

## Does Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac) meet FSC's Controlled Wood standard?

May 13, 2026

We are carrying out an audit of Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac) located in St. Albert, Alberta, Canada, to see if their operations comply with FSC's [Controlled Wood](#) standard (FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1). We are writing to you to ask if you know of any reason why their operations would not meet this standard.

Controlled Wood is wood that meets minimum requirements and that can therefore be mixed with FSC wood and used in products with an FSC Mix label. In particular, the wood must not be:

- harvested illegally.
- harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights.
- harvested from forests with a high conservation value that is threatened by management activities.
- harvested from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use.
- from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted.

We will carry out our audit on May 26, 2026, however, you can provide feedback until June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. Here is how you should comment, if you wish to do so:

- When? You should send comments to us before or during the audit.
- How? You can comment by:
  - Meeting with a Preferred by Nature staff member in person.
  - Phone to Brittany King. Her phone number is 778-558-8814
  - Writing to Brittany King at:
    - P.O. Box 1771
    - Chelsea, QC J9B 1A1
    - Canada .
  - Email to Brittany King at [bking@preferredbynature.org](mailto:bking@preferredbynature.org)
  - In person by arranging to meet with Brittany King
- If you want your comments to be confidential please notify us when you submit the comments.

If you provide comments, we will provide feedback to you within 30 days of the audit.

Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac) has written a summary document that lists:

- the risks they have identified that they may source unacceptable wood
- the measures they implement to mitigate those risks.

We have attached this summary document to this letter.

If you wish to dispute any aspect of this forest certification process or the decision we reach as to whether this company meets the Controlled Wood standard, you can access our Dispute Resolution Policy at <https://www.preferredbynature.org/node/9284>.

Thank you for any help you are able to provide.

If you have any recommendations for contacting other stakeholders that may have an interest in providing comments on this company and audit, we would also gladly receive these from you.

Yours sincerely,



Mélanie Proulx

## FSC Controlled Wood Due Diligence System Public Summary

### 1. General information

Organisation name:	Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.
FSC certificate code:	PBN-CW-001638
Organisation's DDS contact person:	Deanna Zelt
DDS prepared/assisted by:	Originally prepared by Tina Langille-Hayward with assistance from internal Woodlands Subject Matter Experts and information provided by suppliers. 2026 review and updates completed by Deanna Zelt and SMEs.
Date last reviewed/updated (by the organisation):	May 7, 2026

### 2. Suppliers

Participating site	Non-certified material type sourced	Exact number of suppliers	Supplier type(s)	Average no. of tiers in the supply chains	Approximate or exact number of sub-suppliers
Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. millsite	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	4 – FSC CoC/CW certified companies 2 – controlled material company Up to 30 Purchased Wood Suppliers annually (all under contract with Al-Pac and each location assessed by Al-Pac Purchase Wood Coordinator to ensure eligibility as controlled material)	Forest Management Enterprises	1	1
Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. millsite	W3.1 Conifer Chips	4 – FSC CoC/CW certified companies 3 – controlled material companies	Primary Processor	1	3

### 3. Supply areas

Supply area	Controlled wood category	Reference to risk assessment used	Risk designation
Central and Northern Alberta, Canada; Quota Holders FMU: A10, A16, L1, L2, L3, L8, L11, P21, R15, S10, S11, S14, S16, S17, S18, S19, S20, S21, S22, S23, S24, W01, W02, W14, W15, W16, Excised areas from Al-Pac's Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area. Private and crown lands within the	1	FSC-NRA-CA V2-1	Negligible Risk
	2	FSC-NRA-CA V2-1	Non-negligible Risk
	3	FSC-NRA-CA V2-1	Non-negligible Risk
	4	FSC-NRA-CA V2-1	Non-negligible Risk

<p>following counties/municipal districts/Metis settlements/Reserves:  Athabasca, Barrhead, Big Lakes, Bighorn, Birch Hills, Bonnyville, Brazeau, Clearwater, Grande Prairie, Greenview, Lac La Biche, Lac Ste. Anne, Lacombe, Lamont, Leduc, Lesser Slave River (MD 124), Little Smoky, Mountainview, Opportunity No.17, Parkland, Ponoka, Red Deer, Rocky View, Saddle Hills, Smoky Lake, Smoky River, Spirit River, St. Paul, Sturgeon, Thorhild, Two Hills, Vermillion, Westlock, Wetaskwin, Wood Buffalo, Woodlands, Yellowhead, Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement, Kikino Metis Settlement, East Prairie Metis Settlement, Gift Lake Metis Settlement, Peavine Metis Settlement, Elizabeth Metis Settlement, Fishing Lake Metis Settlement, First Nation Reserves surrounded by or near Al-Pac's FMA Area.</p>	5	FSC-NRA-CA V2-1	Negligible Risk
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#### 4. Risk assessment and mitigation

##### 4.a Risk mitigation for the origin of the material

Entire supply area:		
Indicator	Mitigation Measures	Findings from field verification if undertaken as a mitigation measure
2.3	<p>Controlled wood category 2. Wood harvested in violation of traditional and human rights</p> <p><b><i>For sources of material originating directly from the forest of origin, primary producers* may demonstrate one or a combination of the following mitigation measures (Mitigation Measures 1 and 4 applied):</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>Indigenous Peoples with legal and/or customary rights within the Forest Management Unit do not oppose* the Forest Management Plan. *oppose = opposition demonstrated through active litigation, blockade, protest or other significant conflict of substantial magnitude.</i></b></li> </ol> <p>Al-Pac would be considered a Primary Producer for salvage logs and purchased wood from private land. As well, Al-Pac receives incidental deciduous logs from non-FSC certified forest companies operating within or near Al-Pac's Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area.</p> <p>Within Al-Pac's supply area there are numerous Indigenous communities (First Nation and Metis) that exercise their traditional rights.</p> <p>Government of Canada: First Nations Profile Interactive Map  <a href="https://geo.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/cippn-fnpim/index-eng.html">https://geo.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/cippn-fnpim/index-eng.html</a></p> <p>Al-Pac's Purchase Wood Coordinator is responsible for sourcing salvage and purchased wood supply. Al-Pac's Purchase Wood Coordinator will not accept material from a harvest that is opposed* by Indigenous Peoples with legal and/or customary rights within the harvest area. As well, incidental deciduous that is harvested by Quota Holders from within Al-Pac's FMA area would not be accepted if there is opposition* by Indigenous Peoples with legal and/or customary rights within the harvest area. Note that the majority of Al-Pac's FMA area is covered by FSC Forest Management certification through which support for Indigenous Peoples rights is demonstrated.</p> <p>No recent cases were identified through the <a href="#">National Risk Assessment for Canada</a> of conflicts of substantial magnitude as a result of forest management activities. (Page 75)</p>	

4. **Best efforts to engage with Indigenous Peoples with legal and customary rights within the Forest Management Unit to understand if/how these rights are violated as a result of forest management activities, is demonstrated.**

**Guidance: 'Best efforts to engage' should be aligned with the attributes of a 'culturally appropriate' engagement process. Refer to the FSC Canada National Forest Stewardship Standard (FSC-STD-CAN-01-2018) for a definition and discussion of 'culturally appropriate' engagement.**

In the event that there is opposition, prior to material being accepted AI-Pac's Indigenous Relations team will utilize best efforts to engage with Indigenous Peoples with legal and customary rights within the harvest area to understand if/how these rights are violated as a result of forest management activities.

Additional Support for Indicator 2.3.

Alberta has First Nations and Metis consultation policies that must be followed by industry. Operational approvals are dependent upon adequate consultation.

Alberta Indigenous Relations

<https://www.alberta.ca/indigenous-consultations-in-alberta.aspx>

Government of Canada - Consultation, Engagement and the Duty to Consult

<https://www.canada.ca/en/crown-indigenous-relations-northern-affairs.html>

As well, there are historic First Nations treaties established in Alberta. Specific claims deal with past grievances of First Nations related to Canada's obligations under historic treaties or the way it managed First Nations' funds or other assets. To honor its obligations, Canada negotiates settlements with the First Nation and (where applicable) provincial and/or territorial governments.

Government of Canada Reporting Centre on Specific Claims

<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100030291/1539617582343>

**For non-primary producers (applicable for sources of material not originating directly from the forest of origin):**

5. **A dispute resolution process is established specifically to address issues arising from violations of the right of Indigenous People related to forest management activities. The dispute resolution process is implemented in the event a dispute of substantial magnitude arises within the supply area.**

For conifer chips purchased from sawmills AI-Pac would be considered a non-primary producer and would apply Mitigation measure 5.

AI-Pac has a dispute resolution process specifically to address issues arising from violations of the rights of Indigenous People related to forest management activities.

Within AI-Pac's Supplier Controlled Material Letter of Commitment, conifer chip suppliers commit to notify AI-Pac immediately if there is any opposition\* to their forest operations from Indigenous Peoples with legal or customary rights within their supply area. Suppliers are also informed that there is a Dispute Resolution Process available should a dispute of substantial magnitude arise within their supply area.

Controlled wood category 3. Wood from forests in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities		
3.1	<p><i>NON-NEGLIGIBLE RISK relating to Woodland Caribou for the following ecoregions within Al-Pac's supply area:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mid-Continental Canadian Forests</i></li> <li>• <i>Alberta-British Columbia Foothills Forests</i></li> <li>• <i>Canadian Aspen Forests and Parklands</i></li> <li>• <i>Alberta Mountain Forests</i></li> </ul> <p><b><i>For each species whose critical habitat* has been identified within a Non-negligible Risk ecoregion, one or more of the following mitigation measures shall be demonstrated, as applicable (Mitigation Measure 1 applied).</i></b></p> <p><b><i>1. Evidence demonstrates that harvesting does not take place in critical habitats* for Non-Negligible Risk species identified.</i></b></p> <p>All of Al-Pac's Controlled Material supply can be tracked back to its source through source IDs, commercial timber permits and TM9 tickets. The majority of the Controlled Material sourced originates from areas outside the critical habitats of Woodland Caribou.</p> <p><b><i>For Woodland Caribou (Mitigation Measure 8 applied)</i></b></p> <p><b><i>8. Evidence demonstrates that forests in the sourcing area have a management plan that contributes to the recovery of woodland caribou critical habitat*, as identified in the Federal Recovery Strategy.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>The management plan identifies and implements:</i></b></p> <p><b><i>a) Best Management Practices (BMPs) that reduce disturbance to and restore critical habitat* including, but not limited to:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>access management (e.g. road decommissioning, integrated access plans, restoration of linear features); OR</i></li> <li>• <i>aggregate harvesting (i.e. harvest scheduling to minimize disturbance footprint).</i></li> </ul> <p><b><i>OR</i></b></p> <p><b><i>b) Harvest deferrals, set asides, and/or protection areas within areas of critical habitat*, where forest operations are not permitted.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Rationale is provided as to how such actions will contribute to reducing the level of disturbance over time in critical habitat*, in support of meeting the 65% undisturbed habitat threshold requirements in the Federal Recovery Strategy.</i></b></p> <p>For all caribou ranges in Alberta the following would apply:</p>	

Alberta and Canada signed an *Agreement for the Conservation and Recovery of the woodland Caribou in Alberta* in 2020 under Section 11 of the federal *Species at Risk Act*. This Agreement outlines a combination of habitat and population management actions intended to address the goals and objectives of Alberta Woodland Caribou Recovery Plan and Policy and the Federal Recovery Strategies for both boreal and southern mountain woodland caribou populations. The Agreement is legally binding and establishes a timeline for when each action is to be undertaken. These actions include:

- Sub-regional Landscape Planning to achieve critical habitat outcomes at the caribou range level, consistent with ECCC's *Range Plan Guidance for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population* (2016).
- Integrated Land Management and access management – A strategic, planned approach to restore, manage and reduce human footprint on the landscape.
- Restoration of human footprint including linear features (legacy seismic lines).
- Net reduction in disturbance to critical habitat from the energy sector.
- Planning of forestry footprint that is consistent with caribou conservation and recovery. To date this has been based around aggregated harvest practices that mirror natural disturbances. Aggregated harvesting further reduces the amount of access required during a given timeframe and reduces new habitat disturbances. The grouping of harvest activities also enables regrowth of contiguous forest patches.

The Agreement expired in October 2025, and a new agreement is currently being negotiated. Subregional planning is continuing without the Agreement in place.

In addition to the Alberta-Canada Conservation Agreement, other regulations and best practices addressing caribou habitat management, and working to contribute to reducing the level of disturbance over time in critical habitat, in support of meeting the 65% undisturbed habitat threshold requirements in the Federal Recovery Strategy include:

- Reforestation of legacy linear footprint within new harvest blocks.
- Reforestation of temporary roads within 3 years as required by the Timber Harvest Planning and Operating Ground Rules.
- Landscape and site level forest planning and operational approaches that reduce disturbance to and support recovery of critical habitat. This includes Spatial Harvest Sequence development that contributes to caribou habitat requirements and supports woodland caribou recovery. It also includes Operating Ground Rules that provide operationalized direction to forest companies and government for incorporating wildlife habitat requirements for caribou during timber harvest planning, implementation, and monitoring.
- Conservation areas within woodland caribou ranges. The Alberta government has made progress towards achieving all aspects of Canada Target 1 and Aichi Target 11. As an example, in 2018 the Alberta government announced the addition of 1.36 million hectares to Alberta's protected areas network resulting in 6.7 million contiguous hectares of boreal forest in Alberta, much of it located with woodland caribou ranges. Al-Pac and Northland established ~337,000 hectares of "Designated Conservation Lands" mostly within caribou range in May 2023, in accordance with FSC 6.5.

**Alberta-Canada Agreement for the Conservation and Recovery of the Woodland Caribou in Alberta**

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/agreement-for-the-conservation-and-recovery-of-the-woodland-caribou-in-alberta>

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/first-report-implementation-section-11-agreement-conservation-recovery-woodland-caribou-in-alberta>

**Caribou Recovery Planning**

<https://www.alberta.ca/caribou-recovery>

<https://www.alberta.ca/caribou-sub-regional-task-forces>

**Parks and Protected Areas**

<https://www.albertaparks.ca/media/6492835/alberta-parks-protected-areas-provincial-map.pdf>

**Pathway to Canada Target 1**

<http://www.conservation2020canada.ca/home>

**Creating world's largest boreal protected forest**

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=55951F7FBFC21-B342-F69F-2BB2163D213E56F7>

**Alberta leads Canada on woodland caribou protection**

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=41892E6E8E071-F5BD-84CC-6CF522ACE9658E41>

**Progress Report on Steps Taken to Protect Critical Habitat for the Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), Boreal Population, in Canada – June, 2019**

[https://wildlife-species.canada.ca/species-risk-registry/virtual\\_sara/files/reports/Chr-BorealCaribou-v00-June2019-Eng1.pdf](https://wildlife-species.canada.ca/species-risk-registry/virtual_sara/files/reports/Chr-BorealCaribou-v00-June2019-Eng1.pdf)

**Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) Boreal population: Report on the progress of the recovery strategy implementation (period 2017 to 2022) and the action plan implementation (period 2018 to 2023)**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/report-progress-recovery-document/caribou-rangifer-tarandus-boreal-report-progress-recovery-strategy-2017-2022-action-plan-2018-2023.html>

The **Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute's (ABMI) Caribou Monitoring Unit (CMU)** was developed to support woodland caribou recovery in Canada. In 2022 the CMU became the Wildlife Science Centre (WSC) when the organization expanded its mission and scope. The WSC works with academics, industry, and government to facilitate applied research and provide scientific expertise to evaluate and monitor caribou recovery options. Current WSC projects range from prioritizing areas for habitat restoration to determining how predator numbers and landscape features affect caribou populations, to evaluating the efficacy of seismic line restoration. The WSC continues to develop relationships with stakeholder groups and support efforts to increase collective understanding of issues facing boreal woodland caribou in Western Canada.

<https://wildlifescience.ca/>

<https://wildlifescience.ca/projects/habitat/>

**Caribou Conservation: Restoring Trees on Seismic Lines in Alberta, Canada**

[http://www.ace-lab.org/assets\\_b/Filicetti%20et%20al.%20\(2019\)%20forests-10-00185.pdf](http://www.ace-lab.org/assets_b/Filicetti%20et%20al.%20(2019)%20forests-10-00185.pdf)

**Forest Harvest supports seismic line reforestation**

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378112725000143>

### **Legislated Species at Risk protection within Alberta's forest practices**

Species at Risk protection is accounted for within the *Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard* and the Operating Ground Rules, which are required for all forestry operations in Alberta. The Government of Alberta identifies species at risk and prepares protection measures and monitoring requirements which are incorporated into the *Forest Management Planning Standard* and implemented through Forest Management Plans. Sections 5.7 and 5.9.11, as well as Annex 4 of the *Forest Management Planning Standard* outline some of the values to be considered when developing harvest sequences, including habitat requirements and access strategies.

### **Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard**

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/3491799>

### **Alberta Timber Harvest Planning and Operating Ground Rules (2025)**

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/timber-harvest-planning-and-ogr-2025>

In addition to the above measures that promote caribou and caribou habitat recovery in Alberta, specific action to further that recovery within the caribou ranges within Al-Pac's supply area are summarized as follows. Note that for caribou range outside Al-Pac's Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area, the FMA holders would be responsible for the Forest Management Plan development. Any quota holders operating within those FMA areas would be bound by the conditions of those FMPs.

### **Alberta Forest Management Agreement (FMA) Map**

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/forest-management-agreement-boundaries-map>

- **Red Rock-Prairie Creek & Narraway**

- Alberta has released a finalized Upper Smoky Sub-Regional Plan, based on Task Force recommendations to address recovery outcomes for the Narraway, and Redrock-Prairie Creek caribou ranges. Recommendations Report: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/recommendations-for-upper-smoky-planning-area-advice-to-government-of-alberta>  
Final Plan: <https://www.alberta.ca/system/files/epa-sub-regional-plan-upper-smoky-plan-november-4-2025-with-appendix-v2.pdf>
- The **2019-2029 Forest Management Plan** developed by Weyerhaeuser Company Limited, Grande Prairie Timberlands for FMA #6900016 provides best management practices for the only operational forest that overlaps with portions of the winter ranges for both the Red Rock/Prairie Creek and the Narraway herds. To determine these Best Management Practices Weyerhaeuser initiated a multi stakeholder project to develop credible solutions for presentation to the Province for maintaining sufficient habitat for caribou populations to be self-sustaining, while also ensuring opportunities for economic development. The Best management Practices include:
  - long-term deferrals in areas of high value caribou habitat, and varying degrees of restriction on forest harvesting in other parts of the ranges.
  - implementing aggregated harvest patterns to minimize the required road network and overall footprint where harvesting does occur. This will also help ensure sufficiently large habitat patches are maintained in an undisturbed state.

- targeted sequencing and fine-scale restrictions on harvest in certain areas to provide for connectivity within the ranges.
- supporting the establishment of a protected area in a location of particular importance for caribou. This 35,000 ha area would extend an area of existing protection to include a Redrock-Prairie Creek caribou herd migration route between summer and winter range.
- Commitment to funding continued monitoring and research for both caribou herds, including estimation of population trends using telemetry collars, fecal DNA collection and analysis, and surveys.
- Restoration of legacy linear disturbance in areas of forest harvesting and a commitment of continued collaboration on a larger scale, restoration priority plan.

[Weyerhaeuser Company Limited \(Grande Prairie\) 2019 Forest Management Plan](#)

- **Little Smoky/A La Peche**

- Integrated Regional Access Management Plan in place. Active linear restoration occurring. 75 per cent of the A La Peche range is within protected areas.

**Berland Smoky Network Plan: Priority Areas for Caribou Habitat Restoration**  
&

**Berland Smoky Integrated Planning Area – Direction for Access development**

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/berland-smoky-integrated-planning-area-direction-for-access-development>

**Berland Smoky Reclamation Plan, Foothills Landscape Management Forum**

[https://friresearch.ca/sites/default/files/FLMF%20RAD%20Reclamation%20Plan\\_Phase%20One\\_26April2013.pdf](https://friresearch.ca/sites/default/files/FLMF%20RAD%20Reclamation%20Plan_Phase%20One_26April2013.pdf)

- Caribou consideration in **ANC Timber Ltd. 2011 Forest Management Plan**, including harvest area restrictions within SHS. Commitment to Berland Smoky Integrated Regional Access Plan. Quota Holders in ANC's FMA area are bound by the conditions of the FMP.

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/anc-timber-ltd-2011-forest-management-plan>

- **Slave Lake**

- **Lesser Slave Lake Regional Forest Management Plan (LSLRFMP) 2021** directs timber management activities on Forest Management Units (FMUs) S16, S17, S19, S20, S21, and S24, of which S17, S20 & S24 overlap the Slave Lake Caribou Range. This FMP directs the activities of Tolko Industries Ltd., Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. and Alberta Plywood Ltd. (West Fraser Slave Lake). In 2017 and 2018 the GOA led a multi-industry caribou range planning process for the Slave Lake and the Nipisi ranges and developed timber harvesting strategies for both ranges. For forestry, the outcome of this range planning process was modeled harvest activities over time following an aggregated harvest approach to remove existing footprint while working towards the 65% undisturbed caribou habitat target. The caribou strategy for the 2021 LSLRFMP:

- Manage caribou habitat over the long term across the range through a series of aggregated harvest and leave areas to manage age classes and caribou habitat across the range. The principle is to harvest all mature timber within an area, reforest everything, remove access and leave the area for 100 years;
- Focus first on harvesting areas with an existing footprint to remove the footprint through reforestation;

- Direct timber harvesting through the Harvest Timing Units (HTU) developed in the GOA range planning process. HTUs define the areas for timber harvesting and reforestation activities in 10-year periods over 100 years. As HTUs were developed for entire caribou ranges, including areas outside the DFA, harvesting within the DFA is intermittent;
- Sequence all available timber in each HTU during the eligible period. Areas not harvested during the eligible period are not eligible until the next HTU entry. Landbase net down rules for operability and other values such as riparian buffers were not modified inside caribou ranges;
- Sequence and complete harvesting and reforestation within a HTU in as short a period as practical to minimize impacts; and
- Where practical and not required for other purposes, reforest existing linear and other anthropogenic footprint within cutblock boundaries.

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/lesser-slave-lake-regional-2021-forest-management-plan>

- ***Nipisi***

- 29% of the Nipisi Caribou Range is covered by harvest deferrals.
- The **Alberta-Pacific 2015 Forest Management Plan (FMP)** includes best management practices (from the collaborative NE Alberta plan under the former Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement) for caribou conservation, such as aggregated harvesting, integrated land management to reduce the industrial footprint on the landscape, and access management, as well as significant deferrals in all five caribou ranges within the Forest Management Agreement Area. Quota Holders in Al-Pac's FMA area are bound by the conditions of the FMP.

**Al-Pac's Caribou Conservation Strategy** is Appendix 1 of Chapter 7 in the FMP and outlines Al-Pac's caribou conservation strategies and related verifiers / monitoring programs. Included within the strategy is coordinated restoration of industrial infrastructure, participation on provincial and national caribou conservation initiatives, and the importance of protected areas.

**Alberta-Pacific 2015 Forest Management Plan**

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/alberta-pacific-fma-area-2015-forest-management-plan>

- Al-Pac, Mistik Management Ltd, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and Ducks Unlimited Canada have partnered in a collaborative Protected Areas Gap Analysis project for northeastern Alberta and northwestern Saskatchewan to identify areas to be considered for conservation so as to address key values on the landscape, such as caribou range. This project encompasses the Nipisi range and is in alignment with Criterion 6.5 of the National Forest Stewardship Standard. In May 2023, 10% of the Nipisi range was included in Designated Conservation Lands established through this project.
- **Lesser Slave Lake Regional Forest Management Plan (LSLRFMP) 2021** directs timber management activities on Forest Management Units (FMUs) S16, S17, S19, S20, S21, and S24, of which S17 and S19 overlap the Nipisi Caribou Range. This FMP directs the activities of Tolko Industries Ltd., Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. and Alberta Plywood Ltd. (West Fraser Slave Lake). In 2017 and 2018 the GOA led a multi-industry caribou range planning process for the Slave Lake and the Nipisi ranges and developed timber harvesting strategies for both ranges. For forestry, the outcome of this range planning process was modeled harvest activities over time

following an aggregated harvest approach to remove existing footprint while working towards the 65% undisturbed caribou habitat target. The caribou strategy for the 2021 LSLRFMP:

- Manage caribou habitat over the long term across the range through a series of aggregated harvest and leave areas to manage age classes and caribou habitat across the range. The principle is to harvest all mature timber within an area, reforest everything, remove access and leave the area for 100 years;
- Focus first on harvesting areas with an existing footprint to remove the footprint through reforestation;
- Direct timber harvesting through the Harvest Timing Units (HTU) developed in the GOA range planning process. HTUs define the areas for timber harvesting and reforestation activities in 10-year periods over 100 years. As HTUs were developed for entire caribou ranges, including areas outside the DFA, harvesting within the DFA is intermittent;
- Sequence all available timber in each HTU during the eligible period. Areas not harvested during the eligible period are not eligible until the next HTU entry. Landbase net down rules for operability and other values such as riparian buffers were not modified inside caribou ranges;
- Sequence and complete harvesting and reforestation within a HTU in as short a period as practical to minimize impacts; and
- Where practical and not required for other purposes, reforest existing linear and other anthropogenic footprint within cutblock boundaries.

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/lesser-slave-lake-regional-2021-forest-management-plan>

- **Cold Lake**

- A Government of Alberta led range planning process has been completed for the Cold Lake range. The plan demonstrates how the range can meet a 65% undisturbed threshold in the coming decades, through restoration, access management, and rules or regulations for resource industries. Strategies related to caribou habitat restoration, access management, integrated landscape management and wildlife population/habitat management have been included in the final plan which was approved by provincial cabinet in 2022.  
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/cold-lake-sub-regional-plan>
- Active restoration of legacy seismic lines is being completed by industry. **The Regional Industry Caribou Collaboration (RICC)** is a group of energy & forestry companies working collaboratively across tenure and lease boundaries to coordinate habitat restoration, conduct research on caribou ecology and landscape relationships, and lead investigative trials on landscape restoration methods, effectiveness and wildlife responses to habitat treatments. RICC is focused on the Cold Lake and East Side of Athabasca caribou ranges in AB. To date coordinated caribou habitat restoration treatments have been implemented on more than 1,200 km of legacy seismic lines across the Cold Lake and East Side Athabasca River Caribou Ranges.  
<https://wildlifescience.ca/projects/featured/regional-industry-caribou-collaboration/>
- With the passing of an Order in Council (2018) the Dillon River Wildland Park was established. The conservation area covers 199,545 hectares, a portion of which overlaps the Cold Lake Caribou Range. With the Wildland Park and the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range 64 per cent of the range inaccessible for forestry operations.

**Creating world's largest boreal protected forest**

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=55951F7FBFC21-B342-F69F-2BB2163D213E56F7>

- An additional 12% of the Cold Lake Caribou Range is covered by harvest deferrals.

**The Alberta-Pacific 2015 Forest Management Plan (FMP)** includes best management practices (from the collaborative NE Alberta plan under the former Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement) for caribou conservation, such as aggregated harvesting, integrated land management to reduce the industrial footprint on the landscape, and access management, as well as significant deferrals in all five caribou ranges within the Forest Management Agreement Area. Quota Holders in Al-Pac's FMA area are bound by the conditions of the FMP.

**Al-Pac's Caribou Conservation Strategy** outlines Al-Pac's caribou conservation strategies and related verifiers / monitoring programs. Included within the strategy is coordinated restoration of industrial infrastructure, participation on provincial and national caribou conservation initiatives, and the importance of protected areas.

#### **Alberta-Pacific 2015 Forest Management Plan**

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/alberta-pacific-fma-area-2015-forest-management-plan>

Al-Pac, Mistik Management Ltd, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and Ducks Unlimited Canada have partnered in a collaborative Protected Areas Gap Analysis project for northeastern Alberta and northwestern Saskatchewan to identify areas to be considered for conservation so as to address key values on the landscape, such as caribou range. This project encompasses the Cold Lake range and is in alignment with Criterion 6.5 of the National Forest Stewardship Standard.

- **East Side Athabasca River (ESAR)**

- There were five conservation areas that overlapped with the caribou range. With the passing of an Order in Council (2018) the Dillon River Wildland Park was established. The conservation area covers 199,545 hectares, a large portion of which overlaps the East Side Athabasca River Caribou Range. In July 2025 the Gipsy-Gordan Wildland Park was given Order in Council. The total size of the new park is 186,739 hectares, with 25,199 hectares overlapping the East Side Athabasca River Caribou Range. With the additions of the Dillon River Wildland Park and the Gipsy-Gordan Wildland Park, 11 per cent of the caribou range is now within a conservation area.

#### **Creating world's largest boreal protected forest**

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=55951F7FBFC21-B342-F69F-2BB2163D213E56F7>

#### **New wildland provincial park in Alberta**

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=93625CB717495-07A9-4750-C571082A16751AD4>

- An additional 53% of the East Side Athabasca River Caribou Range is covered by harvest deferrals.
- **The Alberta-Pacific 2015 Forest Management Plan (FMP)** includes best management practices (from the collaborative NE Alberta plan under the former Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement) for caribou conservation,

such as aggregated harvesting, integrated land management to reduce the industrial footprint on the landscape, and access management, as well as significant deferrals in all five caribou ranges within the Forest Management Agreement Area. Quota Holders in Al-Pac's FMA area are bound by the conditions of the FMP.

**Al-Pac's Caribou Conservation Strategy** outlines Al-Pac's caribou conservation strategies and related verifiers / monitoring programs. Included within the strategy is coordinated restoration of industrial infrastructure, participation on provincial and national caribou conservation initiatives, and the importance of protected areas.

**Alberta-Pacific 2015 Forest Management Plan**

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/alberta-pacific-fma-area-2015-forest-management-plan>

- A small portion of ESAR is outside the Alberta Green Zone. However, most of the area within that portion of the range remains on crown land rather than private land. This crown land would be covered under the ESAR range plan and managed as per the area within the green zone. There is no forest tenure allocated by the government through a forest management agreement or a timber quota. To minimize landscape disturbance while Alberta develops strategies to conserve and recover caribou habitat and populations, the Provincial government has a restriction on energy sector development, including the sale of mineral rights, within all caribou ranges in Alberta. This would further restrict activity in that area. The proportion of private land within the ESAR caribou range represents less than 0.2 per cent (18 km<sup>2</sup>) of the entire range. The privately owned quarter sections are along the Highway 63 corridor and consist of agriculture landbase or have other anthropogenic footprint and are, therefore, not well suited to caribou habitat. The Draft Provincial Woodland Caribou Range Plan does not differentiate between Green Zone and White Zone in this area, but maintains the entire ESAR Caribou Range as the area of focus. As well, sub-regional planning outlined in the Section 11 Agreement between Canada and Alberta is now underway with completion expected in late 2023. Additionally, the entire ESAR range is part of the study area for the Regional Industry Caribou Collaboration, a group of energy and forestry companies that are working together to deliver cooperative, range-level efforts aimed at recovering boreal caribou and their habitat.

**Caribou Recovery Planning**

<https://www.alberta.ca/caribou-recovery>

**Section 11 Agreement for Caribou**

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/agreement-for-the-conservation-and-recovery-of-the-woodland-caribou-in-alberta>

**The Regional Industry Caribou Collaboration (RICC)**

<https://wildlifescience.ca/projects/featured/regional-industry-caribou-collaboration/>

- Al-Pac, Mistik Management Ltd, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and Ducks Unlimited Canada have partnered in a collaborative Protected Areas Gap Analysis project for northeastern Alberta and northwestern Saskatchewan to identify areas to be considered for conservation so as to address key values on the landscape, such as caribou range. This project encompasses the East Side Athabasca River range and is in alignment with Criterion 6.5 of the National Forest Stewardship Standard. The area of assessment for this project includes the portion of the caribou range located within the White Zone and on private land. In May 2023, 8% of the ESAR

range was included in Designated Conservation Lands established through this project.

- The Christina herd of the ESAR range is encompassed with the government-led Cold Lake Subregional Task Force (Al-Pac was represented by Dr. Elston Dzus). Recommendations related to caribou habitat restoration, access management, integrated landscape management and wildlife population/habitat management have been submitted to the GoA, and a final plan was approved by provincial cabinet in 2022.  
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/cold-lake-sub-regional-plan>
- The remainder of the ESAR range is encompassed within the government-led Wandering River Subregional Task Force (Al-Pac represented by Dr. Elston Dzus). Recommendations related to caribou habitat restoration, access management, integrated landscape management and wildlife population/habitat management have been submitted to the GoA. The Wandering River Subregional Plan is currently in development, and Al-Pac and Northland are working with Alberta to design a forest harvest plan that will meet cumulative disturbance targets (i.e. <35% disturbance). A draft plan was released for public comment in December 2025, but a final plan has not yet been approved.
- **Regional Industry Caribou Collaboration (RICC)**  
RICC is a group of energy & forestry companies working collaboratively across tenure and lease boundaries to coordinate habitat restoration, conduct research on caribou ecology and landscape relationships, and lead investigative trials on landscape restoration methods, effectiveness and wildlife responses to habitat treatments. RICC is focused on the Cold Lake and East Side of Athabasca caribou ranges in AB. To date coordinated caribou habitat restoration treatments have been implemented on more than 1,200 km of legacy seismic lines across the Cold Lake and East Side Athabasca River Caribou Ranges.  
<https://wildlifescience.ca/projects/featured/regional-industry-caribou-collaboration/>

- **West Side Athabasca River**

- The Alberta-Pacific 2015 Forest Management Plan (FMP) includes best management practices (from the collaborative NE Alberta plan under the former Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement) for caribou conservation, such as aggregated harvesting, integrated land management to reduce the industrial footprint on the landscape, and access management, as well as significant deferrals in all five caribou ranges within the Forest Management Agreement Area. Quota Holders in Al-Pac's FMA area are bound by the conditions of the FMP.

**Al-Pac's Caribou Conservation Strategy** outlines Al-Pac's caribou conservation strategies and related verifiers / monitoring programs. Included within the strategy is coordinated restoration of industrial infrastructure, participation on provincial and national caribou conservation initiatives, and the importance of protected areas.

**Alberta-Pacific 2015 Forest Management Plan**

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/alberta-pacific-fma-area-2015-forest-management-plan>

- 77% of the West Side Athabasca River Range is covered by harvest deferrals.
- Al-Pac, Mistik Management Ltd, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and Ducks Unlimited Canada have partnered in a collaborative Protected Areas Gap Analysis project for northeastern Alberta and northwestern Saskatchewan to identify areas to be considered for conservation so as to address key values on the landscape,

such as caribou range. This project encompasses the Westside Athabasca range and is in alignment with Criterion 6.5 of the National Forest Stewardship Standard. In May 2023, 13% of the WSAR range was included in Designated Conservation Lands established through this project.

- **Red Earth**

- Over 28 per cent of the Red Earth Caribou range is protected within Wood Buffalo National Park, Birch Mountains Wildland Provincial Park and the newly established, Birch River Wildland Provincial Park and Kitaskino Nuwenēné Wildland Park. In early 2022 an expansion to Kitaskino Nuwenene Wildland Provincial Park was established, adding protection to another 6% of the Red Earth range.

<https://www.alberta.ca/kitaskino-nuwenene-wildland-park-engagement>

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<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=55951F7FBFC21-B342-F69F-2BB2163D213E56F7>

- An additional 17 per cent of the Red Earth Caribou Range is covered by harvest deferrals.
- **The Alberta-Pacific 2015 Forest Management Plan (FMP)** includes best management practices (from the collaborative NE Alberta plan under the former Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement) for caribou conservation, such as aggregated harvesting, integrated land management to reduce the industrial footprint on the landscape, and access management, as well as significant deferrals in all five caribou ranges within the Forest Management Agreement Area. Quota Holders in Al-Pac's FMA area are bound by the conditions of the FMP.

**Al-Pac's Caribou Conservation Strategy** outlines Al-Pac's caribou conservation strategies and related verifiers / monitoring programs. Included within the strategy is coordinated restoration of industrial infrastructure, participation on provincial and national caribou conservation initiatives, and the importance of protected areas.

**Alberta-Pacific 2015 Forest Management Plan**

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/alberta-pacific-fma-area-2015-forest-management-plan>

- Al-Pac, Mistik Management Ltd, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and Ducks Unlimited Canada have partnered in a collaborative Protected Areas Gap Analysis project for northeastern Alberta and northwestern Saskatchewan to identify areas to be considered for conservation so as to address key values on the landscape, such as caribou range. This project encompasses the Red Earth range and is in alignment with Criterion 6.5 of the National Forest Stewardship Standard.
- **Lesser Slave Lake Regional Forest Management Plan (LSLRFMP) 2021** directs timber management activities on Forest Management Units (FMUs) S16, S17, S19, S20, S21, and S24, of which S19 overlaps the Red Earth Caribou Range. This FMP directs the activities of Tolko Industries Ltd., Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. And Alberta Plywood Ltd. (West Fraser Slave Lake). In 2017 and 2018 the GOA led a multi-industry caribou range planning process for the Slave Lake and the Nipisi ranges and developed timber harvesting strategies for both ranges. For forestry, the outcome of this range planning process was modeled harvest activities over time following an aggregated harvest approach to remove existing footprint while working towards the 65% undisturbed caribou habitat target. The caribou strategy for the 2021 LSLRFMP:

- Manage caribou habitat over the long term across the range through a series of aggregated harvest and leave areas to manage age classes and caribou habitat across the range. The principle is to harvest all mature timber within an area, reforest everything, remove access and leave the area for 100 years;
- Focus first on harvesting areas with an existing footprint to remove the footprint through reforestation;
- Direct timber harvesting through the Harvest Timing Units (HTU) developed in the GOA range planning process. HTUs define the areas for timber harvesting and reforestation activities in 10-year periods over 100 years. As HTUs were developed for entire caribou ranges, including areas outside the DFA, harvesting within the DFA is intermittent;
- Sequence all available timber in each HTU during the eligible period. Areas not harvested during the eligible period are not eligible until the next HTU entry. Landbase net down rules for operability and other values such as riparian buffers were not modified inside caribou ranges;
- Sequence and complete harvesting and reforestation within a HTU in as short a period as practical to minimize impacts; and
- Where practical and not required for other purposes, reforest existing linear and other anthropogenic footprint within cutblock boundaries.

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/lesser-slave-lake-regional-2021-forest-management-plan>

- Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd. – West edge of Red Earth range. Within their Forest Management Plan:
  - Commitment to participate through forest sector representation in collaborative regional and provincial forums to devise long-range forecasts of projected forest structure that address habitat requirements and future forest state within the context of a functional, holistic, integrated strategy.
  - Commitment to consider and respond to requests for silviculture expertise and collaboration in linear footprint restoration initiatives that become operational in the region as driven by the regional forums (e.g., Centre for Boreal Research).
  - Commitment to undertaking an ‘ecosystem’ approach that strives to reproduce a mosaic of traditional patterns and structure for vegetation (including quality of understory forage assemblages) similar to that created by natural fires.
  - Commitment to stay within the Natural Range of Variability and maintain landscape connectivity.
  - Commitment to designated portions of their tenure as not contributing to timber supply.

**Mercer Peace River Forest Management Plan – East FMA0900044**

[Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd. \(East\) 2019 forest management plan – Open Government \(alberta.ca\)](#)

- **Richardson**

- The Richardson Caribou Range overlaps with three wildland parks; Mabelle River Wildland Park, Richardson Dunes Wildland Park and Marguerite River Wildland Park which had encompassed 14 per cent of the range, however the protected area has increased. In 2018, the provincial government increased the Richardson Wildland Provincial Park by over 650 per cent to 312,068 hectares, thus significantly increasing the protected area within the caribou range. 39 per cent of the caribou range now falls within a conservation area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Creating world’s largest boreal protected forest</b> <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=55951F7FBFC21-B342-F69F-2BB2163D213E56F7">https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=55951F7FBFC21-B342-F69F-2BB2163D213E56F7</a></li> <li>○ An additional 4 per cent of the Richardson Caribou Range is covered by harvest deferrals.</li> <li>○ The Alberta-Pacific 2015 Forest Management Plan (FMP) includes best management practices (from the collaborative NE Alberta plan under the former Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement) for caribou conservation, such as aggregated harvesting, integrated land management to reduce the industrial footprint on the landscape, and access management, as well as significant deferrals in all five caribou ranges within the Forest Management Agreement Area. Quota Holders in Al-Pac’s FMA area are bound by the conditions of the FMP.</li> </ul> <p><b>Al-Pac’s Caribou Conservation Strategy</b> outlines Al-Pac’s caribou conservation strategies and related verifiers / monitoring programs. Included within the strategy is coordinated restoration of industrial infrastructure, participation on provincial and national caribou conservation initiatives, and the importance of protected areas.</p> <p><b>Alberta-Pacific 2015 Forest Management Plan</b> <a href="https://open.alberta.ca/publications/alberta-pacific-fma-area-2015-forest-management-plan">https://open.alberta.ca/publications/alberta-pacific-fma-area-2015-forest-management-plan</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Al-Pac, Mistik Management Ltd, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and Ducks Unlimited Canada have partnered in a collaborative Protected Areas Gap Analysis project for northeastern Alberta and northwestern Saskatchewan to identify areas to be considered for conservation so as to address key values on the landscape, such as caribou range. This project encompasses the Richardson range and is in alignment with Criterion 6.5 of the National Forest Stewardship Standard.</li> </ul>	
3.2	<p><b><i>For all Non-Negligible Risk IFLs (per Table 5) one or more of the following mitigation measures shall be demonstrated, as applicable. (Mitigation measure 1 applied.)</i></b></p> <p><b>1. Forest operations do not occur within IFLs.</b></p> <p>IFLs with Non-Negligible Risk do not occur within the supply area.</p>	
Controlled wood category 4. Wood from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use		
4.1	<p><b><i>For each reporting zone that has been identified as Non-Negligible Risk, one or more of the following mitigation measures shall be demonstrated (Mitigation measure 1 &amp; 3 applied.)</i></b></p> <p><b>1. Evidence demonstrates that supplied material does not originate from areas converted to non-forest.</b></p> <p>A large portion of Al-Pac’s controlled wood supply comes as incidental deciduous round wood and conifer chips from other forest companies. Sustained yield management, and therefore reforestation, is a legal requirement for forest companies in Alberta. Forest companies who supply material to Al-Pac from Crown land are legally required to meet reforestation standards on harvest areas. Additionally, Operating Ground Rules require that forest companies plan and implement silvicultural practices that result in reforested stands that meet approved regeneration standards. Therefore, conversion does not occur.</p> <p><b>Reforestation Standards of Alberta</b></p>	

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/7010852>

#### **Alberta Timber Harvest Planning and Operating Ground Rules (2025)**

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/timber-harvest-planning-and-ogr-2025>

Some of Al-Pac's controlled wood supply may come from agricultural or industrial salvage. In the case of industrial salvage, to promote more effective fibre utilization and sustainability, other industrial proponents are encouraged by the Province to sell the fibre to forestry companies. This is an important aspect of sustainable practices while operating in Alberta forest areas where both sectors overlap. When forest companies are able to utilize industrial and agricultural salvage, it results in a more efficient use of forest resources and a reduced footprint within the forest, as less fibre is required to be harvested elsewhere within the forest. If industrial or agricultural salvage is not utilized by forest companies, the harvested wood is most often piled and burned by the industrial or agricultural proponent and the forest company would need to source fibre elsewhere.

At the conclusion of a project, industrial proponents are also required to return disturbed areas back to how they looked and were used (or similarly) before development took place. For instance, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) requires applicants of major projects to include an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in their applications. The EIA must include an outline of the environmental impact a project is expected to have, as well as a plan detailing how the company intends to reclaim the land once operations have ceased. Reclamation will include replacing the topsoil and repopulating the surface to a similar vegetative state that it was in prior to the activity. For forests, this means planting trees, shrubs and other vegetation indigenous to the area. This is required by law through the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.

#### **AER Reclamation Requirements**

<https://www.aer.ca/regulations-and-compliance-enforcement/site-closure-requirements/reclamation>

#### **Land conservation and reclamation in Alberta**

<https://www.alberta.ca/land-conservation-and-reclamation.aspx>

#### **Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act**

<https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/E12.pdf>

### ***3. The Organization demonstrates support for existing integrated land management processes designed to reduce the cumulative impact of changes to non-forest landscapes.***

Integrated Land Management (ILM) is key land management philosophy practiced in Alberta as a means of reducing the amount, extent and duration of industrial footprint across sectors and therefore reduce forest disturbance, habitat loss and fragmentation. ILM is also a critical strategy for achieving caribou habitat conservation as it provides for coordinated access management, an overall reduced footprint on the landscape and a means to achieve caribou recovery strategy targets for undisturbed habitat.

For Al-Pac the first Integrated Land Management (ILM) agreements were reached in 2000, and since then Al-Pac has had dedicated team members who have worked to maximize the benefits from ILM. The Alberta Government has since adopted the ILM approach as a key component of its Land Use Framework.

One result of ILM has been the adoption of narrow seismic cutlines in the Al-Pac Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area. The standard cutline today is a trail of mulched brush, less than three metres wide, compared to previous bulldozed corridors six to eight

metres wide. Site disturbance and re-use of these lines by industry and the public often means that seismic lines persist on the landscape, resulting in both direct and indirect effects on wildlife and forests. Concerns about the lasting effects of these linear features led Al-Pac to work with the energy sector to pursue exploration techniques that reduce the amount and duration of this exploration activity. In 2001, Al-Pac introduced an incentive program for exploration companies to keep seismic line widths less than 2.5 metres. The Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors (CAGC) worked with Al-Pac to assist energy industry members in implementing new line cutting techniques, saving thousands of hectares of forest annually. This initiative has become an industry standard throughout the northeast region of the province. From its inception to 2009, it is estimated that this practice avoided clearing about 200,000 hectares of forest in the Al-Pac FMA area. The old, wide cutlines are now being reclaimed to reduce impacts on caribou, and Al-Pac has been working with energy companies on some of these reclamation projects.

Another major benefit of ILM has come from jointly planning roads, reducing the amount of road building by up to 30 percent. The resulting roads and bridges are often built to higher standards. Al-Pac's detailed knowledge of the landscape (mapping its vegetation, soils, hydrology, etc.) has become another valuable asset. Providing this data to energy companies helps them make better-informed decisions about sites and access.

Past ILM partnerships with resource companies have shown that using ILM techniques have many benefits. By working together and coordinating forest harvest operations with oil and gas exploration and development, companies are helping reduce loss of productive forestland, while saving operational costs and minimizing cumulative effects on the boreal ecosystems. Once an energy sector activity is concluded, Al-Pac is also able to offer reclamation services, doing something that is part of Al-Pac's normal operations, turning the disturbed land back into a viable forest.

Al-Pac has joined energy companies to support research at the University of Alberta to improve the reclamation and reforestation of abandoned well sites. The company also supported research demonstrating that building exploratory wells on ice pads could greatly improve the success of later reforestation. Al-Pac strongly supports efforts to monitor and address the cumulative effects of all activities on the landscape through support of the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI) and wildlife, ecosystem restoration, and ecosystem-based management research programs at the University of Alberta.

In June of 2016 Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac), as the tenure holder for the Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area, and Northland Forest Products Ltd. (NFPL), as the largest quota holder within the FMA area, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work towards the integration of activities attached to sourcing fibre for their facilities. This integration will improve practices and create efficiencies in forest planning and operations, which is good news for the environment and the communities affected by our operations.

Integrated Land Management and access management are key recommendations presented to the Government of Alberta as part of the **Caribou subregional task forces**.

<https://www.alberta.ca/caribou-sub-regional-task-forces.aspx>

#### **Integrated Land Management in Alberta**

<https://www.alberta.ca/integrated-land-management-overview.aspx>

#### **Alberta-Pacific 2015 Forest Management Plan**

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/alberta-pacific-fma-area-2015-forest-management-planx>

***Recommended Mitigation Measure applied. 1. The Organization raises the profile of deforestation in the region and advocates for options to reduce conversion rates (e.g. afforestation policies, incentives for conservation and no net deforestation policies).***

Al-Pac accepts a small amount of wood from private agricultural land within Alberta. Al-Pac developed procedure for public and private guidance for compliant fibre, harvest does not contribute to agricultural related deforestation. Much of this land is not highly-productive for agricultural land and may revert back to forest naturally. However, Al-Pac advocates for reforestation/afforestation practices within all private land Purchase Wood Contracts and offers reforestation/afforestation services to landowners.

Al-Pac, Mistik Management Ltd, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and Ducks Unlimited Canada have partnered in a collaborative Protected Areas Gap Analysis project for northeastern Alberta and northwestern Saskatchewan to identify areas to be considered for conservation so as to address key values on the landscape, such as caribou range. This project is in alignment with Criterion 6.5 of the FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard. In May 2023, Designated Conservation Lands were established through this project.

Al-Pac also advocated for the legislative protection of important benchmark areas after a previous Protected Areas Gap Analysis identified areas worthy of protection. In 2018, some of those areas received that protection from the Provincial government. Al-Pac provided a letter of support to GoA for the proposed expansion to Kitaskino Nuwenënë Wildland Park in 2021.

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<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=55951F7FBFC21-B342-F69F-2BB2163D213E56F7>

**Parks and Protected Areas**

<https://www.albertaparks.ca/media/6492835/alberta-parks-protected-areas-provincial-map.pdf>

#### 4.b Risk assessment and mitigation for mixing in the supply chain

Participating site	Supply chain type	No. of tiers	Risk of mixing	Mitigation measures	Findings from field verification if undertaken as a mitigation measure
Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. Millsite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wood delivered directly from forest to Al-Pac millsite.</li> <li>○ Wood delivered directly from forest to primary producer (saw mill). Chips delivered to Al-Pac directly from sawmill.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1 Tier</li> <li>○ 1-3 Tiers</li> </ul>	None – Entire Supply area controlled. Tracking system in place (TM9s accompany every load). Only FSC certified, FSC Controlled or controlled material accepted into the Al-Pac mill yard. Uncontrolled Wood Procedure in place.	Supply areas verified against legal authorities to harvest for all suppliers. TM9 forms accompany every load. Plausibility Check completed for all non-FSC COC certified suppliers.	

#### 5. Technical experts used in the development of mitigation measures

N/A, technical experts were not required.

#### 6. Stakeholder consultation processes

N/A, stakeholder consultation not required.

#### 7. Complaints procedure

We encourage stakeholders who have suggestions for improvements, comments, or complaints related to our controlled wood due diligence system to contact Deanna Zelt, Al-Pac’s certification Specialist at:

Deanna Zelt, RFP  
 FSC Certification Specialist  
 Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.  
 Phone: 780-525-8258  
 Fax: 780-525-8097

We commit to follow up on stakeholder input as soon as we receive it and to provide stakeholders with feedback within 2 weeks.

#### Stakeholder input and complaints

Al-Pac has a procedure in place to handle comments and complaints from stakeholders that are related to its DDS. The procedure includes:

- a. When a comment or complaint is received from a stakeholder in relation to Al-Pac’s Due Diligence System, receipt of the comment or complaint will be acknowledged by Al-Pac and the stakeholder will be informed of this complaint procedure.
- b. An initial response to complainants will be provided within a time period of two (2) weeks;
- c. Where complaints relate to risk designations of the NRA, the complaints will be forwarded to FSC.
- d. A preliminary assessment will be conducted to determine whether evidence provided in a complaint is or is not substantial, by assessing the evidence provided against the risk of using material from unacceptable sources. Where the categorization of negligible risk sources is challenged by an external party, and documented evidence provided thereof, Al-Pac will re-evaluate the source and justify the basis on which it has been categorized within 2 weeks of receiving a formal challenge.

- e. Dialogue with complainants will be sought to solve complaints assessed as substantial before further action is taken.
- f. As well, substantial complaints and precautionary steps for resolution will be forwarded to the certification body and the FSC Canada office within two weeks of receipt of the complaint. Information on the steps to be taken by AI-Pac in order to resolve the complaint, as well as how a precautionary approach will be used, shall be included with the complaint.
- g. On such cases in which evidence is considered relevant to warrant field verification such verification will be conducted within 2 months after its receipt.
- h. A precautionary approach will be employed towards the continued sourcing of the relevant material while a complaint is pending. A complaint is pending if it has been considered to be substantial and no effective corrective action has been taken yet.
- i. In the event of a non-compliance with the Controlled Wood Standard as confirmed by field verification, the wood and supplier will be declined. In order for the supplier to be able to renew its supply of controlled wood to AI-Pac corrective actions will be required and a re-evaluation of the controlled wood requirements will occur to ensure the effectiveness of the corrective actions. As well, ongoing probationary monitoring of the supplier will be undertaken for a period of six months.
- j. The complainant, certification body and FSC Canada office will be informed of the results of the complaint and actions taken towards its resolution.
- k. Records of the complaint, investigation and corrective or follow up actions will be maintained with the supplier's contract for a five-year period.
- l. If frequent non-compliances occur AI-Pac will review its risk assessment procedure and make required changes.

**Annex**

***AI-Pac Risk Assessment to the NRA (2025) attached separately.***