

## Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) Responses to Alberta Government Survey

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### Caribou Range Planning in Alberta, June 2017

[https://talkaep.alberta.ca/caribou-range-planning/survey\\_tools/caribou-range-planning-in-alberta](https://talkaep.alberta.ca/caribou-range-planning/survey_tools/caribou-range-planning-in-alberta)

#### Basic Details About You

**Are you completing this survey as a representative of your company, organization or community?**

Yes, Alberta Wilderness Association, Non-governmental organization

**What range planning area is of greatest interest to you in which your survey responses will specifically apply?**

All caribou ranges

#### Detailed Questions on Caribou Range Planning

**How aware are you of the Federal *Species at Risk Act*, and the associated woodland caribou recovery strategies, as they relate to caribou range planning in the province of Alberta?**

Very aware

**From what you know at present about the federal recovery strategies, do you support caribou range planning to protect caribou populations and habitat in Alberta?**

Very supportive

**To what degree would you say that you are aware of the potential implications of failing to meet the goals and objectives of the Federal *Species at Risk Act*?**

Very aware

**Please identify what you understand to be the most critical issue affecting woodland caribou that should be considered during caribou range planning?**

Protect extensive areas of caribou ranges from industrial development, and restore historic industrial disturbance. Three decades of incremental change and operating guidelines haven't worked.

#### Detailed Questions on Caribou Range Planning

**What measures should the Government of Alberta prioritize in support of caribou recovery? Please rank the following actions from 1 to 6, with 1 being of highest value and 6 the lowest value.**

1. A combination of protected areas and more stringent operating conditions for industrial activities
2. Creation of parks and protected areas

3. Restoration of seismic lines and other industrial landscape disturbances
4. More stringent requirements (i.e., operating conditions) and/or reduced levels of industrial activities
5. Predator management (e.g., annual reductions in wolf numbers)
6. Caribou fenced rearing facilities or maternity pens

**What are your thoughts on limiting or restricting recreational and industrial entry (i.e., access management) into portions of caribou ranges in order to restore caribou habitat? Do you have specific comments on how this should be done? Your comments could focus on how this should apply to industrial activities, motorized and non-motorized recreational use, hunting and trapping.**

We need mandatory range access regulations to prevent new disturbance, and to reduce and restore existing disturbance. Without rules, restoration work is wasted by new disturbance. Access plan should show steady progress to achieve at least 65% undisturbed habitat in next 50-60 years, for caribou populations to stabilize and then recover. Within the access plan: energy industry could extract on much smaller footprint (phasing out in protected areas); hunting can help reduce deer/moose; work with trappers on appropriate winter access.

**We'd now like to ask you to choose between the following statements. While you may not fully agree with either, or may agree with both, please choose the one of the following statements that best reflects your point of view.**

When thinking about recovering a threatened species such as caribou, it is more important to think about protecting caribou populations and critical habitat first, and then work on minimizing economic impacts and developing new economic initiatives.

**Do you have any additional thoughts, ideas or solutions that would help support caribou range planning in Alberta?**

We have a legal and moral responsibility to legally protect sufficiently large caribou landscapes from industrial development. The resulting increase in intact old forests and wetlands will greatly benefit Alberta's long-held (but unfulfilled) commitment to 'maintain biodiversity'. We must get these fundamentals in place to develop sustainable economies for communities.

**Tell us about yourself**

[Age/Gender/Identity/Where you live]