

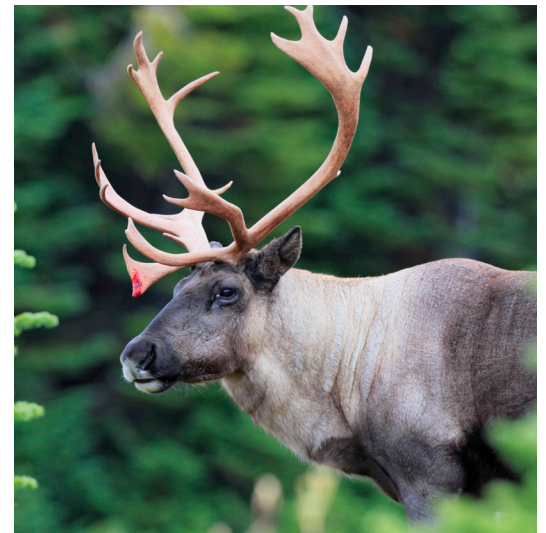
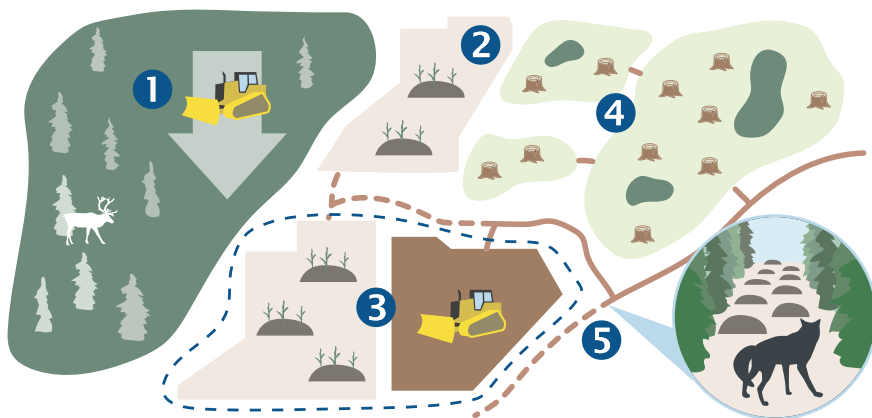
# Range Plan for Woodland Caribou in SK2 West: Overview

Woodland caribou are an integral part of Saskatchewan's forests and a culturally significant species to Indigenous peoples. Woodland caribou rely on older conifer forests and peatlands and are impacted by disturbances including industrial activity, roads, forest harvest and wildfire.

## A plan for reducing human impacts on caribou

This range plan outlines strategies for managing woodland caribou habitat while acknowledging traditional land use and allowing continued economic activity.

We will do this using five main strategies:



- 1 Reducing new disturbance in important caribou habitat.
- 2 Reclaiming and restoring old disturbances to create habitat.
- 3 Mitigating new disturbances by restoring habitat next to them.
- 4 Harvesting forests strategically to create and maintain larger patches of old forest.
- 5 Managing access to reduce caribou exposure to people and predators.

It will be possible to achieve this range plan's goal while maintaining similar levels of land use activity. However, these strategies may require industrial, recreational and other users of Saskatchewan's northern forests to modify their practices and activities.

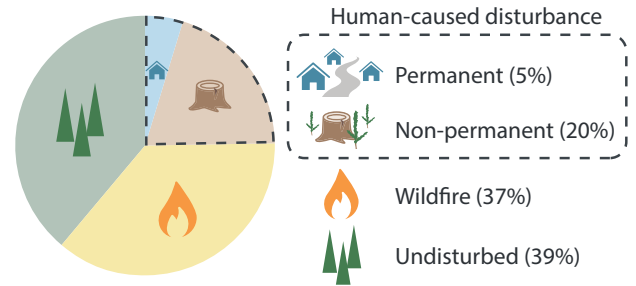


## SK2 West: High-value caribou habitat and lots of wildfire

SK2 West provides the physical connection between caribou habitats in Saskatchewan and Alberta. It has a large amount of high-value habitat and it also has the highest levels of both wildfire and total disturbance within SK2.

Caribou population numbers are not known in this area. Based on disturbance trends, traditional knowledge and recent monitoring efforts, we believe caribou have been declining.

### Disturbance in SK2 West:



**Target: Reduce the current level of human-caused disturbance.**

# Caribou habitat management areas

Caribou habitat management areas identify zones ("tiers") with similar importance to caribou, potential risks and primary strategies for caribou conservation. These areas are not permanent: they will be updated as habitat conditions, land use and caribou populations change over time.

### Tier 1: Conserve what's there

These areas have important caribou habitat (existing and potential) and low human disturbance.

#### Strategies:

- ▶ Limit new disturbances.
- ▶ Mitigate new disturbances.
- ▶ Reduce the number of roads and trails.

### Tier 2: Create new habitat

These areas have moderate habitat potential for caribou and have higher levels of wildfire and human disturbance.

#### Strategies:

- ▶ Reclamation and restoration.
- ▶ Mitigate new disturbances.
- ▶ Reduce the number of roads and trails.

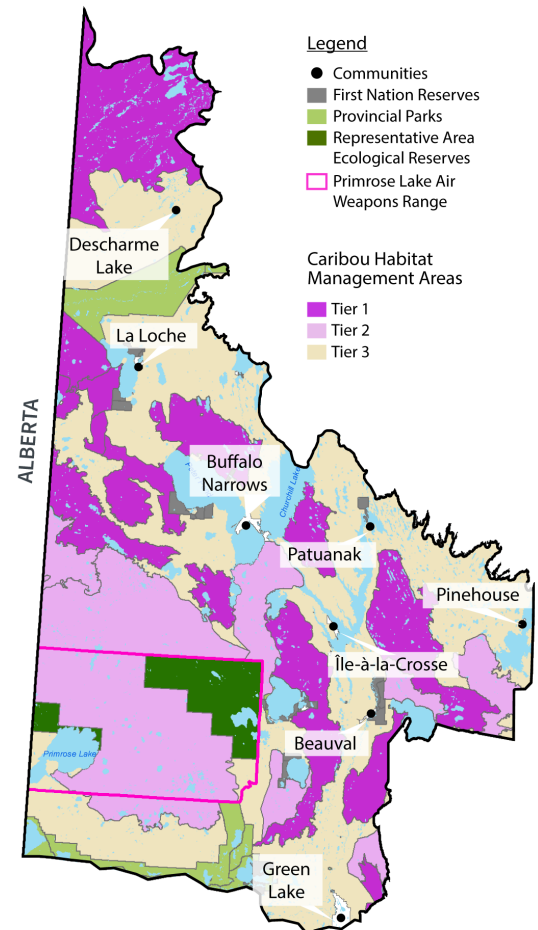
### Tier 3: Connect the dots

These are areas that caribou must travel through as they move between Tier 1 and Tier 2.

#### Strategies:

- ▶ Maintain habitat connections (e.g., natural forest pattern harvesting).

Caribou habitat management does not restrict traditional use and access by Aboriginal and treaty rights holders. This includes hunting, trapping and harvest of caribou.



To learn more about caribou range planning in Saskatchewan, view the full range plan or report a caribou sighting, visit [saskatchewan.ca/environment](http://saskatchewan.ca/environment).