

**AGREEMENT FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF THE WOODLAND CARIBOU, BOREAL POPULATION
("WOODLAND CARIBOU") IN SASKATCHEWAN**

This Agreement for the conservation of Woodland Caribou ("Agreement") is made in duplicate as of ____ (date) ____, pursuant to Sections 10 and 11 of the SPECIES AT RISK ACT (SARA) and Section 9 of THE WILDLIFE ACT, 1998

BETWEEN

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA

as represented by the Minister of the Environment who is responsible for the Department of the
Environment

("Canada" or "Environment and Climate Change Canada" "ECCC")

And

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN,

as represented by the Minister of Environment ("Saskatchewan" "SK")

(hereinafter the "Parties")

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the Woodland Caribou, Boreal population (hereinafter referred to as “woodland caribou”) is a species that has been listed as Threatened under the federal *Species at Risk Act*;

AND WHEREAS Saskatchewan and Canada wish to cooperate in the identification and taking of conservation measures to support recovery and protection of woodland caribou in Saskatchewan;

AND WHEREAS Saskatchewan has legislative responsibility for, among other things, wildlife management, including species at risk, and decisions respecting natural resources and provincial Crown and private lands, in the province of Saskatchewan and has the responsibility to lead conservation measures for woodland caribou in the province;

AND WHEREAS Saskatchewan will fulfil its duty to consult in a manner that is consistent with the *First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework, 2010*;

AND WHEREAS Canada has legislative responsibility for wildlife species located on federal lands, and wildlife species listed on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*, which includes provisions to address recovery, as well as the protection of listed wildlife species including the individuals, their residences and critical habitat on non-federal land in certain circumstances;

AND WHEREAS the Parties recognize the value of the stewardship approach to species conservation;

AND WHEREAS the Parties recognize that the role of First Nations and Métis is essential in the conservation of wildlife in the province of Saskatchewan;

AND WHEREAS the Parties recognize the high level of interest of First Nations and Métis to be involved in the recovery of woodland caribou;

AND WHEREAS the Parties recognize that First Nations and Métis perspectives and rights were considered in the development of the Agreement;

AND WHEREAS First Nations and Métis are uniquely positioned to partner in woodland caribou recovery with the Parties;

AND WHEREAS other organizations and persons (e.g. industrial, recreational, municipal, non-governmental organizations and stakeholders) may also be positioned to be partners in woodland caribou recovery with the Parties;

AND WHEREAS the Parties recognize that the protection of the habitat of wildlife and species at risk is key to their conservation;

AND WHEREAS section 10 of the *Species at Risk Act* provides the competent ministers with the authority to enter into agreements with any other government of Canada, organization or wildlife management board with respect to the administration of any provision of the Act;

AND WHEREAS section 11 of the *Species at Risk Act* provides the competent ministers with the authority to enter into conservation agreements with any other government of Canada, organization or person to benefit a species at risk or enhance its survival in the wild, and such agreements must provide for the taking of conservation measures and any other measures consistent with the purposes of the *Species at Risk Act*;

AND WHEREAS section 9 of *The Wildlife Act*, 1998 provides that Saskatchewan may enter into an agreement for the purpose of protecting, management and conserving wildlife and their habitats;

AND WHEREAS the Parties are both signatories to the *Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk* (1996), and the Canada-Saskatchewan Species at Risk Bilateral Agreement (2018);

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties commit to the following:

1. DEFINITIONS

“Caribou Administrative Unit” means a subdivision of the Caribou Conservation Units.

“Caribou Conservation Unit” means either the Boreal Shield (SK1) or the Boreal Plain (SK2) caribou ranges as illustrated in Appendix A.

“Indigenous peoples” has the meaning assigned by the definition of *aboriginal peoples of Canada* in subsection 35(2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

“Range” refers to the two boreal caribou ranges in Saskatchewan, denoted as SK1 and SK2 in the Recovery Strategy.

“Range plan” refers to plans that outline how range-specific land and/or resource activities will be managed over space and time to ensure that critical habitat is protected from destruction in each Caribou Administrative Unit in Saskatchewan.

“Recovery Strategy” means the federal “Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), Boreal population, in Canada” published in 2012 under the *Species at Risk Act*, and includes future updates to the Recovery Strategy.

“Undisturbed habitat” refers to habitat not affected by wildfire within the last 40 years nor human-caused disturbance including a buffer around human-caused disturbance as designated within the Recovery Strategy.

2. GOALS AND PURPOSE

- 2.1. The overarching goal of this Agreement is to achieve and maintain, in a manner consistent with the population and distribution objectives in the Recovery Strategy, self-sustaining populations of woodland caribou in Saskatchewan, by maintaining at the landscape scale the ecosystems they require, and by implementing conservation measures to achieve protection of woodland caribou and their habitat.
- 2.2. The purposes of this Agreement are to:
 - 2.2.1. Set out conservation measures that will be taken by the Parties to support recovery of woodland caribou in Saskatchewan. These measures include landscape level planning, habitat management, mortality and population management, and population monitoring;
 - 2.2.2. Provide for collaboration and partnership with First Nations and Métis that have a direct interest in the recovery of woodland caribou;
 - 2.2.3. Provide for collaboration and partnership with organizations and persons (e.g. industrial, recreational, municipal, non-governmental organizations and stakeholders) that have a direct interest in the recovery of woodland caribou;
 - 2.2.4. Facilitate the integration of new information into updated recovery and planning documents; and
 - 2.2.5. Coordinate engagement, education and communications; range planning; recovery planning; science and research; information sharing; monitoring and reporting efforts between Parties.

3. PRINCIPLES

- 3.1. **Collaboration:** the Parties will work together to achieve a common understanding of conservation measures needed to achieve woodland caribou recovery and will cooperate in the development and implementation of these conservation measures in a manner that minimizes duplication, maximizes efficiency and respects jurisdictional roles and responsibilities.
- 3.2. **Results focus:** the Parties will work toward maintaining self-sustaining populations within caribou administrative units or caribou conservation units, and toward achieving positive trends in non-self-sustaining populations, and recognize the need for and contribution of both habitat-related and non-habitat-related conservation measures in achieving that result.
- 3.3. **Use of best available information:** the Parties will make use of the best available scientific information, and Indigenous knowledge, and will make reasonable efforts to obtain this information and access this knowledge.

- 3.4. **Adaptive management:** the Parties recognize that monitoring the effects of actions and adjusting approaches as necessary will be critical to success, as recovery is an emerging discipline.
- 3.5. **Transparency:** the Parties will make information related to implementation of conservation measures covered by this Agreement publicly available in accordance with their respective legislation.
- 3.6. **First Nations and Métis engagement:** the Parties will continue to collaborate and engage with First Nations and Métis on all aspects of woodland caribou recovery in Saskatchewan, including the development and implementation of conservation measures pursuant to this Agreement outside the duty to consult process.
- 3.7. **First Nations and Métis partnerships:** the Parties will seek out opportunities to partner with directly affected First Nations and Métis in the development and implementation of conservation measures.
- 3.8. **Stakeholder engagement:** the Parties will continue to seek opportunities for engagement with stakeholders as collaborators in woodland caribou recovery, including implementation of range plan(s) and conservation measures in or under this Agreement.

4. **INTERPRETATION**

- 4.1. The preamble hereof and any Appendices hereto form an integral part of this Agreement.
- 4.2. This Agreement does not create any new legal powers or duties on the part of the Parties nor does it alter the powers and duties established by the *Species at Risk Act*, *The Wildlife Act, 1998* or any other federal or provincial legislation.
- 4.3. Neither Party relinquishes or acquires any jurisdiction, right, power, privilege, prerogative or immunity by virtue of this Agreement.
- 4.4. There are differences between range boundaries in the recovery strategy (SK1 and SK2) and caribou conservation unit boundaries used for planning purposes by Saskatchewan (Boreal Shield and Boreal Plain conservation units). For the purposes of this Agreement, a reference to the Boreal Shield Caribou Conservation Unit is considered to be a reference to SK1, and vice versa; and a reference to the Boreal Plain Caribou Conservation Unit is considered to be a reference to SK2, and vice versa.

5. **COORDINATION WITH RECOVERY STRATEGIES, ACTION PLANS, AND RANGE PLANS**

- 5.1. The Parties will:
 - 5.1.1. Cooperate in the development, amendment and implementation of recovery strategies, action plans, management plans, range plans and similar documents related to the recovery of woodland caribou. This cooperation will include:

- 5.1.1.1. Keeping the other Party informed of the timing of the preparation of recovery strategies, action plans, range plans, and other recovery, planning and implementation documents related to the recovery of woodland caribou;
- 5.1.1.2. Seeking to cooperate on timing of document preparation to coordinate processes and seek efficiencies;
- 5.1.1.3. Sharing information for the preparation of plans; and
- 5.1.1.4. When planning and implementing conservation measures for woodland caribou, continue to look for associated benefits and to minimize any potential adverse impacts to other species and to take those into consideration.

6. FIRST NATION AND MÉTIS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

- 6.1. The Parties commit to collaboration with interested and directly affected First Nations and Métis regarding woodland caribou recovery.
- 6.2. The Parties commit to:
 - 6.2.1. Collaborating on the development, implementation and monitoring of conservation measures under this Agreement;
 - 6.2.2. Incorporating Indigenous knowledge shared with the Parties in woodland caribou assessment, protection and recovery efforts;
 - 6.2.3. Collaborating to create or enhance opportunities and capacity for participation in woodland caribou recovery planning and implementation;
 - 6.2.4. Seeking out partnership arrangements¹ to support recovery of woodland caribou pursuant to this Agreement; and
 - 6.2.5. As the lead in implementing conservation measures for woodland caribou, Saskatchewan will lead engagement with directly affected First Nations and Métis, with support from Canada.
- 6.3. The Parties may arrange discussions with directly affected First Nations and Métis to review implementation progress and to collaborate in the development of future measures from time to time.

7. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 7.1. The Parties commit to:

¹ For the purposes of this Agreement, “partnership arrangements” and “partnership agreements” do not necessarily refer to legally binding relationships.

- 7.1.1. Ensuring that stakeholders such as local governments, non-governmental organizations, private landowners, tenure holders, industry representatives, and industry associations are informed of this Agreement. Saskatchewan will lead engagement with the applicable stakeholders on the implementation of this Agreement with support and involvement of Canada;
- 7.1.2. Seeking partnership arrangements¹ with organizations and persons (e.g. industrial, recreational, municipal, non-governmental organizations and stakeholders) to support recovery of woodland caribou pursuant to this Agreement; and
- 7.1.3. Considering local knowledge shared with the Parties on woodland caribou assessment, protection and recovery efforts.

8. RECOVERY MEASURES FOR WOODLAND CARIBOU

8.1. The Parties acknowledge that:

- 8.1.1. Recovery will require a landscape-level approach over many years, and adaptive management will be required to ensure that conservation measures undertaken through this Agreement are monitored and, as necessary, improved and adapted to incorporate new information or changed circumstances;
- 8.1.2. Determining the appropriate mix of conservation measures is a multifaceted and complex undertaking that requires individual and collective analysis of biological, jurisdictional, social, economic, natural resource related tenures, and the rights and interests of First Nations and Métis communities;
- 8.1.3. Woodland caribou recovery will require measures that integrate considerations for woodland caribou recovery (for example habitat restoration or protection) into land use and resource development decision-making;
- 8.1.4. Woodland caribou recovery requires both short and long term actions to protect and restore habitat, increase woodland caribou recruitment, manage caribou mortality;
- 8.1.5. Some factors that directly influence woodland caribou recovery are outside the control of the Parties, including the effects of climate change, fire, or other naturally occurring events;
- 8.1.6. Additional studies will help inform measures required to achieve caribou recovery including spatial information; however, the parties agree that immediate action must be taken now, while best available information continues to develop;
- 8.1.7. Some improvements in protection of woodland caribou and their habitat can be addressed through changes in current decision-making considerations while others may require legislative or regulatory change, which is subject to provincial legislative and regulatory processes and timeframes (including engagement and the duty to consult).

- 8.1.8. For planning purposes, the Boreal Plain Caribou Conservation Unit is subdivided into three Caribou Administrative Units (Central, West and East). The Boreal Shield Caribou Conservation Unit may also be subdivided into smaller caribou administrative units; and
- 8.1.9. Range plans will be developed for each caribou administrative unit in Saskatchewan.
- 8.2. To support the achievement of population and habitat goals set out in sections 8.3 and 8.4, the Parties will:
 - 8.2.1. Finalize range plans, consistent with Canada's range planning guidance, developed through planning tables comprised of First Nations, Métis, industry, non-government organizations, municipalities and other stakeholders for all caribou administrative units by spring 2021.
 - 8.2.2. Finalize and implement the boreal habitat mitigation and offset protocols on activities affecting woodland caribou habitat in 2020.
 - 8.2.3. Investigate and initiate habitat restoration programs and opportunities to collaborate with partners to implement restoration beginning in 2018.
 - 8.2.4. Enhance alignment between existing provincial policies, regulations and legislation and provincial range plans and engage in and contribute to legislative and regulatory review when legislation relevant to woodland caribou comes open for revision.
 - 8.2.5. Initiate the designation of additional boreal caribou range in Saskatchewan as protected areas, conservation areas, Indigenous conservation areas, or other effective conservation measures by 2019.
- 8.3. The Parties agree to a long-term goal to achieve and maintain self-sustaining populations in all caribou administrative units in Saskatchewan, consistent with the objectives for woodland caribou set out in the Recovery Strategy. The Parties acknowledge the following targets will guide the application and evaluation of recovery measures over the short, medium, and long term; these targets will be reviewed, and possibly revised following planning processes.
 - 8.3.1. In the short term (five years):
 - 8.3.1.1. Establish a population size and trend estimate for the Boreal Shield Conservation Unit by 2018;
 - 8.3.1.2. Establish a population size estimate for the SK2 Central Administrative Unit by 2019 and for SK2 West Administrative Unit and SK2 East Administrative Unit by 2021;
 - 8.3.1.3. Establish a population trend estimate for the SK2 Central Administrative Unit by 2020, West and East Administrative Units by 2023; and
 - 8.3.1.4. Identify how a stable or positive trend can be achieved or maintained for each caribou administrative unit by 2023.

- 8.3.2. In the medium term (40 years), achieve self-sustaining status in all caribou administrative units.
- 8.3.3. In the long term (80 years), maintain self-sustaining populations that contribute to sustenance needs in accordance with Treaty and Aboriginal rights to hunt.
- 8.3.4. These short, medium and long term targets rely on continued progress on habitat protection and restoration, and presume minimal future impact on woodland caribou recovery from unknown or unanticipated factors such as climate change. If those assumptions prove to be invalid, then these targets may need to be revised. The Parties have the greatest degree of confidence in the ability to meet the short-term target.
- 8.4. The Parties agree to a long-term goal to achieve and maintain levels of undisturbed habitat that reflect critical habitat identification for each caribou conservation unit in Saskatchewan, consistent with the objectives for woodland caribou set out in the Recovery Strategy. The Parties acknowledge the following targets will guide the application and evaluation of conservation measures over the short, medium, and long term; these targets will be reviewed, and possibly revised following planning processes.
 - 8.4.1. In the short term (five years), complete a restoration prioritization exercise and begin restoration.
 - 8.4.2. In 10 years, increase the amount of rehabilitated habitat (i.e., treated to put it on a path towards becoming undisturbed habitat) to support the habitat objectives identified in the range plans.
 - 8.4.3. In the medium term (40 years), increase the amount of undisturbed habitat from current levels to levels that would support the medium term population objective in 8.3.2.
 - 8.4.4. In the long term (80 years), achieve undisturbed habitat levels consistent with critical habitat thresholds as identified in the recovery strategy and that includes biophysical attributes.
 - 8.4.4.1. For the Boreal Plain Caribou Conservation Unit (SK2), achieve 65 per cent undisturbed habitat that includes biophysical attributes.
 - 8.4.4.2. For the Boreal Shield Caribou Conservation Unit (SK1), the Parties will consider if the evidence supports a different threshold of undisturbed habitat. If the evidence is validated, this threshold may be included as a proposed amendment to the Recovery Strategy. The level of undisturbed habitat to be achieved will be consistent with the critical habitat threshold identified in the Recovery Strategy.
- 8.5. In the development of the conservation measures referred to in section 8.6 below and set out in Appendix B Tables A through D to this Agreement, the Parties will be guided by the best available information, including information derived from the following sources:
 - 8.5.1. Saskatchewan's range plans; and

- 8.5.2. Federal recovery documents, including the Recovery Strategy.
- 8.6. To achieve the targets in sections 8.2, 8.3 and 8.4, the Parties will implement conservation measures set out in Appendix B Tables A through D over the term of this Agreement:
- 8.6.1. Table A Landscape level planning;
 - 8.6.2. Table B Habitat management;
 - 8.6.3. Table C Mortality and population management; and
 - 8.6.4. Table D Population monitoring.
- 8.7. Results for each conservation measure will be used to inform the modification or direction for conservation measures in subsequent years set out in Appendix B Tables A through D.

9. GOVERNANCE

- 9.1. Officials referred to in sections 16.2 and 16.3 will undertake the day to day administration and implementation of this Agreement.
- 9.2. Officials may convene from time to time to facilitate the day to day administration and implementation of this Agreement.
- 9.3. Officials may seek the views of directly affected First Nations and Métis.

10. INFORMATION SHARING

- 10.1. Each Party agrees, subject to any applicable data sharing arrangements and legislative provisions that would prevent them from doing so, to provide the other Party access at no charge to available data and information relevant to the implementation of this Agreement including:
- 10.1.1. Information on the status, conservation, and recovery of woodland caribou, including habitat protection, restoration and other conservation measures; and
 - 10.1.2. Information pertaining to draft or proposed critical habitat.
- 10.2. Some data and information may require confidentiality, or may have been obtained with an understanding of confidentiality, in order to protect species at risk from exploitation or harm. Data and information so identified by a Party, or a collaborator in programs and activities related to this Agreement, will be held confidential by the Parties to the extent permitted by their respective legislation and related policies, procedures and agreements.

11. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS AND SUPPORT

- 11.1. Recognizing the significant financial investments required to support woodland caribou recovery, the Parties will work together to identify needs, priorities and funding opportunities to implement conservation measures to achieve the recovery outcomes identified in this Agreement.
- 11.2. The Parties recognize that implementation of this Agreement is subject to their respective appropriations, priorities and budgetary constraints.

12. MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 12.1. The Parties agree to convene annually to review and document the status of recovery efforts.
- 12.2. The conservation measures set out in Appendix B Tables A through D will have milestones identified annually which will form the subject of reporting.
- 12.3. An annual report summarizing the results and status of conservation measures will be prepared.
- 12.4. A comprehensive report, summarizing the results and status of conservation measures over multiple years, will be prepared in years when Canada is preparing the report referred to in section 46 of the *Species at Risk Act*.
- 12.5. The annual and comprehensive reports will be used to inform reporting requirements under sections 46 and 63 and paragraph 126(c) of *Species at Risk Act*.
- 12.6. The annual and comprehensive reports will address, in general terms:
- 12.6.1. Progress against commitments made by the Parties under this Agreement;
 - 12.6.2. Steps taken to protect the critical habitat of woodland caribou that is not yet protected;
 - 12.6.3. Progress towards achieving identified milestones;
 - 12.6.4. Population and habitat monitoring results;
 - 12.6.5. The effectiveness of conservation measures outlined in Tables A through D with respect to achieving the recovery objectives;
 - 12.6.6. Research findings; and
 - 12.6.7. Unforeseen circumstances or stochastic events (e.g., fire, wildlife disease, forest health issues) that might impact conservation measures.
- 12.7. Based on the review outlined in section 12.1, the Parties will evaluate the actions and propose any additional commitments or modifications to commitments which may be required to increase the likelihood of achieving the recovery targets and goals described in this Agreement or otherwise expedite the recovery of woodland caribou.
- 12.8. The comprehensive report will be used to inform discussions on renewal of this Agreement.

13. AGREEMENT DURATION, TERMINATION AND RENEWAL

- 13.1. The Agreement takes effect on the date of the last signature affixed to this Agreement (“Effective Date”). It will remain in force until December 31, 2023, unless terminated earlier by one of the Parties or the Parties mutually agree to terminate it.
- 13.2. Either Party may terminate this Agreement 90 days after consulting with and providing written notice to the other Party. Each Party acknowledges that failure to implement commitments it has made in this Agreement may be grounds for the other Party to invoke this section.
- 13.3. The Parties may renew this Agreement or any part of it, and its duration may be extended with the mutual written consent of the Parties prior to the expiration of this Agreement.
- 13.4. The Parties may enter into parallel agreements relating to this Agreement, including agreements with directly affected First Nations and Métis. Any such agreement will, unless otherwise agreed to in writing, expire on the date of expiry of the present Agreement.

14. AMENDMENT

- 14.1. This Agreement may be amended from time to time with the written mutual consent of the Parties.
- 14.2. In particular, Tables A through D may be amended in writing from time to time, as required, and automatically incorporated into this Agreement, as amended, by the mutual written consent of the Representatives identified pursuant to subsection 16.1 of this Agreement.

15. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 15.1. In the event of a dispute or to resolve technical disagreements with respect to woodland caribou recovery between the Parties arising out of this Agreement, the Parties will use the following procedure to resolve the dispute:
- 15.1.1. The Director, Canadian Wildlife Service, Prairie Region and the Executive Director of Fish, Wildlife and Lands Branch, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment will be the first point of resolution for disputes arising from woodland caribou activities and programming contemplated in this Agreement; and
- 15.1.2. Disputes which cannot be resolved by the Directors referred to in 15.1.1 will be referred to the Representatives as referred to in section 16.1.

16. DESIGNATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS AGREEMENT

16.1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the Representatives from each jurisdiction are:

16.1.1. Saskatchewan – the Assistant Deputy Minister of Resource Management and Compliance Division, Ministry of Environment; and

16.1.2. Canada – the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada.

16.2. The day to day administration and implementation of this Agreement will be carried out on behalf of Canada by officials of the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada.

16.3. The day to day administration and implementation of this Agreement will be carried out on behalf of Saskatchewan by officials of the Assistant Deputy Minister of Resource Management and Compliance Division, Ministry of Environment.

17. COUNTERPARTS

17.1. This Agreement may be signed in several counterparts and each counterpart shall constitute an original document; these counterparts taken together shall constitute one and the same Agreement. The Parties agree that executed counterparts may be transmitted electronically and that such counterparts shall be treated as originally executed instruments. Each Party undertakes to provide the others with a copy of the original Agreement bearing actual original signatures within a reasonable period of time following the execution of this Agreement.

18. SIGNATURES

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement.

On behalf of Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as represented by **[Insert Title]**,
Canadian Wildlife Service.

[Insert Title], Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

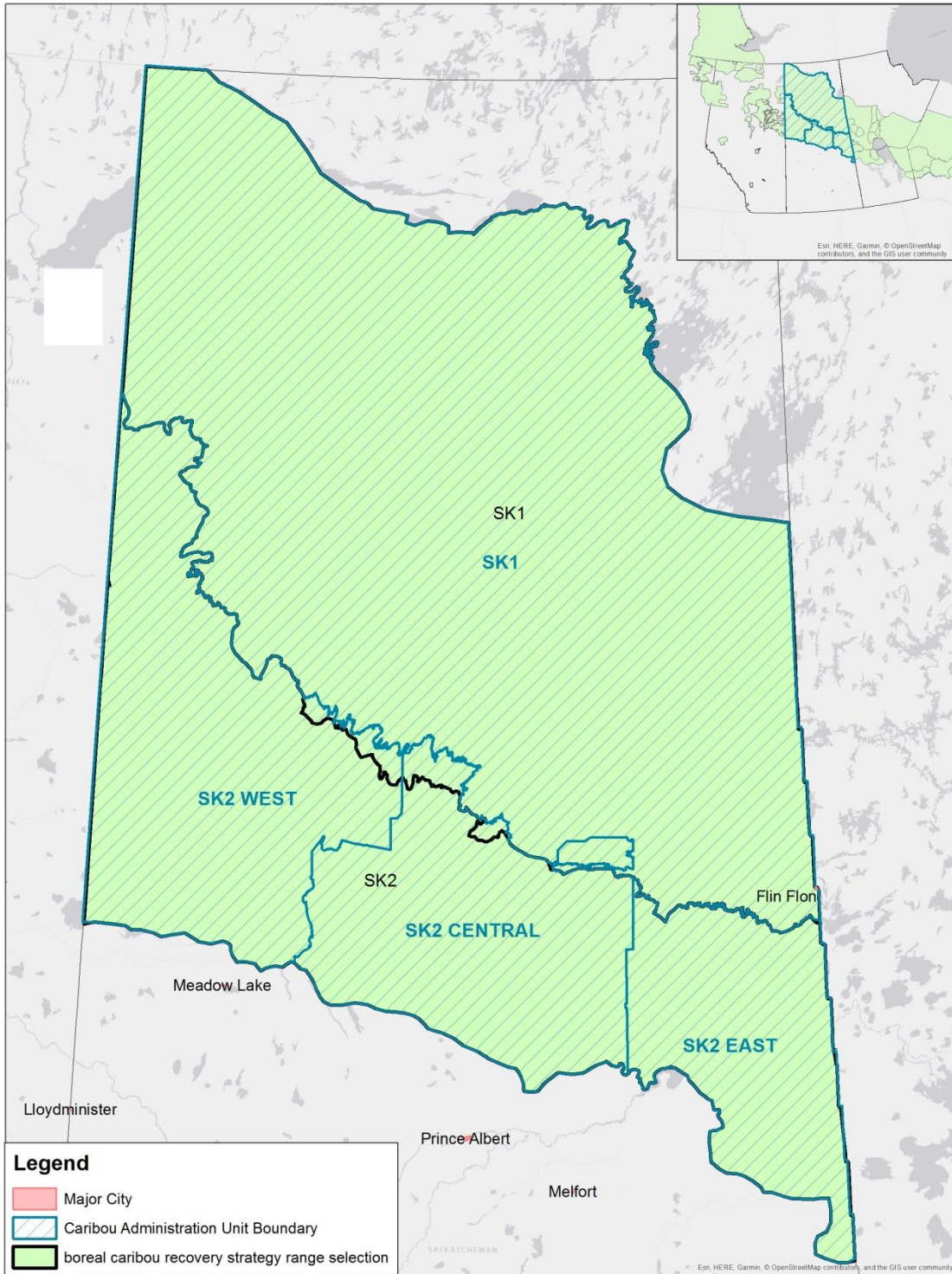
Signed this _____ day of _____, 20__.

On behalf of Her Majesty the Queen in right of the Province of Saskatchewan, as represented by
[Insert Title].

[Insert Title], Ministry of Environment

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Appendix A



Appendix B

Table A. Landscape-level Planning

Objective over term of Agreement	Deliverables					
	October 2018	October 2019	October 2020	October 2021	October 2022	October 2023
1. Finalize Boreal Plain Central Range Plan.		1. Final plan publicly available. [February 2019]				
2. Finalize Boreal Plain West Range Plan.	1. Identify and make publicly available preliminary caribou habitat management area tiers. [September 2018]	1. Following a planning table process, prepare draft for public review. [June 2019] 2. Obtain public review of draft plan. [August 2019] 3. Final plan publicly available. [October 2019]				
3. Finalize Boreal Plain East Range Plan.		1. Identify and make publicly available preliminary caribou habitat management area tiers. [January 2019]	1. Following a planning table process, prepare draft plan for public review. [March 2020] 2. Obtain public review of draft plan. [May 2020] 3. Final plan publicly available. [July 2020]			
4. Finalize Boreal Shield Range Plan.		1. Critical habitat is identified by ECCC in a proposed amendment to the Recovery Strategy anticipated. [June 2019] 2. Develop a methodology	1. Following a planning table process, prepare draft plan(s) for public review. [October 2020] 2. Evaluate appropriate	1. Obtain public review of draft plan. [December 2020] 2. Final plan(s) publicly available. [June 2021]		

Objective over term of Agreement	Deliverables					
	October 2018	October 2019	October 2020	October 2021	October 2022	October 2023
		for identifying important woodland caribou habitat for SK1 after federal critical habitat identification. [September 2019]	mechanism to address range planning (i.e., potential for administrative unit subdivisions). [November 2019]			
5. Develop and implement Saskatchewan boreal habitat mitigation and offset protocols.	<p>1. New provincial environmental assessments of developments affecting woodland caribou habitat will propose boreal habitat mitigation offsets, if appropriate. [October 2018]</p> <p>2. In the absence of range plans ECCC will recommend mitigation offsets, if appropriate, when participating in new federal environmental assessment of projects affecting woodland caribou habitat for clarification of the requirements for proponents while the range plans are in development. [October 2018]</p>	1. Prepare boreal habitat mitigation and offset protocols discussion paper. [May 2019]	<p>1. Complete draft boreal habitat mitigation and offset protocols. [December 2019]</p> <p>2. Post the draft boreal habitat mitigation and offset protocols for public review. [February 2020]</p> <p>3. Consider boreal habitat mitigation and offset protocols in provincial approvals. [May 2020]</p> <p>4. Boreal habitat mitigation and offset protocols considered for adoption in Saskatchewan by ECCC in federal environmental assessment or other federal decision-making in woodland caribou range. [June 2020]</p> <p>5. Finalize boreal habitat</p>	<p>1. Initiate regulator and industry training on boreal habitat mitigation and offset protocol interpretation and implementation. [November 2020]</p> <p>1. Initiate the implementation of the boreal habitat mitigation and offset protocols on activities affecting woodland caribou habitat. [December 2020]</p>	1. Review the application of the boreal habitat mitigation and offset protocols to ensure they remain consistent with the intent of habitat mitigation within the range plans. [December 2021]	

Objective over term of Agreement	Deliverables					
	October 2018	October 2019	October 2020	October 2021	October 2022	October 2023
			mitigation and offset protocols. [August 2020]			
6. Develop a disturbance restoration program to create more undisturbed habitat.		<p>1. Investigate the opportunities for First Nation and Métis-led woodland caribou recovery efforts. [December 2018]</p> <p>2. Provide direction and a framework for Saskatchewan habitat restoration. [April 2019]</p> <p>3. Identify potential linear and other disturbance restoration areas. [May 2019]</p>	<p>1. Identify a queue of priority restoration areas based on habitat condition and connectivity objectives. [December 2019]</p> <p>2. Initiate the identification of revegetation status and use status of the areas identified in the priority restoration queue. [July 2020]</p> <p>3. Initiate access management planning and notify area users; revise priority restoration queue as required. [August 2020]</p>	<p>1. Allocate restoration areas to proponents who have identified proposed disturbance activity on the landscape. [May 2021]</p> <p>2. Implement restoration of legacy linear and other features through First Nations and Métis, industry, stakeholder, and/or Ministry-led programs. [October 2021]</p>		
7. Develop woodland caribou best management practices.			1. Review best management practices to minimize sensory disturbance during vulnerable periods and develop a policy/guidance document for use in environmental assessment and			

Objective over term of Agreement	Deliverables					
	October 2018	October 2019	October 2020	October 2021	October 2022	October 2023
			permitting processes. [December 2019]			
8. Enhance alignment between Saskatchewan’s regulatory instruments and the requirements of the range plans and the species.		1. Investigate the opportunity to include woodland caribou as a designated species at risk under <i>The Wild Species at Risk Regulations</i> . [September 2019]	1. Investigate possible voids, inconsistencies, and misalignment between existing Saskatchewan policies, regulations and legislation and the range plans. [March 2020]			1. Engage in and contribute to provincial legislative and regulatory review when legislation relevant to woodland caribou comes open for revision. [October 2023]
9. Ensure Interjurisdictional collaboration and cooperation on shared woodland caribou populations.	1. Contact Alberta woodland caribou management team to schedule a meeting to share range plan approaches and opportunities for collaboration. [October 2018]	1. Establish federal-provincial meeting schedule to share and discuss range plan status and opportunities for collaboration. [January 2019] 2. Contact Manitoba woodland caribou management team to schedule a meeting to share range plan approaches and opportunities for collaboration. [July 2019]				
10. Accommodate the probable effects of climate change in Saskatchewan’s range plans.			1. Identify possible effects and outcomes of climate change on Saskatchewan’s boreal conditions and propose how they may be reflected within the range	1. Update and incorporate climate change effects within Saskatchewan range plans. [December 2020]		

Objective over term of Agreement	Deliverables					
	October 2018	October 2019	October 2020	October 2021	October 2022	October 2023
			plans. [November 2019]			
11. Implement natural forest harvest patterns into operating plans.	1. Forest licensees operating under an approved Forest Management Plan implement and follow natural forest pattern harvesting. [October 2018]	1. Identify the measures from the values, objectives, indicators, and targets requirements table of the Forest Management Planning Standard potential measures that demonstrate adherence to the natural forest pattern harvesting. [March 2019] 2. Evaluate adherence to natural forest pattern harvesting from the selected values, objectives, indicators, and targets of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code - Forest Management Planning Standard in the SK2 Central, West and East areas. [August 2019]	1. Evaluate adherence to natural forest pattern harvesting from the selected values, objectives, indicators, and targets of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code - Forest Management Planning Standard in the SK2 Central, West and East areas. [August 2020]	1. Evaluate adherence to natural forest pattern harvesting from the selected values, objectives, indicators, and targets of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code - Forest Management Planning Standard in the SK2 Central, West and East areas. [August 2021]	1. Evaluate adherence to natural forest pattern harvesting from the selected values, objectives, indicators, and targets of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code - Forest Management Planning Standard in the SK2 Central, West and East areas. [August 2022]	1. Evaluate adherence to natural forest pattern harvesting from the selected values, objectives, indicators, and targets of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code - Forest Management Planning Standard in the SK2 Central, West and East areas. [August 2023]
12. Initiate designation of protected areas in boreal caribou range in Saskatchewan.		1. Initiate the designation of additional boreal caribou range in Saskatchewan as protected areas, conservation areas,				1. Continue to consider the designation of additional boreal caribou range in Saskatchewan as protected areas, conservation areas,

Objective over term of Agreement	Deliverables					
	October 2018	October 2019	October 2020	October 2021	October 2022	October 2023
		Indigenous conservation areas, or other effective conservation measures. [June 2019]				Indigenous conservation areas, or other effective conservation measures. [October 2023]

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Table B. Habitat Management

Objective over term of Agreement	Deliverables					
	October 2018	October 2019	October 2020	October 2021	October 2022	October 2023
1. Document woodland caribou habitat change toward meeting disturbance objectives (i.e., < 35 per cent disturbance).		1. Monitor the anthropogenic and natural disturbance in SK2 Central annually. [October 2019]	1. Monitor the anthropogenic and natural disturbance in the SK2 West annually. [October 2020]	1. Investigate a mechanism to enhance tracking of anthropogenic disturbances beyond forest harvesting. [November 2020] 2. Monitor the anthropogenic and natural disturbance in the SK2 East annually. [October 2021]	1. Monitor the anthropogenic and natural disturbance in the SK1 annually. [October 2022]	
2. Ensure consistent consideration and application of woodland caribou requirements in environmental assessment proposals.		1. Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment and Environment and Climate Change Canada collaborate, to the extent possible, on developing consistent woodland caribou requirements for proposed developments that trigger a federal environmental assessment within SK woodland caribou ranges. [July 2019]				
3. Explore the feasibility of enhanced fire management to protect undisturbed woodland		1. Review and assess the utility and relevance of identifying important woodland caribou habitat				

Objective over term of Agreement	Deliverables					
	October 2018	October 2019	October 2020	October 2021	October 2022	October 2023
caribou habitat.		management areas as possible values at risk for forest fire protection priority setting. [October 2019]				

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Table C. Mortality, Recruitment and Population Management

Objective over term of Agreement	Deliverables					
	October 2018	October 2019	October 2020	October 2021	October 2022	October 2023
1. Improve the understanding of woodland caribou population dynamics in the Boreal Shield.			1. Investigate opportunities for determining population dynamics among woodland caribou in the Boreal Shield (SK1) leading to high adult survival and pregnancy and low recruitment. [October 2020]		1. Investigate the effect of using burn residuals on woodland caribou survival and recruitment at the population and individual level. [June 2022]	
2. Consider population management actions for woodland caribou.			1. Identify possible and plausible threats and risks, not previously identified, to the woodland caribou population. [September 2020]	1. Investigate the risk of woodland caribou infection with chronic wasting disease in areas of range overlap with infected white-tailed deer. [October 2021]	1. Propose possible actions, strategies, and countermeasures that would help avoid or ameliorate the residual risks during the threat identification process. [November 2021]	1. Review the need and consider where appropriate, additional population management actions to improve population sustainability. [October 2023]
3. Improve the understanding of woodland caribou population structure in Saskatchewan.						1. Complete landscape level population structure analysis across caribou range in Saskatchewan. [June 2023] 2. Identify the implications of population structure and propose actions to reduce barriers to movement. [July 2023]

Table D. Population Monitoring

Objective over term of Agreement	Deliverables					
	October 2018	October 2019	October 2020	October 2021	October 2022	October 2023
1. Establish population size and trend estimates.		1. Determine a population size and trend estimate of woodland caribou in the SK1 area. [December 2018] 2. Determine a current population size estimate of woodland caribou in the SK2 Central study area. [August 2019]	1. Determine a population trend estimate of woodland caribou in the SK2 Central area. [July 2020]	1. Determine a current population size estimate of woodland caribou in the SK2 West and SK2 East areas. [January 2021]		1. Determine a population trend estimate of woodland caribou in the SK2 west area and east areas. [January 2023]
2. Monitor population size and trends.						1. Collect woodland caribou population data annually to update caribou administrative unit population estimates. Greater intensity of sampling and reporting will be considered in the event that conservation issues arise. [January 2023]