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By: Wayne Thorp, Director

Introduction

The *Caribou Landscape Management Association* (CLMA) was formed in June 2005. The Program is committed to writing four Quicknotes a year. The purpose of the Quicknotes is to provide a brief summary of activities and progress of the *Caribou Landscape Management Association*. This Quicknote provides a general update on initiatives and projects of the Association and its partners.

The members of the *Caribou Landscape Management Association* seek collaborative solutions to caribou conservation, often resulting in small steps that contribute to integrated land management. The work-plan of the *Caribou Landscape Management Association* focuses its efforts and resources on projects that:

1. Minimize the impact of industrial activities on caribou habitat;
2. Support government programs to recover caribou populations.

The *Caribou Landscape Management Association* is currently involved in two projects:

1. Integrated Industry Access Plan
2. Little Smoky Caribou Calf Project

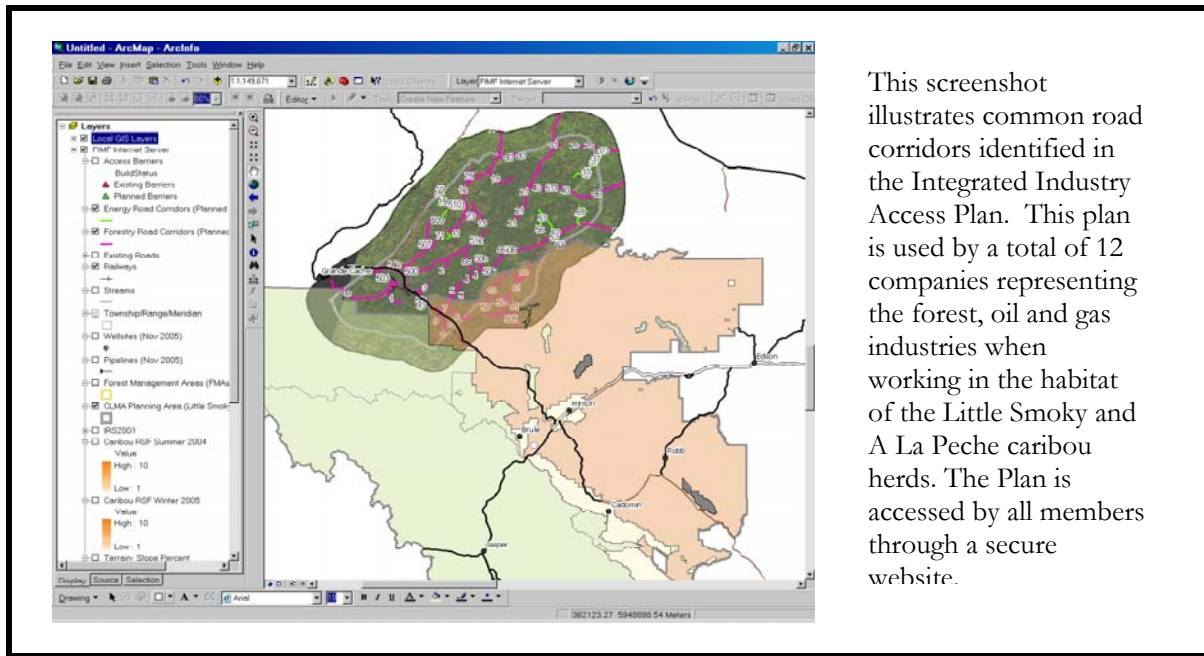
For more information on the CLMA refer to *Quicknote 1* available at www.fmf.ca/CLMA/publications/CLMA_qn1.pdf.

Integrated Industry Access Plan

Since November 2005, the Caribou Landscape Management Association has been working with the Government of Alberta on its Integrated Industry Access Plan. The Plan encompasses the habitat of the Little Smoky and A La Peche caribou herds which is approximately 5 000 square kilometers. The CLMA believe that this approach, where roads corridors are identified before development and in collaboration with all companies who will be exploring or developing resources within a defined area, will reduce the industrial footprint. Often road development takes a “plan as you go approach” and is not coordinated between companies. Members in the CLMA access the plan through the Internet. This best ensures that all members use current and accurate maps and information.

In June 2006 the Government of Alberta endorsed the concept of the Integrated Industry Access Plan. Currently, the CLMA is working on the next iteration of the plan. This version includes a monitoring report and a road reclamation plan. It is the intent of the CLMA that roads will be reclaimed to create future caribou habitat, as soon as they are no longer required.

A key to the success of the IIAP is to maintain the road inventory. This activity is critical because it provides resource managers with the “best available data” to use in resource management planning. The Foothills Model Forest has contracted an individual whose sole responsibility is to ground truth and maintain road data. Once again, these data are served to CLMA members through a secure website.

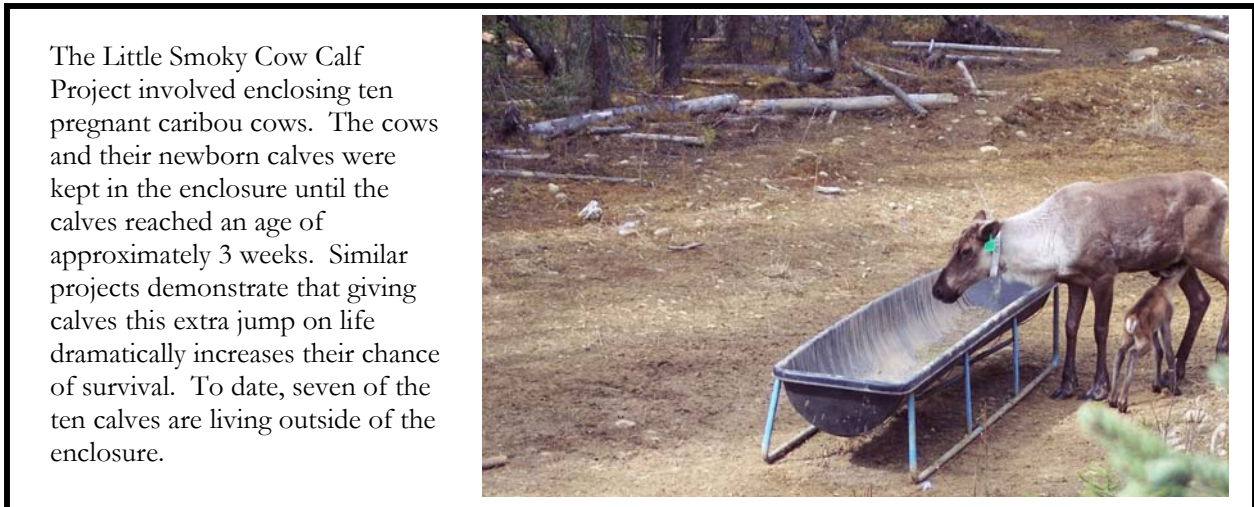


This screenshot illustrates common road corridors identified in the Integrated Industry Access Plan. This plan is used by a total of 12 companies representing the forest, oil and gas industries when working in the habitat of the Little Smoky and A La Peche caribou herds. The Plan is accessed by all members through a secure website.

Little Smoky Caribou Calf Project

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development worked with the CLMA members as well as Husky Energy and BP Canada on the Little Smoky Caribou Calf Project. The goal of the project is to increase survival rates of calves in the Little Smoky Caribou herd. A threat to this herd is high mortality rates of calves because newborns are often preyed on by wildlife such as bears and wolves. Increasing the survival rates of calves contributes to recovering the population of the Little Smoky herd.

The project involved capturing ten pregnant caribou cows and enclosing them in a fenced area (approximately 10 hectares). While enclosed and safe from predators, ten calves were born in May 2006. Unfortunately, one calf died of natural causes while in captivity. In June 2006, the remaining nine calves and ten cows were released from the enclosure. During the summer two calves died, from what appears to be predation by bears. The seven remaining calves are monitored. If this pilot project increases calf survival, hence the overall numbers of the Little Smoky herd, the project may be conducted again in the Spring of 2007.



The Little Smoky Cow Calf Project involved enclosing ten pregnant caribou cows. The cows and their newborn calves were kept in the enclosure until the calves reached an age of approximately 3 weeks. Similar projects demonstrate that giving calves this extra jump on life dramatically increases their chance of survival. To date, seven of the ten calves are living outside of the enclosure.

For more information on the Caribou Landscape Management Association please contact Wayne Thorp.
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