



Caribou Program Update

For the NE Roundtable
February 16, 2021

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What's covered today

General NE Program Updates:

- Winter field work

Partnership Agreement:

- Caribou Recovery Committee
- Klinse-Za Park Expansion
- Land-Use Objectives
- Winter Motorized Recreation

NE Program: Winter Field Work

Predator Reduction

- All approvals (Parks and Wildlife Acts) in place
- Work underway in all treatment zones

Collaring

- 42 GPS collars deployed in January - Liard, Frog, Gataga, Rabbit
- Approx. 30 collars deployed in Boreal
- Approx. 7 collars for Quintette and Kennedy-Siding

Surveys

- Liard Rut survey
- DNA survey West Side Fort Nelson (boreal)
 - 3rd sampling period underway
- Recruitment surveys in March

Partnership Agreement Updates - Caribou Recovery Committee

Goal to assess:

- the impact of proposed resource development on caribou/caribou habitat,
- Effectiveness of mitigations and offsetting measures &
- How it contributes to the Shared Recovery Objective
- Produces consensus-based recommendations

2020/21 Draft Annual Report completed

- Shared with the Parties for review
- Parties to decide when/how it will be shared publicly

Shared Recovery Objective:

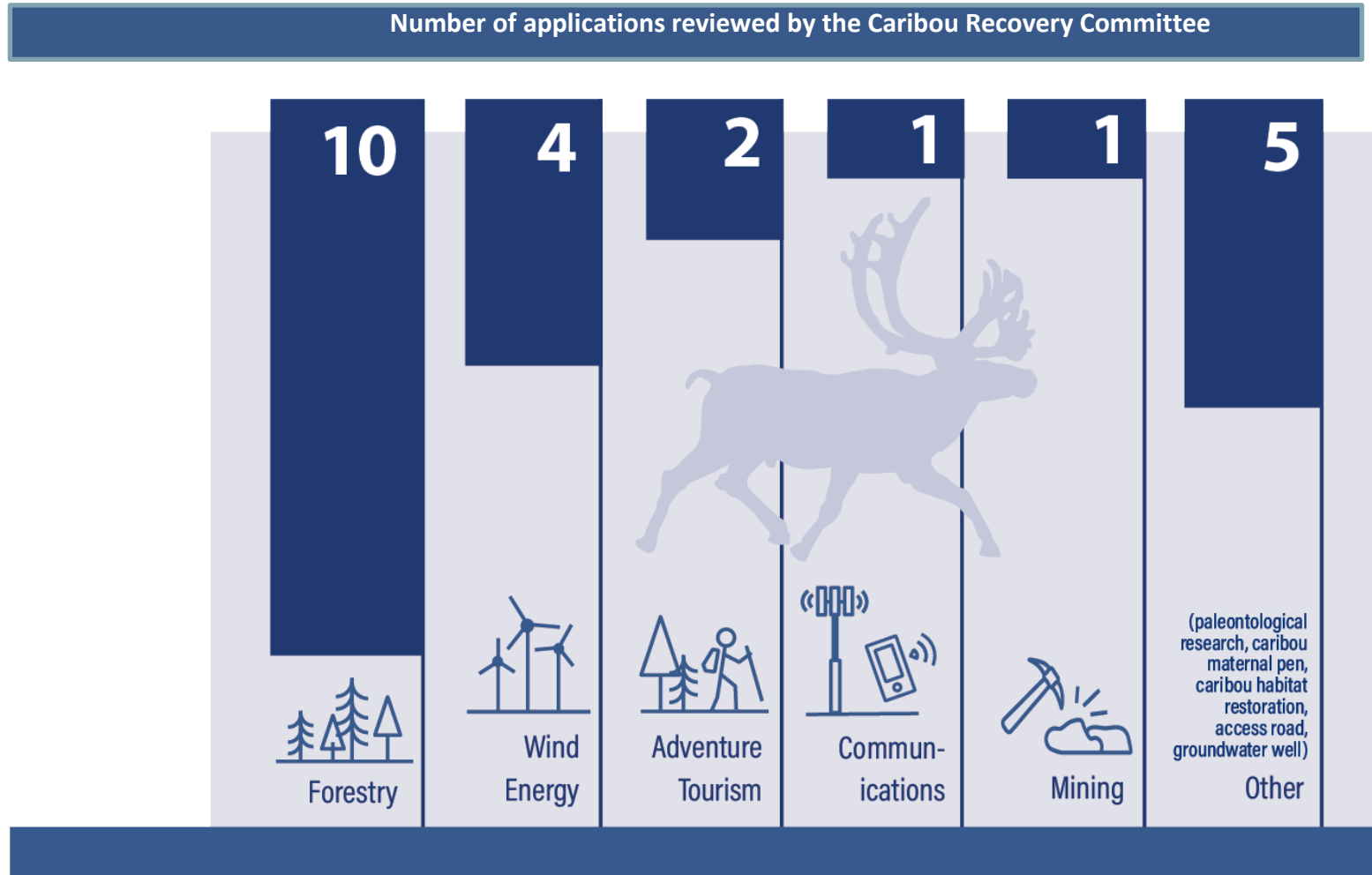
“immediately stabilizing and expeditiously growing the population of the Central Group to levels that are self-sustaining and support traditional aboriginal harvesting activities, consistent with existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights”

The Caribou Recovery Committee was formally established on April 1, 2020, with representation from Saúlteau First Nations, West Moberly First Nations, Government of Canada, and the Province of British Columbia

Partnership Agreement Updates - Caribou Recovery Committee

Highlights:

- 23 applications reviewed over last 2 years
- Innovation & commitment by proponents
- Relationships being built through collaboration
- Work of CRC represents a new process
- Improved outcomes for caribou



Partnership Agreement Updates: Klinse-Za Park Expansion

Timeline for establishment

- Spring 2022 pending completion of Indigenous engagement

Focus on Finalizing Two Agreements:

1. Amending Agreement

- Updates the Caribou Recovery Area – Zone Map to reflect changes made to the zones as a result of negotiating the proposed boundaries of the Park/Protected Area

2. Supplemental Agreement

- Clarifies the specific areas originally identified as within Zone B3 but cannot be included in the Park due to conflicting land use (e.g. specified Forest Service Roads)

Partnership Agreement: Land Use Objectives (Clause 22, Schedule 2)

Status of LUO's

- Revised direction from David Muter (SAR ADM) following BRFN Decision
- Technical Working Group is developing targets and LUOs to address total disturbance from all industries
- Work is underway to develop operational LUOs
- Linear feature management targets and LUOs have been drafted.

Linkages

- Exploring linkages and connections with BRFN and Treaty 8 negotiations
- Clause 33 Reduction in Disturbance across Critical Habitat
 - 10-year caribou habitat restoration implementation plan
 - Improved coordination across sectors and improved communication with public
- Clause 34 Mitigation and Offset Program
 - Development of revised Environmental Mitigation Policy

Partnership Agreement: Winter Motorized Recreation

Ministerial Decision to manage and close areas in the Northern Rockies to support caribou recovery

- Dec 16, 2021
- ~70% of the area identified as snowmobile areas would remain available for snowmobile opportunity
 - Access to some areas still needs to be worked out – work is ongoing
- ~84% of high elevation habitat throughout the 5 central group herds closed
- Recommendation for decision supported by Canada/BC/WMFN/SFN
- Closures will reduce harassment from auditory and visual disturbance and reduce the amount of packed trails that may facilitate predator movement
- Although snowmobiles are not the ultimate cause of caribou decline, these closures compliment other habitat and population management actions occurring in Central Group



Partnership Agreement: Winter Motorized Recreation

Outreach Materials

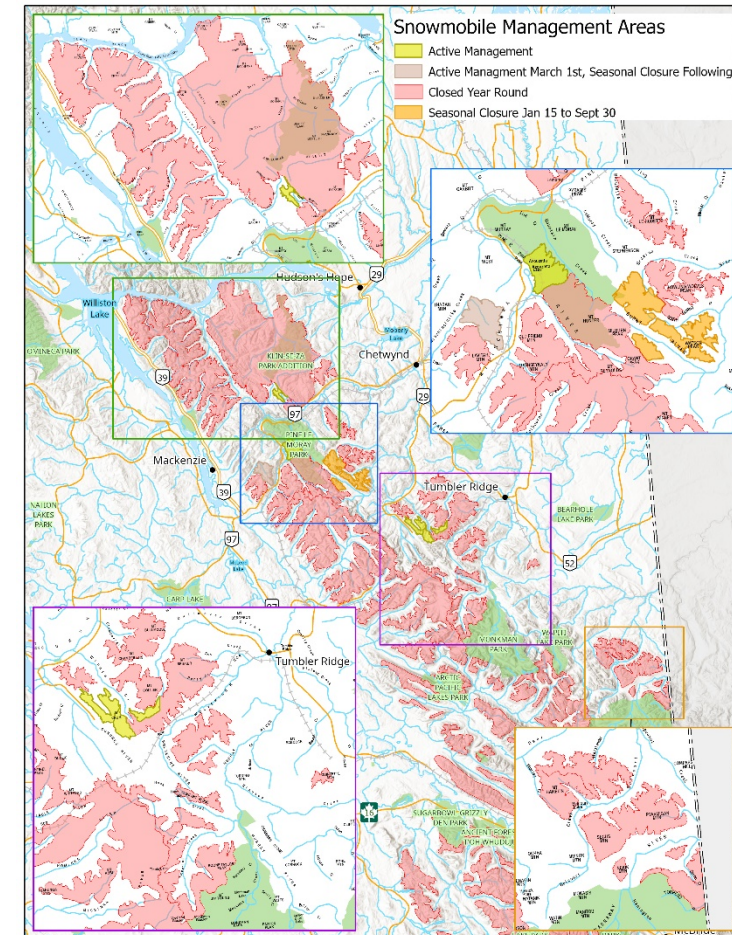
- One pager developed with key messages, RAPP line, weblinks and map on back
 - Conservation Officer Service
 - Local communities (interim)
- Spatial data acquisition from communities re: local trail network names

Motor Vehicle Prohibition Regulation Permit Exemptions

- Permit applications for exemptions for clubs in process

Conservation Officer Service Patrols

- Caribou observed within closure areas
- Snowmobile tracks observed, no active snowmobilers
- Compliance very good, 0 charges and 0 warnings to date



Weblinks

Motor Vehicle Prohibitions:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/motor-vehicle-prohibitions#snowmobile>

Research on motorized recreation & caribou:

[Snowmobile_reference_materials.pdf \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)



Questions?

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