



A customized strategy designed for Québec

- The aim of the strategy will be to meet the needs of boreal 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. The proposed areas to be covered by the strategy account for approximately 80% of preferred boreal caribou habitats.
- The strategy will provide for areas within which forestry activities will be adapted. These areas, combined with existing protected areas and the northern limit for timber allocations, will help ensure the long-term survival of boreal and mountain caribou populations:
 - » Large suitable area (LSA): Habitats that have undergone little or no disturbance. Forestry operations will be adapted to maintain a good quality habitat.
 - » Habitat undergoing restoration (HUR): Habitats that have undergone moderate to severe disturbance. Forestry operations will be adapted to encourage active restoration and ensure that habitat quality is re-established as quickly as possible.
 - » Connectivity zones: Habitats that will allow for exchanges between caribou populations and provide connections between extensive favourable areas and habitats undergoing restoration.

Areas under consideration by the strategy currently being prepared

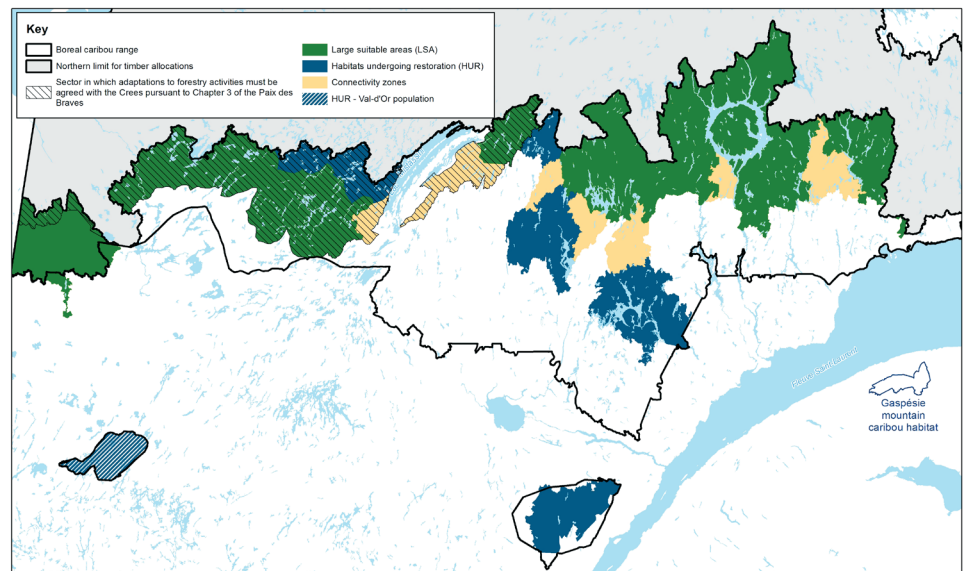




Photo: Pierre Bernier, MFFP

The status of boreal and mountain caribou in Québec

- Boreal and mountain caribou populations are sensitive to habitat disturbance and change.
- It has been scientifically proven that forest management, by altering habitats, plays a role in accentuating the presence of predators and hence in reducing caribou population numbers.
- Because of shrinking ranges and population in precarious conditions, the Québec Government designated the boreal caribou as a vulnerable species in 2005 and the Gaspésie mountain caribou as a threatened species in 2009.

Immediate actions

- The MFFP undertakes to continue and intensify discussions with partners. The Minister will also undertake a community consultation tour.
- In the coming months, the areas targeted by the strategy will be discussed in depth by the MFFP, the forestry companies and the Aboriginal communities, in order to:
 - » identify and ensure that local knowledge and issues are considered;
 - » find potential solutions to the issues identified;
 - » reach an agreement with the Crees on how to implement adaptations to forestry activities in the area covered by Chapter 3 of the Paix des Braves.
- Data are currently being gathered on forests, caribou habitats and caribou population status and dynamics. All this information will be taken into account in the annual allowable cut calculation and in the final choice of measures for the strategy. The MFFP will continue the work begun several months ago to adapt forestry planning and to control the progression of disturbances in the targeted areas:
 - » Protection of large tracts of forest.
 - » Dismantling of forest roads.
 - » Maintenance of the caribou habitat protection measures provided for in the current integrated forest management plans.
 - » Implementation of logging sites in accordance with new forest management methods adapted to caribou habitats.
 - » If it is necessary to move certain logging sites, the MFFP will introduce measures to help the industry operationalize its harvesting activities.

From 2021 onwards

- Public and Aboriginal community consultations on the strategy will be held in the fall of 2021.
- The boreal and mountain caribou strategy will be published in the spring of 2022.
- There will be no impact on allocations before 2023.
- If necessary, the MFFP will adopt an economic plan to support the communities and the industry.

Québec will play a leading role in these activities, to the extent of its jurisdiction. The MFFP is currently in discussion with Environment and Climate Change Canada with a view to signing a funding agreement for the period 2019-2022. The agreement will promote the implementation of measures proposed by Québec.