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An ATK-based approach to management of critical caribou ranges in northern Alberta

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Information gathered from Little Red River Cree Nation (LRRCN) elders shows how current map depictions of critical caribou habitat around Wood Buffalo National Park could be misleading. LRRCN proposes that Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) about caribou migration through critical range areas can help to frame a collaborative approach to the establishment of a conservation management strategy in support of caribou recovery. This approach to caribou recovery would use WBNP as an “anchor” and set aside large portions of provincial crown forest lands in protected areas and conservation management areas in order to protect the critical habitat for the Red Earth, Bistho, Yates, and Caribou Mountain herds. To support this strategy, LRRCN is undertaking a collaborative monitoring initiative within the “blank” areas which divide these existing identified caribou habitat areas.

