

Strategic Caribou Restoration Implementation Plan Northeast Roundtable Update

Presented by:

Scott Schilds (B.C. Caribou Recovery Program) and
Sarah Forbes (representing Saulteau First Nations)

On behalf of the Caribou Restoration Working Group
(Saulteau First Nations, West Moberly First Nations,
Province of British Columbia, and Environment and Climate
Change Canada)

Presentation Purpose:

- Introduce the draft Strategic Caribou Restoration Implementation Plan (SCRIP)
- Share information on next steps and engagement

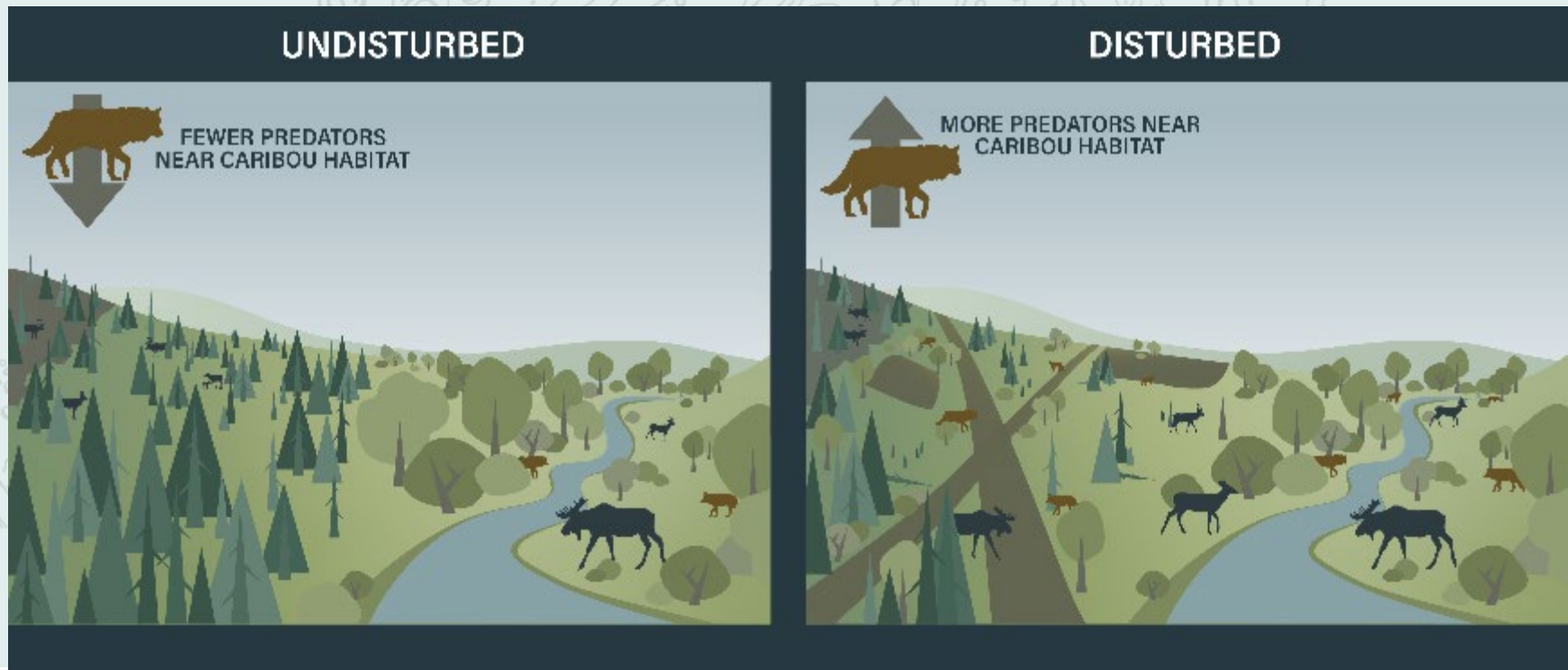
Presentation Overview:

- Connections to other restoration initiatives
- Strategic Caribou Restoration Implementation Plan (draft)
 - Vision
 - Values and Indicators
 - Results
 - Envisioned Use
- Next Steps

Jean Polfus

Caribou Habitat Restoration Primer

- NE Focus is on linear features:
 - Seismic
 - In-block/spur roads
 - Winter roads
- Common techniques:
 - Site preparation (ripping and recontouring)
 - Planting
 - Line blocking



Criteria for Selecting Restoration Sites

Examples of Linear Disturbances

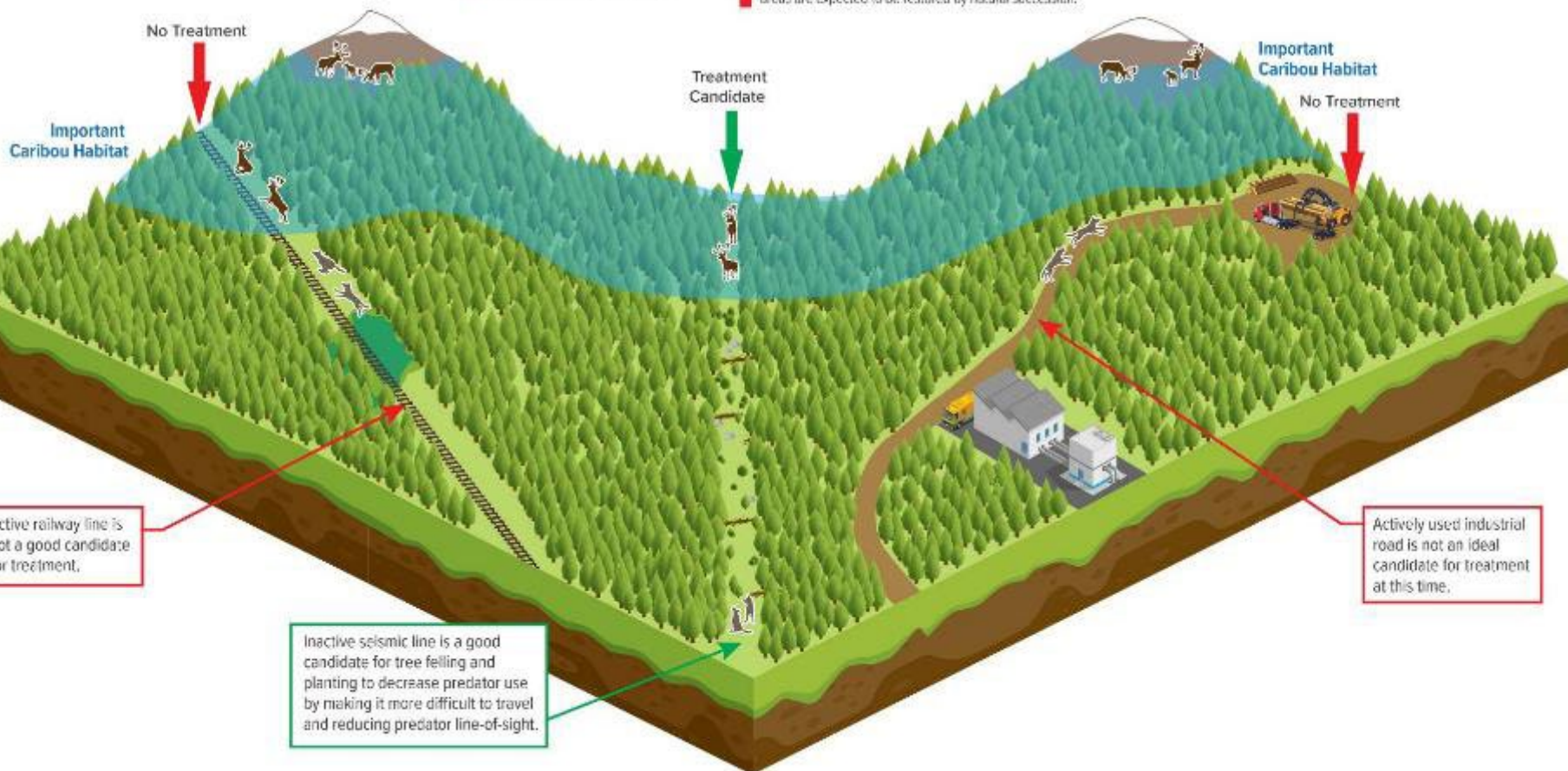


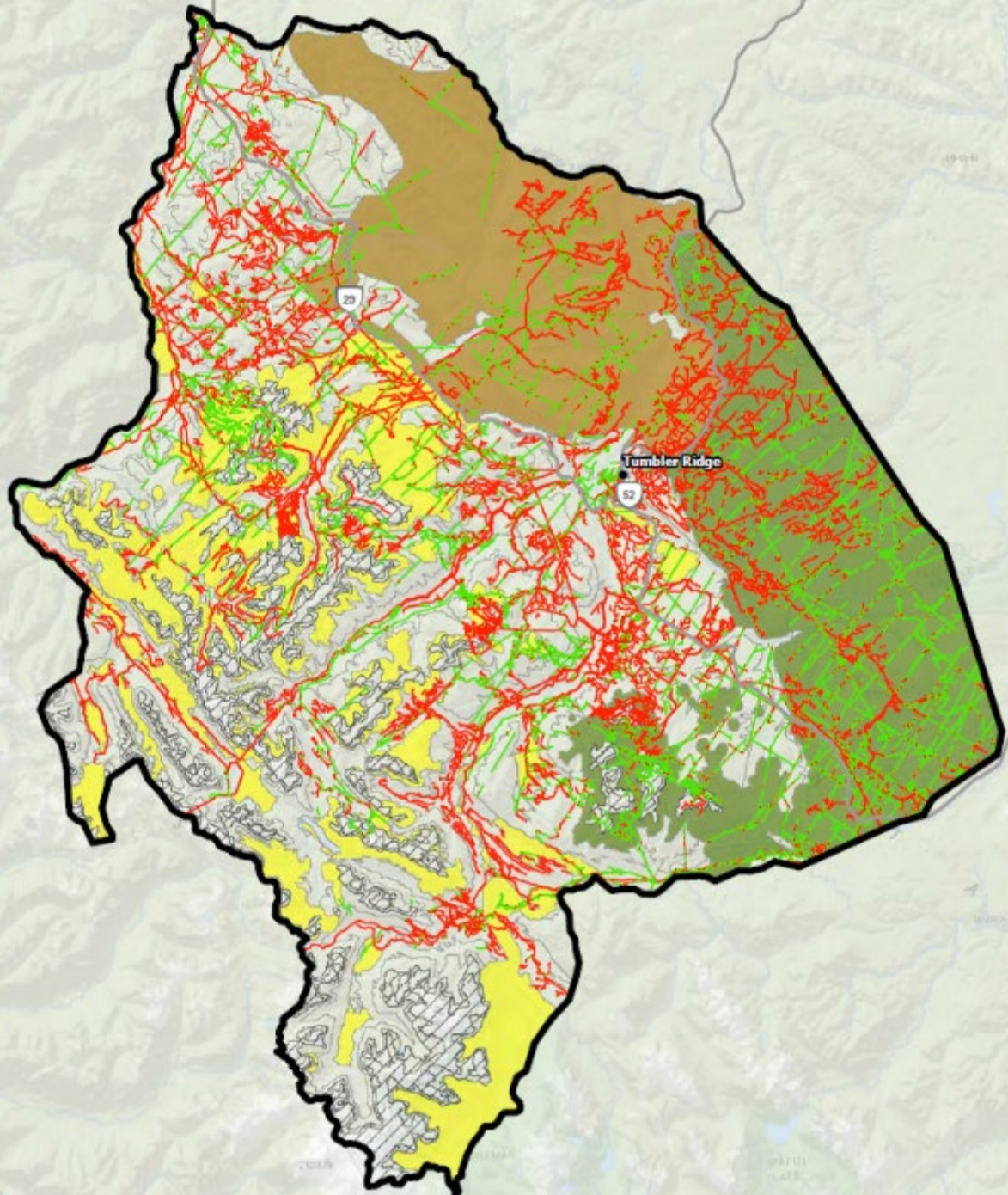
Treatment

Unused linear features (e.g., retired well pads, logging roads, seismic lines)
 Linear features in all other habitat types (other than non-forested high elevation alpine).
 Areas overlapping high caribou usage.
 Areas overlapping high wolf usage.

No Treatment

Actively used linear features (e.g., railways, logging roads, rec trails, powerlines)
 Linear features through non-forested alpine habitat that is not conducive to seedling restoration.
 Linear features through cutblocks are expected to be restored under current forestry permitting conditions.
 Linear features through recent (<40 years) fire burned areas are expected to be restored by natural succession.





Connections to Other Restoration Planning Efforts

Restoration work is being undertaken by three First Nations and the Province

Collaboration:

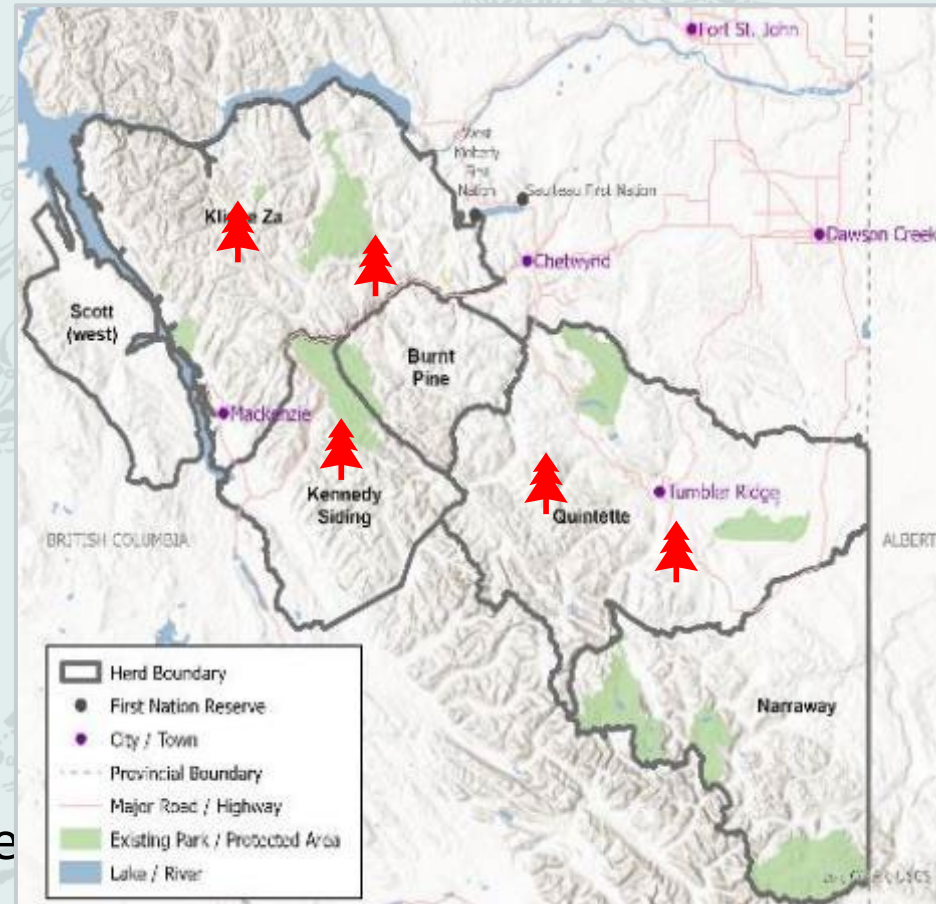
- At implementation level
- Guided by high-level plans

Current Separate Herd Focus:

- Klinse-Za (Nations)
- Quintette (Province)

Administrative Challenges:

- Competing priorities for funds
- Competing priorities across industries
- Fiscal and Authorization timelines



Strategic Caribou Restoration Implementation Plan

VISION

- Proactive approach
- Build “strongholds” of core critical habitat
- Improve quality of protected habitat
- Consider cultural values and traditional uses
- Restoration effectiveness
- Provide a roadmap for multi-year planning



Jean Polfus

Collaborative Approach

In January, 2023 a full day workshop was held where:

- Key objectives to prioritize caribou restoration areas were defined
- Metrics to express the key objectives were considered

Working group members with technical and governance backgrounds contributed to a short-term assessment process to select priority caribou habitat areas.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Recover Meaningful Habitat Areas

Reduce Disturbance

Incorporate Cultural Significance

Consider Longevity

Develop Adaptive Approach

Strategic Caribou Restoration Implementation Plan

KEY INDICATORS

Caribou Habitat

High and low elevation draft critical habitat

Connectivity

Movement within and between core habitat and herd ranges

Restoration Effectiveness

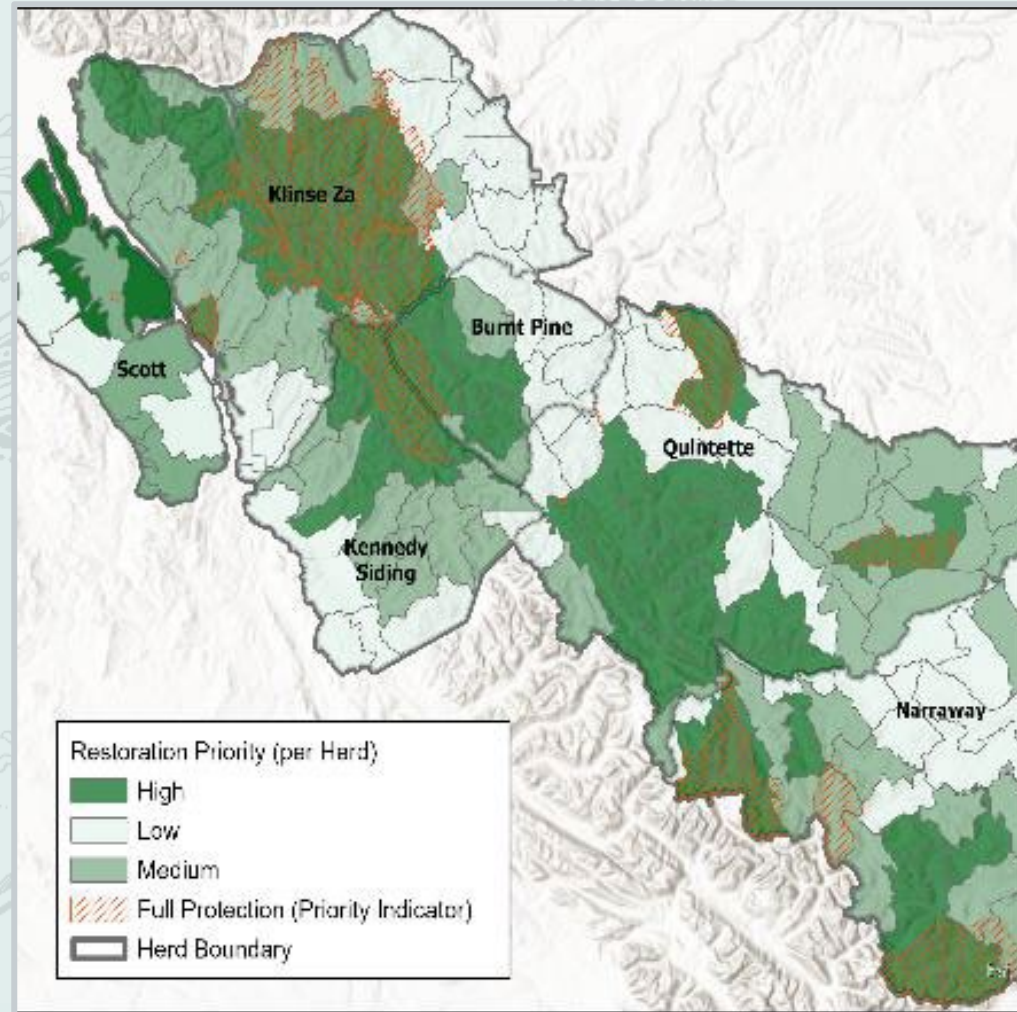
Areas where restoration efforts can have the highest impact on overall disturbance

Full Protection

BC Parks and Protected Areas, Partnership Agreement moratoria

Partial Protection

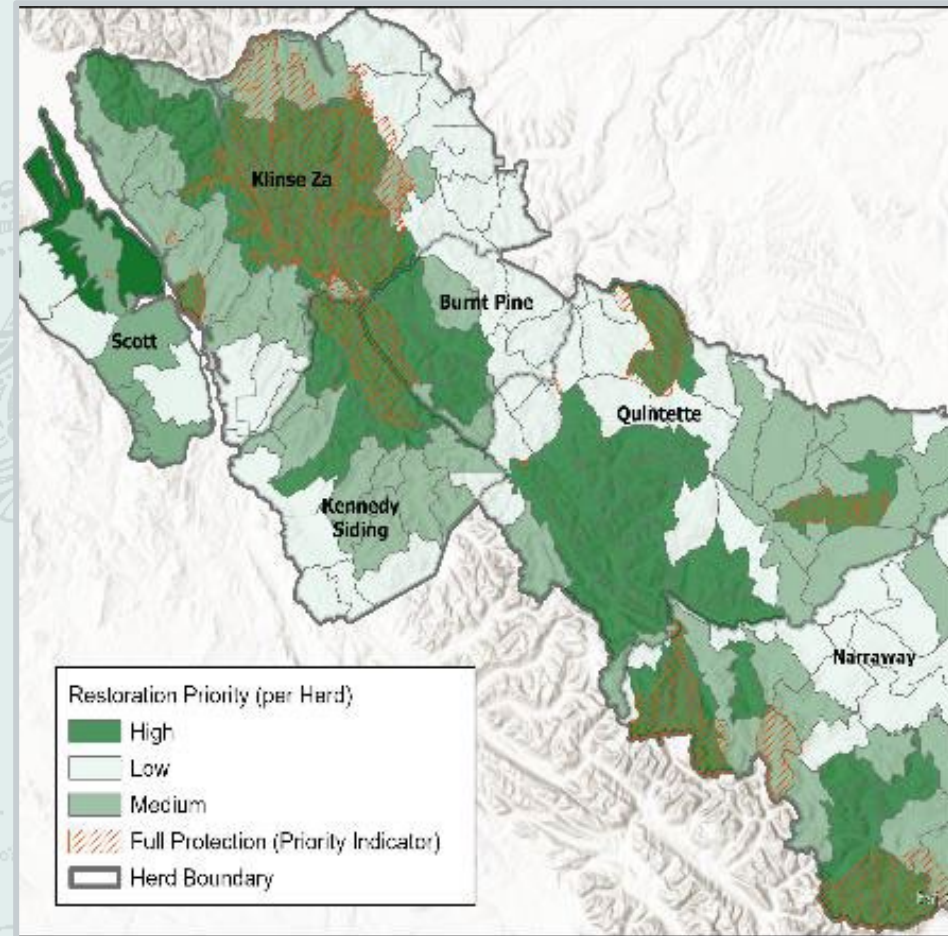
Areas protected from one or more industries, or with a conservation management focus



Strategic Caribou Restoration Implementation Plan

RESULTS

- Approximately 900,000 ha of high priority area identified in the study area
- Reported on a herd basis, summarized by sub-watershed landscape units
 - Exception: Burnt Pine and Kennedy Siding herd areas merged
- Quantifies additional attributes above and beyond key indicators



Results package available as a report, web-map, spatial data files, and tabular summary.

Envisioned Uses and Benefits

Uses:

- Internal coordination of restoration resources
- Centralized multi-year funding
- Coordination with other initiatives
- Tracking of progress compared to PA and Federal targets



Benefits

- Batched and Proactive engagement and consultation
 - Licensees/Operators
 - Trappers/Rec Groups/General public
- Batched and multi-year permits and authorizations
- Coordinated effectiveness monitoring
- Potential to align and leverage other restoration initiatives



Next Steps

Restoration Implementation:

- Already being incorporated into restoration funding requests.
- Will guide site-level restoration prescriptions and effectiveness monitoring.

Adaptive Management:

- Commitment to annually integrate new information and datasets based on:
 - new and emerging scientific and traditional knowledge
 - restoration progress and shifting priority areas
 - changes to land management status

Public Engagement:

- Right here right now
- Future restoration engagement via open houses, and determined from feedback

Thanks for listening!

