



Caribou Program Update

For the NE Roundtable
September 28, 2022

**Joelle Scheck, Habitat Lead –
Provincial Caribou Recovery Program,
LWRS – Land Use Policy, Planning and
Ecosystems, North Area - Northeast**

What's covered today

Partnership Agreement Updates:

- Klinse-Za maternity pen
- Klinse-Za Park Expansion
- Land-Use Objectives
- Central Group Restoration Implementation planning
- Winter Motorized Recreation
- Anti-Racism Initiative
- South Peace/Mackenzie Trust
- Caribou Recovery Committee

2022 Klinse-Za Maternity Pen Operation

- 18 cows and 16 calves released on August 20
 - 17 calves born (10 males/7 females), one female died shortly after birth
 - Last calf born July 2
 - One male calf orphaned shortly after birth
 - All 36 caribou, including orphan calf #38, left within 2 days

A few of the first caribou to leave the pen. Feeding troughs with lichen used to lure cows and calves out of the pen.

Photo credit - Wildlife Infometrics Inc.

In the Wild...

Of 21 free ranging cow caribou, 17 calves were born alive

12 of 17 free-ranging calves collared

6 calf mortalities





Left - All caribou (18 adult females & 16 calves in main meadow of pen, prior to release (Wildlife Infometric Inc)



Right - Minister and DM visit at the pen, July 2022



Left - orphan calf #38 at 3 weeks

Right - primary 2022 caribou guardians and orphan calf caregivers, L-R, Reign Gautier, Starr Gautier, Alex Nash, Lucas Talving and Max Nishima (Wildlife Infometrics Inc.



Klinse-Za Park Expansion

■ Ministry of Environment Led

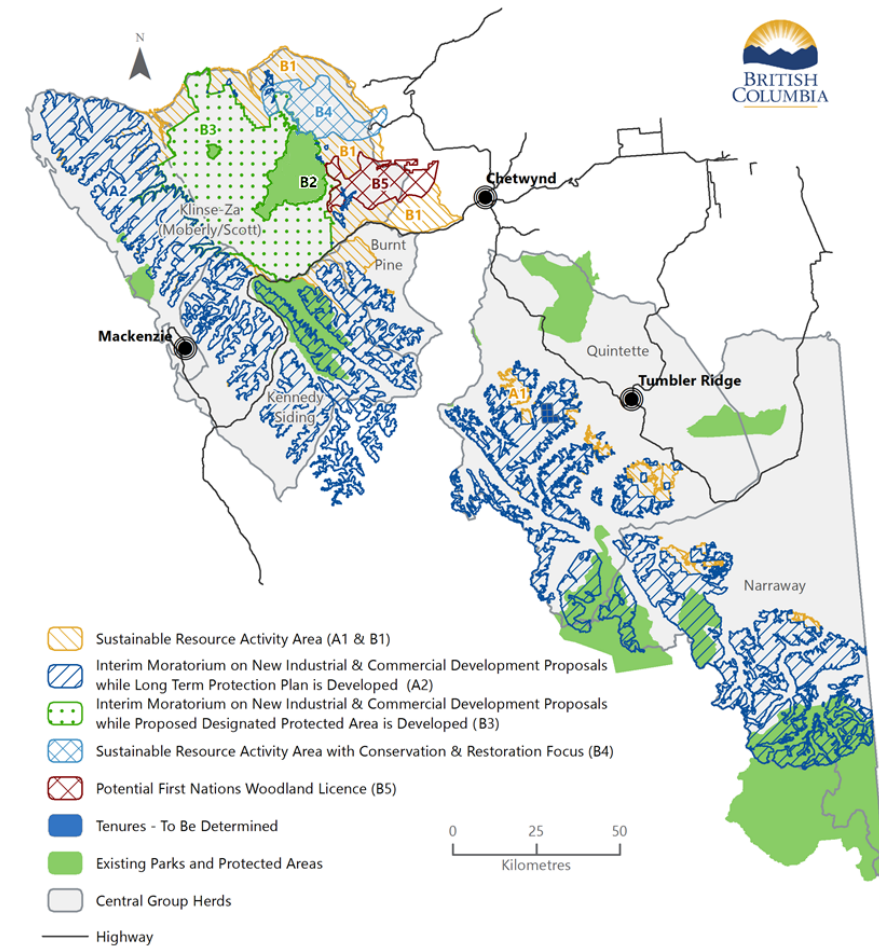
- Zone B2 – permanently protected as Klinse-Za Park Addition, Feb 2021 (31,724 ha)
- Zone B3 – is scheduled to be brought forward for a decision on permanent protection later this fall.
- Focus on Finalizing Two Agreements

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

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)



Zone B2 Park Addition – solid green

Zone B3 Expansion – green dots

Land Use Objectives

Restoration Implementation Planning & Winter Motorized Recreation

Land Use Objectives

- On hold pending outcomes of Treaty 8 - BC and Blueberry River First Nation – BC negotiations

Central Group Restoration Planning

- Nesting, sequencing and timing of moving forward

Winter Motorized Recreation

- Focus on outreach material development, signage
- Coordination with Conservation Officer Service
- Enhancement area exploration/planning being undertaken by BCSF and clubs

Anti-Racism Initiative

- Schedule 5 of the Caribou Partnership Agreement
- Targeted racist actions and language associated with engagement hurt people and communities
- BC committed through the Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network, to review and report on any hate speech or other forms of racism
- Network contracted SFU's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue to conduct research, including interviews with engagement participants and government staff
 - Report back with recommendations for future engagements

South Peace/Mackenzie Economic Diversification & Stabilization Trust

Purpose

- To encourage and support economic development, diversification and stabilization in a Specified Area by creating new income earning positions consistent with the recovery of Central Group of SMC
 - Provides financial assistance
 - Application based process
 - Advisory committee in place
- 3 projects recommended for approval to date:
 1. A \$250,000 application from the Bear Mountain Nordic Ski Association to purchase a new groomer to replace one that is on its last legs, and funding to help with some trail improvements;
 2. A \$95,000 application from Community Futures Peace Liard to support the Agro Connections Inaugural Conference and Agricultural Market; and
 3. An application to support training for individuals in the Specified Area in the art and business of silk painting. The funding recommendation was linked to the number of students, and in the end 11 students signed up, for a total cost the the SPMTrust of \$24,000.

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

• https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/wildlife-wildlife-habitat/caribou/caribou_recovery_committee_-_annual_report_2020-2021.pdf

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



Questions?

Joelle Ward

**Habitat Lead – Provincial Caribou
Recovery Program**

Joelle.Ward@gov.bc.ca

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 \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)