



2023-2024 Annual Report

Prepared by: Fuse Consulting Ltd. | May 2024

Table of Contents

Background	1
ARCKP Funding Contributors.....	1
Governance	2
Steering Committee.....	2
Technical Subcommittee.....	3
Secretariat Staff.....	3
fRI Research as a Partnership Host.....	4
Summary of Committee Activities	5
Projects	7
Ongoing Projects.....	7
Completed Projects.....	9
Knowledge Exchange	11
The Exchange.....	11
Webinars.....	11
National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium.....	11
ARCKP Workshop.....	12
2024-2025 Workplan	13
Summary of Work Plan Activities.....	13
2024-2025 Critical Path.....	14
Conclusion	16
Appendix A: 2023-2024 Deliverables	17
ARCKP Partners	18

BACKGROUND

In 2018, the Government of Alberta and the province’s forest sector came together to form the [Alberta Regional Caribou Knowledge Partnership](#) (ARCKP). They have since been working collaboratively to identify priority research that addresses knowledge gaps related to Alberta’s operational forestry practices and woodland caribou management. The ARCKP also advocates for the implementation of science-based caribou habitat management solutions through diverse knowledge exchange and science communication strategies. To date, the ARCKP partners have identified and funded eight research projects. Three projects have been completed with the five remaining projects scheduled to be completed in 2024-2025. The ARCKP partners continue to meet regularly to identify additional research projects to fund and engage in open discussions to align their interests.

Coordinating and delivering diverse knowledge exchange activities has also been a critical component of the ARCKP’s work. This includes publication of research reports on the ARCKP website, synthesizing research findings into accessible executive summaries and research briefs, webinars, and three workshops that have brought partners, stakeholders, and subject experts together for key sharing of knowledge and best practices. The ARCKP also produces *The Exchange*, a regular publication that features concise summaries and infographics of emerging research relevant to ARCKP partners.

The ARCKP is funded by the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) through the support of 12 forestry companies operating in Alberta and the Government of Alberta. The Government of Alberta also contributed additional funds to the over \$5 million to be allocated over five years (2020-2025) to the partnership’s projects and initiatives. Since 2021, the ARCKP has been an association of [fRI Research](#), an organization based in Hinton, Alberta, that carries out and supports research related to the sustainable management of natural resources, including forestry and woodland caribou.

ARCKP Fund Contributors

- Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.
- Alberta Newsprint Company
- Boucher Brothers Lumber Ltd.
- Canfor
- Mercer International Inc.
- Foothills Forest Products Inc.
- Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.
- Northlands Forest Products Ltd.
- Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd.
- West Fraser
- Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.
- Tolko
- Government of Alberta

GOVERNANCE

The ARCKP is governed by a Steering Committee that provides general oversight of the initiative. Steering Committee members draw on an industry caucus and a Government of Alberta caucus to help guide the decisions and discussions. A Technical Subcommittee is in place to advise on the technical and scientific aspects of proposed research areas and projects. The ARCKP Secretariat assists with the operational activities and facilitation of the initiative and is formed by Fuse Consulting Ltd. and other contracted support staff.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee consists of representatives from Alberta's forestry industry and the Government of Alberta. Two co-chairs are in place to provide senior oversight to the partnership. Drawing from the expertise of the broader partnership via an industry and government caucus, and its subcommittees, the primary role of the Steering Committee is to provide leadership, strategic guidance and final decision-making in the following areas:

- Development and implementation of partnership initiatives and subcommittees.
- Identification of projects that align with partnership priorities and desired outcomes.
- Review and approval of recommendations made by the Technical Subcommittee.
- Allocation of funds to various partnership initiatives and approved projects.
- Development of partnership processes: project review, request for proposal, awarding of contracts, monitoring projects.
- Determination of methods of final reporting and knowledge exchange.

2023-2024 Steering Committee Members

Seat	Current Representative	Organization	Title
Industry Co-Chair	Wendy Crosina (Co-Chair)	Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.	Director Forest Sustainability, Canadian Timberlands
Government of Alberta Co-Chair	Craig Dockrill (Co-Chair)	Land and Environment Planning (North) Section - Planning Branch Environment and Protected Areas Government of Alberta	Director
Industry Representative	Margaret Donnelly	Donnelly Ecological Consulting Services Inc.	Ecologist
Industry Representative	Graham Legaarden	Alberta Forest Products Association	Director, Forestry
Government of Alberta Representative	John Stadt	Forest Stewardship & Trade Branch, Forestry Division, Government of Alberta	Provincial Forest Ecologist

Government of Alberta Representative	Mark Edwards	Office of the Chief Scientist Environment and Protected Areas Government of Alberta	Senior Science Advisor
Industry Representative	Laura Trout	West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd	Senior Biologist

Technical Subcommittee

The Technical Subcommittee is a group of industry, government and scientific experts who advise the Steering Committee on the technical and scientific aspects of proposed research areas and projects. This committee provides a venue for detailed discussion and analysis of the potential deliverables and benefits of projects, feasibility and cost, as well as guidance and feedback to awarded research project teams.

2023-2024 Technical Subcommittee Members

Name	Organization	Title
Laura Finnegan	fRI Research	Caribou Program Lead
Margaret Donnelly (Steering Committee Industry Representative)	Donnelly Ecological Consulting Services Inc.	Ecologist
John Stadt (Steering Committee Government Representative)	Strategic Forestry Initiatives Section Forestry and Parks Government of Alberta	Provincial Forest Ecologist
Curtis Stambaugh	Alberta Environment and Protected Areas	Manager, Wildlife Northwest
Eric Neilson	Natural Resources Canada	Wildlife Research Scientist
Allan Bell	Tolko Industries	Manager, Stewardship and Tenures
Tom Habib	Alberta Pacific Forest Industries	Ecologist
Kevin Solarik	National Council for Air and Stream Improvement	Director, Forestry Research

Secretariat Staff

The partnership contracts a Project Coordinator and a Facilitator through Fuse Consulting Ltd. to assist with the operational activities, strategic oversight and facilitation of the partnership. They also contract additional hourly facilitation support as needed to assist the Steering Committee with the governance and project selection processes. These processes involve complex, interest-based discussions where a skilled facilitation team is valuable in helping to

navigate these discussions and be better positioned to reach consensus on projects and decisions.

2023-2024 ARCKP Support Staff

Name	Organization	Title
Rielle Massey-Leclerc / Jen Allen-Dickman (Coordinator/Manager)	Fuse Consulting Ltd.	Knowledge Exchange Coordinator / Program Manager
Matthew Pyper (Strategic Support Facilitator)	Fuse Consulting Ltd.	Principal, Ecologist and Science Communicator
Matthew Dance (Lead Facilitator)	Matthew Dance Consulting	Facilitator

fRI Research as a Partnership Host

To ensure projects have the appropriate resources and tools, the partnership operates under [fRI Research](#) as an ‘Association.’ fRI Research supports world-class research and helps its partners make science-based decisions with respect to natural resource management. They are the legal entity under which the partnership operates and in addition to administering project funds and providing legal support in developing and executing contracts, fRI Research offers the partnership extensive communications, research and admin support through its many established programs and associations.



OUR VISION

A collaboration promoting self-sustaining caribou populations and a viable forest sector.



OUR MISSION

We support the development and sharing of innovative tools, techniques, strategies and understandable scientific knowledge to enhance sustainable forest management and caribou recovery efforts.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Over the 2023/24 fiscal year, the Steering Committee met thirteen times and the Technical Subcommittee met three times. Numerous ad-hoc meetings and caucus meetings also took place during this time frame to provide opportunities for partners and experts to provide feedback on potential ARCKP projects. In addition to these, members of the Technical and Steering Committees met with current funded project teams to provide guidance and objective-aligned direction during the progression of these projects. A summary of all major ARCKP meetings and their key activities are provided below.

<i>Date (MM-DD-YYYY)</i>	<i>Key Activities</i>
01-17-2023 Technical Subcommittee	Reviewed status and submissions of proposals for two projects to determine awards and select contractors. Recommended award for one contract (Jurisdictional Review Project) to EcoLogic Research and recommended one proposal for revision including collaboration of multiple contractors for research.
01-24-2023 Steering Committee	Reviewed proposal submission for Jurisdictional Review Project and awarded to EcoLogic Research. Reviewed and suggested strategies to refine the Ecosystem-Based Management project for advancement.
03-06-2023 Technical Subcommittee	Reviewed submission of one proposal project to determine award and select contractor. Tentatively recommended award contract (Road Recovery Project) to FPInnovations, Solstice Environmental Management, and Circle-T Consulting, pending revisions and incorporation of the recommendation of the Technical Subcommittee.
03-07-2023 Steering Committee	Discussed strategies for advancing Indigenous engagement within the ARCKP partnership. Discussed changes required for the Stand Age Project RFP project. Revisited the roles of the Secretariat team and provided feedback for how to better support the ACRKP and Steering Committee. Confirmed award for Roads Recovery Project.
04-18-2023 Steering Committee	Planned for recruitment of project technical support team for Road Recovery project. Discussion for spring meeting with Assistant Deputy Ministers to align goals and advancement of efforts of the ARCKP. Review and revisions to Stand Age RFP project with recommendation for additional edits by caucus members.
06-06-2023 Steering Committee	Discussed potential Fall field tour and fall meeting. Discussions on project advancement and Indigenous engagement postponed due to low member attendance.

06-27-2023 Steering Committee	Discussed current engagement and capacity of EPA representation on the Steering Committee to keep ARCKP strong and viable in the long-term.
07-25-2023 Steering Committee	Announcement of transition of ARCKP Coordinator and planning for next steps to fill the role. Proposal discussed for potential field tour or formal expert meeting in fall.
08-29-2023 Steering Committee	Reviewed request for 6-month extension on Caribou Program project. Discussed strategy for hiring a new ARCKP coordinator and reviewed goals for upcoming meeting with Government Executive Director representatives.
10-13-2023 Steering Committee	Meeting with ARCKP Steering Committee and Government of Alberta Executive Directors (Environment and Protected Areas & Forestry Division) to discuss continued commitment to ARCKP. Proposal for a program review of the ARCKP to help determine value of second 5-year partnership.
10-24-2023 Steering Committee	Report presentation and feedback review of Jurisdictional Review Project final report. Review and approval of extensions on 2 projects (EcoLogic Research - 2 months and Caribou Program - 9months). Update on 2023 Knowledge Exchange activities.
11-28-2023 Technical Subcommittee	In depth review of ARCKP Jurisdictional Review Project submitted by EcoLogic Research. This meeting facilitated feedback and recommendations from a Government of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas representative, a seat that was unable to initially be filled in the project's Technical Subcommittee in addition to the current project committee members and was deemed an important aspect of the report review process.
1-17-2024 Steering Committee	Review of program budget and available project funding. Update to Steering Committee of new fRI processes and 2023-2024 Workplan submission to fRI. Announcement for upcoming change in Government Co-Chair leadership and strategizing for facilitating this process. Revisited priority projects and current draft RFPs since pause in the selection process in 2023.
01-29-2024 Steering Committee	Updated Terms of Reference for the ARCKP and re-evaluated membership of the Steering Committee. Reevaluated project selection process to facilitate additional discussion and revisions at Caucus, Technical Subcommittee and Steering Committee levels. Revisited proposal for a program review of the ARCKP over the past 5 years with a tentative plan.
03-04-2024 Steering Committee	Revisited priority projects and research topics for advancement in the Request for Proposal process. Approved process for program evaluation and review to help inform the future of the ARCKP partnership and recommend improvements. Began discussions for 2024 Workshop and planning for an Indigenous Engagement Strategy, resulting in forming 2 subcommittees to develop strategies. Reviewed one project proposal submitted outside of the RFP process, resulting in no award due to lack of sufficient alignment with ARCKP objectives.

04-22-2024 Steering Committee	New Government of Alberta representative was welcomed to the Steering Committee. Provided an update on 360 Review process and timing of report delivery to be used for strategic directions. Decision to schedule meetings with ADMs to engage them on the ARCKP and 360 Review report. Continued discussions for 2024 Workshop and planning for an Indigenous Engagement Strategy, with work ongoing through established subcommittees. Provided an update on the new ARCKP Coordinator transition and role, with the new Program Manager beginning to onboard in a few weeks. Discussed priority projects and project identification process.
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PROJECTS

To date, the ARCKP has approved and funded eight projects. Five projects are ongoing and three are complete. Project details are provided in the summary below.

Ongoing Projects

Reducing the effects of non-permanent forestry roads on woodland caribou in Alberta

In progress (June 2023 - June 2024)/conducted by: Circle T Consulting Ltd./FPInnovations/Solstice Environmental Management

- An analysis to help develop a deeper understanding of the magnitude and longevity of the impacts of temporary roads on woodland caribou and identify and advance new and better ways to plan, design, construct, use and reclaim temporary roads within and between harvest areas for better and faster outcomes for woodland caribou.
- Clarify how optimal or improved temporary road design/recovery potentially differs between different harvesting approaches, such as aggregated harvesting and business-as-usual approaches, with the goal of identifying best practices specific to each harvesting approach and helping contribute to faster recovery of temporary roads.
- Advance our understanding of how temporary road planning, design, construction, use and reclamation are linked to key process drivers of woodland caribou recovery, and clarify how operational staff could implement new planning, design, construction, use and reclamation practices to realize positive outcomes for woodland caribou.

2023 Milestones:

- Completion of literature review and analysis.
- Submission of 2023 interim report.

The Application of Quantitative Metrics in Forest Management and Caribou Recovery: A Jurisdictional Scan of Quantitative Approaches to Classifying 'Undisturbed' Caribou Habitat

In progress (February 2023 - May 2024)/conducted by: EcoLogic Research

- A jurisdictional scan to learn how/if Alberta and other provinces and territories are applying quantitative criteria (e.g., measurable timelines, stand metrics, population viability metrics etc.) to meet the qualitative federal requirements for undisturbed habitat, and an assessment of whether any identified approaches may be possible from a policy, operational and ecological perspective in Alberta.

- Will also include a literature review to understand how potential quantitative criteria identified in the jurisdictional scan may link to/influence caribou vital rates (e.g., adult survival and calf recruitment) or caribou ecology and behaviour (e.g., habitat use and avoidance, effects of noise or sensory disturbance). Will also explore if there are key ecological processes important to positive caribou outcomes (e.g., predator mobility, primary prey habitat availability etc.) that could be modelled in the context of long-term forestry and silvicultural activities, to help refine operational implementation opportunities on the ground to improve future woodland caribou habitat.

2023 Milestones:

- Received a 6-month and 10% budget extension to allow for extensive report feedback from Technical Steering Committee including Environment and Protected Areas representatives.
- Submitted final report for approval to Steering Committee (in review).

Study to advance harvest system and silviculture practices for improved woodland caribou and fibre outcomes

In progress (November 2020 – July 2024)/conducted by: fRI Research Caribou Program in collaboration with researchers from the University of Northern British Columbia

- Complex, multi-faceted, multi-year study with an extensive field component.
- Primary intent is to conduct a comparative analysis of areas disturbed by harvest and fire and assess if they are on a trajectory to become future woodland caribou habitat.
- Will also include a set of recommendations for potential silvicultural interventions that can be implemented to get harvested areas on the desired trajectory for future woodland caribou habitat.

2023 Milestones:

- Received a 9-month extension in response to field trial delays from Covid-19 pandemic.
- Completed the 2023 field season to study stand characteristics of areas with documented caribou use in Alberta, and to compare similarly aged cutblocks and areas disturbed by fire.
- Submitted 2023 interim report with preliminary data and analysis.
- Begin build and synthesis of interactive GIS tool for forest managers.

Reconciling Pre-Industrial Patterns, Caribou Habitat and Management Reality

In progress (January 2021- June 2024)/conducted by: fRI Research Healthy Landscapes Program

- Seeking to obtain a better understanding of if, or to what degree spatial clustering of anthropogenic disturbances is possible to create on the ground, under what circumstances/conditions/policies, and the potential impacts on caribou habitat and other values.
- Also exploring whether natural range of variation (NRV) aligns with proposed harvesting pattern changes to improve woodland caribou habitat outcomes and whether forest management activities can closely approximate those.

2023 Milestones:

- Completion of model runs on all areas and scenarios.
- Submission of 2023 interim reports.

An Evaluation of the Feasibility of Terrestrial Lichen Seeding and/or Transplantation

In progress (May 2021-March 2024)/conducted by: Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) Plant and Seed Technology Access Centre (P&S TAC) in collaboration with Portage College

- Evaluating the efficacy of lichen transplantation and seeding technologies with the goal of exploring ways lichen populations can be more rapidly restored in harvested areas.
- Using a combination of literature review, greenhouse trials and field trials to understand how optimal site conditions and the best corresponding seeding and transplant techniques might vary between ecologically different regions of the province.
- Also exploring how the logistical and economic challenges of implementing these techniques can be overcome.

2023 Milestones:

- Completed 2023 field survey and greenhouse trials.
- Submitted final report for feedback from Technical Subcommittee (in review).

Completed Projects

Review of Alberta's Integrated Land Management Policies, Practices and Legislation

- *Completed (May 2021) by: Foothills Landscape Management Forum and Dialogue Partners*
 - Conducted a thorough literature review and structured interviews to synthesize ILM practices in Alberta and review and analyze ILM practices used in other comparable jurisdictions.
 - Reviewed Alberta's ILM policy potential and identified useful cross-sector communication/collaboration techniques.
 - Collated draft recommendations for cross-industry ILM approaches for improved woodland caribou habitat outcomes and tested these in a one-day stakeholder workshop to help inform the final recommendations included in the final report.
 - A [full report](https://arckp.ca/) and [summary report](https://arckp.ca/) are available on the ARCKP website (<https://arckp.ca/>).

Alternative Silvicultural Systems and Harvesting Techniques for Caribou Habitat

- *Completed (March 2022): by: FORCORP Solutions Inc.*
 - Completed a review informed by an extensive literature review and subject matter expert interviews.
 - Identified alternative harvesting and silvicultural systems applicable to Alberta's forests and investigated them through the lens of caribou biology and habitat requirements.
 - Described and assessed each potential system in terms of their resulting vegetation dynamics, how this relates to use by caribou and other ungulates, and in terms of potential trade-offs for implementing these systems (e.g., economic implications, access, etc.).
 - A [full report](https://arckp.ca/), [summary report](https://arckp.ca/) and [two-page executive summary](https://arckp.ca/) are available on the ARCKP website (<https://arckp.ca/>).

Exploring the Implementation of Aggregated Harvest in Woodland Caribou Ranges

- *Completed (May 2022)/conducted by: FORCORP Solutions Inc.*
 - Investigating the feasibility and impacts of implementing aggregated harvest scenarios in three of Alberta's regional caribou planning subregions (Berland, Chinchaga and Wandering River) using timber supply modelling scenarios.
 - Conducted trade-off scenario analysis using a custom-built modeling environment to quantify how aggregated harvest will affect caribou habitat metrics, other species and values, and socio-economic considerations.
 - Provided comparisons for non-timber assessments and socio-economic assessments that are part of Forest Management Plans, providing a greater understanding of aggregated harvest impacts.
 - A [full report](#) and [two-page executive summary](#), which are published on the ARCKP website (<https://arckp.ca/>).
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Total funds allocated to all ARCKP Projects - \$2,245,660.30

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Through a blend of products and engagement processes, the ARCKP is continuously working to ensure a meaningful flow of information between research teams and practitioners. This two-way exchange of information can lead to important advances in knowledge and applications. Key knowledge exchange activities conducted in 2023-2024 are summarized below.

The Exchange: Sharing knowledge, inspiring solutions

[The Exchange](#), initiated in early 2021, is a publication produced three to four times per year. It features concise, brief summaries and infographics of recent work, ARCKP-funded research and topics of interest to our partners. Three additional issues were published in the 2023/24 fiscal year.

[Edition 7 \(July 2023\):](#)

- *Can lichens be transplanted to increase caribou forage?*
- *Caribou demographics and lichen respond differently to wildfire than harvest*
- *Targeting restoration to address wildlife objectives on linear features*



[Edition 8 \(December 2023\):](#)

- *Mountain pine beetle outbreaks and management affect caribou summer forage*
- *The role of understory stand density in boreal caribou habitat selection*
- *Prioritizing conservation strategies by considering mechanisms of caribou declines*



[Edition 9 \(April 2024\):](#)

- *Grey wolves use cutblocks more and linear features less following predator control*
- *Lichen transplantation holds promise for increasing caribou winter forage*
- *Silviculture as a tool for reducing ungulate use of harvest blocks*

Webinars

Webinars provide valuable opportunities to share research outcomes and gain two-way interaction between researchers and the audience. The ARCKP did not host any additional webinars in 2023, however three webinars are planned for 2024 with the completion of three of the five funded projects.

National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium

[The National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium](#) (NBCKC) is an Environment and Climate Change Canada initiative that provides a forum for knowledge sharing, knowledge generation and knowledge mobilization. The ARCKP participates in the NBCKC's [Habitat Restoration Working Group](#), which brings together practitioners, experts and Indigenous people from across Canada to share knowledge related to caribou habitat restoration. By participating in

these groups, the ARCKP can network and learn from other individuals and organizations and to share work being done by the ARCKP. During this fiscal year, the ARCKP provided an update on ARCKP projects and Knowledge Exchange Activities to the Habitat Restoration Working Group. The ARCKP also provided an update and shared some learnings around Knowledge Exchange to the broader NBCKC group at their December 2023 annual member meeting.

ARCKP Workshop

The ARCKP did not host a workshop in 2023, however is currently planning a workshop for the Fall of 2024.

2024–2025 WORK PLAN

The 2024/25 work plan reflects anticipated administrative needs and approved projects and initiatives.

Summary of Work Plan Activities

Item	Description of Key Activities
Administration	<p>The ARCKP is supported by a 0.75 FTE Coordinator and additional hourly Facilitator support. The Coordinator assists with operational tasks such as scheduling meetings, minute taking, drafting documents and financial contracts, developing and administering a request for expressions of interest process, managing timelines and project goals, overseeing all partnership finances and budgets, and conducting select communications and outreach. The Facilitator support is executed between two individuals and provides technical support and strategic oversight, as well additional facilitation support to advance relationships between the partners. Additional consulting support is contracted for strategic and technical committee support.</p> <p>Administration costs also include administrative/travel incidentals permitted each year, fRI Research fee, hosted desktop fees, insurance and any additional misc. administrative costs.</p>
Knowledge Exchange	<p>Knowledge exchange costs include publication of science communications materials designed to connect our partners to relevant scientific information and keep them informed on ARCKP projects and other studies of interest. These costs also include coordination and delivery of an annual workshop, other approved knowledge exchange activities and travel costs for ARCKP staff, project leads and Indigenous representatives to attend conferences and knowledge sharing events.</p>
Ongoing ARCKP-funded Projects (confirmed)	<p>A total of five projects, as outlined in the previous Project Summaries section, will be in progress during 2024/25.</p>
Future ARCKP-funded projects	<p>The ARCKP is continuously working towards identifying and awarding additional projects. This amount is an estimate and depends on final project decisions.</p>

2024–2025 CRITICAL PATH

Q	Project intake/evaluation	Current Projects	Knowledge Exchange	Other
Q1 Apr -Jun	<p>Ongoing refinement of potential 2024 projects by the Steering Committee and each caucus.</p> <p>Facilitation of Steering Committee discussions around potential future projects and preliminary identification of 2024 priority research areas.</p> <p>Refinement of ARCKP roles and discussions to help advance project identification.</p> <p>Draft/circulate Requests for Proposals.</p>	<p>Progress check-in with project leads/quarterly and interim reports.</p> <p>Receive/Final report approvals for Lichen, Quantitative Metrics and Roads project reports.</p>	<p>ARCKP representation at the fRI board and program leads in-person meeting.</p> <p>Initiate an Indigenous engagement strategy and identify key Indigenous contacts.</p> <p>Development and publication of The Exchange (Edition 10).</p> <p>Publish report and host a webinar on the EcoLogic Jurisdictional Review final report.</p> <p>Publish report and host a workshop/webinar on the NAIT Lichen project report and results.</p> <p>Publish report and host a webinar on the Solstice Roads final report.</p>	<p>fRI quarterly update.</p> <p>Partner report.</p> <p>Annual report for FRIAA.</p> <p>NBCKC Habitat Restoration Working Group meetings.</p>
Q2 Jul -Sep	<p>Refinement of projects through incorporation into Statements of Research/caucus approval.</p> <p>Evaluation of proposals by the Technical Subcommittee.</p> <p>Award and initiate contracts for 2024 priority projects.</p>	<p>Progress check-in with project leads/quarterly and interim reports.</p> <p>Receive/Final report approvals for Caribou program and Healthy Landscapes program project reports.</p>	<p>Continue to seek ways to partner with Indigenous communities and create opportunities for open dialogue on what this could look like.</p> <p>Development and publication of The Exchange (Edition 11).</p> <p>Publish report for Caribou program project.</p> <p>Publish report for Healthy Landscapes program project.</p>	<p>fRI quarterly update.</p> <p>NBCKC Habitat Restoration Working Group meetings.</p>
Q3 Oct -Dec	<p>Steering Committee approval of project awards recommendations and awarding of project contracts.</p> <p>Project guidance and progression facilitated by Technical Subcommittee and project committees.</p>	<p>Progress check-in with project leads/quarterly and interim reports.</p>	<p>Host 2024 ARCKP Workshop and Field Tours and advance Indigenous engagement opportunities.</p>	<p>fRI quarterly update.</p> <p>Partner report.</p> <p>Begin work planning for fRI 2024/25 work plan.</p> <p>NBCKC Habitat</p>

				Restoration Working Group meetings.
Q4 Jan- Mar	Project guidance and progression facilitated by Technical Subcommittee and project committees.	Progress check-in with project leads/quarterly and interim reports.	Development/publication of The Exchange (edition 12).	fRI quarterly update and work plan submission. Begin annual report for FRIAA. NBCKC Habitat Restoration Working Group meetings, NBCKC Winter meeting.

CONCLUSION

Coming into its final year of the five-year funding agreement with FRIAA, the ARCKP continues to do work to address some of the complex issues at the interface of forest management and woodland caribou conservation in Alberta. Identifying and awarding projects that meet the needs of the partners continues to be a priority for the ARCKP and is supported by extensive processes and open discussions among partners. Creating the time and space for these discussions is critical to advancing the goals and objectives of the partnership, which would not be possible without the involvement of the numerous committee members who commit their time and expertise to the initiative.

In addition to advancing existing relationships, the ARCKP recognizes the value of involving additional partners in their work. This includes supporting Indigenous voices in the discussions at the ARCKP table and finding meaningful opportunities for Indigenous communities to engage with the work being done by the partners. Learning more about what this could look like, and taking actionable steps towards meaningful Indigenous engagement is a continued priority for the ARCKP in 2024/25.

The ARCKP is also committed to continuing to share knowledge. By effectively communicating research results and relevant information through diverse channels of communication, the ARCKP aims to promote the implementation of science-based caribou habitat management solutions that have a positive impact on the landscape and sustaining woodland caribou populations in Alberta.

APPENDIX A: 2023-2024 DELIVERABLES

All deliverables associated with ARCKP projects and activities, and that are due to FRIAA with this annual report are listed and hyperlinked below.

Project/Initiative	Deliverable
FORCORP Solutions – Exploring the Implementation of Aggregated Harvest in Woodland Caribou Range	Full report Two-page executive summary
ARCKP Knowledge Exchange - The Exchange: Sharing knowledge, inspiring solutions	Edition 7 Edition 8 Edition 9

ARCKP PARTNERS

The ARCKP is funded by the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta



ARCKP Partners

