

Planting trees to support caribou

2:13 minutes

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In the summer of 2015, we finished ground work on a precedent-setting pilot project called LiDea.

That's short for **L**inear **D**eactivation.

A team of tree planters

115,000 seedlings

A network of old seismic lines

An August long weekend

[Michael Cody, Senior Environmental Advisor]

We have two helicopters, we've got 24 planters and they will plant 115,000 trees over the weekend and about 90 kilometres.

We're doing all of this in order to restore old seismic lines that we're not recovering to forest rapidly and they become habitat that moose and deer may use and wolves use to hunt efficiently so we're trying to restore the characteristics of an older growth forest. Which is this course, woody debris, this surface roughness and then the conifer trees that are planted on the line.

Given the high water table, wet ground, it's a tough place for trees to grow. What we've done is treated the lines with mounding, which is a forestry technique to basically move some of

the surface material into a mound like this. Plant the tree in, where it's got a warmer, dryer place to grow.

Here we've got a large seedling planted that was just planted into this mound and this is exactly what we're looking for the planter to do is to get these high spots.

We're in the last year of tree planting for LiDea. It's a three-year program; following this the project moves into simply a monitoring phase where we will look for how the plants and animals respond to this treatment.

Twenty to thirty years from now we hope that this chunk of line is nearly indistinguishable from the forest that surround it.

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During its three-year LiDea project, Cenovus:

- Treated 237 kilometres of seismic line
- Planted 270,000 trees

To find out more visit, Cenovus.com