

BC's Approach to Caribou Habitat Restoration

Opportunities and Challenges

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**BC CARIBOU
RECOVERY PROGRAM**

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Outline

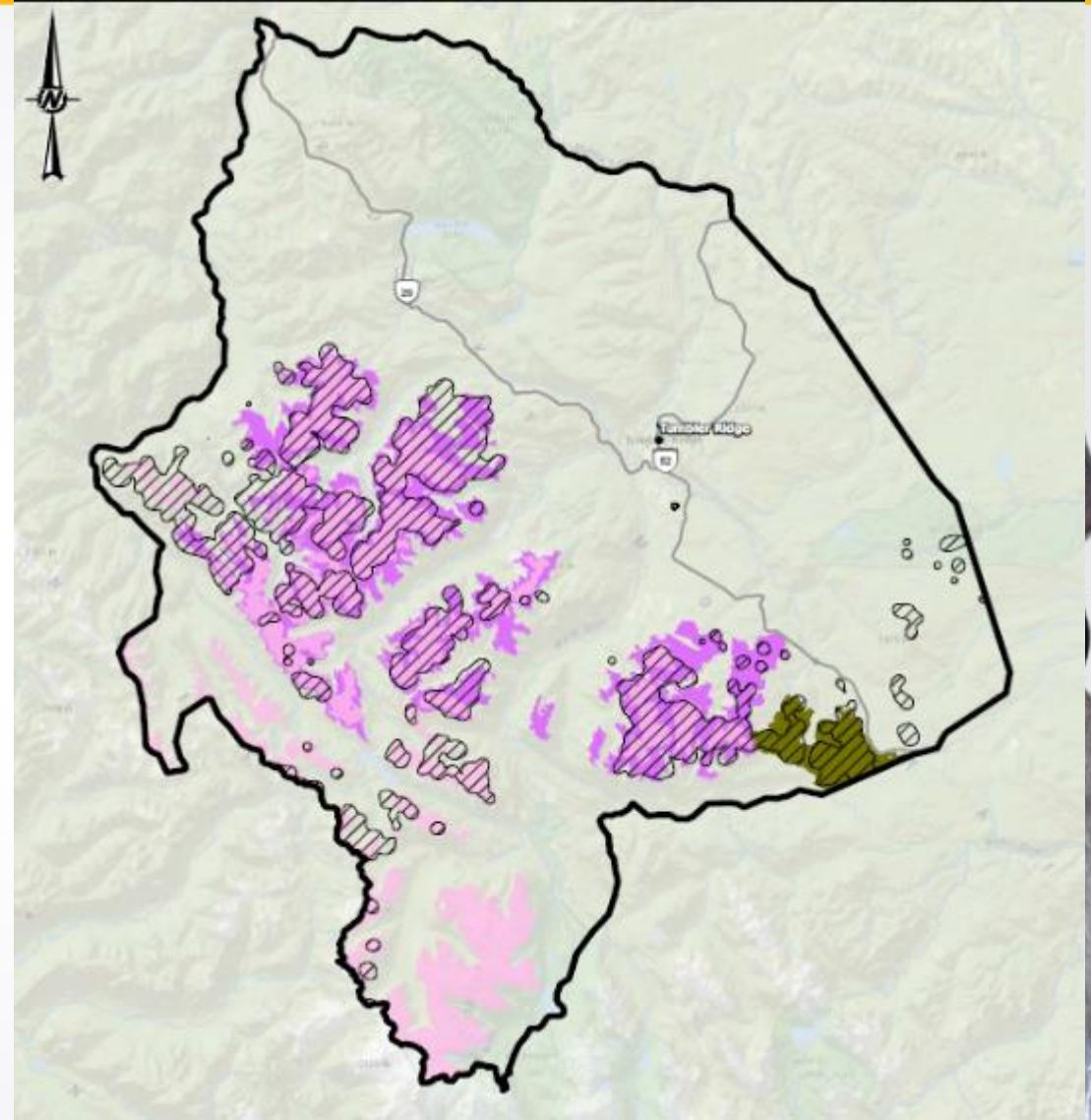
- Quintette caribou range restoration pilot
 - Context
 - Implementation
 - Monitoring
- Challenges and Opportunities
- BC's approach to restoration
 - Strategic, tactical & operational planning
 - Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation funding model





Quintette Restoration Pilot - Context

- Quintette Herd: Central Group
- Long term state of decline
 - ~60% decline From 2000-15
 - Population increasing under predator management
- Habitat highly disturbed
 - 86% disturbed (Federal Standards)
 - ~1,500 km “Legacy” disturbance
- Range Contraction following decline
 - Remnant herd dependent on high elevation habitat
 - Limited seasonal migration between habitat types
- Restoration planning: Quintette Restoration Plan (2017) Golder Associates





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Quintette Restoration Pilot - Implementation

Priority Area 1:

- ~40 km of High value restoration targets
- ~400 km under tenure
 - Predominantly Mining and PNG roads

Total of ~32.5 km treated. Combination of functional and ecological treatments:

- Site prep: Machine Screefing, road ripping
 - 3.04 km/ 2.24 ha
- Tree felling: cluster falling every 5 m, 200 m segments
 - 25.78 km/ 19.42 ha
- Tree planting: 2+0 conifer seedlings. Target density of 1,400 stems/ha conifer, 700 stems/ha alder
 - 10.87 km/ 7.30 ha/ ~29,000 seedlings



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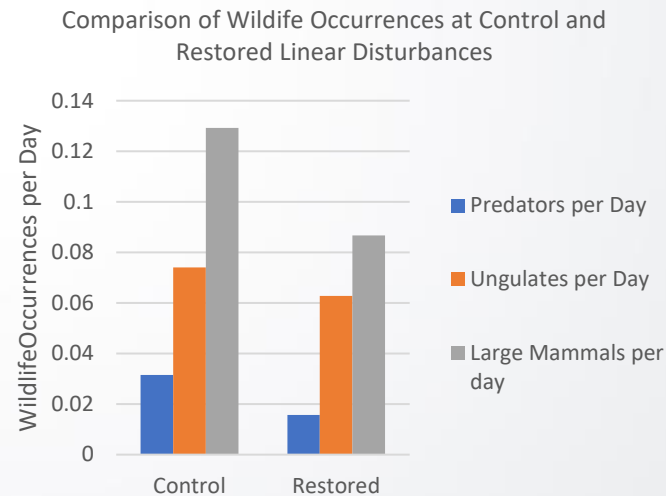




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Quintette Restoration Pilot – Monitoring

- Partnerships crucial to implementation delivery
 - Funding from FESBC and offsetting funds
 - Partnered with SERNbc for procurement and delivery
- Local First Nations focused contracting
 - >60% of project funds awarded to FN contractors
 - Opportunity to build capacity and leverage local knowledge
- Vegetation and wildlife monitoring protocol established: 5-30 year timeframe
 - Results to be incorporated with future restoration efforts
- Early Results promising
 - ~96% seedling survival
 - ~38% reduction in large mammal occurrence



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Quintette Restoration Pilot & Beyond!

Challenges

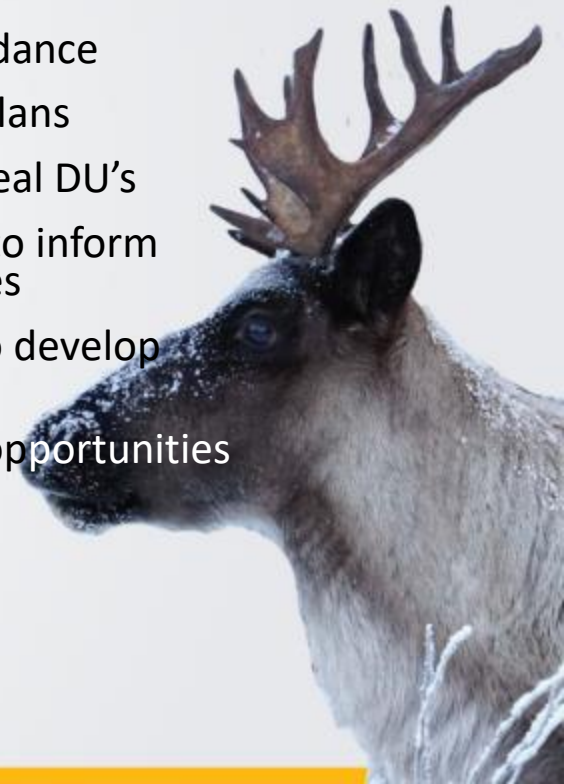
1. Internal resourcing
2. Lack of site specific knowledge
3. Permitting/authorizations process for restoration work not developed or understood
 1. Very lengthy process
4. Lack of endorsed range plans in BC to inform restoration priority
5. Lack of provincial tracking system
6. Navigating collaborations and partnerships
7. Navigating public & stakeholder expectations re: access management
8. Lack of coordination with other restoration implementors
9. Awareness & navigation of G2G processes & agreements

Opportunities

1. Leverage external capacity
2. Bring local knowledge onto project via collaboration and partnerships
3. Co-develop permitting process within FLNR
4. Assist external applicants through process
5. Develop provincial scale operational guidance
6. Tactical restoration plans inform range plans
7. Develop tactical plans for All SMC & Boreal DU's
8. Follow consistent prioritization criteria to inform priorities between ranges and within ranges
9. Leverage other processes & resources to develop comprehensive, spatial tracking system
10. Leverage existing forums to maximize opportunities

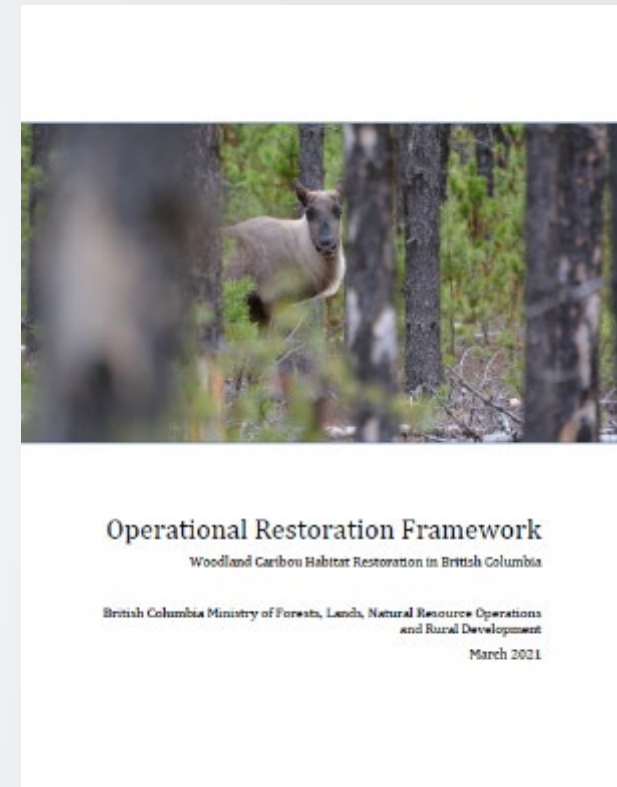
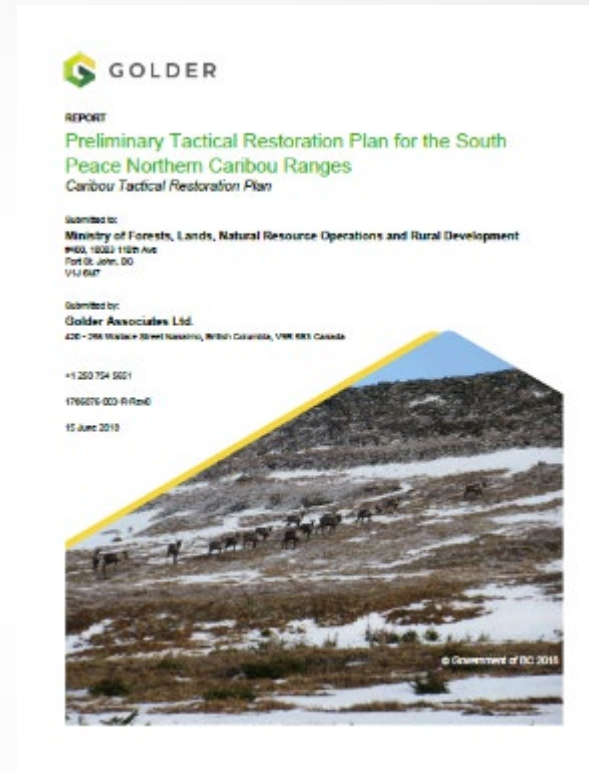


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BC's Approach to Restoration

- Uniform approach focused on collaboration & partnerships
- DU Scale Strategic and tactical planning
 - Quintette & S. Peace Tactical Restoration Plans (2017/18)
 - Tactical restoration plans across Southern Mountain Caribou (2021)
 - GIS based spatial prioritization tool for SMC & Boreal
 - Dynamic database, can focus on various attributes
- Provincial Operational Restoration Framework
 - Site level planning, implementation and monitoring protocols





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BC's Approach to Restoration

Implementation through an application-based model:

- Multi-year contribution agreement with BC's Habitat Conservation Trust Fund – Caribou Habitat Restoration Fund
 - Caribou Recovery Program identifies priority herds, prioritization criteria, and process principles
 - Regional SME (Bio) confirms project priority before submission
- Outcomes to date:
 - 17 multi-year projects funded
 - functional treatment of 1200 km of linear features
 - ecological restoration of 115 hectares
 - total influence of 200 million hectares of habitat

<https://hctf.ca/grants/caribou-habitat-restoration-grants/>

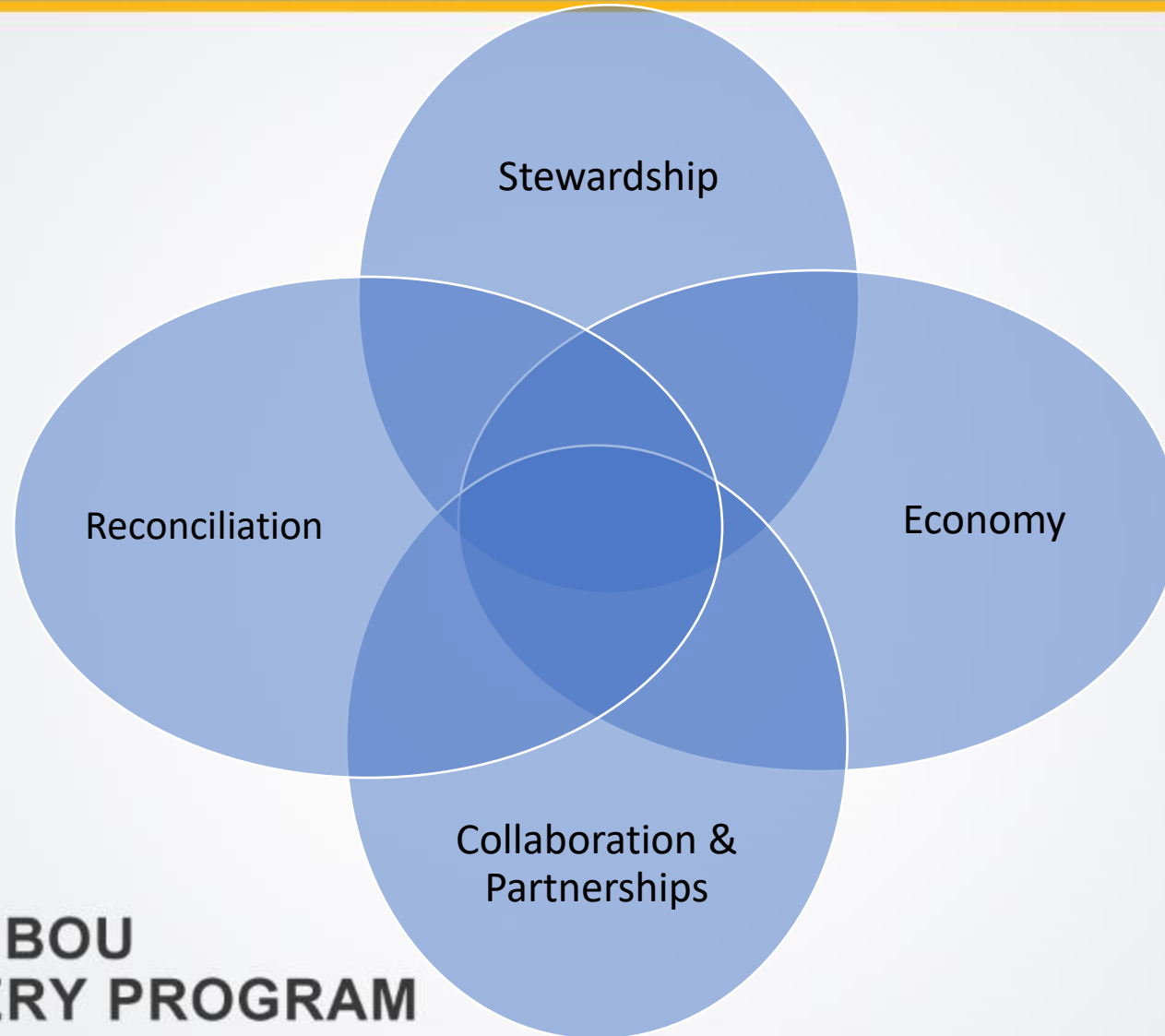


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Benefits & Conclusion



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Questions?

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