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# Caribou Recovery Program Updates



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# Boreal Caribou Protection & Recovery Plan

## Endorsement & Next Steps



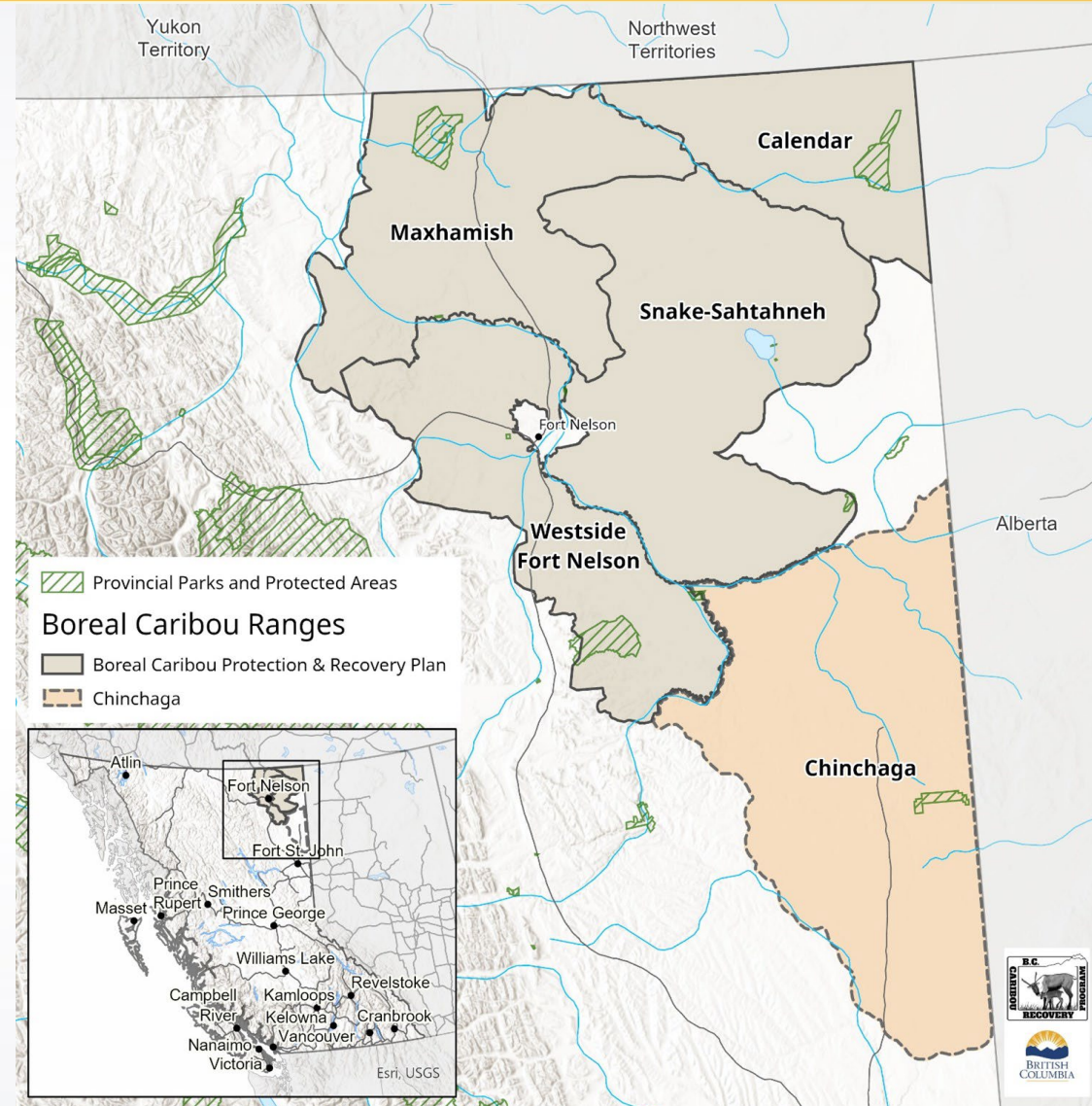
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The draft ***Boreal Caribou Protection & Recovery Plan*** (BCPRP) has been developed in partnership with Fort Nelson First Nation and through collaboration with the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality.

The BCPRP will replace the existing ***Implementation Plan for the Ongoing Management of Boreal Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou pop. 14) in British Columbia*** released in 2011 and establishes management goals, objectives and supporting management measures for four of the five boreal caribou ranges in B.C.



## Since Engagement Closed:

- The Province, Fort Nelson First Nation and Northern Rockies Regional Municipality reviewed feedback to inform potential revisions to the draft plan and inform decisions.
- What We Heard report released September 2022 – accessible via the engagement portal: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/caribou/boreal-caribou/>.
- Bi-lateral Contribution Agreement to support boreal caribou recovery measures with ECCC until FY 25/26 has been negotiated.
- BCPRP endorsed by Cabinet in Summer 2023 with direction to implement in alignment with collaborative land-use planning, including establishing interim habitat and population management measures.



# Implementation Next Steps

- Finalized version of BCPRP will be posted to the provincial recovery documents online database and GovTogether.
- Alignment of BCPRP management measures through Liard Collaborative Stewardship Forum.
- Regulatory consultation on management measures to inform statutory decision packages.
- Implementation of habitat and population management measures.

Fall 2023

Winter 2023

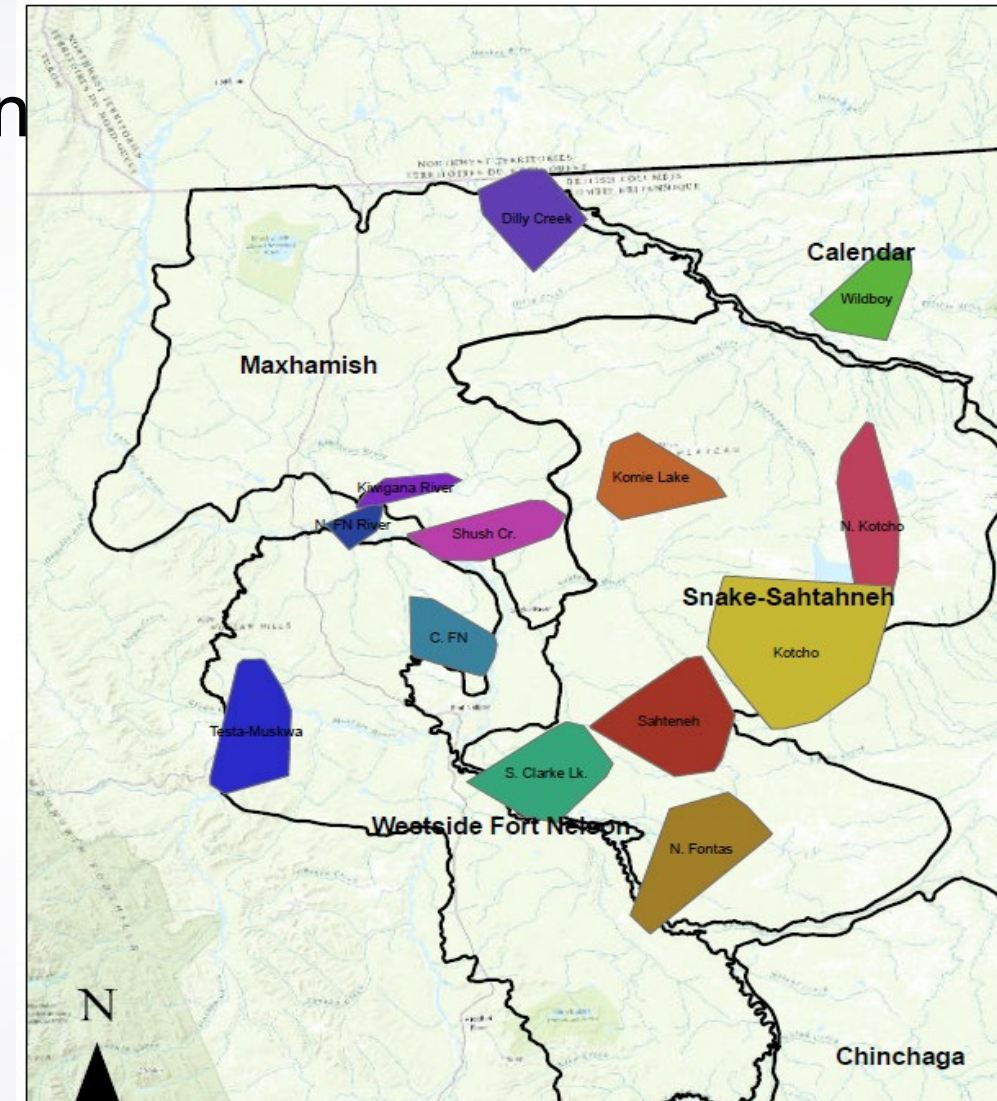
Winter 2023/24

Spring/Summer  
2024



# Ongoing Management Measures

- Predator monitoring initiated winter 2022/23 in collaboration with FNFN.
- Ongoing restoration in the Snake-Sahtahneh range led by FNFN.
- Ongoing fecal DNA, recruitment and composition surveys.





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# Caribou Partnership Agreement

## Land Use Objectives

Central Group of Southern Mountain  
Caribou

# Caribou Partnership Agreement



- The Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement for the Conservation of the Central Group of the Southern Mountain Caribou was signed in 2020
- Legally binding component of the Section 11 Conservation Agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Shared Recovery Objective: *to immediately stabilize and expeditiously grow Central Group populations to levels that are self-sustaining and support traditional harvesting activities, consistent with Aboriginal and Treaty rights*



# Caribou Recovery Related Land Use Objectives

1. Reduce the impacts of anthropogenic disturbance activities to caribou
2. Reduce the density of linear disturbance features.
3. Reduce cumulative habitat disturbance.
4. Opportunities to improve likelihood of culturally meaningful hunt



# Status of Land Use Objectives

- Internal Cross-Agency engagement
  - NE and Omineca Resource Management Committees
  - One on one meetings, EMLI, BCER
- In process of seeking Cabinet (ELUC) endorsement to engage on draft Land Use Objectives





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# Other Caribou Partnership Agreement Updates

## Zone B3 Park Expansion



- Establishment of the Zone B3 Park Expansion in the Klinse Za range has been delayed due to:
  - Changes to forest compensation regulations (approved in July)
  - Finalizing the boundary to address the approved route for the Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission (WCGT) pipeline.
    - Pipeline has a valid EAC certificate that is valid until fall 2024 & was not identified during the inter-agency referral process to delineate the park boundary
    - There is potential for this project to be permitted since the project was issued an EAC prior to June 20, 2019



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# Other Partnership Agreement Updates: B3 Park Expansion

- BC Parks is currently reviewing boundary options with West Moberly First Nations and Saulneau First Nations



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# Other Caribou Partnership Agreement Updates

## **Snowmobile Closures and Management Areas**

# Other Partnership Agreement Updates: Snowmobile Closures/Management Areas

- Website showing closure status is live now, closure area boundaries can be downloaded in multiple formats so that riders can refer to them in the field
- Permits to access “active management” areas have been issued to 3 clubs: Tumbler Ridge, Mackenzie, and Chetwynd. They will last another season then need to be renewed/extended next summer.
  - Issued to these three clubs as part of our strategy with BC Snowmobile Fed. Users not belonging to these clubs can get joint memberships with their current clubs to get access.
- Informational signs to be installed at trail heads and parking lots this fall, includes a map of closures and a link to the website to get the shapes.
- Working with a BC snowmobile rep + the clubs for updated information packets and resources for riders. Willing to host information sessions with the COs.



## Other Partnership Agreement Updates: Conservation Officer Patrols

- received funding through CRP to increase the number of patrols (ground and air) and to hire a dedicated COS member
- Weather in September challenging with low cloud
- Continue to coordinate with First Nations Guardians





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# Other Caribou Partnership Agreement Updates

## **Klinse Za Maternity Pen**



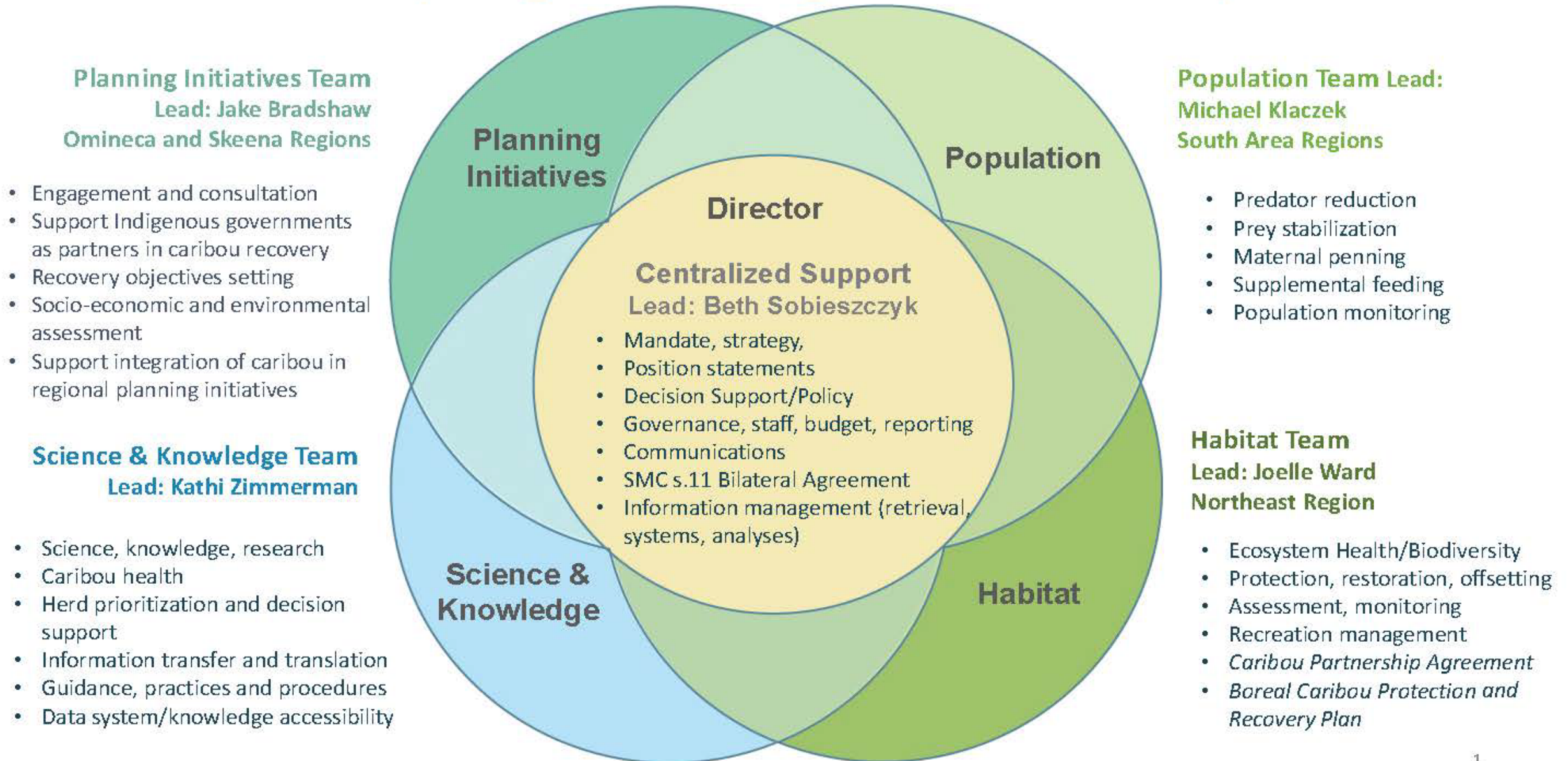
## Other Partnership Agreement Updates: Klinse Za Maternity Pen

- Population estimate at end of March = 132
- 17 penned calves released end of August
- 13 free-ranging calves
- No mortalities to report
- Current population estimate = 162



## **Reorganization & Hiring**

# Outcome Teams, Regional Integration and Responsibilities





# Caribou Recover Program (CRP) Updates:

## – Hiring: Habitat Team

- 2 Section Heads (Biologists), North and South
- Additional Biologists
  - Wildlife Bio Technician (Jason Budzinski)
  - Ecosystems Biologist (Kiara Gannon)
  - Wildlife Biologist Temporary Assignment (Rayelle Sowers)
  - 2 additional caribou recovery biologists
  - 2 Land and Resource Coordinators (Jillian Matlock and Lee Williams – Restoration focus (Cariboo and Kootenay Regions))

## – Other Hiring

- Caribou Recovery Program Director
- BC Parks Planner
- COS
- Rec Sites and Trails



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Thanks for your time and attention.

Questions?



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