



October 27th, 2005

RE: Addendum to Mountain Caribou Consultation Document

The Species at Risk Co-ordination Office (SaRCO) recently released a Mountain Caribou Consultation Document. This document summarizes the current state of Mountain Caribou in British Columbia and the results of a year-long science-based research program and expert consultation.

In response to feedback and comments on the Consultation Document, we provide below the following omissions and clarifications:

- Dr. Scott McNay, Dr. Dale Seip and Rick Ellis were omitted from the list of Provincial Mountain Caribou Recovery Science Team members;
- Mr. Trevor Kinley's affiliation is a Wildlife Consultant, not the BC Ministry of Environment; and
- Under Option 4: Populations to Abandon the document states that Robson Valley is within Planning Unit 4A. The Robson Valley population is within Planning Unit 4B.

We have also been asked to provide additional clarification on the terms 'abandon', 'maintain', and 'recover'. Addition information for these terms is as follows:

- **Abandon** – To take no additional action(s) to maintain or recover caribou within an existing population. Actions that would not be contemplated include: (1) transplants; (2) predator control and management; (3) alternate prey management; (4) recreational zoning; and (5) additional habitat protection. Translocation of animals from an abandoned population to maintain or recover another caribou population may be considered where feasible. Current commitments, such as special emphasis or protected areas for caribou within existing land-use plans will continue to be honoured.
- **Maintain** – Maintain an existing population, i.e. avoid extirpation. Actions that may or continue to be used include (1) transplants; (2) predator control and management; (3) alternate prey management; (4) recreational zoning; and (5) additional habitat protection. Any or all of these activities may be increased in intensity to ensure population maintenance.
- **Recover** – To achieve a self-sustaining population. All recovery actions may be applied in sufficient intensity and duration to achieve a self-sustaining population.
- **Self-sustaining population** – a population that is able to withstand random events and other environmental variables without direct management intervention (e.g. herd augmentation or predator control), but with ongoing habitat management and protection, management of

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backcountry recreation/access and sustainable harvests of specific caribou predators and their alternate prey species.

Again, we would be happy to meet with you or your representatives over the next several weeks to discuss further. Please feel free to contact either myself at 250-387-5727 (mark.zacharias@gov.bc.ca) or Pat Field at 250-365-9669 (aboulder@shaw.ca).

Sincerely
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