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# Predator Reduction to Support Caribou Recovery

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NE Roundtable  
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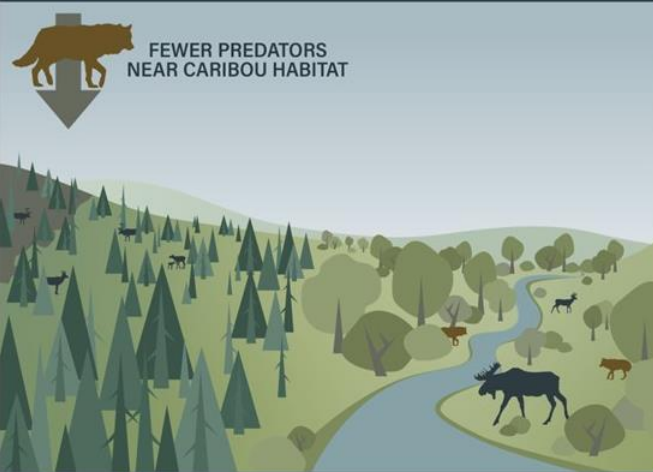


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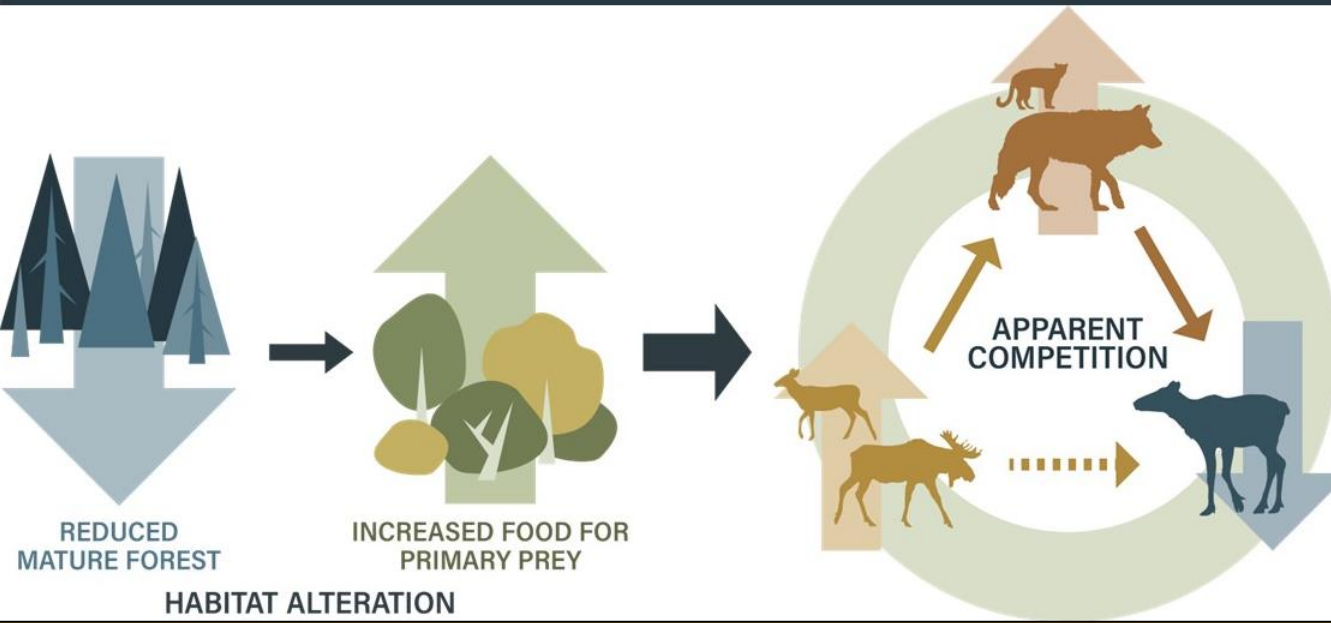
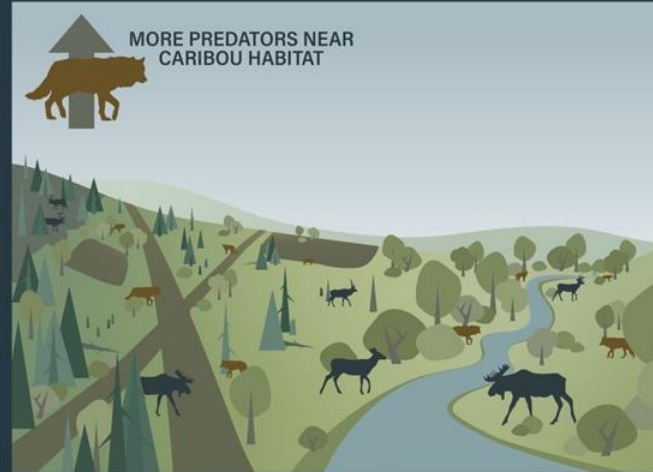


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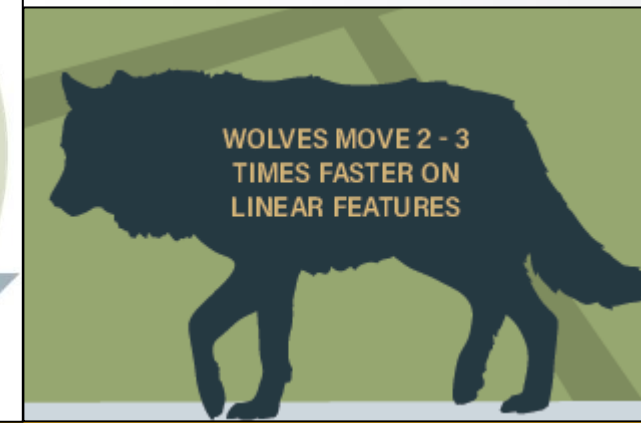
### UNDISTURBED



### DISTURBED

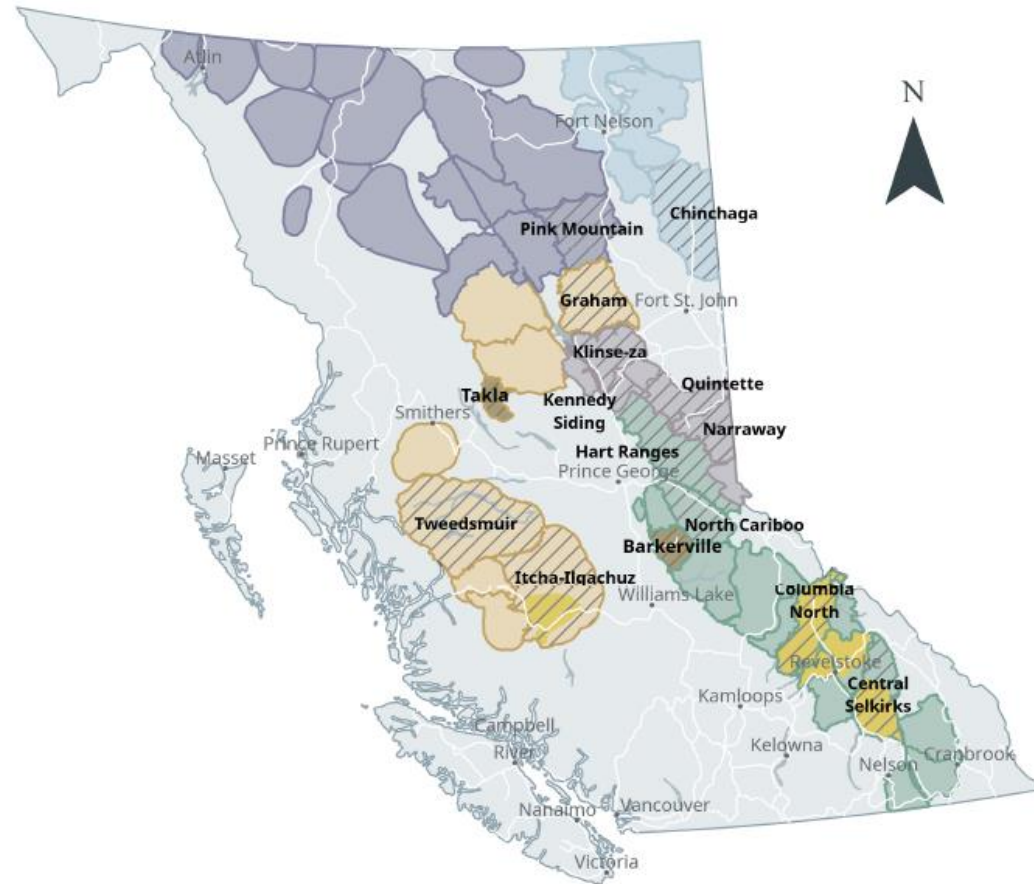


- Landscape change and predator-prey imbalances
- Caribou population declines:
  - Proximate: high predation rates, mainly by wolves
  - Ultimate: landscape change (i.e., industrial impacts, climate change, natural disturbance)





# Caribou Herd Ranges Prioritized for Predator Reduction Program in B.C.



## B.C. Caribou Herd Boundaries



## Background

- **Predator reduction to support caribou recovery**
  - Initiated in 2014-15
- **Expansion to 13 of BC's 60 woodland caribou herds by 2021**
  - Two new herds added in 2023
- **2,554 wolves and 48 cougar removed**
  - ~270 wolves/year removed in past 5 years
- **Wolf Reduction**
  - Helicopter-based radio-collaring and shooting
  - Intensive – 80-90% removal rates, full pack removal
- **Cougar Reduction**
  - Ground-based, targeted approach using hound handlers



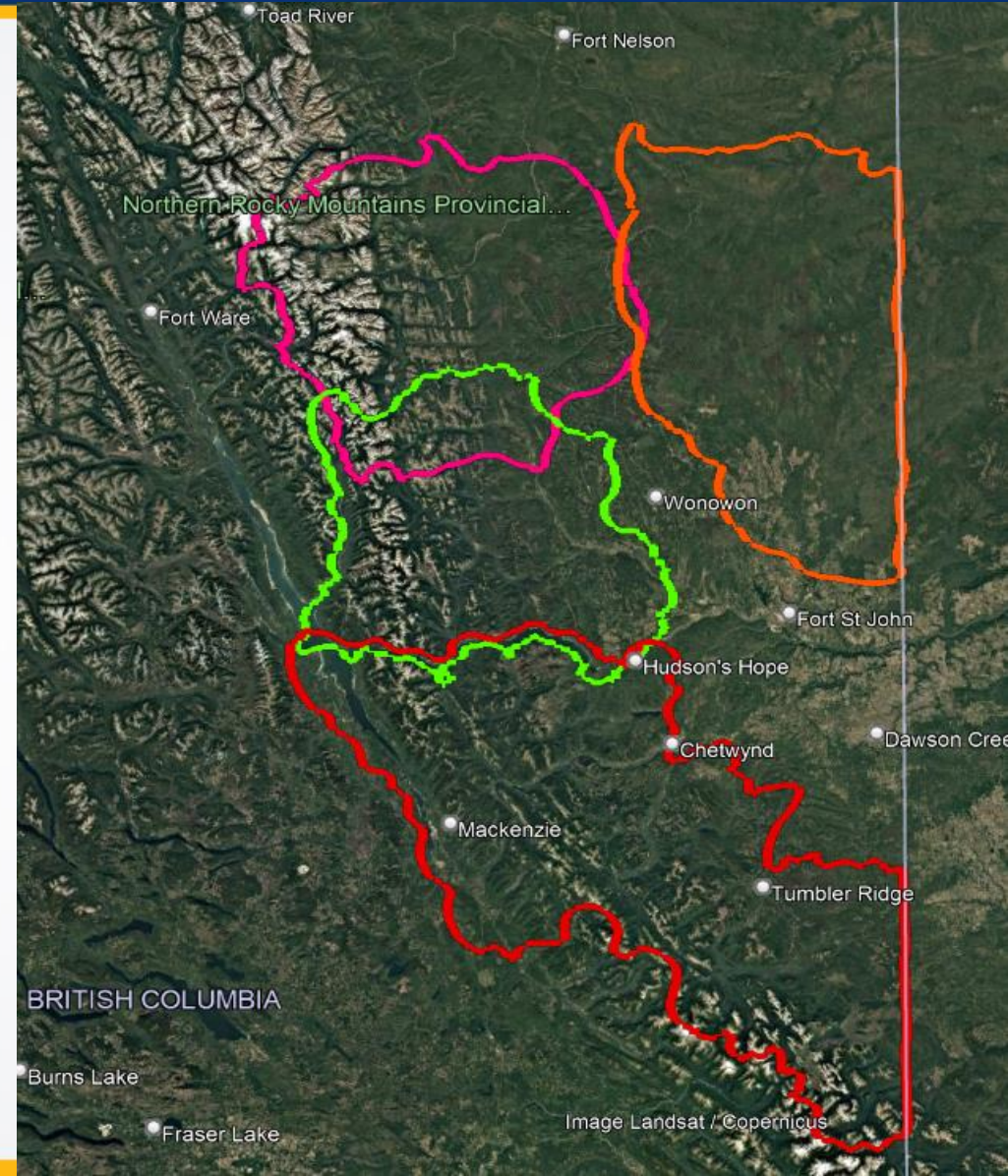


## Wolf Reduction – Northeast Region

- South Peace (Klinse-Za, Kennedy Siding, Quintette and Narraway) – 2015
  - 828 wolves removed
- Graham – 2020
  - 85 wolves removed
- Pink Mountain – 2019
  - 356 wolves removed
- Chinchaga – 2019
  - 165 wolves removed



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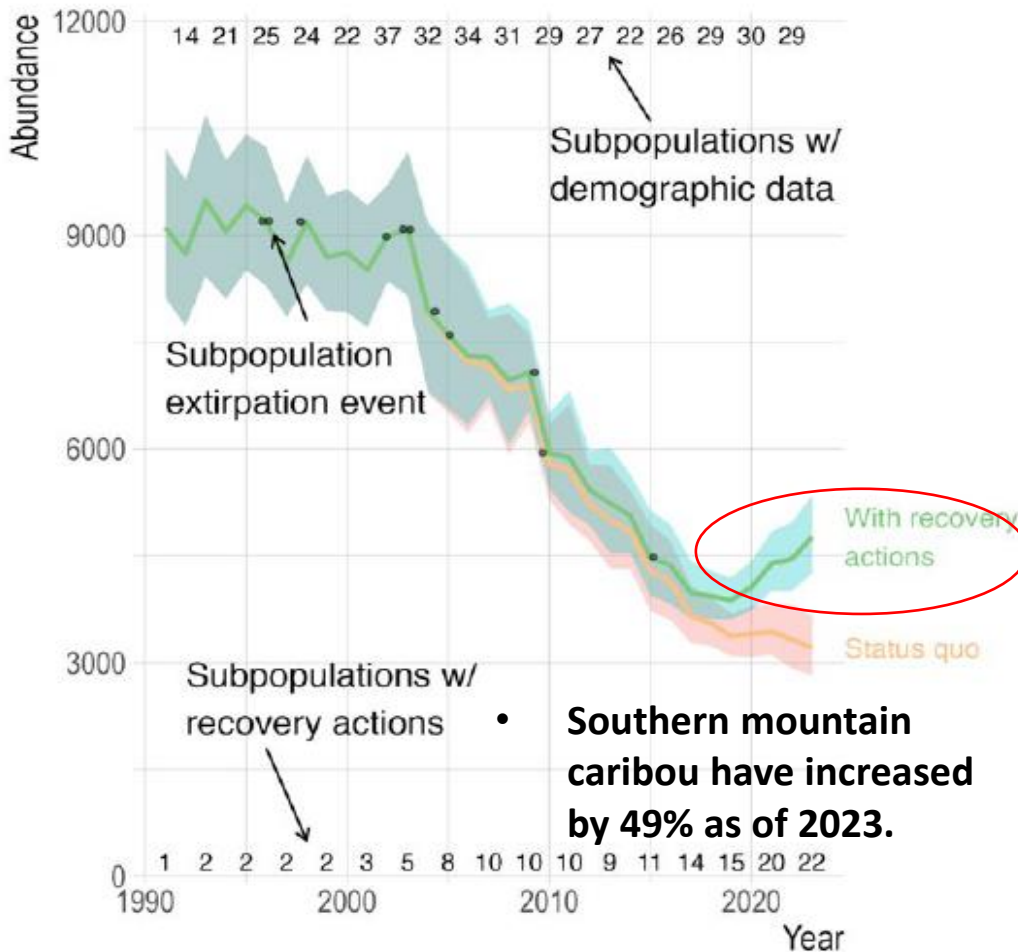




# Caribou Population Response

## b) Population Trend

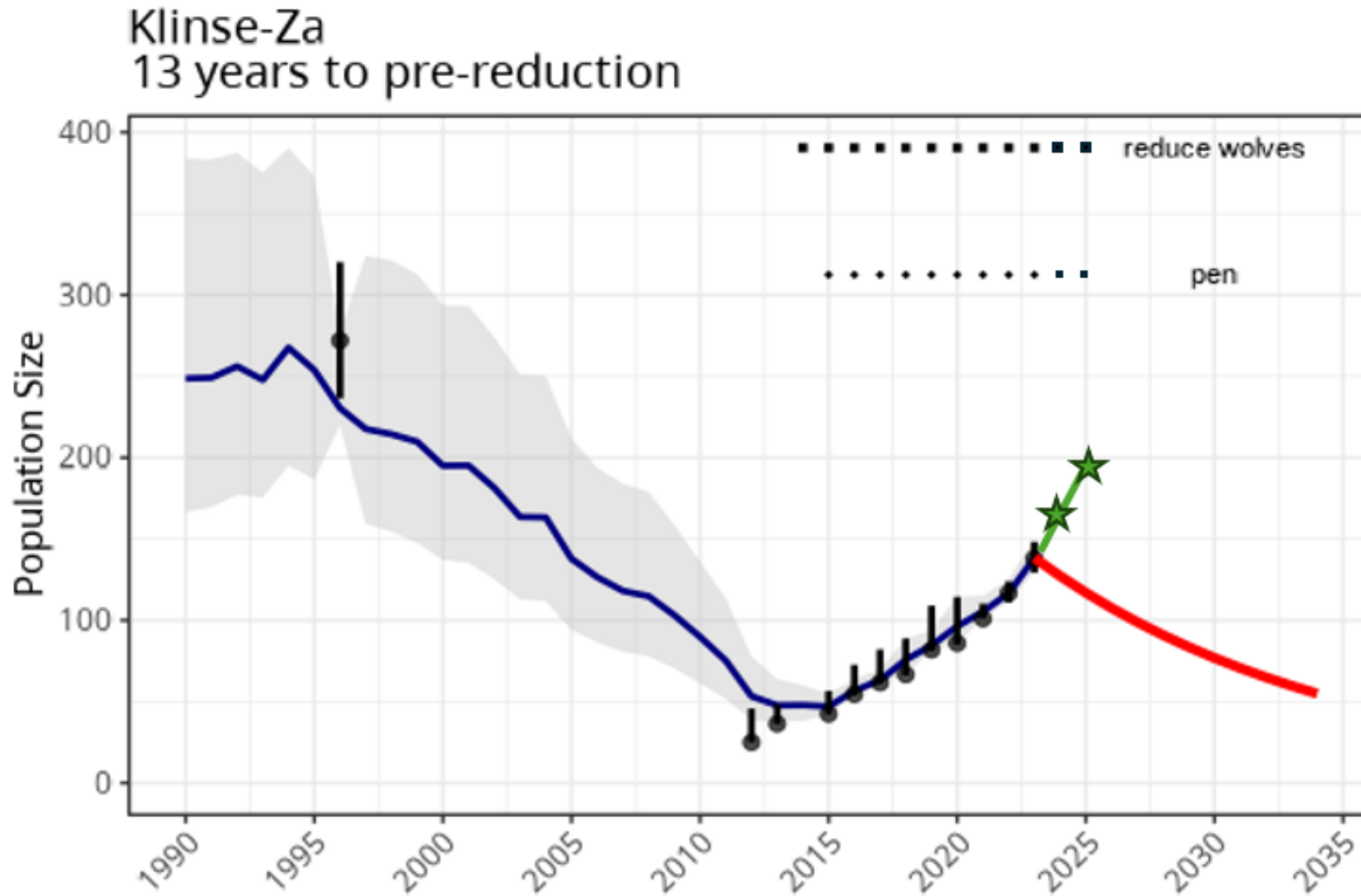
48% decline since 1991, +1553 caribou from recovery actions







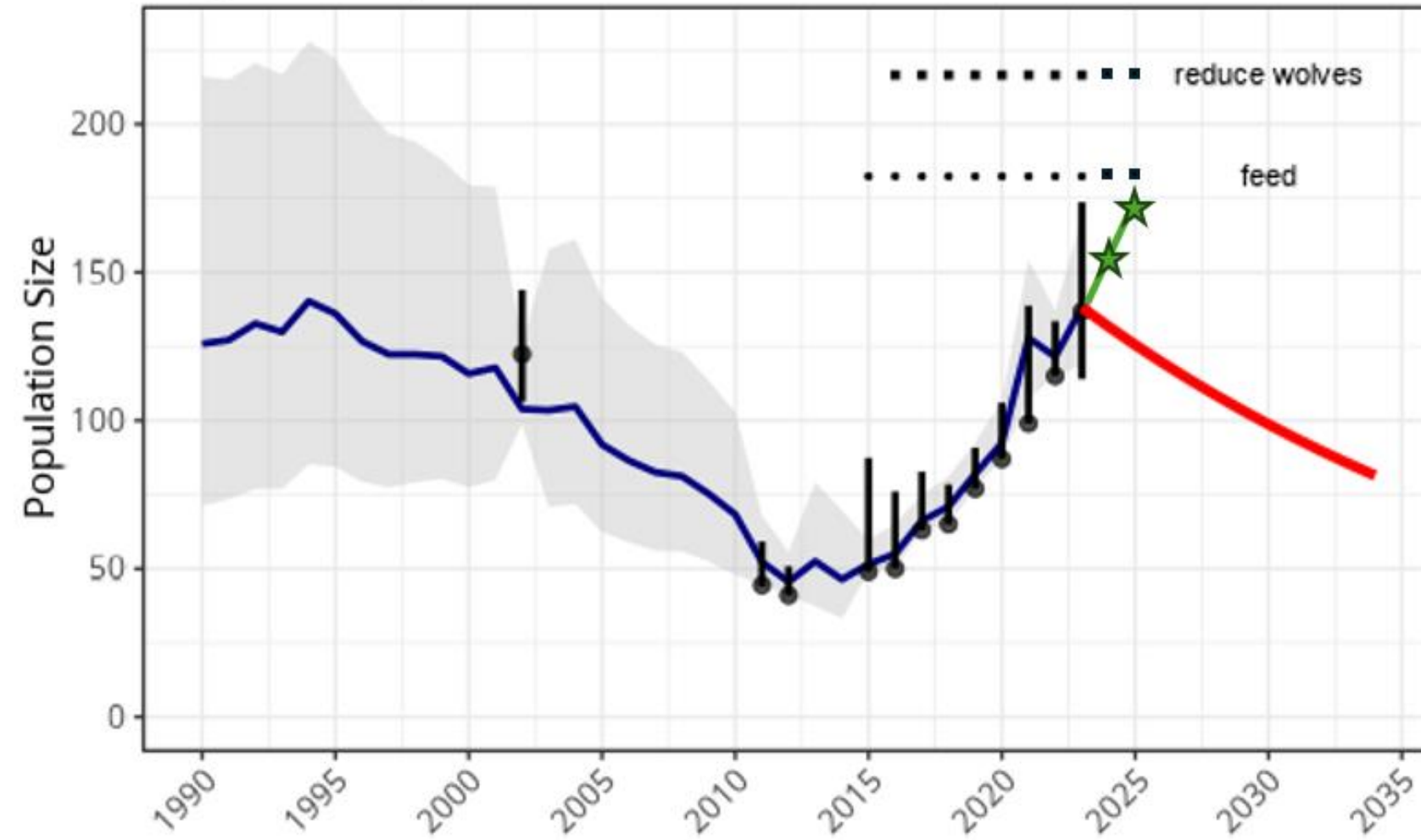
# Caribou Population Response





# Caribou Population Response

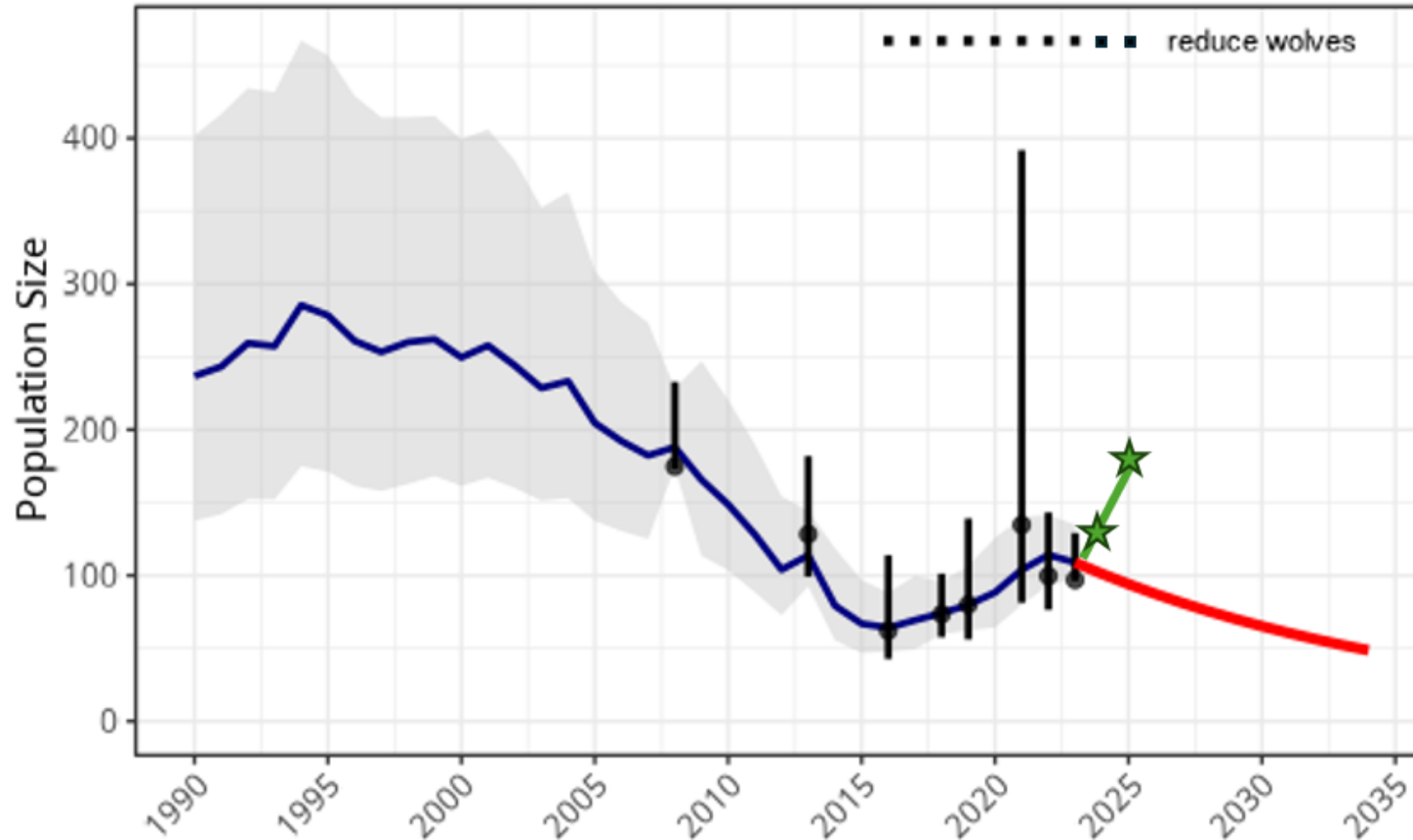
Kennedy Siding  
20 years to pre-reduction





# Caribou Population Response

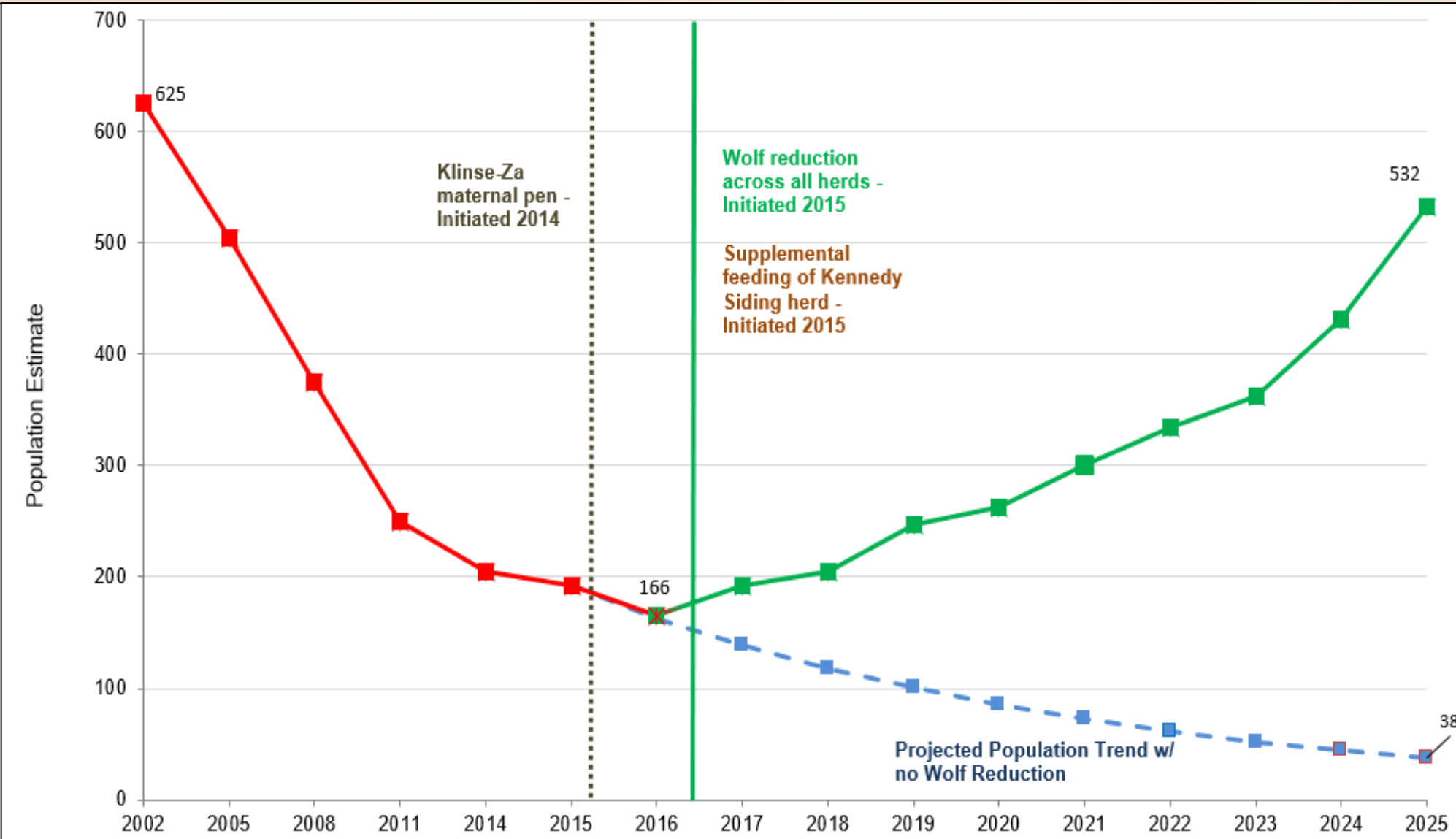
Quintette  
7 years to pre-reduction







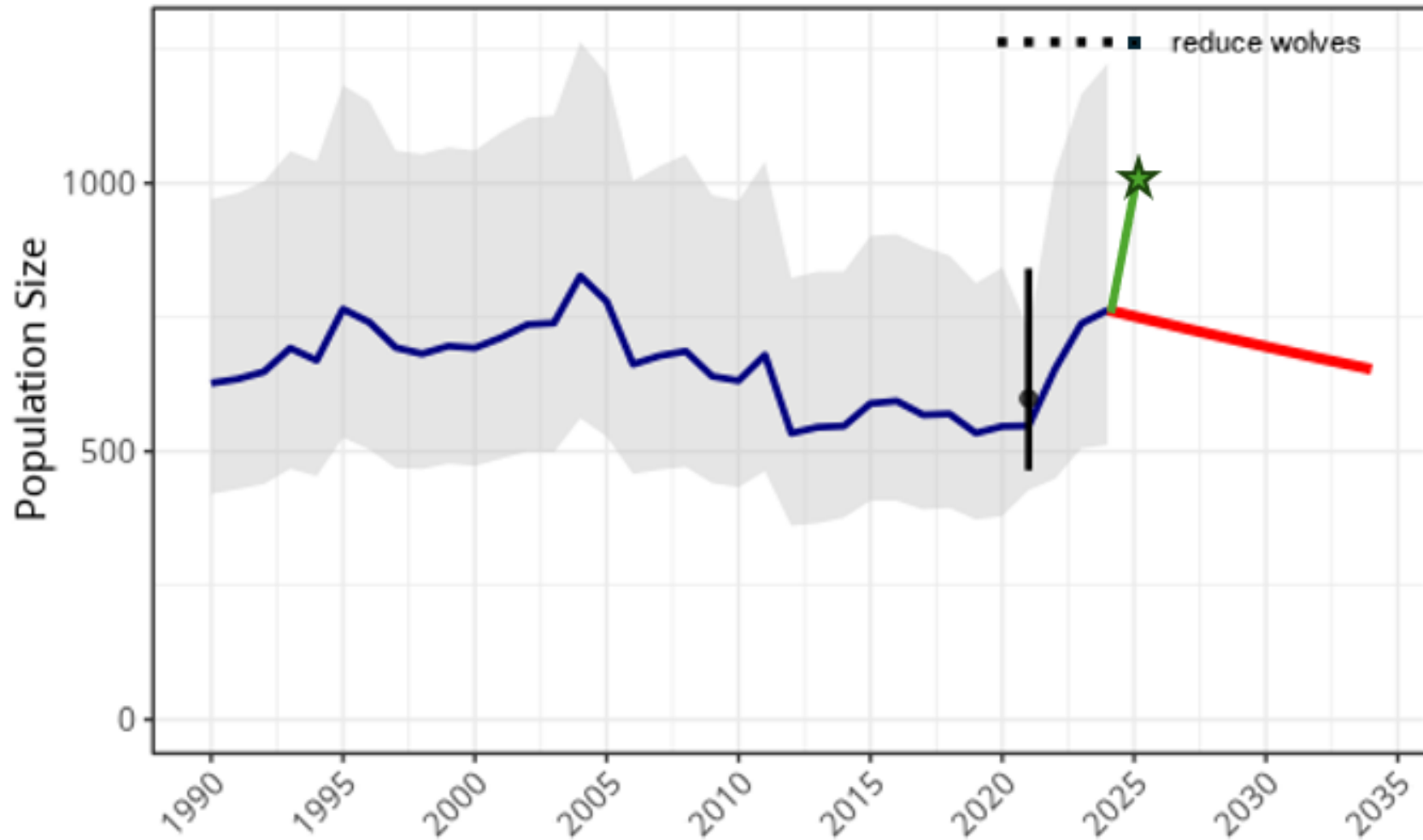
# Caribou Population Response





# Caribou Population Response

Pink Mountain  
23 years to pre-reduction







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# Primary Prey Response to Predator Reduction

- What happens to moose populations during wolf reduction:
  - Increased adult survival
  - Increased calf survival/recruitment
- An 'unintended consequence' of predator reduction – from a caribou perspective



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# Primary Prey Response to Predator Reduction

## Klinse-Za Moose Population

- WMU 7-31a
- 11 years of wolf reduction
- 2018
  - 1,080 moose, 21 calves per 100 cows, 44 bulls per 100 cows
- 2024
  - 2,105 moose, 40 calves per 100 cows, 93 bulls per 100 cows
- 98% population increase
  - 12% annual growth rate over past 6 years of wolf reduction



- Example of moose populations with ongoing wolf reduction for caribou recovery







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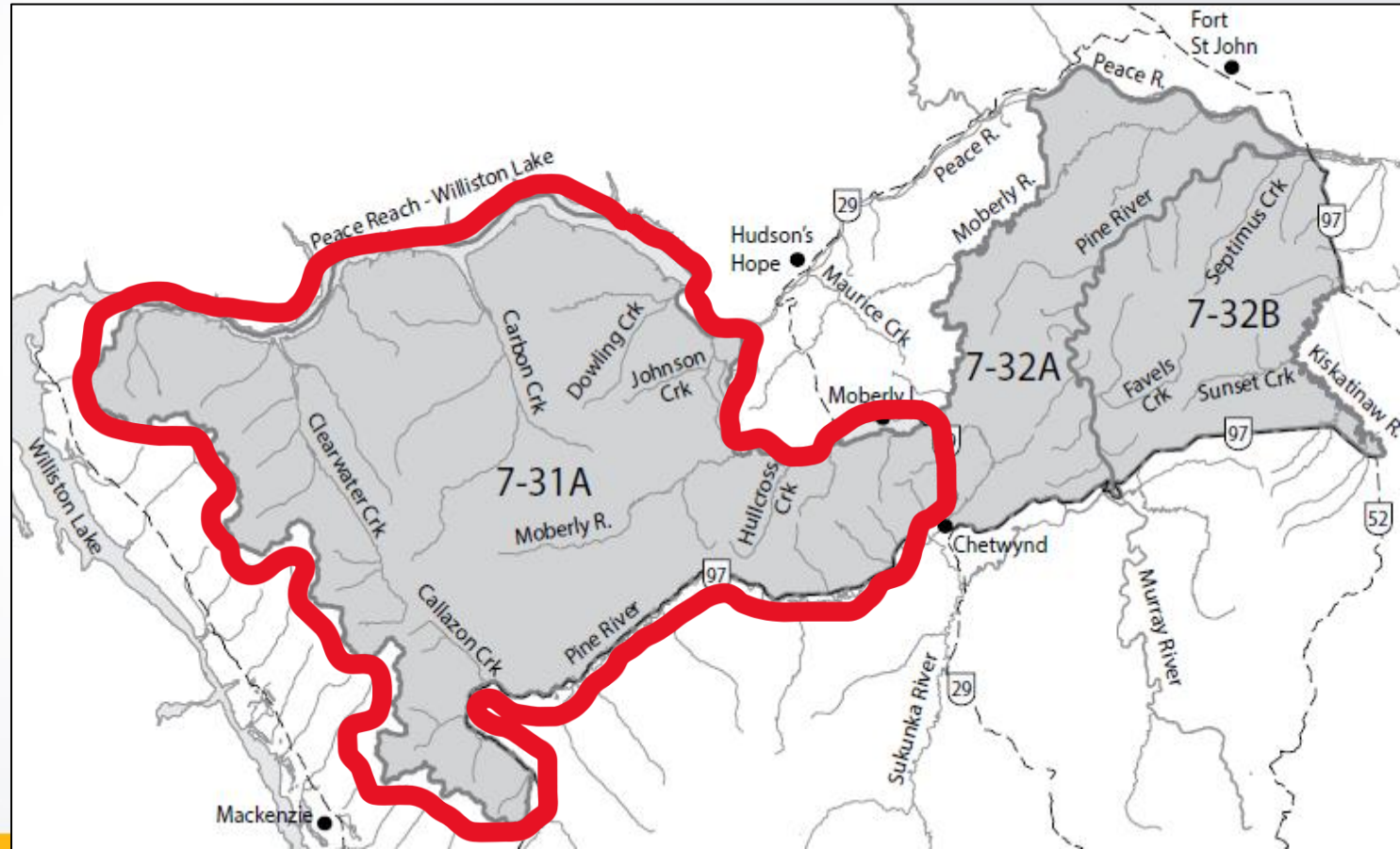
# Primary Prey Response to Predator Reduction

## Klinse-Za Moose Harvest Scenarios under Continued Wolf Reduction

- **2024 Population Estimate**
  - 2,105 moose, 0.9 moose/km<sup>2</sup>
  - 40 calves per 100 cows, 93 bulls per 100 cows
- **Licensed Harvest Estimate 2022–2024**
  - Avg. 30 bull moose/year
  - 1.4% Harvest Rate
  - 4% Bull-specific Harvest Rate



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# Primary Prey Response to Predator Reduction

## Klinse-Za Moose Harvest Scenarios under Continued Wolf Reduction

Scenario	Cow HR	Bull HR	Moose Harvest over 5 Years	Avg. Moose Harvest per Year	Resulting Moose Density after 20 years
1 – Maintain Current Moose Density	6%	7%	287 Cows 310 Bulls	119	0.87 moose/km <sup>2</sup> (2,100 moose)
2 – Reduce to Pre-Wolf Reduction Density	11%	12%	471 Cows 479 Bulls	190	0.44 moose/km <sup>2</sup> (1,080 moose)



- Highly effective in nearly all instances
- Transparency – all publicly available
- Scientific Rigour, Human Safety, and Animal Welfare and Humanness
- Moose are (or are becoming) plentiful and available in caribou recovery areas
- Long-term Actions are the key

