

Berland Sub-regional Plan

Landscape restoration

The plan relies on clear restoration outcomes and timelines, with a focus on restoring legacy, abandoned, and inactive footprint to support caribou recovery and a variety of future land uses.

Key components of the plan

Restoration outcomes

- The plan establishes consistent restoration levels across industries to return the land to what it was before disturbance. This means planting trees where there were trees, wetlands returning to wetlands, and caribou habitat returning to caribou habitat.

Focus on caribou habitat

- The plan prioritizes improving disturbed areas within caribou ranges by prioritizing restoration of inactive development in these areas and managing future development.

Restoration of inactive wells

- The plan restores economically unproductive oil and gas wells, and related development, over the next three decades.

Reforestation of temporary footprint

- The plan requires forestry companies to restore all temporary development outside of harvest areas, including camps, landings, and roads.

Legacy seismic line restoration

- The plan restores legacy seismic lines across the sub-region over the next forty years, starting in the Nature-first Zone and priority areas.

Landscape restoration facts

- Restoration means removing disturbances from the landscape and restoring natural habitats that have been impacted by human activity, such as roads, well sites, or seismic lines, to create larger areas of intact forest.
- The Berland sub-region has approximately 50,000 km of legacy seismic lines (based on the 2022 Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute Human Footprint Inventory).
 - Within the Little Smoky woodland caribou range:
 - Over 3,300 km have been treated and assessed
 - Approximately 2.3 million seedlings have been planted
 - Within the A La Pêche mountain caribou range:
 - Over 442 km have been treated and assessed
 - Approximately 315,000 seedlings have been planted
- Restoration planning considers wildlife, water, soils, and Indigenous traditional land uses, including Treaty rights.

Clear restoration standards

Restoration Level	Intensity of Disturbance	Examples of Activities
Level 1	Low	• Temporary field authorizations • Forest harvest activities - landings, block roads, etc. • Oil sand exploration programs • Transmission lines • Below-ground pipelines
Level 2	Moderate	• Well sites • Roads • Work camps • Central processing facilities
Level 3	High	• Surface materials • Rock-hosted metallic and industrial minerals • Surface mining or mining