




**TWO WORLDS**  
CONSULTING

## **Northeast Roundtable Session 4**

March 6, 2019  
Meeting Notes

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## **PREPARED FOR**

The Government of British  
Columbia

## **PREPARED BY**

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## Northeast Roundtable Session 4 – Meeting Notes

**Type of Meeting:** In-person

**Date:** Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Time:** 9:00 am – 3:15 pm

**Location:** The Stonebridge Hotel, Fort St. John

**Meeting Handouts:**

1. Agenda
2. Northeast Stakeholder Roundtable 4 – Meeting Presentation
3. Doig River First Nation and Blueberry River First Nations Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Land Selections – What We Heard (on Jan. 30)
4. Priority Feedback Form
5. Meeting Feedback Form

**Attachments:**

- Appendix A – Attendees
- Appendix B – Priority Feedback Verbatim Comments
- Appendix C – Presentation Doig River First Nation and Blueberry River First Nations Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Land Selections - What We Heard (on Jan. 30) (MIRR)
- Appendix D – Presentations Caribou Recovery in BC (FLNRORD)
- Appendix E – Caribou Engagement Comments – Flip Chart

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### 1.0 Welcome and Safety Announcement

The meeting commenced at 9:00 am. Two Worlds Consulting (TWC) welcomed participants and provided a safety announcement concerning the facility. TWC stated that there are plans to carry on the Roundtable meetings into the following year.

### 2.0 BC Government - Opening Comments

It was highlighted that the Roundtable sessions are funded by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR), the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (EMPR). Representatives from FLNRORD introduced themselves and their role in caribou management planning.

### 3.0 Introductions

TWC commenced the meeting by welcoming participants and providing an overview of the facilitation process and meeting handouts.

Participants introduced themselves and the group or organization they represented, as well as their interests and expectations for the meeting. The following interests and expectations for success were noted:

- gather information on caribou plans and local groups;
- learn about the potential impacts for local governments and industry, continued access, remote communities, and Pink Mountain;
- obtain information for presentation to membership organizations or the public;
- discuss concerns of Section 11 and the Partnership Agreement;
- address concern regarding the lack of data received about socio-economic effects, and data transparency more generally;
- engaging in consultation and participation in decision-making;
- success as moving closer to commitments at the ministerial level;
- to understand the process to ultimately involve citizens in the region; and,
- caribou management plans with respect to treaty rights and environmental effects.

TWC summarized the views expressed. Many participants sat on boards concerning caribou or were directly involved with caribou recovery. Some participants self-identified as observers at the meeting. It was requested to see a map which overlays all the parcels in order to better understand what areas will be affected.

## 4.0 Past Meeting Notes – Comments and Feedback

The facilitator asked the participants if they had any comments regarding the January 30, 2019 meeting notes. No comments were identified by the group.

## 5.0 Peace Boudreau Protected Area

FLNRORD provided a verbal update on the proposed Peace Boudreau Protected Area. In 2016, there was a commitment to create a protected area as part of an agreement with Saulneau First Nations. 16,000 ha were initially identified to be included as a Protected Area under the *Park Act*. The area is proposed to run along the southern border of the Peace River from Hudson's Hope to Taylor, although currently the exact boundaries are unclear. A draft map has been created and includes 13,000 ha. It is being reviewed by BC Hydro in the context of the footprint of the Site C Clean Energy Project. Conditions for the protected area will be flexible and existing tenures will be grandfathered. There could be some overlap with caribou management strategies.

## 6.0 Doig River First Nation and Blueberry River First Nation: What We Heard

MIRR presented an overview of the feedback received, and their responses and actions, from the previous Roundtable meeting on January 30, 2019 when Doig River First Nation (DRFN) and Blueberry

River First Nation (BRFN) land selections were reviewed. The associated presentation is attached in Appendix C. Ongoing activities include: discussions with overlapping tenure and license holders to resolve encumbrances are underway, providing responses to any incoming comments or questions, and considering incoming comments from the two Nations. In February 2019, the provincial government worked with the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) and local area organizers to schedule local community meetings in areas close to DRFN and BRFN land selections:

- Doig River First Nation: Rose Prairie and Cecil Lake on March 9, 2019.
- Blueberry River First Nation: Pink Mountain on March 8, 2019; Buick on March 12, 2019.
- Meetings for Charlie Lake and Red Creek to be scheduled.

Site-specific concerns and interests identified by stakeholders (excluding engagement with First Nations and tenure, lease and licence holders) and the public for DRFN selections were:

- maintaining access through parcels to Crown lands – especially existing routes; and,
- resolving existing grazing and other tenures, leases, and license holder overlaps on lands proposed for transfer.

Site-specific concerns and interests identified by stakeholders (excluding engagement with First Nations and tenure, lease, and licence holders) and the public for BRFN selections were:

- maintaining access through parcels to Crown lands – especially existing routes;
- resolving existing grazing and other tenures, leases, and license holder overlaps on lands proposed for transfer;
- overlapping land selection with Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (MKMA);
- outstanding First Nations concerns;
- conservation values (watershed integrity and wildlife habitat) that may be potentially impacted;
- application of Provincial/Municipal Regulations & Bylaws (PRRD Lakeshore Development Guidelines and Official Community Plan Alignment); and,
- outstanding questions regarding regulations on federal Crown Land and private land acquisition.

Efforts and next steps to address DRFN and BRFN selection concerns raised were outlined. The government will continue to:

- engage in discussions with existing tenure, lease, and licence holders to resolve encumbrances on lands proposed for transfer;
- continue to respond and consider site-specific interests that are submitted from stakeholders and members of the public (the government requested comments by April 15, 2019, although timelines may be extended depending on when all public meetings can be scheduled and held);
- capture all concerns and comments in an engagement record which will be reviewed by decision-makers; and,
- continue to provide updates to the Roundtable.

A discussion on the land selections and relevant topics followed the presentation.

- The government confirmed that all tenure holders for BRFN selections had been notified, although some may not have the proper information.
- It was noted that the BC Government must still consult with other First Nations on land selected by First Nations for transfer.
- Engagement process: A participant highlighted the Indigenous Protected Conservation Areas (IPCA) process and enquired if the Province was aware if Indigenous groups in BC were utilizing the same program. Those in Alberta with an interest in the Alberta parcels were notified in advance about a specific parcel for TLE which extends to the BC border. The participant requested the Roundtable have access to the federal information on this parcel, as it is largely unknown.
- **Access:** Access provisions in the Halfway River area were discussed and FLNRORD noted that the Ministry conducted a feasibility study of the options to maintain the best route for the Halfway River Trail.
- Access was highlighted as a significant and ongoing interest at Roundtable meetings, with a clear need for an avenue to discuss the topic thoroughly and acknowledge the history of concern in the area.
- Discussion should take place between First Nations in the area who may want to access land selected by another First Nation. Generally, for access to Indian Reserves or private lands owned by First Nations, access protocols exist and require engagement with Indigenous governments.
- **Cumulative Land Influences:** It was requested that the cumulative acreage impacted by all the land initiatives in the region be aggregated for consideration in the context of caribou planning. It was estimated that there are approximately 65,000 acres in total for land transfers, and 13,000 acres in new protected areas. These protected areas will be in addition to areas where caribou focused management changes will influence access and use. Stakeholders asked whether the concerns raised would be considered by government.

## 7.0 Caribou Management Planning – Overview

An overview presentation was provided on caribou management planning in Northeast British Columbia and, more generally, outlined the many pressures on caribou as a species. Below is a list of the questions posed, common themes, priorities, recommendations, and actions from the following dialogue. Caribou presentations from the meeting are attached in Appendix D.

- A participant noted that the changes in forestry and mining and their cumulative impacts on caribou habitat had not been addressed. For example, mining at Murray River is just outside of critical caribou habitat. When the mining site was assessed by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, there was a focus on treaty rights in the area, but not caribou. Details on caribou hunting in the region were provided by First Nations, stating that caribou is a treaty issue. There needs to be discussion regarding the restoration of caribou for the species to be hunted sustainably again by Nations.
- Participants requested more information on collaring programs. Past knowledge of the program led to the assumption that caribou had not migrated into the mountains. The government stated in their past research that the numbers are not clear, as there is difficulty in obtaining

data. For central herds, annual reports exist. Information on most herds goes back for decades.

- Multi-species approaches are being used around predation management (i.e. the hunting of caribou prey such as grizzly bears). It was stated during the meeting that Section 11 agreements under the federal *Species at Risk Act (SARA)* commitments had been made for herd plans. A participant highlighted that the survival rate of calves is notably higher in pens than otherwise. This was contrasted to predator control, which only stopped species decline but did not increase population numbers. There is no prey management (i.e. moose management) occurring in the MKMA, and there is insufficient information on the topic to pursue the method. Predator-prey relationships are being investigated further.
- The historical lack of coordination between caribou management initiatives in BC was highlighted, and recent studies and reports on caribou status and recovery have expressed the species requires immediate attention. It was asked if there was a federally mandated timeline for the caribou management process. The government clarified that while there is no official timeline, applications for Section 80 Protection Orders under *SARA* contain language that the process must be carried out in a timely matter. It was noted Section 80s can be viewed on the *SARA* registry. A participant asked if the Partnership Agreement put a halt to other initiatives, and that once the terms are set, if they will affect Section 11. The government stated this would be discussed in more detail, and that ten Local Population Units (LPUs) are threatened. The Section 11 is a bi-partite agreement between the federal and provincial governments. The Partnership Agreement is a tri-partite agreement between the federal government, the provincial government, and First Nations.
- A participant outlined an analysis undertaken by the provincial and federal governments on the ability to protect caribou through provincial legislative, regulatory and policy mechanisms. The analysis concluded the province's ability was not adequate. First Nations decided to collaborate with the government to address the issue, and a partnership agreement discussion took place. A document titled "Seven Herd Report" contains mapping that is reflected in the federal government's approach to caribou management.
- A participant speaking on behalf of the West Moberly program noted that a wolf control was put in place, in conjunction with the material penning program, to reduce predation on caribou. It was suggested that 40% of caribou mortality is due to wolf predation, and the highest success for caribou is where there are linked predation control and penning programs. It is a treaty right for Nations to hunt caribou, and their recovery is crucial for the survival of First Nation cultural practices.
- It was stated more than 27 million dollars over three years, and 50 million over five years, is being put towards caribou recovery. The government is providing funding for caribou penning programs, and two trappers are employed to cull wolves.
- Concern was expressed around a potential future change of government, and the amount of resources already invested in caribou recovery during the past year. The government stated that

a review of wolf control over a five-year period will be undertaken this year and will inform caribou recovery work moving forward. The Province of Alberta is also using wolf control. Wolf control may be implemented in herds that have had substantial population decline. The federal government's goal is to attain self-sustaining populations, and for Nations to undertake their seasonal rounds. Each Local Population Unit (LPU) has a target, but external factors make it difficult to estimate exact numbers.

- Concern around population size and genetic diversity was raised. The government stated that low population numbers can still recover, although this will take time.
- A participant highlighted the conflicting interests of caribou recovery and development in the North.

Lunch Break: 12:00 – 12:30

## 8.0 Caribou Discussion and Feedback Collection

FLNRORD presented on caribou management in Northeastern BC. While the Section 11 agreement has grown to a provincial scale, the Partnership Agreement is centralized around the Northeast. Below is a list of the questions posed, common themes, priorities, recommendations, and actions from the dialogue. Written feedback on caribou priorities is presented in Appendix B.

- The federal government provides funding with the Partnership Agreement. The majority of the Partnership Agreement is focused on interim measures and does not address limiting recreational use. Engagement on the Partnership Agreement is forthcoming. It was noted that snowmobiles are exempt from motor vehicle closures in the Peace Region.
- Participants expressed frustration that the government chose the method of utilizing helicopters to enforce driver license checks for snowmobile operators in the backcountry. This was viewed as intentional intimidation aimed at recreational users who appear to be targeted for upcoming conservation efforts. It was suggested that new fines of up to \$200,000 for snowmobiling in southern mountain caribou habitat may put the lives of conservation officers at risk.
- A participant stated that high elevation caribou habitat needs to be closed. In addition, West Moberly First Nations, Sauteau First Nations, and the McLeod Lake Indian Band are engaging in the Environmental Assessment processes on coal mines, agreeing to support the mines based on reasonable environmental standards. The primary need is to protect the Quintette caribou herd. Nations are open to development with the correct environmental protections in place and hope for collaboration.
- Comments and questions recorded on flip charts are attached in Appendix E. Questions that arose were:
  - How far do recovery efforts go when there is a lack of genetic diversity?



- How intense must the multi-species approach be and how is this being addressed? For example, closing the grizzly bear hunt when the bears are key caribou predators.
  - How is a balanced approach achieved?
  - How can engagement be made meaningful?
  - How can caribou populations be better understood, other than studying predator/prey relationships?
  - What other primary prey management (e.g. moose decline in the MK and other areas) is being considered? Is this data available?
    - Answer – not yet.
  - What is the federal timeline for caribou management planning?
  - Where are Section 80s available?
    - Answer – on the Species at Risk Registry.
  - What are the next steps under the Section 80s?
  - If this is the ‘new normal’, how can opportunities be expanded for government, third parties, and First Nations to support programs such as predator management, or maternal pens?
  - What happens if there is a change in government and funding substantially changes?
  - How can certainty for proposed mine projects be obtained with or without a Section 11? This is a critical economic issue.
- Concern was raised regarding the April and May timeline for a thorough socio-economic analysis.
    - A PRRD representative noted that they received a commitment to review the Table of Contents for the socio-economic study.
    - Others noted the socio-economic study must be completed before further public engagement for the potential impacts to be known.
  - Information was requested on the boundaries of the Partnership Agreement. The government stated that an impact analysis was underway. FLNRORD is engaging Big River Analytics to review the analysis based on the finalized agreement. During the engagement period, the report will be available (approximately April to May 2019). The government stated the boundaries are the same, and that all the herds are in the Peace Region. A comprehensive document with links to relevant information will be provided. The government asked how they could raise awareness and make this a Northeastern plan, highlighting the importance of engagement.
  - It was stated that the public does not feel engaged. The public needs a solid indication that what they are saying is being heard. It was stated that the public needs to be able to comment on the issues at hand. Keeping the public at arm’s length with a lack of information, changing boundaries, and using helicopters for licence checks were identified as issues. Local governments are frustrated that they are not involved in socio-economic studies. Further, stakeholders cannot peer review the information in existing reports, view any Terms of Reference, or properly interpret existing information. The government stated Big River Analytics will not provide an opportunity to provide input or provide the Terms of Reference.

- It was highlighted that the timelines and process for this engagement are required to be done properly, as the rest of the province will most likely follow similar processes.
- A participant stated a wedge has been created between members of the public and First Nations as a result of certain content on social media. Local governments are currently trying to address these issues.
- A participant asked if the federal government would engage with the public on caribou management. The government stated they would, granted the timing works with the groups engaged in the tri-partite engagement.
- It was noted that two months would not be enough time for proper consultation. To date, promises have not been met. The government must come out and engage with the public to develop trust. Stakeholders and the public want to see how concerns and interests are incorporated into plans. It was asked if decision-makers need to be in the room while these discussions take place. The government stated that concerns expressed would be brought back to decision-makers.
- Future Engagement: Government noted that meetings will occur with mining and snowmobile association membership separately. Otherwise there will be public open house meetings. The schedule for engagement will be provided by the government soon.
- A participant stated the forestry industry feels they are not engaged. Different levels of government are providing varying information.
- It was noted that Stantec is undertaking a socio-economic assessment for the Peace River Regional District (PRRD). Additionally, Northern Rockies hired a consultant to perform an impact assessment.
- A participant stated that in order to move the conversation forward, maps, numbers, and more detailed information is required. The participant requested government data and specific boundaries on maps be provided to the public. The government stated that this information will be presented when engagement begins.
- Concerning the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), there are strategies to be put in place for caribou. More studies are required, especially with Northern caribou. More information and feedback are required for Northern and Boreal caribou.
- It was stated that snowmobiles in the MKMA do not need to stay on trails, as previously noted.

## 9.0 Next Meeting, Agenda and Action Items

Roundtable participants opted for having another meeting concerning caribou in April. The key agenda topics going will include:

- Northern and Boreal caribou;
- update on the engagement strategy;
- Terms of Reference for the socio-economic study (if possible);
- land parcels for West Moberly First Nation;
- LRMP renewal process; and,
- details regarding caribou management.

A full-day session was recommended. In addition to the Roundtable meeting, it was suggested that meetings be held between the government and individual groups.

### Action Items:

Item	Responsible
Provide feasibility report on Halfway River Trail Options	FLNRORD, MIRR
Share annual reports for Central herds with Concerned Citizens for Caribou Recovery	FLNRORD
Provide Municipal Governments the Terms of Reference for the Socio-Economic Study associated with the Partnership Agreement	FLNRORD
Provide Section 11/Partnership Agreement Engagement process and schedule	FLNRORD
Make available the future Big River Caribou Impact Analysis report	FLNRORD
Provide website link for Section 80 SARA species directives.	FLNRORD
Information to be provided on the Indigenous Protected Areas	MIRR
Distribute the Seven Herd Report	FLNRORD

## **APPENDIX A – ATTENDEES**

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## Northeast Roundtable Session No. 4 – Attendees

Name	Organization	E-Mail
Courtoreille, Allen	Mayor, District of Chetwynd	ACourtoreille@gochetwynd.com
Demeulemeester, Teena	Saulteau First Nations	tdemeulemeester@saulteau.com
Doyle, Mary	Saulteau First Nations	
Ensz, Ray	Fort St. John Trapper's Association	rensz@districtoftaylor.com
Gould, Clinton	Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd.	Clinton.Gould@LPCorp.com
Holland, Barry	North Peace Rod and Gun Club	wbholland394@gmail.com
Long, Ron	UBC Botanical Gardens	rlphoto@shaw.ca
Moffat, Chad	BC Oil and Gas Commission	Chad.Moffat@BCOGC.ca
Mulvahill, Mike	Cattlemen's Association	mmulvahill3@gmail.com
Newsom, Carol	District of Chetwynd	CNewsom@gochetwynd.com
Owens-Beek, Naomi	Saulteau First Nations	nowens-beek@saulteau.com
Paille, Gerry	BC Wildlife Federation	gpaille@me.com
Webb, Jim	Western Moberly First Nation	jwebb@incentre.net
Wilson, Donegal	BC Snowmobile Federation	dwilson@bcsf.org
Zabinsky, Tony	City of Fort St. John	tzabinsky@fortstjohn.ca
Preprost, Matt	Alaska Highway News	editor@ahnfsj.ca
Whalley, Michael	Resource Municipalities Coalition	ed@rmcoalition.com
Lawson, Jason	Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development	Jason.Lawson@gov.bc.ca
Wolfe, Ken	Chetwynd Forest Industries	Ken.Wolfe@westfraser.com
Cvik, Chris	District of Hudson's Hope	cao@hudsonshope.ca
Morgan, Hillary	Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development	Hillary.Morgan@gov.bc.ca
Regimbald, Darrell	Canadian Forest Products Ltd.	darrell.regimbald@canfor.com
Connolly, Kathleen	Concerned Citizens for Caribou Recovery	kathleen@dawsoncreekchamber.ca
Little, Jim	NE Stakeholders Group	mackeno@xplornet.ca
Goodings, Karen	Peace River Regional District	kgooding@pris.bc.ca
Sperling, Brad	Peace River Regional District	brad.sperling@prrd.bc.ca
Fraser, Rob	District of Taylor	MayorFraser@districtoftaylor.com
McArthur, Lisa	Saulteau First Nations	sfnlands@saulteau.com
Vince, Karrylyn	Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development	Karrylyn.Vince@gov.bc.ca

## **APPENDIX B – PRIORITY FEEDBACK VERBATIM COMMENTS**

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# Northeast Roundtable Session No. 4 – Priority Feedback

## Verbatim Comments

The following is a compilation of comments from the Priority Feedback Forms completed by participants at the March 6, 2019 Northeast Roundtable meeting. The priorities identified by the participants are listed in the verbatim comments below. Quotations (“ ”) are used where the handwriting was unclear and interpretation was needed. Details that would personally identify a participant’s comments have been removed. Abbreviations and acronyms have been expanded and clarified where appropriate.

### Participant 1

Priority 1: Caribou Engagement

Priority 2: Clean mapping and “mandatory” overlapping areas of caribou habitat

### Participant 2

Priority 1: Peace Northern Mountain Caribou and Boreal Caribou Management Plans

- Area closures with industry
- Rules for industrial operation in areas “open” to resource extraction/development
- Process for engagement and comment

Priority 2: RSEA

- Status update

Priority 3: LRMP Revision

- Process and timeline

Priority 4: Forestry Objective for Muskwa Kechika

- Timeline to establish forestry land use objective
- Process for engagement

### Participant 3

Priority 1:

- BC should have provided a media release that these discussions were ongoing, with clear communication why some things cannot be discussed at this time.

Priority 2: Timeline

- Seems to be a concern by everyone, but most importantly the caribou.

**APPENDIX C – PRESENTATION DOIG RIVER FIRST NATION AND  
BLUEBERRY RIVER FIRST NATIONS TREATY LAND  
ENTITLEMENT (TLE) LAND SELECTIONS - WHAT WE HEARD  
(ON JAN. 30) (MIRR)**

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## *Doig River First Nation and Blueberry River First Nations* Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Land Selections

### *What We Heard (on Jan. 30)*

Northeast Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting

March 6, 2019

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## What have we done since January 30<sup>th</sup>?

- **January 30, 2019:** Presented and discussed Doig and Blueberry's proposed land selections at the Northeast Stakeholder Roundtable.
- **February 2019:** Worked with PRRD and local area organizers to schedule local community meetings in areas close to Doig selections (Rose Prairie and Cecil Lake on March 9, 2019) and Blueberry selections (Pink Mountain on March 8, 2019; Buick on March 12, 2019; Meetings for Charlie Lake and Red Creek to be scheduled).
- **Ongoing:** Discussions with overlapping tenure and licence holders to resolve encumbrances, providing responses to any incoming comments or questions, considering incoming comments with Doig River and Blueberry River.

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## What site specific concerns and interests have we heard on DRFN's Land Selections from stakeholders\* and the public?

- **Maintain access** through parcels to Crown lands beyond– especially existing routes (e.g. Milligan Creek Road at Petersen's Crossing).
- **Resolve** existing *grazing* and other tenures, leases and licence holder overlaps on lands proposed for transfer.

*Anything Missing? Let Us Know!*

*\*List does not reflect interests raised in consultation and engagement with First Nations and tenure, lease and licence holders.*

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## Doig River First Nation

### How we have considered stakeholder comments to date:

Interest/Concern	Considerations & Next steps
<b>Access through parcels to lands beyond</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Province is prioritizing maintaining existing access to Crown lands beyond</li> <li>• The Province is analysing road access with respect to each parcel</li> <li>• Some parcels do not have existing access</li> <li>• The Province will consider access in each parcel on a case-by-case basis.</li> </ul>
<b>Overlapping Tenure, Lease and Licence Holders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before any lands are transferred, all existing tenures and licenses will be addressed.</li> <li>• Conversations are underway with tenure, lease or licence holders.</li> <li>• BC negotiators are interested in understanding each rights holder's specific interests and needs and exploring mutually satisfactory outcomes.</li> <li>• Range tenures were specifically raised:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3 range tenure overlaps (Big Camp, MyGosh and Petersen's Crossing)</li> <li>○ Work with the range tenure holders to address the overlaps with range tenures</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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## What site specific concerns and interests have we heard on BRFN's Land Selections from stakeholders\* and the public?

- **Maintain access (recreational, road)** through parcels to Crown lands beyond– especially existing routes (all parcels).
- **Resolve** existing tenures, leases and licence holder overlaps on lands proposed for transfer (all parcels).
- **Overlap** of land selection with Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (MKMA) (Pink Mountain).
- **Outstanding** First Nations concerns (Pink Mountain).
- **Conservation values (watershed integrity and wildlife habitat)** that may be potentially impacted (Charlie Lake and Red Creek).
- **Application** of Provincial/Municipal Regulations & Bylaws (PRRD Lakeshore Development Guidelines and Official Community Plan Alignment) and **Outstanding Questions** re: regulations on Federal land (Red Creek and Charlie Lake).
- **Private Land Acquisition** (Red Creek and Charlie Lake).

*Anything Missing? Let Us Know!*

*\*List does not reflect interests raised in consultation and engagement with First Nations and tenure, lease and licence holders.*

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## Blueberry River First Nations

### How we have considered stakeholder comments to date:

Interest/ Concern	Additional Detail	Considerations & Next Steps
Access through parcels to lands beyond	In General	In considering lands for transfer, access is an important consideration and any existing roads that provide access to lands beyond will be maintained by statutory right of way, federal equivalency, excluded from the parcel or alternate access.
	Halfway Trail (Pink Mountain)	In considering lands for transfer, any established Recreation Trails that provide access to lands beyond will be maintained. Feasibility Study conducted to explore alternate route from the South.
	<i>Golf Course Road (Charlie Lake)*</i>	Comment there is no access to Charlie Lake parcel from Golf Course Road. FLNRORD confirmed that the road allowance terminates beyond last private land selection. Any roads depicted on concept maps would be new.
Overlapping Tenure, Lease and Licence Holders	In General	Before any lands are transferred, all existing tenures and licenses will be addressed. Conversations are underway with tenure, lease or licence holders. Provincial negotiators are interested in understanding each rights holder's specific interests and needs and exploring mutually satisfactory outcomes.
	Traplines	The Province is meeting with trappers to understand and avoid any site specific interests and ensure access to trapline areas are beyond selections is maintained.
	BCH Infrastructure	The Province is meeting with BC Hydro to understand and resolve any infrastructure that overlaps TLE parcels.


*\*any new interests/concerns heard at the last Roundtable that has not come up in previous engagement identified in italics*

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Interest/ Concern	Additional Detail	Considerations & Next Steps
<b>Overlap with MKMA</b>	<i>Pink Mountain selection overlaps MKMA Boundary.</i>	The Province will be engaging with the Muskwa-Kechika Management Board to seek their advice as to the compatibility of the application with the objectives of the MKMA.
<b>Outstanding First Nations Concerns</b>	There are known First Nations concerns with the Pink Mountain selection.	The Province is consulting with First Nations whose Treaty 8 rights may be potentially impacted by a land transfer. Concerns are being explored and addressed through a separate process that involves direct consultation with the First Nation.
<b>Conservation Values</b>	Watershed Integrity (Charlie Lake)	MFLNRORD Water Management and Ecosystems staff are reviewing land selections to provide an assessment related the watershed . More information to come.
	Wildlife Habitat (Red Creek & Charlie Lake)	A qualified Provincial Biologist with MFLNRORD is reviewing land selections to provide an assessment of potential impact to wildlife and wildlife habitat. More information to come.
<b>Application of Provincial/ Municipal Regulations</b>		Private land owned by a First Nation is subject to laws, bylaws, zoning regulations and property taxes the same as any other private property. Reserve lands are officially owned by the Government of Canada for the exclusive use and benefit of First Nations, and are generally not subject to provincial laws or local bylaws that regulate land use or land ownership, such as zoning and property tax.
<b>Questions on Federal Land Regulations</b>	<i>Need better understanding of what regulations exist. Assessment of how standards compare with provincial/ municipal guidelines.</i>	The key public document that governs reserve land management is Canada's Land Management Manual: <a href="https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ/STAGING/texte-text/enr_lds_pubs_lmm_1315105451402_eng.pdf">https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ/STAGING/texte-text/enr_lds_pubs_lmm_1315105451402_eng.pdf</a> . Chapters 10 and 12 respectively speak to relationships with local governments as part of the addition to reserve process, as well as environmental obligations in relation to activities conducted on reserve land. BC is conducting a review to understand similarities, differences and gaps.

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Interest/ Concern	Additional Detail	Considerations & Next Steps
<b>Private Land Acquisitions</b>	Purchase of Private Land to settle TLE (Charlie Lake).	The Province will not expropriate private land for agreements with First Nations and is only considering the transfer of crown land to settle TLE at this time.
	Residents previously sought extension of land holdings and were unable to (Red Creek).	There are two existing Section 16s in place north and south of the existing subdivision that were put in place in 1985 and 2002 to reserve the areas for future rural-residential development. These designations would prevent applications' for Land Act dispositions including purchases.



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## Next Steps

- Continue to have conversations with tenure/lease/licence holders to resolve encumbrances on lands proposed for transfer.
- Continue to respond and consider site-specific interests that are submitted from stakeholders and members of the public (request for comments by April 15, 2019). Timelines may be extended dependent on when all public meetings can be scheduled and held.
- All concerns and comments will be captured in an engagement record which will be reviewed by decision makers
  - Depending on depth of potential impact of site-specific concerns, efforts may be made to avoid or mitigate the impact.
  - A summary of interests and explanations regarding how comments were considered will be part of the process
- Continue to provide updates to the Roundtable.

9



## Questions?

10

**APPENDIX D – PRESENTATIONS CARIBOU RECOVERY IN BC  
(FLNRORD)**

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- Context on caribou recovery
- Overview - Draft Section 11 Agreement and Draft Partnership Agreement
- South Peace Snowmobile & Backcountry Access
- Recovery efforts for Boreal & Northern herds
- Hear concerns from the northeast region



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1. Overview of caribou in B.C. and the Northeast
2. Pressures & Threats
3. Tools for Recovery & Past/Ongoing Action
4. Provincial Caribou Recovery Program
5. *Species at Risk Act*
6. Questions & Discussion



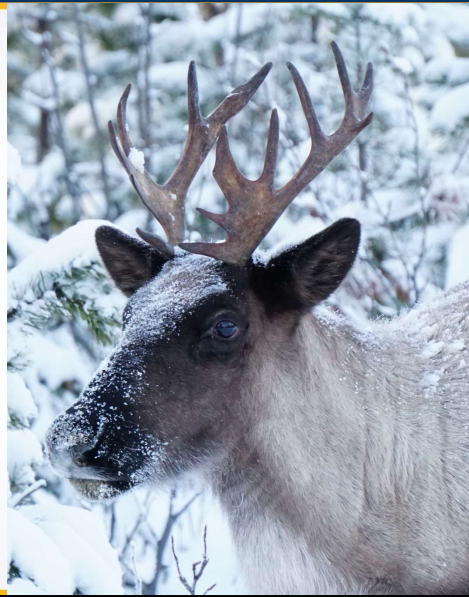
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2

## Why are caribou important in B.C.?

- Designated at-risk under federal law (SARA)
- Require large amounts of contiguous habitat
- Are vulnerable to predators (wolf, cougar, bear?)
- Are sensitive to human disturbance
- Occur in areas of high potential industrial development (timber, coal, shale gas)
- Have significant value to some First Nations (Treaty, cultural)

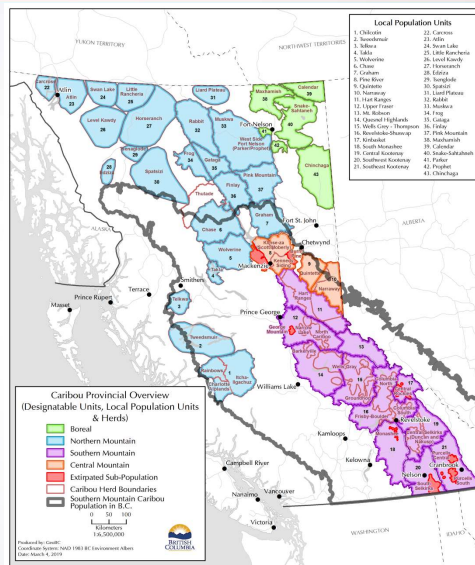


3

## Caribou Populations in British Columbia

DU	Population	SARA
Northern	26 herds with a total of ~15,000 animals	Special Concern, a few herds Threatened
Boreal	6 herds with ~700+ animals down from ~1500 in early 2000s	Threatened
Central	6 herds ~219 animals down from ~800 animals in the early 2000s	Threatened
Southern	15 herds with a total of ~1,200 animals down from ~2500 in the mid 90s	Threatened

Extinct (X)    Extirpated (Canada) (XT)    Endang. (E)    Threaten. (T)    Special Concern (SC)    Not At Risk (NAR)

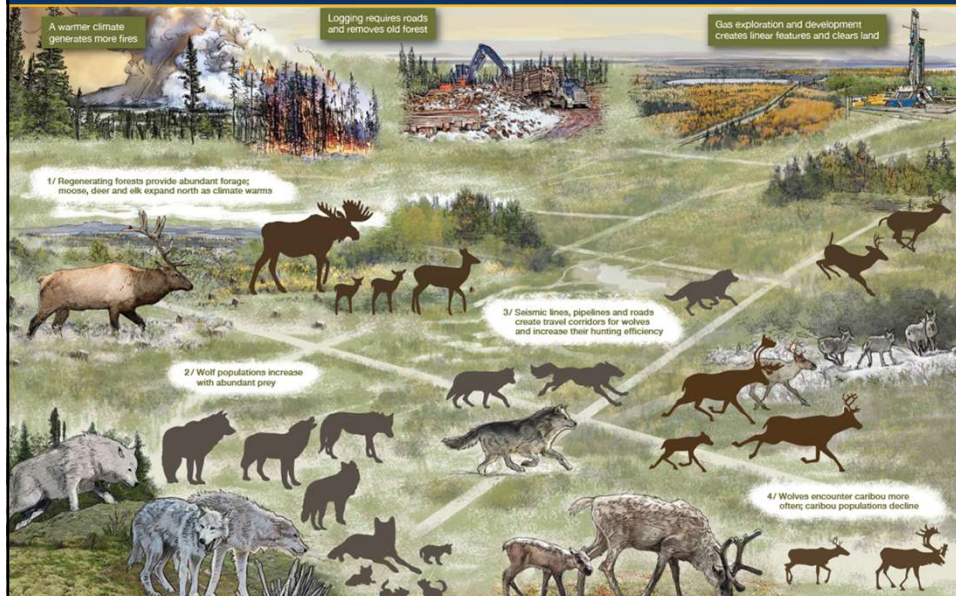


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## Pressures & Threats



5



## Tools for Recovery

- Habitat Protection
- Population/Wildlife Management
  - Maternal pens
  - Predator Management
  - Primary Prey Management
  - Supplemental Feeding
- Restoration
- Science, Monitoring & Caribou Health
- Recreation & Backcountry Management
- \*Communication & Engagement

6



BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Provincial Caribou Recovery Program - Habitat Protection



Over 1.25 M ha of habitat precluded from PNG tenure and created PNG production levy to secure \$10 M in research and monitoring



Over 1 M ha of caribou habitat closed to snowmobiles



Established habitat restoration program



Over 500,000 ha of critical habitat covered by coal or mineral reserves



Over 7.6 M ha of caribou habitat designated as UWR/WHA



Provincial Parks established specifically for caribou conservation

7



BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Provincial Caribou Recovery Program - Monitoring & Wildlife Management



- B.C. has a well-established monitoring and surveying program (collars, aerial surveys, etc.)
- Operational trials for wolf sterilization, primary prey (moose) reduction
- Predator Management
- Caribou translocation
- Supplemental Feeding
- Maternal penning

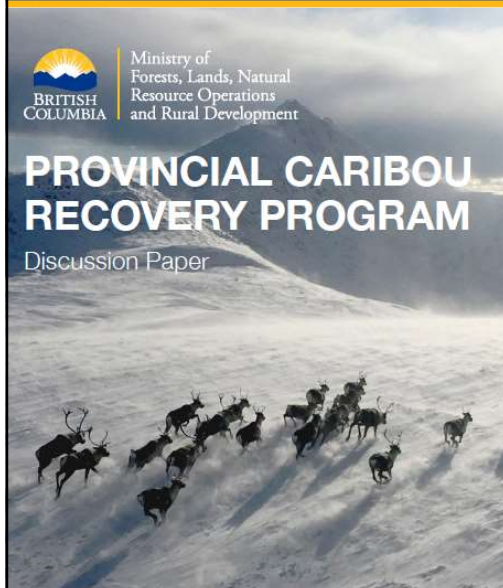
8

- Questions on what has been presented so far?

9

### PROVINCIAL CARIBOU RECOVERY PROGRAM

Discussion Paper



- Made in B.C. approach – Feb 2017
- Engagement April 20, 2018 – June 15, 2018

#### Goals & Principles

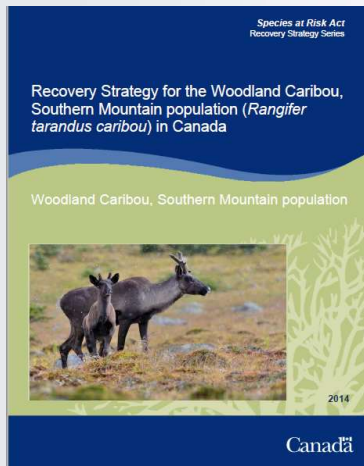
- Collaboration with Indigenous communities, industry and other interested organizations
- Actively engage with all interested parties and ensure transparency in decisions

#### Key Elements

- Herd Planning
- Adaptive Management
- Science Team
- Structured Decision-Making & setting priorities

10

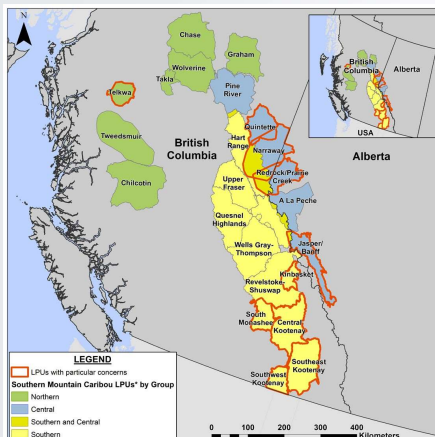
## Species at Risk Act & Federal Recovery Strategy



- *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) is federal legislation
- Under SARA the federal government can impose legal protections for caribou habitat (“Section 80 Order”)
- Federal Recovery Strategy applies to area in green boundary on map
- Federal Recovery Strategy calls for extensive habitat protections across all identified Critical Habitat

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## Species at Risk Act – Recent Events



- Canada can protect Critical Habitat through the use of a “Section 80” Order
- In May 2018, the Federal Minister concluded that Southern Mountain Caribou are facing imminent threat
  - 10 Local Population Units are of particular concerns
- Canada has received multiple petition requests from concerned organizations and citizens under SARA
- Federal Minister of Environment has legislative responsibility which she must exercise

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### **Southern Mountain Caribou**

1. Central Mountain Caribou Habitat, Population & First Nations-Led Caribou Recovery Initiatives
2. Draft Section 11 & Draft Partnership Agreements
3. Upcoming Engagement
4. South Peace Snowmobile Management
5. Q&A and Discussion

### **Boreal & Northern Mountain Caribou**

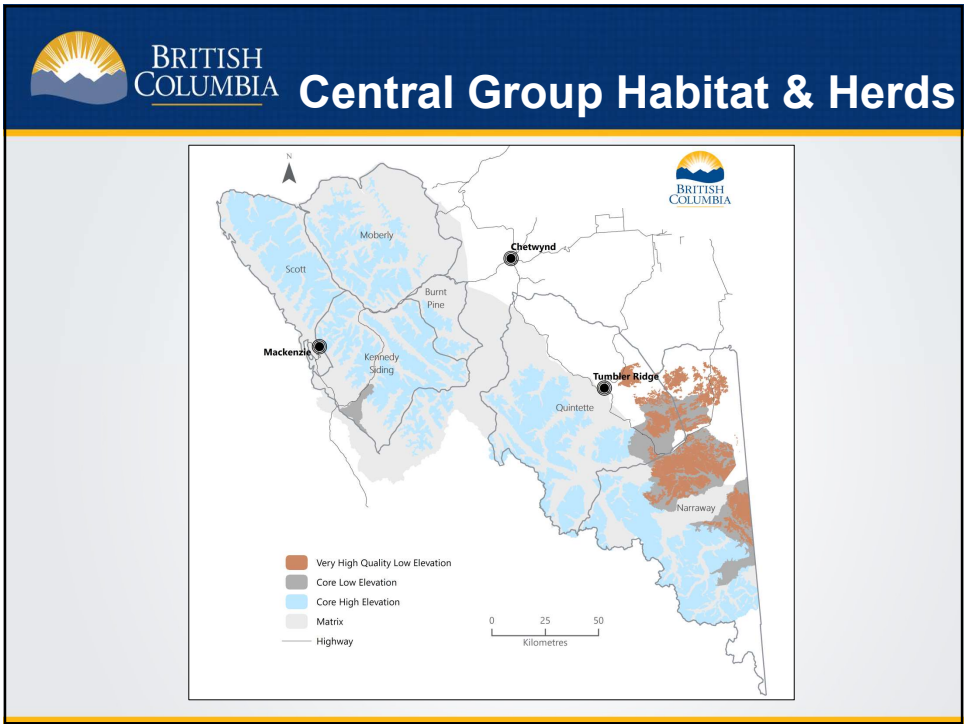
1. Recovery Efforts & Upcoming Engagement
2. Q&A and Discussion



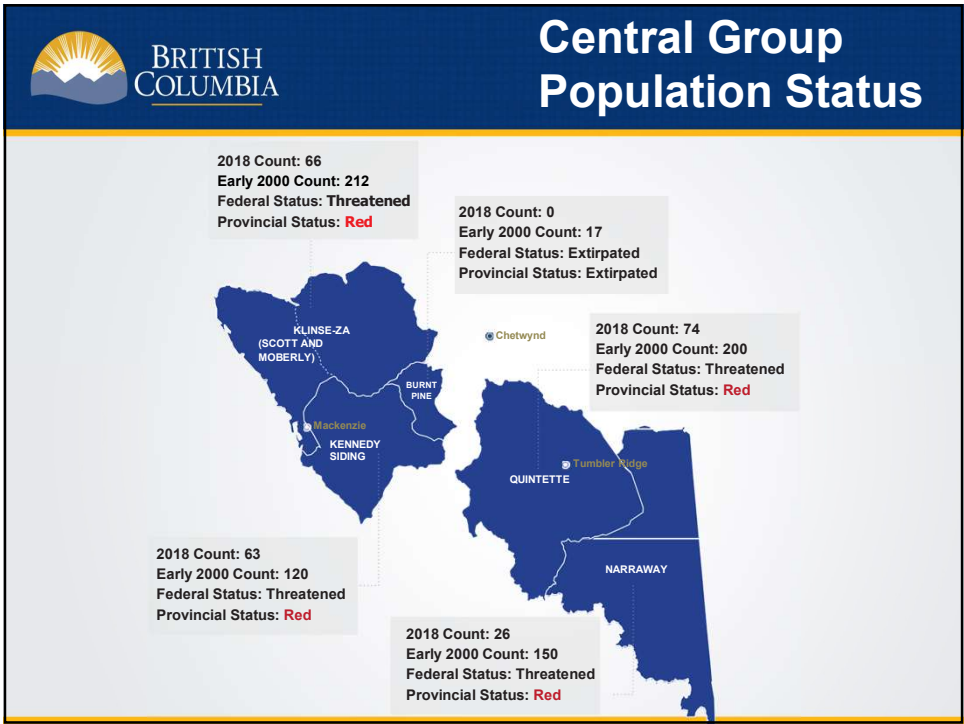
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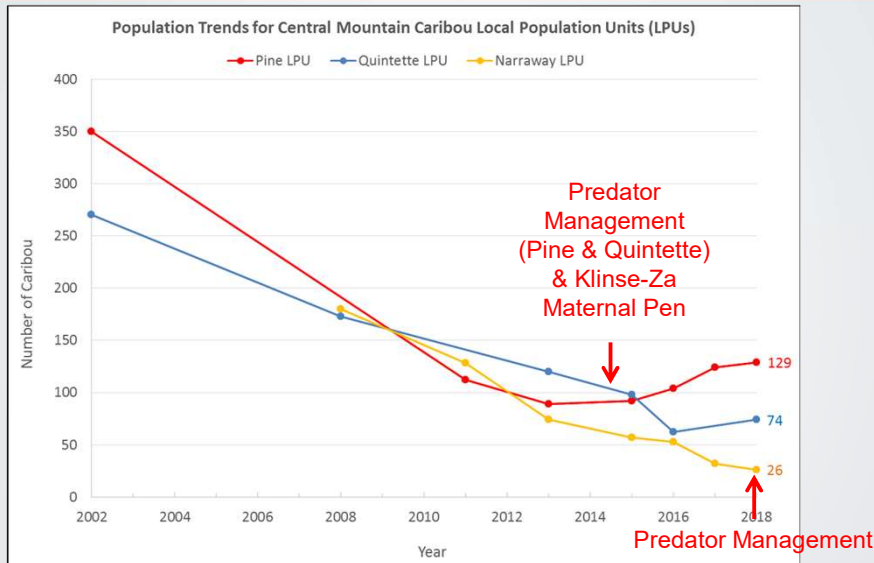
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# Central Mountain Population Status



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# West Moberly & Saulteau First Nations Leadership in Caribou



Klinse-Za Maternal Pen



Twin Nations Restoration



Ground Predator Management



Twin Sisters Native Plant Nursery



Habitat Mapping (7 Herds Report) & Planning (Klinse-Za Recovery Plan)

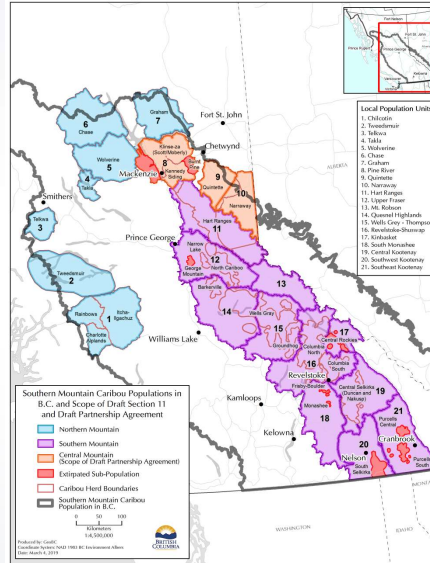


Moratorium on caribou hunting since 1970s

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## Draft Section 11 Agreement

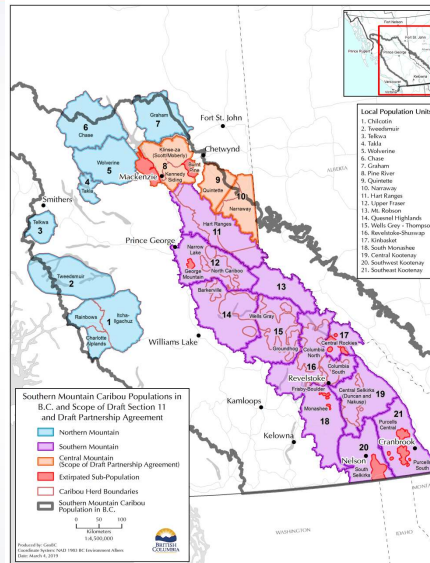
- **Scope:** SMC Federal Recovery Strategy Area (black boundary on map)
- **Parties:** Environment Climate Change Canada (ECCC) & BC
- **Purpose of Agreement:** Overarching commitments, measures and strategies for the recovery of Southern Mountain Caribou in B.C., while minimizing impacts to local governments, communities and the various industry sectors that operate in caribou habitat. *Aligns with Provincial Caribou Program Plan*
- **Communities and key stakeholders will be engaged on the agreement before finalizing**



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## Draft Partnership Agreement

- **Scope:** Pine, Narraway and Quintette populations Local Population Units (AKA: Klinse-Za, Kennedy-Siding, Burnt pine, Quintette & Narraway herds)
- **Parties:** Canada, BC, West Moberly & Sauteau First Nations
- **Purpose of Agreement:** Set out the actions the parties will take to stabilize and recover caribou in the Central Group
- **Communities and key stakeholders will be engaged on the agreement before finalizing**



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### Benefits

- Uses the best available science to increase caribou populations
- Positive, collaborative approach to Caribou Recovery
- Mitigates impacts and risks of a federal *Species at Risk Act* Protection Order
- Establishes a framework to support Indigenous peoples that play a leadership role in caribou recovery
- Demonstrates a strong stance on species at risk recovery
- Aligns Federal expectations with B.C.'s Caribou Recovery Program Plan

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March 2019 to  
April 2019

- Public engagement on revised draft S.11 and draft Partnership Agreement

May 2019 to Fall  
2019

- Report to public on "what we heard"
- Make final decision on signing draft agreements
- Snowmobile Management engagement begins (likely in May)

May 2019 to  
January 2020

- Engagement with stakeholders and Indigenous communities to determine long term plan and protections for Central Group (Structured Decision-Making)

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## Section 11 & Partnership Agreement Engagement



**Engagement on the Draft Section 11 Agreement and Draft Partnership Agreement will occur at the same time**

- Online Central Hub for Information
  - Maps, Summary Documents, FAQs
  - Feedback Form
- Utilize Existing Forums
  - Provincial Stakeholder and First Nation Caribou Conference Calls
  - Northeast Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting
- Meetings with industry sectors, local governments, ENGOs and recreation/tourism sectors
- Meetings with Indigenous Nations
- Public Open House Sessions in South Peace

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## Snowmobile Management Engagement Process

- Despite rumours, B.C. has not agreed to any specific spatial or temporal closures in the South Peace. No decisions about snowmobile closures in the South Peace have been made.
- BC has agreed to conducting an engagement process with snowmobile and recreation/tourism stakeholders in the South Peace. Goals of engagement process:
  - Develop robust maps of the snowmobile network & confirm where snowmobiling conflicts with caribou
  - Identify options for managing snowmobiling that balance caribou needs and community values/backcountry access
  - Identify opportunities for enhancing snowmobile infrastructure in areas that pose a lower risk to caribou
- There will be opportunities for online and in-person engagement



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- Joelle Scheck, Caribou Team Lead - Northeast [joelle.scheck@gov.bc.ca](mailto:joelle.scheck@gov.bc.ca)
- Hillary Morgan, Land & Resource Specialist – Northeast [hillary.morgan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:hillary.morgan@gov.bc.ca)



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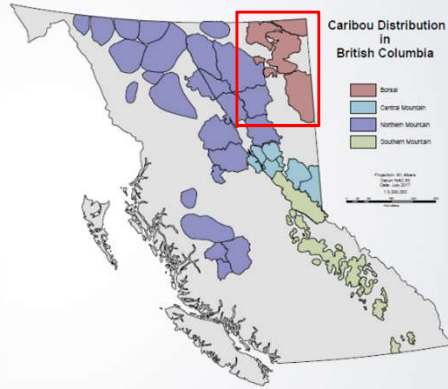
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# Boreal Caribou Background

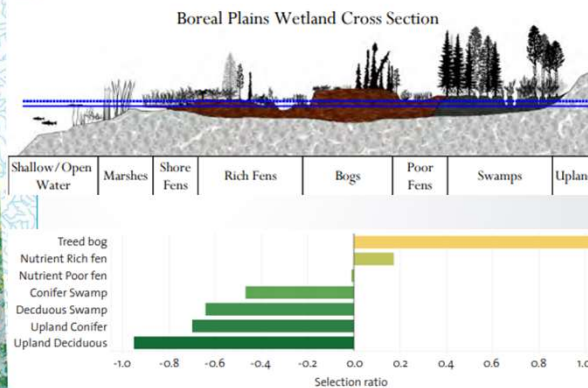
- Boreal Caribou reside in the large peatland complexes of the northeastern corner of the province.
- Population estimates indicate Boreal Caribou populations have declined since the early 2000s
- Caribou Conservation Status:
  - Red Listed (S2) imperiled by British Columbia
  - Threatened on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* .



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# Where Boreal Caribou Live

**Boreal Caribou prefer treed bogs and fens (muskeg).**



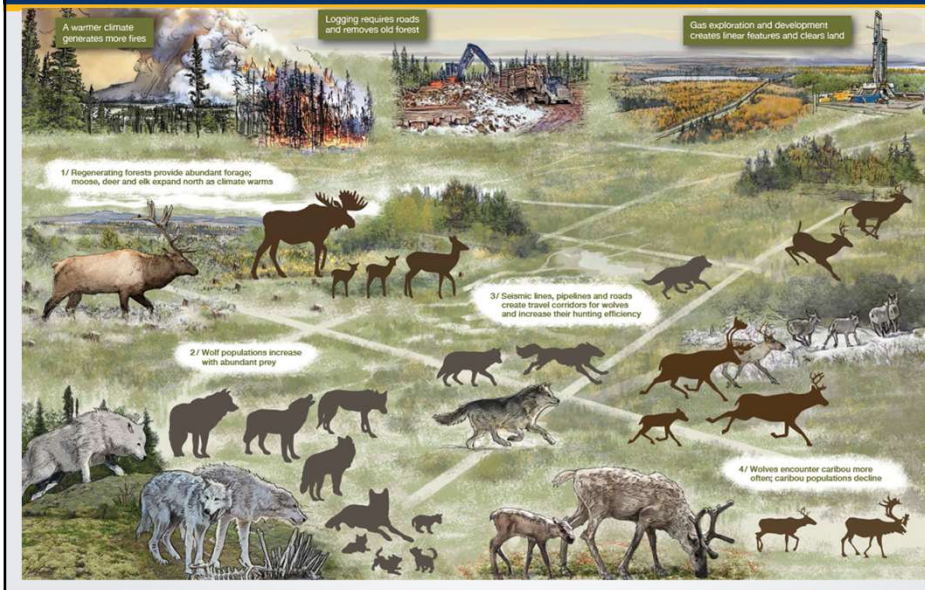
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## Management History & Context

- **2002** – The *Species At Risk Act* (SARA) is established
- **2003** – Canada classifies Boreal Caribou as threatened
- **2008** – BC classifies Boreal Caribou as threatened
- **2011** – BC approves the Implementation Plan for the Ongoing Management of Boreal Caribou In BC. Research and Effectiveness Monitoring Board is established. Protected Areas are established.
- **2012** – Federal Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy published.
- **March 2017** – Draft Boreal Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan posted for public comment
- **April 2017** – Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) takes federal minister to court over Boreal Caribou habitat progress reporting
- **Aug 2017** – BC provided response information to populate federal progress report
- **Sept 2017** – Fort Nelson First Nation releases Medzih Action Plan, a Boreal Caribou Recovery Plan.
- **Oct 2017** – Boreal Caribou herd plans are due to the federal government.
- **Feb 2018** – Official Federal Boreal Caribou Action Plan released by ECCC.
- **July 2019** – The Research and Effectiveness Monitoring Board is dissolved.
- **Aug 2019** – B.C. and Fort Nelson First Nation initiate collaboration to co-develop a recovery plan for boreal caribou in B.C.
- **Winter 2019** – Predator Management Program in the Chinchaga Range is initiated.

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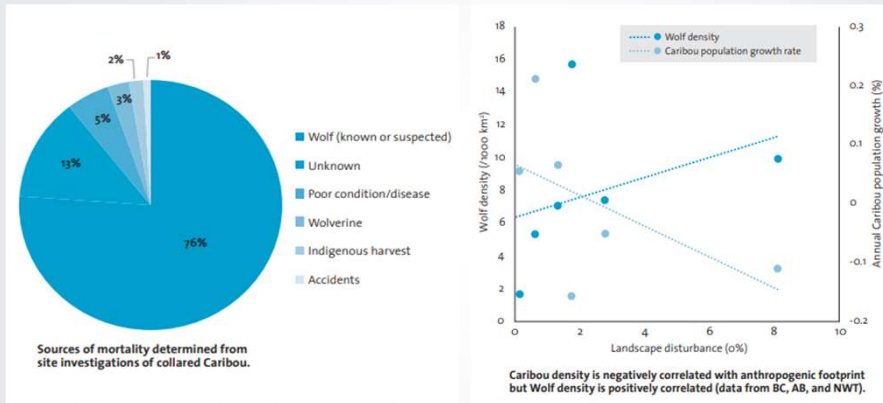
## Pathway to Decline



30

## Caribou Mortality

Wolf predation is the primary source of mortality for adult caribou.

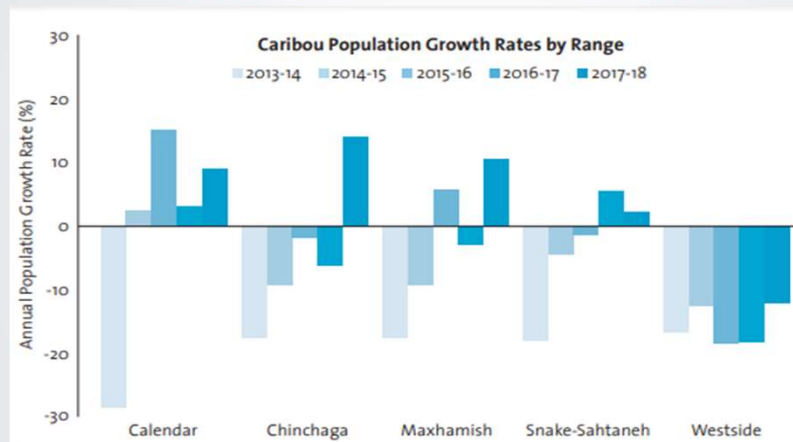


**Wolves avoid caribou habitat unless linear features are present.**

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## Boreal Caribou Growth Rate

Caribou population growth rates have improved recently, but remain negative in some areas.

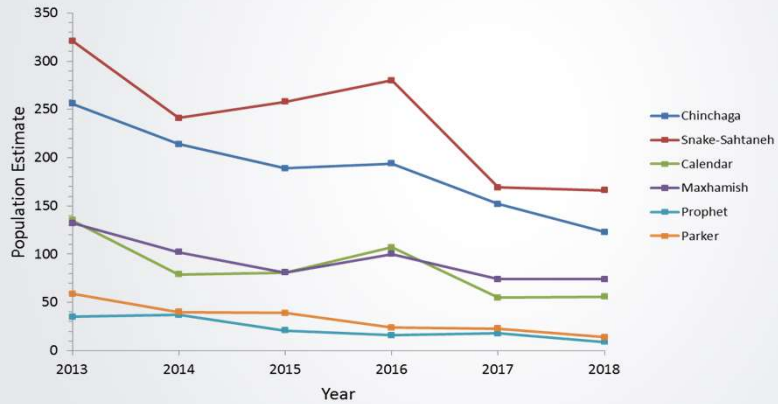


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# Boreal Population Trend

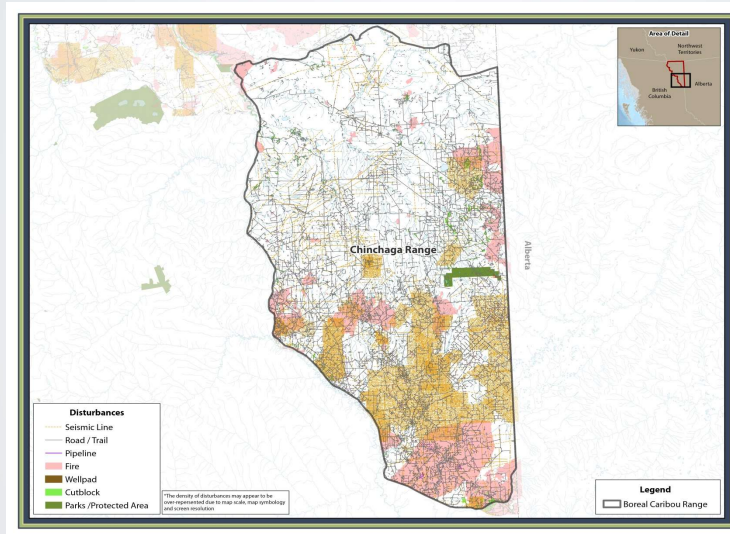
While growth rates are improving in some areas, populations estimates remain low compared to previous years.



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# Habitat Disturbance



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## Habitat Disturbance

Range	Range area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Total linear disturbance (km)	Disturbance Density (km/km <sup>2</sup> )	% disturbance (total herd area)
Calendar	5,411	14,191	2.56	61%
Chinchaga	13,903	37,769	2.72	96%
Maxhamish	7,775	13,341	1.57	68%
Snake-Sahtaneh	12,301	58,028	4.70	79%
Westside FN	8,664	18,978	2.18	78%
Total	48,054	142,307	-	-

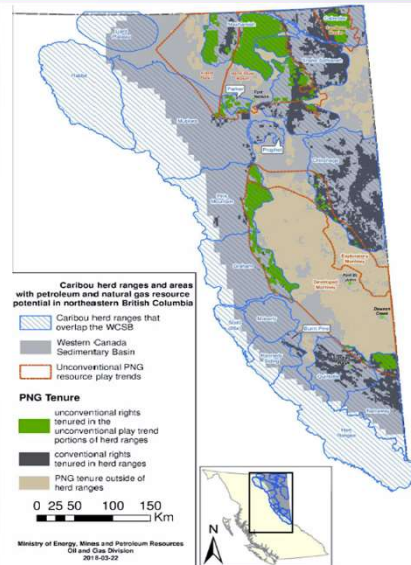
*\*Does not include low-impact seismic*

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## Economic Situation

Resource-based communities reliant upon natural resource extraction.

- Stalled oil and gas investment outside of the Montney.
- Decline in forest investment in Fort Nelson, hope for renewed investment.



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## Planning & Engagement

- The Province and Fort Nelson First Nation are currently engaged in a collaborative technical planning process.
- Engagement with other interested Nations is viewed as a priority.
- Socio-economic analysis on any recovery options will take place prior to broad public engagement.
- Public engagement process will take place in Summer 2019 and will consist of:
  - online public posting period;
  - in-person meetings with industry and key stakeholders
  - Community Open-Houses

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## Questions



**Michael Huck**

Land & Resource Specialist

Peace Natural Resource District

Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

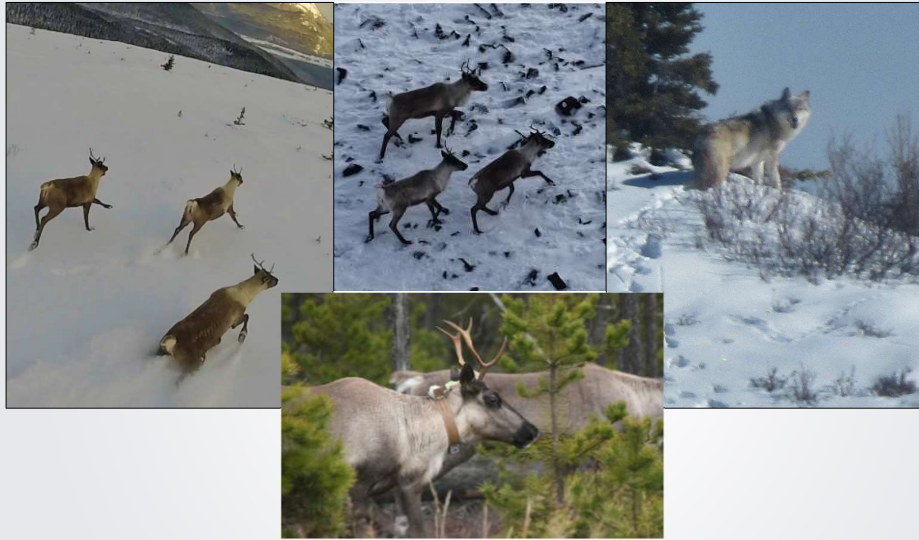
E-mail: [Michael.Huck@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Michael.Huck@gov.bc.ca)



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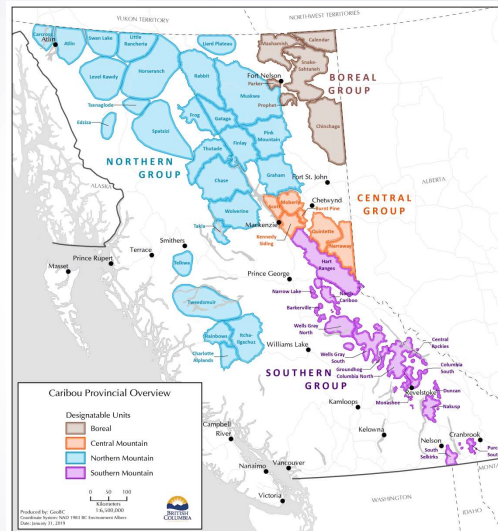


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- 26 herds, approx. 15,000
- SARA - Special Concern, Threatened (Graham)
- NE – less understanding of status, trend and impacts
- Wolves prevalent
  - 22 wolves/1000km<sup>2</sup>



40



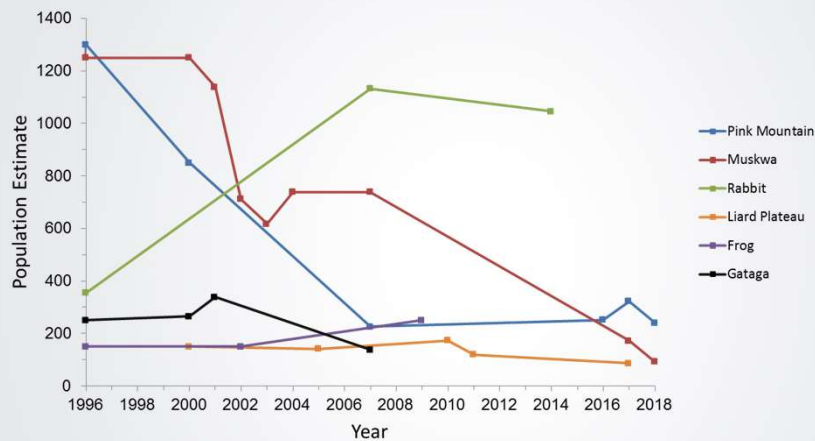
# NE Northern Sub-Populations

Herd Name	Year of Estimate	Sub-population Estimate	Sub-Population Trend
Pink Mountain	2018	350	Declining
Graham	2016	230	Declining
Muskwa	2018	450	Declining
Gataga	2001	340	Stable
Frog	2010	250	Unknown
Rabbit	2007	1000	Unknown
Liard Plateau	2017	150	Unknown

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# Northern Mountain Population Trend



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## Northern Caribou Recovery & Management Actions

- Historic Plans:
  - Graham River IRMP
  - Code Pilot SFMP
- Habitat Protection
  - Graham & Pink Mountain
- Wolf Control
  - Pink Mountain 18/19
  - Potential expansion to Graham
- Restoration



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## Northern Caribou Planning

- NXNW leading northern caribou engagement and herd planning
- Graham and Pink Mountain herd planning engagement via the FSJ LRMP amendment



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## Contacts

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**APPENDIX E – CARIBOU ENGAGEMENT COMMENTS – FLIP  
CHART**

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# Caribou Engagement Comments – Flip Chart

I AGENDA - APRIL

1. Northern Caribou (+Boreal/Alar)
2. S. II / PA Engagement  
→ "Notes + Bolts"
3. W. MOUNTAIN PARCELS  
→ Maps/overlays
4. Engagement Process/Schedule  
Who/What/When
5. LAMP Update

→ separates

QUESTIONS

- TREATY CONTEXT AS A DRIVER
- INFO ON COLLARING PROGRAMS  
- where is data? correct?  
- Process-timing?  
- Consistent Herd counts
- HOW "FAR" DO RECOVERY EFFORTS GO?
- HOW INTENSE IS MULTI-SPECIES APPROACH (eg. closing Grizzly hunt when it's a key predator)
- HOW IS A BALANCED APPROACH ACHIEVED?

QUESTIONS P2

- ENGAGEMENT. MEANINGFUL  
↳ HOW?
- HOW TO BETTER UNDERSTAND POP'S OTHER THAN PRED-Prey Relat'p
- OTHER PREY MANAGEMENT -  
- Moose decline (Mk et)  
- CONFIDENCE IN DATA - DO YOU HAVE IT  
↳ not yet?
- FEDERAL TIMELINE? - NOT SPECIFIC

P3

- WHY SII PROCESS STOPPED?  
- Need to see on what is being discussed. Partnership
- WHERE ARE S. 80'S AVAILABLE?  
- SARA Registry
- HOW TO EXPAND OPP'S  
- NEW "Norma"; GOVT, 3P'S FOUNDATIONS  
- FOR PREDATOR MNGT  
eg. Mat Pen + NDI  
Mngt.
- WHAT NEXT WHEN FUNDING Δ'S?
- GENETIC INTEGRITY - HOW SMALL SIZE HERD?

### Clarification - Purpose of certain OR V closures (when area can't be accessed from N. Peace)

- Certainty for proposed mine projects w/ or w/o sill
- Economic issue
- "Reasonable Environmental Standard" = Carbon Recovery
- o Thorough Socio Ec <sup>(Impact Analysis)</sup> Evaluation <sup>Concern re timing</sup> Key before Engagement

What are next steps under s.80?

SOLID ID VIEWS ARE USED BY GOVT.

- o TAKE CONSULTATION PUBLIC
- o END "ARM'S LENGTH" APPROACH
- o PROV ENFORCEMENT → "Setting in your own wings"
- o Local Govt Angst → Soc. EC in a vacuum  
↳ Nat TOR

### SCIENTIFIC DATA - PROIDE

↳ Timing → not time to analyze of all deliverables eg. herd, <sup>7</sup> Soc. EC etc.

Timeline → need to incorporate inputs

- o Fed'l Participation in consultation. - Yes
  - o Rollup silos <sup>Improving Wildlife Resources</sup> SAR, sill, <sup>partnership</sup> "Program Plan"
  - o Other Industry Consultation = Mining separate (Trappers etc)
  - o TRUST - Joint PR → comm. re. Buh Min + Staff
- Big River Analytics responsible for engagement TOR.*

Use the ideas given thru the RT.


- o Decision makers in the room for consultation? → Science (e.g. LRMP update)
- o Need maps, lines, #'s to be a deeply consulted.
- o Need time for engagement → sch. + schedule
- o LRMP update → sch. past Carbon initiatives get implemented





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