



The Human Footprint Inventory (HFI) for Alberta 2022

Version 1.0

Metadata Documentation



ABMI ALBERTA BIODIVERSITY
MONITORING INSTITUTE



Table of Contents

Contents

1. Overview	1
1.1. Summary	1
1.2. Description.....	1
1.3. Document History	2
1.4. Methods.....	3
1.5. Credits.....	4
1.6. Acknowledgments	5
1.7. Human Footprint Definition.....	6
1.8. Contact Information	7
1.9. Keywords	7
1.10. Citation.....	7
1.11. Use Limitations	7
2. Data Product Specifications.....	10
2.1. Spatial Resolution	10
2.2. Processing Environment	10
2.3. Resource Maintenance	10
2.4. Spatial Reference	10
2.5. Lineage.....	10
3. HFI Integrated Dataset	11
4. Updates to HFI Sublayers and Feature Types.....	12
4.1 Harvest Areas.....	12
4.2 Seismic Lines and Trails.....	13
5. HFI Sublayers	14
5.1. (01) Reservoirs	14



5.2. (02) Borrow Pits, Sumps, Dugouts, and Lagoons (BPSDL).....	15
5.3. (03) Roads	18
5.4. (04) Railways.....	20
5.5. (05) Canals	21
5.6. (06) Verges.....	22
5.7. (07) Mine Sites.....	23
5.8. (08) Industrial Sites	26
5.9. (09) Well Sites Active	28
5.10. (10) Landfills.....	30
5.11. (11) Other Vegetated Surfaces	30
5.12. (12) Wind Generation Facilities	31
5.13. (13) Transmission Lines.....	32
5.14. (14) Confined Feeding Operations (CFO)	33
5.15. (15) Urban and Rural Residential	34
5.16. (16) Well Sites Abandoned	36
5.17. (17) Cultivation	37
5.18. (18) Timber Harvest and Woody Vegetation Removal	43
5.19. (19) Pipelines	44
5.20. (20) Seismic Lines and Trails	46
6. HFI Linear Features.....	47
6.1. (01) Roads Linear Features	48
6.2. (04) Railways - Linear Features	49
6.3. (13) Transmission Lines - Linear Features.....	49
6.4. (19) Pipelines - Linear Features.....	50
6.5. (20) Seismic Lines and Trails - Linear Features	50
7. HFI Feature Attributes	51
8. HFI Reference and Source Datasets	58
8.1. Data sources	58
8.2. Data Source Thematic and Spatial Accuracy.....	63

1. Overview

1.1. Summary

This dataset represents the Human Footprint Inventory 2022 (HFI2022). The HFI2022 maps human footprint features across Alberta, Canada. The dataset is intended to aid human footprint and land use inquiries.

1.2. Description

The Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI) uses existing available datasets (Alberta Base Features, Inventories, Road/Railway Networks, etc.) as the starting point for this product. The dataset is then further updated using imagery from the Satellite pour l'Observation de la Terre 6 (SPOT6) to interpret anthropogenic disturbances on the land surface. Thematic mapping or image interpretation requires professional judgment, skill, knowledge and expertise to create the human footprint dataset in a very complex land use environment. It is expected that the final dataset has an element of thematic accuracy. The list of expected thematic accuracies depending on data source is available in the Appendix of this document.

The 2022 SPOT6 mosaic contains approximately 0.15% of imagery acquired in 2021, and comprises 99.85% imagery acquired in 2022. This SPOT6 mosaic circa 2022 was used for human footprint updates. Figure 1 displays spatial distribution of satellite imagery coverage for years 2022, and 2021.

Representative human footprint polygons were delineated for 113 feature types, which were organized into 20 final sublayers.

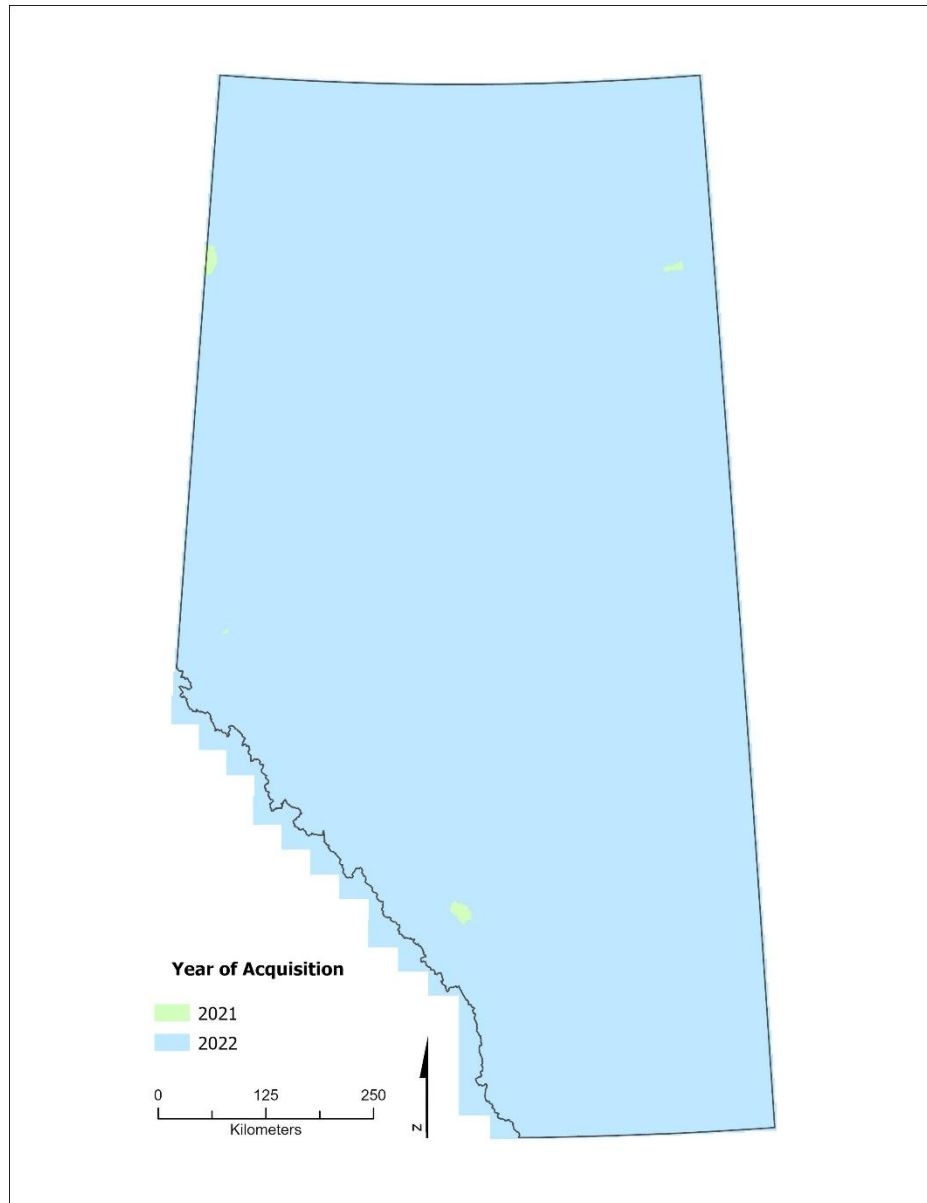


Figure 1: Spatial distribution of satellite imagery acquisition period, available for 2022 SPOT6 mosaic in Alberta.

1.3. Document History

Update Date	Version	Section(s)	Description of Changes
2025-03-31	1.0	All	Initial full (final) version of HFI2022
2024-05-06	1.1	5.9 Well Sites Active	Missing Well Pads from Initial version were added to sublayer and Integrated dataset was updated
		5.9 Well Pads	A small number of misidentified well pads were moved to the industrial sublayer and Integrated dataset was updated
		6.5 Seismic Line and Trails Linear Features	Misnamed Trails features were renamed to Other-Linear-Features

1.4. Methods

The ABMI updates Human Footprint Inventory information annually. The entire province was examined at a 1:30,000 scale to delineate all detectable human footprints. All of the features were created and/or verified using heads-up digitizing at a 1:5,000 scale. All of the human footprint attributes were manually interpreted from satellite imagery. Government of Alberta Base Feature Datasets were used as a base layer.

This process was conducted for 2022 using SPOT6 satellite imagery. Dates were acquired from multiple imagery sources. 1950 using orthorectified aerial imagery, 1980 using orthorectified aerial imagery, 2000 using orthorectified aerial imagery, 2001 and 2004 using IRS satellite imagery for each year, 2005-2012 using SPOT5 satellite imagery for each year, 2013 -2022 using SPOT6 satellite imagery (Table 7).

IMPORTANT:

This version of the ABMI HFI2022 does not account for succession (or reclamation) of human footprint, but treats all types of human footprint on the landscape equally. Put another way, “successional” HF (HF in which natural vegetation regenerates after human disturbance has ceased) is treated the same as “alienating” HF (HF types which are maintained permanently with altered vegetation) despite the vegetation recovery that almost certainly will have occurred since the development. The current dataset does not present age of disturbance or

the current habitat/vegetation cover within features such as harvested areas (previously referred to as cut blocks) or seismic lines.

This product is not error free. We continuously work to improve the accuracy and precision of this product.

This GIS polygon layer is updated annually, and new versions will be released accordingly.

The ABMI Human Footprint Inventory is stored in ESRI File Geodatabase (ArcGIS 10.7.1) format.

1.5. Credits

In addition to the human footprint features, data originating from open sources and created by the ABMI, this dataset includes human footprint data collected and created by the Alberta Human Footprint Monitoring Program and the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, and support from members of the Oil Sands Monitoring program.

1.6. Acknowledgments

In 2014 the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI) initiated work to create a group of organizations to collaborate in the development of human footprint information in a program called the Alberta Human Footprint Monitoring Program (AHFMP), a collaboration initiative between the Government of Alberta, the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI), and non-governmental organizations. The intent was to bring the expertise and resources of various government and non-government organizations to create a common database of human footprint data. The AHFMP governance and organization structure are designed to promote relevancy, accessibility, and transparency of human footprint information. The AHFMP organization structure includes two Committees (Sub and Technical). The Sub Committee is directly involved in the assembling of the enhanced sublayers (i.e., Roads, Railways, and Well Sites) and includes members from the Government of Alberta and the ABMI. Few of the sublayers used in the public version of the Human Footprint Inventory, e.g., the enhanced sublayers for Roads, Railways, Well Sites, and Pipelines sublayers were obtained from the Government of Alberta through the AHFMP. The Technical Committee includes Subject Matter Experts from multiple Government of Alberta Ministries.

1.7. Human Footprint Definition

The ABMI defines Human Footprint (HF) as:

the temporary or permanent transformation of native ecosystems to support residential, recreational or industrial land uses.

Under this definition, HF includes the geographic extent of areas under human use that either have lost their natural cover for extended periods of time (**alienating HF**; e.g., cities, roads, agricultural land, and surface mines) or whose natural cover is periodically reset to earlier successional conditions by industrial activities (**successional HF**; e.g., timber harvest areas and seismic lines).

IMPORTANT:

This dataset does not account for succession or reclamation of human footprint. It is a cumulative record of human disturbances resulting from direct, mechanical activity. The disturbances are in various states of recovery (natural and human-influenced) and the interpretation of whether a disturbance is still considered a footprint is left to the discretion of the user and their specific requirements.

Successional HF is treated the same as alienating HF despite the vegetation recovery that almost certainly will have occurred since the development. Any GIS analysis or subsequent interpretation that does not account for succession or reclamation of alienating/successional HF should be done with caution.

Physical Footprint

Definition adopted from AHFMP (Source: AHFMP Footprint Data Manual.docx):

For the purposes of the AHFMP, this includes any direct physical modifications, temporary or permanent, that humans make to the surface of private, public, or specified (i.e., allocated through Legislation) lands. This includes the pressure (i.e. boundary or area of anthropogenic pressure), and state of the modifications (i.e. attributes describing the nature of the pressure) including what type of activity (well pad, road, etc.) caused the disturbance. The boundary represents the original extent of the disturbance even if the full extent is not visible.

In some situations, the extent of the disturbance was assumed based on operational requirements to construct the feature. For example, the full extent of a well pad in native grasslands is not always visible. The extent of the original disturbance is estimated with reference to disposition boundaries or buffering to allow for the potential disturbance resulting from the equipment used in the construction of the well pad.

1.8. Contact Information

If you have questions or concerns about the data, please contact:

Geospatial Centre
Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
CW 405 Biological Sciences Centre
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6G 2E9
Email: abmiinfo@ualberta.ca

1.9. Keywords

Alberta, anthropogenic, human footprint, reservoirs, borrow pits, sumps, dugouts, lagoons, roads, rails, canals, mines, industrial, oil and gas well pads, landfills, recreation, wind generation facilities, transmission lines, CFO, residential, cultivation, harvested areas, pipelines, seismic lines

1.10. Citation

Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute and Alberta Human Footprint Monitoring Program. ABMI Human Footprint Inventory (HFI) for Alberta 2022 (version 1.0). Geodatabase. Last modified March 31, 2025.

1.11. Use Limitations

1.11.1. Proprietary Sourced Data

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conditions, and other terms of any kind, whether express or implied, whether in contract, tort (including liability for negligence) or otherwise, including, but not limited to any implied term of satisfactory quality, fitness for a particular purpose, and any standard of reasonable care and skill.

IMPORTANT:

Seismic Lines and Trails currently available in the ABMI's HFI2022 are not the complete representation of the seismic lines existing on the land surface. Low impact seismic lines might be missing from this dataset due to low detectability on SPOT imagery and due to the number of features that go beyond current capabilities of heads up digitization on the provincial scale HF dataset. The ABMI's sampling scale HF dataset (Temporal Human Footprint) within boundaries should be used for a more detailed representation of this sublayer within sampling sites (dimensions: 3 km by 7km; distributed in 20 km by 20 km spacing grid).

New Cultivation features created by heads-up digitization ([SOURCE] attribute is either 'ABMI15', 'ABMI16', 'ABMI17', 'ABMI18', 'ABMI19', 'ABMI20', or 'ABMI21') were attributed based on visual interpretation of SPOT6 satellite natural color composite mosaics. HFI dataset has not included a reattribution of existing HFI_2014 cultivation Feature Types to status of circa 2022.

Timber Harvest might include areas that have been cleared for another purpose than timber harvesting (i.e., agricultural use, residential, mine or industrial areas expansion, or fire hazard reduction.)

The Timber Harvest [YEAR] value is the best estimation of the year when the area was harvested. It has been determined by:

- heads up digitization for years 2014 to 2022,
- combination of source data values and remote sensing analysis for years 1985 to 2013,
- source data based for years prior to 1985.

The Pipelines dataset is an estimate of the high-pressure pipelines in the province and is not suitable for locating pipelines on the ground! The data will also contain some low-pressure pipelines. A pipeline corridor is defined by the AHFMP as any linear disturbance created for the purpose of constructing and maintaining pipelines. The pipeline verge estimates the extent of the direct physical disturbance of the pipeline corridor whether it is visible or not on available imagery.

Linear Features datasets should be used as a supporting dataset to polygonal representation of HF features available in HFI2022. There are areas where human footprint is captured in polygon layers (HFI2022 and Sublayers) but is still missing in the Linear Features (Polylines).

Available attribute values of the Linear Features dataset are limited. Polygon layers (HFI and

Sublayers) should be used for geographic extent and more complete thematic information (i.e., available attribution, including source of the data).

2. Data Product Specifications

2.1. Spatial Resolution

Dataset's scale denominator: 30,000

2.2. Processing Environment

Microsoft Windows 10; Esri ArcGIS 10.7.1

2.3. Resource Maintenance

Resource Maintenance updates frequency: as needed

2.4. Spatial Reference

NAD_1983_10TM_AEP_Forest

WKID: 3400 Authority: EPSG

Projection: Transverse Mercator

False Easting: 500000.0

False Northing: 0.0

Central Meridian: -115.0

Scale Factor: 0.9992

Latitude of Origin: 0.0

Linear Unit: Meter (1.0)

Geographic Coordinate System: GCS_North_American_1983

Angular Unit: Degree (0.0174532925199433)

Prime Meridian: Greenwich (0.0)

Datum: D_North_American_1983

Spheroid: GRS_1980

Semi-major Axis: 6378137.0

Semi-minor Axis: 6356752.314140356

Inverse Flattening: 298.257222101

2.5. Lineage

The ABMI's HFI2022 was built using open sourced, proprietary, historical, and remotely sensed data.

Remotely sensed data were used for visual interpretation and heads-up digitization of human footprint features. Assessment analysis was conducted to identify new and missing features, which were then digitized and added to the dataset. This dataset comprises 20 unique Human Footprint categories, i.e., sublayers. This dataset is representative of the visual interpretation of anthropogenic disturbances on the Alberta landscape as seen from various satellite image sources dated to circa 2022 or earlier.

3. HFI Integrated Dataset

The HFI2022 Integrated Dataset is a product of multiple individual sublayers that have been merged into a single layer. Each sublayer is listed in the chapter “HFI Sublayers”, including a detailed description of the layer contents, the data source, and modifications made by the ABMI.

The order of precedence applied during creation of the final HFI Integrated Dataset – i.e., the process of merging the individual sublayers – is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. The order of precedence applied during creation of the final HFI dataset, i.e., merging process of the sublayers. Note that references to sublayers and their file names often include a number indicating their order of precedence.

Order of Precedence	Sublayer
1	Reservoirs
2	Borrow Pits, Sumps, Dugouts and Lagoons
3	Roads
4	Railways
5	Canals
6	Verges
7	Mine Sites
8	Industrial Sites
9	Well Sites Active
10	Landfills
11	Other Vegetated Surfaces
12	Wind Generation Facilities
13	Transmission Lines
14	Confined Feeding Operations (CFO)

15	Urban and Rural Residential
16	Well Sites Abandoned
17	Cultivation
18	Timber Harvest and Woody Vegetation Removal
19	Pipelines
20	Seismic Lines and Trails

4. Updates to HFI Sublayers and Feature Types

In collaboration with the AHFMP, specific sublayers and feature types were renamed and defined to provide more complete information to the data and to align more with industry and government standard terminology and definitions. These new feature types and names were discussed and agreed upon by the ABMI and Government of Alberta collaborators in the AHFMP and documented as Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). For HFI2022 these changes include two sublayers from the HFI: o18_HarvestAreas and o20_SeismicLines_and_Trails.

4.1 Harvest Areas

The harvest areas sublayer in HFI2021 included two feature types: Harvest_Area and Harvest_Area_White_Zone. The timber harvesting classifications will have the highest accuracy in the Green Area of the province and on provincial crown land in the White Area where regulatory data can assist with identification. The removal of trees on private land, Metis Settlements and First Nation Reserves cannot be confirmed as timber harvesting as reference data for these regions do not exist. These clearings may be due to other activities. In HFI 2021 the Harvest Areas sublayer did not differentiate between vegetation removal performed by the forestry industry and removal by private landowners, municipalities, or other industries. This has been addressed in the White Area of Alberta because these areas will have different reclamation criteria. The updated sublayer is renamed for HFI 2022, includes a new sublayer definition as well as renamed and new feature types as follows:

18 Timber Harvest and Woody Vegetation Removal

Areas where woody vegetation has been removed either by the forestry industry (clear-cut, selective harvest, salvage logging, etc.) or by private landowners and municipalities

Feature Type	Specific Definition
Timber-Harvest-Green-Area	Areas in Alberta's forested Green Area where forestry operations have occurred (clear-cut, selective harvest, salvage logging, etc.).
Timber-Harvest-White-Area	Areas in Alberta's unforested White Area where forestry operations have occurred (clear-cut, selective harvest, salvage logging, etc.)
Woody-Vegetation-Removal	Areas in Alberta's unforested white Area where woody vegetation (i.e., shrubs, trees, etc.) has been cleared for purposes unrelated to the forestry industry (e.g. by private landowners or municipalities for fence line clearings, property development etc.)

Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) – EPA/ABMI Human Footprint Inventory (HFI): HFI o18_HarvestAreas_and_WoodyVegetationRemoval (2024)

4.2 Seismic Lines and Trails

The classifications of seismic lines are being reviewed based on newly available information and data provided by various subject matter experts and the GOA. This will result in significant changes in seismic line classifications. The ABMI uses the term “Conventional-Seismic” to define seismic lines that were constructed using older technology that required the lines to be between 5 to 8 meters in width to allow equipment such as vibrator trucks or drilling equipment to operate on the lines. Government and industry have adopted “Legacy-Seismic” to describe these same lines. The ABMI is in the works of adopting this and other terminology in order to align more with government and industry, however this has not been implemented in HFI 2022.

The Seismic Lines and Trails sublayer currently includes three feature types: Conventional-Seismic, Low-Impact-Seismic, and Trails. In order to align with government standards and avoid confusion on designated and undesignated trails, a new feature type and definition that includes the public government [Crown Land Trails dataset](#) has been added to the Seismic Lines and Trails sublayer. The current feature type Trails has been renamed to Other-Linear-Features and a new definition has been created for Rec-Trail.

Feature Type	Specific Definition
Rec-Trail	Crown Land Trails published by Alberta Environment and Protected areas as of Apr. 15, 2024. For more information, please visit the Crown Land Trails - Open Government data link .
Other-Linear-Features	Linear features that are neither managed as recreational trails under the Crown Land Trails dataset and not verified by other reference datasets.

Standard Operating Procedure – EPA/ABMI Human Footprint Inventory: Recreational Trails (2024)

5. HFI Sublayers

5.1. (01) Reservoirs

5.1.1. Feature type: RESERVOIR

General Definition(s): An artificial lake or storage pond resulting from human-made dam.
A body of water created by excavation or the man-made damming of a river or stream.

5.1.1.2. Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Different sizes: ranging from the small ones created by damming small streams for a purpose of watering livestock to large water bodies of hydro dams.
Shape	Dam structure (straight or hyperbolic wall) must be visible on reservoirs created on streams and rivers. Sides of the water body are given by topology of the terrain. Storage pond reservoir shape is given by engineers to fulfill specific needs. There is no front wall but all sides of the storage pond are artificially created.
Shadow	No shadow
Colour	May depend on water depth, but usually in gradients of blue and brown
Texture	Fine
Associated Relationship or Context	Dams must be in valleys of streams and rivers. Storm water storage ponds are located nearby residential areas. Irrigation storage ponds are located nearby agriculture along with irrigation structures – canals, pumps.

5.2. (02) Borrow Pits, Sumps, Dugouts, and Lagoons (BPSDL)

5.2.1. Feature types: BORROWPITS, BORROWPIT-DRY, BORROWPIT-WET, RIS-BORROWPITS

General Definition(s):	Excavation outside of the road right-of-way, made solely for the purpose of removing or providing borrowed material for the construction of the sub-base for a specific roadway project. It includes any other associated infrastructure such as access roads. (<i>ALBERTA TRANSPORTATION; GUIDE TO RECLAIMING BORROW EXCAVATIONS – 2013 Edition</i>).
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Feature Type	Specific Definition
BORROWPITS	Includes pits dug to build forestry and well-site roads. They are usually associated with a road or another structure.
BORROWPIT-DRY	Includes pits dug to build forestry and well-site roads. They are usually associated with a road or another structure. No presence of water.
BORROWPIT-WET	Includes pits dug to build forestry and well-site roads. They are usually associated with a road or another structure. Presence of water confirmed by visual interpretation.
RIS-BORROWPITS	Identifies any area disturbed for the purpose of extraction of aggregate materials including gravel pits in oil sand mines area only.

5.2.1.2. Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Usually smaller excavations, quite often smaller than 1 ha.
Shape	Rectangular- or square-shaped structure, occasionally might be triangular or other shape –following terrain topography and engineering design.
Shadow	No shadows
Colour	Depends whether they are dry or filled with water. Brown/Grey/Blue
Texture	Fine / coarser

Associated Relationship or Context	Always located along roadways.
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5.2.2. Feature type: SUMP

5.2.2.1 Definitions

General Definition(s):	An artificial holding or treatment pond for industrial wastewater. Drilling waste storage system – holding of drilling waste on well sites or remotely. Either earthen excavation (in clayey soils) or sumps lined with a synthetic liner.
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5.2.2.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Smaller to medium size water bodies.
Shape	Usually a rectangular- or square-shaped structure, occasionally might be triangular or other shape –following terrain topography and engineering design. Structural walls might be elevated above surrounding terrain for lined sump.
Shadow	Shadow might be visible if sump walls are elevated above surrounding terrain.
Colour	May depend on water depth, but usually in gradients of blue and brown
Texture	Fine
Associated Relationship or Context	Sumps are industrial structures built as part of the water treatment process, so they are usually located nearby industrial sites and well pads. There is usually a single drilling waste storage structure built for a single well pad/industrial site.

5.2.3. Feature type: DUGOUT

5.2.3.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Small water storage excavations that collect water from runoff from summer rains, a surplus of surface water that occurs during snowmelt in the spring or from groundwater. (*Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, QUALITY FARM DUGOUTS*).

5.2.3.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Usually smaller excavations, quite often smaller than 1 ha.
Shape	A rectangular-, square- or elliptical-shaped structure.
Shadow	No shadows
Colour	Depends whether they are dry or filled with water. Brown/Grey/Blue
Texture	Fine / coarser
Associated Relationship or Context	Usually located along pastures, farms and agriculture areas.

5.2.4. Feature type: LAGOON

5.2.4.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): An artificial holding or treatment ponds for agricultural or municipal wastewater. Human made water and sewage lagoons used for municipal purposes.

5.2.4.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Smaller to medium sized water bodies.
Shape	Usually a rectangular- or square-shaped structure, occasionally might be triangular or other shape –following terrain topography and engineering design. Structural walls are usually elevated above surrounding terrain.
Shadow	Shadow might be visible as lagoons are usually elevated above surrounding terrain.
Colour	May depend on water depth, but usually in gradients of blue and brown
Texture	Fine

Associated Relationship or Context	Lagoons are municipal structures built as part of water treatment facilities, so they are usually located nearby residential areas and within industrial zones.
	Many times there are more than two lagoons built by each other creating a cluster of water bodies.

5.3. (03) Roads

The classifications of roads are being reviewed based on newly available information and data provided by various subject matter experts and the GOA. This may result in significant changes in road classifications and road densities in some areas of the province.

5.3.1. Feature types: ROAD-GRAVEL-xx, ROAD-PAVED-xx, ROAD-UNPAVED-xx, etc.

4.3.1.1. Definitions

General Definition(s): Non-vegetated, impermeable surfaces used for motorized vehicle or aircraft transportation or access.

Feature Type	Specific Definition
AIRP-RUNWAY	An active landing facility for aircraft, usually associated with paved and lighted runways, an operating control tower, and services for aircraft and passengers.
INTERCHANGE-RAMP	A series of roadways (ramps) constructed to permit access to and from intersecting paved roads. These ramps are usually at different levels, and form an overpass / underpass.
RIS-AIRP-RUNWAY	Identifies operator owned landing facility for airplanes and related transportation in oil sand mines area only.
RIS-ROAD	Identifies roads that are not specifically part of other disturbed features in oil sand mines area only.
ROAD-GRAVEL-1L	A roadway surfaced with gravel constituting a main access route. The road surface is about 6 metres in width, and the road clearing is about 20 metres or greater in width. The surface, ditches, bridges and intersections are in good condition.

ROAD-GRAVEL-2L	A roadway surfaced with gravel constituting as a main access route. The road surface is 7 metres or greater in width, and the road clearing is 30 metres or greater in width. The surface, ditches, bridges and intersections are in good condition.
ROAD-PAVED-1L	A roadway, paved with asphalt or concrete, consisting of one (1) lane.
ROAD-PAVED-2L	A major roadway, which is paved with asphalt or concrete, and consists of two (2) roadbeds separated by a median. Each road bed usually consists of two (2) or more lanes.
ROAD-PAVED-3L	A major roadway, which is paved with asphalt or concrete, and consists of 3 roadbeds separated by a median.
ROAD-PAVED-4L	A major roadway, which is paved with asphalt or concrete, and consists of 4 roadbeds separated by a median.
ROAD-PAVED-5L	A major roadway, which is paved with asphalt or concrete, and consists of 5 roadbeds separated by a median.
ROAD-PAVED-6L	A major roadway, which is paved with asphalt or concrete, and consists of 6 roadbeds separated by a median.
ROAD-PAVED-7L	A major roadway, which is paved with asphalt or concrete, and consists of 7 roadbeds separated by a median.
ROAD-PAVED-DIV	A major roadway, which is paved with asphalt or concrete, and consists of two (2) roadbeds separated by a median. Each road bed usually consists of two (2) or more lanes.
ROAD-PAVED-UNDIV-1L	A roadway, paved with asphalt or concrete, consisting of one (1) lane, and usually found servicing rural acreages that are close to large urban centres.
ROAD-PAVED-UNDIV-2L	A roadway, paved with asphalt or concrete, and consisting of two (2) adjacent lanes, with no median to separate them.
ROAD-PAVED-UNDIV-4L	A roadway, paved with asphalt or concrete, and consisting of four (4) adjacent lanes, with no median to separate them.
ROAD-UNCLASSIFIED	A temporary coding for an unknown class of road, which will be updated after a field check or verification. (Source: road_album_2.ppt)
ROAD-UNIMPROVED	A roadway surfaced with dirt, which is constituted as a minor access route. The road surface is up to 7 metres in width, and the road clearing is up to 20 metres in width. The surface and ditches are poorly maintained, and the bridges are narrow.
ROAD-UNPAVED-1L	A roadway surfaced with dirt, which is constituted as a minor access route.

ROAD-UNPAVED-2L	A roadway surfaced with dirt, which is constituted as a minor access route.
ROAD-WINTER	A clearing that is vehicular accessible in winter only.
TRUCK-TRAIL	A roadway surfaced with dirt or low vegetation constituting a minor access route.

Details of AHFMP processing steps and user guide are included in these documents:

AHFMP - Road

Processing 2014 Footprint.pdf AHFMP - Road

User Guide 2014 Footprint.pdf

4.3.1.2. Interpretation Elements and Rules

Interpretation elements and rules for the different Road sublayer feature types vary from feature type to feature type, and are not listed in detail here. For further information, please refer to the following document:

Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute. (2019). Human Footprint Inventory Interpretation Guide, Version 1.0. Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Geospatial Centre, Human Footprint Mapping Group. July 2019.

5.4. (04) Railways

5.4.1. Feature types: RLWY-ABANDONED, RLWY-DBL-TRACK, RLWY-MLT-TRACK, RLWY-SGL-TRACK, RLWY-SPUR

4.4.1.1. Definitions

General Definition(s): Hard, steel rail lines designed for train use.

Feature Type	Specific Definition
RLWY-ABANDONED	An abandoned road or track for trains, consisting of parallel steel rails, supported on wooden cross beams that are no longer in use.
RLWY-DBL-TRACK	A road or track for trains, consisting of parallel steel rails, supported on wooden cross beams. The Double track consists of two parallel sets of tracks.

RLWY-MLT-TRACK	A road or track for trains, consisting of parallel steel rails, supported on wooden cross beams. A multiple track railway consists of many parallel sets of tracks.
RLWY-SGL-TRACK	A road or track for trains, consisting of parallel steel rails, supported on wooden cross beams. The single track consists of one parallel set of tracks.
RLWY-SPUR	A short length of railway leading off a main line, to a dead end. Spur lines usually lead to a commercial/industrial site, or may be used as a turnaround along a rail line.

4.4.1.2. Interpretation Elements and Rules

Interpretation elements and rules for the different Railways sublayer feature types vary from feature type to feature type, and are not listed in detail here. For further information, please refer to the following document:

Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute. (2019). Human Footprint Inventory Interpretation Guide, Version 1.0. Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Geospatial Centre, Human Footprint Mapping Group. July 2019.

5.5. (05) Canals

5.5.1. Feature type: CANAL

5.5.1.1 Definitions

General Definition(s):	<p>A human-made watercourse built to convey water for irrigation. An irrigation canal is larger than a ditch, with reinforced banks that are usually well maintained.</p> <p>A human-made drainage of network channels built to prepare wetland areas for anthropogenic land use.</p>
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5.5.5.1.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	A linear feature usually up to 40 meters in width with reinforced banks that are usually well maintained.
Shape	Linear

Shadow	No shadow
Colour	Depends whether they are dry or filled with water. Brown/Grey/Blue
Texture	Fine/coarser
Associated Relationship or Context	Located along irrigated cultivation fields

5.6. (06) Verges

5.6.1. Feature types: VEGETATED-EDGE-ROADS, VEGETATED-EDGE-RAILWAYS

5.6.1.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Disturbed vegetation alongside road edges and railway edges including ditches.

5.6.1.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Linear feature - various widths
Shape	Linear
Shadow	No shadow
Colour	Shades of green
Texture	Fine/coarser
Associated Relationship or Context	Usually located along roads and railways

Details of AHFMP processing steps and user guide are included in these documents:

AHFMP - Road

Processing 2014 Footprint.pdf AHFMP - Road

User Guide 2014 Footprint.pdf

5.7. (07) Mine Sites

5.7.1. Feature types: GRVL-SAND-PIT, MINES-COAL, OPEN-PIT-MINE, etc.

5.7.1.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Human footprint features directly related to mining activities.

Feature Type	Specific Definition
GRVL-SAND-PIT	An area of surface disturbance for the purpose of extracting sand and/or gravel consistently open and/or expanding over multiple years, usually close to lakes or rivers.
MINES-COAL	Heavy industry use with bare and/or vegetated ground and low human density for the purpose of coal mining.
MINES-OILSANDS	Heavy industry use with bare and/or vegetated ground and low human density for the purpose of oil sands mining.
MINES-PITLAKE	Areas of ground where surface water is collected into the existing mine pit usually after mining activity is finished.
OPEN-PIT-MINE	An area of surface disturbance for the purpose of mining (with the exception of sand and/or gravel), consistently open and/or expanding over multiple years, usually close to lakes or rivers.
PEAT	An area of surface disturbance for the purpose of mining peat, consistently open and/or expanding over multiple years, usually in bogs or fens.
RIS-DRAINAGE	Identifies surface disturbance for the purpose of managing surface water features.
RIS-MINES-OILSANDS	Identifies areas where overburden removal has commenced for the purposes of preparing an area for open pit mining and all mine pit features.
RIS-OILSANDS-RMS	Identifies reclamation material stockpiles (RMS). Each RMS may have several material types and corresponding volumes.
RIS-OVERBURDEN-DUMP	Includes all areas where overburden and interburden is placed out-of-pit or in-pit for disposal.

RIS-RECLAIM-READY	Identifies areas where landform construction has been completed and the site is ready for clean cap, subsoil and surface soil placement. This definition is consistent with that used for annual reporting which identifies land "no longer required for mine or plant purposes and available for reclamation but where reclamation activities have not yet commenced.
RIS-RECLAIMED-CERTIFIED	Identifies polygons of reclaimed areas which have received a reclamation certificate.
RIS-RECLAIMED-PERMANENT	Identifies polygons which meet the definition of permanent reclamation - land is considered permanently reclaimed when landform construction and contouring, clean material placement (as required), reclamation material placement and revegetation has taken place.
RIS-RECLAIMED-TEMP	Identifies polygons which meet the definition of temporary reclamation – areas being managed where vegetation has been seeded, planted, or ingressed, where there is an expectation that future disturbance may occur at that location. This does not include cleared areas (planned for future disturbance) that have naturally revegetated through ingress.
RIS-SOIL-REPLACED	Identifies areas which have had subsoil or topsoil placed and which have not been revegetated.
RIS-SOIL-SALVAGED	Identifies areas where soil salvage is occurring but where overburden removal has not commenced.
RIS-TAILING-POND	Identifies all areas associated with tailings including toe berms, dykes, beaches, ponds and drying areas.
RIS-WASTE	Identifies all areas associated with waste and by-product storage on-site.
RIS-WINDROW	Includes areas where a line of reclamation material (soil or vegetation) is heaped up by a machine.
TAILING-PILE	An area used to store waste materials produced in mining processes.
TAILING-POND	Body of water on/in close proximity to an oil sands mine comprising acids, benzene, hydrocarbons, residual bitumen, fine silts, and water.

NOTE: "RIS" features were imported from the Government of Alberta's Reclamation Information System to the ABMI HFI 2014 dataset, based on a cross-reference table (see Table 2.).

Table 2. Government of Alberta Reclamation Information System cross-reference table, showing the conversions to ABMI HFI feature types.

Reclamation Information System		ABMI HFI 2014	
Landcover	Feature Type	Feature Type	Sublayer
CLEARED	Cleared other industry	RIS-CLEARING-UNKNOWN	08 Industrial Sites
	<null>	RIS-CLEARING-UNKNOWN	08 Industrial Sites
	Oil sands cleared	RIS-CLEARING-UNKNOWN	08 Industrial Sites
DISTURBED	Aerodrome	AIRP-RUNWAY-ACTIVE	03 Roads
	Borrow pit	RIS-BORROWPITS	02 Borrow Pits, Sumps, Dugouts, Lagoons
	Camp housing	RIS-CAMP-INDUSTRIAL	08 Industrial Sites
	Disturbed other industry	RIS-FACILITY-UNKNOWN	08 Industrial Sites
	Disturbed unclassified	RIS-FACILITY-UNKNOWN	08 Industrial Sites
	Drainage	RIS-DRAINAGE	07 Mine Sites
	<null>	RIS-FACILITY-UNKNOWN	08 Industrial Sites
	Mine pit	RIS-MINES-OILSANDS	07 Mine Sites
	Operations	RIS-FACILITY-OPERATIONS	08 Industrial Sites
	Other	RIS-FACILITY-UNKNOWN	08 Industrial Sites
	Overburden dump	RIS-OVERBURDEN-DUMP	07 Mine Sites
	Pipeline	RIS-PIPELINE	19 Pipelines
	Plant site	RIS-PLANT	08 Industrial Sites
	Powerline	RIS-TRANSMISSION-LINE	13 Transmission Lines
	Ready to reclaim	RIS-RECLAIM-READY	07 Mine Sites
	Reclamation material stockpile (RMS)	RIS-OILSANDS-RMS	07 Mine Sites
	River water intake structure	RIS-RESERVOIR	01 Reservoir
	Road	RIS-ROAD	03 Roads
	Soil placed	RIS-SOIL-REPLACED	07 Mine Sites
	Soil salvaged	RIS-SOIL-SALVAGED	07 Mine Sites
	Tailings	RIS-TAILING-POND	07 Mine Sites

	Tank farm	RIS-TANK-FARM	08 Industrial Sites
	Utilities	RIS-UTILITIES	08 Industrial Sites
	Waste	RIS-WASTE	07 Mine Sites
	Wellsite	RIS-WELL	09 Well Sites Active
	Windrow	RIS-WINDROW	07 Mine Sites
RECLAIMED			07 Mine Sites
	Certified	RIS-RECLAIMED-CERTIFIED	07 Mine Sites
	<null>	RIS-RECLAIMED-UNKNOWN	07 Mine Sites
	Permanent	RIS-RECLAIMED-PERMANENT	07 Mine Sites
	Temporary	RIS-RECLAIMED-TEMP	07 Mine Sites
	Temporary (dam safety)	RIS-RECLAIMED-TEMP	07 Mine Sites

5.7.1.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Interpretation elements and rules for the different Mine Sites sublayer feature types vary from feature type to feature type, and are not listed in detail here. For further information, please refer to the following document:

Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute. (2019). Human Footprint Inventory Interpretation Guide, Version 1.0. Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Geospatial Centre, Human Footprint Mapping Group. July 2019.

5.8. (08) Industrial Sites

5.8.1. Feature types: CAMP-INDUSTRIAL, OIL-GAS-PLANT, MILL, MISC-OIL-GAS-FACILITY, etc.

5.8.1.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Human footprint features related to various industrial activities.

Feature Type	Specific Definition
CAMP-INDUSTRIAL	Buildings used for temporary residence by employees on or in close proximity to an industrial activity such as mining, forestry, or oil and gas activities.
CLEARING-UNKNOWN	A human-made clearing with unknown purposes and contains no visible buildings, fences or equipment.

CLEARING-WELLPAD-UNCONFIRMED	Roughly square in shape clearing, roughly 90-120 meters wide (approximately 1 ha). Not confirmed as a well pad by available reference sources.
FACILITY-OTHER	Industrial facilities characterized by large non-residential buildings most often surrounded by concrete for parking purposes. The purpose of the facility is not disclosed.
FACILITY-UNKNOWN	Industrial facilities characterized by large non-residential buildings most often surrounded by concrete for parking purposes. The purpose of the facility is unknown.
MILL	Intense industrial and commercial development for the purpose of pulp or paper production.
MISC-OIL-GAS-FACILITY	Industrial facility used for the purpose of oil and gas. BATTERY SITE, COMPRESSOR SITE, FLARE STACK, METER STATION SITE, VALVE SITE
OIL-GAS-PLANT	Industrial facility used for oil production. REFINERIES, PLANTS, FACTORIES
RIS-CAMP-INDUSTRIAL	Identifies areas disturbed for the purposes of housing camp workers.
RIS-CLEARING-UNKNOWN	Identifies all areas where vegetation has been removed for the purposes of preparing the land for drainage, soil removal, overburden removal, mining, etc. but where soil has been left mostly intact and relatively undisturbed. May include any or all of: tree removal, shrub removal, and/or grubbing (stump removal). Identifies areas cleared for by other industries and not for the purposes of forest harvesting or for oil sands development.
RIS-FACILITY-OPERATIONS	Designated for areas which are not part of the plant site, e.g., may include laydown areas not integrated with the main plant site(s), tailings lines, water lines, compressor station, buildings away from the main plant site, flare stack, communications tower.
RIS-FACILITY-UNKNOWN	Identifies areas where the reclamation liability associated for the disturbance is currently held by another industry operator.
RIS-PLANT	Includes areas associated with extraction, processing, upgrader. Plant sites may have multiple non-contiguous polygons.
RIS-TANK-FARM	Identifies areas where products of extraction or upgrading are stored. Products stored for on-site use can be identified under plant site or operations.
RIS-UTILITIES	Identifies areas specifically disturbed for the purposes of utilities (power generation).
URBAN-INDUSTRIAL	An industrial facility within the boundary of an urban residence.

NOTE: "RIS" features were imported from the Government of Alberta's Reclamation Information

System to the ABMI HFI 2014 dataset, based on a cross-reference table (see Table 2.).

5.8.1.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Interpretation elements and rules for the different Industrial Sites sublayer feature types vary from feature type to feature type, and are not listed in detail here. For further information, please refer to the following document:

Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute. (2019). Human Footprint Inventory Interpretation Guide, Version 1.0. Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Geospatial Centre, Human Footprint Mapping Group. July 2019.

5.9. (09) Well Sites Active

5.9.1. Feature types: WELL-BITUMEN, WELL-OIL, WELL-GAS, WELL-CASED, etc.

5.9.1.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Ground cleared for an oil/gas well pad where at least one well is currently active.

Feature Type	Specific Definition
RIS-WELL	Identifies areas disturbed for the purpose of establishing exploration, production or disposal wells.
WELL-BITUMEN	Well site - ground cleared for a bitumen well pad.
WELL-CASED	Well site - ground cleared and well cased.
WELL-CLEARED-DRILLED	Well site - confirmation of drilling and the boundary outline is provided by reference sources.
WELL-CLEARED-NOT-CONFIRMED	Well site - confirmation of the boundary outline is not provided by reference sources.
WELL-CLEARED-NOT-DRILLED	Well site - confirmation of the boundary outline is provided by reference sources.
WELL-DRILLED-OTHER	Well site - confirmation of drilling is provided by reference sources.
WELL-GAS	Well site - ground cleared for a gas well pad.
WELL-OIL	Well site - ground cleared for an oil well pad.
WELL-OTHER	Well site - clearing, purpose is unknown.
WELL-UNKNOWN	Well site - ground cleared, well status unknown or license location

NOTE: “RIS” features were imported from the Government of Alberta’s Reclamation Information System to the ABMI HFI 2014 dataset, based on a cross-reference table (see Table 2.).

Details of AHFMP processing steps and User Guide are included in these documents:

**AHFMP - Well Pad Procedures
for 2014 Footprint.pdf AHFMP - Well Pad User Guide
2014 Footprint.pdf**

5.9.1.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Various sizes
Shape	Various shapes
Shadow	No shadow
Colour	Grey/brown/green
Texture	Coarse

5.10. (10) Landfills

Historical Landfills (Table 7) was utilized across the province and it will be further implemented in future HFI years.

5.10.1. Feature types: LANDFILL, TRANSFER_STATION

5.10.1.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Human footprint used for the transportation, storage, and disposal of waste/garbage

Feature Type	Specific Definition
LANDFILL	Larger area of raised land, indicating buried garbage. Some landfills have evidence of surface revegetation and garbage dispersed throughout designated extent. They may also have large perimeter berms or fences.
TRANSFER_STATION	Smaller area of land, less than one hectare, usually fenced with a U-shaped road and two entry ways. Used primarily for garbage drop-off and located close to municipalities or present in rural areas.

5.10.1.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Various sizes, often larger polygons of landfills than transfer stations
Shape	Often a rectangular- or square-shaped structure
Shadow	No shadow
Colour	Various colours
Texture	Fine/coarser
Associated Relationship or Context	Usually located in proximity to residential areas

5.11. (11) Other Vegetated Surfaces

5.11.1. Feature types: CAMPGROUND, GOLFCOURSE, GREENSPACE, etc.

5.11.1.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Human footprint related to vegetated facilities and recreation

Feature Type	Specific Definition
CAMPGROUND	Disturbed vegetation with frequently changing facilities of RVs and tents used for overnight stay. Most often consists of several individual clearings surrounded by vegetation and gravel or asphalt roads connecting clearings.
GOLFCOURSE	Large recreational area comprising a series of grass patches surrounded by trees.
GREENSPACE	Greenspace used for recreation within a residential area including parks, schools, school yards and sport fields.
RECREATION	Urban/rural greenspace and recreation that does not fit into other categories (e.g. graveyards, baseball diamonds, parks, shelterbelts, ski hills, clearings from old industrial activity that is now vegetated). This layer was also used to identify green-space features that do not fit into other categories such as storage areas and parking lots.
RUNWAY	Vegetated runway.
SURROUNDING-VEG	Disturbed vegetation surrounding airport runways, highway ramps and other industrial features.

5.11.1.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Interpretation elements and rules for the different Other Vegetated Surfaces sublayer feature types vary from feature type to feature type, and are not listed in detail here. For further information, please refer to the following document:

Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute. (2019). Human Footprint Inventory Interpretation Guide, Version 1.0. Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Geospatial Centre, Human Footprint Mapping Group. July 2019.

5.12. (12) Wind Generation Facilities

5.12.1. Feature type: WINDMILL

5.12.1.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Structures designed and built for the purposes of generation of wind energy.

5.12.1.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Various sizes
Shape	Often a rectangular- or square-shaped structure for land cover disturbance. Turbine structure visible for finished facilities
Shadow	Tower and turbine shadows.
Colour	Steel colours
Texture	Individual structure of turbine visible
Associated Relationship or Context	Usually clustered into “wind energy farms”

5.13. (13) Transmission Lines

5.13.1. Feature types: TRANSMISSION-LINE, RIS-TRANSMISSION-LINE

5.13.1.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Cleared corridors designated for the location of power transmission line infrastructure.

Feature Type	Specific Definition
TRANSMISSION-LINE	A utility corridor >10 m wide with poles, towers and lines for transmitting high voltage electricity (voltage greater than 69 kV).
RIS-TRANSMISSION-LINE	Include the right of way area designated for the power line.

5.13.1.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Linear shape – corridor in landscape. Tower structure visible
Width	Buffered to 19 m - each side from the centerline (38 m in total width of the corridor) for AHFMP and BASEFE features

	Buffered to measured width for features in HFI 2014 and onward
Shadow	Tower shadows.
Colour	Shades of green or brown/grey depending on vegetation cover of the corridor
Texture	Usually finer texture as a result even vegetation on the corridor
Associated Relationship or Context	Corridor connects energy users with energy providers

5.14. (14) Confined Feeding Operations (CFO)

Natural Resource Conservation Board (NRCB) (Table 7) was utilized across the province and it will be further implemented in future HFI years.

5.14.1. Feature type: CFO

5.14.1.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Confined feeding operations and other high density livestock features.

5.14.1.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Various sizes
Shape.	Often regular shape.
Shadow	Shadows of building and facilities associated with CFO features
Colour	Various colours
Texture	Usually coarser texture
Associated Relationship or Context	Usually in proximity of farm fields, residential or industrial features

5.15. (15) Urban and Rural Residential

5.15.1. Feature type: COUNTRY-RESIDENCE

5.15.1.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Country-residential developments with density of 10 - 100 buildings per quarter section.

5.15.1.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Minimum size of the polygon should be 0.4 Ha (1 Acre) in case one country-residential property creates an acreage polygon. More often – multiple country-residential developments are captured into one polygon therefore maximum size of polygon is not limited
Shape.	Multi-vertices polygons, where boundaries follow property lines, fences, clearings of country-residential development
Shadow	No shadow
Colour	No unique colours
Texture	No unique texture
Associated Relationship or Context	Country residential areas are often grouped together with a road system as a backbone of such residential development.

5.15.2. Feature type: RURAL-RESIDENCE

5.15.2.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Rural-residential developments with density of less than 10 buildings per quarter section.

5.15.2.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Various sizes. Usually one polygon per rural residence
Shape.	Multi-vertices polygons, where boundaries follow property lines, fences, clearings of rural-residential development

Shadow	No shadow
Colour	No unique colours
Texture	No unique texture
Associated Relationship or Context	Rural residences are often isolated by other human footprint types (cultivation) or native landscape (lodges). They are connected to the other areas by access road

5.15.3. Feature type: URBAN-RESIDENCE

5.15.3.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Residential areas in cities, towns, villages, hamlets and ribbon developments. Areas that are dominated by dwellings

5.15.3.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Various sizes. Usually one polygon per urban residence
Shape.	Multi-vertices polygons, where boundaries follow property lines, fences, clearings of urban-residential development
Shadow	No shadow
Colour	No unique colours
Texture	No unique texture
Associated Relationship or Context	Urban residences are often surrounded by other human footprint types (recreational –GREENSPACE, industrial – URBAN-INDUSTRIAL)

5.15.4. Feature type: RESIDENCE_CLEARING

5.15.4.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Areas cleared for building developments that do not yet have any buildings

5.15.4.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Various sizes. Usually one polygon per residence clearing
Shape.	Multi-vertices polygons, where boundaries follow property lines, fences, clearings of residential development
Shadow	No shadow
Colour	No unique colours
Texture	No unique texture
Associated Relationship or Context	Residence clearings are often in the vicinity of existing urban residence

5.16. (16) Well Sites Abandoned

5.16.1. Feature type: WELL-ABAND

5.16.1.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Ground cleared for an oil/gas well pad where the well is currently abandoned

Details of AHFMP processing steps and User Guide are included in these documents:

AHFMP - Well Pad Procedures

for 2014 Footprint.pdf AHFMP - Well Pad User Guide

2014 Footprint.pdf

5.16.1.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

1.

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Various sizes
Shape	Various shapes
Shadow	No shadow
Colour	Brown/green
Texture	Coarse

5.17. (17) Cultivation

5.17.1. Feature type: CROP

5.17.1.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Cultivated cropland or cropland planted with annual crop species, including farmlands that are in cultivation rotation.

Cropland includes: **small grains** (wheat, barley, oats and mixed grains), **oilseeds** (canola, flax), **specialty crops** (peas, lentils), **row crops** (potatoes, sugar beets, corn, vegetables).

Fallow describes areas used for the production of the crops that do not exhibit visible vegetation as the result of being cultivated.

5.17.1.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Variable size from smaller fields, usually next to a rural residential area, up to very large polygons covering multiple townships
Shape.	Often a rectangular, square or multi-vertex shape with distinct round corners as a result of active cultivation by agricultural equipment and machinery Circular shape for irrigated crop fields
Shadow	No shadows

Colour	Variable - depending on type of the cropland and imagery acquisition date
Texture	Consistent smooth, fine texture for cropland / coarser texture for fallow
Structure:	Often visible tillage lines as a result of active cultivation by agricultural equipment (field cultivator, disk and plow)
Associated Relationship or Context	No evidence of grazing as livestock are restricted from these fields during the growing season

5.17.2. Feature type: TAME_PASTURE

5.17.2.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Lands where the soil has been disturbed and planted to perennial grass species used primarily for grazing livestock.

Tame pasture represents areas of grasses, legumes or grass-legume mixtures planted for livestock grazing or hay collection.

5.17.2.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Variable size from smaller fields, usually next to a rural residential area, up to very large polygons covering multiple townships
Shape.	Often a rectangular, square or multi-vertex shape with distinct round corners as a result of active cultivation by agricultural equipment and machinery Circular shape for irrigated hay fields
Shadow	No shadows
Colour	Variable - depending on the type of the pasture (grazing/hay) and imagery acquisition date
Texture	Coarser texture compared to the crop
Structure	Often visible hay collection lines or hay bales
Associated Relationship or Context	Evidence of grazing by livestock – trails, dugouts

5.17.3. Feature type: ROUGH_PASTURE

5.17.3.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Lands where the forest and/or shrubs have been removed so that native or introduced grasses can flourish for the grazing of livestock.

This pastureland has not been irrigated or fertilized and the soil has not been disturbed to improve productivity.

5.17.3.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Variable
Shape.	Variable
Shadow	No shadows
Colour	Usually shades of green - depending on imagery acquisition date
Texture	Coarser texture for new clearings, smoother for old ones
Structure	There might be remains of cleared wood/shrub lands on new clearings- wood piles, timber
Associated Relationship or Context	Usually still surrounded by forest or wooded/shrubby remains. Quite often nearby existing farmland and crop/tame pasture fields

5.17.4. Feature type: CULTIVATION_ABANDONED

5.17.4.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Agricultural land that has been formally seeded and tilled, but no evidence of present day production use. Landscape appears to have a heterogeneous mix of vegetation and closely resembles natural cover.

5.17.4.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

A standard set of interpretation elements and rules for CULTIVATION_ABANDONED are not available at this time.

5.17.5. Feature type: FRUIT-VEGETABLES

5.17.5.1 Definitions

General Definition(s): Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) 2014 Crop Types: Vegetables, Tomatoes, Potatoes, Sugar beets, Other Vegetables, Fruits, Berries, Blueberry, Cranberry, Other Berry, Orchards, Other Fruits, Herbs.

HFI_2014 dataset cultivation Feature Types were based on AAFC 2014 classification (ISO 19131 AAFC Annual Crop Inventory, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, 2014). AAFC 2014 classification crop types were overlaid onto HFI_2014 polygons and area coverage of individual AAFC crop types within HFI polygon was computed. Cross-referencing all cultivation polygons to Crop Type values based on AAFC 2014 classification is displayed in Table 3

Details of AHFMP processing steps and User Guide are included in these documents:

AHFMP_Cultivation_User_Guide_Footprint_HFI_2014FTv2.pdf

AHFMP_Cultivation_User_Guide_HFI_2014.pdf

Details about AAFC 2014 processes are available in document:

ISO

19131_AAFC_Annual_Crop_Inventory_Data_Product_Specifications.pdf

IMPORTANT:

New cultivation features created by heads-up digitization ([SOURCE] either ABMI15, ABMI16, ABMI17, ABMI18, ABMI19, or ABMI20) were attributed based on visual interpretation of SPOT6 satellite natural color composite mosaics. Current HFI2022 dataset has not included a reattribution of existing HFI_2014 cultivation Feature Types to status of circa 2022.

Table 3. Cross-reference table used to convert the AAFC2014 labels into ten ABMI human footprint feature types for the HFI2014 product

AAFC		ABMI HFI 2014
Code	Label	Feature Type
10	Cloud	NA

20	Water	HYDRO
30	Exposed Land and Barren	NATIVE-NATURAL
34	Urban and Developed	URBAN-INDUSTRIAL
35	Greenhouses	NA
50	Shrubland	NATIVE-NATURAL
80	Wetland	WETLAND
110	Grassland	NATIVE-NATURAL
120	Agriculture	CROP
122	Pasture and Forages	TAME-PASTURE
130	Too Wet to be Seeded	CROP-WETLAND
131	Fallow	CROP
132	Cereals	CROP
133	Barley	CROP
134	Other Grains	CROP
135	Millet	CROP
136	Oats	CROP
137	Rye	CROP
138	Spelt	CROP
139	Triticale	CROP
140	Wheat	CROP
141	Switchgrass	TAME-PASTURE
145	Winter Wheat	CROP
146	Spring Wheat	CROP
147	Corn	CROP
148	Tobacco	CROP
149	Ginseng	AGRICULTURE-OTHER
150	Oilseeds	CROP
151	Borage	CROP
152	Camelina	CROP

153	Canola and Rapeseed	CROP
154	Flaxseed	CROP
155	Mustard	CROP
156	Safflower	CROP
157	Sunflower	CROP
158	Soybeans	CROP
160	Pulses	CROP
162	Peas	CROP
167	Beans	CROP
174	Lentils	CROP
175	Vegetables	FRUIT-VEGETABLES
176	Tomatoes	FRUIT-VEGETABLES
177	Potatoes	FRUIT-VEGETABLES
178	Sugarbeets	FRUIT-VEGETABLES
179	Other Vegetables	FRUIT-VEGETABLES
180	Fruits	FRUIT-VEGETABLES
181	Berries	FRUIT-VEGETABLES
182	Blueberry	FRUIT-VEGETABLES
183	Cranberry	FRUIT-VEGETABLES
185	Other Berry	FRUIT-VEGETABLES
188	Orchards	FRUIT-VEGETABLES
189	Other Fruits	FRUIT-VEGETABLES
190	Vineyards	AGRICULTURE-OTHER
191	Hops	AGRICULTURE-OTHER
192	Sod	AGRICULTURE-OTHER
193	Herbs	FRUIT-VEGETABLES
194	Nursery	AGRICULTURE-OTHER
195	Buckwheat	CROP
196	Canaryseed	CROP

197	Hemp	CROP
198	Vetch	TAME-PASTURE
199	Other Crops	AGRICULTURE-OTHER
200	Forest	NATIVE-NATURAL
210	Coniferous	NATIVE-NATURAL
220	Broadleaf	NATIVE-NATURAL
230	Mixedwood	NATIVE-NATURAL

5.17.5.1 Interpretation Elements and Rules

A standard set of interpretation elements and rules for FRUIT-VEGETABLES are not available at this time.

5.18. (18) Timber Harvest and Woody Vegetation Removal

The timber harvesting classifications will have the highest accuracy in the Green Area of the province and on provincial crown land in the White Area where regulatory data can assist with identification. The removal of trees on private land, Metis Settlements and First Nation Reserves cannot be confirmed as timber harvesting since ABMI must rely solely on imagery. These clearings may be due to other activities.

5.18.1. Feature types: TIMBER-HARVEST-GREEN-AREA, TIMBER-HARVEST-WHITE-AREA, WOODY-VEGETATION-REMOVAL

4.18.1.1. Definitions

General Definition(s): Areas where woody vegetation has been removed either by the forestry industry (clear-cut, selective harvest, salvage logging, etc.) or by private landowners and municipalities

Feature Type	Specific Definition
TIMBER-HARVEST-GREEN-AREA	Areas in Alberta's forested Green Area where forestry operations have occurred (clear-cut, selective harvest, salvage logging, etc.).
TIMBER-HARVEST-WHITE-AREA	Areas in Alberta's unforested White Area where forestry operations have occurred (clear-cut, selective harvest, salvage logging, etc.)
WOODY-VEGETATION-REMOVAL	Areas in Alberta's unforested white Area where woody vegetation (i.e., shrubs, trees, etc.) has been cleared for purposes unrelated to the forestry industry (e.g. by private landowners or municipalities for fence line clearings, property development etc.)

Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) – EPA/ABMI Human Footprint Inventory (HFI): HFI

*o18_HarvestAreas_and_WoodyVegetationRemoval (2024)***IMPORTANT:**

TIMBER HARVEST might include areas that have been cleared for another purpose then timber harvesting (i.e. agricultural use, residential, mine and industrial areas expansion.)

TIMBER HARVEST [YEAR] value is the best estimation of the year when the area was harvested. It has been determined by:

- heads up digitization for years 2014 to 2022,
- combination of source data values and remote sensing analysis for years 1985 to 2013,
- source data based for years prior to 1985.

5.18.1.2 Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Variable
Shape.	Variable
Shadow	No shadows
Colour	Usually shades of green - depending on imagery acquisition date
Texture	Coarser texture for new clearings, smoother for older ones
Associated Relationship or Context	Usually still surrounded by forest or wooded/shrubby remains.

5.19. (19) Pipelines

5.19.1. Feature type: PIPELINE

5.19.1.1 Definitions

General Definition(s):

A line of underground and overground pipes, of substantial length and capacity, used for the conveyance of petrochemicals.

The physical clearing that contains underground and above-ground high pressure pipelines.

These clearings may contain one or multiple pipelines.

IMPORTANT:

The Pipeline feature class was created by the Geographic Science Team (GSCT) of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas for the Alberta Human Footprint Monitoring Program (AHFMP). The data is used to monitor the total area of pipeline corridors in the province of Alberta. The data is an *estimate* of the high-pressure pipelines in the province and is not suitable for locating pipelines on the ground. The data will also contain some low-pressure pipelines. A pipeline corridor is defined by the AHFMP as any linear disturbance created for the purpose of constructing and maintaining pipelines. The pipeline verge estimates the extent of the direct physical disturbance of the pipeline corridor whether it is visible or not on imagery. The verges were derived from the Digitally Integrated Dispositions (DIDs), Rural Cadastral pipeline right of ways and from manual digitizing using SPOT imagery. Some verges were also buffered using the estimated pipeline centre lines within the pipeline centre line feature class. The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) pipeline dataset was used as reference to locate the pipeline corridors. The data was designed specifically for monitoring human footprint and may not be suitable for some cartographic purposes.

Data created by Alberta Human Footprint Monitoring Program (AHFMP) was consequently modified by ABMI. Digitized pipelines interpreted from satellite imagery (year 2017) were added to the source dataset to create the final HFI sublayer that represents estimated status of pipelines up to year 2017.

Pipelines might include corridors that contain pipelines built for another purpose than the conveyance of petrochemicals, e.g. municipal water.

Details of AHFMP processing steps and user guide are included in these documents:

AHFMP - Pipeline Procedures Manual for 2016 Footprint - Ver 3.pdf

AHFMP - Pipeline User Guide for 2016 Footprint - Ver 2.pdf

4.19.1.1. Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Variable
Shape.	Variable
Shadow	No shadows
Colour	Shades of green or brown/grey depending on vegetation cover of the corridor
Texture	Usually finer texture as a result even vegetation on the corridor

Associated Relationship or Context Corridor connects energy users with energy providers

5.20. (20) Seismic Lines and Trails

The classifications of seismic lines are being reviewed based on newly available information and data provided by various subject matter experts and the GOA. This will result in significant changes in seismic line classifications. The ABMI uses the term “Conventional-Seismic” to define seismic lines that were constructed using older technology that required the lines to be between 5 to 8 meters in width to allow equipment such as vibrator trucks or drilling equipment to operate on the lines. Government and industry have adopted “Legacy-Seismic” to describe these same lines. The ABMI is in the works of adopting this and other terminology in order to align more with government and industry, however this has not been implemented in HFI 2022.

5.20.1. Feature types: CONVENTIONAL-SEISMIC, LOW-IMPACT-SEISMIC, REC-TRAIL, OTHER-LINEAR-FEATURES

4.20.1.1. Definitions

Feature Type	Specific Definition
CONVENTIONAL-SEISMIC	A polygon feature class derived from a 3-meter buffer (6 meter total width) of a pre-low-impact-seismic centerline. Also referred to as Legacy Seismic.
LOW-IMPACT-SEISMIC	A polygon feature class derived from a 1.5-meter buffer (3 meter total width) of a pre-low-impact-seismic centerline.
REC-TRAIL	Crown Land Trails published by Alberta Environment and Protected areas as of Apr. 15, 2024. For more information, please visit the Crown Land Trails - Open Government data link .
OTHER-LINEAR-FEATURES	Linear features that are neither managed as recreational trails under the Crown Land Trails dataset and not verified by other reference datasets.

Standard Operating Procedure – EPA/ABMI Human Footprint Inventory: Recreational Trails (2024)

IMPORTANT:

Seismic line feature buffering:

- CONVENTIONAL-SEISMIC = 3m half width (**6m full width**)
- LOW-IMPACT-SEISMIC = 1.5m half width (**3m full width**)
- REC-TRAIL = 2m half width (**4m full width**)
- OTHER-LINEAR-FEATURES = 2m half width (**4m full width**)

Details of AHFMP processing steps and User Guide are included in these documents:

AHFMP - Seismic User Guide 2014 Footprint Ver3.docx

Standard Operating Procedure – EPA/ABMI Human Footprint Inventory: Recreational Trails (2024)

Disclaimer:

Seismic lines currently available in the ABMI's HFI2022 are not complete representation of the seismic lines existing on the land surface. The ABMI's sampling scale Temporal Human Footprint dataset (THF) should be used for a more detailed representation of this sublayer.

The [YEAR] attribute value is the best estimation of the year when the seismic line was created. It has been determined by visual interpretation based on available aerial/satellite imagery, and through comparisons to existing digital data provided by Pulse Seismic (www.pulseseismic.com). It is less accurate for the years prior to 2005 (the first year with higher spatial resolution mosaic available for the entire province of Alberta).

4.20.1.2. Interpretation Elements and Rules

Element	Rules and Guidelines
Size	Long, linear features generally ≤ 8 m wide
Shape.	Long straight or sinuous linear features
Shadow	No shadows
Colour	Green/brown/grey; depends on vegetation cover
Texture	Fine/coarser
Associated Relationship or Context	Located in areas developed for oil and gas extraction; can be spaced in a pattern 100s of metres apart or more densely depending on type

6. HFI Linear Features

In addition to an integrated dataset and polygonal sublayers, the HFI2022 also contains a set of linear feature layers. These are digital representations of linear feature centrelines (i.e. polyline geometry type) for five sublayers that are linear in nature. These include:

- (03) Roads
- (04) Railways
- (13) Transmission Lines

- (19) Pipelines
- (20) Seismic Lines and Trails

Disclaimer:

The Linear Features dataset should be used as a supporting dataset to polygonal representation of HF features available in HFI2022. There are areas where human footprint is captured in polygon layers (HFI2022 and Sublayers) but is still missing in the Linear Features (polylines).

Available attribute values of the Linear Features dataset are limited. Polygon layers (HFI2022 and Sublayers) should be used for geographic extent and more complete thematic information (i.e., available attribution, including source of the data).

6.1. (01) Roads Linear Features

List of feature types included in the Roads linear feature layer:

AIRP-RUNWAY
FORD-WINTER-XING
INTERCHANGE-RAMP
RIS-ROAD
ROAD
ROAD-GRAVEL-1L
ROAD-GRAVEL-2L
ROAD-PAVED-1L
ROAD-PAVED-2L
ROAD-PAVED-3L
ROAD-PAVED-4L
ROAD-PAVED-5L
ROAD-PAVED-6L
ROAD-PAVED-7L
ROAD-PAVED-DIV
ROAD-PAVED-UNDIV-1L

ROAD-PAVED-UNDIV-2L

ROAD-PAVED-UNDIV-4L

ROAD-UNCLASSIFIED

ROAD-UNIMPROVED

ROAD-UNPAVED-1L

ROAD-UNPAVED-2L

ROAD-WINTER-ACCESS

ROAD-WINTER-ROAD

TRAIL-ATV TRUCK-TRAIL

See the Roads sublayer section for more details regarding these different feature types.

Details of AHFMP processing steps and user guide are included in these documents:

AHFMP - Road Processing 2014 Footprint.pdf

AHFMP - Road User Guide 2014 Footprint.pdf

6.2. (04) Railways - Linear Features

List of feature types included in the Railways linear feature layer:

RLWY

RLWY-ABANDONED

RLWY-DBL-TRACK

RLWY-MLT-TRACK

RLWY-SGL-TRACK

RLWY-SPUR

See the Railways sublayer section for more details regarding these different feature types.

6.3. (13) Transmission Lines - Linear Features

List of feature types included in the Transmission Lines linear feature layer:

TRANSMISSION-LINE

See the Transmission Lines sublayer section for more details regarding these different feature types.

6.4. (19) Pipelines - Linear Features

List of feature types included in the Pipelines linear feature layer:

PIPELINE

See the Pipeline sublayer section for more details regarding these different feature types.

IMPORTANT:

The Pipeline Centre Line feature class was created by the Geographic Science Team (GSCT) of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas for the Alberta Human Footprint Monitoring Program (AHFMP). The data is used to monitor the linear density of pipeline corridors in the province of Alberta. The data is an estimate of the high-pressure pipelines in the province and is not suitable for locating pipelines on the ground. The data will also contain some low-pressure pipelines. A pipeline corridor is defined by the AHFMP as any linear disturbance created for the purpose of constructing and maintaining pipelines. The center line represents the linear distance of the corridor and a single center line is placed in the corridor regardless of the number of pipelines in that corridor. The data was derived from the Digitally Integrated Dispositions (DIDs), Rural Cadastral pipeline right of ways and SPOT imagery using a combination of raster processing and manual digitizing. The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) pipeline dataset was used as reference to locate the pipeline corridors. The data was designed specifically for monitoring human footprint and may not be suitable for some cartographic purposes.

Data created by Alberta Human Footprint Monitoring Program (AHFMP) was consequently modified by ABMI. Digitized pipelines interpreted from satellite imagery (year 2017) were added to the source dataset to create a final HFI sublayer that represents estimated status of pipelines up to year 2022.

Details of AHFMP processing steps and user guide are included in these documents:

AHFMP - Pipeline Procedures Manual for 2016 Footprint - Ver 3.pdf

AHFMP - Pipeline User Guide for 2016 Footprint - Ver 2.pdf

6.5. (20) Seismic Lines and Trails - Linear Features

List of feature types included in the Seismic Lines and Trails linear feature layer:

CONVENTIONAL-SEISMIC

LOW-IMPACT-SEISMIC

REC-TRAIL

OTHER-LINEAR-FEATURE

See section 4.2 for more information about recent updates and section 5.20, the Seismic Lines and Trails sublayer section, for more details regarding these different feature types.

Details of AHFMP processing steps and user guide are included in these documents:

AHFMP - Seismic User Guide 2014 Footprint Ver3.docx

7. HFI Feature Attributes

The following tables list and describe the various attributes or fields that accompany features in the HFI2022 dataset. They are organized by: mandatory attributes (all features are required to have these filled), and optional attributes (some features have these filled).

Table 4. Mandatory attributes or fields that must be filled for all features in the HFI2022 dataset.

Attribute	Description	List of Valid Values
HFI_ID	Alpha-numeric identifier sometimes used for additional analysis	E.g. '{F5CDF76F-40E7-4651-8739-AA028F1CA4D0}'
FEATURE_TY	The type or category of human footprint feature	See the sublayer sections for lists of valid values. E.g., 'WELL-BITUMEN', 'LOW-IMPACT-SEISMIC', 'CFO', 'GREENSPACE'

SOURCE	The data source for the feature in the dataset.	<p>'ABMI' – data updated by ABMI prior to HFI_2014 update</p> <p>'ABMI00' – data updated by ABMI during HFI_2000 update</p> <p>'ABMI10' – data updated by ABMI during HFI_2010 update</p> <p>'ABMI12' – data updated by ABMI during the HFI_2012 update</p> <p>'ABMI14' – data updated by ABMI during HFI_2014 update</p> <p>'ABMI15' – data updated by ABMI during HFI_2015 update</p> <p>'ABMI16' – data updated by ABMI during HFI_2016 update</p> <p>'ABMI17' – data updated by ABMI during HFI_2017 update</p> <p>'ABMI18' – data updated by ABMI during HFI_2018 update</p> <p>'ABMI19' – data updated by ABMI during HFI_2019 update</p> <p>'ABMI21' – data updated by ABMI during HFI_2021 update</p> <p>'ABMI22' – data updated by ABMI during HFI_2022 update</p> <p>'ABMI37' – data updated by ABMI during temporal human footprint on sample scale update,</p>
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		<p>'AHFMP' – data updated by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Program</p> <p>'AVIE' – data derived from the Alberta Vegetation Inventory obtained from the Government of Alberta</p> <p>'AVI' – data derived from the Alberta Vegetation Inventory obtained from the Government of Alberta</p> <p>'BASEFE' – data obtained from the Government of Alberta under the Open Data License. Data source: http://www.altalis.com/products/base/20k_base_features.html</p> <p>'BUFF10' – data updated by ABMI during HFI_2010 update by the buffering of residential centroid points</p> <p>'GVI' – data derived from the Grassland Vegetation Inventory obtained from the Government of Alberta</p> <p>'GVled' – data derived from the Grassland Vegetation Inventory obtained from the Government of Alberta updated by ABMI</p> <p>'NA' – data source not available</p> <p>'PLVI' – data derived from the Primary Land and Vegetation Inventory obtained from the Government of Alberta</p> <p>'PLVled' – data derived from the Primary Land and Vegetation Inventory obtained from the Government of Alberta updated by ABMI</p> <p>'RIS' – Reclamation Information System (RIS) data obtained from the Government of Alberta, Alberta Environment and Parks</p> <p>'SRDSPT' – Special Areas data obtained from the Government of Alberta, Alberta Environment and Parks</p> <p>'SPAREA' – Special Areas data obtained from the Government of Alberta, Alberta Environment and Parks</p>
OBJECTID	Automatic, geodatabase-specific unique ID number generated by ArcGIS for each row in an attribute table	---

Shape_Length	Feature geometry shape length value automatically generated by ArcGIS, in units of the selected coordinate system	---
Shape_Area	Feature geometry shape area value automatically generated by ArcGIS, in units of the selected coordinate system	---

Table 5. Optional attributes or fields that can be filled for some sublayers and features in the HFI2022 dataset.

Attribute	Description	List of Valid Values
YEAR	<p>A year integer number representing a feature's "year of origin". This value is either introduced to the HFI dataset from other sources (along with original features) or it is being attributed by ABMI processes. When a feature is updated by ABMI, the YEAR value is updated based on available imagery in the ABMI mosaic catalogue – years of 1949-1951, 1999-2003, and 2004 to 2022.</p> <p>A Google Earth Engine Timelapse App was used as a reference tool for year of origin determination of some features (https://earthengine.google.com/timelapse/)</p> <p>Year value has not been determined for all polygons. The ABMI is constantly updating human footprint inventory dataset including filling in year values. It is expected that the next release of HFI dataset will contain more</p>	E.g. 1950, 1980, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2005, etc.

	human footprint features than the current version with a known year of origin.	
NAME	The geographical name of the particular location.	E.g., 'Bonnyville' landfill
BNDRY_SOURCE	The data source for a feature's boundary geometry	Same as for the SOURCE attribute (e.g., 'AVI', 'ABMI19', etc.)
Modifier_YEAR	The year in which a human footprint feature's type was modified from one feature type within a sublayer to another feature type within the same sublayer (e.g., from CLEARING-UNKNOWN to FACILITY-UNKNOWN)	E.g., 2015
Modifier_2017to2018 or Modifier_FT	The previous human footprint feature type before it was modified to another feature type within the same sublayer	E.g., 'CLEARING-UNKNOWN'

Table 6. Additional attributes or fields that can be filled for features in the Well Sites Active and Well Sites Abandoned sublayers in the HFI2022 dataset. Originally sourced from the Government of Alberta's AHFMP – Well Pad Procedures for 2021 Footprint Version 1.3 document

Attribute	Description	List of Valid Values
WELLSITE_FOOTPRINT_ID	Unique numeric ID, generated from a feature's OBJECTID; will change each product version	E.g., 349281, 71668
POLYGON_SOURCE	Indicates the source from which the wellbore data associated with the well pad was sourced	1 – DIDs (Digital Integrated Dispositions) Application 2 – DIDs Application 3 – DIDs Conflict 4 – Manually digitized (SPOT) 5 – Manually digitized (High Resolution Orthophotos) 6 – Manually digitized (Survey Plan) 7 – Manually digitized (Other)

		8 – RIS (Reclamation Information System) 9 – Buffer 10 – AVI (Alberta Vegetation Inventory) 11 – DIDs Modified 13 – Alberta Energy
WELL_STATUS	Indicates the dominant type of wellbore found on the well pad	In order of precedence: 6 – Bitumen 5 – Oil 4 – Gas 3 – Drilled and Cased 2 – Other 1 – Abandoned 0 – Status Unknown 999 – Cleared, Not Drilled
FIRST_SPUD_DATE	The date when drilling first began on the well pad (full date)	E.g., 2007-06-25
FIRST_SPUD_YEAR	The year when drilling first began on the well pad	E.g., 2007
NUMBER_WELLHEADS	The total number of wellbores on the well pad	E.g., 0, 1, 2, [...]
DISP_NUM or DISPOSITION NUMBER	The DIDs (Digital Integrated Dispositions) number for a well pad	E.g. 'MLS001147'
LCU_ID or RIS LAND COVER ID	An ID used for tabular joins with the RIS (Reclamation Information System) data	E.g. '12982007A'
VISIBLE	Derived from work done by Alberta Energy; reflects the state of visibility of a footprint	0 – Not visible 1 – Fully visible 2 – Partially visible

	as of circa 2016, based on SPOT, 1.5 m colour imagery	
AREA_HA	Well pad area, in hectares	E.g., 1.197867
OILSANDS_EVALUATION_WELL	Indicates whether the well pad contains and Oil Sands Evaluation (OSE) well	NULL – No OSE well present 1 – OSE well present
RECLAMATION_STATUS	Indicates the reclamation status of the well pad Note: a well pad is reclaimed if it has any reclaimed wellbores on it, regardless of the presence of other active well bores	1 – Not reclaimed 2 – Reclamation exempt 3 - Reclaimed
RECLAMATION_DATE	Indicates the year (not full date) of the most recent reclamation certification issued to the well pad	E.g., 1998
RECLAMATION_COMMENT	Provides additional context to a well's reclamation status	1 – No comment 2 – Has active well 3 – OneStop (Alberta Energy Regulator application review technology)
MIN_ONPRODUCTION_DATE	Indicates the first (earliest) reported year a well went into production	E.g., 1976
MAX_LAST_PRODUCTION_DATE	Indicates the latest (most recent) reported year of production at a well	E.g., 2019
MAX_ABANDONED_DATE	Indicates the latest (most recent) year a well was abandoned	E.g., 2010
fieldname	Indicates the oil sands region in which the well pad is located	NULL ATHABASCA Oil Sands COLD LAKE Oil Sands PEACE RIVER Oil Sands

PROD_EX_P_value	Indicates whether wells on the well pad have every reported production or injection volumes	<p>1 – Exploration and related; well pad only contains wells that have not reported production or injection volumes</p> <p>2 – Production and related; well pad contains wells that have reported production or injection volumes</p>
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8. HFI Reference and Source Datasets

8.1. Data sources

Table 7: Data source references used in HFI 2022 creation.

Title	Association Type	Location/Reference
Alberta Vegetation Inventory (AVI)	Source	Government of Alberta, 2016. Data provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP), https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/ahfmp
Grassland Vegetation Inventory (GVI)	Source	Government of Alberta, 2016. Data provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP), https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/ahfmp
Primary Land and Vegetation Inventory (PLVI)	Source	Government of Alberta, 2016. Data provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP), https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/ahfmp
Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP)	Source	Government of Alberta, 2016. Data provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP), https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/ahfmp
Reclamation Information System (RIS)	Source	Government of Alberta, 2016. Data provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP), https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/ahfmp
Government of Alberta (SRDSPT)	Source	Government of Alberta, 2016. Data provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project
		(AHFMP), https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/ahfmp

Digitally Integrated Dispositions (DIDs)	Source	Government of Alberta, 2016. Data provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP), https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/ahfmp
Alberta Vegetation Inventory Enhanced (AVIE)	Source	Government of Alberta, 2016. Data provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP), https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/ahfmp
Special Areas (SPAREA)	Source	The Special Areas; specialareas.ab.ca
Land Use Classification in the Special Areas of Alberta	Source	Publication No. 731; technical Bulletin No.39; Issued: February. 1942
SPOT6, 2014	Source	Alberta Environment and Parks, 2020. Air, Biodiversity and Policy Integration Branch, Policy and Planning Division, Provincial coverage of pan sharpened and multispectral SPOT6, years 2010 to 2017. [Edmonton, AB: Alberta Environment and Parks, 2020].
SPOT6, 2017	Source	Alberta Environment and Parks, 2020. Air, Biodiversity and Policy Integration Branch, Policy and Planning Division, Provincial coverage of pan sharpened and multispectral SPOT6, years 2010 to 2017. [Edmonton, AB: Alberta Environment and Parks, 2020].
SPOT6, 2019	Source	Alberta Environment and Parks, 2020. Air, Biodiversity and Policy Integration Branch, Policy and Planning Division, Provincial coverage of pan sharpened and multispectral SPOT6, years 2017 to 2019. [Edmonton, AB: Alberta Environment and Parks, 2020]
SPOT6, 2020	Source	Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, 2021. Lands Planning Branch, Lands Division, Provincial coverage of pan sharpened and multispectral SPOT6, years 2018 to 2020. [Edmonton, AB: Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, 2021]
SPOT6, 2021	Source	Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, 2022. Lands Planning Branch, Lands Division, Provincial coverage of pan sharpened and multispectral
		SPOT6, years 2020 to 2021. [Edmonton, AB: Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, 2022]
SPOT6, 2022	Source	Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, 2022. Lands Planning Branch, Lands Division, Provincial

		coverage of pan sharpened and multispectral SPOT6, years 2021 to 2022. [Edmonton, AB: Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, 2024]
Valtus Orthophoto Mosaic ca 2000	Reference	Alberta Environment and Parks, 2016. Informatics Branch
IRS Satellite	Reference	Alberta Environment and Parks, 2016. Informatics Branch
Base Features (BASEFE)	Source	Government of Alberta, 2016. Open Data License, Retrieved from http://www.altalis.com/products/base/20k_base_features.html
Google Maps	Reference	https://maps.google.ca
Google Earth Timelapse	Reference	https://earthengine.google.com/timelapse/
Alberta Recycling Management Authority	Reference	http://www.albertarecycling.ca/collection-site-search-results
City of Calgary	Source	https://data.calgary.ca/Base-Maps/Land-Use-Polygons/gbp5-ymc5/about https://maps.calgary.ca/CalgaryImagery/
Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development	Reference	Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, 2016. Informatics Branch, 1.5 m Colour SPOT 6 Mosaic. Retrieved from http://environment.alberta.ca/
Valtus Imagery Services	Reference	Valtus Imagery Services, 2010. Valtus Imagery. Retrieved from http://www.valtus.com/
Valtus Imagery Services	Reference	Valtus Imagery Services, 2011. Valtus Imagery. Retrieved from http://www.valtus.com/
Valtus Imagery Services	Reference	Valtus Imagery Services, 2012. Valtus Imagery. Retrieved from http://www.valtus.com/
Valtus Imagery Services	Reference	Valtus Imagery Services, 2013. Valtus Imagery. Retrieved from http://www.valtus.com/
Valtus Imagery Services	Reference	Valtus Imagery Services, n.d. Valtus Imagery. Retrieved from http://www.valtus.com/
Quality Farm Dugouts (3rd Edition)	Reference	http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\$department/dept_docs.nsf/all/agdex15866
Alberta Vegetation Inventory Standards and Data Model Documents	Reference	https://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/app21/forestrypage?cat1=Vegetation%20Inventory%20Standards

Grassland Vegetation Inventory Standards	Reference	https://geodiscover.alberta.ca/geoportal/catalog/search/resource/details.page?uuid=%7BD3AB9031-8ECO-4589-9335-C1E50AE05992%7D
Primary Land and Vegetation Inventory Standards	Reference	https://geodiscover.alberta.ca/geoportal/catalog/search/resource/details.page?uuid=%7BF640CD9D-C232-481D-9CFF-7A7B66E51E49%7D
road_album_2.ppt	Reference	Government of Alberta document, provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP)
Alberta Transportation Guide to Reclaiming Borrow Excavations - 2013 Edition	Reference	www.transportation.alberta.ca/Content/docType245/Production/borrowguide.pdf
AHFMP_Footprint Data Manual.docx	Reference	Government of Alberta document, provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP),
AHFMP - Road Processing 2014 Footprint.pdf	Reference	Government of Alberta document, provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP),
AHFMP - Well Pad User Guide 2014 Footprint.pdf	Reference	Government of Alberta document, provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP)
AHFMP - Well Pad Procedures for 2014 Footprint.pdf	Reference	Government of Alberta document, provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP)
AHFMP - Well Pad User Guide 2014 Footprint.pdf	Reference	Government of Alberta document, provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP)
AHFMP_Cultivation_User_Guide_Footprint_HFI_2014FTv2.pdf	Reference	Government of Alberta document, provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP)
AHFMP_Cultivation_User_Guide_HFI_2014.pdf	Reference	Government of Alberta document, provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP)

ISO 19131_AAFC_Annual_Crop_Inven tory_Data_Product_Specification s.pdf	Reference	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC); AAFC Crop Inventory, 2014
AHFMP - Seismic User Guide 2014 Footprint Ver3.docx	Reference	Government of Alberta document, provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP)
AAFC Annual Crop Inventory Data	Source	http://www.agr.gc.ca/atlas/data_donnees/agr/annualCropInventory/tif/
SENTINEL - 2	Reference	European Space Agency (ESA); The Copernicus Sentinel-2 mission; https://sentinel.esa.int/web/sentinel/missions/sentinel-2
Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS)	Reference	Image and Data processing by NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center. DMSP data collected by the US Air Force Weather Agency.
Pulse Seismic Inc.	Reference	Pulse Seismic Inc., pulsesismic.com
Historical Orthophotos ca 1980s	Reference	Alberta Environment and Parks, 2019. Provided by the Government of Alberta's Air Photo Library, through the Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Program (AHFMP)
Confined Feeding Operations	Reference	Natural Resource Conservation Board, 2024. Open data, https://www.nrcb.ca/confined-feeding-operations/cfo-search
Historical Landfills	Reference	Alberta Environment and Protected, Areas 2023. Government of Alberta. https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/gda-37b0fbc2-f334-4d0f-9092-ef61f91c023f#detailed . Open Government Licence - Alberta
Cutline Trail Attribution Project	Reference	Government of Alberta dataset, provided by Alberta Human Footprint Mapping Project (AHFMP)
Recreation Trails	Reference	Government of Alberta, 2024. Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, https://open.alberta.ca/publications/albertas-public-land-trail-guide . Open Government Licence - Alberta

Alberta Municipal Data Sharing Partners	Reference	Alberta Municipal Data Sharing Partners, 2024. https://amdsp.ca/index.html
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8.2. Data Source Thematic and Spatial Accuracy

Table 8: Known thematic accuracy of source data used in HFI2022 creation.

Source	Collection	Source Category	Accuracy (%)
External	Inventories	AVI - Photo Interpretation Audit	≥ 90%
		GVI	≥ 65%
		PLVI	≥ 90%

Table 9: Known spatial (horizontal) accuracy of source data used in HFI2022 creation.

Source	Collection	Source Category	Accuracy (+/- metres)
External	Base features	1:20 000 Provincial Digital Mapping Program	5
		Alberta 1:50 000 Access Mapping	50
		GPS field data	25
		IRS-1C/1D imagery	25
		NTDB data	100
		Federal hydrography	100
		Orthophoto imagery	10
		Aerial photography	10
		SRD regional investigation	25
		Ikonos imagery	10
		Derived from supplementary data	25
		SPOT imagery	2.5
		Alberta Vegetation Inventory	20

	Inventories	GVI upland	5
		GVI wetland	2
		PLVI	5
	Cadastral	Cadastral urban	0.15
		Cadastral rural	3
ABMI	ABMI	Heads-up digitization SPOT "green zone"	10 – 20
Buffer	Buffer	Calculated RMSE per feature type	