

Woodland caribou management and industrial development in West Central Alberta: Can we have both?

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Since 2005, the Foothill Landscape Management Forum (FLMF) has been operating under the umbrella of the Foothills Research Institute (FRI) to proactively influence industrial development within two Alberta woodland caribou ranges. The FLMF represents 16 energy and forest companies that have overlapping dispositions within caribou ranges. The supporting members recognize that their resource extraction activities can have an impact on caribou and other values. As part of the development and implementation of caribou recovery plans, industry is concentrating its efforts on what they have direct control over such as anthropogenic footprint (amount and type) and vegetation (habitat) spatially and temporally. The FLMF is leading the way in advancing integrated land management, partnering with government, collecting data, supporting research, and monitoring to support an adaptive management approach to caribou management. This talk will outline some of the forums initiatives, challenges, and scenario modeling that support the concept of “learn while doing” for caribou.

