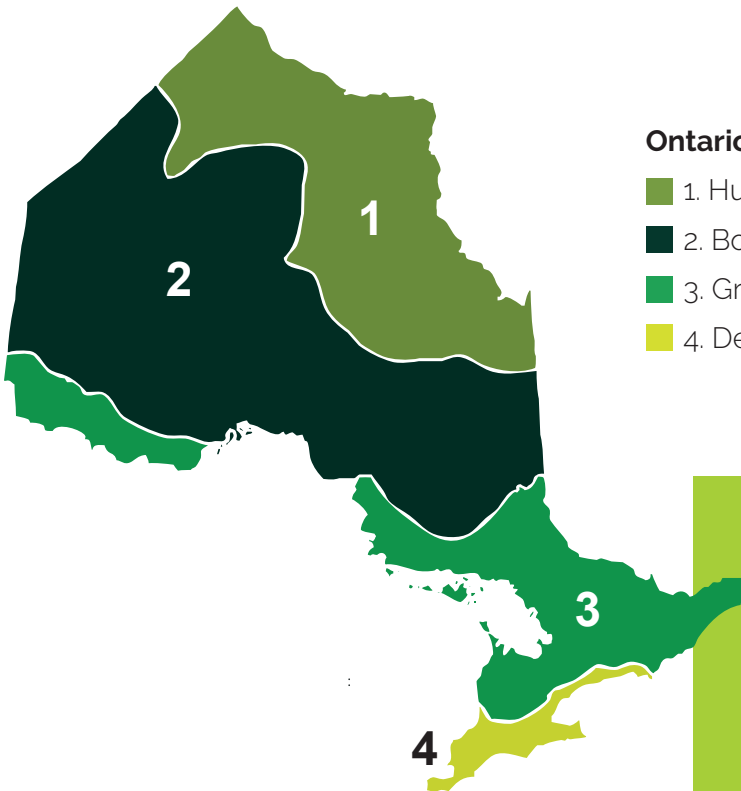


Healthy Forests = Healthy Ecosystems

Sustainable forestry helps **wildlife thrive.**

Maintaining and enhancing wildlife habitat is an important benefit of sustainable forest management in Ontario.

Ontario has four main forest regions, each with unique characteristics influenced by its climate, forest ecosystems, and wildlife species. The Hudson Bay Lowlands situated in the Far North, the Boreal Forest in northern Ontario, the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Forest in southern and central Ontario, and the Deciduous Forest in southern Ontario.



Ontario's Forest Regions

- 1. Hudson Bay Lowlands
- 2. Boreal Forest
- 3. Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Forest
- 4. Deciduous Forest

Why it's important?

Sustainable forest management plans are developed to balance habitat for all wildlife, including species at risk. They also provide direction on the best forest practices to ensure forest operations retain specific habitat features like decaying trees, and protect sensitive features like bird nests, lakes, streams, and wetlands. Responsible forest practices undertaken by well trained forest workers ensure an abundant supply of suitable habitat is maintained to support robust wildlife populations.

Why do forest animals live where they do?

Different forest animals prefer different types of habitats depending on the food and shelter they need. As forests age and change, the habitats they provide may also change along with the wildlife species that inhabit them.

The **Hudson Bay Lowlands** region provides vital habitat for a variety of unique mammals and migratory birds including woodland caribou, polar bear, arctic fox, and arctic hare, Canada geese, snow geese, willow ptarmigan and various species of sea ducks.

The **Boreal Forest** is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including black bears, wolves, lynx, moose and caribou, a myriad of birds ranging from the great owl to the tiny winter wren and many small mammals such as the pine marten, hare, red fox and porcupine.

Sustainable forest management supports habitat diversity.



Sustainable forestry conserves wildlife dens.



The **Great Lakes-St. Lawrence** is also home to a wide variety of wildlife, including black bears, wolves, moose, the white tailed deer and birds such as the pileated woodpecker, various migratory birds and small mammals such as the beaver, muskrat and otter.

The **deciduous** forest region has the most diverse forest life in Ontario. The region has many rare mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, and amphibians such as the southern flying squirrel and red-bellied woodpecker, black rat snake, milk snake and gray tree frog.

Sustainable forestry maintains wildlife habitat.

