

Red Earth Sub-regional Plan

Forestry

The plan shifts how forests in caribou range are harvested, creating larger areas of intact forest when the trees grow back, and it describes how forests will be managed to prevent and respond to wildfires.

Key components of the plan

Modified aggregated harvest

- In caribou range, forest harvest practices are proposed to either follow aggregate harvest areas approved through the forest management plan process or will follow the business-as-usual areas until a forest management plan is approved. Business-as-usual is characterized by multiple entries over time with smaller openings.
- Aggregate harvest areas focus on larger areas that will be harvested within the same decade to meet caribou recovery objectives.

Restoration

- New rules require forestry companies to reforest footprint to Restoration Level 1. Find details in the Restoration factsheet.

Road

- Long term roads must follow the plan's access management requirements.

Salvage harvest

- The plan provides certainty for timber salvage (harvesting) operations within caribou range following wildfire or insect damage while considering caribou.
- Salvage harvesting following wildfire or insect damage is allowed with conditions.
- Salvage operations must avoid reducing undisturbed caribou habitat.
- Areas with the most severe damage are to be prioritized.

Wildfire mitigation

- Increased focus on the Wildfire Mitigation Strategy and protecting communities.

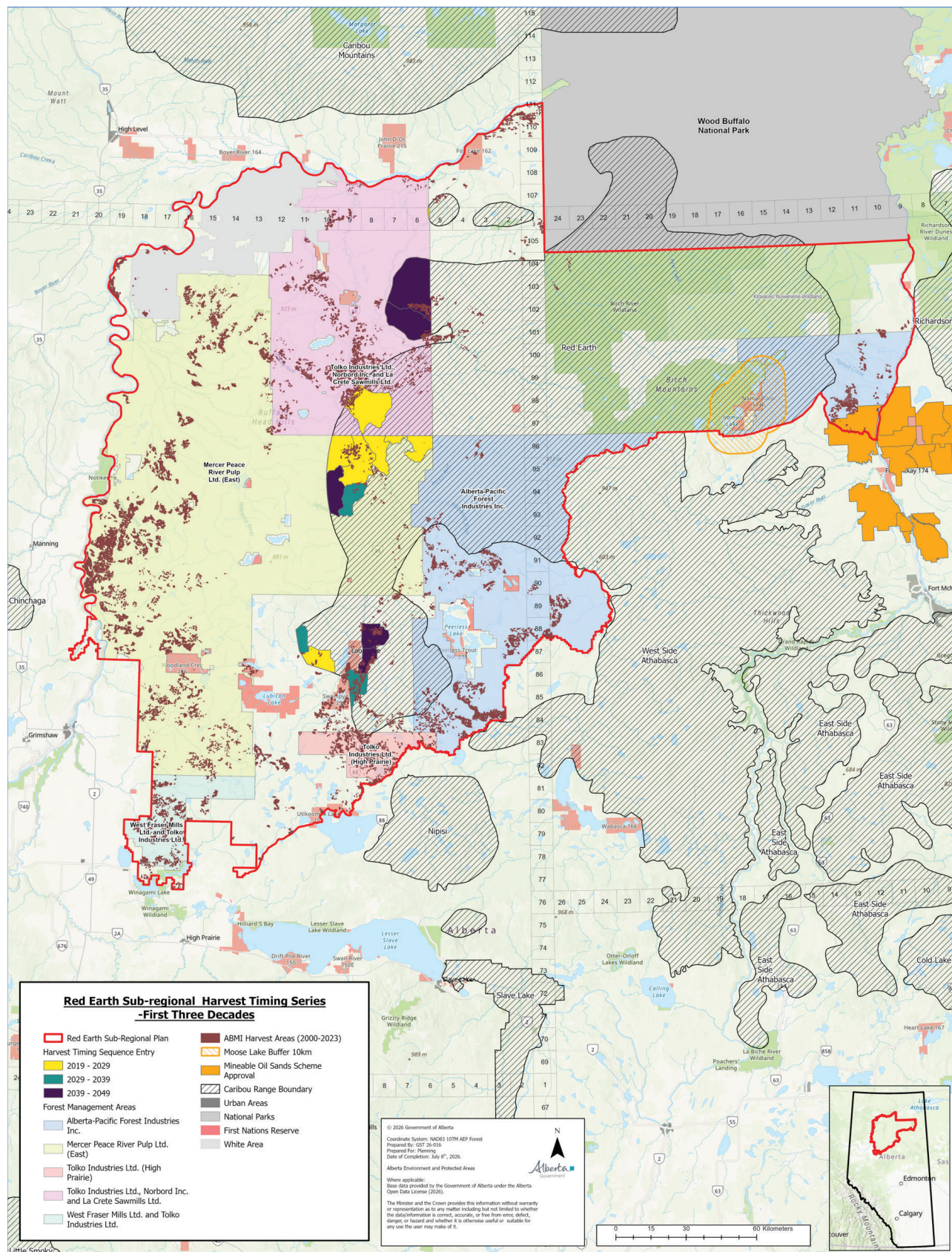
Forestry facts

- Forestry is a major land use in the Red Earth sub-region and supports approximately 1,370 jobs.
- The Red Earth sub-region includes portions of five Forest Management Agreements and includes several quota holders focusing on both conifer and deciduous harvest.
- All forestry activities must follow the existing legal framework including forest management plans and reforestation requirements.
- The draft plan focuses on managing the location and timing of harvest, not increasing the overall rate of harvest.

Did you know...

- Grouping forest harvest areas can help reduce wildfire risk by breaking up large areas of older forest and improving access for fire management.
- Forest management planning considers non-timber values, including biodiversity, wildlife habitat, watershed impacts, and soil productivity.
- Temporary forestry roads must be restored so they do not remain on the landscape long term.
- Seismic lines within active or new harvest blocks must be reforested to match surrounding forest conditions.

Figure 1: Existing Harvest Timing Series map (first three decades of planned forestry activity within caribou range).



Website: alberta.ca/red-earth-sub-regional-plan-engagement

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