

South Athabasca Sub-regional Plan

Linear Features

This plan manages the amount of footprint from different types of linear features – pipelines, transmission lines, seismic lines – through new restoration expectations and operating requirements that reduce the width of linear developments.

Key Components of the Plan

- **Belowground pipelines (Page 25)** – Includes restoration requirements for new and existing pipelines, allowing a 4-metre wide opening to remain unrestored. Inactive pipeline corridors must be completely restored.
- **Adjacent pipeline corridors (Page 25)** – In caribou range, where one or more pipelines occurs side-by-side, a 1-metre wide reforested area must be created every 10-kilometres to facilitate wildlife crossing.
- **Transmission Lines (Page 26)** – Includes restoration requirements for the area below new transmission lines.
- **Geophysical Exploration (Seismic) (Page 26)** – Reduced line widths that reflect current industry best practices.

Linear Features Facts

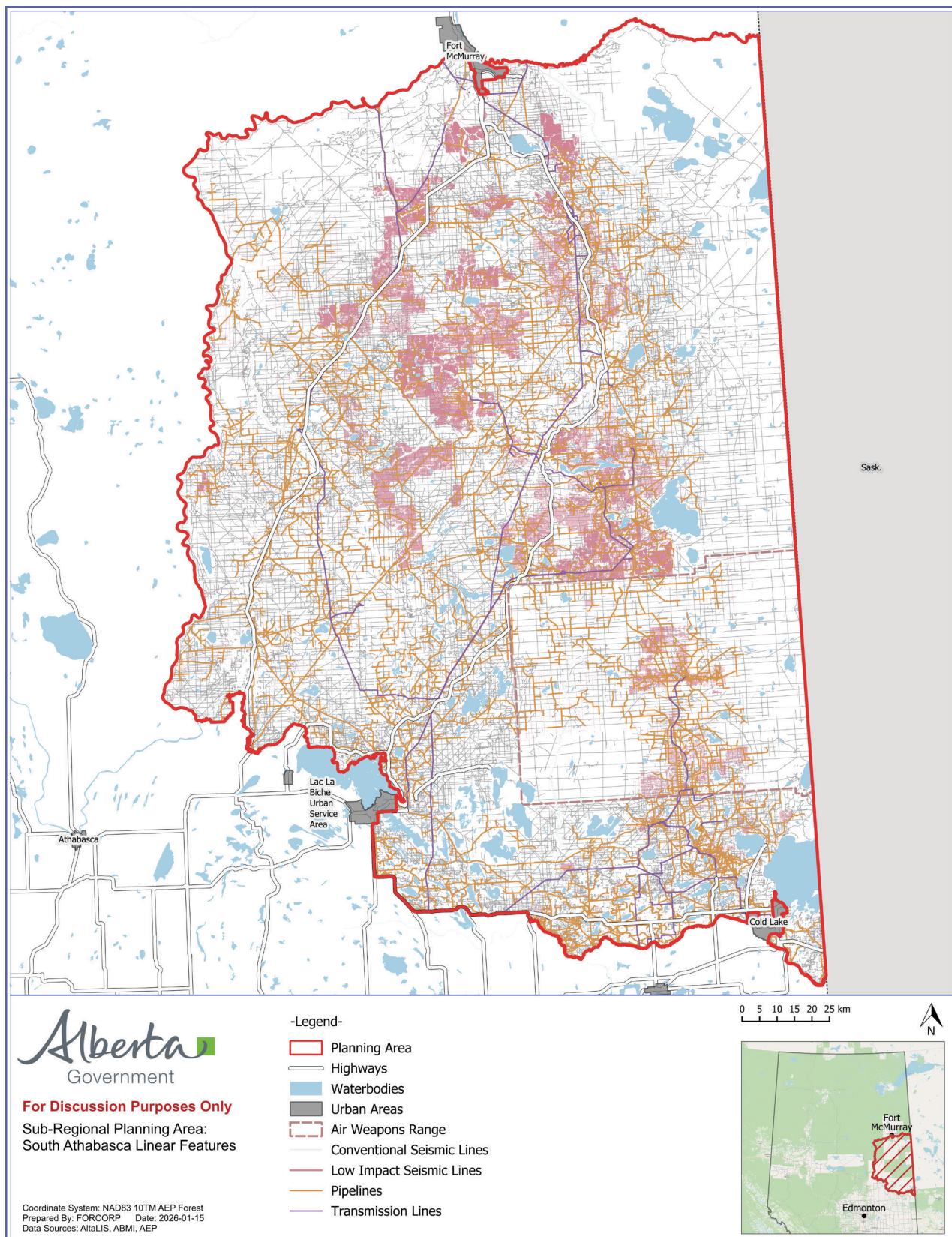
In this sub-region, in 2022:

- There were roughly 13,300 kilometres of pipelines; density is 0.34 km/km².
- There were more than 1,200 kilometres of transmission lines greater than 10 m wide; density is 0.03 km/km².
- There were roughly 105,000 kilometres of seismic lines (including conventional and low-impact lines); density is 2.71 km/km².
- Roughly 48% of the seismic lines are narrow lines (< 4 metres wide) from low-impact seismic.

Did you know...

- Linear features such as pipelines, transmission lines and seismic lines are necessary developments that support activity in the energy industry and other sectors.
- Seismic lines can be relatively narrow, but they are abundant. Seismic lines create habitat that attracts deer and allow wolves to more easily travel into caribou habitat.
- Wide linear features resulting from multiple pipelines and/or transmission lines being side-by-side can create barriers to movement and can result in caribou populations being isolated into smaller sub-populations.
- Improvements in industry techniques and technology allow linear features to be created with reduced footprint and fragmentation.
- Some types of linear features (i.e. belowground pipelines) can be developed with little surface disturbance during or after construction.

Map of linear features – pipelines (below ground), transmission lines (>10-metres wide), and seismic lines (conventional and low-impact) in the South Athabasca sub-region. (This map does not appear in the draft South Athabasca Sub-regional Plan).



For more information: alberta.ca/south-athabasca-sub-regional-plan-engagement
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