



## STAFF REPORT

**Title:** Nomination for Appointment to Northeast Caribou Sub-Regional Task Force

**Meeting Date:** September 10, 2019

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### **Executive Summary:**

The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) has recommended and nominated His Worship Mayor Craig Copeland for inclusion on a sub-regional task force (to the Caribou Range Task Forces) mandated to study the Government of Alberta's proposed caribou range plan as an AUMA representative.

In its terms of reference, the Government of Alberta states that achieving these plans has been a challenge and that it is seeking a "holistic" approach to caribou recovery that is expected to take into account the species' recovery, multi-species conservation, economic opportunities, recreational pursuits and other societal interests, and impacts on the exercise of Treaty rights and traditional uses.

The AUMA has been asked to put forward one name from municipalities for each of the Sub-Regional Task Forces: West-Central Sub-regional Task Force - Upper Smoky Planning Area; Northwest Sub-regional Task Force - Bistcho Lake Planning Area; and the Northeast Sub-regional Task Force - Cold Lake Planning Area.

Work on the sub-regional task forces is expected to start in the coming weeks.

### **Background:**

Woodland Caribou are listed as Threatened under the federal Species at Risk Act and the provincial Wildlife Act. Their populations are in decline, due in large part to predation and loss of habitat, according to Alberta Environment and Parks.

The Government of Alberta has a Draft Provincial Woodland Caribou Range Plan, but it is hoping to gather broader stakeholder feedback, beginning with the sub-regional task forces, prior to the adoption of a final plan. The task forces will include members from municipalities, First Nations, Metis Settlements, environmental NGOs, the forest industry, the energy industry, trappers, and other land users.

The sub-regional task forces will be mandated to advise the Government of Alberta on the planning process and the content of the draft plan, and ensure that the process includes a comprehensive social-economic impact assessment. They will also design



the process to have regional groups be involved in the development of sub-regional plans.

Its' recommendations will be submitted to the Government of Alberta through the Minister of Environment and Parks.

**Alternatives:**

- Council may pass a motion to support the nomination and appointment of Mayor Craig Copeland to a sub-regional task force mandated to study the Government of Alberta's proposed caribou range plan.
- Council may respectfully decline to support the nomination and appointment of Mayor Craig Copeland to a sub-regional task force mandated to study the Government of Alberta's proposed caribou range plan.

**Recommended Action:**

Administration recommends that council passes a motion to support the nomination and appointment of Mayor Craig Copeland to a sub-regional task force mandated to study the Government of Alberta's proposed caribou range plan.

**Budget Implications (Yes or No):**

No

**Submitted by:**

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer