



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Herd Planning Overview

May 20, 2020



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Thank you for making time to participate this evening.

We anticipate the presentation to be approximately ½ hour leaving ½ hour for conversation.

We've found that often questions or concerns are addressed... on the next slide! With that in mind, please hold questions until the end... if possible.





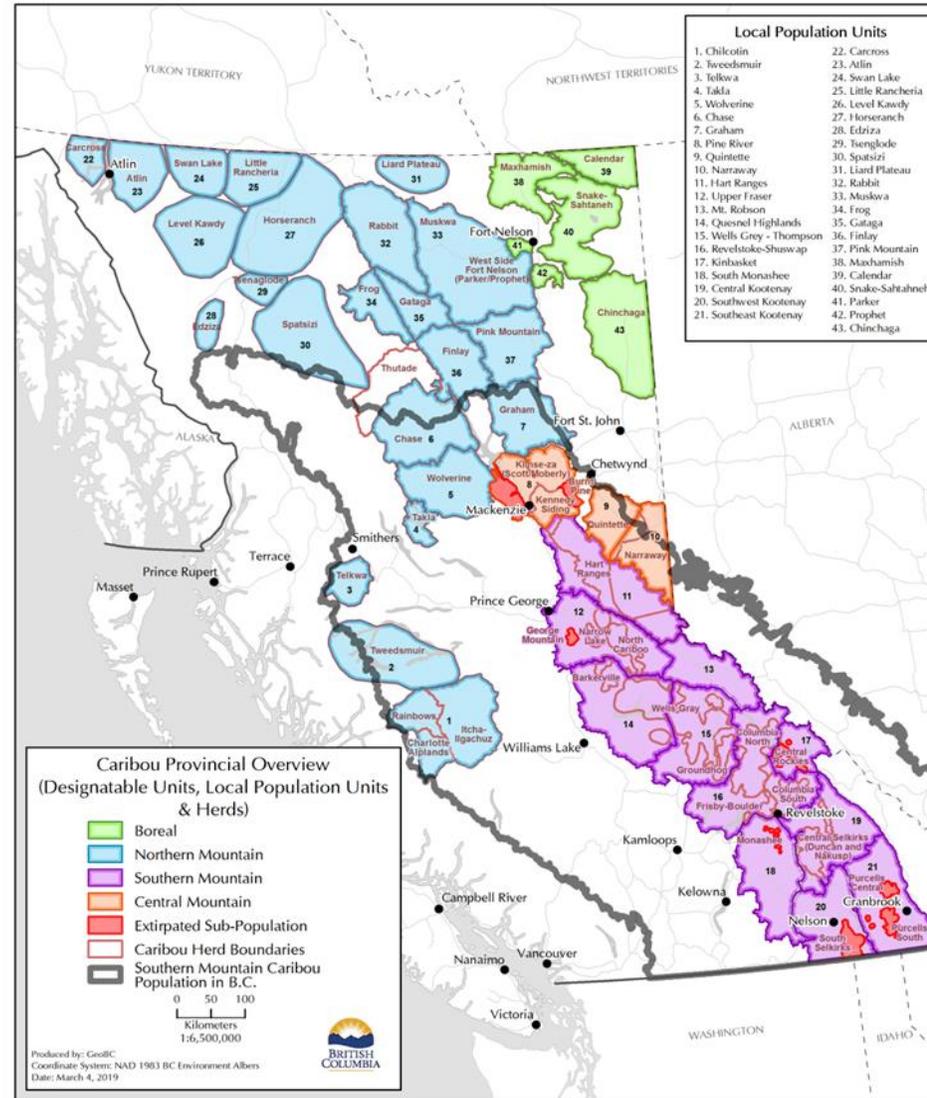
For Our Time Today

- BC Caribou Recovery Program
- How Did We Get Here?
- Core & Matrix Habitat... and Woodlots
- Agreements
- Engagement April 2019
- Ministry Approach
- Herd Planning Process, Goals, Principals
- Next Steps



DU	Population	SARA
Northern (blue)	26 herds with a total of ~15,000 animals	Special Concern, a few herds Threatened
Boreal (green)	6 herds with ~700+ animals down from ~1500 in early 2000s	Threatened
Central (orange)	6 herds ~219 animals down from ~800 animals in the early 2000s	Threatened
Southern (purple)	15 herds with a total of ~1,200 animals down from ~2500 in the mid 90s	Threatened

Extinct (X) | Extirpated (Canada) (XT) | Endang. (E) | Threaten. (T) | Special Concern (SC) | Not At Risk (NAR)

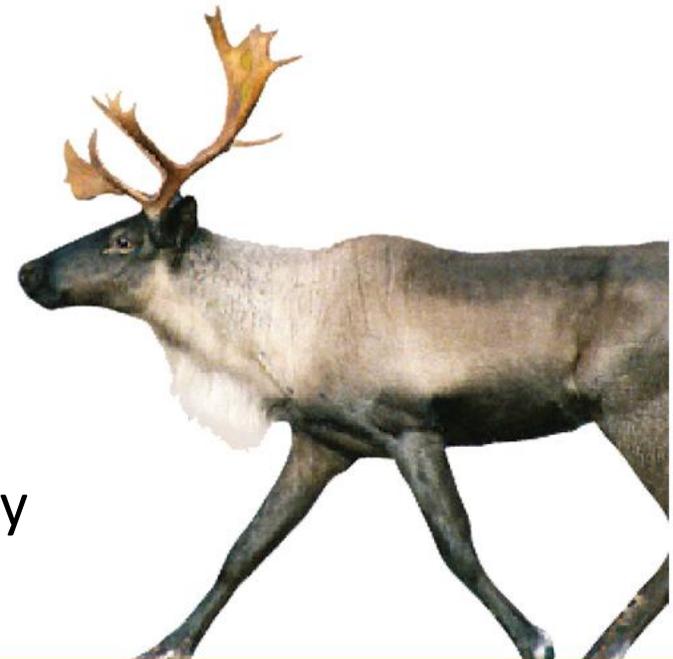


Caribou Recovery Program

Made in B.C. approach that aligns B.C.'s work with the federal *Species at Risk Act* objectives

Goals & Principles

- Recover caribou populations in identified herds
- Provide certainty to industry
- Advance collaboration and reconciliation with Indigenous communities
- Collaboration with partners
- Actively engage with all interested parties and ensure transparency in decisions



Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou,
Southern Mountain population (*Rangifer
tarandus caribou*) in Canada

Woodland Caribou, Southern Mountain population



2014

How did we get here?



**Federal vs
provincial
responsibility
for wildlife**

*Species at Risk Act
(SARA)*



Petitions



**Critical
habitat
protection
assessment**



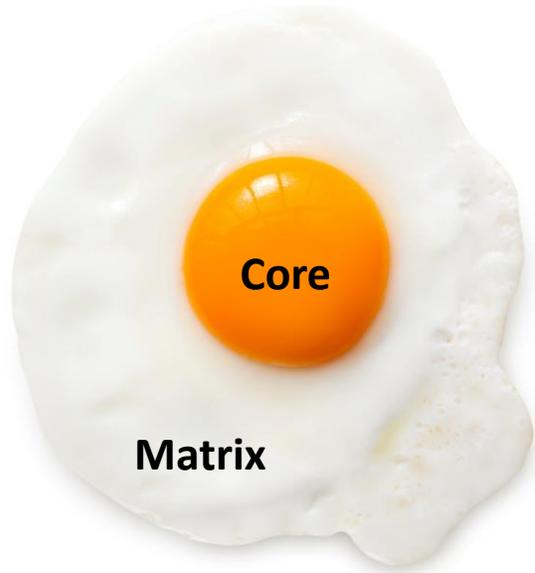
**Imminent
threat
analysis**



**Conservation
Agreement
"section 11"**



**Partnership
agreement**



Core, Matrix, and Woodlots

- Most woodlots fall in the matrix habitat for caribou
- “...provide for an overall ecological condition that will allow for low predation risk, defined as wolf population densities less than 3 wolves/1000 km².” *Recovery Strategy*
- Focus for these areas will likely be management approach vs protection



A warmer climate generates more fires

Logging requires roads and removes old forest

Gas exploration and development creates linear features and clears land

1/ Regenerating forests provide abundant forage; moose, deer and elk expand north as climate warms



3/ Seismic lines, pipelines and roads create travel corridors for wolves and increase their hunting efficiency



2/ Wolf populations increase with abundant prey

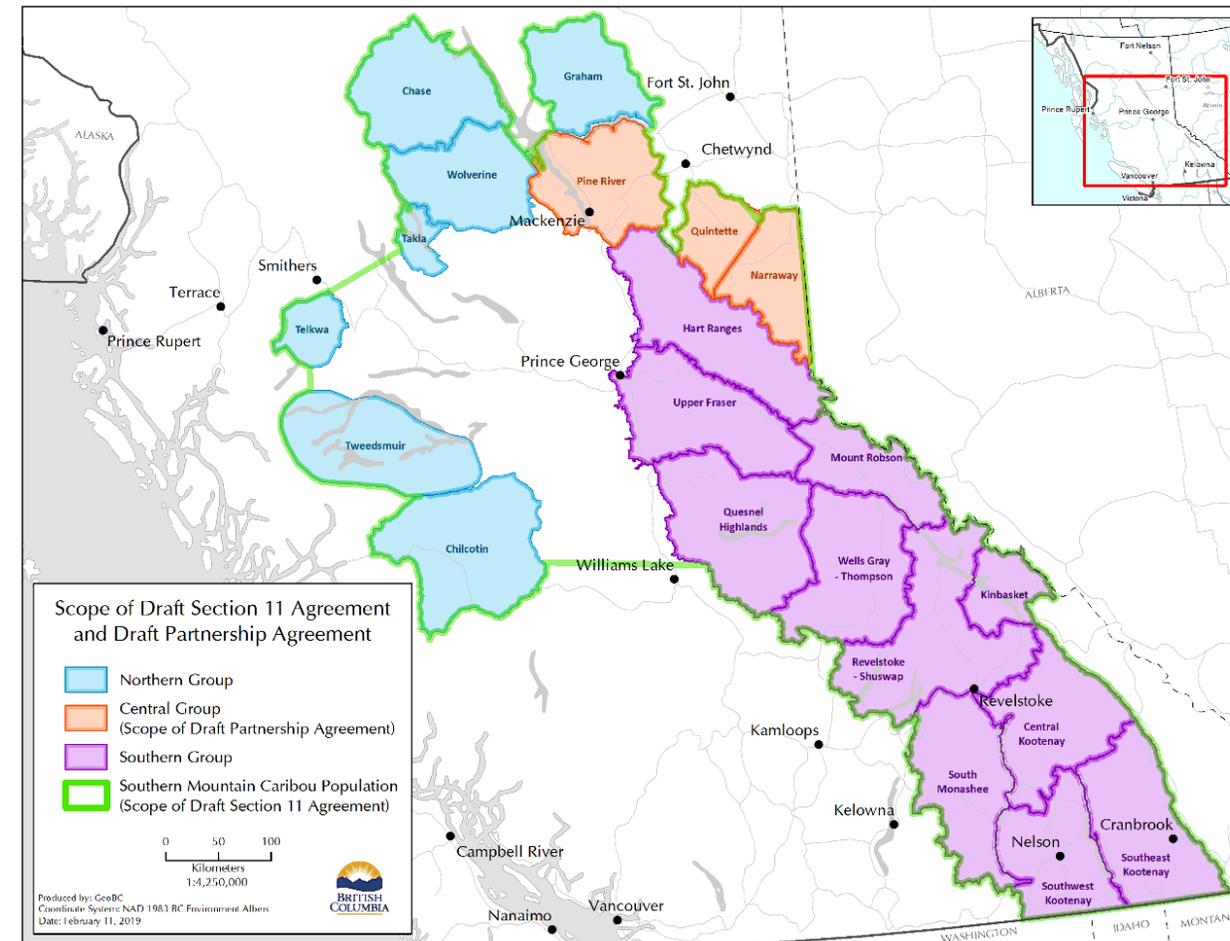


4/ Wolves encounter caribou more often; caribou populations decline



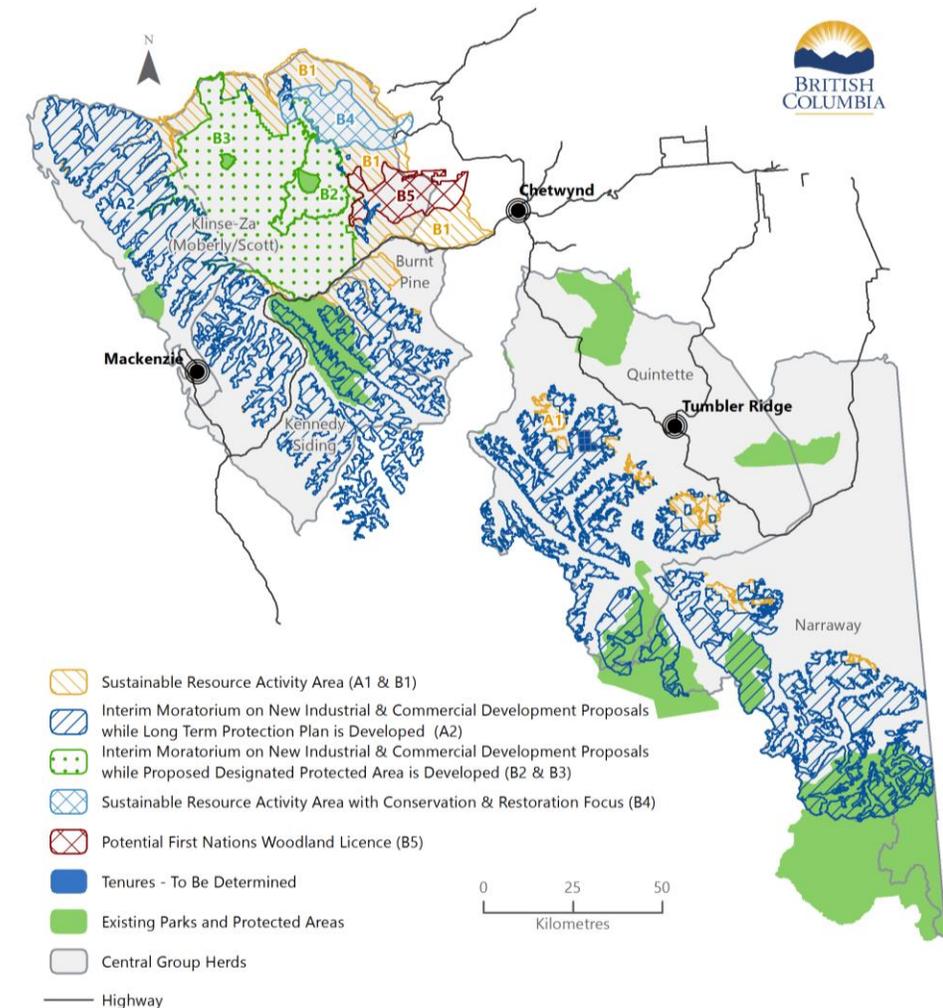
Section 11 Agreement Overview

- **Scope:** Southern Mountain Caribou Federal Recovery Strategy Area (green boundary on map)
- **Parties:** Environment Climate Change Canada and B.C.
- **Benefits:**
 - Aligns B.C.'s Caribou Recovery Program Plan with Federal objectives and expectations.
 - Positive, collaborative approach to Caribou Recovery.
 - Could reduce potential for a federal Section 80 SARA Protection Order.
 - Access federal funding.
 - Demonstrates a strong stance on species at risk recovery and reconciliation.
- **Potential Impacts:** Agreement does not include prescribed protected areas. Development of herd plans through collaborative process with First Nations and stakeholders.



Partnership Agreement Overview

- **Scope:** Pine, Narraway and Quintette populations.
- **Parties:** Canada, B.C., West Moberly & Saulteau First Nations.
- **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.
- **Protected Areas:** A moratorium was implemented in A2 and B3 on June 20, 2019. The Klin-Se-Za Park expansion (B2) is scheduled to be completed this spring.
- **Activity Areas:** Applications are expected to be reviewed and recommendations with the Caribou Recovery Committee. New Land use Objectives are being worked on.



A large group of people, mostly men, are seated in a large hall or auditorium. They are looking towards the front of the room, suggesting they are attending a presentation or meeting. The room has a high ceiling with exposed wooden beams and a clock on the wall. The lighting is warm and indoor.

April 2019 Engagement

- 16 Communities
- Approximately 5,250 participants
- Commitment to herd planning locally

Ministry Approach Includes...

Economy

- Economic pressures faced by communities and companies will be part of the conversation, analysis, and reflected in decisions.

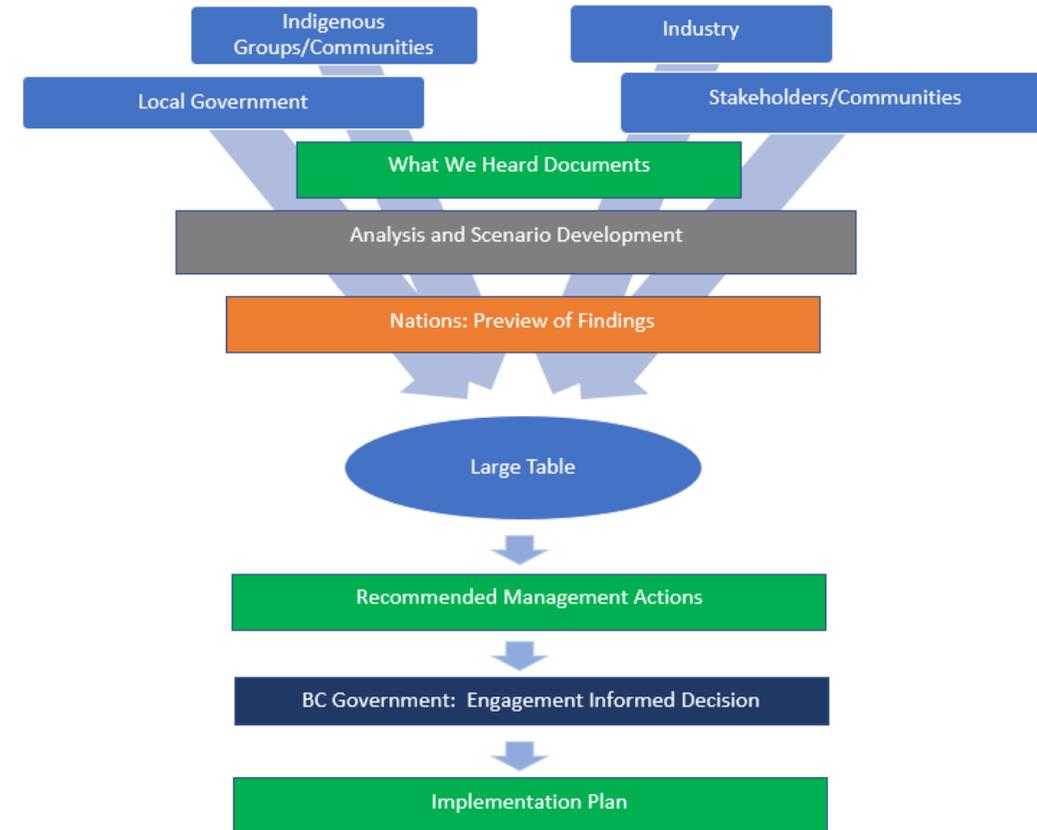
Reconciliation

- Explore greater opportunities to promote *partnerships through program-level operations and government-to-government mandates.
- Work collaboratively with Indigenous communities and groups to deliver recovery actions.



Herd Planning Goals & Principles

- Herd planning is an interest-based engagement process that supports engagement informed decision making
- BC's commitment to reconciliation and the economy ensures that science, socio, and economic factors are all part of recovery decisions
- Local knowledge and values are incorporated into the analysis required to build recovery scenarios



This approach will be used for each herd or for each herd complex (group of herds).

Adapting to the times

- Changing format: from face-to-face to a virtual/participant led activities
- Input into modernized land use planning processes

Section 11 Commitment

- Southern Mountain Caribou herd planning is to be completed by spring 2023

Herd or Herd Complex	
2019/20	First Priority
Hart Ranges (Redrock-Prairie Creek)	
Central Selkirks	
Chilcotin Complex (Itcha-Ilgachuz/Rainbows/Charlotte Alplands)	
Tweedsmuir	
Revelstoke Complex (Columbia North & South, Frisby Boulder)	
Wolverine/Chase/Takla	
2019/20	Second Priority
Wells Grey South/Groundhog	
2020/21	
Wells Grey North	
Barkerville/ Narrow Lake	
North Caribou Mountains	
Telkwa	
Northern Mountain Caribou	



Herd Planning: Progress

- Herd planning intro sessions have been completed with Lakes TSA, Mackenzie TSA, Prince George TSA, Quesnel TSA
- Small table sessions completed with local government
- Small table sessions with some Nations are complete, with many Nations wanting to dive deeper into technical reviews and recommendations

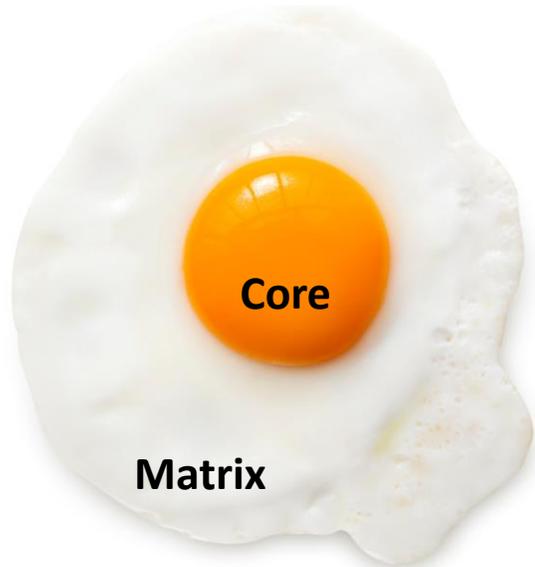
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Habitat

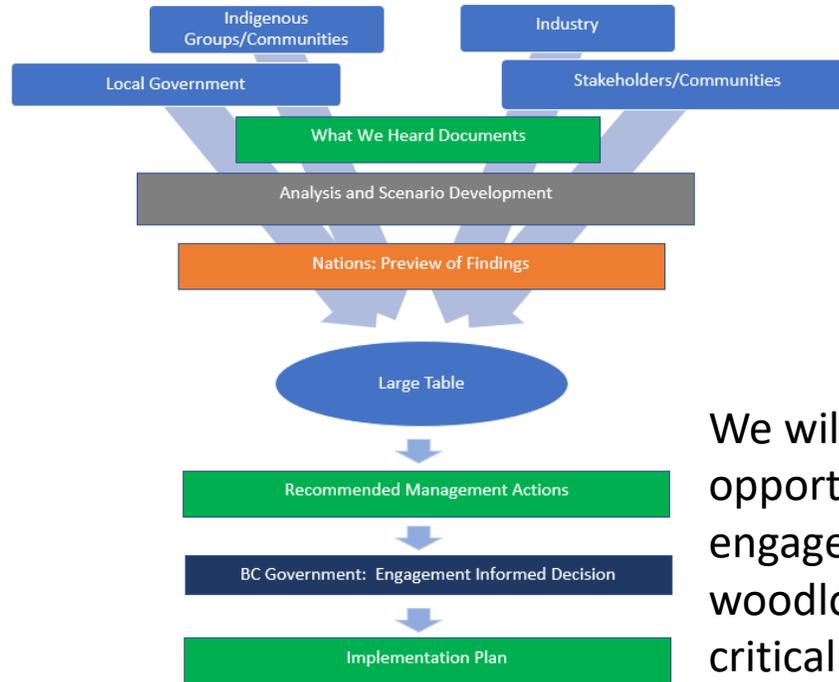
Most woodlots fall in the matrix habitat for caribou & the focus for these areas will likely be a management approach vs protection.



Engagement

Engagement is underway for : Hart Ranges, Wolverine/Chase/Takla, Tweedsmuir, Itcha-Ilgachuz/Rainbows/Charlotte Alplands, Columbia North & South, Frisby Boulder, Central Selkirks

We will provide an opportunity for engagement if your woodlot falls within critical habitat for caribou. We don't know what that looks like yet.





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Next Steps... Questions?

