

Woodland and Mountain Caribou Strategy

May 10, 2019 — Provincial Meeting
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Direction générale des mandats stratégiques

Outline of Presentation

- Context and background
- Identification of areas under consideration for the Strategy
- Types of areas under consideration
- Complementary work
- Next steps and timeframe
- Involvement of stakeholders
- Issues
- Discussion period

Background

- Closure of sport hunting in 2001
- Designated as a threatened species by the federal government in 2003
- Designated as a vulnerable species in 2005
- Creation of a woodland caribou restoration team in 2003
- First woodland caribou restoration plan for 2005-2012
- Second woodland caribou restoration plan for 2013-2023

Background

Government Action Plan (April 2016)



“A weighted approach in which the bulk of the protection effort would be focused on the key elements of caribou habitat, in places where the chances of success are the greatest.”

1 st phase	Starting now, take real steps to maintain the essential components of caribou habitat
2 nd phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perform a detailed analysis of the socio-economic consequences• Consult the actors concerned• Identify other sources of wood supplies• Prepare a long-term strategy for caribou habitat development

<https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/faune/napperon-caribou-forestier-2016.pdf>

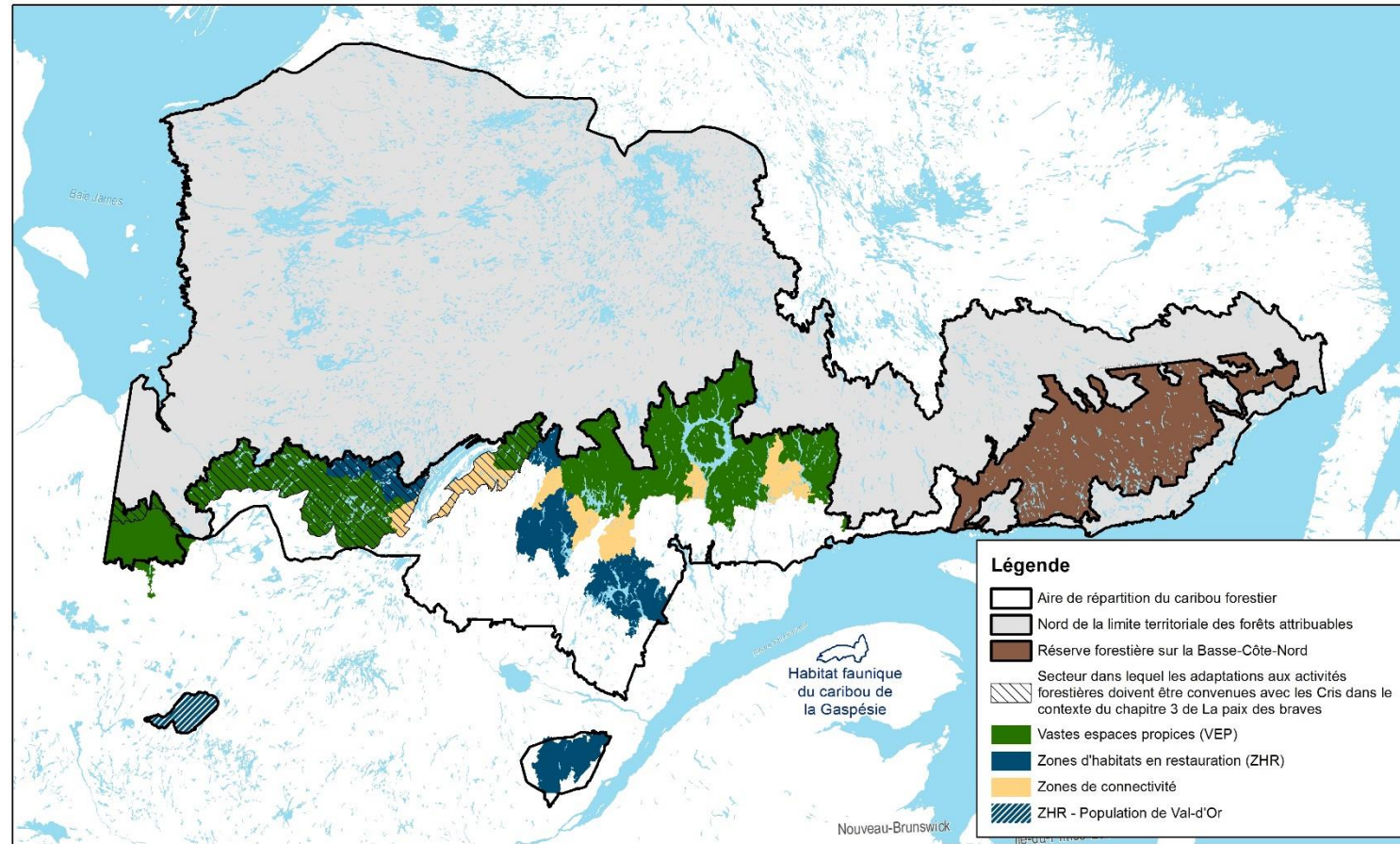
Background

Minister's Announcement (April 3, 2019)



- The aim of the Strategy will be to meet the needs of woodland and mountain caribou in order to ensure their long-term survival and the vitality of Québec and its regions, without impacting the forestry industry and its workers.
- Next steps in the preparation of the Strategy.
- Proposal that covers 80% of preferred woodland caribou habitats.
- A collaborative process with key partners.
- <https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/la-faune/especes/habitats-et-biodiversite/amenagement-habitat-caribou-forestier/>

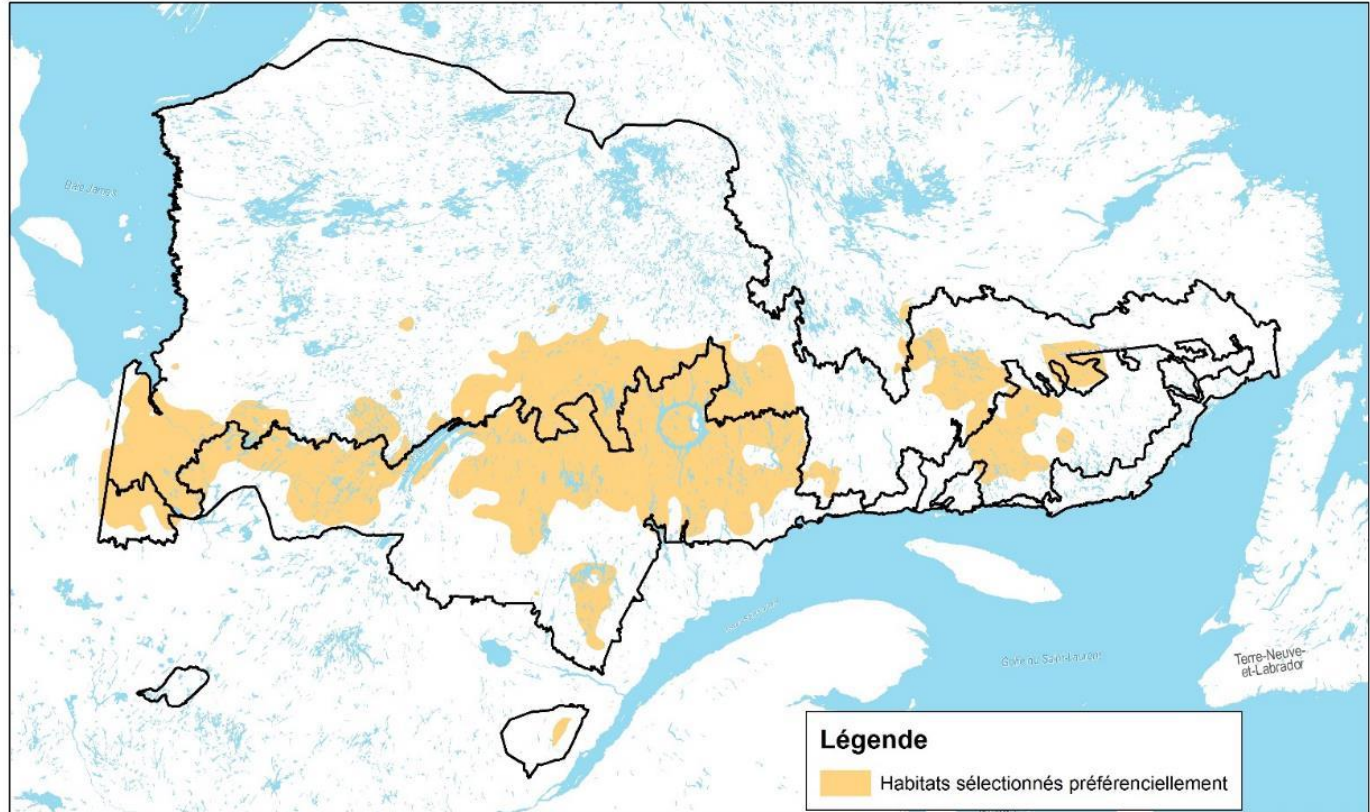
Areas of the range under consideration for the Strategy currently being prepared



Process

Habitat Characterization Tools

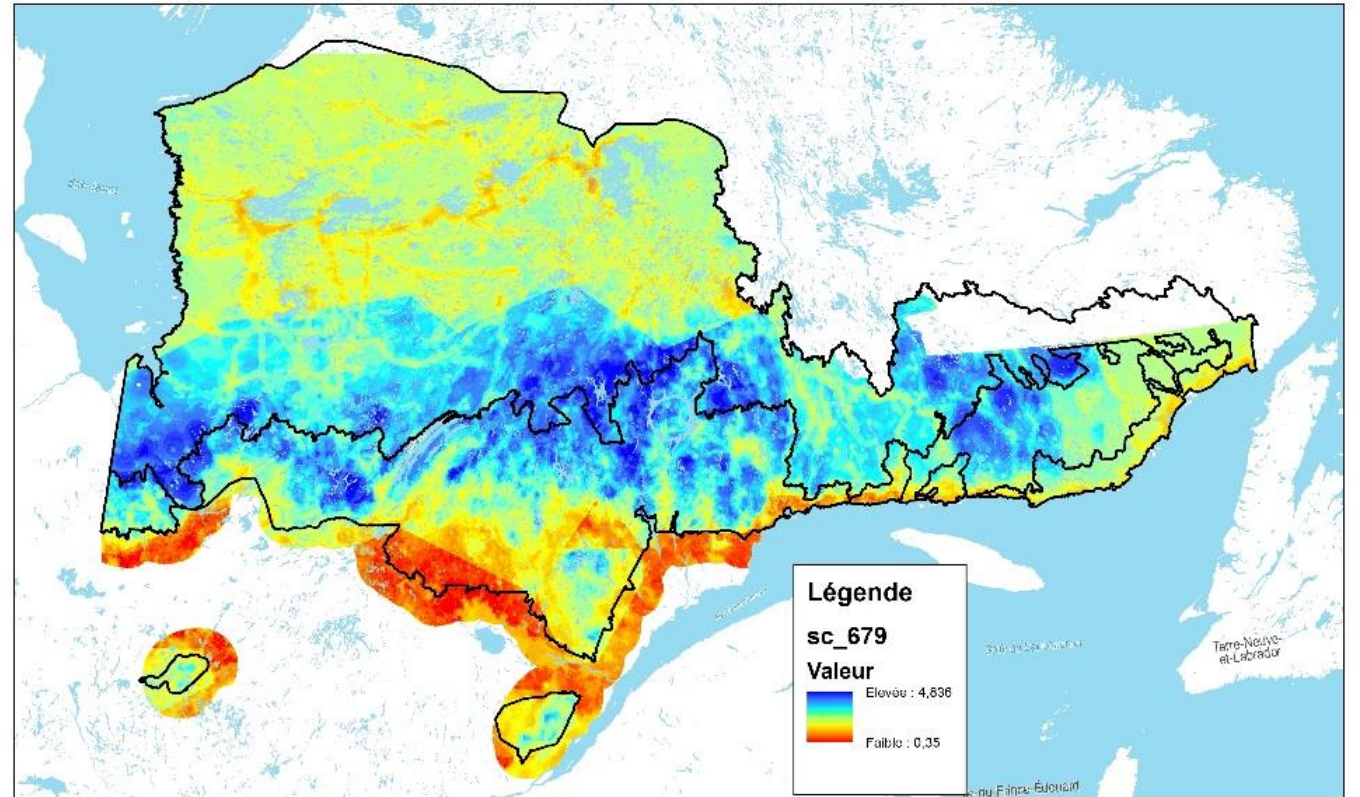
- Preferred habitats
 - Use
 - Habitat quality



Process

Habitat Characterization Tools

- **Multivariate analysis**
 - Use and demographic trends
 - Habitat quality
 - Land rights
 - Value for forestry
 - Synergy with major protected areas
- **Diagnosis of restoration in HURs**



Process

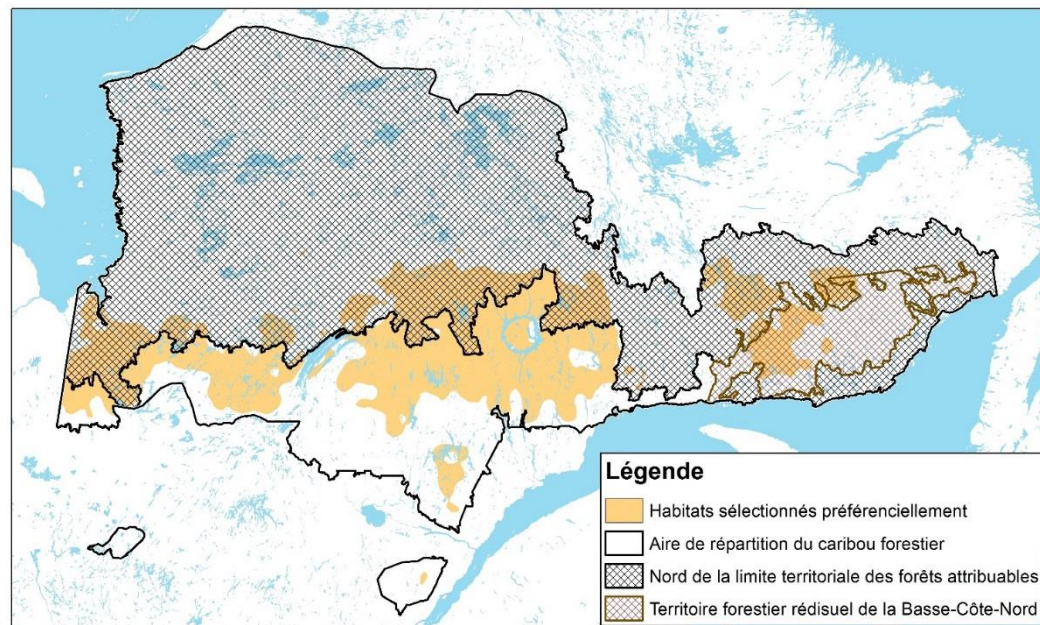
Habitat Protection and Development Solutions

- Limit for timber allocations and residual forest land
- Major protected areas
- Extensive favourable areas (EFAs)
- Habitats undergoing restoration (HUR)
- Connectivity zones

Process

Limit for timber allocations and residual forest land

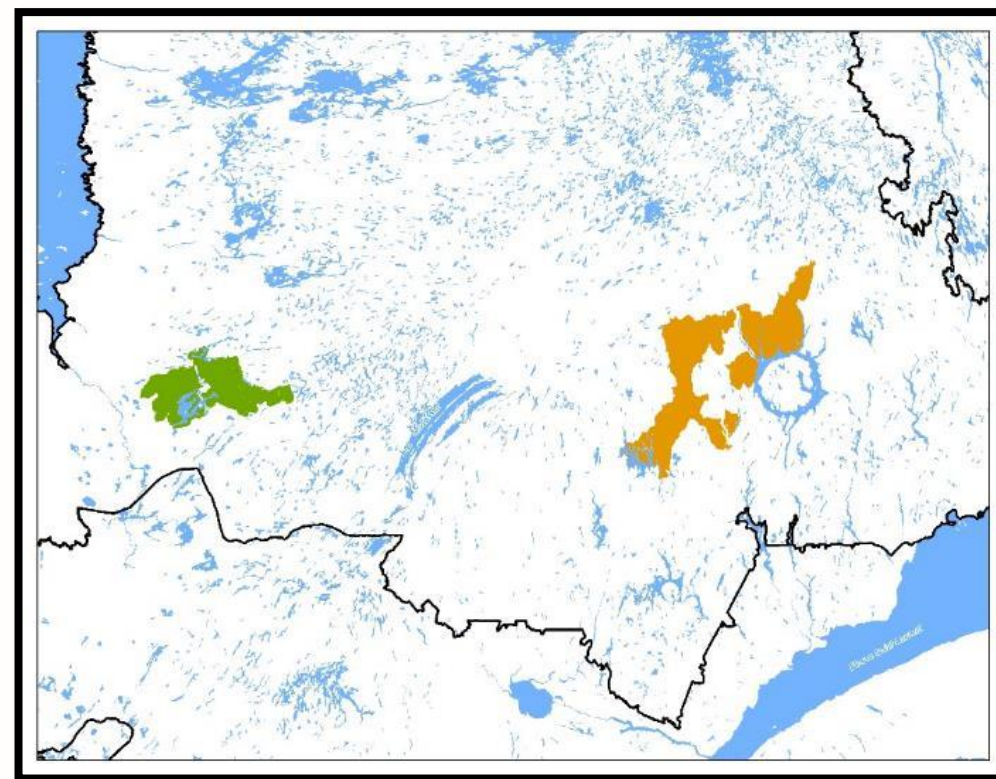
- 72 % of the range
- 45 % of preferred habitats



Process

Proposed Major Protected Areas

- Broadback River Valley Biodiversity Reserve (9,134 km²)
- Manouane-Manicouagan Woodland Caribou Biodiversity Reserve (10,194 km²)

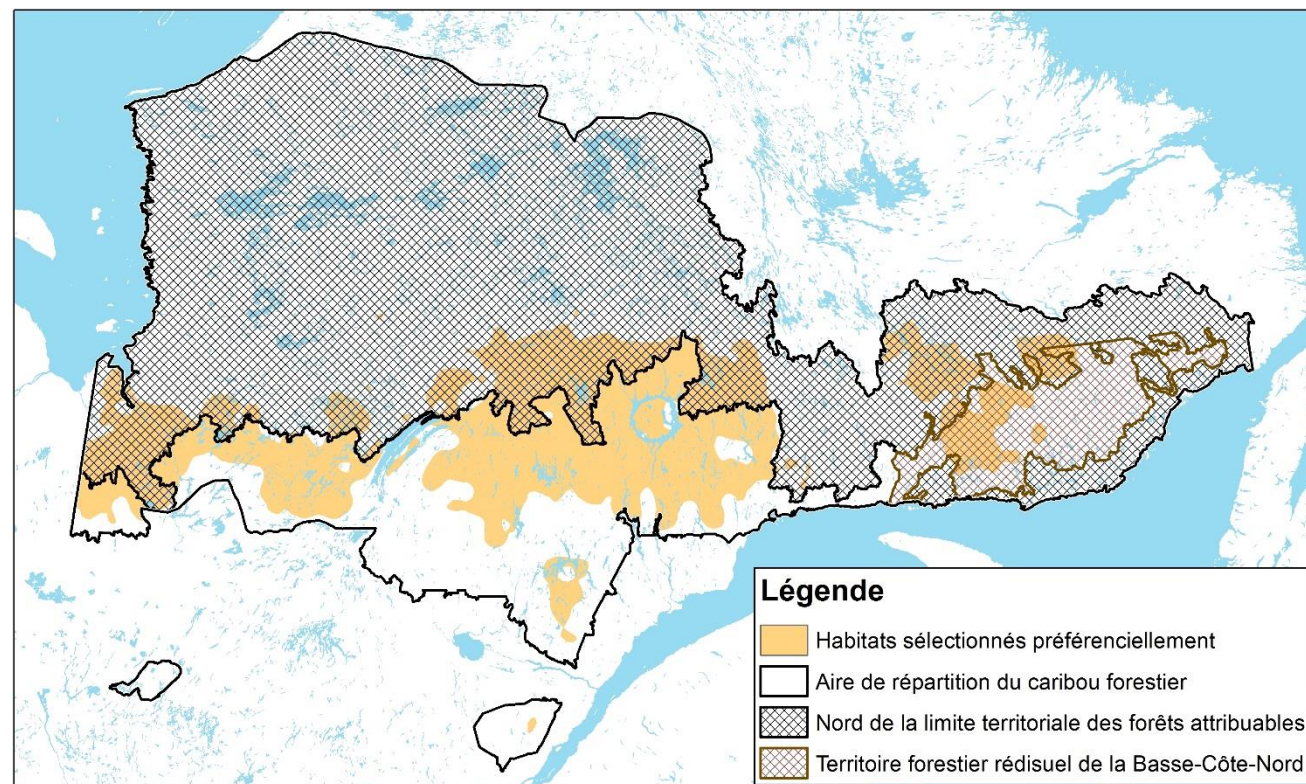


Process

Major Protected Areas

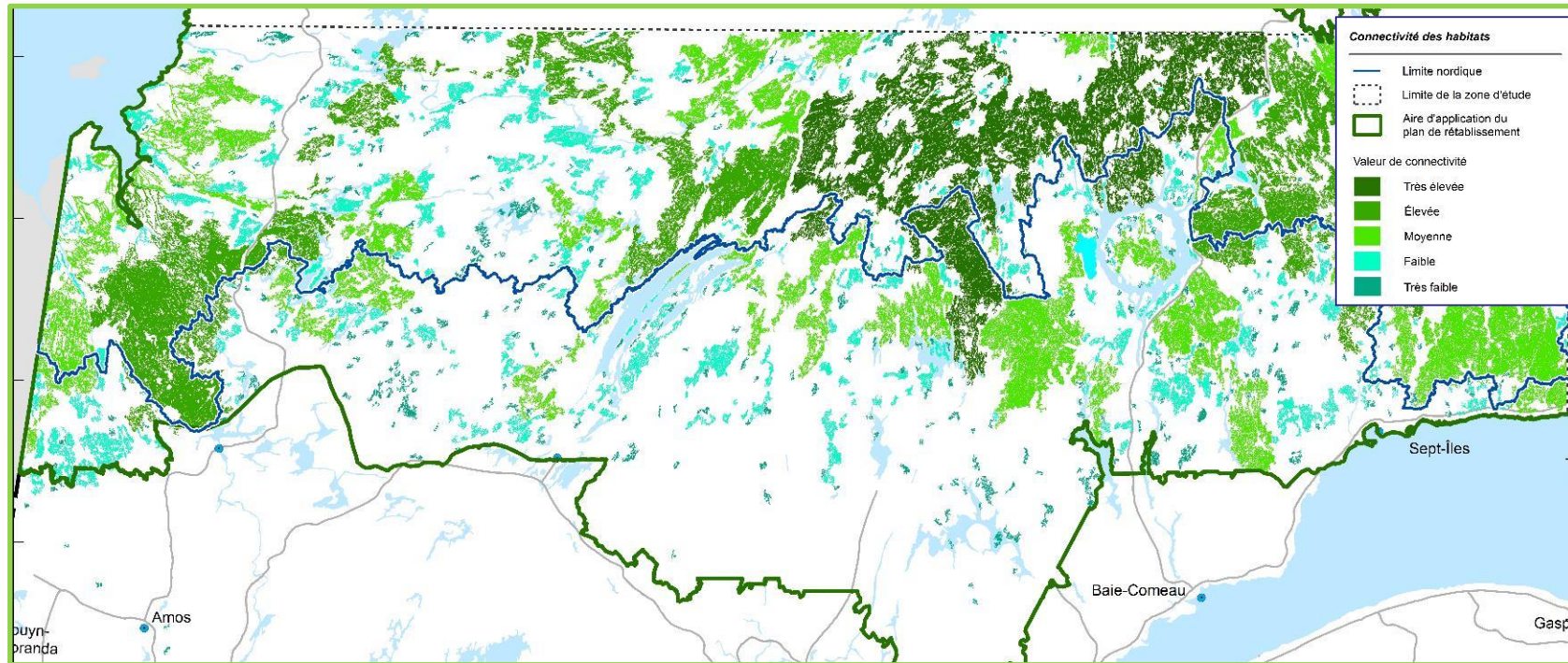
- 2.2 % of the range
- 7.6 % of preferred habitats

Cumulative: 53 % of preferred habitats



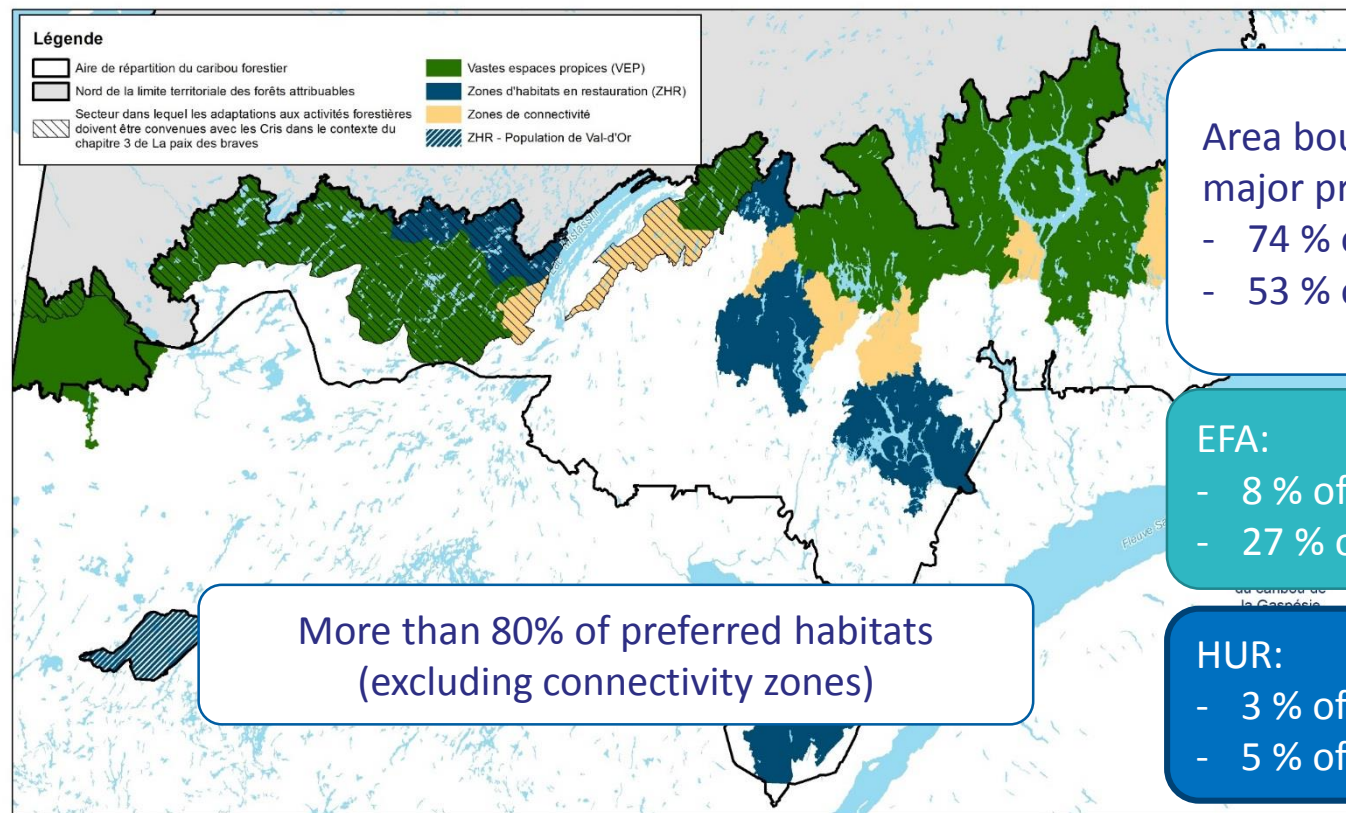
Process

Connectivity Profile



(Rudolph, 2019)

Areas Under Consideration for the Strategy



Area boundary/residual forest area/
major protected areas:

- 74 % of the range
- 53 % of preferred habitats

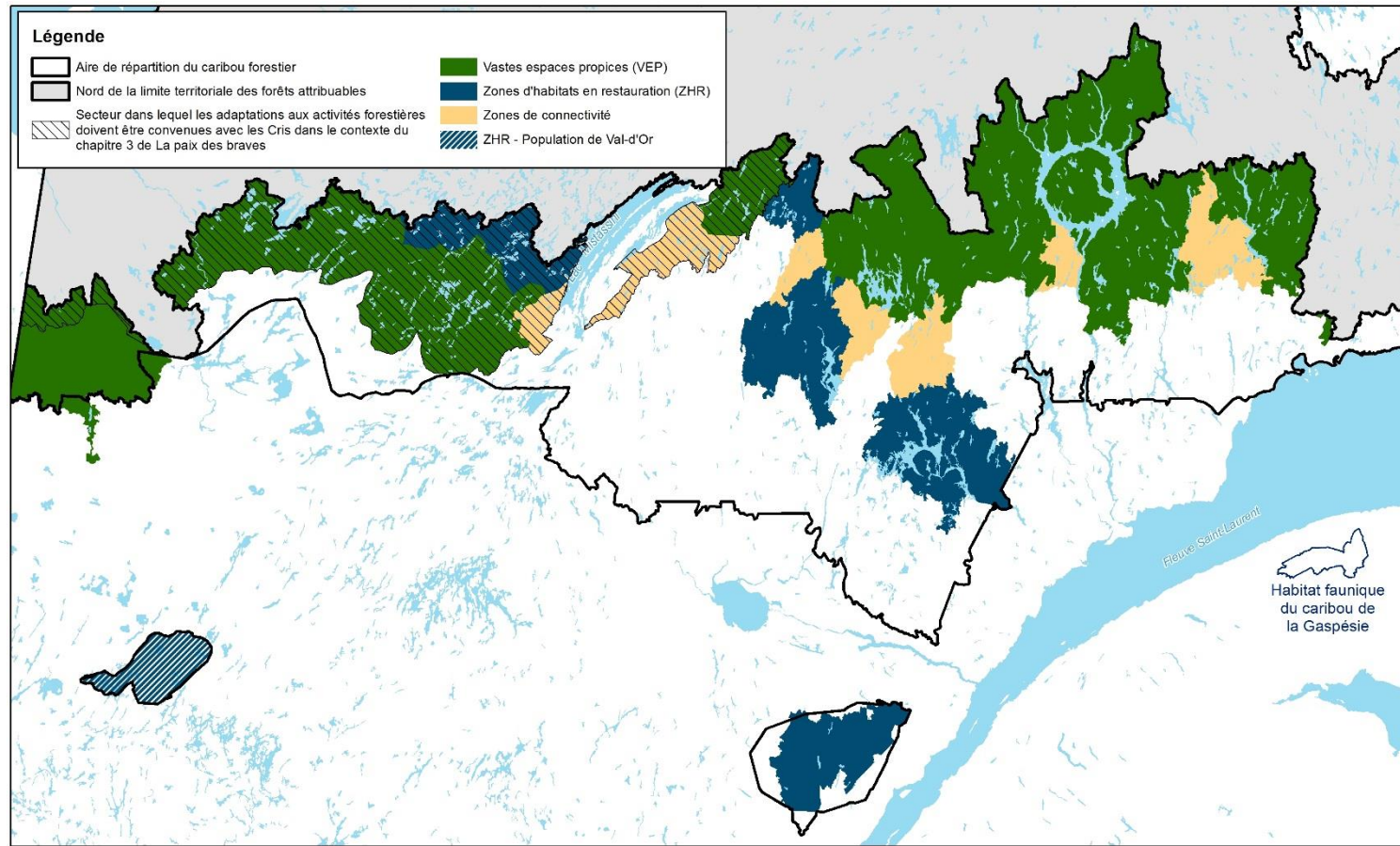
EFA:

- 8 % of the range
- 27 % of preferred habitats

HUR:

- 3 % of the range
- 5 % of preferred habitats

Areas under consideration for the Strategy currently being prepared in which forestry activities will be adapted

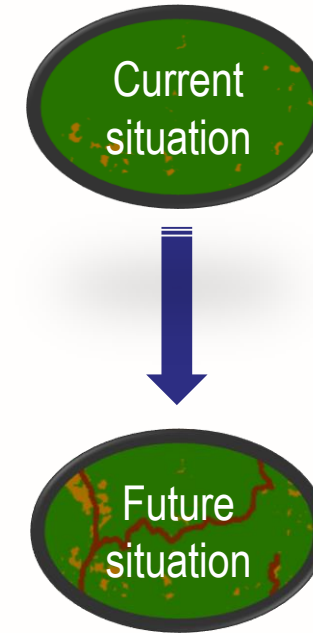


Types of Areas Targeted

Extensive Favourable Areas (EFAs)

Development conditions (strategic planning)

- Maintenance of a low disturbance rate to promote population self-sufficiency (≈35 %)
- Protection of large tracts of forest for as long as they fulfill their functions
- Spatial distribution of logging areas to maintain sufficient connectivity between tracts of forest throughout the EFA
- Deployment of new logging sites in accordance with conditions adapted to caribou habitat maintenance, including dismantling of most new forest roads

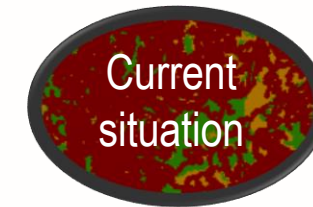


Types of Areas Targeted

Habitats Undergoing Restoration (HURs)

Definition

- Disturbed areas of roughly 5,000 km², used by woodland caribou
- Special land development conditions, including restoration work, with a view to ensuring caribou population self-sufficiency
- Context favourable to exchanges between caribou populations



Types of Areas Targeted

Connectivity Zones

Definition

- Disturbed areas used sporadically by caribou
- Special land development conditions with a view to maintaining or restoring habitat features that will allow for exchanges between caribou populations



Complementary Work — Forests



Interim Measures

- Protection of large tracts of forest
- Dismantling of forest roads
- Maintenance of the caribou habitat protection measures provided for in the current integrated forest plans
- Deployment of logging sites in accordance with new forest management conditions adapted to caribou habitats
- Industry support measures if it is necessary to move certain logging areas

Knowledge Acquisition

Many ongoing research projects

E.g.

- Evaluation of caribou population disturbance thresholds in Québec, based on productivity and forest dynamics (Centre d'étude de la forêt)
- Characterization of the use of old roads by woodland caribou, moose, wolves and bears (coll. UQAR).
- New ten-year forest inventory
- New allowable cut calculations for 2023-2028

Complementary Work — Wildlife

Population Monitoring

- In 2017, introduction of **telemetric monitoring of caribou populations** and planning of **aerial inventories** throughout the continuous range
- Monitoring of numerous biological indicators including:
 - Population delimitation and abundance
 - Survival probability
 - Population structure and recruitment
 - Population trends
 - Identification of causes of mortality
 - Health of individual animals

Population Management

- Control of predators in HURs
- Analysis of other available options
 - Introduction
 - Maternity
 - Etc.

Next Steps and Timeframe



Next Steps and Timeframe

Minister's Tour of the Regions Concerned

May 10	Québec
May 13	Sainte-Anne-des-Monts
May 17	Baie-Comeau
June 3	La Malbaie
June 10	Val-d'Or
June 17	Roberval
June 18	Chibougamau

Involvement of the Stakeholders Concerned and the First Nations - 2017

PARTNERS' TABLE	QUÉBEC – FIRST NATIONS TABLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns and issues• Progress of work<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caribou population monitoring• Field trials• Proposed protected areas• Habitat development approach• Socio-economic impacts• Implementation scenarios• Partners' initiatives• Val-d'Or population• Knowledge• Relations with the Government of Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consideration, in the Strategy, of the social and cultural value of woodland caribou for the First Nations• Sharing of information and First Nations' participation in follow-up• Harvesting for subsistence, ritual or social purposes and the notion of conservation• Consultation and communication

ISSUES RAISED IN CONNECTION WITH CARIBOU

Conservation of caribou and biodiversity

- Indicator species
- Contribution of protected areas
- Protection of large tracts of forest

Socio-economic vitality of the regions

- Jobs
- Allowable cut
- Feasibility and cost of new development methods
- Diversification and innovation

ISSUES RAISED WITH REGARD TO CARIBOU

Predictability of land and resource development

- Supply guarantees
- Planning of development activities

Upholding of rights granted

- Access
- Infrastructures

ISSUES RAISED WITH RESPECT TO CARIBOU

Knowledge and inclusion of the latest data

- Population status and dynamism
- Monitoring and knowledge acquisition activities
- Impacts of forest management
- Impacts of climate change
- Role of nutrition
- Role of predators

Consistency of protection efforts

- Synergy of actions
- Protective measures
- Regions
- Implementation times

ISSUES RAISED WITH RESPECT TO CARIBOU

Involvement of stakeholders and the general public in the decision-making process

- Tables
- Tour
- Regional operations groups
- Public and Aboriginal community consultations

Availability of information

- Dissemination
- Discussion

Discussion Period

- Does your organization regard the areas under consideration for the Strategy currently being prepared, and the associated measures, as being credible for the maintenance of woodland and mountain caribou?
- In your organization's opinion, does the approach taken by the Strategy allow for the preservation of the region's economic vitality and continuity of land and resource development?
- In your organization's opinion, is the approach take by the Strategy acceptable in terms of access to and use of the area for social purposes (e.g. leisure and tourism, wildlife harvesting, cultural uses)?
- Does your organization regard the knowledge acquisition and information sharing projects provided for during preparation of the strategy as being sufficient?
- In your organization's opinion, are the proposed participation mechanisms (information, consultation, regional tables) adequate?