

Project Profile

Project Name:	Boreal Caribou Habitat Restoration Parker Range 2015/2016 Workplan
Project Number:	BCIP-2016-16
Proponent:	Golder Associates Ltd.
Funding Envelope:	Boreal Caribou
Timeframe:	October 15, 2015 to December 31, 2016

Project objectives

The objective of the Habitat Restoration Pilot Program located in the provincially designated Parker caribou range, is to transition low quality caribou habitat into higher quality habitat by reducing the benefits that predators and their primary prey gain through linear corridor use, and establish native vegetation on these corridors on a growth trajectory that will, over time, increase boreal caribou habitat connectivity and intactness.

The objectives of the Parker Range 2015/2016 Workplan are to:

- Complete the authorization steps and detailed investigations required under that authorization, (FLNRO authorization, Archaeology, Aboriginal Inclusion Plan, Watercourse crossing assessments) required to conduct restoration activities within the Parker Range under the Year 1 Implementation Plan. The Year 1 Implementation Plan is currently being developed as part of the Boreal Caribou Habitat Restoration Pilot Program (BCIP-2016-04) and will be finalized at the end of December 2015, to prepare for field restoration activities beginning in January 2017.
- Develop the Year 2 Implementation Plan.
- A detailed cost estimate for the first year of the field level restoration program (beginning January 2017) will be developed, taking into consideration consultation with contractors, regulatory approval requirements and logistics of treatment methods.

Project description

The need to begin implementing large-scale habitat restoration programs in boreal caribou ranges in British Columbia is recognized by both industry and regulatory bodies. The incorporation of this Workplan will build momentum in BC, and move from planning to implementing caribou habitat restoration measures within a clearly defined area under a collaborative umbrella of the Boreal Caribou Implementation Plan (BCIP).

Project background

The Habitat Restoration Pilot Program in Parker caribou range was initiated in 2015 with the development of a multi-year Program Plan with the goal of restoring the entire Parker Caribou Range (BCIP-2016-04). This Workplan is the second stage of the pilot which will include planning and implementing restoration treatments throughout the range for at least 5 years.

Project approach

The project will be carried out using the following approach:

1. **Develop Archaeological Assessment** – following the desktop exercise outlined in the Program Plan (BCIP-2016-04), an archaeological assessment and mitigation will be developed and a Heritage Inspection Permit will be sought; First Nations will be notified and their feedback will be sought about the AOA developed as part of the Program Plan to minimize any potential impacts to archaeological resources.
2. **Develop Watercourse Crossing Assessments** – watercourse crossings along planned access routes within the Year 1 Implementation area will be assessed as per approval requirements.
3. **Develop Aboriginal Inclusion Plan** – develop a plan that facilitates three main streams of Aboriginal involvement, including providing on-the-job and other training support, identifying opportunities to augment Golder's existing workforce through direct hires, and retaining Aboriginal businesses as service suppliers under this contract and field implementation of habitat restoration measures, where feasible.
4. **Obtain Pre-field Authorizations and Agreements:** complete all regulatory requirements and obtain FLNRO authorization and agreements with industry lease holders as needed for road use, bridge crossings, and pipeline crossings.
5. **Secure Suppliers and Contractors:** Source seed, seedling, and/or encapsulated seed pucks, and secure contractors to commence implementation of the treatments in December 2016 through March 2017.
6. **Field Implementation Preparation:** address logistics, including health and safety, access coordination, mobilization of heavy equipment, and other considerations.
7. **Develop Year 2 Implementation Plan** – for restoration treatments in 2017/2018.

Project deliverables

The deliverables from this project include the following:

1. Prefield Authorizations (including FLNRO authorization, watercourse crossing and archaeological assessment).
2. Seed and Seedling Sourcing.
3. Parker Caribou Range Habitat Restoration Pilot Project Report.