

Foothills Landscape Management Forum



A partnership of government, forestry, energy and aboriginal groups focused on joint efforts to improve caribou conservation and survival.

Several energy and forest sector companies operating in the Hinton, Alberta area discussed the concept of developing a caribou management association in November 2004. In May 2005 the concept came to fruition as the Caribou Landscape Management Association and included one aboriginal representative. The Foothills Landscape Management Forum (formerly the Caribou Landscape Management Association) mandate covers the ranges of the A la Peche and Little Smoky caribou herds. The Foothills Research Institute provides administrative support for the association as a pilot project for Integrated Land Management.

The Foothills Landscape Management Forum supports the goals of the Foothills Research Institute by demonstrating sustainable forest management, providing knowledge transfer between agencies, integration of industrial uses, integration of data, and supporting and influencing sustainable policy development.

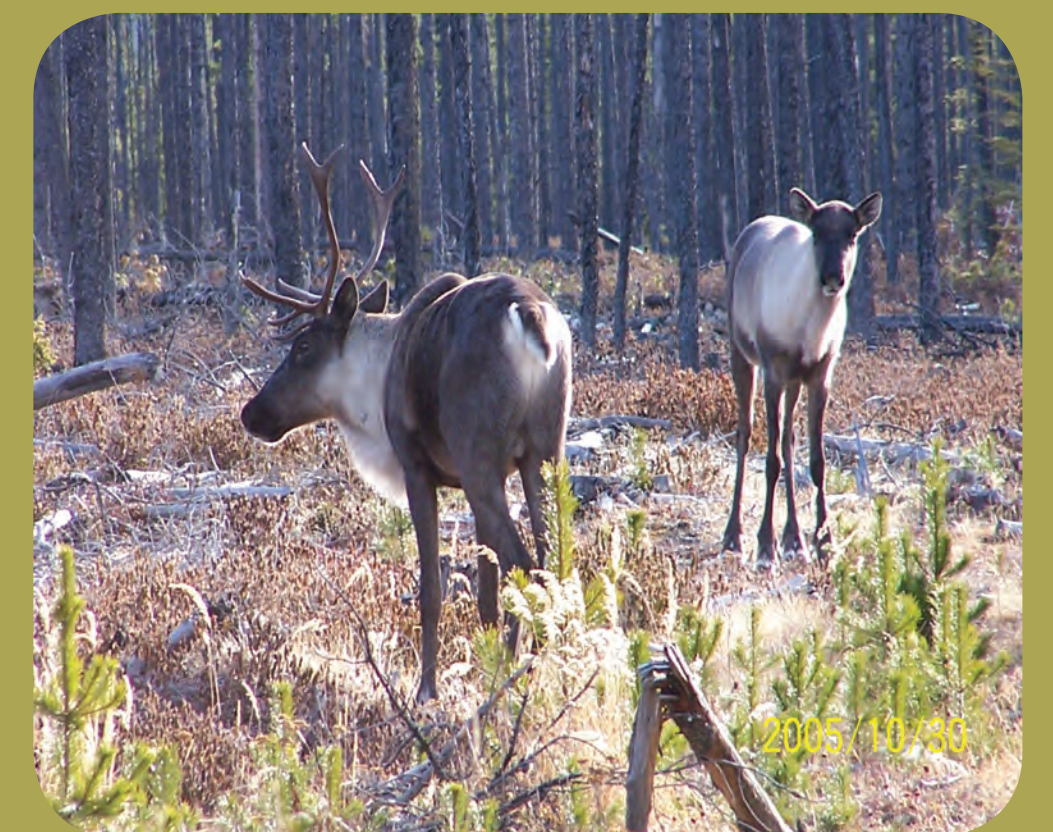
The primary ongoing programs the Foothills Landscape Management Forum is working on are:

- Development of an Integrated Industrial Access Plan which assists resource companies in reducing their footprint on the habitat of the Little Smoky and A la Peche caribou herds in north-western Alberta.
- Implementation of the Caribou Recovery Strategy.

Integrated Industrial Access Plan

The Foothills Landscape Management Forum (FLMF) mandate is to facilitate the implementation of proposals for integrated landscape management and conservation actions for the Little Smoky and A la Peche caribou herds in west central Alberta. The first initiative of the FLMF was the Integrated Industry Access Plan (IIAP), which has been condensed from its original form and renamed the Berland Smoky Access Plan.

Increasing road access in the ranges of these two caribou herds is needed to support allocated resource extraction and associated economic and social benefits. In November of 2005, the FLMF (previously called the Caribou Landscape Management Association - CLMA) submitted an Integrated Industrial Access Plan (IIAP) for consideration by government. The government endorsed the IIAP as a guiding tool on June 23, 2006, which reinforced the need to integrate and coordinate the access requirements of the forest and oil and gas sectors, and to develop a monitoring and reclamation plan.



The Berland Smoky Access Plan identifies the “backbone” of permanent all weather access requirements for the energy and forest industrial sectors within the caribou ranges. The Plan represents the needs of the forest companies and a majority of the oil and gas companies with operations in the area.

Foothills Research Institute is a leader in developing innovative science and knowledge for integrated resource management on the forest landscape through diverse and actively engaged partnerships.

The Foothills Research Partnership Ltd. landbase is located in west-central Alberta, and is based in the resource community of Hinton, some three hours west of Edmonton. It covers roughly 2.75 million hectare (27,500 square kilometres), and embodies Jasper National Park of Canada, the Willmore Wilderness Park, and the Forest Management Area of Hinton Wood Products, a Division of West Fraser Mills Ltd. It also includes some provincial “crown forest management units” and the Hinton Training Centre’s Cache Percotte Training Forest. Within its boundaries are three forest areas—boreal, montane, and sub-alpine—and many forest uses including timber, petroleum, and coal extraction, tourism, and recreation.

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