



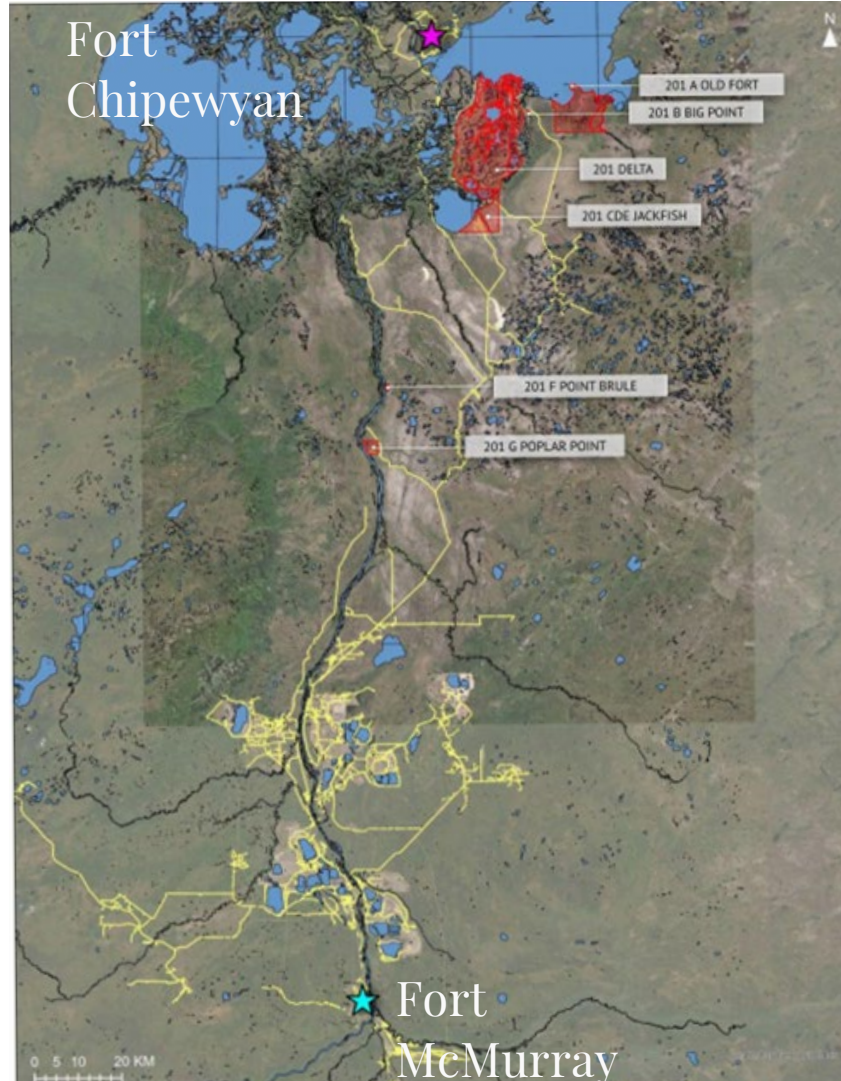
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Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Tâdzié / Sagow Atihk Stewardship Plan



Overview

1. Why Section 11 SARA?
2. What was the journey?
3. Importance of our Treaty
4. How many Section 11 agreements do we have?
5. Where are we now?
6. What's next for our Future Generations?
7. How do we hold Governments and Industry Accountable?



OUR RESERVES ARE FOUND ALONG THE
ATHABASCA RIVER AND WITHIN THE PEACE
ATHABASCA DELTA. Our reserves are directly
downstream of the world's largest Oil Sands
Operations.

ACFN LED STUDIES

Ronald Lake Bison

The Ronald Lake Bison herd is a distinct and unique herd on ACFN traditional territory. ACFN monitors this herd for future sustainability.

Lower Athabasca Surface Water and Sediment Quality

Criteria for Protection of Indigenous Use

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Approved for release on April 3, 2023

ACFN-MCFN TÂDZIÉ-SAGOW ATIIK STEWARDSHIP PLAN

for the Richardson, Red Earth, East Side of
the Athabasca River and West Side of the
Athabasca River Boreal Caribou Ranges



As Long as the Rivers Flow

Athabasca River Knowledge, Use and Change

Tar Sands Impacts





“We protect the area that we love, we use the the resources that are out there. Our resources happen to be birds, plants, buffalo, moose. [It is the] same with Alberta, but their resources happen to be minerals, oil, and they are using their resources as well. We should be able to manage those resources.”

–Community member, 2019 Workshop

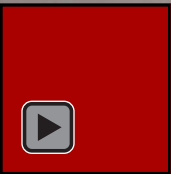


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Our Homelands

- Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation area sovereign nation of our homelands
- Responsible for stewarding the lands and waters of our homelands
- Our homelands must be managed through Dené Laws

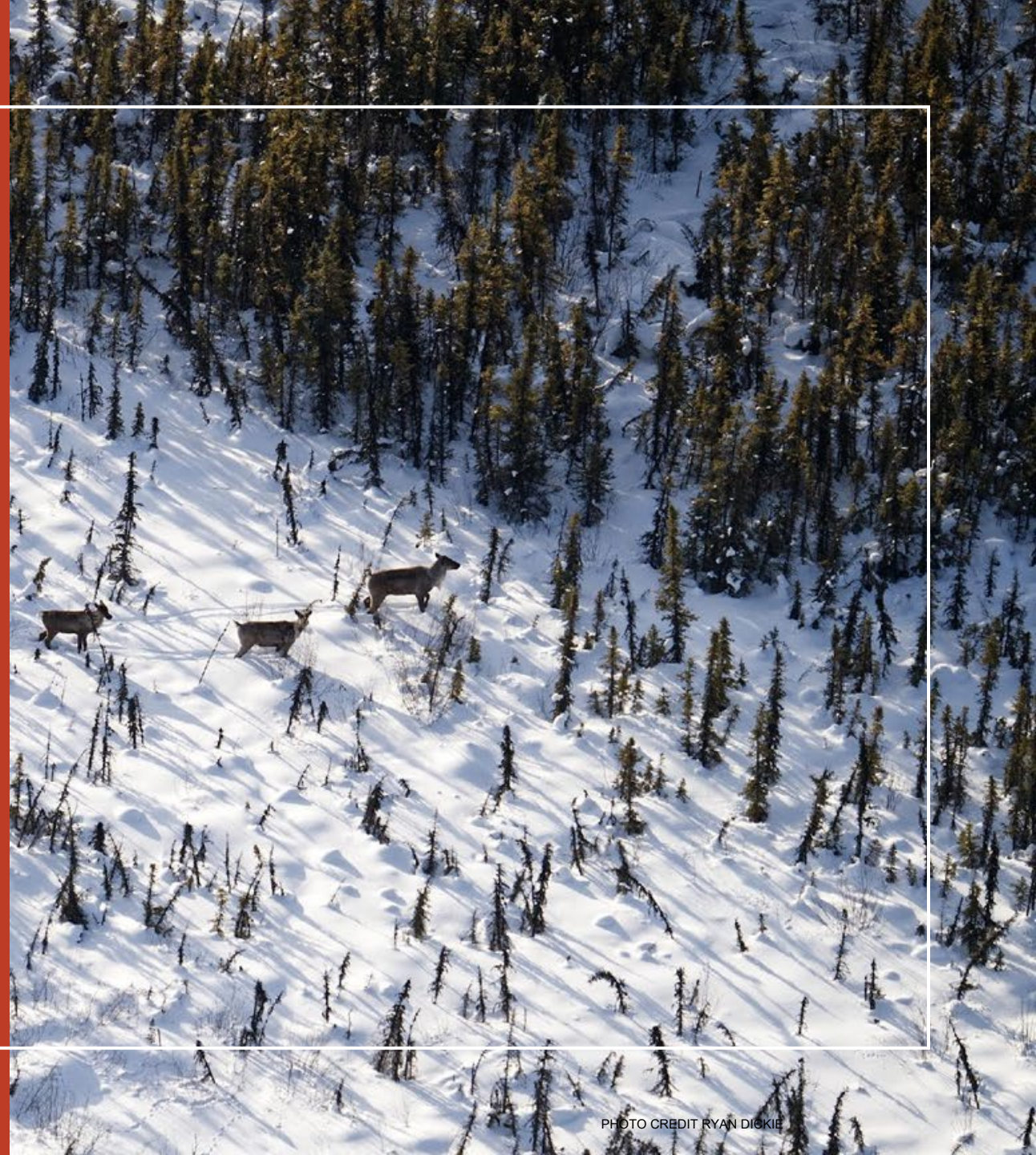


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Need for Meaningful Action

- Canada is a signatory to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Tâdzié / sagow atihk populations continue to decline
- Boreal wetlands continue to be lost
- Little being done to stop these losses



“They [industry] are taking more land and taking more of the habitat that the caribou need ... They get away from that industry and they’re going farther west and they are going farther east. Where it is quiet, where they can raise their kids actually. And have that freedom again. And if we don’t do something about them, we are going to have nothing again.” –ACFN member, October 2, 2020

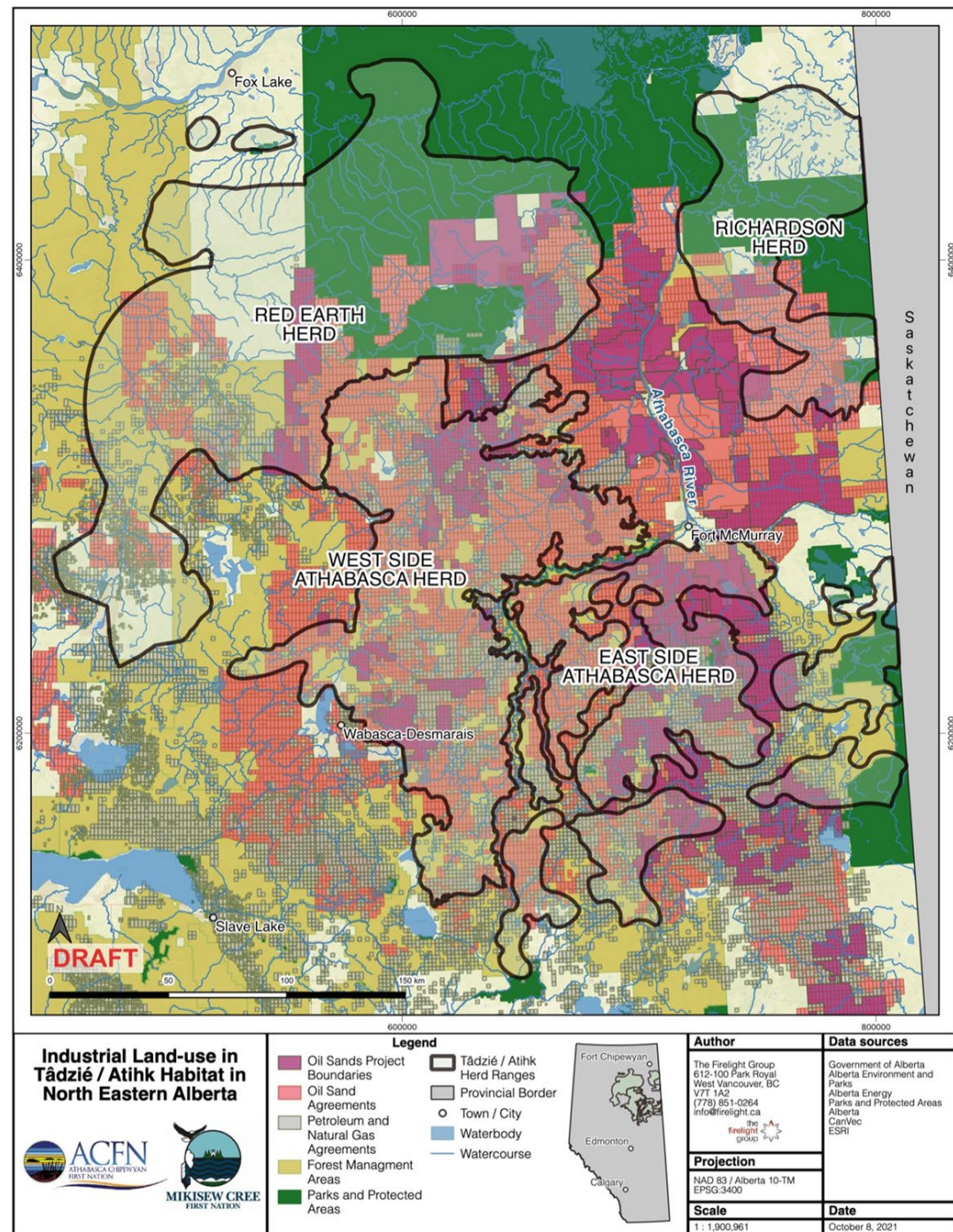


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Status of Tâdzié / Sagow Atihk in Northeastern Alberta

- Populations are being pushed to the brink of extirpation
- Listed as threatened species
- Lack of effective range plans to protect critical habitat
- None of the ranges in Alberta meet the critical habitat condition threshold





Engagements with the Communities

- October 2020: Two half-day workshops, two on the land visits, and twelve interviews
- April/June 2021: Two verification sessions
- August 2022: Five-day tâdzié / sagow atihk camp

What We Heard From Elders and Knowledge Holders

- Follow Dené and Cree laws and stewardship protocols
- Elders Declaration that asserts authority, jurisdiction and legal framework
- Everything is guided by the Dené and Cree laws, stewardship protocols and Elders Declaration
- Populations and habitat need to be replenished and restored



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Methods Used In Developing The Plan

- Indigenous knowledge was put front and centre
- Western science data and knowledge informed planning
- Indigenous knowledge and western science on both used to support tâdzié / sagow atihk recovery
- Maximize benefits for tâdzié / sagow atihk and minimize conflicts with industrial development



Tâdzié / Sagow Atihk Stewardship Plan Goal

Recover tâdzié / sagow atihk populations to the extent that ACFN and MCFN can once again rely on tâdzié / sagow atihk for subsistence and cultural practices. This full goal must be met in no longer than 40 years, with measurable and verified progress being achieved in set periods within that timeline. To meet this goal, knowledge holders identified a target of 80% undisturbed habitat within tâdzié / sagow atihk ranges by 2061, with calving habitats targeted at 100% disturbance free. In addition to being disturbance free, this habitat must contain all of the qualities required by tâdzié / sagow atihk to meet their needs throughout each season.



Four Core Actions

1. Elders Declaration
2. Stewardship Zones
3. Guardianship Program
4. Stewardship Protocols

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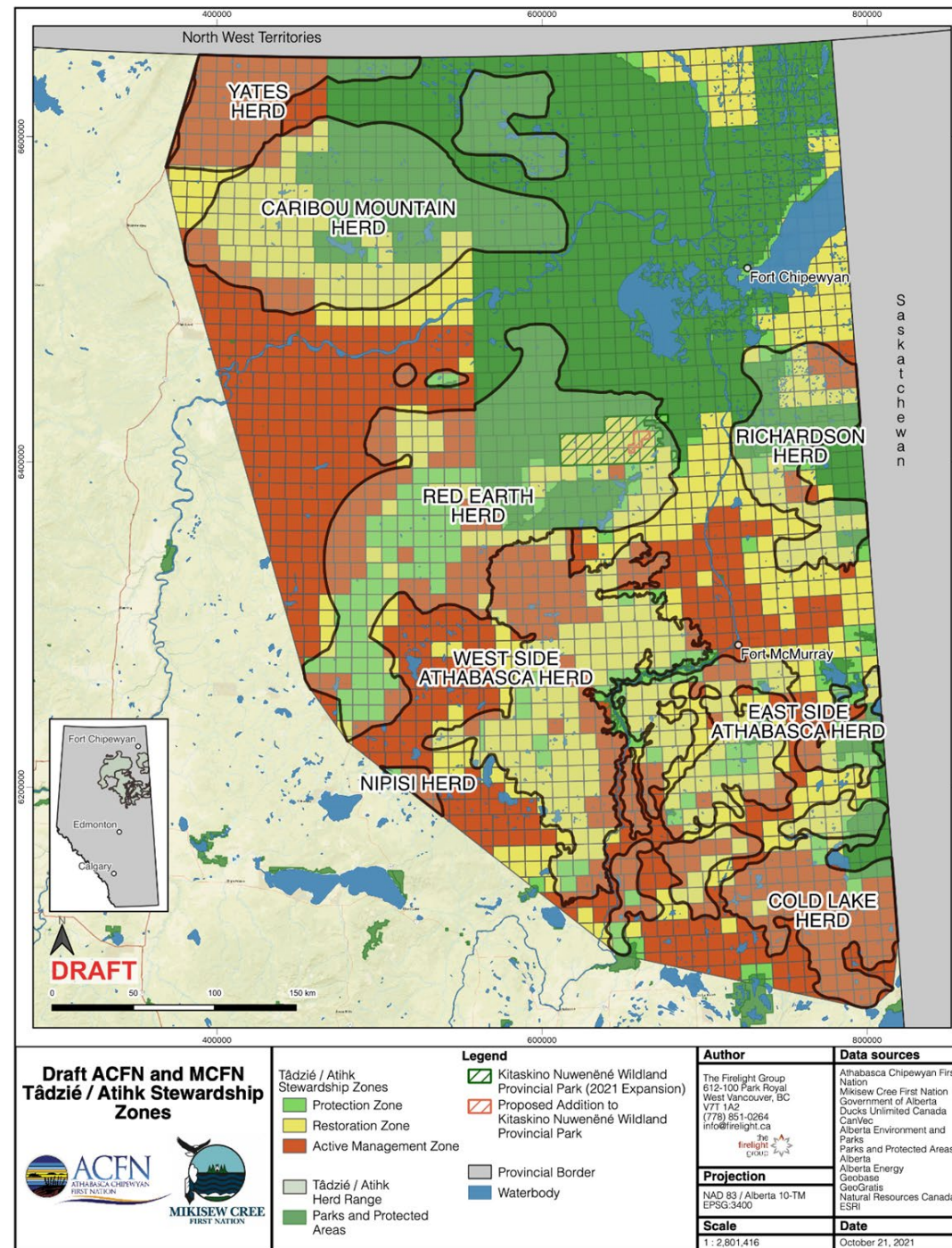
1. Elders Declaration

- Elder's Declaration is a legal document that needs to be followed
- Describes the Nations authority, jurisdiction, rights and responsibilities to the stewardship of tâdzié / sagow atihk
- Informs standards for tâdzié / sagow atihk management based on:
 - ACFN and MCFN values
 - Dené and Cree Laws
 - Stewardship protocols

2. Stewardship Zones

- Stewardship zones to protect and restore habitat
- Used data and information from Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science
- Methods:
 - Compile data and information
 - Create planning blocks
 - Apply rules to identify stewardship zones





Protection Zone	Restoration Zone	Active Management Zone
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect these areas.• The best remaining habitat• All industrial encumbrances must be removed.• Goal of having full protection within 10 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restore these areas.• Good habitat for caribou, but highly disturbed.• Move to protection over time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High densities of active industry.• Must be better managed for caribou in future using Stewardship protocols.



3. Guardianship

- Boots on the ground monitoring
- Led by Elders and knowledge holders
- Follow Dené and Cree Laws
- Guided by our stewardship values and protocols
- Involve our community members
- Involve our youth and help reconnect them to the land and tâdzié / sagow atihk

4. Stewardship Protocols

- Stewardship protocols protect our inherent rights and Treaty rights
 - Cultural training
 - Industrial guidance to reduce development footprint
 - Tenure management
 - Restoration
 - Offsetting
 - Wildfire Management
- All governments and organizations working within our homelands will need to follow appropriate stewardship protocols



Next Steps

- Refining the stewardship zones
- Meeting with governments to identify approaches for implementing the stewardship zones
- Rebuilding Guardianship and monitoring programs (**core action 3**)
- Working with the province and industry to action management measures in the restoration zone
- Finalize the Stewardship Protocols (**core action 4**)
- Establish a wildlife management board with Indigenous communities and organizations



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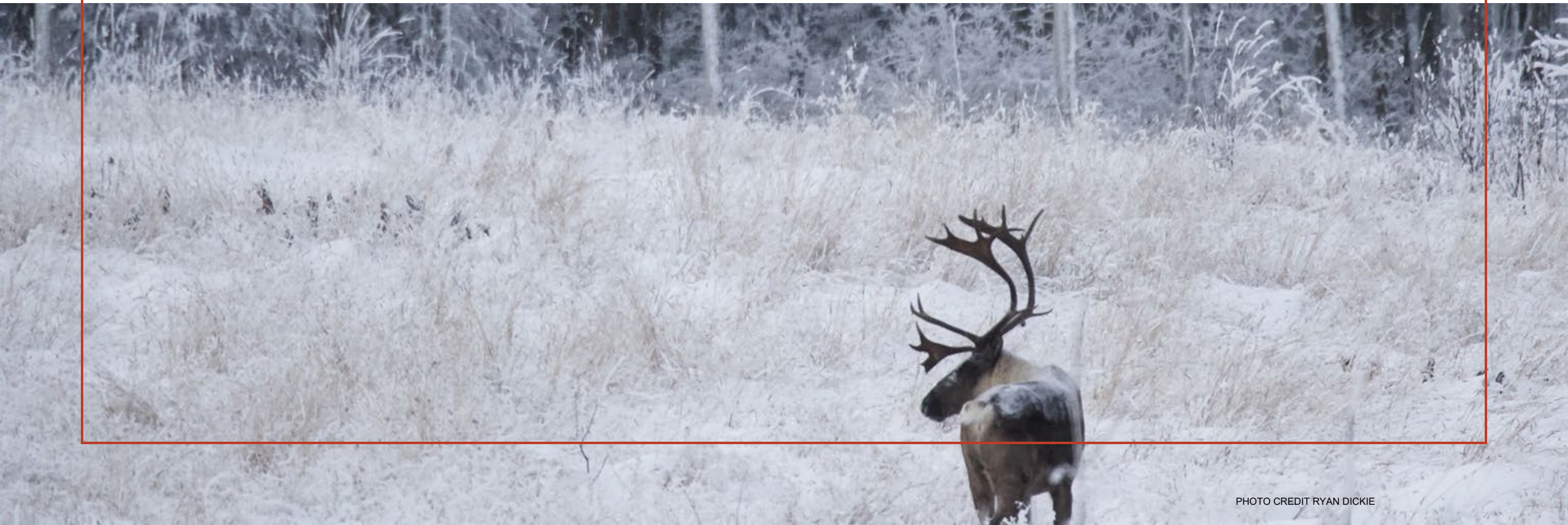


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