

Caribou Recovery Update September 29, 2021

Central Group Partnership Agreement – South Peace

Winter Motorized Recreation Plan

- Engagement concluded on July 14th, 2021 after 8 weeks.
- Third Party contractor (RCS) compiled quantitative and qualitative results and has produced a final WWH that we received yesterday - ~75% of participants expressed dissatisfaction. Both for less protections, and more protections.
 - There was some racist comments received and the PA parties are working through how best to address these prior to its publishing.
- Third Party Contractor (Big river analytics) completed Socio Economic Impact analysis showing \$1.1M impact to GDP annually with draft plan
- Engagement yielded numerous suggestions to the draft plan and the PA parties are reviewing and considering changes.
- BC recognizes the importance of strong implementation funding for enhancements, the importance of working with local clubs, and that winter is around the corner.

Land Use Objectives (LUOs)

- The Technical Working Group comprised of the four parties to the caribou Partnership Agreement have been working in earnest since August reviewing a draft LUO document developed by FLNRORD. The group has agreed to proceed on objectives and measures that the parties can come to consensus on quickly. This includes proceeding with some operational measures (e.g. mitigation measures such as undertaking forest harvesting during less risky timing for caribou, harvesting on frozen ground with snow cover, etc.) and proceeding with an objective related to offsetting new linear feature development with restoration of existing linear features.
- The parties will continue to work towards consensus on some more challenging objectives related to early seral.
- Subsequently, engagement on the Land Use Objectives will occur in phases with the quick wins being engaged upon first and engagement on other objectives such as early seral being engaged upon later.

Park Expansion in the Klinse za

- Klinse-za/Twin Sisters Park proposed to permanently protect B3 Zone; will also include existing park that was previously established over B2 Zone (totalling 200,566 hectares)
- Corridor containing right of way for Prince Rupert Gas Transmission line proposed as protected area to allow for construction and maintenance of pipeline if project proceeds as permitted (2,619 hectares)
- Public announcement likely later in the fall.

Fort St. John Land and Resource Management Plan Area (Chinchaga, Graham and Pink Mountain herds)

- FLNRORD continues to work closely with Doig River First Nation (DRFN), Blueberry River First Nation (BRFN) and Prophet River First Nation (PRFN) on a spatial scenario for the Chinchaga herd range. The collaborative group will put forward recommendations for proposed areas of habitat protection and restoration emphasis to the LRMP TWG.

- FLNRORD is developing recommendations for recovery actions for the Graham and Pink Mountain herds. Treaty 8 Nations will have an opportunity to provide input on the recommendations through the LRMP process.

Fort Nelson Boreal Caribou Protection and Recovery Plan

- The Technical Working Group (TWG) comprised of Fort Nelson First Nation and FLNRORD are finalizing a spatial scenario that includes areas for proposed habitat protection, restoration emphasis and mitigative measures.
- Parties will seek endorsement from leadership to commence engagement later this fall on the scenario and corresponding recovery plan.
- The Fort Nelson Caribou Steering Committee comprised of representatives from BC, Fort Nelson First Nation, and the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality will provide guidance for external engagement.

Overarching News

- Predator reduction engagement for the renewal of the mandate to continue aerial wolf reduction in 13 BC herds commenced on September 15.
- If you are interested in reviewing the engagement materials and/or providing comment, please go to <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/caribou/>