



Caribou Program Update

For the NE Roundtable
November 24, 2021

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Caribou Team Lead, FLNR – Regional
Ops NE**

Outline

- Predator Reduction Engagement/next steps
- Partnership Agreement: Winter Motorized Recreation Plan update/next steps
- Other Partnership Agreement Implementation Updates
 - Land Use Objectives
 - Park Expansion
- Boreal – Fort Nelson
- Boreal - Fort St John LRMP area
- Other Program Updates

Predator Reduction-Engagement

Approvals

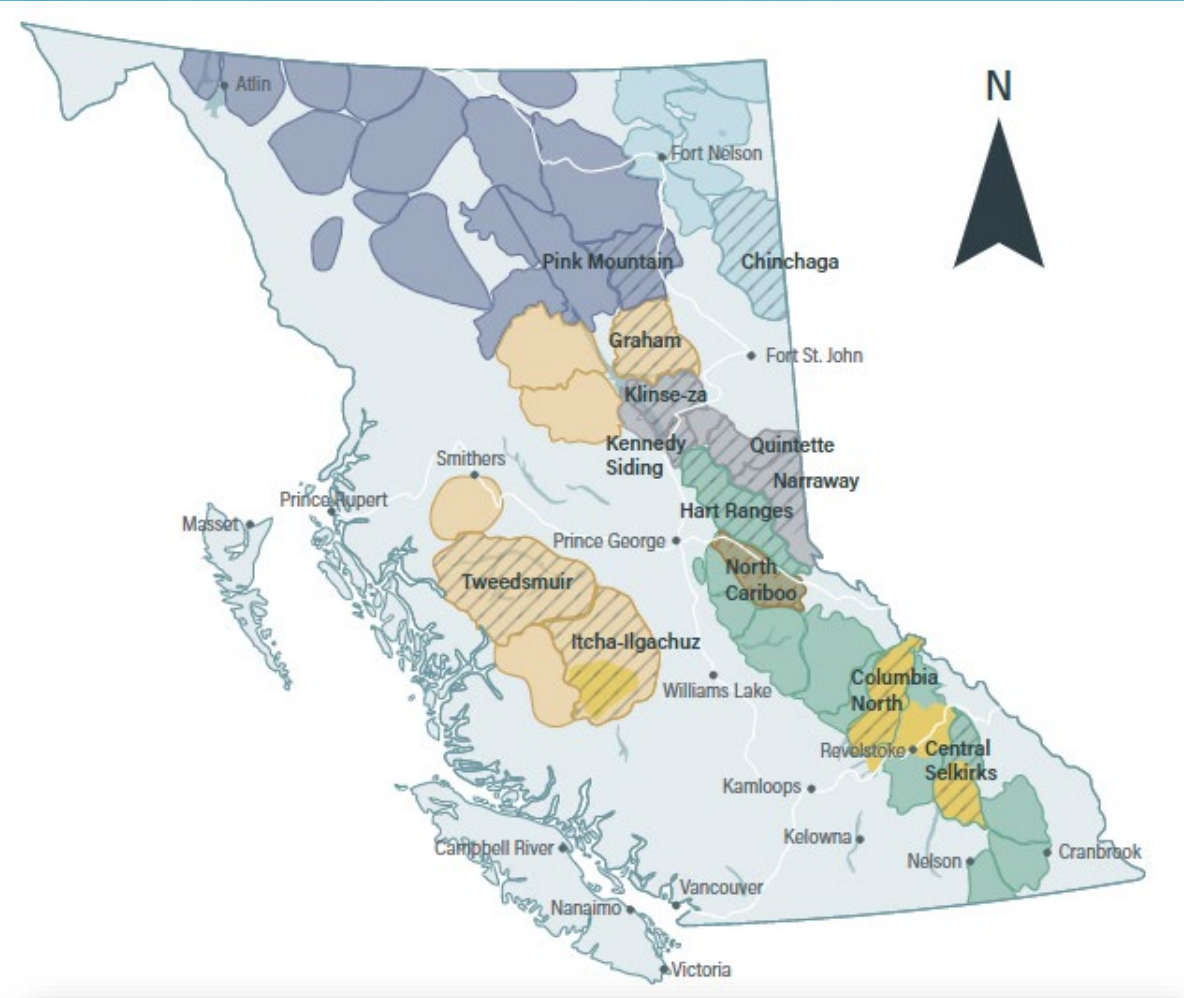
- New approvals needed under the Parks and Wildlife Acts are required for 21-22

Engagement









- 3 pronged approach
 - ✓ Consultation with 46 Nations
 - ✓ Consultation with potentially impacted tenure holders (outfitters/trappers)
 - ✓ Public (engageBC survey); 15,000 responses
- Surprised by letter from UBCIC to our Minister
 - ✓ WMFN following up
- Surprised by BCSPCA statement of action being inhumane
 - ✓ BC Provincial Veterinarian following up

Decision packages

- Provided to decision makers November 24-30



B.C. Caribou Herd Boundaries

 Boreal	 Continued Predator Management (Wolf)
 Northern Mountain	 North Cariboo (New Treatment Area)
 Southern Mountain (Central Group)	 Continued Predator Management (Cougar)
 Southern Mountain (Northern Group)	
 Southern Mountain (Southern Group)	

Predator Reduction- Response to court challenge


Issues identified

- Legislative challenge for the legality of implementation
- Concerns with consistency of considerations by SDM

Operational response

- Amendments to regulation (*Wildlife Act*)
- Interim Aerial Wolf Reduction Procedure published
- Decision package for Parks and FLNRO statutory decision makers
- Rationale for Decision- Template

Decisions will proceed, most likely, prior to court findings from the October 27-29th court continuance being known. FLNRO has deemed mitigations to risks identified in court are sufficient to move to decision and implementation.

	Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development	PROCEDURE MANUAL	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>VOLUME</th> <th>SECTION</th> <th>SUBSECTION</th> <th>PAGE</th> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>7</td> <td>04.06</td> <td>1 of 10</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="4">SUBJECT</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Caribou Recovery Program – Interim Aerial Wolf Reduction Procedure</td> </tr> </table>	VOLUME	SECTION	SUBSECTION	PAGE	4	7	04.06	1 of 10	SUBJECT				Caribou Recovery Program – Interim Aerial Wolf Reduction Procedure			
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Caribou Recovery Program – Interim Aerial Wolf Reduction Procedure																			

**Caribou Recovery Program
Interim Aerial Wolf Reduction Procedure (2021)**

This Procedure Replaces:
None

Staff and Organizations Affected:

1. The BC Caribou Recovery Program, responsible for identifying caribou herds where aerial wolf reduction would support caribou recovery.
2. Directors, Regional Managers, and wildlife management staff responsible for:
 - (a) the management and conservation of wildlife, and/or
 - (b) the issuance of permits under the *Wildlife Act*.
3. Regional First Nations Relations staff.
4. Regional Managers with BC Parks responsible for letters of authorization under BC Parks Policy: Control of Native Wildlife Species for the Recovery of Species or Ecological Communities at Risk (2020).
5. Any individual or group working on behalf of the B.C. Government requesting a permit for the aerial reduction of wolves to benefit at-risk caribou herds.


Reason for this Procedure:

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) has established this procedure to implement the Control of Species Policy (4-7-04.01.3) where it applies to aerial wolf reduction for caribou recovery. There are four sections to this procedure:

1. Decision Path
2. Statutory Decision Maker
3. Monitoring and Reporting
4. Discontinuing Aerial Wolf Reduction for Caribou Recovery

Purpose:

It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) to:

PREPARED BY		AUTHORIZATION	
NAME	NAME	POSITION	SIGNATURE
Alana Phillips	Jennifer Psyllakis		
POSITION	POSITION		
Conservation Policy Analyst	Director – Wildlife and Habitat		
			DATE EFFECTIVE
			September 16, 2021

PA: Winter Motorized Recreation

Recommendations for snowmobile closures to support caribou recovery

- ~70% of the area identified as snowmobile areas would remain available for snowmobile opportunity
- ~84% of high elevation habitat throughout the 5 central group herds closed
- Recommendation for decision supported by Canada/BC/WMFN/SFN

Next steps

- Decision package will be provided, in November, to the Ministers for decisions (MoE/Parks, FLNRORD)
- Funding has been identified to assist snowmobile clubs in identifying areas for possible enhancement
- New positions have been identified for Rec Sites & Trails BC (RSTBC), and the Conservation Officer Service for education/implementation re:closures, and assistance to clubs to plan enhancements

Bryan Mitchell's TA has come to an end with the Caribou Program. We are thankful for his determination and dedication to this important file. Bryan will begin new work with RSTBC in the New Year.



PA: Land Use Objectives (Clause 22, Schedule 2)

Status of LUO's

- Technical Working Group has made good progress on LUO's addressing linear feature management and operational mitigations
- Work underway to address early seral/total disturbance
- Update workplan and timelines for external review of draft LUOs and public engagement

Linkages

- Clause 33 Reduction in Disturbance across Critical Habitat
 - 10-year caribou habitat restoration plan
 - Improved coordination across sectors and improved communication with public
- Clause 34 Mitigation and Offset Program

PA: Klinse-Za Park Expansion

Delayed establishment of the Zone B3 addition

- Federal Election
- Consultation with First Nations
 - Request made by an Indigenous Nation for an extended consultation timeline
 - Targeted conversation occurred, consultation complete

Timeline for establishment

- Spring, 2022

Fort Nelson Boreal Caribou Protection & Recovery Plan

- Caribou Program Board endorsed a scenario for external engagement
- Fort Nelson FN Chief and Council endorsed same scenario for engagement
 - Next steps:
 - Briefing executive from EMLI, OGC
 - Briefing Canada
 - External engagement winter 21/22
 - Online forum - Engage BC
 - Using existing venues/forums for virtual F2F with targeted groups (Northern Rockies Stakeholders, NE Roundtable, First Nations, potentially affected stakeholders)



Boreal caribou group –

Fort St. John caribou planning



Tommy Lakes bull caribou – photo credit Rod Backmeyer

Chinchaga, Graham and Pink Mountain Herds

- Engagement on Chinchaga, Graham & Pink Mountain herd plan recommendations to take place as part of broader land-use planning within the Fort St. John LRMP update area.
- Ongoing negotiations with BRFN and other T8 Nations may influence what the path forward on planning for these herds

Other Program Updates

NE Caribou Team Staffing

- Kerry Harvey joins the NE Caribou Team on TA as an Ecosystems Biologist supporting restoration and monitoring portfolios
- TA opportunity for an Authorizations Specialist to support restoration focused application reviews and process

Provincial Caribou Program

- Caribou Program 2.0
- The Program is initiating planning for the next 5 years.
- Our strategic framework has been updated to build off achievements to date and reaches out to set us up for success for tomorrow.



Questions?

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Ops NE**

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