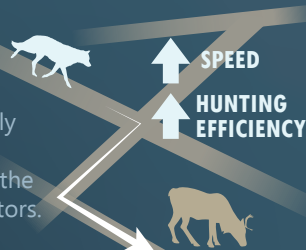


Slowing it down: restoration reduces predator and prey movement on linear features

Linear features like seismic lines are a key contributor to woodland caribou declines. Linear features help large mammals, especially wolves, travel through the landscape more efficiently, which is hypothesized to increase the encounters between caribou and their predators.

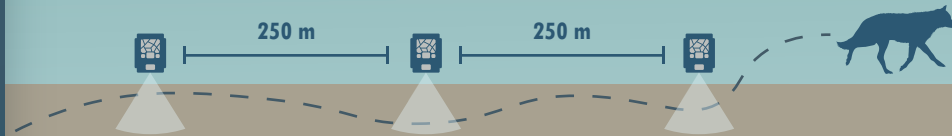
Restoration treatments for these linear features are designed to re-establish forest cover over the long term, but they also create obstacles which may slow down predators. Slower predators are less efficient at finding prey, which could lead to reduced predation on caribou.

There has been some indication that restoration treatments can reduce how often animals use these features, but it is unknown how much treatments reduce travel speed.

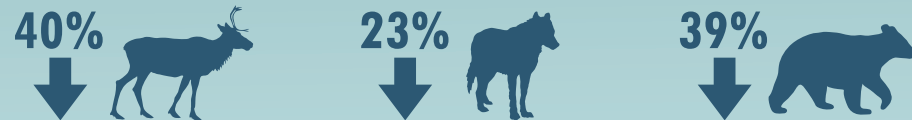


SLOW

We evaluated whether restoration reduces the speed of predators and their prey in the Cold Lake caribou range using wildlife cameras.



We found that linear restoration slowed down the speed of wolves, caribou, and bears, but not moose:



Slowing both predators and their prey is expected to reduce their encounter rates. Therefore, our findings suggest that **restoration may alleviate some predation pressure on caribou in the short-term by reducing their encounters with predators**. Further monitoring is needed to understand how predation rates are affected over time.

Access the paper here: <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.14004>