

Red Earth 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 and bison 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 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

- The plan prioritizes 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

- Economically unproductive oil and gas wells, and related development will be restored 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 lines

- Legacy seismic lines across the sub-region will be restored 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 Red Earth sub-region has approximately 140,000 km of legacy seismic lines identified within the sub-region (based on the 2022 Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute 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