

# LET IT GROW

## Influence of regeneration lags and growth trajectories on tree recovery

Tens of thousands of kilometers of seismic lines crisscross the Athabasca oil sands region of Alberta. These disturbances contribute to declines in threatened woodland caribou, making restoration imperative. To strategically plan and properly allocate seismic line restoration efforts, it is important to understand where forests may recover passively and which areas may require active treatment.

Between 2016 and 2022, we sampled naturally regenerating trees on 344 seismic lines with minimal human disturbance.

We found that **regeneration lag** (time it takes trees to start growing after either seismic line creation or wildfire) and how **quickly trees grew once established** impact forest recovery rates.

