

# South Athabasca Sub-regional Plan

## Forestry

This 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 (Page 28)** – In caribou range, forest harvest practices include business-as-usual areas with multiple entries over time, conservation and/or deferred areas where harvest will not occur in 100 years, and aggregated harvest areas where suitable trees in a large area will all be harvested in the same decade.
- **Restoration (Page 28)** – New rules require forestry companies to reforest footprint between their cutblocks, instead of only within their cutblocks.
- **Roads (Page 28)** – Long-term roads must follow the plan's access management requirements.
- **Salvage Harvest (Page 29)** – Certainty for timber salvage (harvesting) operations following fire or insect damage, while considering caribou.
- **Wildfire Mitigation (Page 29)** – Increased focus on wildfire risk assessments, modelling, and management, including enhanced wildfire prevention strategies.

### Forestry Facts

In this sub-region:

- About 30% of the land base supports timber harvest operations.
- About 50% of the Forest Management Units overlap caribou range.
- In 2024, Forestry, logging, and wood/paper product manufacturing made up roughly 0.3% of the GDP and 1% of the labour force.
- Since 1980, fires have burned about 30% of the sub-region.

### Did you know...

- The South Athabasca sub-region has a single Forest Management Agreement focused on deciduous harvest, with additional conifer quota holders.
- By contrast, the Upper Smoky sub-region has a single Forest Management Agreement focused on conifer harvest, with numerous deciduous quota holders.
- Forest management planning considers non-timber values, including biodiversity, wildlife habitat, water integrity, soil productivity, and caribou recovery.
- The 2016 Horse River fire burned 6.7% of the sub-region and the 2002 House River fire burned 6.7% of the sub-region.

Map of the Harvest Timing Series (HTS) for timber harvest activity in caribou range. The HTS shows which areas of the sub-region will be harvested in which decade. Areas labelled CON reference 'conservation area' where timber harvest will not occur. Areas labelled BAU will be harvested 'Business-As-Usual' with multiple entries over the forestry planning timeframe. (Figure 4 in the Draft South Athabasca Sub-regional Plan)

