

South Athabasca Sub-regional Plan

Plan Overview and Outcomes

This plan manages footprint from various land uses to enable economic development in the sub-region while gradually improving the overall landscape condition over the next three decades.

Strategic Outcomes and Key Strategies

- **Outcome 1** – Supporting economic opportunities that provide benefits to local municipalities, Indigenous people, and all Albertans.
 - *Doubling oil and gas production* – Enabling growth of the energy industry through more flexible rules.
 - *Zonation* – In the ‘Go Zone’ and ‘Slow Go Zone’ development is enabled; few new rules apply.
- **Outcome 2** – Consolidate and manage development over time to support landscape intactness and naturally self-sustaining plant and wildlife populations with a focus on species at risk.
 - *Access Management* – Managing the sprawl of future footprint by creating a long-term road network and focusing future development along these roads.
 - *Restoration* – Focusing on early restoration actions to help create less disturbed future landscapes, especially in sensitive areas or caribou habitat.
- **Outcome 3** – Support recreational, cultural and traditional land uses, including the practice of constitutionally recognized rights in the sub-region, for the benefit of local people, Indigenous people, and all Albertans.
 - *Zonation* – In the ‘Restoration First Zone’, restoration and footprint management are prioritized, including in sensitive areas, caribou habitat, and around reserves and hamlets.
 - *Recreation Management* – Areas are prioritized for recreation and tourism activities, including Indigenous-led tourism.

Sub-region Facts

- The SASRP covers 38,807 square kilometres.
- 91% of the sub-region is in Alberta’s ‘Green Area’.
- In 2023, roughly \$60 billion (13.9%) of Alberta’s GDP came from the sub-region.
- There are 14 parks and protected areas in the sub-region and 19 public land recreation areas and recreation trails.
- There are 199 Registered Fur Management Areas.

Did you know...

- Alberta’s Green Area is managed for oil and gas production, timber production, watershed, wildlife, fisheries, and recreational values, and other uses.
- There are two woodland caribou ranges in the sub-region – the East Side Athabasca Range (ESAR) and the Cold Lake Range. The ESAR is sub-divided into seven local populations.
- Registered Fur Management Areas (RFMAs) support the economy through commercial trapping. RFMAs held by Indigenous trappers are places where knowledge of the land is shared between families and communities.
- If a helicopter dropped you anywhere in the sub-region, there is a 90% chance you are within 500 m of a human-made footprint that is less than 40 years old, or you are in a burned area.

Map of the South Athabasca sub-region showing zones, white area, parks and protected areas, and caribou ranges. (This exact map does not appear in the Draft South Athabasca Sub-regional Plan)

