



## BACKGROUNDER

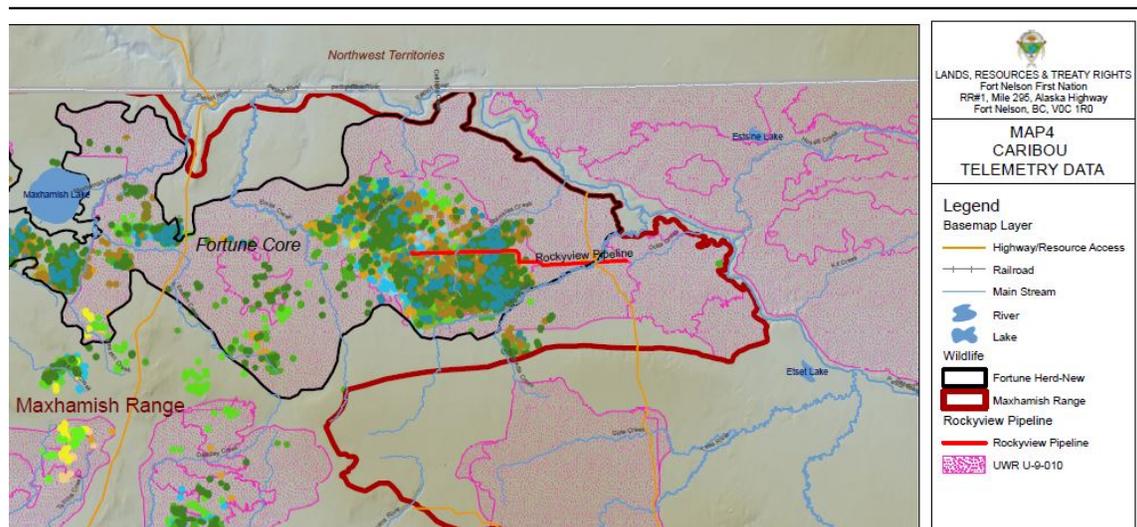
### Fort Nelson First Nation (FNFN) files for judicial review to protect threatened boreal caribou

#### Summary of Proposed Project

- The project proponent is Rockyview Resources Inc. and Shanghai Energy Corporation.
- The proponent is seeking a permit from the BC Oil and Gas Commission (BCOGC) for the construction of a 12" gas pipeline for 39 kms in the Petitot River/Dilly Creek area of FNFN Territory.
- The pipeline would run from Rockyview's tenure area (wellsite) to the Shanghai Petitot pipeline.
- The proposed pipeline project would result in 78 ha of disturbance to habitat across a variety of wetland complexes.

#### High-level Findings From the *FNFN Caribou Report*

- *FNFN's Caribou Report* shows fundamental flaws in the proponent's approach (found in its *Caribou Management Plan*) to dealing with caribou.
- The proposed pipeline would traverse the Fortune Core, which includes the area where the Maxhamish range boreal caribou population and habitat will be heavily impacted (see caribou telemetry data in the image below).



- Population in the Maxhamish range has decreased from 306 to 104 caribou since 2004, a potential decline of more than 66%.
- Calf survival rates are consistently below the level required to avoid further population declines in the area.
- The Maxhamish Range habitat currently stands at a disturbance level of 74%, which is well past the minimum accepted threshold of 35% for achieving self-sustaining population (*Environment Canada Recovery Strategy 2012*).
- Linear feature density is at 3.74 km/kms in the Maxhamish range, well beyond the threshold for stable boreal caribou populations.
- Within 5 km of the proposed pipeline, the current density of linear features (such as roads, railways, oil and gas transmission pipelines, power and data transmission lines, and rivers) is 4.9 km/km<sup>2</sup> and the level of disturbed habitat is 96%. This is well past the known threshold for population decline, thus increasing mortality risks to boreal caribou.

### **Boreal Caribou Population and FNFN Treaty Rights**

- The boreal woodland caribou are listed as a threatened species due to the to the expansion of industry into the boreal forest.
- Under the federal Species At Risk Act (SARA), all woodland caribou populations in Canada have been identified as needing special management actions because of their declining population trends.
- FNFN is working to help recover caribou populations to help restore its treaty right to hunt caribou, which is protected under Treaty 8 and Section 35 of Canada's constitution.

### **FNFN Supports Resource Development**

- FNFN supports development and operation in its territory, as long as the proponent and FNFN's objectives align.
- From July 2014 - August 2015, 411 referrals for projects in FNFN Territory were processed under the Interim Consultation Process (ICP) with the BCOGC.
- Over the past year, 77 referrals for projects in FNFN Territory were processed. Only one was rejected: Rockyview's proposal.