

Woodland Caribou Mitigation Plan Template for Mineral Exploration Projects in the Boreal Plain (SK2) Caribou Conservation Unit

Note: This is an optional template provided to enable proponents to demonstrate their projects are implementing the standard mitigation measures or to propose non-standard mitigation measures according to the Mitigation Measures and Guidelines for Mineral Exploration Programs in the Boreal Plain (SK2) Caribou Conservation Unit.

Project Location (check all that apply)	
SK2 Caribou Conservation Unit	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tier 1 or Tier 2 Caribou Habitat Management Area (CHMA) <i>(Also select from High or Low Activity area, below)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tier 3 Caribou Habitat Management Area (COMPLETE TABLE 3)
<input type="checkbox"/> High Exploration Activity Area	<input type="checkbox"/> Low Exploration Activity Area
Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the table relevant to your project location, indicated above. For each project activity, check all standard mitigation measures that will be implemented or indicate if not applicable. For any activity where the standard mitigation measures will not be implemented or an alternative approach is proposed, the non-standard mitigation section for that activity must be completed (and/or attach separate pages, as needed). Proposed non-standard mitigation should describe reasonable and prudent measures to achieve the desired outcomes for woodland caribou and woodland caribou habitat that are proportional to the timing, scope, and scale of the proposed activities. Examples are provided for consideration. Acceptance of proposed non-standard mitigation measures will be at the discretion of the Ministry of Environment.

TABLE 1.
Projects in SK2 Tier 1 or 2 CHMAs – High Exploration Activity Area

Operating Period	
Standard Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Higher risk activities will be conducted outside the sensitive timing window (April 1 to July 31), except for completion of winter project demobilization activities initiated before April 1. (Preferred) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Higher risk activities will only be conducted during the sensitive timing window (April 1 to July 31) under the supervision and direction of an environmental monitor, whose qualifications and responsibilities are described in <i>Appendix C of the Mitigation Measures and Guidelines for Mineral Exploration Programs in the Boreal Plain (SK2) Caribou Conservation Unit</i> . Note: In High Exploration Activity Areas, the higher risk activities are those falling in the categories of medium and high disturbance intensity , as per Table 2 of the <i>Mitigation Measures and Guidelines for Mineral Exploration Programs in the Boreal Plain (SK2) Caribou Conservation Unit</i> .
Non-standard Mitigation <i>(Complete all sections if standard mitigation described above will not be implemented)</i>	<p>Provide a rationale for not implementing the standard mitigation described above for the operating period.</p> <hr/> <p>Describe how the frequency and/or intensity of higher-risk activities will be minimized during the sensitive timing window for woodland caribou (April 1 to July 31). <u>Examples may include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimizing the number of drill holes established during the sensitive timing window. - Minimizing the number of drills operating during the sensitive timing window. - Minimizing the duration drills are operating during the sensitive timing window. <hr/> <p>Describe any additional proposed alternative mitigation to minimize sensory disturbance to woodland caribou associated with proposed project activities during the sensitive timing window. <u>Examples may include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration of the value of the habitat for woodland caribou, especially for calving and foraging, where the higher-risk activities are planned during the sensitive timing window. - Strategies to minimize sensory disturbance from operating equipment (e.g. underwater pumps, noise attenuation devices on drills and other stationary equipment, directional lighting). - Minimizing site activity and personnel to only what is required for safety and to meet permit conditions.
New or Re-opened Access	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (i.e. project does not require creation of new access or re-opening access) NOTE: The creation of new access and re-opening previously reclaimed or naturally regenerating access must adhere to the standard mitigation measures for the operating period to be considered under a standard mitigation plan	
Standard Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> New or re-opened access will be reclaimed prior to permit expiry by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redistributing slash (including snow, where applicable) along the entire length of the new or re-opened access; and • Tree felling or hinging, where trees are sufficiently tall (>2 m), along the first 100 m of the new or re-opened access from any intersection with unreclaimed access to deter wildlife and human access. <p>If new or re-opened access will not be reclaimed by permit expiry, an application for a right-of-way disposition will be submitted at least six months in advance of permit expiry.</p>
Non-Standard Mitigation <i>(Complete all sections if standard mitigation described above will not be implemented)</i>	<p>Provide a rationale for not implementing the standard mitigation described above for the creation of new access or re-opening access:</p> <hr/> <p>Describe how the total length of new access created by the proposed project will be minimized:</p> <hr/> <p>Describe proposed alternative mitigation to minimize the loss and alteration of woodland caribou habitat and minimize the increase in linear feature density associated with new ground access. <u>Examples may include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration of the value of the habitat for woodland caribou where access is planned. - Winter-only ground access (describe how and where winter access will be used to minimize habitat disturbance). - Reclamation of new access by means other than described in the standard mitigation, prior to permit expiry (describe how and when new access will be reclaimed to minimize human and wildlife access and promote natural revegetation).

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Table 1. Continued

Temporary Work Camps

Not Applicable (i.e. no temporary work camps will be required)

NOTE: All mechanical vegetation clearing for temporary work camps must adhere to the standard mitigation measures for the operating period to be considered under a standard mitigation plan

Standard Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary work camp sites will be reclaimed prior to permit expiry by rolling back stockpiled soil and cleared snow (where applicable) and redistributing slash. If a temporary work camp site will not be completely demobilized and reclaimed by permit expiry, an application for an industrial disposition will be submitted at least six months in advance of permit expiry.
Non-Standard Mitigation <i>(Complete all sections if standard mitigation above will not be implemented)</i>	<i>Provide a rationale for not implementing the standard mitigation described above for temporary work camp sites:</i>
	<i>Describe proposed alternative mitigation to minimize the loss and alteration of woodland caribou habitat associated with vegetation clearing and ground disturbance at temporary work camp sites. <u>Examples may include:</u></i>
	<i>- Reclamation of new temporary work camp clearings by means other than described in the standard mitigation, prior to permit expiry (describe how and when temporary work camps will be reclaimed to promote natural revegetation).</i>

Vegetation Clearing (excluding for Temporary Work Camps)

Not Applicable (i.e. no vegetation clearing will be completed for drilling or helicopter pads)

NOTE: All mechanical vegetation clearing must adhere to the standard mitigation measures for the operating period to be considered under a standard mitigation plan

Standard Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearing size for drill pads or helicopter pads will not exceed 900 m ² , unless drill pads are designed to accommodate multiple drill rigs, to minimize the total cleared area required. AND <input type="checkbox"/> Any newly cleared drill pads will be reclaimed prior to permit expiry by rolling back all stripped soil and cleared snow (where applicable) and redistributing stockpiled slash over the opening.
Non-Standard Mitigation <i>(Complete all sections if standard mitigation above will not be implemented)</i>	<i>Provide a rationale for not implementing the standard mitigation described above for vegetation clearing:</i>
	<i>Describe proposed alternative mitigation to minimize the loss and alteration of woodland caribou habitat associated with vegetation clearing. <u>Examples may include:</u></i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A description of how the total area cleared will be minimized. - Consideration of the value of the habitat for woodland caribou where clearing will occur. - Complete clearing only during frozen ground conditions (describe how and where this clearing practice will be employed, to minimize habitat disturbance; include information on the size of planned clearings). - Reclamation of new clearings by means other than described in the standard mitigation, prior to permit expiry (describe how and when new clearings will be reclaimed to promote natural revegetation).

Geophysical Line Cutting

Not Applicable (i.e. no geophysical line cutting will be completed)

Standard Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical line cutting will meet all of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lines will be cut with hand tools only; • Low impact cutting techniques will be employed (e.g. removing branches instead of cutting trees); and • Lines will be ≤ 1.5 m wide and slash lines will be ≤ 1 m wide.
Non-Standard Mitigation <i>(Complete all sections if standard mitigation above will not be implemented)</i>	<i>Provide a rationale for not implementing the standard mitigation described above for geophysical line cutting:</i>
	<i>Describe proposed alternative mitigation to minimize the loss and alteration of woodland caribou habitat and increase in linear feature density associated with geophysical line cutting:</i>

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Table 1. Completed

Response to Caribou Observations

Standard Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> In active travel and work areas (i.e. excluding daily activity in temporary work camps), unless worker safety will be compromised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stationary or mobile motorized equipment will not start up if caribou are observed up to 500 m away; and • stationary and mobile motorized equipment will idle down if caribou are observed up to 500 m away; and • regular activities will proceed only when at least one of the following conditions is met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ caribou are out of sight of the active travel or work area; ○ caribou are more than 500 m away from the active travel or work area; or ○ at least 30 minutes has elapsed.
	<p>AND</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Aircraft will not land within 500 m of an observed caribou, unless required for safety reasons. <p>OR</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (i.e. no helicopter use)
	<p>AND</p> <input type="checkbox"/> The Ministry of Environment Ecological Management Specialist will be notified if caribou or recent (i.e. since the last rain or snowfall) caribou sign (pellets, tracks, cratering) are observed in the project area. Additional mitigation measures may be recommended in higher risk situations (e.g. observations of cow-calf pairs, observations of congregations of caribou or repeated observations of caribou over a short time in the same area). <input type="checkbox"/> All caribou observations will also be submitted to the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre Report a Woodland Caribou Sighting website (https://biodiversity.sk.ca/reportcaribou.htm) or using the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre Incidental Species Observation loadform (http://biodiversity.sk.ca/Docs/SKCDCLoadform.xlsx).
Non-Standard Mitigation (complete all sections if standard mitigation above will not be implemented)	<i>Provide a rationale for not implementing the standard mitigation described above when caribou are observed:</i>
	<i>Describe proposed alternative mitigation to minimize sensory disturbance to caribou associated with proposed project activities when caribou are observed:</i>
	<i>Describe proposed alternative caribou observation reporting procedure:</i>

TABLE 2.
Projects in SK2 Tier 1 or 2 CHMAs – Low Exploration Activity Area

Operating Period	
Standard Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Higher risk activities will be conducted outside the sensitive timing window (April 1 to July 31), except for completion of winter project demobilization activities initiated before April 1. (Preferred) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Higher risk activities will only be conducted under the supervision and direction of an environmental monitor, whose qualifications and responsibilities are described in <i>Appendix C of the Mitigation Measures and Guidelines for Mineral Exploration Programs in the Boreal Plain (SK2) Caribou Conservation Unit</i> . Note: In Low Exploration Activity Areas, the higher risk activities are those falling in the categories of high disturbance intensity , as per Table 2 of the <i>Mitigation Measures and Guidelines for Mineral Exploration Programs in the Boreal Plain (SK2) Caribou Conservation Unit</i> .
Non-standard Mitigation <i>(Complete all sections if standard mitigation described above will not be implemented)</i>	Provide a rationale for not implementing the standard mitigation described above for the operating period: Describe how the frequency and/or intensity of higher-risk activities will be minimized during the sensitive timing window (April 1 to July 31). <u>Examples may include:</u> - Minimizing the amount of mechanical clearing during the sensitive timing window. - Minimizing the duration of mechanical clearing during the sensitive timing window. Describe additional proposed alternative mitigation to minimize sensory disturbance to caribou associated with proposed project activities during the sensitive timing window. <u>Examples may include:</u> - Consideration of the value of the habitat for woodland caribou, especially for calving and foraging, where the higher-risk activities are planned during the sensitive timing window. - Strategies to minimize sensory disturbance from operating equipment (e.g. underwater pumps, noise attenuation devices on drills and other stationary equipment). - Minimizing site activity and personnel to only what is required for safety and to meet permit conditions.
New or Re-opened Access	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (i.e. project does not require creation of new access or re-opening access) NOTE: The creation of new access and re-opening previously reclaimed or naturally regenerating access must adhere to the standard mitigation measures for the operating period to be considered under a standard mitigation plan	
Standard Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing ground access and/or re-opened access and/or ice roads will be used in combination with aircraft access, except for the establishment of new trails among helicopter accessed drill pads where the total length of new trails does not exceed 3,000 m. (Preferred) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Up to 15 km of new winter access will be created under frozen conditions to minimize ground disturbance and promote natural revegetation. AND <input type="checkbox"/> All new and re-opened access, including among drill pads, will be reclaimed prior to permit expiry by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redistributing slash (including snow, where applicable) along the entire length of the new or re-opened access; and • Tree felling or hinging, where trees are sufficiently tall (>2 m), along the first 100 m of the new or re-opened access from any intersection with unreclaimed access to deter wildlife and human access. If new or re-opened access will not be reclaimed by permit expiry, an application for a right-of-way disposition will be submitted at least six months in advance of permit expiry.
Non-Standard Mitigation <i>(Complete all sections if standard mitigation described above will not be implemented)</i>	Provide a rationale for not implementing the standard mitigation described above for the creation of new access. Describe how the total length of new access created by the proposed project will be minimized: Describe proposed alternative mitigation to minimize the loss and alteration of woodland caribou habitat, and increase in linear feature density, associated with new, persistent access. <u>Examples may include:</u> - Consideration of the value of the habitat for woodland caribou along access routes. - Creating and using access in winter in frozen, snow-covered conditions to minimize ground disturbance and promote natural revegetation. - Reclamation of new access by means other than described in the standard mitigation, prior to permit expiry (describe how and when new access will be reclaimed to minimize human and wildlife access and promote natural revegetation).

Table 2. Continued.	
Temporary Work Camps	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (i.e. no temporary work camps will be required)	
<i>NOTE: All mechanical vegetation clearing for temporary work camps must adhere to the standard mitigation measures for the operating period to be considered under a standard mitigation plan</i>	
Standard Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> New clearing for temporary work camps will not exceed 0.5 ha per location, excluding new clearing required for core storage or fire breaks. AND <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary work camp sites will be reclaimed prior to permit expiry by rolling back stockpiled soil and cleared snow (where applicable) and redistributing slash. If a temporary work camp site will not be completely demobilized and reclaimed by permit expiry, an application for an industrial disposition will be submitted at least six months in advance of permit expiry.
Non-Standard Mitigations (Complete all sections if standard mitigation above will not be implemented)	<i>Provide a rationale for not implementing the standard mitigation described above for temporary work camps:</i> <i>Describe proposed alternative mitigation to minimize the loss and alteration of woodland caribou habitat associated with vegetation clearing at temporary work camp sites. Examples may include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A description of how the area cleared will be minimized. - Consideration of the value of the habitat for woodland caribou in planned clearings. - Reclamation of new temporary work camp clearings by means other than described in the standard mitigation, prior to permit expiry (describe how and when new clearings will be reclaimed to promote natural revegetation). - A description of how sensory disturbance to caribou and predator attraction associated with temporary work camp occupation will be minimized.
Vegetation Clearing (excluding for Temporary Work Camps)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (i.e. no vegetation clearing will be completed for drilling or helicopter pads)	
<i>NOTE: All mechanical vegetation clearing must adhere to the standard mitigation measures for the operating period to be considered under a standard mitigation plan</i>	
Standard Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearing size for drill pads or helicopter pads will not exceed 900 m ² , unless drill pads are designed to accommodate multiple drill rigs to minimize the total cleared area required. AND <input type="checkbox"/> Any newly cleared drill pads will be reclaimed prior to permit expiry by rolling back all stripped soil and cleared snow (where applicable) and redistributing stockpiled slash over the opening.
Non-Standard Mitigation (Complete all sections if standard mitigation above will not be implemented)	<i>Provide a rationale for not implementing the standard mitigation described above for vegetation clearing:</i> <i>Describe proposed alternative mitigation to minimize the loss and alteration of woodland caribou habitat associated with vegetation clearing. Examples may include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A description of how the total area cleared will be minimized. - Complete clearing only during frozen, snow-covered ground conditions (describe how and where this clearing practice will be used to minimize habitat disturbance; include planned clearing sizes). - Consideration of the value of the habitat for woodland caribou in planned clearings. - Reclamation of new clearings by means other than described in the standard mitigation, prior to permit expiry (describe how and when new clearings will be reclaimed to promote natural revegetation).
Geophysical Line Cutting	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (i.e. no geophysical line cutting will be completed)	
Standard Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical line cutting will meet all of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lines will be cut with hand tools only; • Low impact cutting techniques will be employed (e.g. removing branches instead of cutting trees); and • Lines will be ≤ 1.5 m wide and slash lines will be ≤ 1 m wide.
Non-Standard Mitigation (Complete all sections if standard mitigation above will not be implemented)	<i>Provide a rationale for not implementing the standard mitigation described above for geophysical line cutting:</i> <i>Describe proposed alternative mitigation to minimize the loss and alteration of woodland caribou habitat and increase in linear feature density associated with geophysical line cutting:</i>

Table 2. Completed.	
Response to Caribou Observations	
Standard Mitigation	<p><input type="checkbox"/> In active travel and work areas (i.e. excluding daily activity in temporary work camps), unless worker safety will be compromised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stationary or mobile motorized equipment will not start up if caribou are observed up to 500 m away; and • stationary and mobile motorized equipment will idle down if caribou are observed up to 500 m away; and • regular activities will proceed only when at least one of the following conditions is met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ caribou are out of sight of the active travel or work area; ○ caribou are more than 500 m away from the active travel or work area; or ○ at least 30 minutes has elapsed.
	<p>AND</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Aircraft will not land within 500 m of an observed caribou, unless required for safety reasons.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (i.e. no helicopter use)</p>
	<p>AND</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Ministry of Environment Ecological Management Specialist will be notified if caribou or recent (i.e. since the last rain or snowfall) caribou sign (pellets, tracks, cratering) are observed in the project area. Additional mitigation measures may be recommended in higher risk situations (e.g. observations of cow-calf pairs, observations of congregations of caribou or repeated observations of caribou over a short time in the same area).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All caribou observations will also be submitted to the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre Report a Woodland Caribou Sighting website (https://biodiversity.sk.ca/reportcaribou.htm) or using the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre Incidental Species Observation loadform (http://biodiversity.sk.ca/Docs/SKCDCLoadform.xlsx).</p>
Non-Standard Mitigation (complete all sections if standard mitigation above will not be implemented)	<p><i>Provide a rationale for not implementing the standard mitigation described above when caribou are observed:</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Describe proposed alternative mitigation to minimize sensory disturbance to caribou associated with proposed project activities when caribou are observed:</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Describe proposed alternative caribou observation reporting procedure:</i></p> <hr/>

TABLE 3. Projects in SK2 Tier 3 CHMAs

New or Re-opened Access	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (i.e. project does not require creation of new access or re-opening access)	
Standard Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> New or re-opened access will be reclaimed prior to permit expiry by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redistributing slash (including snow, where applicable) along the entire length of the new or re-opened access <p>If new or re-opened access will not be reclaimed by permit expiry, an application for a right-of-way disposition will be submitted at least six months in advance of permit expiry.</p>
Non-Standard Mitigation (Complete all sections if standard mitigation above will not be implemented)	<p>Provide a rationale for not implementing the standard mitigation described above for the creation of new access or re-opening access:</p> <hr/> <p>Describe how the total length of new access created by the proposed project will be minimized:</p> <hr/> <p>Describe proposed alternative mitigation to minimize the loss and alteration of woodland caribou habitat and minimize the increase in linear feature density associated with new ground access. <u>Examples may include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration of the value of the habitat for woodland caribou where access is planned. - Winter-only ground access (describe how and where winter access will be used to minimize habitat disturbance). - Reclamation of new access by means other than described in the standard mitigation, prior to permit expiry (describe how and when new access will be reclaimed to minimize human and wildlife access and promote natural revegetation).
Temporary Work Camps	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (i.e. no temporary work camps will be required)	
Standard Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary work camp sites will be reclaimed prior to permit expiry by rolling back stockpiled soil and cleared snow (where applicable) and redistributing slash. <p>If a temporary work camp site will not be completely demobilized and reclaimed by permit expiry, an application for an industrial disposition will be submitted at least six months in advance of permit expiry.</p>
Non-Standard Mitigation (Complete all sections if standard mitigation above will not be implemented)	<p>Provide a rationale for not implementing the standard mitigation described above for temporary work camp sites:</p> <hr/> <p>Describe proposed alternative mitigation to minimize the loss and alteration of woodland caribou habitat associated with vegetation clearing and ground disturbance at temporary work camp sites. <u>Examples may include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reclamation of new temporary work camp clearings by means other than described in the standard mitigation, prior to permit expiry (describe how and when temporary work camps will be reclaimed to promote natural revegetation).
Vegetation Clearing (excluding for Temporary Work Camps)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (i.e. no vegetation clearing will be completed for drilling or helicopter pads)	
Standard Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearing size for drill pads or helicopter pads will not exceed 900 m ² , unless drill pads are designed to accommodate multiple drill rigs to minimize the total cleared area required. <p>AND</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Any newly cleared drill pads will be reclaimed prior to permit expiry by rolling back all stripped soil and cleared snow (where applicable) and redistributing stockpiled slash over the opening.
Non-Standard Mitigation (Complete all sections if standard mitigation above will not be implemented)	<p>Provide a rationale for not implementing the standard mitigation for vegetation clearing:</p> <hr/> <p>Describe proposed alternative mitigation to minimize the loss and alteration of woodland caribou habitat associated with vegetation clearing. <u>Examples may include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A description of how the total area cleared will be minimized. - Complete clearing only during frozen, snow-covered ground conditions (describe how and where this clearing practice will be employed, to minimize habitat disturbance; include information on planned clearing sizes). - Consideration of the value of the habitat for woodland caribou where clearing will occur. - Reclamation of new clearings by means other than described in the standard mitigation, prior to permit expiry (describe how and when new clearings will be reclaimed to promote natural revegetation).

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Table 3. Completed.

Geophysical Line Cutting	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (i.e. no geophysical line cutting will be completed)	
Standard Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical line cutting will meet all of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lines will be cut with hand tools only; • Low impact cutting techniques will be employed (e.g. removing branches instead of cutting trees); and • Lines will be ≤ 1.5 m wide and slash lines will be ≤ 1 m wide.
Non-Standard Mitigation (Complete all sections if standard mitigation above will not be implemented)	<i>Provide a rationale for not implementing the standard mitigation measures for geophysical line cutting:</i>
	<i>Describe proposed alternative mitigation to minimize the loss and alteration of woodland caribou habitat and increase in linear feature density associated with geophysical line cutting:</i>
Response to Caribou Observations	
Standard Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> In active travel and work areas (i.e. excluding daily activity in temporary work camps), unless worker safety will be compromised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stationary or mobile motorized equipment will not start up if caribou are observed up to 500 m away; and • stationary and mobile motorized equipment will idle down if caribou are observed up to 500 m away; and • regular activities will proceed only when at least one of the following conditions is met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ caribou are out of sight of the active travel or work area; ○ caribou are more than 500 m away from the active travel or work area; or ○ at least 30 minutes has elapsed. <p>AND</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Aircraft will not land within 500 m of an observed caribou, unless required for safety reasons. <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (i.e. no helicopter use) <p>AND</p> <input type="checkbox"/> The Ministry of Environment Ecological Management Specialist will be notified if caribou or recent (i.e. since the last rain or snowfall) caribou sign (pellets, tracks, cratering) are observed in the project area. Additional mitigation measures may be recommended in higher risk situations (e.g. observations of cow-calf pairs, observations of congregations of caribou or repeated observations of caribou over a short time in the same area). <input type="checkbox"/> All caribou observations will also be submitted to the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre Report a Woodland Caribou Sighting website (https://biodiversity.sk.ca/reportcaribou.htm) or using the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre Incidental Species Observation loadform (http://biodiversity.sk.ca/Docs/SKCDCLoadform.xlsx).
Non-Standard Mitigation (complete relevant sections if applicable standard mitigation above will not be implemented)	<i>Provide a rationale for not implementing the standard mitigation measures when caribou are observed:</i>
	<i>Describe proposed alternative mitigation to minimize sensory disturbance to caribou associated with proposed project activities when caribou are observed:</i>
	<i>Describe proposed alternative caribou observation reporting procedure:</i>

TABLE 4. Additional Best Practice Recommendations (for information only)**Operating Period**

- Minimize all project activities, including helicopter and other aircraft activity, during the sensitive timing window to the greatest extent possible.
- Execute low-flying (<300 m above ground level) airborne geophysical programs outside the sensitive timing window, where possible.

Aircraft

- Where safe and practical, fixed wing and helicopter flights should maintain an altitude of at least 300 m above ground level when flying above caribou.

Ground Access

- Minimize total length of new access by using existing access first, then creating new access only if necessary
- Where possible, coordinate new access with other land users.
- Where possible, construct new access to minimize lines of sight.
- Where possible, construct and use winter-only access during frozen, snow covered (e.g. 30 cm snow pack) conditions instead of all season access to minimize ground disturbance and damage to ground lichens where present.
- Reclamation of new access is intended to minimize ongoing human access and wildlife movement to promote habitat regeneration and reduce predator efficiency. Careful attention to reclamation at intersections with existing access routes is important to achieving this outcome.
- Planting appropriate tree species during reclamation of new access should be considered where feasible and appropriate for the ecological conditions to accelerate the return of vegetation cover to a pre-disturbance state.

Temporary Work Camps

- Locate new temporary work camps in existing locations or natural openings, where possible, to minimize the area cleared.
- Minimize new clearing for core storage and fire breaks around temporary work camps to that required for safety.
- Conduct mechanized clearing in winter on frozen, snow-covered ground (e.g. 30 cm snow pack), where possible to minimize ground disturbance and damage to ground lichens where present.
- Follow best practices to minimize wildlife attractants at temporary work camps (i.e. SMEGAC BMP 003 or equivalent) and comply with Section 18.44 of *The Wildlife Regulations*.

Vegetation Clearing

- Locate drill pads and helipads in existing locations or natural openings, where possible, to minimize area cleared.
- Locate drill pads and helipads outside of high potential woodland caribou habitat, where possible.
- Conduct mechanized clearing in winter on frozen, snow-covered ground (e.g. 30 cm snow pack), where possible to minimize ground disturbance and damage to ground lichens where present.
- Reclamation of helipads by redistributing stockpiled slash is encouraged to the extent possible, except where there are safety concerns

Geophysical Line Cutting

- Maintain line of sight < 200 m where practical through meandering GPS line cutting or doglegs at intersections, unless in an open area where lines of sight naturally exceed 200 m. Doglegs refer to a bend in a line following an intersection to minimize the line of sight down the line from the intersection.
- Use remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS/drones) where feasible for geophysical surveys, outside the sensitive timing window, where practical.

Caribou Observations

- In higher risk situations (e.g. observations of cow-calf pairs, observations of congregations of caribou), idle down periods longer than 30 minutes should be observed where safe and practical to allow caribou additional time to move away from project activities.