatives of Indigenous communities and organizations, continued to meet throughout the first half of 2022 and completed their recommendations report in June 2022. Later in 2022, several working groups were initiated to support development of the sub-regional plan, including forestry, access management, petroleum and

natural gas, oilsands, linear features, surface materials, recreation and tourism, biodiversity, and Indigenous values. Invitations to participate in the Indigenous working group, including offers of capacity funding, were sent to twenty-five Indigenous communities and organizations. Capacity-funding was provided to the sixteen communities and organizations that responded to support involvement in this working group. The Indigenous working group held meetings online in 2022 and in-person in 2023, with consistent representation from twenty-one Indigenous communities and organizations. The working group provided recommendations, completed a workbook, and discussed options for all topics relating to the sub-regional plan.

In response to a consensus recommendation of the Wandering River Task Force, the Government of Alberta provided a grant to Fort McKay First Nation and Chipewyan Prairie First Nation to coordinate an Indigenous-led initiative of seventeen communities and organizations. These communities and organizations worked together to identify areas on the landscape that are significant to Indigenous communities and organizations for the meaningful exercise of Section 35 rights and other traditional land uses, and provided recommendations on supporting the exercise of Treaty Rights, harvesting, and traditional uses in the Wandering River Sub-region.

4.3 Population and Habitat Targets

Targets were identified in the Agreement to guide the application and evaluation of conservation, management, and recovery measures over the short, medium, and long term. The following provides a summary of the status and actions planned to meet population and habitat targets identified in the Agreement.

Population Targets

Short term (5 years or sooner)

“Deliver management actions to maintain or achieve stable or positive growth for woodland caribou local populations including Little Smoky, A la Pêche, Redrock-Prairie Creek, Narraway, Chinchaga, Cold Lake, and East Side of the Athabasca River.”

Delivery of lethal wolf population reductions have facilitated estimated annual population growth from 2022 and 2023 (Annex 2) to remain at or above a growth rate of 1.0 for the listed caribou populations. It must be noted, however, that variation within the various components of caribou demographics rates affect the certainty and interpretation of ascertaining annual population growth (i.e., 95% confidence intervals). In addition, as lambda is an annual estimate, stable or positive growth must be sustained across multiple years to ensure persistence of local populations while landscape-level habitat conservation and recovery enables suitable conditions for caribou persistence.

Medium term (10 years or sooner)

“Deliver management actions towards maintaining or achieving stable or positive population growth for all woodland caribou local populations.”

Alberta continues to deliver annual caribou population monitoring activities for all ranges and local populations or portions of ranges on provincial Crown lands and assesses the need to deliver enhanced recovery efforts, including expansion of predator management activities to additional ranges, when required. In 2022 and 2023, predator management actions were initiated and expanded to the Slave Lake and Nipisi caribou ranges using existing incentivised RFMA trapping and aerial control programs.

Long term (50 to 100 years or sooner)

“The target is to achieve naturally self-sustaining status for all woodland caribou local populations in Alberta.”

Alberta continues to deliver annual caribou population monitoring activities for all ranges, or portions of ranges on provincial Crown lands and assess the need to deliver enhanced recovery efforts, including expansion of predator management activities to additional ranges, when required.

Habitat Targets

Alberta is committed to achieving caribou critical habitat conservation and recovery on landscapes where human activities are well managed and coordinated. The management of habitat for sustainable woodland caribou is a key objective of sub-regional planning and the creation of sub-regional plans.

Short term (5 years or sooner)

“Finalize and implement sub-regional plans that support achievement of woodland caribou critical habitat outcomes for all woodland caribou local population ranges.”

In 2022, there were six sub-regional plans being implemented or developed:

- The Bistcho Lake sub-regional plan was approved,
- The Cold Lake sub-regional plan was approved,
- The Upper Smoky sub-regional plan was under development,
- The Wandering River task force recommendations were finalized and plan development was launched,
- The Berland task force was underway, and
- The Chinchaga task force was underway.

In 2023, there were six sub-regional plans being implemented or developed:

- The Bistcho Lake sub-regional plan was being implemented with development of regulatory details,
- The Cold Lake sub-regional plan was being implemented with development of regulatory details,
- The Upper Smoky sub-regional plan was under development,
- The Wandering River sub-regional plan was under development,
- The Berland task force recommendations were finalized, and
- The Chinchaga task force recommendations were finalized.

“Initiate or continue woodland caribou critical habitat restoration in local population ranges and avoid disturbance of areas treated to initiate habitat restoration.”

To date, the CHRP has identified 209,000 km of legacy seismic lines for future restoration planning and subsequent treatment. In 2022, the CHRP planned the treatment of 525 km of legacy seismic lines and treated 1,000 km of legacy seismic lines in the Little Smoky caribou range.

In 2023, the CHRP planned the treatment of over 500 km of legacy seismic lines in the ESAR range and treated 880 km of legacy seismic lines in the Little Smoky caribou range. The treatment of an additional 725 km of legacy seismic lines was underway in 2023.

“Enable resumption of subsurface mineral sales in woodland caribou local population ranges, that is in alignment with woodland caribou conservation and recovery objectives, including the need to increase woodland caribou critical habitat.”

In September 2016, the sale of Crown mineral rights in all caribou ranges in Alberta was restricted to reduce further landscape footprint while Alberta developed strategies and plans to support caribou conservation and recovery. In 2022 and 2023, the restriction on the sale of subsurface minerals remained in effect. This restriction may be lifted in local population ranges as sub-regional plans are finalized.

Medium term (10 years or sooner)

“Annually deliver management actions that contribute to achieving critical habitat outcomes in all of Alberta’s woodland caribou local population ranges.

Conserve and manage undisturbed and biophysical habitat to enable all woodland caribou local populations to be naturally self-sustaining in the long term; and

Evaluate the potential to protect woodland caribou habitat through Alberta’s existing legislative or regulatory tools.”

Alberta is continuing to work towards achieving these recovery targets. As sub-regional plans are approved, Alberta will begin to deliver identified landscape management actions.

Alberta will use available legislative and regulatory tools to support delivery of sub-regional plan actions and commitments, as required.

Long-term (50-100 years)

“Demonstrate an increasing amount of critical habitat through time to achieve the critical habitat outcomes outlined in the Recovery Strategies and enable all woodland caribou local populations in Alberta to be naturally self-sustaining.”

Over time, Alberta will continue to ensure monitoring and evaluation are in place to support long-term assessments of progress and adaptive management.

Effectiveness of conservation and recovery measures

Effectiveness of conservation and recovery measures will be evaluated throughout the term of the Agreement and will be reported on in subsequent annual reports and during the 5-year reporting cycle.

Unforeseen circumstances impacting conservation and recovery measures

The increasing evidence of southern mountain caribou continuing to demonstrate reduced use of traditional forested foothills winter range areas, in response to anthropogenic land uses, challenges the ability to conserve and recover these populations in Alberta.

The impact and extent of wildfire within caribou ranges will continue to be unpredictable and can challenge the ability to conserve and recover specific caribou populations depending on the extent and rate of habitat loss due to fire and anthropogenic disturbance as well as overall landscape condition.

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Annex 1: Detailed activities and outcomes from the Agreement, Appendix B

Management Tool	Action Objective	Range	2022, 2023 Deliverables	2022, 2023 Results	Next Steps
Table A. Landscape Planning					
A.1 Sub-regional Planning (Range Planning)	A.1.1 Complete sub-regional plans that will achieve, at the caribou range level, woodland caribou critical habitat outcomes set out in the Recovery Strategies and consistent with ECCC's Range Plan Guidance for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population (2016)	Cold Lake (including Christina portion of East Side of the Athabasca River range), Bistcho	2022, 2023: Implement subregional plans for identified ranges.	2022: Alberta approved sub-regional plans for Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake in April 2022. 2023: Development of regulatory details continued.	Continue to implement Cold Lake and Bistcho sub-regional plans and finalize regulatory details.
	A.1.2. Complete sub-regional plans that will achieve, at the caribou range level, woodland caribou critical habitat outcomes set out in the Recovery Strategies and consistent with ECCC's Range Plan Guidance for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population (2016)	Redrock-Prairie Creek, Narraway	2022: Finalize subregional plans that consider all land uses, including footprint, recreational and access management plans, for identified ranges. 2023: Implement subregional plans for identified ranges.	2022, 2023: Sub-regional planning for the Upper Smoky sub-region continued.	Complete sub-regional planning for the Upper Smoky sub-region.
	A.1.3 Complete sub-regional plans that will achieve, at the caribou range level, woodland caribou critical habitat outcomes set out in the Recovery Strategies and consistent with ECCC's Range Plan Guidance for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population (2016)	East Side of the Athabasca River	2022: Finalize subregional plans that consider all land uses, including footprint, recreational and access management plans, for identified ranges. 2023: Implement subregional plans for identified ranges.	2022: Recommendation report was received from the Wandering River Task Force. Sub-regional planning for the Wandering River sub-region was initiated. 2023: Sub-regional planning for the Wandering River sub-region continued.	Complete sub-regional planning for the Wandering River sub-region.
	A.1.4 Complete sub-regional plans that will achieve, at the caribou range level, woodland caribou critical habitat outcomes	Chinchaga, Little Smoky, A la Peche	2022: Continue to support subregional task forces to develop recommendations that inform subregional plans that	2022: Sub-regional task forces for the Chinchaga and Berland sub-regions continued.	Initiate Berland and Chinchaga sub-regional

Management Tool	Action Objective	Range	2022, 2023 Deliverables	2022, 2023 Results	Next Steps
	set out in the Recovery Strategies and consistent with ECCC's Range Plan Guidance for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population (2016)		<p>achieve critical habitat outcomes set out in the Recovery Strategies. Multi-species and socio-economic considerations and analyses will be considered by the task forces.</p> <p>2023: Finalize subregional plans that consider all land uses, including footprint, recreational and access management plans, for identified ranges.</p>	2023: Recommendation reports were received from the Berland and Chinchaga Task Forces.	planning and public engagement.
	A.1.5 Complete sub-regional plans that will achieve, at the caribou range level, woodland caribou critical habitat outcomes set out in the Recovery Strategies and consistent with ECCC's Range Plan Guidance for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population (2016)	Nipisi, Slave Lake	Not applicable	Not applicable	Continue planning to meet Agreement timelines.
	A.1.6 Complete sub-regional plans that will achieve, at the caribou range level, woodland caribou critical habitat outcomes set out in the Recovery Strategies and consistent with ECCC's Range Plan Guidance for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population (2016)	Richardson, West Side of the Athabasca River	Not applicable	Not applicable	Continue planning to meet Agreement timelines.
	A.1.7 Complete sub-regional plans that will achieve, at the caribou range level, woodland caribou critical habitat outcomes set out in the Recovery Strategies and consistent with ECCC's Range Plan Guidance	Yates, Caribou Mountains, Red Earth	Not applicable	Not applicable	Continue planning to meet Agreement timelines.

Management Tool	Action Objective	Range	2022, 2023 Deliverables	2022, 2023 Results	Next Steps
	for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population (2016)				
A.2 Legal Authority for Sub-regional Plans	A.2.1 Establish sub-regional plans, that support woodland caribou conservation and recovery, under provincial legislation	Not applicable	2022, 2023: Enable subregional plans under provincial legislation. Subregional plans are published in the Alberta Gazette.	2022, 2023: Work continues to enable Bistcho Lake and Cold Lake sub-regional plans under provincial legislation.	Finalize regulatory details to enable sub-regional plans under provincial legislation.
A.3 Cross-Jurisdictional Coordination	A.3.1 Develop and implement complementary conservation and management measures with neighbouring federal, territorial, and provincial jurisdictions for shared woodland caribou populations	Transboundary ranges, including Bistcho, Yates, Caribou Mountains, Red Earth, Chinchaga, A la Peche, Redrock-Prairie Creek Narraway, Jasper, Cold Lake, East Side of the Athabasca River, Richardson	2022, 2023: Maintain engagement with neighbouring jurisdictions. Develop and implement plans for shared woodland caribou populations.	Alberta coordinates delivery of wolf population reductions with the government of British Columbia, and shares caribou location and vital rates information with neighbouring jurisdictions. ECCC and Alberta continue to communicate and collaborate on conservation measures via the federal/ provincial/ territorial National Boreal Caribou Technical Committee. ECCC and Alberta had quarterly (or more frequent) committee discussions on implementation of the conservation agreement. Periodic discussions occurred between Alberta, BC, SK, NWT and Jasper National Park as part of existing engagements; ECCC continued to support those communications and collaborations.	Continue to collaborate with neighbouring jurisdictions on conservation and management measures for shared woodland caribou populations.

Management Tool	Action Objective	Range	2022, 2023 Deliverables	2022, 2023 Results	Next Steps
A.4 Range Boundary Updates	A.4.1 Adjust identified woodland caribou local population range boundaries	Caribou Mountains, Yates, and Red Earth, relative to range delineations within Wood Buffalo National Park, and an overall evaluation of Richardson	<p>2021: Finalize adjusted range boundaries and incorporate in provincial land use planning and approval processes.</p> <p>Updated range boundaries are available for incorporation into future Recovery Strategy amendments.</p> <p>2022, 2023: Not applicable</p>	<p>Timelines for completion of all range boundary/local caribou population updates have been delayed. Updates are anticipated for the 2024 report.</p> <p>Through this current report, Alberta has continued to take steps to evaluate, identify and adjust local population range boundaries, and (to the extent possible) report on population vital rates for caribou at both the local population and range-level scales.</p>	<p>Complete caribou local population range adjustments.</p> <p>No action by ECCC was required in 2022-2023. ECCC will consider including updated range boundaries, when submitted by Alberta, towards inclusion into an amended Recovery Strategy.</p>
Table B. Habitat Conservation, Management and Recovery					
B.1 Restoration	B.1.1 Restore footprint to contribute to achievement of woodland caribou critical habitat outcomes set out in the Recovery Strategies	All ranges in whole or in part on provincial land with an emphasis on southern mountain caribou	<p>2022: Set up Indigenous and multi-stakeholder Restoration Steering Committee to support habitat restoration program implementation.</p> <p>2022, 2023: Continue implementing the provincial restoration program.</p>	<p>2022, 2023: Set up of the Restoration Steering Committee has been delayed.</p> <p>Steps continue to be made to enhance the restoration program in Alberta, including funding provided to the Caribou Habitat Recovery Program (CHRP) which supports the development and implementation of restoration treatment plans.</p> <p>The Alberta-Canada caribou section 11 contribution agreement was finalized in July 2022. This supports implementation and scaling up of the provincial restoration program to achieve these actions.</p> <p>Updates to <i>Alberta's Provincial Restoration and Establishment</i></p>	<p>Continue implementing the provincial restoration program.</p> <p>Work towards the setup of the Restoration Steering Committee.</p> <p>Continue updates to <i>Alberta's Provincial Restoration and Establishment Framework for Legacy Seismic Lines in Alberta</i>. Updates to this document are expected to be completed in 2025.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to support participation of Indigenous communities and organizations in the restoration program.</p>

Management Tool	Action Objective	Range	2022, 2023 Deliverables	2022, 2023 Results	Next Steps
				<i>Framework for Legacy Seismic Lines in Alberta</i> are underway.	
	B.1.2 Involve Indigenous Peoples in identification of desired access routes prior to restoration implementation	All ranges in whole or in part on provincial land	2022, 2023: Ongoing	<p>The Bistcho Lake and Cold Lake sub-regional plans enable ongoing access for Indigenous traditional use, following forest harvest and the reforestation of legacy seismic footprint in new harvest blocks.</p> <p>There is ongoing work with Indigenous communities under the CHRP to understand access needs in planning for legacy seismic footprint restoration.</p>	Continue to work with Indigenous communities through the CHRP to understand access needs in planning for legacy seismic footprint restoration.
B.2 Forest Harvest Management	B.2.1 Complete range-specific planning to inform forest management that will achieve woodland caribou critical habitat outcomes set out in the Recovery Strategies	All ranges in whole or in part on provincial land	<p>2022, 2023: Complete forest harvest planning for areas with completed sub-regional plans that are consistent with woodland caribou conservation and recovery.</p> <p>Planning will consider the implications of alternative forest management scenarios and enable an increase in the amount of critical habitat over time within all woodland caribou ranges.</p>	<p>2022, 2023: An aggregated approach to forestry has been established in the Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake sub-regions through harvest timing sequences included in these sub-regional plans approved in April 2022. Subsequent stand-level planning of harvest timing sequences and the associate requirements for forest harvest have begun by companies within these two sub-regions.</p> <p>The development of the Wandering River and Upper Smoky sub-regional plans is including consideration of alternative forest management scenarios.</p>	<p>Implement forest harvest requirements consistent with the Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake sub-regional plans.</p> <p>Finalize approach to forest harvest management in the Wandering River and Upper Smoky sub-regional planning areas as these sub-regional plans and regulatory details are developed.</p>

Management Tool	Action Objective	Range	2022, 2023 Deliverables	2022, 2023 Results	Next Steps
	B.2.2 Ensure alignment of Forest Management Plans and harvesting operations with conservation and recovery of local woodland caribou populations and woodland caribou critical habitat outcomes set out in the Recovery Strategies	All ranges in whole or in part on provincial land	2022, 2023: Forest Management Plans and harvesting operations will be aligned with, and contribute to, conservation and recovery of local woodland caribou populations and critical habitat outcomes.	2022, 2023: The Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake sub-regional plans, approved in April 2022, include direction on aggregating forestry activities within caribou ranges to minimize forestry-related disturbance and create larger patches of intact habitat as the forest regrows. The development of the Wandering River and Upper Smoky sub-regional plans is including consideration of directions for forest harvest management planning.	Implement forest management consistent with the Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake sub-regional plans. Finalize approach to forest harvest management in the Wandering River and Upper Smoky sub-regional planning areas as these sub-regional plans and regulatory details are developed.
B.3 Wildfire Management Planning	B.3.1 Incorporate woodland caribou range values (e.g., critical habitat, caribou population occurrence, rearing facilities) in Wildfire Management Plans	Little Smoky, A la Peche, Redrock-Prairie Creek, Narraway	2022, 2023: Strategies for addressing wildfire risk are identified in each woodland caribou range. Update wildfire management plans, if required, and progressively implement for existing plans and as plans are developed.	2022, 2023: Caribou range boundaries were provided to AFP.	EPA continues to provide input and advice for the effective incorporation of caribou values into Wildfire Management Plans and inform wildfire suppression operations to support caribou recovery objectives.
	B.3.2 Incorporate woodland caribou range values (e.g., critical habitat, caribou population occurrence, rearing facilities) in Wildfire Management Plans	All remaining ranges in whole or in part on provincial land	2022: Values are to be identified within each woodland caribou range and provided to Wildfire Management for forest area wildfire management planning. 2023: Strategies for addressing wildfire risk are identified in each woodland caribou range. Update wildfire management plans, if required, and progressively	2022, 2023: Caribou range boundaries were provided to AFP to inform the development of the Whitecourt and Slave Lake Wildfire Management Plans.	EPA continues to provide input and advice for the effective incorporation of caribou values into Wildfire Management Plans and inform wildfire suppression operations to support caribou recovery objectives. Commence development of the High Level Forest

Management Tool	Action Objective	Range	2022, 2023 Deliverables	2022, 2023 Results	Next Steps
			implement for existing plans and as plans are developed.		Area Wildfire Management Plan.
B.4 Management of Energy Sector Activities	B.4.1 Pursue voluntary agreements with energy companies that support woodland caribou conservation and recovery objectives	All ranges in whole or in part on provincial land	2022, 2023: Alberta will consider and may pursue additional agreements with energy companies to reduce footprint of future developments.	2022, 2023: The transfer of the Little Smoky Caribou Herd Development Agreement from Ovintiv Canada ULC to Kiwetinohk Energy Corp was completed in 2022. No additional voluntary agreements were signed in 2022 or 2023.	Consider pursuing agreements with energy companies to reduce footprint of future developments.
	B.4.2 Conduct access management planning that is consistent with woodland caribou conservation and recovery objectives	Cold Lake, Bistcho Lake	2022: Finalize access management plans for identified ranges. 2023: Implement access management plans for identified ranges.	2022: The access management plans for the Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake sub-regions were included in the Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake sub-regional plans approved in April 2022. 2023: The access management plans are being implemented within the Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake sub-regions.	Continue to implement Cold Lake and Bistcho access management plans and finalize regulatory details.
	B.4.3 Conduct access management planning that is consistent with woodland caribou conservation and recovery objectives	Redrock-Prairie Creek, Narraway	2022: Initiate development of access management plans for identified ranges. 2023: Finalize access management plans for identified ranges.	2022, 2023: Access management planning as part of development of the Upper Smoky sub-regional plan development is continuing.	Complete planning for access management in the Upper Smoky sub-region.
	B.4.4 Conduct access management planning that is consistent with woodland caribou conservation and recovery objectives	East Side of the Athabasca River	2022: Initiate development of access management plans for identified ranges. 2023: Finalize access management plans for identified ranges.	2022: Access management planning in the Wandering River sub-region was delayed while data was gathered and classified. 2023: Access management planning as part of development	Continue planning for access management in the Wandering River sub-region.

Management Tool	Action Objective	Range	2022, 2023 Deliverables	2022, 2023 Results	Next Steps
				of the Wandering River sub-regional plan is continuing.	
	B.4.5 Conduct access management planning that is consistent with woodland caribou conservation and recovery objectives	Chinchaga, Little Smoky, A la Peche, Nipisi, and Slave Lake	2022: Not applicable 2023: Initiate development of access management plans for identified ranges.	2022: Not applicable 2023: Task Forces for the Berland (Little Smoky, A la Peche ranges) and Chinchaga sub-regions provided their recommendations report in 2023. Drafting of these sub-regional plans, including access management planning, has not yet commenced.	Continue planning to meet Agreement timelines.
	B.4.6 Conduct access management planning that is consistent with woodland caribou conservation and recovery objectives	Richardson, West Side of the Athabasca River	2022, 2023: Not applicable	Not applicable	Continue planning to meet Agreement timelines.
	B.4.7 Conduct access management planning that is consistent with woodland caribou conservation and recovery objectives	Yates, Caribou Mountains, Red Earth	2022, 2023: Not applicable	Not applicable	Continue planning to meet Agreement timelines.

Management Tool	Action Objective	Range	2022, 2023 Deliverables	2022, 2023 Results	Next Steps
B.5 Land Use Management	<p>B.5.1 Ensure project approval conditions for existing and future energy, forestry and other land uses minimize impacts, including cumulative effects, to woodland caribou critical habitat, individual woodland caribou, and woodland caribou populations</p> <p>Develop new conditions to reduce impacts, including cumulative effects, to woodland caribou critical habitat, individual woodland caribou, and woodland caribou populations</p>	All ranges in whole or in part on provincial land	<p>2022: Assess and implement use of reservations and notations to assist in achieving woodland caribou critical habitat outcomes as listed in the Recovery Strategies. Ensure that project approval conditions for energy, forestry, and other land uses reduce impacts to caribou critical habitat and caribou populations.</p> <p>2023: Continue ensuring that project approval conditions for energy, forestry, and other land uses reduce impacts to woodland caribou critical habitat and woodland caribou populations.</p>	<p>2022 & 2023: Between January 2022 and December 2023, a total of 276 non-standard applications were referred to EPA for comment.</p> <p>Range specific breakdown of the number of non-standard applications are as follows: A la Peche (n = 10); Chinchaga (n=1); Cold Lake (n = 134); East Side of the Athabasca (n = 24); Little Smoky (n = 55); Narraway (n = 3); Nipisi (n = 2); Red Earth (n = 3); Redrock-Prairie Creek (n = 12); Richardson (n = 20); Slave lake (n = 2); and West Side Athabasca (n = 10).</p>	<p>Continue to assess the need for new and modify existing land reservations to achieve caribou recovery objectives.</p> <p>Continue to review, adjust and implement approval conditions and standards within the Master Schedule of Standards and Conditions to achieve caribou recovery objectives.</p>
	B.5.2 Consider potential management actions for identified important areas that occur outside range boundaries	All ranges in whole or in part on provincial land	2022, 2023: Document and implement any management actions.	The Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake sub-regional plans include some considerations and provisions for land management outside of the currently identified caribou ranges.	<p>Identify areas outside of caribou ranges benefitting from enhanced caribou monitoring or land management actions and continue to explore opportunities to be incorporated into land management processes.</p> <p>Implement land-use management actions consistent with the Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake sub-regional plans.</p>
Table C. Mortality and Population Management					

Management Tool	Action Objective	Range	2022, 2023 Deliverables	2022, 2023 Results	Next Steps
C.1 Predator Management	C.1.1 Wolf population management	All ranges in whole or in part on provincial land	<p>2022, 2023: Ongoing predator management programming.</p> <p>Assess need for predator management in additional woodland caribou ranges, consider discussions with relevant Indigenous peoples, and identify the need to coordinate with neighbouring jurisdictions.</p> <p>Implement predator management actions as agreed upon during cross-jurisdictional discussions (see next action objective).</p>	<p>2022, 2023: Annual wolf population management program continued within and adjacent to the following caribou ranges: A la Peche, Chinchaga, Cold Lake, East Side of the Athabasca, Little Smoky, Narraway, and Redrock-Prairie Creek. New management actions were initiated in 2022 and expanded in 2023 in both Slave Lake and Nipisi ranges.</p> <p>Range level summary provided in Annex 2, Table A2.1.</p>	Maintain existing program delivery and continue to assess the need for additional ranges that may require wolf population management actions.
	C.1.2 Convene neighbouring federal, provincial, and territorial jurisdictions on predator management	Transboundary ranges	2022, 2023: Convene relevant neighbouring federal, provincial, and territorial jurisdictions to identify the need for, and collaborate on, predator management actions for additional local populations based on needs assessment (see previous row), as necessary.	Collaboration between Alberta and British Columbia continues in relation to wolf population management for the Narraway and Chinchaga caribou populations.	ECCE, Alberta, and neighbouring jurisdictions continued to communicate on predator management activities via the National Boreal Caribou Technical Committee.
	C.1.3 Evaluate effectiveness of Alberta Trappers Association-led pilot program to increase wolf harvest activity by Registered Fur Management Area (RFMA) holders	<p>Little Smoky</p> <p>A la Peche, Redrock-Prairie Creek, Chinchaga, Cold Lake</p> <p>East Side of the Athabasca River</p>	2022, 2023: Implement program subject to availability of budget resources and success of pilot program.	<p>In 2022, RFMAs within and proximate to the Nipisi and Slave Lake ranges became eligible for the pilot program.</p> <p>In 2022, 95 Registered Fur Management Area holders participated in the program within the following caribou ranges: A la Peche/Little Smoky (5 RFMAs); Chinchaga (25 RFMAs); Cold Lake (3 RFMAs); East Side of the Athabasca (48 RFMAs);</p>	Continue to evaluate results and success of pilot program, and implementation of program.

Management Tool	Action Objective	Range	2022, 2023 Deliverables	2022, 2023 Results	Next Steps
				<p>Redrock-Prairie Creek (2 RFMAs); and Slave Lake/Nipisi (15 RFMAs).</p> <p>In 2023, 116 Registered Fur Management Area trappers participated in the program within the following caribou ranges: A la Peche/Little Smoky (8 RFMAs); Chinchaga (28 RFMAs); Cold Lake (5 RFMAs); East Side of the Athabasca (58 RFMAs); Redrock-Prairie Creek (2 RFMAs); and Slave Lake/Nipisi (15 RFMAs).</p>	
C.2 Captive Rearing	C.2.1 Consider establishing a rearing facility in the Little Smoky range and, if approved, commence 5-year pilot program	Little Smoky	<p>2022: Proceed with project, based on approvals.</p> <p>2023: Ongoing operations as needed.</p>	The proposed caribou rearing facility in the Little Smoky caribou range is not being advanced at this time.	Continue to consider if a captive rearing facility is necessary to avoid extirpation of the Little Smoky caribou population.
	C.2.2 Explore opportunities for collaboration with Indigenous peoples	Little Smoky	Continue engagement.	The use of captive rearing is not being advanced at this time.	Continue to consider if a captive rearing facility is necessary to avoid extirpation of the Little Smoky caribou population.
C.3 Harvest Management	C.3.1 Assess the need for establishing a conservation closure to prohibit killing of woodland caribou	All ranges in whole or in part on provincial land	<p>2022: Initiate consultation with identified communities and non-community based stakeholders, including current woodland caribou harvest and desired future woodland caribou harvest.</p> <p>2023: Establish conservation closure as required.</p>	The need for range-specific conservation closures continued to be assessed. No conservation closures were proposed in 2022 or 2023. EPA continues to provide awareness of the current conservation risk for caribou in Alberta and advise that no caribou populations can support harvest at this time.	Continue to assess the need for conservation closures.

Management Tool	Action Objective	Range	2022, 2023 Deliverables	2022, 2023 Results	Next Steps
C.4 Alternative Prey Management	C.4.1 Manage vegetation to reduce alternative prey forage	All ranges in whole or in part on provincial land	2022, 2023: Complete and deliver range-specific plans that over time will achieve woodland caribou critical habitat outcomes set out in the Recovery Strategies.	Sub-regional plans consider the need to reduce the creation of young seral stage forest stands in caribou range. An industrial land use approval condition which prohibits the seeding of legume species on dispositions within caribou range remains in place.	The effectiveness of subregional plans at reducing the creation of young seral stage forest stands to enable caribou conservation and recovery will be evaluated over time.
	C.4.2 Increase harvest opportunities for alternative prey species	Woodland caribou ranges receiving predator management actions	2022, 2023: Assess alternative prey abundance and harvest levels by Indigenous peoples with constitutionally recognized harvesting rights. Enhance licenced harvesting opportunities where needed to avoid alternative prey population increases.	Adjustments to licensed hunting opportunities, in alignment with wolf population management, have been put in place for portions of the Redrock-Prairie Creek, Little Smoky, and A la Pêche caribou ranges to mitigate the negative impacts of alternative prey populations on caribou. 2023: EPA conducted an alternate prey population survey within WMUs 352, 353, 440, 441 and a portion of WMUs 344 and 440 where ongoing wolf population management programs are underway.	Continue to assess the need for enhanced harvesting of alternative prey species in areas where wolf population management is being delivered.
Table D. Population and Habitat Monitoring					
D.1 Monitoring	D.1.1 Assess woodland caribou population status	All ranges in whole or in part on provincial land	2022, 2023: Implement annual monitoring program and prepare a report.	Annual program work completed. Range specific metrics and values are reported in Annex 2, Table A2.1.	Continue to deliver annual monitoring program.
	D.1.2 Estimate total population size	One or two ranges per year to establish baseline conditions	2022, 2023: Field work, analyses, and reporting.	A summary of range specific estimates are reported in Table A2.1.	Analysis of data collected to date is underway.

Management Tool	Action Objective	Range	2022, 2023 Deliverables	2022, 2023 Results	Next Steps
				2023: In collaboration with the BC Government, EPA delivered a fecal DNA survey of the Chinchaga Range and its' local populations.	Continue to assess the need for additional total population estimation work for Alberta's caribou ranges.
	D.1.3 Develop an annual monitoring and reporting framework for habitat disturbance and recovery, including areas where habitat restoration has been initiated	All ranges in whole or in part on provincial land	2022, 2023: Annual assessment and reporting on trends in habitat disturbance and recovery, biophysical habitat attributes by type, and spatial arrangement of habitat.	Work is underway to compare habitat projections from the approved Cold Lake and Bistcho Lake sub-regional plans with actual anthropogenic footprint., taking into account the temporal scale of the projected footprint.	Report on habitat through Agreement reporting. See Annex 3.
	D.1.4 Deliver woodland caribou conservation, management, and recovery measures	All ranges in whole or in part on provincial land	2022, 2023: Evaluate and coordinate areas where additional knowledge will help inform conservation, management, and recovery measures (e.g., silvicultural prescriptions).	2022: 1,000 km of legacy seismic lines were treated for restoration under the CHRP in the Little Smoky caribou range. 2023: 880 km of legacy seismic lines were treated for restoration under the CHRP in the Little Smoky caribou range.	Continue implementing the provincial restoration program.
	D.1.5 Delineate range categories within each local population unit for southern mountain caribou ranges	A la Peche Narraway Redrock-Prairie Creek	2021: Environment and Climate Change Canada to provide necessary information to support critical habitat delineation within each range. 2022, 2023: Not applicable	As part of the process to amend the 2014 <i>Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Southern Mountain Population</i> , ECCC continues cooperating with federal and provincial jurisdictions and Indigenous peoples on delineation of range categories within the local population units of the Central Group of Southern Mountain Caribou (SMC Central Group). In 2022-23, ECCC continued work to identify disturbance thresholds for the SMC Central Group, by exploring the relationship between population	ECCC will continue facilitating collaboration between ECCC, Alberta, British Columbia and Parks Canada, and engaging with Indigenous peoples on updating the delineation of critical habitat within each range.

Management Tool	Action Objective	Range	2022, 2023 Deliverables	2022, 2023 Results	Next Steps
				<p>growth and annual range-specific disturbance. This ongoing work will inform updates to delineation of categories for critical habitat.</p> <p>In 2022-23, collaboration and engagement on amendments to the Recovery Strategy included discussions with some individual Indigenous communities and organizations on critical habitat delineation, as well as in person workshops with multiple Indigenous communities and organizations in early 2023.</p>	

Annex 2: Annual update of population monitoring results

Table A2.1. Summary of caribou population monitoring results

Caribou Range and Local Population [*]	Population Monitoring			Population Size Estimation and Counts		Predator Management	
	Population Growth Rate [†]		Active Collars [‡]	Fecal DNA Surveys [§]	Total Minimum Count ^{**}	Total Wolf Removals ^{††}	
	Year: λ (95% CI)					Year: n (95% CI)	
	2022	2023	2022		2023	2022	2023
A la Peche	1.01 (0.81 - 1.14)	1.19 (1.06 - 1.27)	27	2017-18: 152 (142 – 162)	< 150	12	7
Bistcho	0.93 (0.71 - 1.09)	0.97 (0.79 - 1.09)	24	-	< 200	-	-
Caribou Mountains	1.06 (0.91 - 1.14)	1.01 (0.88 - 1.08)	25	-	< 200	-	-
Chinchaga Range ^a	0.98 (0.81 - 1.10)	1.04 (0.93 - 1.12)	35	2022-23: In Progress	< 200	110	61
Chinchaga local population	1.03 (0.86 - 1.12)	1.06 (0.94 - 1.13)	27	-	< 150	-	-
Deadwood local population	0.88 (0.35 - 1.27)	1.00 (0.65 - 1.18)	8	-	< 50	-	-
Cold Lake (Alberta portion)	0.92 (0.71 - 1.08)	1.05 (0.94 - 1.11)	26	2013-14: 353 (276 – 452)	< 150	45	36
East Side Athabasca River Range ^a	0.95 (0.82 - 1.05)	1.09 (1.04 - 1.13)	61	2012-13: 647 (549 – 763)	> 300	86	168
Agnes local population	0.77 (0.20 - 1.26)	0.92 (0.40 - 1.18)	5	-	< 50	-	-
Algar local population	0.99 (0.67 - 1.20)	1.04 (0.83 - 1.12)	11	-	< 100	-	-
Bohn local population	0.96 (0.69 - 1.09)	1.11 (0.87 - 1.24)	10	-	< 50	-	-
Christina local population	0.71 (0.33 - 1.02)	1.14 (0.90 - 1.25)	10	-	< 100	-	-
Egg Pony local population	1.11 (0.88 - 1.22)	1.07 (0.88 - 1.16)	13	-	< 50	-	-
Wandering local population	1.07 (0.72 - 1.22)	0.99 (0.73 - 1.11)	7	-	< 50	-	-
Wiau local population	1.02 (0.69 - 1.15)	1.01 (0.68 - 1.15)	5	-	< 50	-	-

^{*} Alberta monitors caribou populations at the local population scale. In some cases, such as the Chinchaga, East Side of the Athabasca River and Red Earth ranges, estimates of caribou population growth rate have also been made at broader landscape scales to ensure adequate data for adult survival and calf recruitment – in these cases Table 2A.1 reports on results measured at both landscape (i.e., “Range”) and embedded local population scales.

[†] Lambda estimates for local populations are reported based on calf recruitment and adult female survival measured at the local population scale. Note: In the first implementation report (EPA 2024b), local populations within the Chinchaga and East Side of the Athabasca River ranges used adult female survival rates averaged across the range-scale.

[‡] Active GPS collars deployed on adult female caribou as of spring 2022.

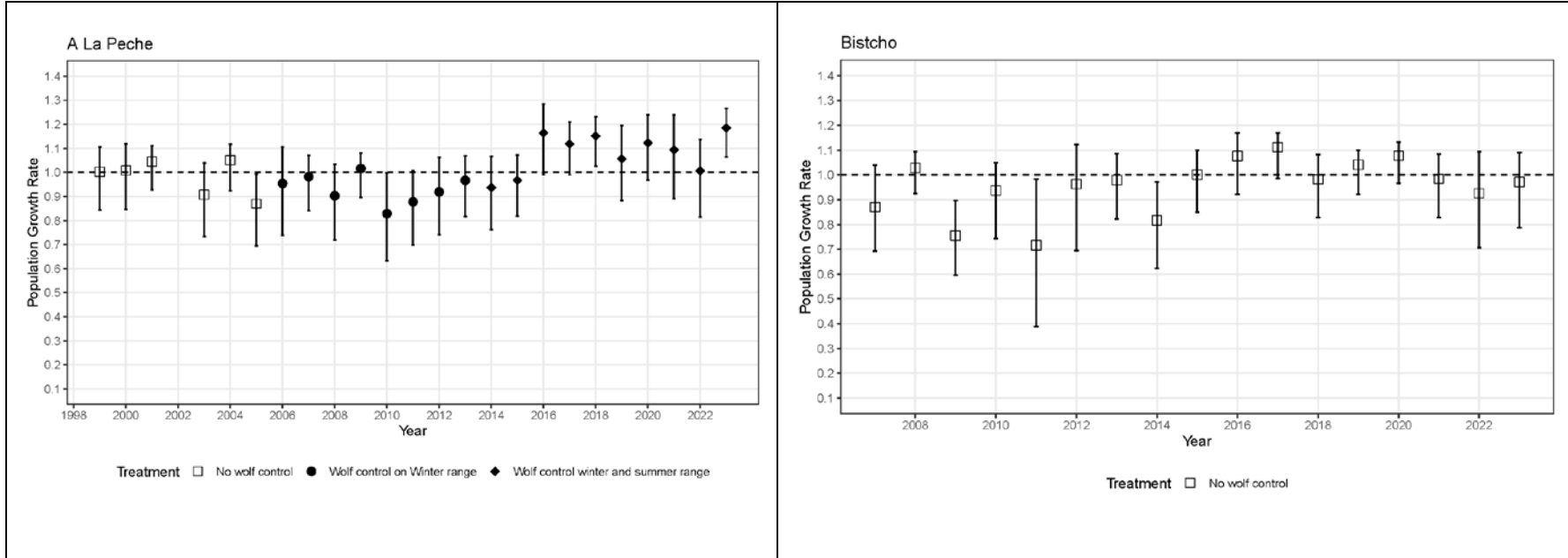
[§] Total population estimates for Redrock-Prairie Creek and Narraway ranges in 2018/19 did not use the same spatially-explicit analytic approach as compared to other ranges. While total size is reported, estimates of uncertainty are withheld as they are not comparable. Re-analysis is underway. Fecal DNA mark-recapture surveys for the Chinchaga range were completed in 2023 - analysis of samples collected are currently underway.

^{**} From minimum visual counts obtained during annual late winter calf recruitment surveys in winter 2023. Does not represent a population enumeration.

^{††} Total number of wolves removed per range as a result of EPA program delivery and incentivized RFMA trapper harvest; does not include other sources of legal harvest.

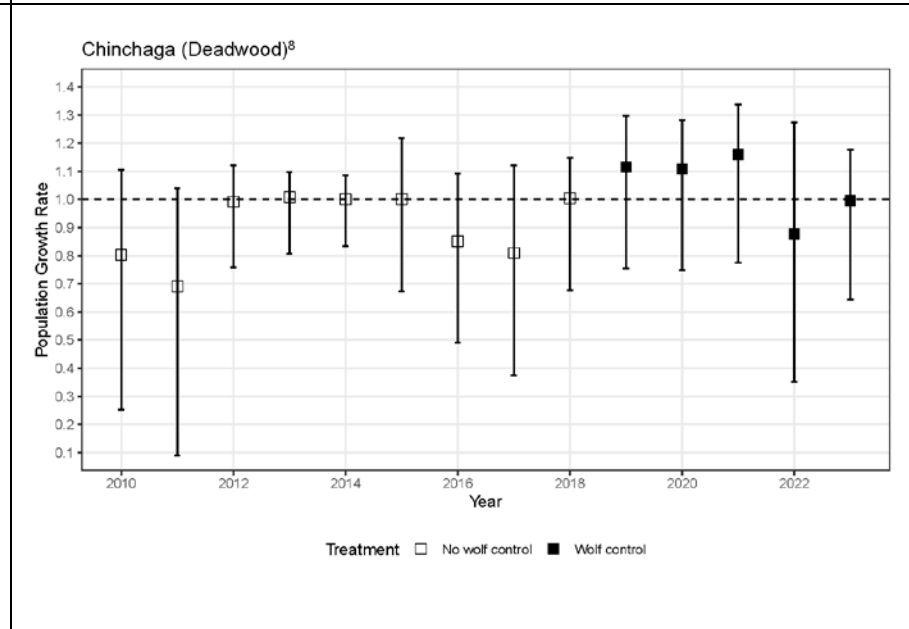
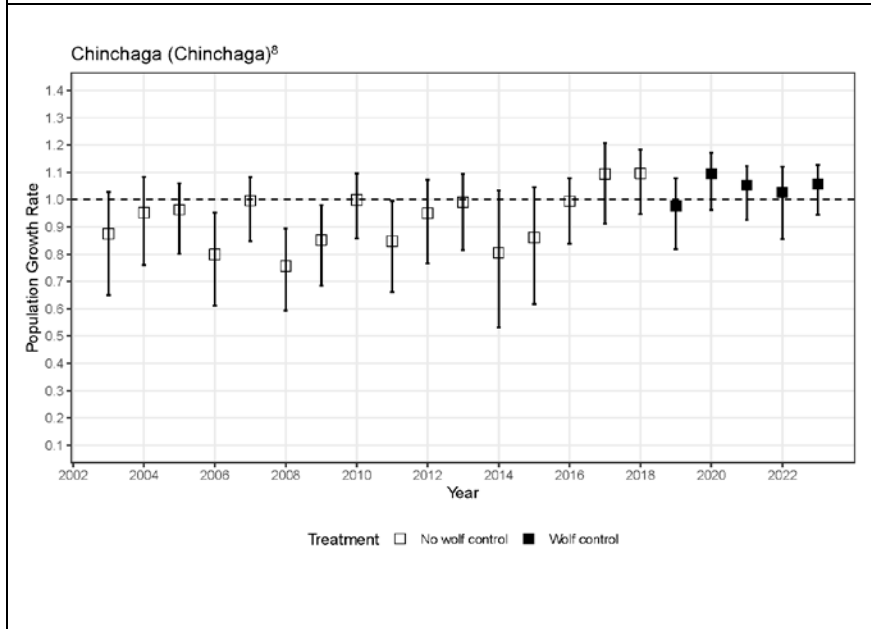
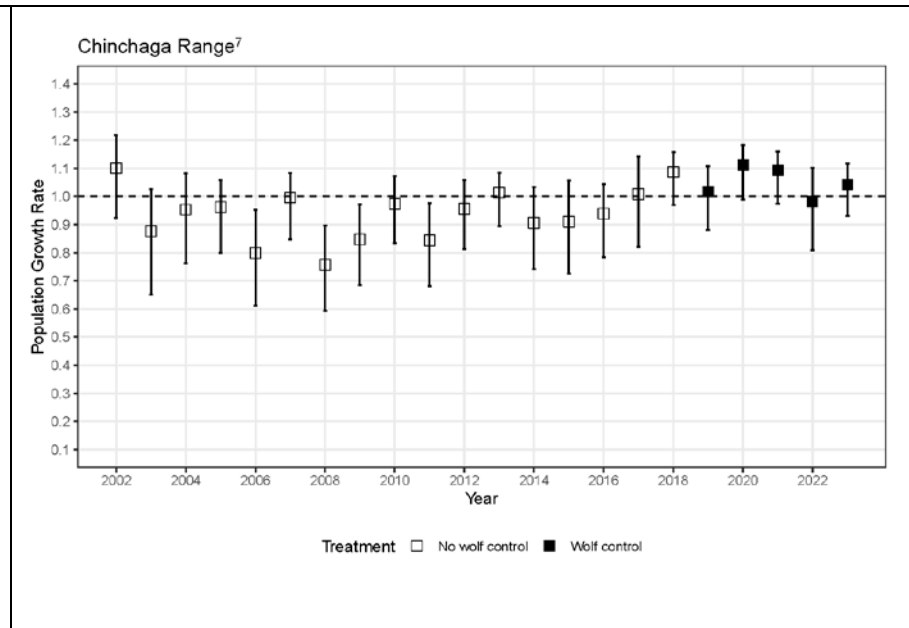
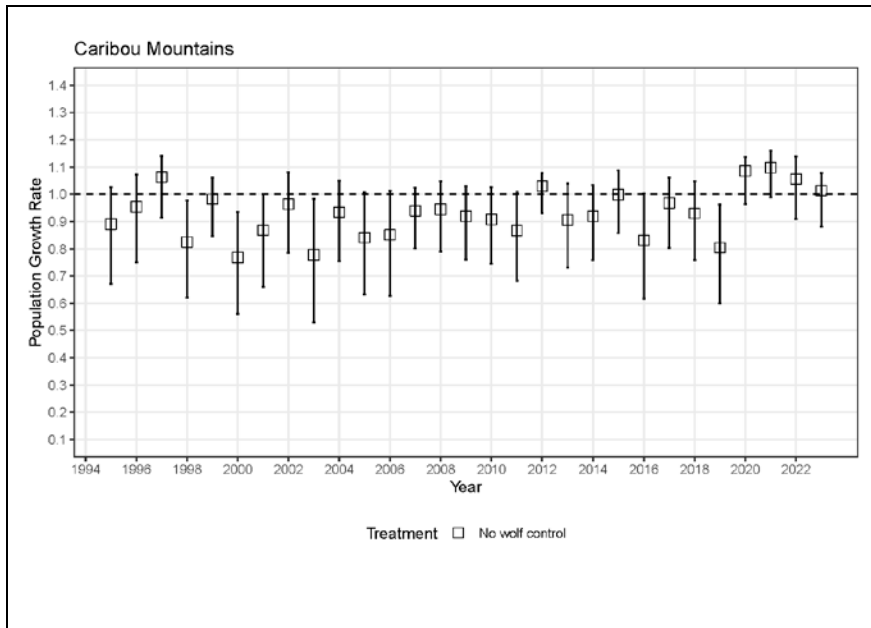
Little Smoky	1.03 (0.90 - 1.11)	1.04 (0.88 - 1.14)	23	2012-13: 94 (69 – 129)	< 100	32	47
Narraway	1.14 (0.96 - 1.25)	1.17 (1.00 - 1.27)	17	2018-19: 56	< 150	0	2
Nipisi	0.86 (0.45 - 1.04)	0.88 (0.55 - 1.09)	10	2018-19: 63 (47 – 85)	< 50	12	92
Red Earth Range ^a	1.16 (1.08 - 1.21)	1.05 (0.95 - 1.11)	48	2016-17: 387 (347 – 430)	< 300	-	-
Birch Mountains local population	1.13 (0.96 - 1.21)	1.07 (0.94 - 1.15)	23	-	< 150	-	-
Red Earth local population	1.16 (1.03 - 1.23)	1.02 (0.87 - 1.12)	25	-	< 150	-	-
Redrock-Prairie Creek	1.18 (1.04 - 1.26)	1.13 (0.99 - 1.23)	29	2018-19: 153	< 200	20	20
Richardson	1.01 (0.79 - 1.18)	0.97 (0.76 - 1.12)	22	-	< 150	-	-
Slave Lake	1.14 (0.89 - 1.28)	0.77 (0.40 - 1.09)	11	2018-19: 38 (25 – 58)	< 50	12	82
West Side Athabasca River	0.99 (0.83 - 1.10)	0.90 (0.70 - 1.05)	29	2014-15: 659 (590 – 737)	< 150	-	-
Yates	1.10 (0.91 - 1.21)	0.94 (0.72 - 1.09)	21	-	< 200	-	-

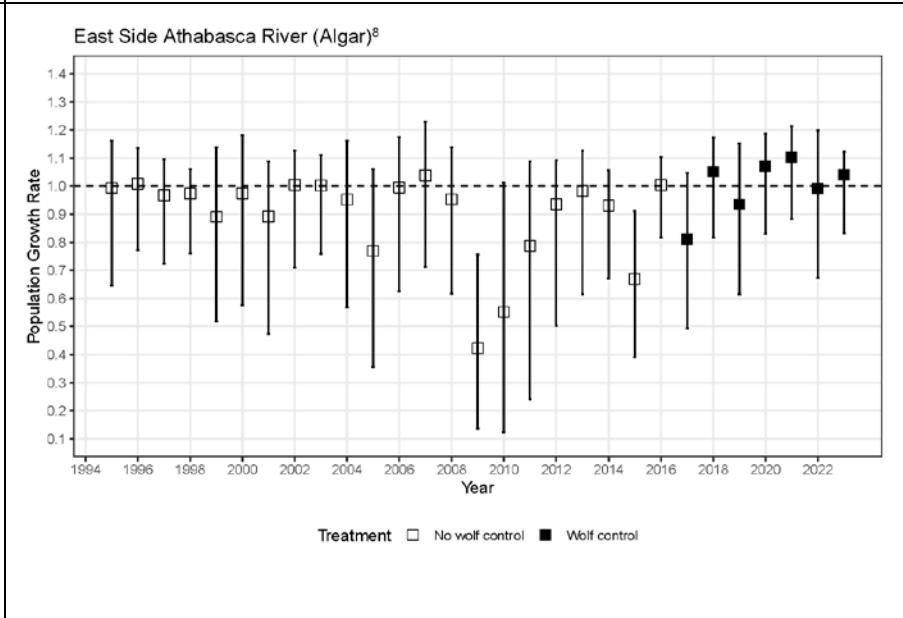
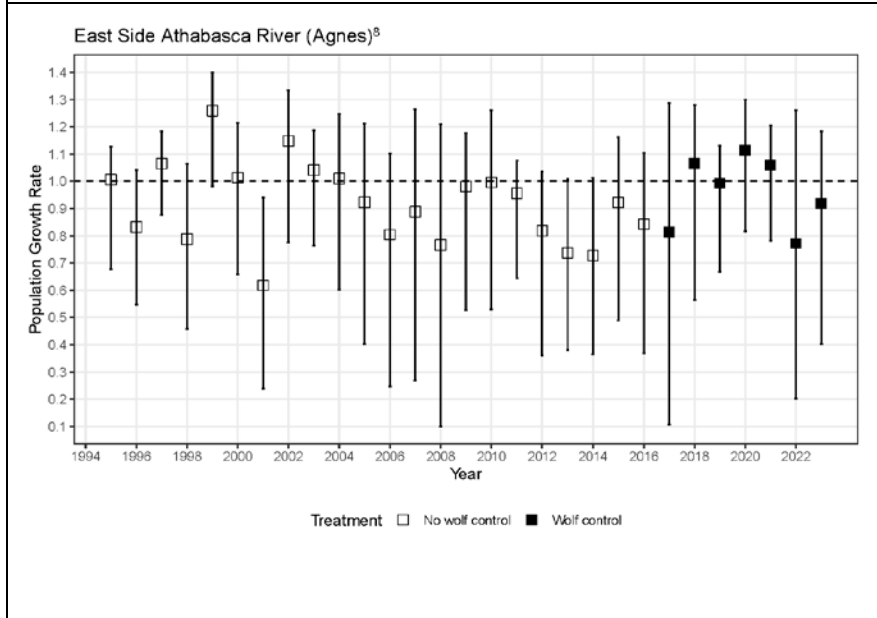
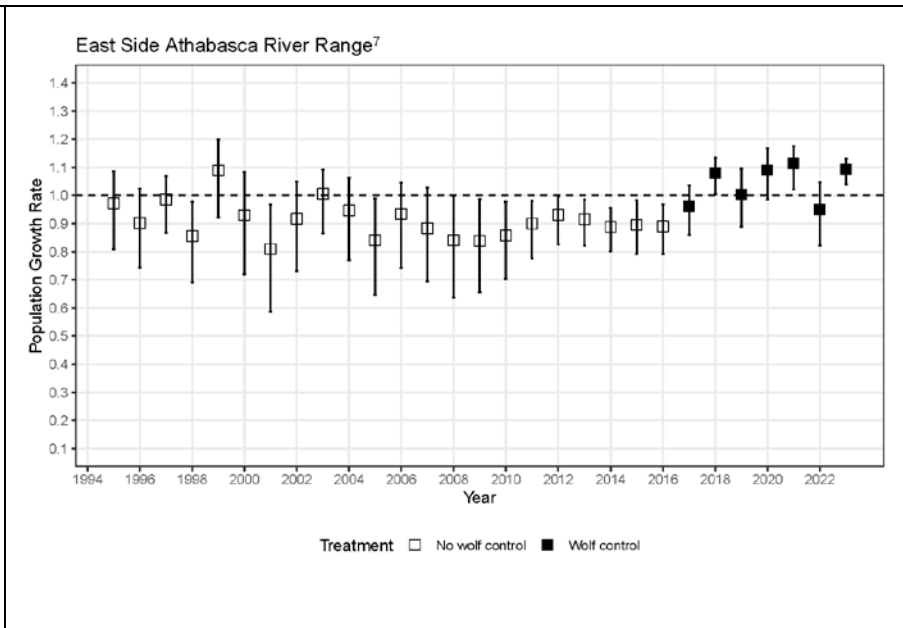
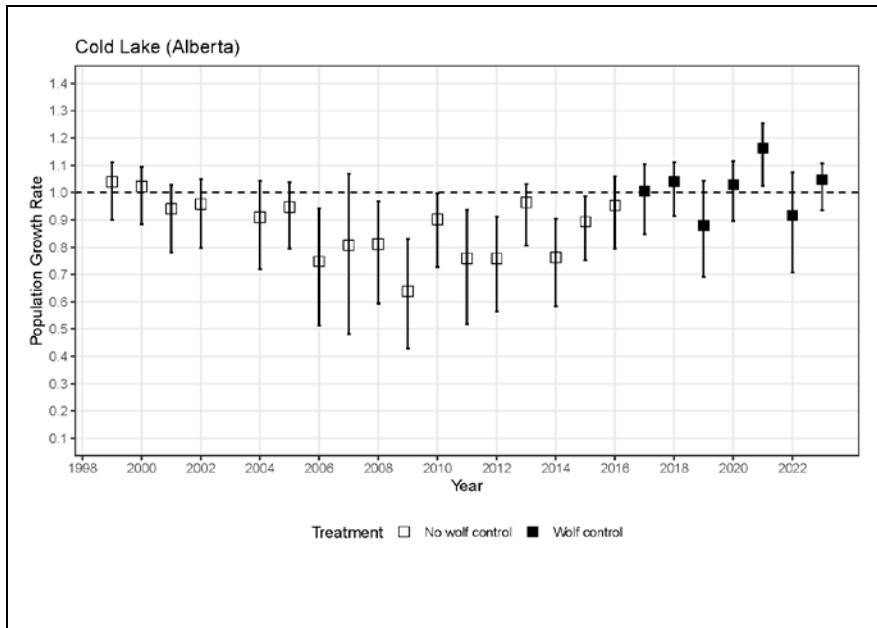
Figure A2.1. Woodland Caribou Population Growth by Alberta Caribou Ranges and Local Population[†]

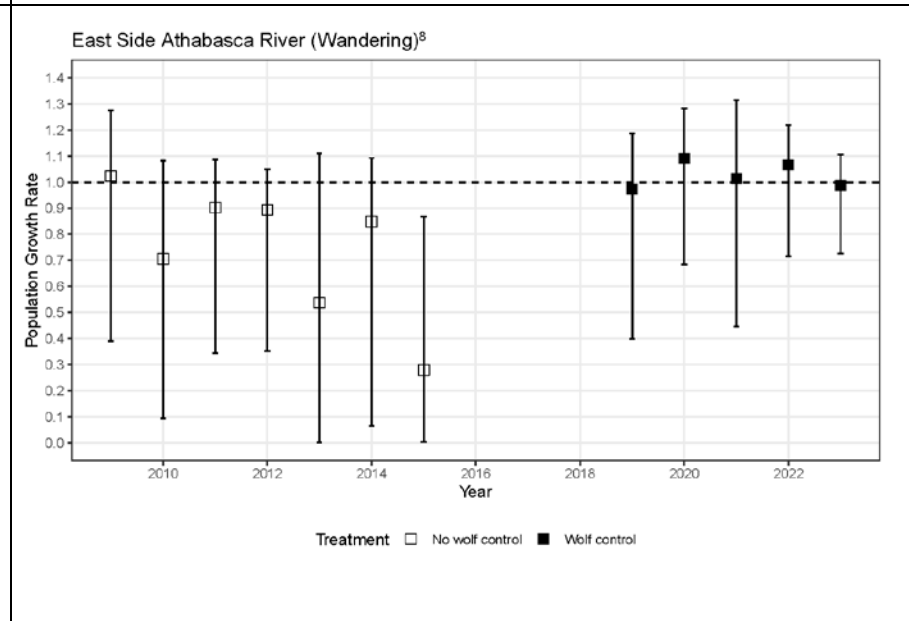
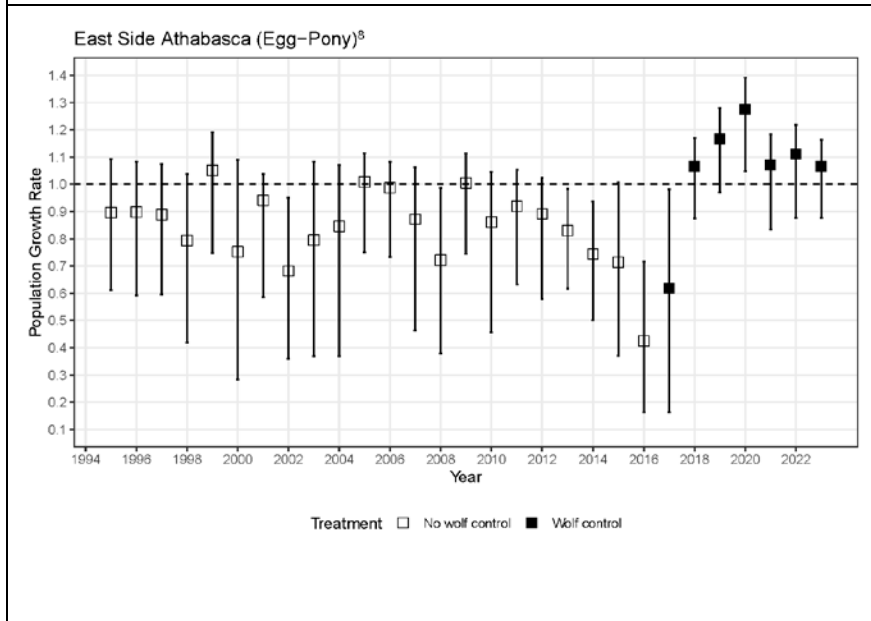
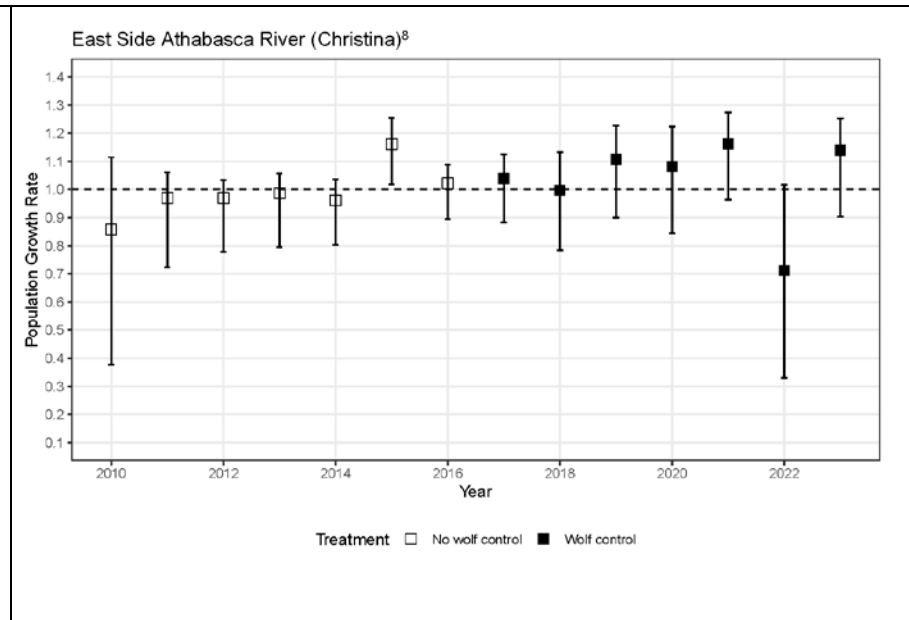
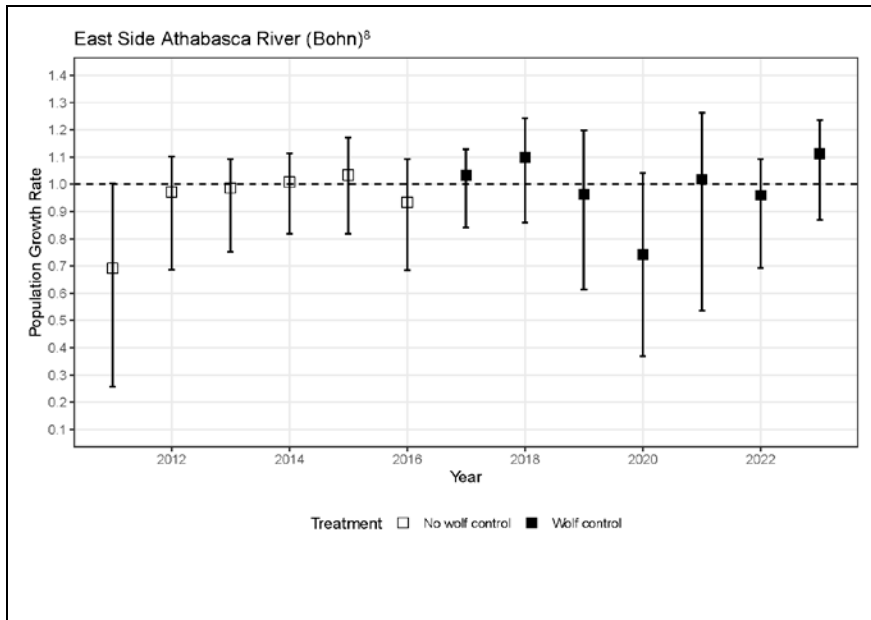


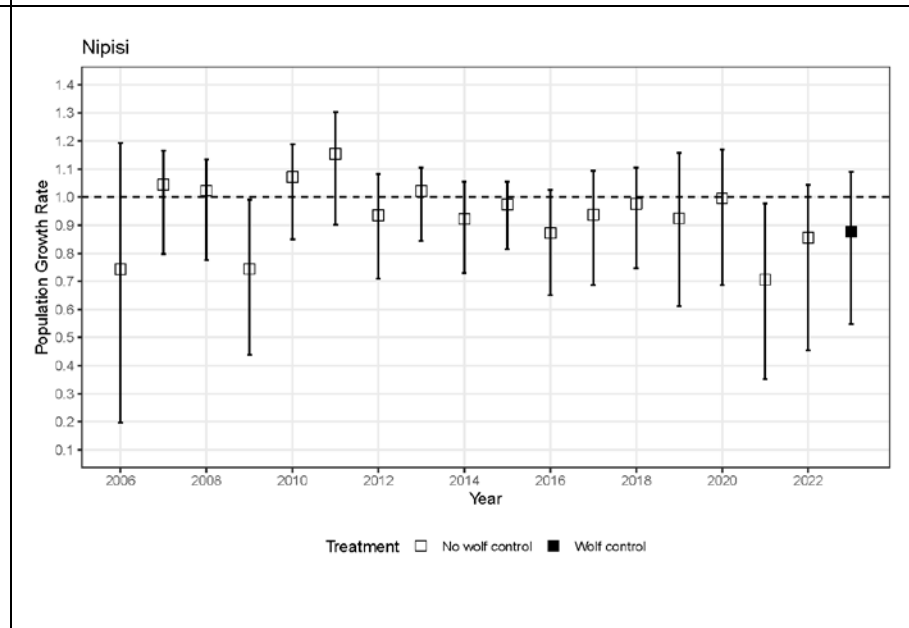
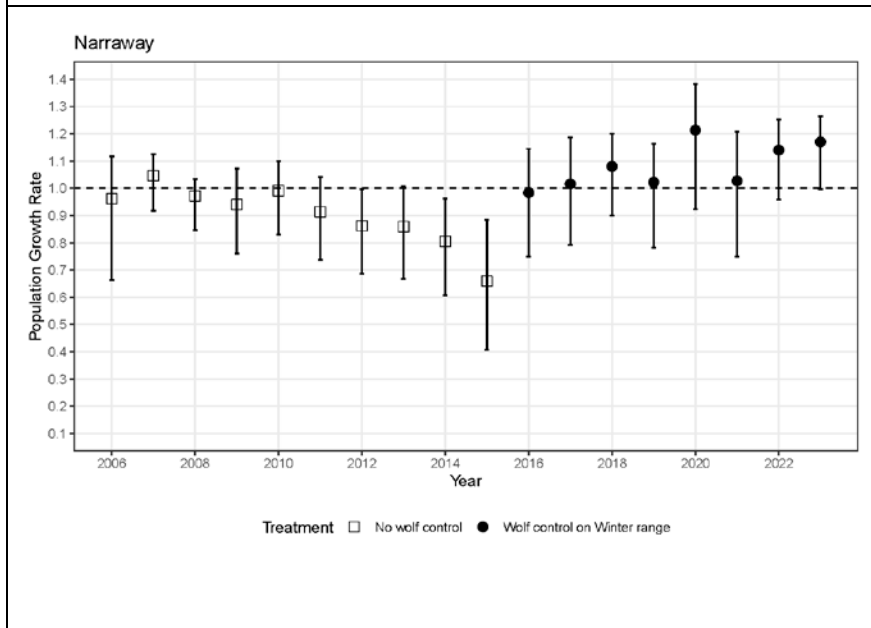
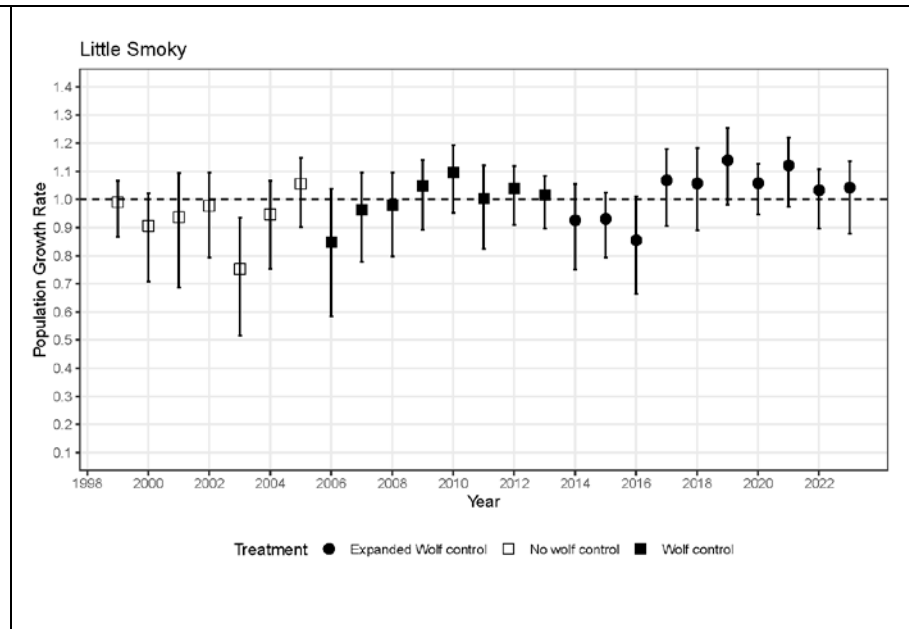
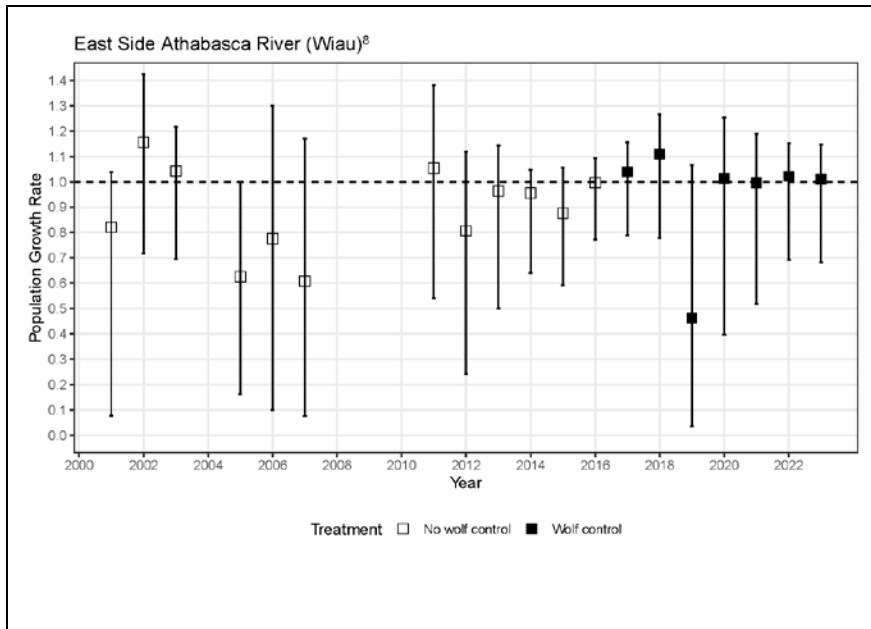
[†] Alberta monitors caribou populations at the local population scale. In some cases, such as the Chinchaga, East Side of the Athabasca River and Red Earth ranges, estimates of caribou population growth rate have also been made at broader landscape scales to ensure adequate data for adult survival and calf recruitment – in these cases Table 2A.1 reports on results measured at both landscape (i.e., “Range”) and embedded local population scales.

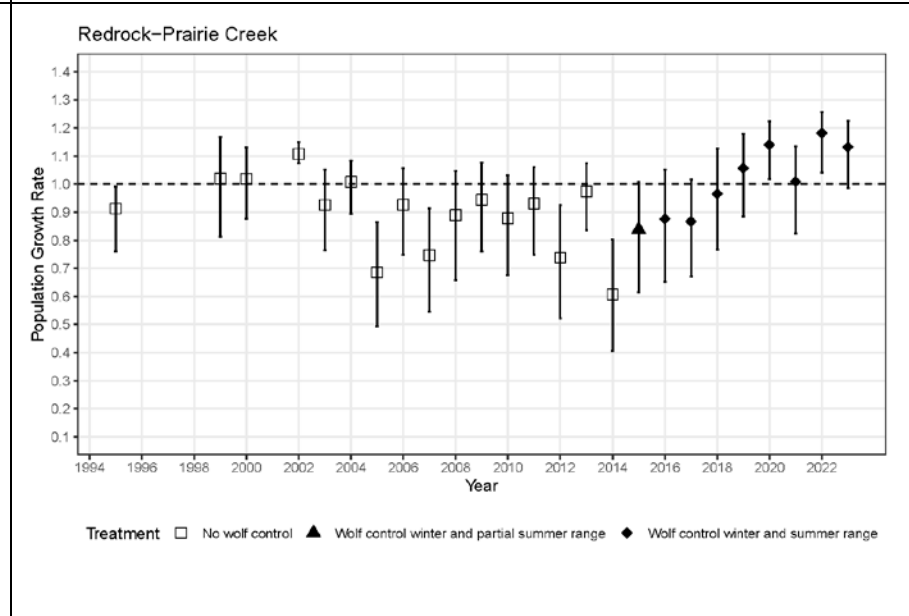
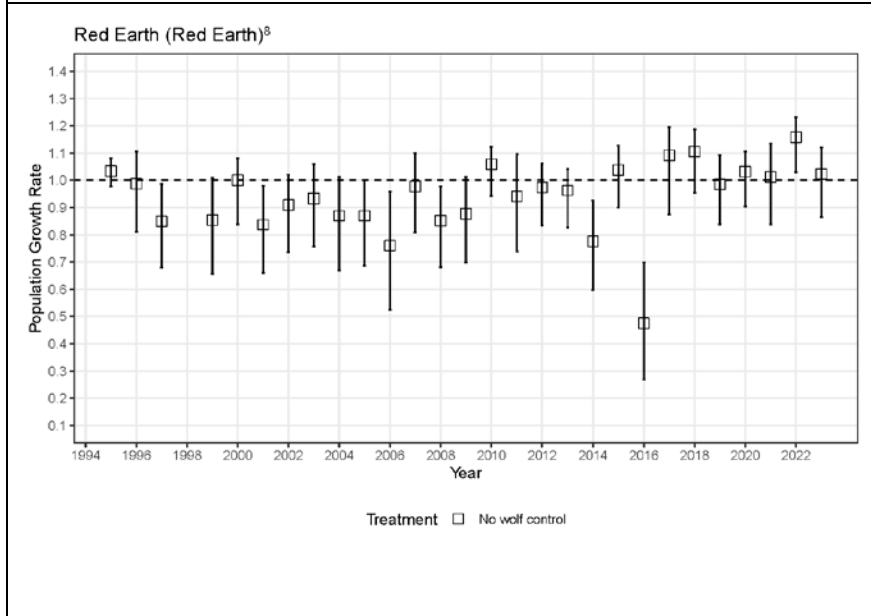
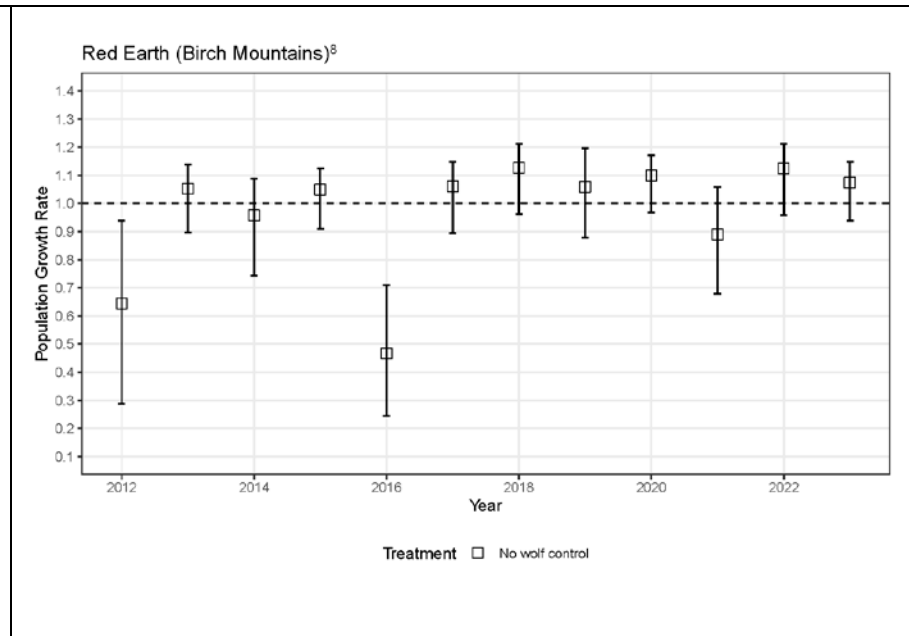
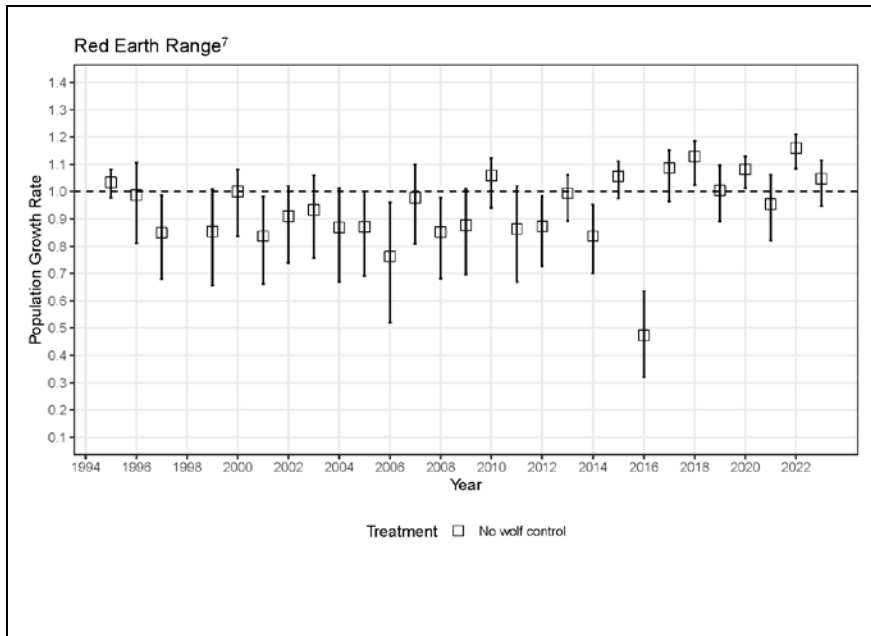
[†] Lambda estimates for local populations are reported based on calf recruitment and adult female survival measured at the local population scale. Note: In the first implementation report (EPA 2024b), local populations within the Chinchaga and East Side of the Athabasca River ranges used adult female survival rates averaged across the range-scale.

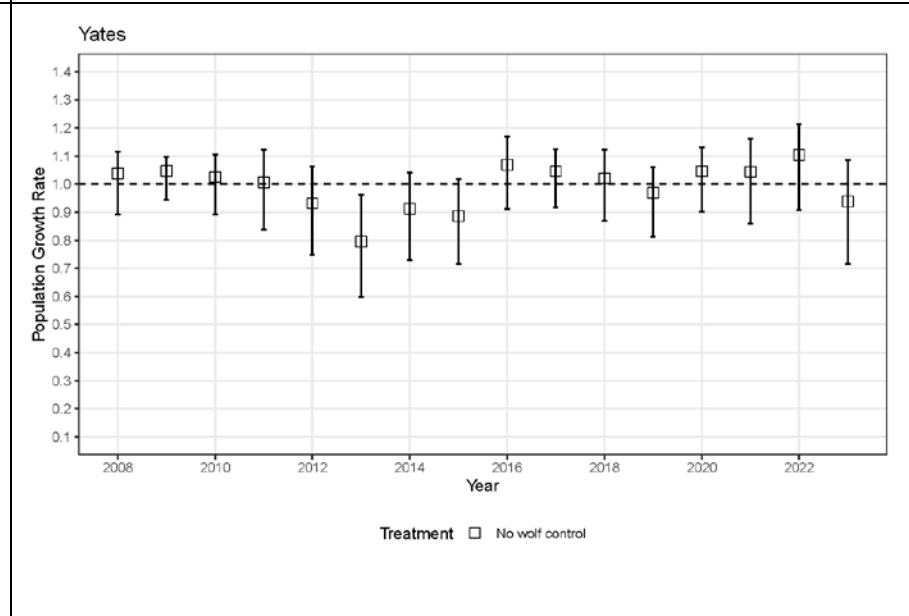
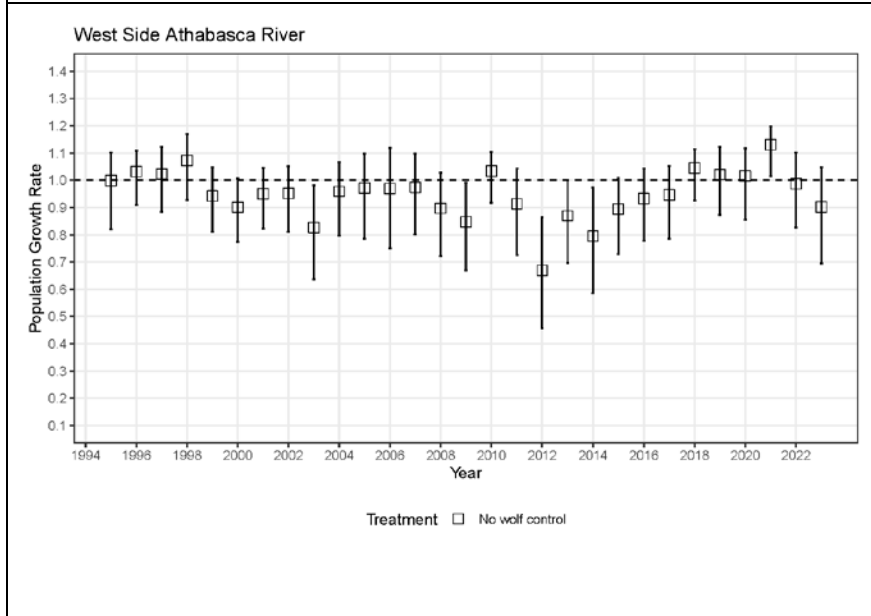
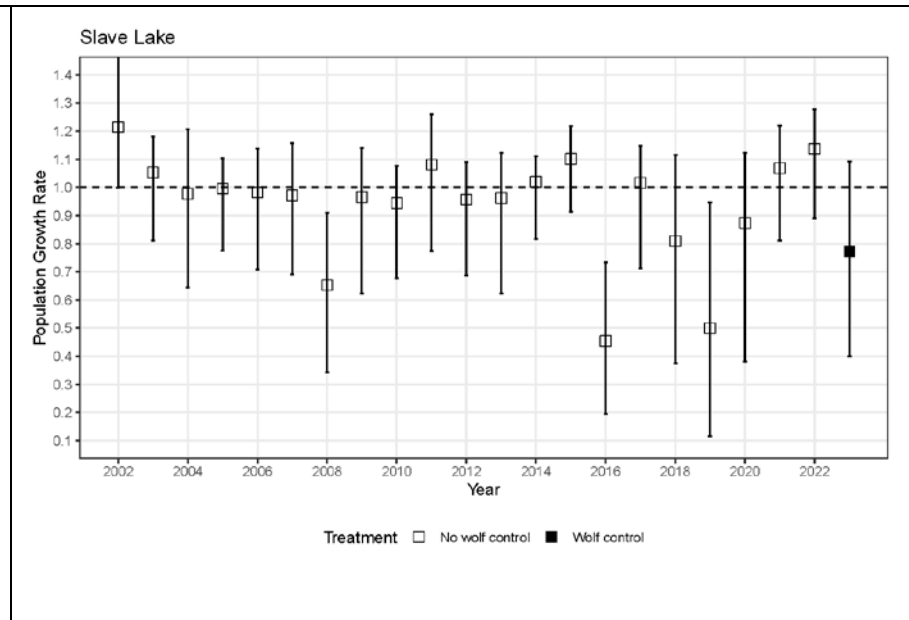
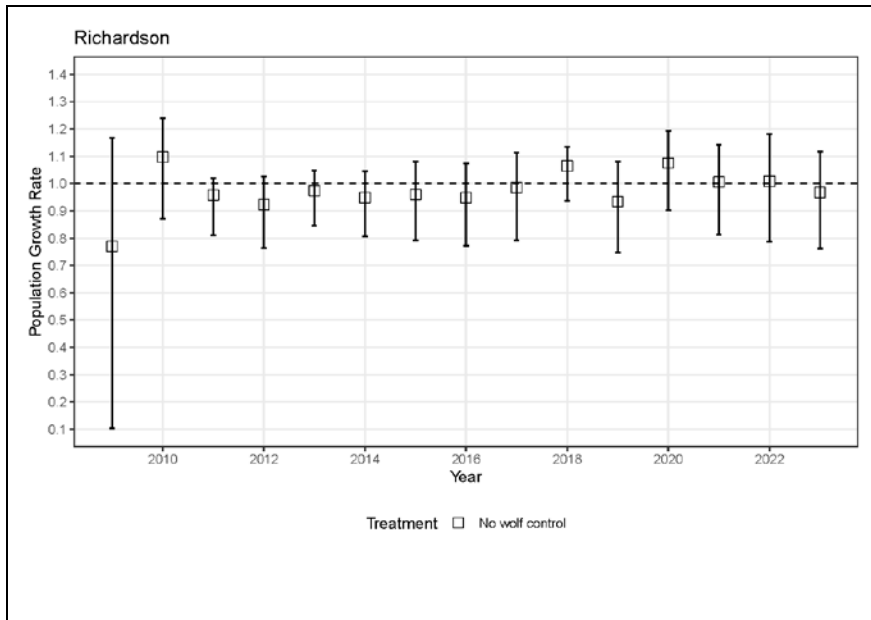












Annex 3: Annual update of habitat monitoring results

Table A3.1. Area (ha) and proportion (%) of caribou ranges covered by undisturbed critical habitat, biophysical critical habitat, and undisturbed biophysical critical habitat.

Range	Range Size (ha)	Undisturbed* Habitat (ha) (%)					Biophysical Habitat (ha) (%)				Undisturbed* Biophysical Habitat (ha) (%)			
		2010	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
A la Peche - Summer	495,073	465,128 (94%)	452,316 (91.4%)	452,316 (91.4%)	451,810 (91.3%)	451,810 (91.3%)	389,592 (78.7%)	389,592 (78.7%)	389,585 (78.7%)	389,585 (78.7%)	368,220 (74.4%)	368,220 (74.4%)	367,718 (74.3%)	367,718 (74.3%)
A la Peche - Winter	166,426	21,868 (13.1%)	20,810 (12.5%)	20,835 (12.5%)	20,721 (12.5%)	20,729 (12.5%)	105,373 (63.3%)	102,217 (61.4%)	101,794 (61.2%)	101,474 (61%)	13,754 (8.3%)	13,745 (8.3%)	13,672 (8.2%)	13,680 (8.2%)
Bistcho	1,435,810	106,904 (7.4%)	94,540 (6.6%)	101,577 (7.1%)	98,310 (6.8%)	91,942 (6.4%)	547,521 (38.1%)	575,770 (40.1%)	566,697 (39.5%)	500,169 (34.8%)	39,602 (2.8%)	41,631 (2.9%)	38,912 (2.7%)	32,736 (2.3%)
Caribou Mountains	2,065,873	1,025,187 (49.6%)	979,554 (47.4%)	990,799 (48%)	1,086,258 (52.6%)	850,684 (41.2%)	1,018,621 (49.3%)	1,030,078 (49.9%)	1,166,093 (56.4%)	920,571 (44.6%)	739,430 (35.8%)	746,230 (36.1%)	804,597 (38.9%)	602,210 (29.2%)
Chinchaga	1,764,364	61,007 (3.5%)	55,233 (3.1%)	54,894 (3.1%)	52,468 (3%)	50,912 (2.9%)	963,586 (54.6%)	961,325 (54.5%)	968,278 (54.9%)	908,676 (51.5%)	30,544 (1.7%)	30,222 (1.7%)	28,241 (1.6%)	26,889 (1.5%)
Chinchaga local population	1,375,405	45,548 (3.3%)	42,738 (3.1%)	42,835 (3.1%)	41,885 (3%)	41,448 (3%)	768,624 (55.9%)	768,145 (55.8%)	770,461 (56%)	719,475 (52.3%)	21,195 (1.5%)	21,231 (1.5%)	20,524 (1.5%)	20,213 (1.5%)
Deadwood local population	388,959	15,459 (4%)	12,495 (3.2%)	12,059 (3.1%)	10,583 (2.7%)	9,464 (2.4%)	194,962 (50.1%)	193,180 (49.7%)	197,817 (50.9%)	189,201 (48.6%)	9,349 (2.4%)	8,991 (2.3%)	7,718 (2%)	6,676 (1.7%)
Cold Lake	672,586	69,906 (10.4%)	89,331 (13.3%)	89,257 (13.3%)	84,866 (12.6%)	83,635 (12.4%)	336,879 (50.1%)	336,796 (50.1%)	334,031 (49.7%)	332,694 (49.5%)	38,333 (5.7%)	38,270 (5.7%)	35,755 (5.3%)	35,155 (5.2%)
East Side Athabasca River	1,311,902	164,119 (12.5%)	134,603 (10.3%)	135,758 (10.3%)	129,321 (9.9%)	128,695 (9.8%)	642,812 (49%)	646,787 (49.3%)	644,359 (49.1%)	639,371 (48.7%)	90,476 (6.9%)	90,805 (6.9%)	85,461 (6.5%)	84,874 (6.5%)
Agnes local population	47,051	6,820 (14.5%)	6,099 (13%)	6,115 (13%)	6,114 (13%)	6,114 (13%)	29,040 (61.7%)	29,322 (62.3%)	29,321 (62.3%)	29,321 (62.3%)	5,203 (11.1%)	5,203 (11.1%)	5,203 (11.1%)	5,203 (11.1%)
Algar local population	330,847	62,344 (18.8%)	51,141 (15.5%)	51,206 (15.5%)	50,904 (15.4%)	50,904 (15.4%)	144,827 (43.8%)	144,828 (43.8%)	145,753 (44.1%)	145,747 (44.1%)	35,160 (10.6%)	35,176 (10.6%)	34,819 (10.5%)	34,819 (10.5%)
Bohn local population	174,123	57,085 (32.8%)	47,878 (27.5%)	48,882 (28.1%)	45,412 (26.1%)	45,348 (26%)	96,636 (55.5%)	97,143 (55.8%)	93,563 (53.7%)	93,554 (53.7%)	29,530 (17%)	29,855 (17.1%)	27,284 (15.7%)	27,241 (15.6%)
Christina local population	113,321	9,289 (8.2%)	8,894 (7.8%)	8,860 (7.8%)	8,347 (7.4%)	7,860 (6.9%)	74,659 (65.9%)	74,387 (65.6%)	73,878 (65.2%)	70,231 (62%)	6,765 (6%)	6,732 (5.9%)	6,378 (5.6%)	5,904 (5.2%)

* "Disturbance" refers to areas of footprint (and any associated disturbance buffers) and areas burned by wildfire within 40 years, as per nationally defined methods of critical habitat identification for the species (Environment Canada 2011).

Range	Range Size (ha)	Undisturbed Habitat (ha) (%)					Biophysical Habitat (ha) (%)				Undisturbed Biophysical Habitat (ha) (%)			
		2010	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Egg-Pony local population	374,826	13,452 (3.6%)	11,586 (3.1%)	11,684 (3.1%)	9,283 (2.5%)	9,214 (2.5%)	184,752 (49.3%)	188,309 (50.2%)	186,437 (49.7%)	185,136 (49.4%)	8,178 (2.2%)	8,200 (2.2%)	6,221 (1.7%)	6,156 (1.6%)
Wandering local population	105,633	8,174 (7.7%)	5,399 (5.1%)	5,399 (5.1%)	5,390 (5.1%)	5,390 (5.1%)	70,073 (66.3%)	70,073 (66.3%)	70,006 (66.3%)	70,000 (66.3%)	2,870 (2.7%)	2,870 (2.7%)	2,865 (2.7%)	2,865 (2.7%)
Wiau local population	166,101	6,955 (4.2%)	3,606 (2.2%)	3,612 (2.2%)	3,870 (2.3%)	3,864 (2.3%)	42,825 (25.8%)	42,724 (25.7%)	45,400 (27.3%)	45,381 (27.3%)	2,771 (1.7%)	2,769 (1.7%)	2,690 (1.6%)	2,686 (1.6%)
Little Smoky	308,380	3,408 (1.1%)	2,250 (0.7%)	2,211 (0.7%)	2,149 (0.7%)	2,031 (0.7%)	202,887 (65.8%)	198,173 (64.3%)	196,526 (63.7%)	188,472 (61.1%)	1,667 (0.5%)	1,646 (0.5%)	1,621 (0.5%)	1,544 (0.5%)
Narraway	104,066	19,174 (18.4%)	15,214 (14.6%)	15,047 (14.5%)	14,979 (14.4%)	14,835 (14.3%)	51,051 (49.1%)	50,604 (48.6%)	50,529 (48.6%)	50,477 (48.5%)	9,886 (9.5%)	9,813 (9.4%)	9,785 (9.4%)	9,741 (9.4%)
Nipisi	210,436	13,724 (6.5%)	9,172 (4.4%)	9,056 (4.3%)	8,774 (4.2%)	8,724 (4.1%)	74,852 (35.6%)	74,617 (35.5%)	76,668 (36.4%)	74,208 (35.3%)	3,788 (1.8%)	3,753 (1.8%)	3,269 (1.6%)	3,223 (1.5%)
Red Earth	2,470,203	628,564 (25.4%)	482,569 (19.5%)	602,922 (24.4%)	605,384 (24.5%)	529,200 (21.4%)	1,053,883 (42.7%)	1,207,901 (48.9%)	1,264,171 (51.2%)	1,176,106 (47.6%)	362,315 (14.7%)	431,602 (17.5%)	433,138 (17.5%)	364,731 (14.8%)
Redrock-Prairie Creek - Summer	167,219	137,660 (82.3%)	137,206 (82.1%)	137,206 (82.1%)	137,205 (82.1%)	137,110 (82%)	140,579 (84.1%)	140,579 (84.1%)	140,571 (84.1%)	140,571 (84.1%)	126,120 (75.4%)	126,120 (75.4%)	126,119 (75.4%)	126,026 (75.4%)
Redrock-Prairie Creek - Winter	315,673	99,733 (31.6%)	91,383 (28.9%)	89,882 (28.5%)	90,064 (28.5%)	89,760 (28.4%)	222,333 (70.4%)	219,139 (69.4%)	218,405 (69.2%)	217,612 (68.9%)	75,186 (23.8%)	73,880 (23.4%)	73,673 (23.3%)	73,443 (23.3%)
Richardson	707,390	124,576 (17.6%)	99,261 (14%)	190,984 (27%)	189,315 (26.8%)	189,611 (26.8%)	181,269 (25.6%)	196,228 (27.7%)	195,196 (27.6%)	195,142 (27.6%)	70,635 (10%)	84,245 (11.9%)	82,955 (11.7%)	83,074 (11.7%)
Slave Lake	151,623	1,739 (1.1%)	1,435 (0.9%)	1,460 (1%)	1,458 (1%)	1,444 (1%)	42,605 (28.1%)	42,592 (28.1%)	42,524 (28%)	40,308 (26.6%)	387 (0.3%)	388 (0.3%)	387 (0.3%)	373 (0.2%)
West Side Athabasca River	1,570,712	298,183 (19%)	230,653 (14.7%)	228,767 (14.6%)	225,784 (14.4%)	220,808 (14.1%)	975,230 (62.1%)	971,449 (61.8%)	969,790 (61.7%)	947,705 (60.3%)	158,217 (10.1%)	156,961 (10%)	154,697 (9.8%)	151,341 (9.6%)
Yates	522,344	142,470 (27.3%)	143,796 (27.5%)	186,081 (35.6%)	186,893 (35.8%)	172,233 (33%)	206,129 (39.5%)	272,053 (52.1%)	274,490 (52.5%)	248,678 (47.6%)	106,318 (20.4%)	135,097 (25.9%)	135,317 (25.9%)	124,066 (23.8%)

Table A3.2. Area (ha) and proportion (%) of caribou ranges (including local populations and seasonal ranges) with lands designated for protection under provincial legislation.

Range	Range Size (ha)	Area and Proportion of Range within Protected Areas (ha)		
		Provincial Parks Act	WAERNAHRA*	Willmore Wilderness Park Act
A la Peche - Summer	495,073	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	291,753 (58.9%)
A la Peche - Winter	166,426	631 (0.4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Bistcho	1,435,810	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Caribou Mountains	2,065,873	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Chinchaga	1,764,364	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Chinchaga local population	1,375,405	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Deadwood local population	388,959	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Cold Lake	672,586	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
East Side Athabasca River	1,311,902	1,488 (0.1%)	980 (0.1%)	0 (0%)
Agnes local population	47,051	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Algar local population	330,847	699 (0.2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Bohn local population	174,123	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Christina local population	113,321	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Egg-Pony local population	374,826	790 (0.2%)	980 (0.3%)	0 (0%)
Wandering local population	105,633	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Wiau local population	166,101	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Little Smoky	308,380	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Narraway	104,066	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Nipisi	210,436	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Red Earth	2,470,203	0 (0%)	1,786 (0.1%)	0 (0%)
Redrock-Prairie Creek - Summer	167,219	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	101,534 (60.7%)
Redrock-Prairie Creek - Winter	315,673	1,568 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Richardson	707,390	0 (0%)	3,840 (0.5%)	0 (0%)
Slave Lake	151,623	0 (0%)	680 (0.4%)	0 (0%)
West Side Athabasca River	1,570,712	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Yates	522,344	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

* Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas and Heritage Rangelands Act

Figure A3.1. Percent of lands designated for protection under provincial legislation in caribou ranges (including local populations and seasonal ranges). Also see Table A3.2.

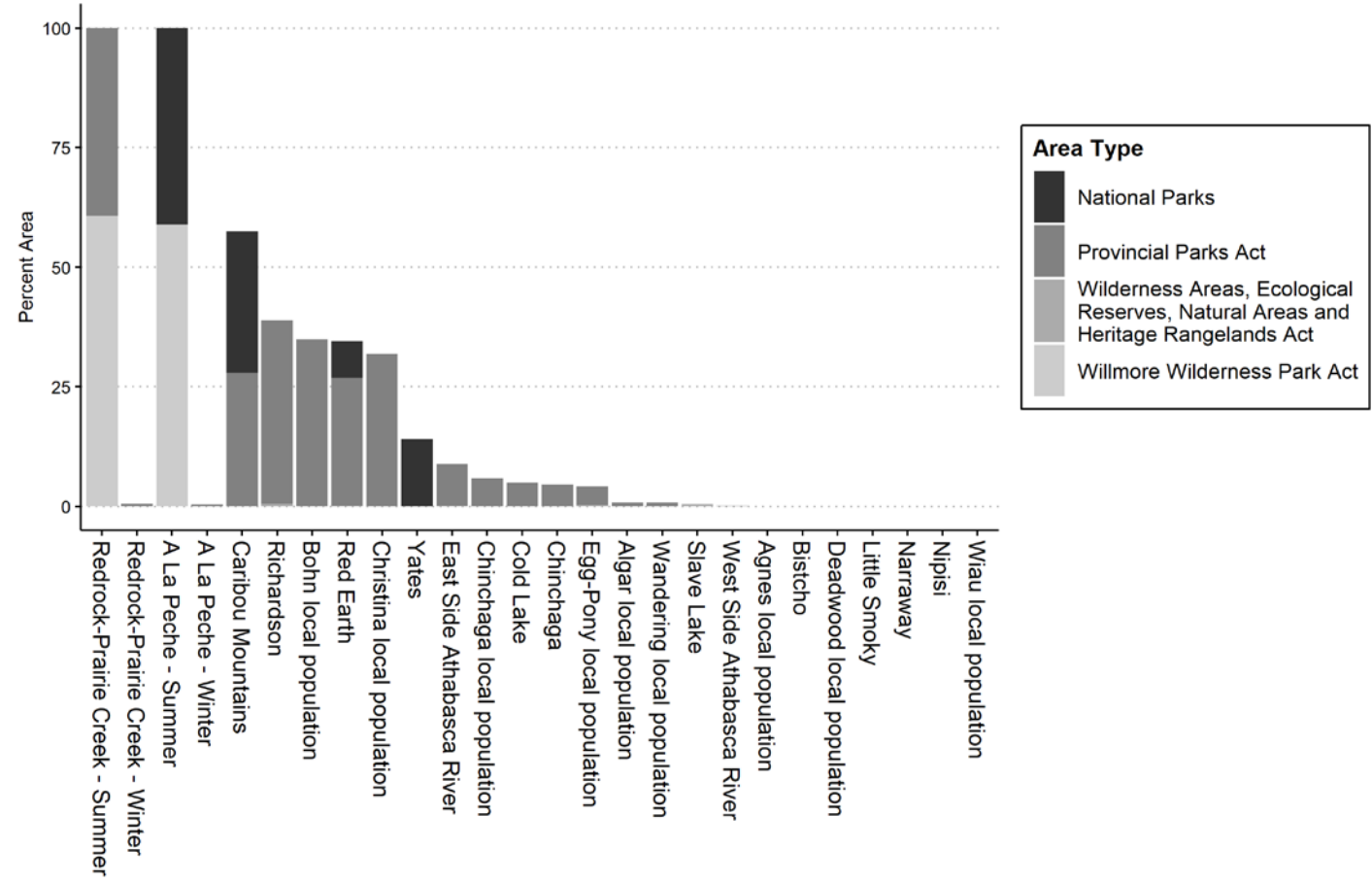


Table A3.3. Area (ha) and proportion (%) of caribou ranges covered by wildfire and anthropogenic features*.

Range	Range Size (ha)	Area Impacted by Wildfire† (ha) (%)					Total Anthropogenic Features (ha) (%)				
		2010	2020	2021	2022	2023	2010	2020	2021	2022	2023
A la Peche - Summer	495,073	6,322 (1.3%)	16,409 (3.3%)	16,409 (3.3%)	16,409 (3.3%)	16,409 (3.3%)	110 (0%)	133 (0%)	133 (0%)	140 (0%)	140 (0%)
A la Peche - Winter	166,426	17 (0%)	17 (0%)	17 (0%)	17 (0%)	17 (0%)	22,464 (13.5%)	29,640 (17.8%)	33,326 (20%)	34,874 (21%)	35,202 (21.2%)
Bistcho	1,435,810	290,293 (20.2%)	588,643 (41%)	472,166 (32.9%)	475,833 (33.1%)	546,612 (38.1%)	52,974 (3.7%)	57,503 (4%)	58,246 (4.1%)	60,416 (4.2%)	60,396 (4.2%)
Caribou Mountains	2,065,873	589,257 (28.5%)	645,713 (31.3%)	627,388 (30.4%)	402,575 (19.5%)	684,496 (33.1%)	29,534 (1.4%)	37,552 (1.8%)	36,715 (1.8%)	36,514 (1.8%)	36,703 (1.8%)
Chinchaga	1,764,364	193,230 (11%)	108,010 (6.1%)	107,805 (6.1%)	66,130 (3.7%)	146,211 (8.3%)	100,038 (5.7%)	135,761 (7.7%)	137,809 (7.8%)	142,772 (8.1%)	144,387 (8.2%)
Chinchaga local population	1,375,405	132,767 (9.7%)	65,571 (4.8%)	65,745 (4.8%)	49,880 (3.6%)	117,867 (8.6%)	66,148 (4.8%)	80,567 (5.9%)	79,957 (5.8%)	84,036 (6.1%)	85,318 (6.2%)
Deadwood local population	388,959	60,463 (15.5%)	42,439 (10.9%)	42,060 (10.8%)	16,250 (4.2%)	28,343 (7.3%)	33,890 (8.7%)	55,194 (14.2%)	57,852 (14.9%)	58,736 (15.1%)	59,069 (15.2%)
Cold Lake	672,586	184,514 (27.4%)	92,061 (13.7%)	92,062 (13.7%)	92,062 (13.7%)	95,823 (14.2%)	20,408 (3%)	27,355 (4.1%)	27,483 (4.1%)	32,998 (4.9%)	33,245 (4.9%)
East Side Athabasca River	1,311,902	319,301 (24.3%)	411,252 (31.3%)	395,200 (30.1%)	383,809 (29.3%)	389,316 (29.7%)	66,357 (5.1%)	80,901 (6.2%)	80,881 (6.2%)	90,144 (6.9%)	90,325 (6.9%)
Agnes local population	47,051	1,544 (3.3%)	1,830 (3.9%)	1,364 (2.9%)	1,364 (2.9%)	1,364 (2.9%)	5,225 (11.1%)	5,563 (11.8%)	5,539 (11.8%)	5,578 (11.9%)	5,565 (11.8%)
Algar local population	330,847	62,663 (18.9%)	127,447 (38.5%)	127,447 (38.5%)	124,041 (37.5%)	124,051 (37.5%)	12,386 (3.7%)	14,431 (4.4%)	14,031 (4.2%)	15,689 (4.7%)	15,699 (4.7%)
Bohn local population	174,123	5,930 (3.4%)	24,075 (13.8%)	22,451 (12.9%)	27,111 (15.6%)	27,124 (15.6%)	4,106 (2.4%)	6,126 (3.5%)	6,123 (3.5%)	6,459 (3.7%)	6,534 (3.8%)
Christina local population	113,321	15,192 (13.4%)	14,434 (12.7%)	14,704 (13%)	14,704 (13%)	18,643 (16.5%)	5,715 (5%)	7,856 (6.9%)	7,876 (7%)	8,579 (7.6%)	8,580 (7.6%)
Egg-Pony local population	374,826	138,561 (37%)	140,172 (37.4%)	125,936 (33.6%)	123,070 (32.8%)	124,616 (33.2%)	18,304 (4.9%)	21,748 (5.8%)	21,734 (5.8%)	26,898 (7.2%)	26,960 (7.2%)
Wandering local population	105,633	380 (0.4%)	426 (0.4%)	426 (0.4%)	433 (0.4%)	433 (0.4%)	8,878 (8.4%)	9,976 (9.4%)	9,976 (9.4%)	10,151 (9.6%)	10,145 (9.6%)
Wiau local population	166,101	95,031 (57.2%)	102,868 (61.9%)	102,873 (61.9%)	93,085 (56%)	93,085 (56%)	11,743 (7.1%)	15,202 (9.2%)	15,603 (9.4%)	16,789 (10.1%)	16,840 (10.1%)

* "Footprint" in the context of caribou recovery are anthropogenic features which result in change or loss of caribou habitat within woodland caribou local population ranges.

† Wildfire disturbance is calculated as the extent of wildfires that have occurred within the range within 40 years of the year of calculation (consistent with Environment Canada, 2011).

Range	Range Size (ha)	Area Impacted by Wildfire [†] (ha) (%)					Total Anthropogenic Features (ha) (%)				
		2010	2020	2021	2022	2023	2010	2020	2021	2022	2023
Little Smoky	308,380	709 (0.2%)	1,073 (0.3%)	1,073 (0.3%)	1,153 (0.4%)	13,020 (4.2%)	43,310 (14%)	68,492 (22.2%)	74,474 (24.2%)	77,489 (25.1%)	79,181 (25.7%)
Narraway	104,066	1 (0%)	4,207 (4%)	4,207 (4%)	4,207 (4%)	4,207 (4%)	15,375 (14.8%)	22,103 (21.2%)	22,741 (21.9%)	23,269 (22.4%)	23,329 (22.4%)
Nipisi	210,436	12,883 (6.1%)	68,680 (32.6%)	68,680 (32.6%)	60,183 (28.6%)	63,918 (30.4%)	14,172 (6.7%)	26,304 (12.5%)	26,750 (12.7%)	27,045 (12.9%)	27,047 (12.9%)
Red Earth	2,470,203	667,393 (27%)	876,100 (35.5%)	603,130 (24.4%)	495,211 (20%)	594,988 (24.1%)	73,812 (3%)	82,618 (3.3%)	80,436 (3.3%)	83,805 (3.4%)	80,325 (3.3%)
Redrock-Prairie Creek - Summer	167,219	14,030 (8.4%)	14,030 (8.4%)	14,030 (8.4%)	14,030 (8.4%)	14,030 (8.4%)	90 (0.1%)	101 (0.1%)	101 (0.1%)	108 (0.1%)	109 (0.1%)
Redrock-Prairie Creek - Winter	315,673	1,626 (0.5%)	1,662 (0.5%)	1,662 (0.5%)	432 (0.1%)	432 (0.1%)	31,679 (10%)	37,837 (12%)	41,501 (13.1%)	43,505 (13.8%)	44,391 (14.1%)
Richardson	707,390	453,100 (64.1%)	473,991 (67%)	362,252 (51.2%)	362,541 (51.3%)	362,768 (51.3%)	3,346 (0.5%)	4,678 (0.7%)	4,678 (0.7%)	6,257 (0.9%)	5,908 (0.8%)
Slave Lake	151,623	54,146 (35.7%)	55,677 (36.7%)	55,677 (36.7%)	55,659 (36.7%)	58,818 (38.8%)	14,522 (9.6%)	17,936 (11.8%)	17,580 (11.6%)	18,416 (12.1%)	18,320 (12.1%)
West Side Athabasca River	1,570,712	73,220 (4.7%)	133,533 (8.5%)	138,856 (8.8%)	135,662 (8.6%)	169,507 (10.8%)	37,693 (2.4%)	55,710 (3.5%)	57,044 (3.6%)	62,054 (4%)	62,454 (4%)
Yates	522,344	165,694 (31.7%)	218,628 (41.9%)	117,623 (22.5%)	113,051 (21.6%)	147,578 (28.3%)	7,045 (1.3%)	7,842 (1.5%)	8,242 (1.6%)	8,360 (1.6%)	8,362 (1.6%)

Table A3.4. Length of legacy seismic lines (km) and legacy seismic lines treated (km) by the Caribou Habitat Recovery Program (CHRP) in caribou ranges.

Range	Legacy Seismic Lines (km)				
	Total*	Treated Prior to 2021†	Treated 2021*	Treated 2022*	Treated 2023*
A la Pêche (summer and winter ranges)	1,512.06	169	-	-	-
Bistcho	54,906.12	-	-	-	-
Caribou Mountains	8,349.92	-	-	-	-
Chinchaga (Chinchaga and Deadwood local population ranges combined)	54,014.46	-	-	-	-
Cold Lake	5,298.91	719	138	-	-
East Side Athabasca River					
Agnes local population	455.41	-	-	-	-
Algar local population	2,898.33	-	-	-	-
Bohn local population	1,416.14	-	-	-	-
Christina local population	1,180.86	-	-	-	-
Egg-Pony local population	4,366.15	-	-	-	-
Wandering local population	1,534.56	-	-	-	-
Wiau local population	1,518.82	-	-	-	-
Little Smoky	7,603.58	-	-	1,000	880
Narraway	739.88	-	-	-	-
Nipisi	2,959.99	-	-	-	-
Red Earth	35,231.14	-	-	-	-
Redrock-Prairie Creek (summer and winter ranges)	1,295.60	-	-	-	-
Richardson	831.50	-	-	-	-
Slave Lake	2,767.52	-	-	-	-
West Side Athabasca River	15,582.59	-	-	-	-
Yates	5,476.07	-	-	-	-

* Length of legacy seismic lines (4 m or greater across) in caribou range have been calculated using indicators of performance developed for the EPA Ministry Business Plan for 2024-2027 (Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, 2024a). This calculation has been refined from previous estimates through updates to datasets and analysis of legacy seismic line conversion to other land uses. Due to these refinements, some sub-ranges are not included in this data, as well as the separation of winter and summer ranges.

† Kilometres of legacy seismic lines assessed and received restoration treatment through the CHRP. Further information can be found in the EPA Ministry Business Plan for 2024-2027 (Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, 2024a).

Table A3.5. Area (ha) and proportion (%) of estimated future footprint* in caribou ranges that may be realized in 2023 and 2024 as a result of 2022 and 2023 approvals (respectively) for forest harvest, energy, mining and linear approvals.

Range	Estimated Area of Approvals (ha) ^{†‡§}	
	2022	2023
A la Peche - Summer	0.4 (0%)	0.4 (0%)
A la Peche - Winter	1,906.3 (1.1%)	1,912.0 (1.1%)
Bistcho	806.9 (0.1%)	450.0 (0%)
Caribou Mountains	1,432.5 (0.1%)	1,432.5 (0.1%)
Chinchaga	5,871.8 (0.3%)	5,843.9 (0.3%)
Chinchaga local population	3,623.3 (0.3%)	3,608.5 (0.3%)
Deadwood local population	2,248.5 (0.6%)	2,235.4 (0.6%)
Cold Lake	769.3 (0.1%)	671.0 (0.1%)
East Side Athabasca River	1,988.7 (0.2%)	2,030.7 (0.2%)
Agnes local population	52 (0.1%)	52 (0.1%)
Algar local population	290.4 (0.1%)	114.9 (0%)
Bohn local population	281.4 (0.2%)	292.9 (0.2%)
Christina local population	246.2 (0.2%)	261.3 (0.2%)
Egg-Pony local population	629.7 (0.2%)	811.3 (0.2%)
Wandering local population	226.8 (0.2%)	235.4 (0.2%)
Wiau local population	262.2 (0.2%)	263.0 (0%)
Little Smoky	5,244.2 (1.7%)	5,337.5 (1.7%)
Narraway	442.7 (0.4%)	457.4 (0.4%)
Nipisi	1,412.4 (0.7%)	1,253.7 (0.6%)
Red Earth	2,209.9 (0.1%)	2,248.6 (0.1%)
Redrock-Prairie Creek - Summer	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Redrock-Prairie Creek - Winter	2,182.4 (0.7%)	2,197.2 (0.7%)
Richardson	345.5 (0%)	426.5 (0.1%)
Slave Lake	323.0 (0.2%)	324.0 (0.2%)
West Side Athabasca River	2,624.4 (0.2%)	2,648.8 (0.2%)
Yates	548 (0.1%)	548.4 (0.1%)

* "Footprint" in the context of caribou recovery are anthropogenic features which result in change or loss of caribou habitat within woodland caribou local population ranges.

† 2022 and 2023 annual totals of estimated approvals include estimated Annual Forest Harvest Rate and spatial approvals recorded in Alberta's Digital Integrated Dispositions (DIDs) program. Approvals recorded in DIDs include linear approvals (industrial activities approved for power lines, pipelines, and roads) and energy and mining approvals (industrial activities approved for petroleum and natural gas, coal, metallic and industrial metals, and surface material extraction) approved by Alberta Public Lands in a given year. This data is current to April 12, 2024.

‡ This summary does not include approvals for Temporary Field Authorizations (TFAs), Regulatory Temporary Fields (RTFs), or geophysical activities (e.g., seismic lines). These are tracked outside of Alberta's DIDs program.





§ This summary includes approvals that may not necessarily result in new footprint, as dispositions can occur on existing footprint.

Table A3.6. Summary of funding spent and total number of facilities and wells that were reclamation certified under the Site Rehabilitation Program and Inventory Reduction Program by caribou range.

Range	Total \$ spent on site closure activities		Total number of Reclamation Certified Licences	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
A la Peche (summer and winter ranges)	\$698,568.21	\$5,306.00	-	1
Bistcho	\$22,702,667.44	\$5,664,117.65	6	56
Caribou Mountains	\$11,968.00	-	1	2
Chinchaga (Chinchaga and Deadwood local population ranges combined)	\$40,719,082.53	\$5,533,821.66	60	37
Cold Lake	\$16,307,250.96	\$22,188,032.57	452	438
East Side Athabasca River				
Agnes local population	\$3,682.42	-	-	1
Algar local population	\$33,807.43	\$6,334.00	29	43
Bohn local population	\$3,164,640.38	-	4	4
Christina local population	\$2,278,227.19	-	3	6
Egg-Pony local population	\$1,950,511.54	\$425,289.00	56	69
Wandering local population	\$153,201.47	-	6	1
Wiau local population	\$1,363,819.34	\$214,265.96	6	37
Little Smoky	\$3,664,280.29	\$1,893,981.75	3	9
Narraway	\$703,451.79	\$30,405.15	-	-
Nipisi	\$824,826.78	\$29,251.25	3	2
Red Earth	\$14,639,094.94	\$7,622,276.99	38	12
Redrock-Prairie Creek (summer and winter ranges)	\$3,746,565.99	\$234,750.19	-	3
Richardson	\$3,536.12	-	253	7
Slave Lake	\$1,750,645.83	\$795,787.82	5	7
West Side Athabasca River	\$4,781,905.67	\$12,920,820.00	61	59
Yates	-	-	2	5

Annex 4: Sub-regional planning Indigenous community and organization engagement





Table A4.1. Summary of all Indigenous communities and organizations having opportunity to participate during one or both of the 2022 and 2023 sub-regional planning processes.

 Indigenous Communities and Organizations	 Representative on a Task Force in one or both of 2022 and 2023	 Provincial capacity supports provided in one or both of 2022 and 2023*	 Participation in an Indigenous working group in one or both of 2022 and 2023†
Berland			
Alexander First Nation		•	
Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation			
Aseniwuche Winewak Nation	•	•	
Driftpile Cree Nation			
Duncan's First Nation			
East Prairie Metis Settlement			
Gift Lake Metis Settlement			
Kehewin Cree Nation			
Lac Ste. Anne Métis Community Association		•	
Métis Local 1929 - Valleyview‡			
Métis Local 1990 - Grande Prairie**			
Métis Local Fairview**			
Métis Settlements General Council	•		
Métis Local 2020- Manning Local 2020			
Métis Local 74- Fort Vermillion Local 74			
Métis Local 78- Peace River Local 78			
Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 6	•	•	
Métis Nation of Alberta Association Local Council 1994 of Grande Cache		•	
O'Chiese First Nation	•	•	
Peavine Metis Settlement			
Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation			
Sucker Creek First Nation		•	
Swan River First Nation	•	•	
Whitefish (Goodfish) Lake First Nation			
Bistcho Lake			
Dene Tha' First Nation		•	
Chinchaga			
Beaver First Nation		•	
Cadotte Lake Métis Nation Association		•	
Dene Tha' First Nation			





* Individual communities and organizations were identified in each sub-region for the opportunity to receive funding to support their participation in various phases of the planning process. Individual communities and organizations that followed through on the grant application process and timelines are identified with a dot in this table.





† Indigenous Working Groups (IWGs) provide the opportunity for discussions with Indigenous communities and organizations about the land-use in the sub-region.

‡ Capacity support was provided to the community through the grant supplied to Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 6.

 Indigenous Communities and Organizations	 Representative on a Task Force in one or both of 2022 and 2023	 Provincial capacity supports provided in one or both of 2022 and 2023*	 Participation in an Indigenous working group in one or both of 2022 and 2023†
Doig River First Nation	•	•	
Duncan's First Nation		•	
East Prairie Metis Settlement		•	
Gift Lake Metis Settlement		•	
Horse Lake First Nation		•	
Little Red River Cree Nation	•	•	
Lubicon Lake Band			
Métis Local 1929- Valleyview*		•	
Métis Local 1990- Grande Prairie*		•	
Métis Local 2020- Manning*		•	
Métis Local 74- Fort Vermillion*		•	
Métis Local 78- Peace River*		•	
Métis Local- Fairview*		•	
Métis Nation of Alberta	•		
Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6		•	
Métis Settlements General Council	•	•	
Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement		•	
Peavine Metis Settlement		•	
Tallcree First Nation			
Woodland Cree First Nation			
Cold Lake			
Athabasca Landing Métis Nation		•	
Beaver Lake Cree Nation		•	
Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement			
Chard Métis Nation		•	
Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation		•	
Cold Lake First Nations		•	
Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations			
Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta			
Elizabeth Métis Settlement			
Fishing Lake Métis Settlement			
Fort McMurray #468 First Nation		•	
Heart Lake First Nation		•	
Kehewin Cree Nation			
Kikino Métis Settlement			
Lakeland Métis Community Association		•	

* Capacity support was provided to the community through the grant supplied to Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6.

 Indigenous Communities and Organizations	 Representative on a Task Force in one or both of 2022 and 2023	 Provincial capacity supports provided in one or both of 2022 and 2023*	 Participation in an Indigenous working group in one or both of 2022 and 2023†
Métis Nation of Alberta			
Métis Nation of Alberta Region 1			
Métis Nation of Alberta Region 2			
Métis Settlements General Council			
Onion Lake Cree Nation			
Owl River Métis Community Association		•	
Saddle Lake Cree Nation			
Treaty 8 Trappers Association			
Whitefish (Goodfish) Lake First Nation			
Upper Smoky			
Aseniwuche Winewak Nation		•	•
Duncan's First Nation		•	•
East Prairie Métis Settlement		•	•
Gift Lake Métis Settlement			
Horse Lake First Nation		•	•
Lac Ste. Anne Métis Community Association		•	•
Métis Nation of Alberta			•
Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4		•	•
Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6		•	•
Métis Nation of Alberta Association Local Council 1994 of Grande Cache		•	•
Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation		•	•
Sucker Creek First Nation		•	•
Treaty 8 Trappers Association			
Wandering River			
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation		•	
Athabasca Landing Métis Nation		•	•
Beaver Lake Cree Nation	•	•	•
Bigstone Cree Nation			•
Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement		•	•
Chard Métis Nation			
Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation	•	•	•
Elizabeth Métis Settlement			•
Fort McKay First Nation		•	•
Fort McMurray #468 First Nation		•	•
Heart Lake First Nation		•	•
Kehewin Cree Nation			
Kikino Métis Settlement			•

 Indigenous Communities and Organizations	 Representative on a Task Force in one or both of 2022 and 2023	 Provincial capacity supports provided in one or both of 2022 and 2023*	 Participation in an Indigenous working group in one or both of 2022 and 2023[†]
Lakeland Métis Community Association		•	•
Métis Local 193 - Conklin			•
Fort McMurray Métis Local Council 1935 [*]			•
Métis Local 1954- Big Bay/Touchwood Lake [*]			•
Métis Local 2097- Lac La Biche		•	•
Métis Local 2002- Buffalo Lake [*]			
Métis Nation of Alberta - Region 1	•	•	•
Metis Settlements General Council	•		
Mikisew Cree First Nation		•	
Owl River Métis Community Association		•	•
Peavine Metis Settlement		•	•
Saddle Lake Cree Nation			•
Whitefish (Goodfish) Lake First Nation		•	•
Willow Lake Métis Nation		•	•

* Capacity support was provided to the community through the grant supplied to Métis Nation of Alberta - Region 1.