BEST PRACTICES AND PROJECT OUTCOMES

The value derived from this project is not limited to the results from the field and analysis.

The outcomes of this research do show validation of previously identified results which indicated some degrees of site success on fen sites, however, there is room for correction. Previously, Silvacom identified some potential considerations for future versions of the Draft Provincial Restoration and Establishment Framework for Legacy Seismic Lines in Alberta (The Framework) [5]. Alternative requirements should be considered for linear restoration at rich fen and poor fen sites. Restoration targets on fen sites should consider other vegetation criteria (not just trees) as indicators of site success, especially in the medium term (10-20 years).

Key learnings about previous research outlined in the literature review helped provide context for how this study could be conducted and how the results of this project align with other research.

Key project outcomes:

- o Testing of the monitoring practices for aerial surveys and aerial imagery analysis under the Establishment Survey of the Framework.

- o Furthered our knowledge of restoration outcomes within fen ecosites to help develop more efficient linear restoration programs.

- o Fen sites can achieve Framework establishment targets, but results are inconsistent. The effectiveness of the treatment is heavily dependent on several factors and needs to be adjusted to accommodate the conditions of the surrounding forest and relative benefit.

- o Aerial assessments function well to cover large areas of a project and extract landscape line segment stocking rates. It is not as functional as ground surveys to identify site-specific conditions that may explain restoration success.

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