

Caribou Mountains Sub-Regional Plan

Landscape restoration

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

Key components

Restoration outcomes

- Establish consistent restoration levels across industries to return to 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 and bison habitat

- Prioritize improving disturbed areas within caribou and bison ranges by prioritizing restoration of inactive development in these areas and limiting development in the future.

Restoration of inactive wells

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

Reforestation of temporary footprint

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

Legacy seismic lines

- Restore legacy seismic lines across the sub-region over the next forty years, starting in the Nature-First zones 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 Caribou Mountains sub-region has approximately 36,658 km of legacy seismic lines identified within the subregion (using 2022 Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI) Human Footprint Inventory).
 - High level planning has been completed for future treatment delivery.
- 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