



## PROJECT PROFILE:

# ALGAR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES ASSESSMENT

## EVALUATING THE BENEFITS OF LAND RESTORATION

The Landscape Ecological Assessment and Planning (LEAP) Algar Caribou Habitat Restoration Project was a multi-year Canada Oil Sands Innovation Alliance (COSIA) funded program, aimed at reclaiming approximately 390 kilometres of legacy seismic lines in Northeast Alberta.

### PROJECT LEAD

Silvacom

### OVERVIEW

This project was a multi-phase, multi-year research initiative using a proof of concept that assessed the potential for conservation offsets to be a driver in land reclamation and restoration, and devised frameworks for assessing ecosystem services and biodiversity benefits from linear restoration of legacy seismic lines.

The project included cross-sector support and collaboration from multiple stakeholders, including Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI), Alberta Innovates, Alberta Environment and Parks, InnoTech Alberta, University of Alberta and representation from the Energy and Forestry sectors.

### OUTCOMES

During Phase 1, a proof of concept to create a repeatable framework was designed to estimate the net benefit from restoration efforts undertaken in the boreal forest. The findings revealed that there can be significant ecosystem

service gains to be realized from undertaking land restoration.

The results of Phase 1 spurred interest in understanding how linear restoration may fit into a potential conservation offset scheme in Alberta. Through a second phase, this project furthered the development of a repeatable, transferable and implementable approach to evaluate the net benefit of restoration activities in the boreal forest.

### THE ESN CONNECTION

- What are the outcomes for ES associated with land restoration?
- What are the benefits and costs?
- Could land restoration play a key role in Alberta's conservation offsets market?

### LEARN MORE

About the project at [silvacom.com/review-algar-ecosystem-service-project/](http://silvacom.com/review-algar-ecosystem-service-project/)

About the ESN at [ecoservicesnetwork.ca](http://ecoservicesnetwork.ca) and follow us on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn