

Page 01 of 11 to/à Page 03 of 11

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

## **Castanet: BC government extends wolf cull despite nearly 60% opposition**

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From: tno@gov.bc.ca  
Sent: January 27, 2022 7:30:44 PM PST  
Castanet

27-Jan-2022 19:26

Copyright

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[TNO...](#)

<https://www.castanet.net/news/BC/358320/B-C-government-extends-wolf-cull-despite-nearly-60-opposition>

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## **CBC Online: BC extends aerial wolf cull for five more years**

---

From: tno@gov.bc.ca  
Sent: January 31, 2022 8:16:31 PM PST  
CBC Online  
Courtney Dickson  
31-Jan-2022 20:06

Copyright

[TNO...](#)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bc-wolf-cull-extended-1.6330780?cmp=rss>

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s.13

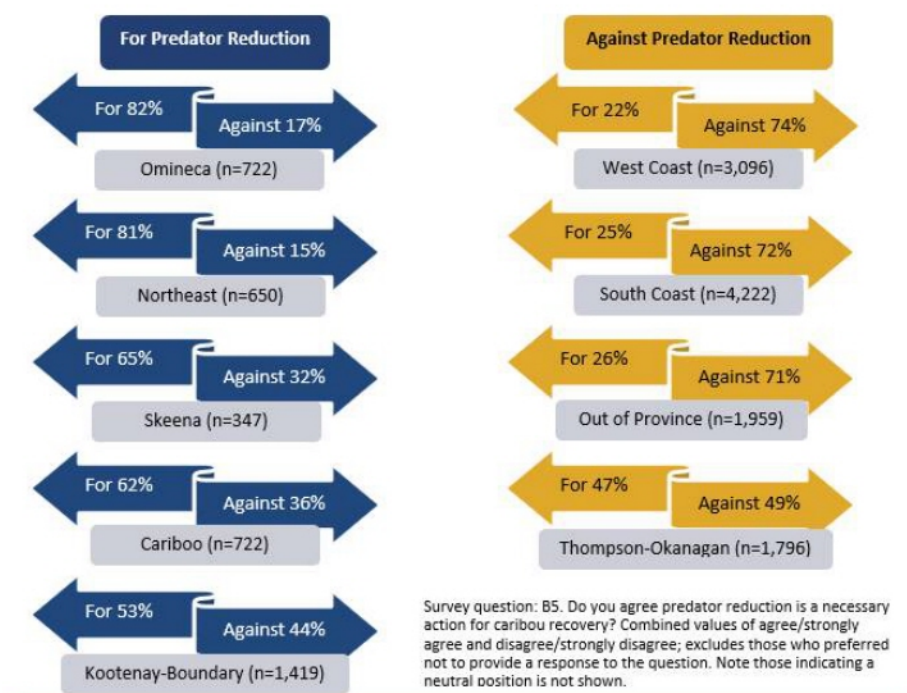
## BRIEFING NOTE

Howl2Horgan

Web Based

### *Appendix of engagement summary*

- 15,196 surveys were received through EngageBC from September 15- November 15 2021
- 98% of respondent felt that caribou recovery is important to them
- 86% of survey respondents reside in BC, 80% live in the southern and southwestern portions of BC
- 49% of respondents indicated that they spend time (recreation, hunting, resource extraction) in the areas proposed for predator reduction
- 42% of the respondents from BC were in support of predator reduction
- People in areas where caribou occur indicated greater support for application of this management tool (53% to 82%), compared to other areas of the province (22% to 47%)



## FW: Predator reduction note

---

From: Muter, David FLNR:EX [s.15](#)  
[s.15](#)

To: Ethier, Tom FLNR:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Brenda FLNR:EX Larkin (Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca) <Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca>, Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca>, Sandra FLNR:EX Jupp (Sandra.Jupp@gov.bc.ca) <Sandra.Jupp@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: January 6, 2020 2:22:15 PM PST

Attachments: image001.png, NRS 423\_Combined-Predator\_Reduction - Signed by MDD.pdf

Tom,

The attached has been approved by MDD but not MGH. If we wait until Jan 20<sup>th</sup> to get MGH approval, we may not be able to implement this year as contractors (helicopters) will move to other business.

I have asked Darcy to proceed with predator management as approved by MDD in all areas **except provincial parks**. Darcy is reaching out to DRMs to begin the process

Thanks  
D



**David Muter**  
Executive Director, Species at Risk Recovery  
Resource Stewardship Division  
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development  
(250) 217-5385

---

**From:** Jupp, Sandra FLNR:EX <Sandra.Jupp@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** January 6, 2020 10:27 AM  
**To:** Muter, David FLNR:EX <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Predator reduction note

Unfortunately, Minister Heyman is [s.22](#)

---

**From:** Muter, David FLNR:EX <[David.Muter@gov.bc.ca](mailto:David.Muter@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** January 6, 2020 9:09 AM  
**To:** Jupp, Sandra FLNR:EX <[Sandra.Jupp@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sandra.Jupp@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <[Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Predator reduction note

Sandra,

As discussed, we are looking for Minister Heyman's approval on this note (CLIFF #NRS 423). It is in EApproval (3681). Minister Donaldson signed off December 10<sup>th</sup> and it was then sent to MGH.

We are running short on time to implement the predator management program this year. Would you be able to ask our DMO to reach out to Minister Heyman's office and ask for an update on when he will be able to look at this note

Thanks  
D



David Muter  
Executive Director, Species at Risk Recovery  
Resource Stewardship Division  
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development  
(250) 217-5385

## NATURAL RESOURCE SECTOR – JOINT MINISTRY DECISION NOTE

Date: December 2, 2019

File: 280-20

CLIFF: NRS 423

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests Lands Natural Resources and Rural Development  
Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

**ISSUE:** Immediate wolf and cougar reduction to support recovery of the Central Selkirks, Itcha-Ilgachuz, Graham, Hart Ranges, and Tweedsmuir caribou herds.

### BACKGROUND:

- The Central Selkirks, Itcha-Ilgachuz, Graham, Hart Ranges, and Tweedsmuir caribou herds (the identified herds) are part of the Southern Mountain Caribou (SMC) population (listed as threatened under the Federal *Species at Risk Act*) and have all seen sharp declines in recent years.
- There is evidence that the proximate cause of caribou declines in the identified herds is high predation rates, primarily by wolves and cougar. Wolf density in all the identified herds is above the 3 wolves/1000 km<sup>2</sup> recommended in the federal caribou recovery strategy. Consistent cougar predation has been identified in specific areas of the Central Selkirks and Itcha-Ilgachuz herds.
- Recent research and past recovery efforts led by the Provincial Caribou Recovery Program indicates that targeted application of predator reduction where caribou face imminent decline is a necessary interim action to maintain caribou while habitat recovers through management, protection and/or restoration.
- A five-year wolf reduction pilot in the Central Group of SMC successfully halted and reversed caribou declines, resulting in population growth of 15% per year, with calf recruitment increasing from 15% to 21%. Similar results are anticipated when predator reduction is successfully applied to other herds.

### DISCUSSION:

Predator management options would normally be raised through public herd planning consultations led by the Provincial Caribou Recovery Program. The Central Selkirks population is sufficiently low that the herd could be functionally extirpated soon (1-5 years) unless immediate predator management is undertaken. Other identified herds have higher caribou populations but have faced significant decline over recent years, and any further population decreases will reduce the probability of successful caribou recovery regardless of management activities applied in the future. Waiting for the completion of herd planning to inform predator management options may not allow for effective recovery of these herds.

Aerial shooting of wolves is considered the most humane and effective method of wolf reduction. Sterilization has been demonstrated to be unsuccessful and use of Compound 1080 is not legal in BC. In order to benefit caribou populations wolf reduction must be applied with enough intensity



(>80% of wolves removed) and duration. There is no evidence of caribou herd health-related issues that would negate the effectiveness of emergency wolf and cougar removal in supporting caribou population recovery. In some of these herds ongoing predator management beyond two years may be needed until habitat restoration and protections can provide habitat separation between caribou and other ungulates. In all identified herds, caribou and wolf / cougar populations will be monitored to evaluate the need for further predator management, as well as monitoring of other ungulate populations.

There may be a need to enter Provincial Parks in some cases to support this predator management plan. Predator management in protected areas will be limited to where it is essential to the success of the program and all other options have been exhausted. Any predator management in parks will also be coordinated to ensure that it does not adversely impact other species and ecological values and that it does not compromise the ecological integrity of the park.

Consultation with Indigenous groups and user groups for this emergency wolf and cougar removal has been conducted for all herds except for the Central Selkirks herd, which will be initiated shortly

- Consultation for the Itcha-Ilgachuz, Hart Ranges, and Tweedsmuir caribou herds was concluded on September 26, 2019. The only First Nation response received was from the Tsilhqot'in National Government, who indicated support on the condition that they are involved in the planning and implementation of caribou recovery measures. Responses were received from 13 guide outfitter/trappers including the Guide Outfitter Association of BC (GOABC), all indicating support for the proposed initiation of wolf and cougar reduction in these herds. An additional 9,000 unsolicited responses, 94% of which voiced opposition to the program, were received from people/groups that were not sent consultation letters, however, many of these responses originated from outside of Canada.
- Graham herd consultation concluded in April 2019 and included Treaty 8 Nations and key stakeholder including the BC Wildlife Federation and GOABC. Overall support came from GOABC and Treaty 8 Nations and an interest in long-term funding for complementary ground-based wolf reduction programs.
- For the Central Selkirks consultation will be conducted starting in December. For this herd, it is anticipated that there will be support given the current herd status, along with existing support for the ongoing wolf and cougar reduction in the adjacent Columbia North herd, and the vocal support by the Arrow Lake Caribou Society.

## **OPTIONS:**

### **Option 1: Support two-year immediate wolf and cougar reduction in the identified caribou herds beginning in winter of 2019-2020**

s.13



# RECOMMENDATION:

s.13

☒ Approved / Not Approved



Signature

Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests,  
Lands, Natural Resource Operations and  
Rural Development

December 9, 2019

Date

Approved / Not Approved

Signature

George Heyman, Minister of Environment  
and Climate Change Strategy

Date

**Attachments:** Appendix 1: Predator Management Map 2019/20

**Contact:**

Tom Ethier, ADM  
Resource Stewardship Div.  
778 974-5804

**Alternate Contact:**

David Muter, ED  
RSD/SARR  
250 217-5385

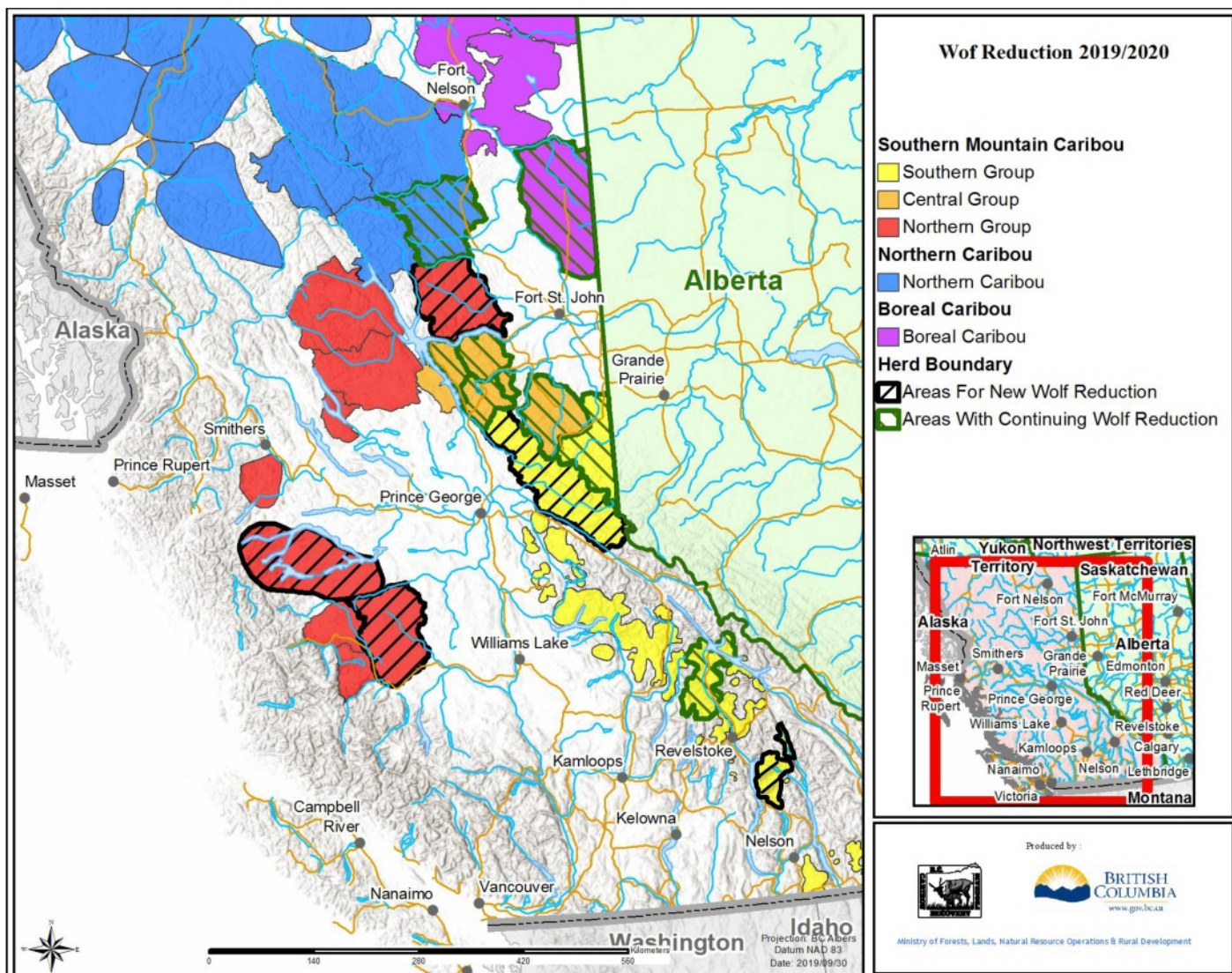
**Prepared by:**

Bevan Ernst  
Regional Caribou Biologist  
250 371-6273

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
FLNR - DM		
FLNR - DMO		
FLNR - ADM	TE	Dec 3 2019
PRGM Dir./Mgr.	Muter	Dec 2 2019

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
ENV - DM		
ENV - DMO		
ENV - ADM	JM & JS	Dec 2 2019

## Appendix 1: Predator Management Map 2019/20



	Herd	Caribou Population Estimate	Wolf Density (per 1,000km <sup>2</sup> )
SMC North	Graham	230	13
SMC Northern	Tweedsmuir	175	26
	Itcha Ilgachuz	380	6.2
	Hart Ranges	246	8.9
SMC Southern	Central Selkirks	25	4

## FLNR-BN-for-Decision-Predator Management Jan 8 2020

---

From: Muter, David FLNR:EX s.15  
s.15

To: Ethier, Tom FLNR:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>, Brenda FLNR:EX Larkin  
(Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca) <Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Sandra FLNR:EX Jupp (Sandra.Jupp@gov.bc.ca) <Sandra.Jupp@gov.bc.ca>, Peel, Darcy E  
FLNR:EX <Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: January 9, 2020 12:50:54 PM PST

Attachments: FLNR-BN-for-Decision-Predator Management Jan 8 2020.docx

Tom, updated predator note that is now just for MDD and with adjusted language on parks. Let me know if you are ok with the content. I still need to add a CLIFF number.

Thanks  
D

## BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

**DATE:** January 9, 2020

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests Lands Natural Resources and Rural Development

**ISSUE:** Immediate wolf and cougar reduction to support recovery of the Central Selkirks, Itcha-Ilgachuz, Graham, Hart Ranges, and Tweedsmuir caribou herds.

### RECOMMENDED OPTION:

s.13

### BACKGROUND:

- The Central Selkirks, Itcha-Ilgachuz, Graham, Hart Ranges, and Tweedsmuir caribou herds (the identified herds) are part of the Southern Mountain Caribou (SMC) population (listed as threatened under the Federal *Species at Risk Act*) and have all seen sharp declines in recent years.
- There is evidence that the proximate cause of caribou declines in the identified herds is high predation rates, primarily by wolves and cougar. Wolf density in all the identified herds is above the 3 wolves/1000 km<sup>2</sup> recommended in the federal caribou recovery strategy. Consistent cougar predation has been identified in specific areas of the Central Selkirks and Itcha-Ilgachuz herds.
- Recent research and past recovery efforts led by the Provincial Caribou Recovery Program indicates that targeted application of predator reduction where caribou face imminent decline is a necessary interim action to maintain caribou while habitat recovers through management, protection and/or restoration.
- A five-year wolf reduction pilot in the Central Group of SMC successfully halted and reversed caribou declines, resulting in population growth of 15% per year, with calf recruitment increasing from 15% to 21%. Similar results are anticipated when predator reduction is successfully applied to other herds.

### DISCUSSION:

Predator management options would normally be raised through public herd planning consultations led by the Provincial Caribou Recovery Program. The Central Selkirks population is sufficiently low that the herd could be functionally extirpated soon (1-5 years) unless immediate predator management is undertaken. Other identified herds have higher caribou populations but have faced significant decline over recent years, and any further population decreases will reduce the probability of successful caribou recovery regardless of management activities applied in the future. Waiting for the completion of herd planning to inform predator management options may not allow for effective recovery of these herds.



Aerial shooting of wolves is considered the most humane and effective method of wolf reduction. Sterilization has been demonstrated to be unsuccessful and use of Compound 1080 is not legal in BC. In order to benefit caribou populations wolf reduction must be applied with enough intensity (>80% of wolves removed) and duration. There is no evidence of caribou herd health-related issues that would negate the effectiveness of emergency wolf and cougar removal in supporting caribou population recovery. In some of these herds ongoing predator management beyond two years may be needed until habitat restoration and protections can provide habitat separation between caribou and other ungulates. For the identified herds, predator management can be effectively done without entering provincial parks. In all identified herds, caribou and wolf / cougar populations will be monitored to evaluate the need for further predator management, as well as monitoring of other ungulate populations.

Consultation with Indigenous groups and user groups for this emergency wolf and cougar removal has been conducted for all herds except for the Central Selkirks herd, which will be initiated shortly

- Consultation for the Itcha-Ilgachuz, Hart Ranges, and Tweedsmuir caribou herds was concluded on September 26, 2019. The only First Nation response received was from the Tsilhqot'in National Government, who indicated support on the condition that they are involved in the planning and implementation of caribou recovery measures. Responses were received from 13 guide outfitter/trappers including the Guide Outfitter Association of BC (GOABC), all indicating support for the proposed initiation of wolf and cougar reduction in these herds. An additional 9,000 unsolicited responses, 94% of which voiced opposition to the program, were received from people/groups that were not sent consultation letters, however, many of these responses originated from outside of Canada.
- Graham herd consultation concluded in April 2019 and included Treaty 8 Nations and key stakeholder including the BC Wildlife Federation and GOABC. Overall support came from GOABC and Treaty 8 Nations and an interest in long-term funding for complementary ground-based wolf reduction programs.
- For the Central Selkirks consultation will be conducted starting in December. For this herd, it is anticipated that there will be support given the current herd status, along with existing support for the ongoing wolf and cougar reduction in the adjacent Columbia North herd, and the vocal support by the Arrow Lake Caribou Society.

## OPTIONS:

### Option 1: Support two-year immediate wolf and cougar reduction in the identified caribou herds beginning in winter of 2019-2020

s.13

s.13



s.13; s.16

**RECOMMENDATION:**

s.13

Approved / Not Approved

Signature

Date

Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests,  
Lands, Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural Development

Attachments/Appendices: Appendix 1: Predator Management Map 2019/20

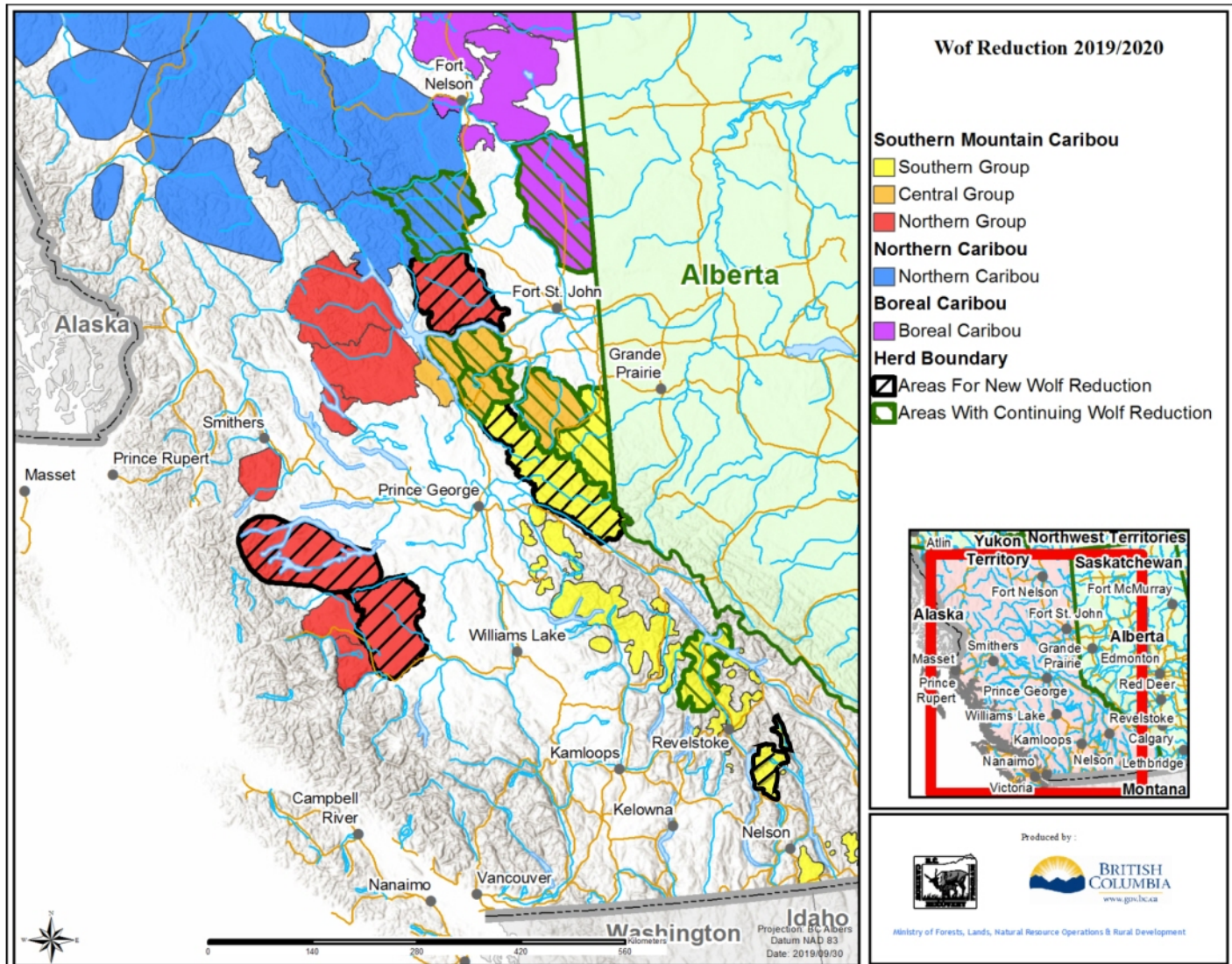
**PREPARED BY:**

David Muter  
Executive Director  
Species at Risk Recovery  
250-217-5385

**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
DM		
Associate DM		
DMO		
ADM		
Program Dir/Mgr.		

## Appendix 1: Predator Management Map 2019/20



	Herd	Caribou Population Estimate	Wolf Density (per 1,000km <sup>2</sup> )
SMC North	Graham	230	13
SMC Northern	Tweedsmuir	175	26
	Itcha Ilgachuz	380	6.2
	Hart Ranges	246	8.9
SMC Southern	Central Selkirks	25	4



## **FW: Predator Reduction for Caribou Recovery - Consultation**

---

From: Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Muter, David FLNR:EX <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: January 15, 2020 12:57:05 PM PST  
Attachments: Predator Reduction Consultation - Central Selkirk\_December 2019.pdf, Importance of Radio Collars.pdf

Here you go

Darcy Peel – Director – Caribou Recovery Program  
Cell: 778-220-3449

Vision: Conservation and recovery of British Columbia's caribou through excellence in resource stewardship.  
Mission: To lead caribou recovery through a comprehensive, collaborative and accountable provincial program.

---

From: Caribou Recovery FLNR:EX <caribou.recovery@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: December 10, 2019 3:45 PM  
To: Caribou Recovery FLNR:EX <caribou.recovery@gov.bc.ca>  
Subject: Predator Reduction for Caribou Recovery - Consultation

Good afternoon,

On behalf of the Province of British Columbia, the Caribou Recovery Program is proposing an emergency predator reduction in the Central Selkirk herd areas.

This is a 30 day engagement process due to the urgency of the required action. Please see the attached letter regarding engagement on this emergency management action. An information bulletin is also attached on the importance of wolf collars to caribou recovery.

For more information visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/wildlife-conservation/caribou/management-activities>  
or to provide feedback on this consultation package please email [caribou.recovery@gov.bc.ca](mailto:caribou.recovery@gov.bc.ca)  
<<mailto:caribou.recovery@gov.bc.ca>> .

Thank you for your support and interest in caribou.

Darcy Peel – Director – Caribou Recovery Program  
Cell: 778-220-3449



## **Predator Reduction for Caribou Recovery - Consultation**

The British Columbia Caribou Recovery Program is considering an emergency approval to initiate predator reduction programs for the Central Selkirk herd, commencing the winter of 2019/2020.

The Province aims to achieve self-sustaining caribou populations in identified herds and intends to discuss recovery actions through herd planning. How this occurs will be informed through herd planning. Herd planning provides an opportunity to discuss science-supported recovery actions, bring forward local and traditional knowledge, consider competing interests, and ultimately provide recovery recommendations to government decision-makers.

While herd planning is the preferred, comprehensive method for engagement on caribou recovery, it is time-consuming. Declining herds like the Central Selkirk herd cannot afford delay, since each year of continued declines increases the likelihood of the caribou populations dropping below levels from which they can be feasibly recovered. For this reason, a suite of measures is being proposed over winter 2019/2020 to address disturbance from unmanaged winter recreation and, in this case, mitigate adult mortality through predator management.

To this end, the Province has initiated this consultation, outside of herd planning, specifically on predator reduction since it is an urgent recovery action.

### **Background**

British Columbia is home to 54 herds of woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*). Despite significant investments in managing these herds, caribou populations have become threatened in the past three decades, declining from 40,000 animals decades ago to approximately 15,500 today.

The reasons for caribou population declines are complex and differ across the province. Scientific evidence indicates that habitat alteration and loss due to natural resource development, backcountry recreation and increases in predation are the main factors.

Although landscape-scale habitat management is needed to support self-sustaining caribou populations, it may be decades before the benefits of such decisions are realized. Direct management of predators has the most rapid effect.

### **Wolves**

Wolves are caribou's principal predator in British Columbia and high wolf numbers are associated with declining caribou populations through "apparent competition". Land clearing increases forage availability for moose/deer/elk, allowing their numbers to grow. With more of these animals on the landscape, wolf populations also grow. Although moose/deer/elk are the primary prey of wolves, a higher number of caribou are incidentally killed because of increased predator density. The interaction of caribou, wolf, and moose/deer/elk populations can be managed to the benefit of caribou by either managing moose/deer/elk or directly reducing wolf populations.

For threatened caribou populations, decreasing the number of wolves in caribou habitat is the quickest and most effective management tool to reverse population trends in the short term. Wolf reduction has

been used over the last five years in the Central Group of Southern Mountain Caribou, resulting in a shift from an average rate of decline of 15% per year to an average of 15% increase per year. Within the Kootenay Region, primary prey management supplemented with recent wolf reductions resulted in a 5% annual growth rate for the Columbia North herd, including an increase in calf recruitment. Multiple years of wolf reduction has resulted in a decrease of wolf recolonization rates in the area and adjacent areas.

Wolf reduction will not recover a herd to a self-sustaining population and therefore is never carried out as the sole recovery action, but it is being considered as an immediate measure. Herd planning will identify all of the recovery actions needed.

### **Cougars**

Although wolves are the most common predator of caribou, cougars can also contribute to caribou mortality, specifically in more southern herds. In a span of three years (2017-present) three of nine collared Central Selkirk caribou were lost to cougar predation. Cougars are habitual predators that can develop a search image and hunting strategy on specific prey species. For small and declining ungulate populations such as sheep or caribou, once a search image is developed for a prey species, one specialist cougar can have a significant impact on a small population. Within the Columbia North herd, a single cougar was confirmed to have killed four caribou within a span of a few weeks. With the steep population decline of the Central Selkirk caribou herd (89% decline in 20 years), a targeted removal of cougars in the localized area where cougar predation is occurring will likely substantially benefit this herd.

### **Central Selkirk caribou herd**

Predation by cougars and wolves has caused a decline in the Central Selkirk herd, as demonstrated by its reduced herd size, poor calf recruitment, and high rates of adult female mortality. Unless there is an immediate reduction in the loss of caribou to predation, recovery is not likely.

The Province is recommending predator reduction, since the following factors exist in the Central Selkirk herd:

- wolf densities are over the recommended target of less than three wolves per 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> ([Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Southern Mountain population \(\*Rangifer tarandus caribou\*\) in Canada, 2014](#)) within the herds' critical habitat;
- ongoing monitoring indicates that predation is the main cause of mortality and the proximate reason for recent population declines; and
- the herd is at a critically low number (If the number of adult females drops to fewer than 10, the population will be functionally extirpated, after which recovery is unlikely).

The objective of this predator reduction program is to reverse the caribou population decline in the Central Selkirk herd.



**Figure 1. Area proposed for predator reduction in the Central Selkirk herd**

### **Approach**

To reverse caribou population declines, high rates of wolf removal (greater than 80%) must be achieved. When wolf reduction has occurred without high rates of removal, there was no response in caribou populations. To ensure sufficient rates of removal, a combination of radio collaring and aerial shooting is used. The deployment of radio collars allows scientists to locate packs to ensure that all members of a pack are euthanized.

Aerial removal is the favoured method, since it is considered to be the most effective and humane method to thoroughly reduce wolf populations. Monitoring is carried out to ensure safety, efficacy, and the humane treatment of animals. Aerial removal is consistent with the most current guidelines for wild animal euthanasia in field conditions (AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals, American Veterinary Medical Association 2013).

Winter implementation is necessary, since snow cover is required for locating wolves. Snow also slows their movement and dispersal as aircraft approach. Ground trapping and hunting alone are not effective, but may be helpful to supplement an aerial removal program. Cougar reduction also occurs during the winter, but it is ground-based. Cougar numbers cannot be effectively reduced from the air, since the animals are not typically encountered in open areas and their escape strategy is to retreat to cover or climb into a tree, where they cannot be seen from aircraft. Experienced houndsmen will be contracted to target cougars within the treatment area where cougar predation on caribou has occurred.

### **Adaptive management**

An adaptive management approach will be used to understand how caribou, moose/deer/elk, and wolf populations respond to a reduction in the wolf population. The wolf reduction program may be adapted based on the results. When wolf reduction activities are stopped, a rapid recovery of wolf populations is expected, and this will maintain consistent predation pressure on caribou until the primary prey they rely on reach lower densities that will promote self-sustaining caribou populations.

### **Primary prey management - moose/deer/elk**

Recovery to self-sustaining caribou populations will ultimately depend on the ability to successfully manage habitat disturbance and primary prey abundance (such as moose, elk and/or deer populations) within each range.

Predator reduction is a short-term approach. Managing primary prey to target densities that support caribou recovery is an intermediate-term approach (i.e. 10-20 years). Habitat management and recovery is often the ultimate goal but may take decades to unfold. Moose/deer/elk management (through habitat management or hunter harvest, for example) may be required in conjunction with predator reduction. However, the timing and intensity of such actions will vary and will be informed through herd planning.

### **How can you get involved in this consultation process?**

The British Columbia Caribou Recovery Program is conducting a 30-day consultation about initiating a predator reduction program for the Central Selkirk herd, from December 10, 2019 to January 9, 2020. Letters like this one have been sent to Indigenous communities and targeted stakeholders. These groups will also be invited to participate in herd planning meetings in early 2020.

Please provide your feedback on this consultation package by email to [caribou.recovery@gov.bc.ca](mailto:caribou.recovery@gov.bc.ca).





## **Importance of Radio-Collared Wolves to Predator Management**

### Background

GPS radio-collars are deployed on wolves in some caribou herd ranges to provide information on wolf-caribou dynamics for potential wolf removal. Radio-collared wolves improves wolf pack detection for aerial wolf reduction, should this recovery action occur. It is therefore crucial that radio-collared wolves remain on the landscape to quickly and efficiently locate entire collared wolf packs if wolf removal occurs.

### Wolf radio-collaring

It is a challenging process to collar wolves. Aerial capture work is timed to coincide with the winter season when packs are travelling together in search of prey and landscapes are snow covered. Capture work is performed using experienced aerial animal capture personnel and is an expensive, albeit effective method for wolf capture. For instance, on the Chilcotin Plateau during the winter of 2018/2019, the average cost for each wolf capture was \$9,400 and took 12 days to collar 21 wolves in 10 packs.

### Impact of radio-collared wolf loss

The loss of a collared wolf through harvest reduces overall efficiencies for any subsequent aerial wolf reduction program, should this recovery action occur. When collared wolves are removed from their pack, the capability to reduce wolf numbers is significantly diminished, as packs can no longer be located quickly and efficiently reduced. Though ground-based wolf trapping can support aerial reductions, ground removals alone are not effective methods of wolf removal at the levels required for caribou recovery. The more collared wolves alive on the landscape, the more effective wolf pack reduction will be.

### How you can help

We ask that hunters and trappers be aware of collared wolf packs in your area and consider the implications of removing radio-collared wolves from the wolf population. If you are hunting in an area with collared wolves, to support caribou recovery efforts if wolf reduction actions proceed, please avoid killing a radio-collared wolf. For more information on radio-collared wolves in your area please contact your local Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development office.

If you do harvest a collared wolf, please return collars to your local government office. Some collars can be re-used which is cost-efficient and there is information stored on the collars that can be used to improve knowledge on wolf-caribou dynamics.

Page 018 of 236

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14

Page 019 of 236

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14 ; s.15

Page 020 of 236 to/à Page 023 of 236

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14



## RE: Predator Management

---

From: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Muter, David FLNR:EX <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>, DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX <Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Bridger, Michael C FLNR:EX <Michael.Bridger@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 23, 2020 8:59:09 AM PDT  
Attachments: image002.png, image003.png, ApprovedPermit\_PG19\_598324\_WolfControl\_Omineca\_Jan17\_2020.pdf  
Sorry about that, here you go.



**Bevan Ernst, MSc, RPBio**  
**Regional Caribou Biologist**  
Thompson Okanagan Region | Ecosystems Section  
Phone (250) 312-6640 | Mobile (250) 318-6929  
**Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development**

---

**From:** Muter, David FLNR:EX <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** July 22, 2020 4:53 PM  
**To:** DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX <Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>; Bridger, Michael C FLNR:EX <Michael.Bridger@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Predator Management

Thanks for this Leo. The Wildlife Act for Hart Ranges is a draft - do we have the final signed one?

Thanks  
D



**David Muter**  
**A / Assistant Deputy Minister**  
**Resource Stewardship Division**  
**Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development**  
**(250) 217-5385**

---

**From:** DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX <[Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** July 21, 2020 2:29 PM  
**To:** Muter, David FLNR:EX <[David.Muter@gov.bc.ca](mailto:David.Muter@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <[Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca)>; Bridger, Michael C FLNR:EX <[Michael.Bridger@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Michael.Bridger@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Predator Management

In this zip Davis. I also saved on our shared caribou drive – predator management – permits

Leo

---

**From:** Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <[Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** July 20, 2020 12:03 PM  
**To:** DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX <[Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca)>

Cc: Wiebe, Heather I FLNR:EX <[Heather.Wiebe@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Heather.Wiebe@gov.bc.ca)>; Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <[Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca)>; Scheck, Joelle L FLNR:EX <[Joelle.Scheck@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Joelle.Scheck@gov.bc.ca)>

Subject: RE: Predator Management

Good morning,

I'm sure you guys have access to it elsewhere but thought it would be helpful to have all the permits together in one place for reference so have compiled all the regional paperwork in to the attached zip file.

Not having as much luck on the federal issue.

The closest I have found still only references unloaded:

**Exception — air carrier flights**

(3) The following persons may carry or have access to an unloaded firearm on board an aircraft operated by an air carrier:

- (a) a peace officer who is authorized by the air carrier under section 531;
- (b) the pilot-in-command of the aircraft if authorized by the air carrier under subsection 533(1); and
- (c) an employee of a federal or provincial department or agency who is engaged in wildlife control and who is authorized by the air carrier under subsection 533(1).

I am waiting to hear back from contractor around their paperwork on the issue. I think there must be some other regulations I am not finding as by their definition of firearm (**firearm** means a barrelled weapon from which any shot, bullet or other projectile can be discharged and that is capable of causing serious bodily injury or death to a person, and includes any frame or receiver of such a barrelled weapon and anything that can be adapted for use as a firearm; (*arme à feu*))

Even netgunning would not be allowed. I will keep you updated on any response from contractors.



**Bevan Ernst, MSc, RPBio**  
**Regional Caribou Biologist**

Thompson Okanagan Region | Ecosystems Section  
Phone (250) 312-6640 | Mobile (250) 318-6929

**Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development**

---

**From:** DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX <[Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** July 20, 2020 9:18 AM

**To:** Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <[Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** FW: Predator Management

---

**From:** Muter, David FLNR:EX <[David.Muter@gov.bc.ca](mailto:David.Muter@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** July 20, 2020 8:12 AM

**To:** DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX <[Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Wiebe, Heather I FLNR:EX <[Heather.Wiebe@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Heather.Wiebe@gov.bc.ca)>; Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <[Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Predator Management

Hi Leo,

The petition that was filed named region 5(skeena) and region 6 (cariboo). Lets start with the authorizations for those two areas. I think we should also get all the other related authorizations.

Thanks  
D



David Muter  
A / Assistant Deputy Minister  
Resource Stewardship Division  
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development  
(250) 217-5385

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**From:** DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX <[Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** July 17, 2020 5:23 PM  
**To:** Muter, David FLNR:EX <[David.Muter@gov.bc.ca](mailto:David.Muter@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Wiebe, Heather I FLNR:EX <[Heather.Wiebe@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Heather.Wiebe@gov.bc.ca)>; Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <[Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Predator Management

I did hear David but I heard it was only in regards to Tweedsmuir. Is that the case?

I believe the Wildlife Act permit is to cull and by aircraft all in one, but there will be one for each region, so if it is only Tweeds that is easier. The federal firearms in a helicopter permit will be the responsibility of the heli supplier but I am sure we can track that down. Again if it is only Tweeds then it is only one operator.

Will look into that Monday. Have a great weekend David!

Leo

---

**From:** Muter, David FLNR:EX <[David.Muter@gov.bc.ca](mailto:David.Muter@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** July 17, 2020 4:32 PM  
**To:** DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX <[Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Wiebe, Heather I FLNR:EX <[Heather.Wiebe@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Heather.Wiebe@gov.bc.ca)>; Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <[Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Predator Management

Hi Leo

As you likely have heard, a lawsuit has been filed against the province regarding the predator management program.  
s.14 Wonder if you could help track down a few things

- All permits under the wildlife act that were issued this past year for the predator management program (I think there is both a permit to cull and a permit to do it from an aircraft
- Federal authorizations (permits or licenses) to have firearms in a helicopter.

Need this fairly quickly. Are you able to get this early next week?

Thanks  
D



David Muter  
A / Assistant Deputy Minister  
Resource Stewardship Division  
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development  
(250) 217-5385





**WILDLIFE ACT**

**PERMIT PG19-598324**

<b>PERMIT HOLDER</b>	s.15; s.19; s.21
----------------------	------------------

**IS AUTHORIZED UNDER** s. 2(c)(iii) of the *Permit Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 253/2000,

<b>TO</b>	Hunt, trap or kill Grey Wolf ( <i>Canis lupus</i> ) from a helicopter, during the open or closed season as the regional manager considers it necessary for the proper management of the wildlife resource within the Hart Ranges Caribou Recovery Treatment Area.
-----------	---

**AND IS AUTHORIZED UNDER** s. 2(k)(i) of the *Permit Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 253/2000,

<b>TO</b>	Possess <b>WOLF</b> ( <i>Canis Lupus</i> ) samples (tissue and bones) collected from mortality investigations and captures of wolves as part of the wolf reduction treatment as detailed in the permit application documentation within Hart Ranges Caribou Recovery Treatment Area.
-----------	--

**AND IS AUTHORIZED UNDER** s. 2 (h) and 3(1)(c)(i) of the *Permit Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 253/2000,

<b>TO</b>	Utilize aerial net gunning for the capture, handling, sampling and collaring of wolves within the Hart Ranges treatment area, approximately 50-100 km east of Prince George, BC as detailed in the permit application documentation.
-----------	--

**AND IS EXEMPT UNDER** s. 3 (1)(c)(ii) and 3 (1)(c)(iii) of the *Permit Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 253/2000,

<b>FROM</b>	The prohibitions in s. 27 of the Act against herding and hunting wildlife from an aircraft.
-------------	---

**SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING:**

<b>TERMS OF PERMIT</b>	This permit is only valid in the area as directed by the Ministry. The permit holder must comply with the terms in Appendix A.
<b>COMPLIANCE ADVISORY</b>	Failure to comply with any term of this permit is an offence under the <i>Wildlife Act</i> , and may result in any or all of prosecution, suspension of the permit, cancellation of the permit, ineligibility for future permits, and denial of future permit requests.
<b>PERIOD OF PERMIT</b>	This permit is only valid from January 17, 2020 to March 31, 2020.
<b>DATE OF ISSUE</b>	January 17, 2020

s.15; s.19

s.15; s.19

**PERMIT FEE**  
Exempt

Recreational Fisheries & Wildlife Programs,  
Omineca Region

**HCTF SURCHARGE**  
Exempt

**APPENDIX A  
TERMS OF PERMIT  
PERMIT PG19-598324**

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

1. The permit holder must maintain an accurate up to date record of the wildlife hunted, trapped or killed under the permit, which includes the following information:
  - a) the common name of the wildlife;
  - b) the location where the wildlife was taken;
  - c) the date the wildlife was hunted, trapped or killed;

**NOTE:** A blank reporting form (Appendix D) is attached to the end of this permit for your convenience.

2. The permit holder must submit the original record referred to in paragraph 1 to the FrontCounter BC, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations annually by June 30<sup>th</sup> each year and **within 21 days** after the expiry of the permit.
3. The permit holder must produce a copy of the record referred to in paragraph 1 on the demand of an officer.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

1. The permit holder must comply with all laws applicable to the activities carried out under this permit.
2. The permit holder must take all reasonably necessary steps to ensure that public safety is not jeopardized and fish or wildlife habitat is not damaged by any action taken under authority of this permit.
3. The permit holder must ensure that the wildlife are treated in a humane manner, and are not subjected to any unnecessary harm or suffering in accordance with the Animal Care Application

BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

## **APPENDIX B ADVISORY PERMIT PG19-598324**

### **GENERAL**

- It is the permit holder's responsibility to be aware of all applicable laws and the limits of this permit. For example, this permit does not give the permit holder authority to access or travel through any private land without permission from the landowner.
- The Province is not liable for any illness contracted through wildlife handling. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to inform themselves of possible health hazards, and to ensure that all reasonably necessary safety measures are undertaken.
- If applicable, the permit holder is responsible for renewing his or her own permit. The issuer is not obliged to send a reminder notice.

### **LEGISLATION**

Here are some, but not all, relevant excerpts from the **Wildlife Act**:

#### **Property in Wildlife**

**2 (3)** A person who lawfully kills wildlife and complies with all applicable provisions of this Act and the regulations acquires the right of property in that wildlife.

**2 (4)** If a person by accident or for the protection of life or property kills wildlife, that wildlife, despite subsection (3), remains the property of the government.

**2 (5)** Despite anything in this Act, no right of action lies, and no right of compensation exists, against the government for death, personal injury or property damage caused by

- a) wildlife, or
- b) an animal that escapes or is released from captivity or is abandoned

in British Columbia

#### **Hunting and licences**

**11 (1)** A person who hunts wildlife commits an offence unless the person holds all of the following:

- a) a hunting licence issued to the person under this Act;
- b) any limited entry hunting authorization that is required by regulation;
- c) any other licence that is required by regulation;
- d) any other permit that is required by regulation

**11 (8)** A person commits an offence if the person traps fur bearing animals unless he or she holds a trapping licence.

#### **Trafficking in wildlife**

**22** A person who traffics live wildlife or wildlife meat, except as authorized by regulation or a permit, commits an offence.



### **Documents not transferable**

**81** Except as authorized by regulation or as otherwise provided under this Act, a licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization is not transferable, and a person commits an offence if the person

- a) allows his or her licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization to be used by another person, or
- b) uses another person's licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization.

### **Failure to pay fine**

**85** (1) This section applies if a person

- (a) fails to pay, within the time required by law, a fine imposed as a result of the person's conviction for an offence under this Act or the Firearm Act, and
- (b) has been served with notice of this section.

(2) In the circumstances referred to in subsection (1),

- (a) the person's right to apply for or obtain a licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization under this Act is suspended immediately and automatically on the failure to pay the fine,
- (b) all licences, permits and limited entry hunting authorizations issued to that person under this Act are cancelled immediately and automatically on the failure to pay the fine,
- (b.1) the person must not apply for employment as an assistant guide,
- (b.2) the person must not guide as an assistant guide, and
- (c) the person commits an offence if, before that fine is paid, the person
  - (i) applies for, or in any way obtains, a licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization under this Act,
  - (ii) does anything for which a licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization under this Act is required,
  - (iii) applies for employment as an assistant guide, or
  - (iv) guides as an assistant guide.

### **Production of licence or permit**

**97** If a person who is required to hold a licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization issued under this Act

- a) fails to produce it for inspection to an officer on request, or
- b) fails or refuses to state his or her name and address to an officer on request,

the person commits an offence.

### **REGULATIONS**

This excerpt from the **Permit Regulation**, made under the Wildlife Act, is relevant:

**8** A person who holds a permit under the Act or the Permit Regulation commits an offence if he or she fails to comply with a term of the permit.

Page 031 of 236 to/à Page 060 of 236

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14



## 258868 BN DN Timing Predator Caribou OCT 2, 2020 final

---

From: Muter, David FLNR:EX s.15  
s.15

To: Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca>, Psyllakis, Jennifer FLNR:EX <Jennifer.Psyllakis@gov.bc.ca>, Eamon G FLNR:EX O'Donoghue (Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca) <Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca>, Morgan FLNR:EX Kennah (Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca) <Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca>, Paul FLNR:EX Rasmussen (Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca) <Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca>, Plante, Laura FLNR:EX <Laura.Plante@gov.bc.ca>, Russ FLNR:EX Laroche (Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca) <Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: October 2, 2020 2:53:24 PM PDT

Attachments: 258868 BN DN Timing Predator Caribou OCT 2, 2020 final.docx

FYI - final note on reg updates required for predator management

Russ, Morgan – how complex are these updates. IF we get a green light on option 1 – how much time will be needed to get the OIC package ready?

Thanks  
D

Page 062 of 236 to/à Page 063 of 236

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13 ; s.14

Page 064 of 236

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14

## RE: 258868 BN DN Timing Predator Caribou OCT 2, 2020 final

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From: Scowcroft, Lesley FLNR:EX <Lesley.Scowcroft@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Muter, David FLNR:EX <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Laroche, Russ FLNR:EX <Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca>, Kennah, Morgan FLNR:EX <Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: October 8, 2020 12:15:05 PM PDT  
Hi David,

That's helpful to know – thank you. We can consider timing for sending the instructions once direction is confirmed.

Cheers,

Lesley

---

**From:** Muter, David FLNR:EX <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** October 8, 2020 12:08 PM  
**To:** Scowcroft, Lesley FLNR:EX <Lesley.Scowcroft@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Laroche, Russ FLNR:EX <Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca>; Kennah, Morgan FLNR:EX <Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: 258868 BN DN Timing Predator Caribou OCT 2, 2020 final

Hi Lesley,

s.13

Let me know if we should discuss further

Thanks  
D

---

**From:** Scowcroft, Lesley FLNR:EX <[Lesley.Scowcroft@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lesley.Scowcroft@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** October 8, 2020 11:47 AM  
**To:** Muter, David FLNR:EX <[David.Muter@gov.bc.ca](mailto:David.Muter@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Kennah, Morgan FLNR:EX <[Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: 258868 BN DN Timing Predator Caribou OCT 2, 2020 final

Hi David,

s.13; s.14

We were going to wait until after executive connected with Corinne to send the instructions so she is familiar with the context/project, and want to ensure our timing aligns with the timing of those discussions.

Many thanks,

Lesley

---

**From:** Scowcroft, Lesley FLNR:EX

**Sent:** October 5, 2020 3:57 PM

**To:** Kennah, Morgan FLNR:EX <[Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca)>; Laroche, Russ FLNR:EX <[Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca)>; Muter, David FLNR:EX <[David.Muter@gov.bc.ca](mailto:David.Muter@gov.bc.ca)>; Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <[Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca)>; Psyllakis, Jennifer FLNR:EX <[Jennifer.Psyllakis@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Psyllakis@gov.bc.ca)>; Plante, Laura FLNR:EX <[Laura.Plante@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Laura.Plante@gov.bc.ca)>; O'Donoghue, Eamon G FLNR:EX <[Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca)>; Rasmussen, Paul FLNR:EX <[Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: 258868 BN DN Timing Predator Caribou OCT 2, 2020 final

Hi everyone,

s.12; s.13; s.14

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Cheers,

Lesley

---

**From:** Scowcroft, Lesley FLNR:EX

**Sent:** October 3, 2020 11:00 AM

**To:** Kennah, Morgan FLNR:EX <[Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca)>; Laroche, Russ FLNR:EX <[Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca)>; Muter, David FLNR:EX <[David.Muter@gov.bc.ca](mailto:David.Muter@gov.bc.ca)>; Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <[Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca)>; Psyllakis, Jennifer FLNR:EX <[Jennifer.Psyllakis@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Psyllakis@gov.bc.ca)>; Plante, Laura FLNR:EX <[Laura.Plante@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Laura.Plante@gov.bc.ca)>; O'Donoghue, Eamon G FLNR:EX <[Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca)>; Rasmussen, Paul FLNR:EX <[Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: 258868 BN DN Timing Predator Caribou OCT 2, 2020 final

Hi everyone,

s.12; s.13; s.14

Below are some time estimates/considerations for completing the regulation as per the recommended option, with the caveat that work will depend on access to Leg Counsel resources (may have more information on this point on Monday).

David, any information you can provide before Monday about the intention to bring forward the regulation to the current Cabinet, if needed, to meet the November 19 timeline would be helpful for those conversations.

Many thanks,

Lesley

**Lesley Scowcroft**, MA, MPA

A/Director, Legislation | Strategic Priorities Group  
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development  
(250) 818-4793

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**From:** Kennah, Morgan FLNR:EX <[Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** October 2, 2020 3:44 PM  
**To:** Laroche, Russ FLNR:EX <[Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca)>; Muter, David FLNR:EX <[David.Muter@gov.bc.ca](mailto:David.Muter@gov.bc.ca)>; Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <[Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca)>; Psyllakis, Jennifer FLNR:EX <[Jennifer.Psyllakis@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Psyllakis@gov.bc.ca)>; Plante, Laura FLNR:EX <[Laura.Plante@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Laura.Plante@gov.bc.ca)>; O'Donoghue, Eamon G FLNR:EX <[Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca)>; Rasmussen, Paul FLNR:EX <[Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Scowcroft, Lesley FLNR:EX <[Lesley.Scowcroft@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lesley.Scowcroft@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: 258868 BN DN Timing Predator Caribou OCT 2, 2020 final

We can provide better details back to this crew on Monday.  
Thanks for the final note.

---

**From:** Laroche, Russ FLNR:EX <[Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** October 2, 2020 3:04 PM  
**To:** Muter, David FLNR:EX <[David.Muter@gov.bc.ca](mailto:David.Muter@gov.bc.ca)>; Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <[Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca)>; Psyllakis, Jennifer FLNR:EX <[Jennifer.Psyllakis@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Psyllakis@gov.bc.ca)>; Plante, Laura FLNR:EX <[Laura.Plante@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Laura.Plante@gov.bc.ca)>; O'Donoghue, Eamon G FLNR:EX <[Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca)>; Rasmussen, Paul FLNR:EX <[Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca)>; Kennah, Morgan FLNR:EX <[Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: 258868 BN DN Timing Predator Caribou OCT 2, 2020 final

We will have to check in with Steve MacIver and Carrie-Rae but I believe they have already started some preliminary work. I suspect not long if there is pressure to get it done. I can check in with them and make sure we are getting everything in order for when we get a decision on this.

Russ

---

**From:** Muter, David FLNR:EX <[David.Muter@gov.bc.ca](mailto:David.Muter@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** October 2, 2020 2:53 PM  
**To:** Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <[Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca)>; Laroche, Russ FLNR:EX <[Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca)>; Psyllakis, Jennifer FLNR:EX <[Jennifer.Psyllakis@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Psyllakis@gov.bc.ca)>; Plante, Laura FLNR:EX <[Laura.Plante@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Laura.Plante@gov.bc.ca)>; O'Donoghue, Eamon G



FLNR:EX <[Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca)>; Rasmussen, Paul FLNR:EX <[Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca)>; Kennah, Morgan  
FLNR:EX <[Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** 258868 BN DN Timing Predator Caribou OCT 2, 2020 final

FYI - final note on reg updates required for predator management

Russ, Morgan – how complex are these updates. IF we get a green light on option 1 – how much time will be needed to get the OIC package ready?

Thanks

D

## FW: 258868 BN DN Timing Predator Caribou OCT 2, 2020 final

---

From: Muter, David FLNR:EX s.15  
s.15

To: Paul FLNR:EX Rasmussen (Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca) <Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca>, Eamon G FLNR:EX O'Donoghue (Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca) <Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca>, James ENV:EX Mack (James.Mack@gov.bc.ca) <James.Mack@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Russ FLNR:EX Laroche (Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca) <Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: November 2, 2020 8:50:01 PM PST

Attachments: 258868 BN DN Timing Predator Caribou OCT 2, 2020 final.docx  
James, Eamon, Paul

During the Caribou Program Board meeting last week we discussed this OIC to allow us to continue with the predator management program. . s.13

s.13

I provided the note below to John.

Will keep you posted.  
Thanks  
D

---

**From:** Muter, David FLNR:EX  
**Sent:** November 2, 2020 8:21 PM  
**To:** John FLNR:EX Allan (John.Allan@gov.bc.ca) <John.Allan@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Morgan FLNR:EX Kennah (Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca) <Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca>; Russ FLNR:EX Laroche (Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca) <Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** 258868 BN DN Timing Predator Caribou OCT 2, 2020 final

John,

I started on a note but I think the attached which you saw a few weeks ago captures the issue well. The key parts are as follows

s.13

I can update the note for a new audience if needed. Let me know what works best.

Thks

D

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s.12 ; s.13 ; s.14

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13 ; s.14 ; s.16

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14



## FW: predator management

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From: Muter, David FLNR:EX s.15  
s.15

To: Sandra FLNR:EX Jupp (Sandra.Jupp@gov.bc.ca) <Sandra.Jupp@gov.bc.ca>, Morgan FLNR:EX Kennah (Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca) <Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca>, Brenda FLNR:EX Larkin (Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca) <Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Andrea D FLNR:EX Wood (Andrea.Wood@gov.bc.ca) <Andrea.Wood@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: November 20, 2020 8:53:52 AM PST

Attachments: 259422 DN Permit Amendment for Caribou Recovery Activities.pdf, image001.png

I talked to Amy Miller. She advises this is good and should be added back to the cabinet agenda for early December once we have briefed our new Minister. This is on my list of top 3 for RSD to brief new Minister.

Thanks  
D

---

**From:** Muter, David FLNR:EX  
**Sent:** November 18, 2020 3:36 PM  
**To:** James ENV:EX Mack (James.Mack@gov.bc.ca) <James.Mack@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Paul FLNR:EX Rasmussen (Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca) <Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca>; Eamon G FLNR:EX O'Donoghue (Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca) <Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca>; Schell, Steve E FLNR:EX <Steve.Schell@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Russ FLNR:EX Laroche (Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca) <Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca>; Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** predator management

FYI

Attached is the background on the predator management issue. Let me know if you need more details  
Thks  
D



David Muter  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Resource Stewardship Division  
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development  
(250) 217-5385

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s.12 ; s.13 ; s.14

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s.12 ; s.13 ; s.14

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s.14



## FW: OIC for amending the Permit Regulations

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From: Muter, David FLNR:EX s.15  
s.15

To: James ENV:EX Mack (James.Mack@gov.bc.ca) <James.Mack@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: January 12, 2021 5:04:14 PM PST

Attachments: image001.png, 259422 DN Permit Amendment for Caribou Recovery Activities.pdf  
James

FYI - We were not able to get this OIC on the agenda back in December. Its an outstanding issue. John will be raising with our Minister and likely with Lori W. Sharing with you in case it comes to Kevin.

Thanks  
D

---

**From:** Muter, David FLNR:EX  
**Sent:** January 12, 2021 5:02 PM  
**To:** John FLNR:EX Allan (John.Allan@gov.bc.ca) <John.Allan@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Sandra FLNR:EX Jupp (Sandra.Jupp@gov.bc.ca) <Sandra.Jupp@gov.bc.ca>; Brenda FLNR:EX Larkin (Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca) <Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca>; Morgan FLNR:EX Kennah (Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca) <Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca>; Russ FLNR:EX Laroche (Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca) <Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** OIC for amending the Permit Regulations

John

As discussed, I think we should brief Minister again on the Permit Regulations and the need to make this OIC amendment. I understand that the Premier was interested to see more detail on Indigenous Consultation and the specific court case. Attached is the note from November that has all of the details on this topic. Since November we have gathered the following details related to the Premier's questions.

- On December 11, 2020 notice was sent to all Indigenous Nations informing them of the process and approach for amending the Permit Regulation. The notice identified the section of the Regulation to be amended and what the nature of the amendment would be. Over the past 30 days, feedback and questions have been received from several Indigenous Nations as follows;
  - Most are questions confirming that the proposed amendment would not impact Aboriginal rights to hunt.
  - Some of the comments are related to either support, or lack of support for predator management.
  - Staff have provide responses that the OIC relates to the Permit Regulation broadly, does not impact any Aboriginal rights to hunt, and that Nations would be notified separately in advance of issuing any specific permits for predator management.

s.13; s.14

s.14

s.13

Let me know if you need more specific details or an updated DN to support a call with Minister.

Thanks

D



**David Muter**  
**Assistant Deputy Minister**  
**Resource Stewardship Division**  
**Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development**  
**(250) 217-5385**

## Update on responses re: OIC on wildlife exemptions

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From: Plante, Laura FLNR:EX <Laura.Plante@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Muter, David FLNR:EX <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Mlinar, Shannon C FLNR:EX <Shannon.Mlinar@gov.bc.ca>, Larkin, Brenda FLNR:EX <Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: January 15, 2021 2:16:45 PM PST  
Attachments: RE: Consultation on Amendments to Permit Reg - Helicopter Hunting  
David,

You requested an updated version of the tracking of inquires/responses on the aerial OIC notification letter. That is attached and the following are summary bullets (pasted from string below):

- 14 Nations responded.
- Questions generally focused on clarifying/confirming that the proposed amendment would not impact Aboriginal rights to hunt.
- Some of the comments are related to either support, or lack of support for predator management, and concerns related to the use of motor vehicles (specifically ATVs) for hunting in their territories.
- Staff provided responses that clarified or resolved concerns in most instances.
- Outstanding issues are generally a result of inability to connect with the Nation and are expected to be resolved once contact is made.
- Staff also had opportunity to meet with Nations that are part of the Caribou Partnership Agreement, West Moberly and Sauteau, who raised concerns about the risk to predator management activities and implementation of the Partnership Agreement overall.
- See detailed summary in the attached.

s.14

Please let me know if you'd like us to put this in another format.

Laura

s.14

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s.14

## Permit Regulations Amendment

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From: Muter, David FLNR:EX s.15  
s.15

To: Caul, Doug D IRR:EX <Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: John FLNR:EX Allan (John.Allan@gov.bc.ca) <John.Allan@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: January 22, 2021 2:05:50 PM PST

Attachments: Caribou recovery.pptx, image001.png

Doug,

Eric K suggested that I should touch base with you on the attached. Next week there is an OIC in front of Cabinet seeking to amend the Permit Regulations under the Wildlife Act. The purpose of the amendment is to allow government to continue to issue permits to conduct wildlife management activities from a helicopter which is critical to multiple species across the province. It will also allow us to continue to issue permits to conduct predator management – critical for the recovery of Southern Mountain Caribou and a key commitment made to West Moberly First Nations and Saulteau First Nations. s.16  
s.16

Minister Rankin may be interested in the level of consultation with First Nations for this amendment. We have notified all Nations of the proposed amendment, and have not received any substantive feedback. Some Nations have asked for confirmation that this amendment will not impact Aboriginal rights to hunt (it does not and we have replied with that information). Some Nations have commented either in favor or against predator management – we have replied by explaining that the amendment provides the authority to issue permits but that Nations will be notified separately before any such permits are issued within their traditional territory.

The attached deck is intended to explain this issue in greater detail. Do you think Minister Rankin would have questions on this or would appreciate a quick briefing in advance of next weeks Cabinet meeting? Let me know if I can help.

Thanks  
D



**David Muter**  
**Assistant Deputy Minister**  
**Resource Stewardship Division**  
**Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development**  
**(250) 217-5385**

## **RE: Permit Regulation will be at Cabinet next Wednesday (Jan 27)**

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From: Muter, David FLNR:EX <sup>s.15</sup>  
s.15  
To: Jupp, Sandra FLNR:EX <Sandra.Jupp@gov.bc.ca>, Laroche, Russ FLNR:EX <Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: January 22, 2021 2:47:36 PM PST  
Attachments: Caribou recovery.pptx

The note from November is no longer needed - we have prepared the attached instead John has reviewed.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jupp, Sandra FLNR:EX <Sandra.Jupp@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: January 22, 2021 2:47 PM  
To: Muter, David FLNR:EX <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>; Laroche, Russ FLNR:EX <Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca>  
Subject: FW: Permit Regulation will be at Cabinet next Wednesday (Jan 27)  
Importance: High

Does this make sense? They want materials referenced in the original request to meet ASAP to send to the MO - "A note from Nov 2020"

-----Original Message-----

From: FLNR Deputy Minister's Office FLNR:EX <FLNR.DMO@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: January 22, 2021 2:34 PM  
To: Mlinar, Shannon C FLNR:EX <Shannon.Mlinar@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Tripp, Allison FLNR:EX <Allison.Tripp@gov.bc.ca>; Wood, Andrea D FLNR:EX <Andrea.Wood@gov.bc.ca>; Larkin, Brenda FLNR:EX <Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca>; Jupp, Sandra FLNR:EX <Sandra.Jupp@gov.bc.ca>; FLNR Deputy Minister's Office FLNR:EX <FLNR.DMO@gov.bc.ca>  
Subject: RE: Permit Regulation will be at Cabinet next Wednesday (Jan 27)  
Importance: High

This is now Jan 25th at 1pm.

Shannon/Brenda/Sandra - could you please send the materials referenced in the original request to meet ASAP so I can send to the MO? A note from Nov 2020, I believe.

Arianna

-----Original Message-----

From: Wood, Andrea D FLNR:EX <Andrea.Wood@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: January 22, 2021 2:13 PM  
To: FLNR Deputy Minister's Office FLNR:EX <FLNR.DMO@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Tripp, Allison FLNR:EX <Allison.Tripp@gov.bc.ca>  
Subject: Re: Permit Regulation will be at Cabinet next Wednesday (Jan 27)

Yes please - based on timing of upcoming meetings.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 22, 2021, at 1:31 PM, FLNR Deputy Minister's Office FLNR:EX <FLNR.DMO@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Allison,

I was going to flip this to s.22 Brenda is asking this meeting be moved, but has John approved of us asking for it to be reschedule? This originally came from the program area to me through Andrea, so just wondering the process and if I should be actioning this with Lisa.

A

From: Larkin, Brenda FLNR:EX <Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: January 21, 2021 8:16 AM  
To: FLNR Deputy Minister's Office FLNR:EX <FLNR.DMO@gov.bc.ca>; Wood, Andrea D FLNR:EX <Andrea.Wood@gov.bc.ca>; Tripp, Allison FLNR:EX <Allison.Tripp@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Jupp, Sandra FLNR:EX <Sandra.Jupp@gov.bc.ca>  
Subject: FW: Permit Regulation will be at Cabinet next Wednesday (Jan 27)  
Importance: High

Good Morning,

The meeting for MKC is scheduled for January 29th. As you can see the item is now on a Cabinet agenda on January 27th. Is there anyway we can get the meeting with MKC moved so that she can be briefed prior to Cabinet.

Attached is a deck that David and John have been working on to brief her. It appears that Morgan and crew are working on the Cabinet material.

Thank you in advance.

Brenda

From: Muter, David FLNR:EX  
<David.Muter@gov.bc.ca<mailto:David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>>  
Sent: January 20, 2021 7:35 PM  
To: Larkin, Brenda FLNR:EX  
<Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca>>  
Cc: Jupp, Sandra FLNR:EX  
<Sandra.Jupp@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Sandra.Jupp@gov.bc.ca>>; Laroche, Russ  
FLNR:EX <Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca>>  
Subject: FW: fyi - Permit Regulation will be at Cabinet next Wednesday  
(Jan 27)

Brenda – we have time with Minister on Jan 29th for this, but the cabinet date is now Jan 27th. Could you please reach out and see if we can get the meeting time adjusted to be before Jan 27th.

The briefing will include the attached as well as the OIC package and speaking notes which are in development.

Thanks  
D

From: Kennah, Morgan FLNR:EX  
<Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca>>

Sent: January 20, 2021 6:52 PM  
To: Muter, David FLNR:EX  
<David.Muter@gov.bc.ca<mailto:David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>>  
Subject: Re: fyi - Permit Regulation will be at Cabinet next Wednesday  
(Jan 27)

Yes, my team does speaking notes and Lesley is a good point person for you David.  
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 20, 2021, at 5:41 PM, Muter, David FLNR:EX <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca<mailto:David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>>  
wrote:

Yes I heard its on the Jan 27 cabinet agenda.

And I also saw the notes below on Minister Eby's office connecting with the PO. I am not sure if this means that the Premier's questions were fully answered so I will still be connecting with Amy Miller tomorrow and then with Erik C.

I also think we need to do a more involved briefing for Minister. We have a timeslot booked but not until after Cabinet so I will try and get that moved forward so that Minister is ready for cabinet.

Morgan – is it Lesley coordinating the speaking notes? I will ask Russ to connect with her.

Thanks  
D

From: Allan, John FLNR:EX  
<John.Allan@gov.bc.ca<mailto:John.Allan@gov.bc.ca>>  
Sent: January 20, 2021 5:16 PM  
To: Kennah, Morgan FLNR:EX  
<Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca>>  
Cc: Wood, Andrea D FLNR:EX  
<Andrea.Wood@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Andrea.Wood@gov.bc.ca>>; Muter, David  
FLNR:EX <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca<mailto:David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>>  
Subject: Re: fyi - Permit Regulation will be at Cabinet next Wednesday  
(Jan 27)

Can you check in with david. Need to ensure MKC has a fresh and current set of speaking notes

On Jan 20, 2021, at 5:10 PM, Kennah, Morgan FLNR:EX  
<Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca>> wrote:

Sounds like the previous barriers have receded.

From: Scowcroft, Lesley FLNR:EX  
<Lesley.Scowcroft@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Lesley.Scowcroft@gov.bc.ca>>  
Sent: January 20, 2021 5:04 PM  
To: Kennah, Morgan FLNR:EX  
<Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Morgan.Kennah@gov.bc.ca>>  
Cc: Whitworth, John HF FLNR:EX  
<John.Whitworth@gov.bc.ca<mailto:John.Whitworth@gov.bc.ca>>



Subject: FW: Unlawful Provision - s. 3(1)9c) of Permit Regulation  
Importance: High

Hi Morgan,

Fyi...Cab Ops has scheduled the Permit Regulation amendments for the Jan. 27th Cabinet meeting.

Cheers,

Lesley

From: Pedersen, Carrie-rae FLNR:EX  
<CarrieRae.Pedersen@gov.bc.ca<mailto:CarrieRae.Pedersen@gov.bc.ca>>  
Sent: January 20, 2021 9:38 AM  
To: Townsend, Wendy FLNR:EX  
<Wendy.Townsend@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Wendy.Townsend@gov.bc.ca>>  
Cc: Whitworth, John HF FLNR:EX  
<John.Whitworth@gov.bc.ca<mailto:John.Whitworth@gov.bc.ca>>;  
Scowcroft, Lesley FLNR:EX  
<Lesley.Scowcroft@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Lesley.Scowcroft@gov.bc.ca>>  
Subject: FW: Unlawful Provision - s. 3(1)9c) of Permit Regulation  
Importance: High

Hi Wendy, looks like the Permit Reg can proceed now.

Will you please connect with Cab Ops ASAP and find out when we can get it approved?

Many thanks.

Carrie-rae Pedersen | Sr. Legislation and Policy Analyst  
(she/her/they/them)  
(Carrie/Carrie-rae)

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14



## FW: wolf cull

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From: Muter, David FLNR:EXs.15  
To: David GCPE:EX Haslam (David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca) <David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Russ FLNR:EX Laroche (Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca) <Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: February 16, 2021 7:40:09 AM PST  
Attachments: image001.png  
David,

I think there is already a current NR on Wolf Cull. Suggest we add to it a few bullets on the current court case as follows  
s.14

- All information regarding BC's caribou recovery program can be found online  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/wildlife-conservation/caribou/management-activities>
- Predator management is recommended in the Federal Recovery Strategy for Southern Mountain Caribou and is set out as one of the key actions in the Canada BC Section 11 Agreement and the Partnership Agreement,
- When undertaking predator management, all necessary permits are obtained in advance.

Let me know if you think we need anything more detailed.

Thanks  
D

s.14

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s.14

## Wolf Reduction Procedure - WHB version 3.2 - 2021-06-24 hw working draft

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From: Wiebe, Heather I FLNR:EX <Heather.Wiebe@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Muter, David FLNR:EX <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: June 25, 2021 3:15:48 PM PDT  
Attachments: Wolf Reduction Procedure - WHB version 3.2 - 2021-06-24 hw working draft.docx, image001.png  
Afternoon ADM Muter,

We've made some good progress on improving consistency in statutory decisions for wolf control.

1. As per the *Wildlife Act* the director, or designate, can be a single point decision maker for predator control (multiple herds).
  - Improved transparency, consistency, less variation in considerations
  - Increases time/capacity to transfer regional knowledge to a central decision maker and relay direct experiences of the area
  - Increased real/perceived risk to safety of a single individual
2. Regardless of single or multiple decision makers under the Act we are developing procedures (attached) to:
  - Outline the role of the CRP in recommending herds for treatment
  - Setting out considerations for decision with policy and legal considerations

Jen and I are also mapping the decision path that would have the Minister put her mind to endorsing predator control as a tool for caribou recovery. Of course we are mindful of fettering, but believe with the public concern over this recovery action... we feel it is appropriate.

Nice to see you in two meetings today.

hw



Heather Wiebe (she/her)  
Director  
BC CARIBOU RECOVERY PROGRAM  
*Vision: Conserving and recovering British Columbia's caribou through excellence in integrated resource stewardship.*  
Phone: 778-916-4005

Engagement is now open on the draft Winter Motorized Recreation Plan for South Peace. Visit EngageBC and make your voice heard... <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/caribou/>



## PROCEDURE MANUAL

VOLUME	SECTION	SUBSECTION	PAGE
4	7	04.06	1 of 11
SUBJECT			
Caribou Recovery Program – Wolf Reduction Procedure			

### This Procedure Replaces:

None

### Staff and Organizations Affected:

1. The BC Caribou Recovery Program is responsible for identifying wolf reduction areas to support caribou recovery.
2. Directors, Regional Managers, and Wildlife Management Staff responsible for:
  - (a) the management and conservation of wildlife, and/or
  - (b) the issuance of permits under the *Wildlife Act*.
3. Any individual or group requesting a permit for the reduction of wolves to benefit at-risk caribou herds.

### Reason for this Procedure:

The Ministry has established this procedure to implement the Control of Species Policy where it applies to caribou recovery. There are two sections to this procedure:

1. Wolf Reduction Procedures
2. Alignment/Coordination
3. Cessation of Wolf Reduction

### Purpose:

It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) to:

1. Address the management and conservation of caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), as a species at risk, in British Columbia (B.C.)
2. Set recovery objectives for caribou herds, as well as population objectives for any other species that could be managed to achieve caribou recovery outcomes.
3. Identify wolf reduction areas based on wolf densities in identified caribou habitat and associated predation risk to caribou herds.
4. Collaborate proactively with Indigenous Nations and peoples, local government, industry, NGOs, and members of the public to consult or engage on wolf reduction for the purpose of caribou recovery.

PREPARED BY		AUTHORIZATION	
NAME	NAME	SIGNATURE	
POSITION	POSITION		
		DATE EFFECTIVE	



## PROCEDURE MANUAL

VOLUME	SECTION	SUBSECTION	PAGE
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SUBJECT			
Caribou Recovery Program – Wolf Reduction Procedure			

5. Consider reductions of wolf populations according to federal and provincial caribou management thresholds (< 3 wolves/1000 km<sup>2</sup>) and establish criteria to identify when wolf reduction targets have been achieved and can be rescinded.
6. Ensure methods of wolf reduction are humane and acceptable. Provide monitoring to ensure guidelines and standards are followed.
7. Monitor wolf, primary prey, and caribou populations relative to species-specific population objectives, and regularly report on the effectiveness of wolf reduction activities.
8. Issue necessary permits under the *Wildlife Act* for the specific purpose of wolf reduction to support caribou recovery.

### Background and Rationale:

The Ministry has established this procedure to provide guidance on site-specific reduction of wolf populations ("wolf reduction") to support caribou recovery. This procedure applies to all ecotypes and all herds of caribou in B.C.

Woodland caribou in B.C. are an important conservation concern. Many caribou herds in B.C. have experienced steep declines over the last century, with their overall population declining from 40,000 to about 15,000 province-wide. Caribou are of cultural significance to Indigenous Peoples and are a key part of the Province's rich biodiversity.

The Government of B.C. is committed to a long-term, comprehensive, and science-based approach to caribou recovery informed by western science and Indigenous traditional knowledge.

While the ultimate cause of caribou declines is landscape modifications primarily due to resource extraction, unsustainable rates of predation (primarily by wolves, with other species involved such as cougars and grizzly bears) have been identified as the proximate cause of many caribou herd declines.

Landscape modification can impact caribou directly by reducing the capability of core caribou habitat to provide enough resources to caribou. Changes in landscapes can also indirectly impact caribou by improving habitat conditions for other species that are the primary prey for wolves, such as moose and deer, in core and the adjacent matrix habitats, resulting in increased wolf density. Furthermore, linear features can provide additional access for wolves to caribou habitat. This results in higher predation pressure on caribou, which are considered an alternate prey species for wolves.

Available evidence supports controlling over-abundant species to conserve at-risk species. Reducing predators is a commonly used method in the conservation management toolbox. Analyses of caribou recovery management actions demonstrate that reducing wolves can reverse caribou population declines, except in cases where there is a low rate of wolf reduction, or where the method is applied to an extremely small caribou population.

Although reducing wolf density is identified as the most immediately effective management tool to recover caribou, it is noted that wolf reduction should be paired with other recovery tools to be

DATE EFFECTIVE





## PROCEDURE MANUAL

VOLUME	SECTION	SUBSECTION	PAGE
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SUBJECT			
Caribou Recovery Program – Wolf Reduction Procedure			

effective in the long-term. Wolf reduction, at the scale necessary to recover caribou populations, is socially unacceptable to many, challenging and expensive to implement, and if the habitat factors that support primary prey are not addressed, wolf reduction would need to be continued indefinitely to maintain the benefit to caribou, as wolves can increase their reproductive rate and recolonize areas quickly. To achieve self-sustaining caribou populations and attain recovery goals, caribou core and matrix habitats must be managed to mitigate the interaction between landscape modification, primary prey, and wolves through the use of multiple population- and habitat-based management levers.

In B.C., wolves are typically managed in one of three ways or in combinations of these methods:

1. Direct reduction, including aerial-based shooting and targeted ground-based trapping
2. Recreational hunting and commercial trapping
3. Management of their primary prey populations (see *Caribou Recovery Program – Primary Prey Management Policy*)

### PROCEDURE

#### 1 Wolf Reduction Procedures

##### 1.1 Scope:

This procedure:

- (a) Is limited to the Grey Wolf (*Canis lupus*) and excludes all other predator species.
- (b) Only applies when deemed necessary for caribou recovery.
- (c) Provides guidance on direct reduction of wolf populations for the purpose of caribou recovery.
- (d) Does not apply to the licensed hunting and/or trapping of wolves already regulated under the *Wildlife Act*.
- (e) Is not intended to supersede the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

##### 1.2 Identification of Candidate Areas for Wolf Reduction

- (a) The BC Caribou Recovery Program Science Team has the authority for the recommendation of candidate areas for wolf reduction.
- (b) For an area to be considered for wolf reduction, the following conditions should be met regarding the relevant caribou herd and wolf population (refer to Figure 1 - Decision Matrix).
  - i) The caribou herd is at or below demographic objectives;
  - ii) The caribou herd is not at high risk of extirpation regardless of wolf reduction;
  - iii) There is reasonable evidence (i.e. empirical data and/or Indigenous Knowledge) that wolf populations are a limiting factor on the caribou herd; and

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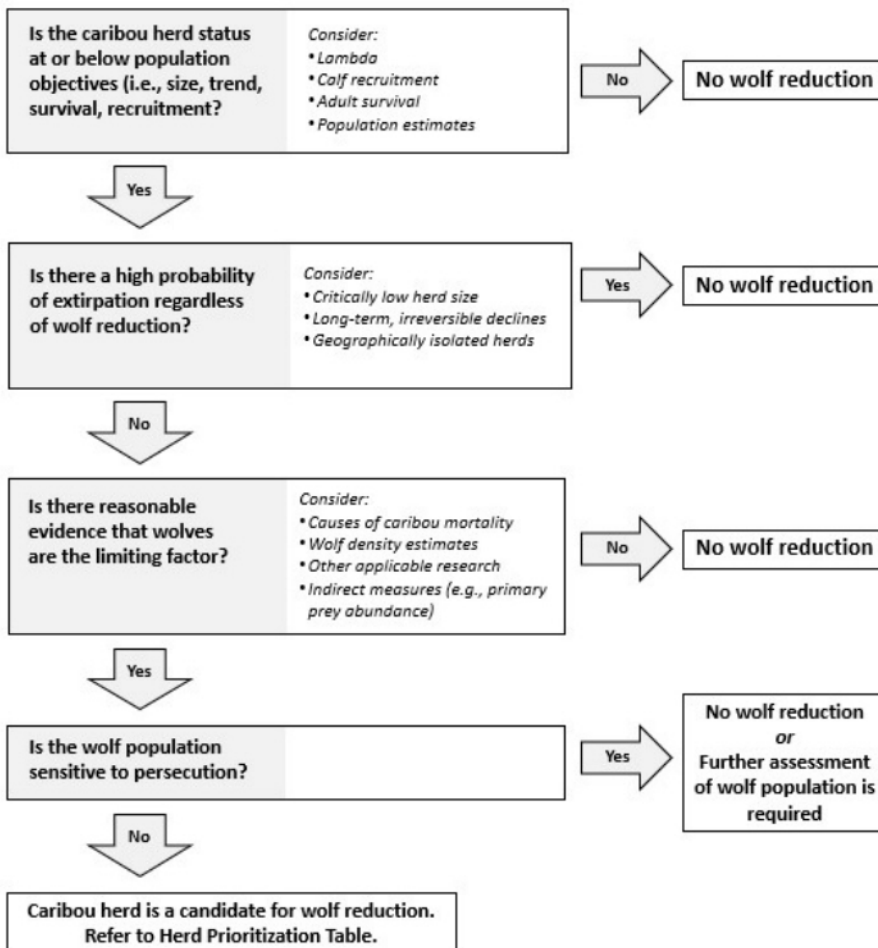
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- iv) The wolf population is not designated as of management concern, subject to persecution, or will otherwise become a conservation concern as a result of predator reduction programs.
- (c) Caribou herds meeting these conditions will be identified as candidates for wolf reduction.

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Figure 1. Decision matrix to identify candidate caribou herds for wolf reduction.



### 1.3 Selection of Wolf Reduction Areas

- (a) Candidate areas where wolf reduction may occur should align with caribou herd plans, with consideration of the following factors summarized in an operational proposal plan:

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- i) The habitat is either in a condition that there is a reasonable expectation of self-sustaining caribou populations, or there are additional protections or management proposed or approved that will improve the landscape suitability to caribou populations.
  - ii) Herds have been prioritized for recovery and there is a relative conservation benefit to caribou.
  - iii) Budgets and operational constraints.
  - iv) Principles of adaptive management will be applied to continuously adjust or improve management practices.
  - v) Use of the best available science, Indigenous Knowledge and local knowledge.
  - vi) Coordination with primary prey management and habitat objectives.
- (b) Decision criteria for determining number of wolves to remove:
- i) Within a wolf reduction area, the objective will be to reduce wolf populations to less than the federal and provincial maximum recommended threshold for caribou recovery (< 3 wolves/1000 km<sup>2</sup>).
- (c) Additional consideration must be given to the reasonable expectation that the Ministry is prepared to:
- i) Continue wolf reduction, on a non-permanent basis and so long as it is designed and implemented in a manner that will benefit or cause no harm to the conservation of native wildlife and ecosystems, for at least five years in an adaptive management framework acknowledging wolf reduction activities will likely be required for much longer (e.g., decades).
  - ii) Resource long-term wolf reduction, both in terms of budget and capacity to deliver management actions and monitoring beyond the current timeframe of the Provincial Caribou Program.
- Concurrent with wolf reduction:
- iii) Implement habitat protection measures beyond High Elevation Winter Ranges (including Government Actions Regulation (GAR) orders and reduced forestry activities in key areas) and restoration efforts to support the long-term success of the management and recovery action.
  - iv) Manage primary prey (i.e. moose) long-term to promote sustainable caribou populations by reducing or preventing recolonization of wolves.

### 1.4 Acceptable Methods for Wolf Reduction

- (a) The following methods of wolf reduction may be employed solely or in combination to achieve wolf reduction objectives.

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- i) aerial shooting;
  - ii) standard licensed hunting and trapping;
  - iii) subsidized wolf reduction via First Nations or licensed/permitted trapping.
- (b) The preferred method for wolf reduction is aerial shooting, as the level of wolf reduction achieved through ground-based methods is unlikely to meet wolf density objectives and often requires additional effort. Aerial shooting will remain consistent with Ministry direction and existing animal care standards/guidelines.
- i) Refer to AMVA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals
  - ii) Refer to FLNRORD Animal Care Application Form
- (c) Licensed wolf hunting and trapping will be consistent with existing hunting and trapping regulations (refer to international trapping standards/Furbearer Association of Canada, Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards [AIHTS]).
- (d) Government-subsidized wolf reduction via First Nations or licensed/permitted trappers may be considered as a specific tool, focused on some wolf populations, when the following objectives are identified:
- i) To incorporate Indigenous Knowledge, traditional trapping and hunting practices and rights in the reduction of wolves in identified caribou recovery areas.
  - ii) To further support the reduction of wolves through Indigenous or licensed/permitted trapping in areas in which aerial reduction is occurring.
  - iii) To act as a standalone ground-based program to reduce wolf populations in caribou recovery areas through Indigenous or licensed/permitted trapping, where deemed likely to be effective.
- (e) In specific areas, permits may be issued ([state legislation](#)) to provide exemptions from restrictions on bag limits, trapline boundaries or other regulations to improve the effectiveness of the harvest.

### 1.5 Approvals

- (a) Prior to initiation of a wolf reduction program, the Province, led by the BC Caribou Recovery Program, will consult/engage with impacted Indigenous Peoples, tenure holders, and user groups to solicit feedback on the proposed activities.
- (b) Decision support material collected from engagement will include a what we heard synopsis of engagement and an Indigenous Government consultation record.
- (c) For each area, the Regional Manager will consider issuing an exemption via permit under *Wildlife Act* Permit Regulation s. 3.1 (BC Reg 19/2021).
- (d) Regional Managers will consider guidance outlined in the following policies and procedures to inform their decisions:
  - i) 4-7-04.01.3 Control of Species Policy (2006)
  - ii) 4-7-04.01.3 Protecting Species at Risk from Other Species Procedure

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- (e) Animal Care Applications are to be submitted for each area individually.
- (f) Any operators engaged in aerial wolf reduction will have the necessary exemptions under the Canadian Aviation Security Regulations and Transportation of Dangerous Goods to transport firearms and ammunition and discharge loaded firearms from an aircraft.
- (g) Any operators engaged in aerial wolf reduction will require an exemption from a Chief Firearms Officer to use prohibited firearms, as per the *Firearms Act* (Canada).
- (h) Wolf reduction program areas operating within the boundaries of provincial parks will require a Letter of Authorization from the BC Parks Regional Manager ([Park Act, s.9](#)) ([state legislation](#)).

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### 1.6 Monitoring

- (a) To assess the effectiveness of wolf reduction, the following monitoring is strongly recommended:
  - i) Caribou populations will be regularly monitored per the Caribou Recovery Plan Monitoring and Inventory schedule for adult and calf survival, and/or total estimated population size.
  - ii) Wolf populations will be monitored for density estimates, and rates of immigration/reproduction of wolf populations during and following annual wolf reduction.
  - iii) ~~Primary prey populations will be assessed at minimum within two years before and two years after the initial five-year application of wolf reduction to measure primary prey response and inform management considerations.~~
  - iv) Population monitoring will be conducted to RISC standards by qualified biologists (i.e. government staff or contractors).
- (b) Reporting requirements:
  - i) Monitoring results will be reported within six months of survey completion.
  - ii) Wolf reduction results will be summarized in technical reports and/or Caribou Recovery Program annual reports, and should include information regarding study area, timing, pre- and post-wolf reduction estimates, reduction locations and totals, costs, and recommendations.

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### 2 Alignment/Coordination

- 2.1 ~~In order to discontinue wolf reduction, the underlying causes of high wolf densities must be addressed by either managing primary prey populations directly, or indirectly by managing both core and matrix habitat at the landscape level. Primary prey populations must be maintained at sufficiently low levels that would keep managed wolf populations below densities at which they are a risk to caribou.~~

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~~2.2—Other caribou population management options that can interact and occur concurrently include:~~

- ~~(a) Primary prey management~~
- ~~(b) Maternal penning~~
- ~~(c) Conservation breeding~~
- ~~(d) Supplemental feeding~~
- ~~(e) Translocation~~

~~2.3—Habitat management options that can interact and occur concurrently include:~~

- ~~(a) Habitat restoration~~
- ~~(b) Habitat protection~~
- ~~(c) Beneficial management practices for industry~~
- ~~(d) Access management~~
- ~~(e) Recreation and tourism management~~

~~2.4—Coordination with other jurisdictions when managing trans-provincial herds:~~

- ~~(a) Consistent with recovery actions/obligations under SARA / S.11 and Partnership Agreements~~

### **3.2 Cessation of wolf reduction**

~~3.12.1—~~ Wolf reduction will be considered complete, or discontinued, if any of the following conditions are met:

- ~~(a) Caribou herd recovery has reached a target level determined prior to wolf reduction and is expected to be self-sustaining.~~
- ~~(b) No beneficial response in caribou populations has been observed after five years of successful wolf reduction.~~
- ~~(c) No positive change to the predicted landscape conditions that created the elevated predation risk to caribou after five years of application.~~
- ~~(d) Reduction activities have been unsuccessful at reducing wolf populations annually by greater than 80% or below provincial density target of 3 wolves/1000 km<sup>2</sup> after 5 years of application.~~

#### **Definitions:**

**caribou subpopulation (herd)** – means a geographically and demographically connected population of caribou whose dynamics are primarily driven by local conditions rather than immigration or emigration. There can be genetic exchange between herds, but adjacent herds tend to have similar genetic diversity.

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**caribou subpopulation (herd) boundary** – means the area that encompasses the extent of both core and the surrounding matrix habitat for a subpopulation (herd). Based on current understanding this is the area required to be managed to achieve a self-sustaining population. Subpopulation boundaries do not overlap even though some caribou subpopulations share portions of their annual range.

**caribou habitat** – means habitat designated as core and surrounding matrix habitats using best available science and expert knowledge:

- (a) **core habitat** - means the area that encompasses the annual range for a subpopulation, which, in conjunction with matrix habitat, has, or has the potential to have in the future, the necessary biophysical attributes to allow for self-sustaining populations. Core habitat provides enough suitable range to support the life history requirements of caribou across all seasons and allows for movements on the landscape over time in response to human-caused and natural habitat disturbance. Seasonal core habitat has the ecological attributes associated with the different seasonal ranges and supports current and future caribou life history requirements during that season. Summer core habitat encompasses areas used in spring, calving, post-calving, summer and rut. Winter core habitat encompasses areas used in winter. Core habitat is generally mapped at a broad scale and may encompass areas of non-habitat such as high elevation rock and ice.
- (b) **matrix habitat** – means the area adjacent to core habitat that has periodic, low, or no-known use by caribou; is important for connectivity between suitable caribou core habitats; and supports primary prey and associated predators that have the potential to affect the caribou subpopulation. Matrix habitat includes areas up to 30 km from core habitat and is based on winter range of primary prey, local knowledge of predator distribution and barriers to predator movement. Logical boundaries such as landscape features (e.g., large water bodies, glaciers, human settlement) were utilized.

**lambda ( $\lambda$ )** – means the finite population growth rate that gives the proportional change in population size from one time period to the next. When  $\lambda$  is greater than 1, the population is growing; when  $\lambda$  is less than 1, the population is declining. The change in  $\lambda$  is the primary metric used to assess successful predator reduction (i.e. pre-reduction and post-reduction changes in  $\lambda$ ).

**managed predator** – means a predator species that is not a species-at-risk or of management concern, that can be managed and/or reduced to lower populations levels without risk of extirpation.

**primary prey** – means a prey species that comprises the main diet of a predator, or that numerically sustains a predator species.

**self-sustaining** – means the following definition under the Section 11 Agreement. B.C. commits to support the recovery of caribou within a Local Population Unit (LPU) to self-sustaining

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populations, and, where appropriate and attainable, to levels which can sustain a harvest with dedicated or priority access to aboriginal peoples. Under the Federal Recovery Strategy, LPUs are considered "self-sustaining" when:

- the LPU on average demonstrates stable or positive population growth over the short-term ( $\leq 20$  yrs), and is large enough to withstand random events and persist over the long-term ( $\geq 50$  yrs), without the need for ongoing active management intervention; and,
- there is an increase to at least 100 caribou within LPUs that currently consist of fewer than 100 caribou, and there is no reduction in the number of caribou within LPUs that currently consist of over 100 caribou.

**wolf reduction** – means reducing the density of wolf populations by methods that are considered humane and acceptable.

**wolf reduction area** – means the subpopulation boundary of a caribou herd, including core and matrix habitat, where the wolf population density will be reduced for caribou recovery objectives.

### Policy Manual Cross-References:

4-7-04.01.3 Control of Species Policy (2006)

### Procedure Manual Cross-References:

4-7-04.01.3 Protecting Species at Risk from Other Species (2006)

### Other Cross-References:

*Wildlife Act* (RSBC 1996, c 448)

— Permit Regulation (BC Reg 19/2021)

[Park Act \(RSBC 1996, c 344\)](#)

*Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (SBC 2019, c 44)

*Species at Risk Act* (SC 2002, c 29)

Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations (2001)

*Firearms Act* (SC 1995, c 39)

Canadian Aviation Security Regulations (2012)

Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations (SOR/2001-286)

Canadian Aviation Security Regulations (2012, SOR/2011-318)

Partnership Agreement for the Conservation of the Southern Mountain Caribou – Central Group (2020)

Conservation Agreement for Southern Mountain Caribou in British Columbia (2020)

Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan (MCRIP) (2008)

Grey Wolf Management Plan (2014)

AMVA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals (2020)

*other Caribou Recovery Program Operational Procedures (in devt 2021)*

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## **Engagement launch September 2, 2021: Predator Reduction for Caribou Recovery**

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From: Larkin, Brenda FLNR:EX <Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Haslam, David GCPE:EX <David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca>, Muter, David FLNR:EX <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>, Bawtinheimer, Brian FLNR:EX <Brian.Bawtinheimer@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Wood, Andrea D FLNR:EX <Andrea.Wood@gov.bc.ca>, Tripp, Allison FLNR:EX <Allison.Tripp@gov.bc.ca>, Neal, Mikayla FLNR:EX <Mikayla.Neal@gov.bc.ca>, FLNR Deputy Minister's Office FLNR:EX <FLNR.DMO@gov.bc.ca>, Laroche, Russ FLNR:EX <Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca>, Wiebe, Heather I FLNR:EX <Heather.Wiebe@gov.bc.ca>, Robertson, Anastasia FLNR:EX <Anastasia.Robertson@gov.bc.ca>, Gregg, Andrew FLNR:EX <Andrew.Gregg@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 31, 2021 4:36:56 PM PDT  
Attachments: EWN Predator Reduction Engagement Launch September 2, 2021.doc  
Attached you will find an Early Warning Note on the above noted topic.

If you have any question, please reach out to Heather Wiebe or Russ Laroche.

Thank you

**Brenda Larkin** || Executive Administrative Assistant  
Resource Stewardship Division  
Assistant Deputy Minister's Office  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development  
Ph: 236-478-1764



## Early Warning Note

Date: August 30, 2021 **CLIFF: 266838**

Email to: David Haslam, **Communications Director, GCPE**  
Email to: David Muter, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Stewardship Division  
CC to: **Director, Executive Operations, DMO**  
**Manager, Executive Issues, DMO**  
**FLNR Deputy Minister Inbox (FLNR.DMO@gov.bc.ca)**

From: BC Caribou Recovery Program, Resource Stewardship Division  
Contact: Heather I. Wiebe Ph: 778-916-4005

Issue: Engagement launch September 2, 2021: Predator Reduction for Caribou Recovery

Briefing Note to follow: No

### **Background:**

Predator reduction (primarily wolves), previously conducted by BC, has stopped the decline of the caribou herds where it was applied. All approvals, under the *Wildlife Act*, for predator reduction have lapsed.

Thirteen caribou herds across five FLNRORD regions have been identified for aerial removal of wolves, and ground removal of cougar (as needed in four herds). The Province must complete consultation with Indigenous Government and engagement with tenure holders in the areas of identified herds. A consultation report and engagement "what we heard" document will be provided to be considered by FLNRORD statutory decision makers.

Engagement is set to launch on September 2, 2021. Engagement will include: consultation letters to Indigenous Governments, engagement letters to tenure holders, and EngageBC site for the general public. EngageBC is not being used to raise the profile of this contentious recovery action but rather to provide an opportunity to proactively share scientific information and to analyze comments so trends can be identified and communicated to decision makers. Through this engagement the Caribou Recovery Program has provided significant information to support why this extreme measure is necessary. Despite this, substantial opposition is expected from certain interest groups.

### **Suggested Response:**

## Nation support of predator reduction

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From: Wiebe, Heather I FLNR:EX <Heather.Wiebe@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Muter, David FLNR:EX <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca>, Laroche, Russ FLNR:EX <Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: September 16, 2021 10:15:05 AM PDT  
Attachments: image001.png  
Morning David,

On the PA call today James Hickling mentioned a willingness to support BC during engagement by voicing support for this needed recovery action.

I wonder if your new contact in GCPE could help with a strategic alliance with Nations willing to speak, but provide mitigations to reduce risk to individuals/communities voicing support.

hw



Heather Wiebe (she/her)

Director

BC CARIBOU RECOVERY PROGRAM

*Vision: Conserving and recovering British Columbia's caribou through excellence in integrated resource stewardship.*

Phone: 778-916-4005

Engagement on proposed predator reduction for caribou recovery will be open from September 15 to November 15. For more information please visit: [engage.gov.bc.ca/caribou](https://engage.gov.bc.ca/caribou).



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