BEST PRACTICES AND PROJECT OUTCOMES

To-date, a number of key learnings have derived from the project outcomes that support further exploration and testing of a Leapfrog approach on a larger scale as one method to boost the efficiency of implementing linear restoration treatments while achieving the goals and objectives of caribou habitat restoration.

Key outcomes in this project to-date (including Phase 1) are:

- Developed monitoring practices using both ground plot surveys and aerial imagery.

- Preliminary results indicate vegetation (trees) closer to the edge of treatment experience more change than untreated portions further away from the edge of treatment.

- Untreated portions of the Leapfrog line appear to experience more vegetation changes than untreated lines.

- Restoration conducted in Algar is on track to meet and sometimes surpass the Draft Provincial Restoration and Establishment Framework for Legacy Seismic Lines in Alberta (the Framework) criteria

- Leapfrog treatments are successfully following similar trends to fully treated lines in meeting monitoring criteria

- Algar treatments are meeting expectations across site types except in rich fens

- High-resolution imagery products from UAS can be used to semi-automatically identify tree species and potentially support monitoring assessments under the Framework.

- A Step in developing more efficient linear restoration programs