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## **New actions aimed at conserving caribou**

*Edmonton...* Alberta will implement a series of actions to add a greater level of protection for woodland caribou, a species regarded as "threatened" in the province.

Many of these new steps are based on recommendations contained in the *Alberta Woodland Caribou Recovery Plan*. Caribou will now be managed within five large landscape-planning areas, each containing several caribou populations.

"We are committed to incorporating caribou management and recovery needs into provincial land management programs," said David Coutts, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development. "We want to ensure that caribou remain on Alberta's landscape for many years to come."

Enhancements to current caribou management include:

- Establishing a single Alberta Caribou Committee, with government, industry and stakeholder representatives, to coordinate management activities (combines the responsibilities of two existing caribou committees and the Provincial Caribou Recovery Team);
- Creating a caribou landscape planning team to focus on specific landscape challenges, strategies and actions for the west-central Alberta caribou range - one of five provincial teams;
- Engaging aboriginal people regarding caribou recovery;
- Promoting industry best practices more widely to companies operating on all caribou ranges;
- Implementing a short-term, selective predator management program where necessary; and
- Continuing discussions with other provincial governments and the federal government about national caribou management and recovery.

These commitments will be supported by additional resources for monitoring and a new staff member who focuses on caribou and species of major concern. The provincial government continues to work closely with industry to ensure that resource development is balanced with protection of the environment, including important woodland caribou habitat.

Caribou are located primarily in northern Alberta. Population estimates range between 2,500 and 4,200.

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