



Revelstoke Center and Teams



Date: Monday, December 12th
2022



Time: 13:00- 15:30 Pacific

Agenda

Revelstoke Complex and Central Selkirks

Caribou Technical Working Group
Members and invitees

Genevieve Lachance (moderator)	Christine Friedrichsmeier (notes)	Guests: Mateen Hessami Carlie Quinn Kathi Zimmerman Rob Serrouya Colin Bergeron	Guests: Robert Daum Lindsay Heller	
Richard Martin	Deb MacKillop	Hunter Lampreau	Cory Legebokow	
Rieva McCuaig	Robin Steenweg	Robyn Laubman		
Aaron Reid	Adam Neil	Leo DeGroot	Marc Steynen	
Gwen Bridge	Miles Howard	Rhiannon Kirton	Cailyn Glasser	
Corey Bird	Allison Pagett	Darcy Peel	Austin Ingram	
Tina Donald-Ceryne Staples	Chris Joseph	Brennan Lund	Haleigh Parker	
Caroline Feischl	John Krebs	Bevan Ernst	Jean Polfus	

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss; the options for Frisby-Boulder and Columbia South animals, the anti-racism strategy, and provide updates on ongoing topics.

1	13:00	Welcome- Genevieve
2	13:10	<p>Aaron Reid to provide a fulsome presentation on the options for the animals from Columbia South and Frisby-Boulder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aaron discussed the 4 options, pros & cons, for these 2 functionally extirpated herds - see Aaron's presentation for more details; only questions & comments are noted here <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status quo – do nothing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs to have census on the list of activities Snowmobile restrictions lifted? How would we protect current herd? Had proposed to open Queest, but FN had concerns due to caribou presence; will stay closed. Frisby will

All information relating to the RCCSCTWG can be you on the FTP site: [here](#)

		<p>go ahead since no caribou there for many years. Snowmobiling isn't related to this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Status quo disadvantage to add: "extirpation is a virtual certainty" ▪ Hunter noted that a disclaimer would be required that FN do not agree with this option. Aaron noted that status quo is only included because it's the default – what's been happening for decades. That's why it's included. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hunter provided this: <i>options/recommendations are not necessarily representative of Nations, staff, or members of the working group. Proposals are generated from discussion amongst technical experts, but endorsement and preference of decisions to be made is at the discretion of the Nations to identify.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Translocate to Columbia North <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not much critical habitat protected. Habitat is not as favourable as Central Selkirks and Columbia North ▪ Protected habitat doesn't necessarily mean it's suitable habitat at the present time ▪ Once animals are removed, then more development is likely to occur. Protections need to remain for future reintroductions. Federal recovery guidance for this – serious implications to removing the last animals; political as well as legislative. Only legal protections are Provincial GAR orders ▪ Advantage – decreased risk of mortality (to counter disadvantage point #1). However, when these animals are translocated, the risk of mortality increases ▪ We know the trajectory is if we leave them (extirpation), and if we move them, they can contribute to the recipient herd's long term survival ○ Translocate to Central Selkirks (with Nakusp Maternity Pen) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active maternity pen has numerous benefits ▪ Advantage - maintain southern extent of range ▪ More protected habitat ▪ Take the lone female of South Selkirks and move her to Columbia North (not go through soft release, only one animal). But with the maternity pen in Central Selkirks, there's no extra cost, and wouldn't take the risk of the animals "taking off" and not bonding with the local animals. Plus, taking the time to acclimatize the animal reduces mortality risk ▪ Are Columbia South and Frisby-Boulder-Queest a "package deal" or can we do different things? Better to move the Columbia South animal sooner (consider it an option #5) ▪ Will need to decide what will happen to the bulls (cannot be put in the mat pen) ○ Translocate to Jasper Captive Breeding Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More likely now than the last time this group discussed this
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		<p>option a year ago</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alberta priority, BC would need to wait for calves – no local herd benefit ▪ Won't happen until 2025 – could be too late for the Columbia South lone female <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is there a way to quantify the helicopter activity for the areas we are thinking of releasing the animals? No data right now – but could look at overlapping tenures and snowmobile closures, and make a statement ○ Climate change forecasts not considered, but the model had predicted better for Columbia North; marginal differences between Central Selkirks and Columbia North in ecosystem changes. More difference with South Selkirks. Won't be the deal-breaker for these options. White-tailed deer expansion is more of a factor for caribou with respect to climate change (CWD). ○ Any capture or transport is an increased risk of mortality (so compared to status quo, not to each option) ○ South Selkirks' one remaining animal still requires resource outlay for her safety; there still will be conservation management ○ Genetics between Columbia North and Columbia South caribou are similar in recent work coming from U Calgary, but overall, it's not really a concern ○ When we say that these herds are "stable", they are only stable with current management practices such as predator reduction (which we are under pressure to stop) ○ Options #2, #3 advantage – return to a natural environment ○ Advantage to moving the animals, we have an opportunity to learn to from them, whereas we won't learn if they stay where they are ○ If animals are removed, caribou will continue to be deprioritized and eventually forgotten about. There is a faint hope that they can disperse and repopulate areas if they are kept in BC, versus sending them to Jasper ○ It could be argued that these herds will be extirpated anyway – so the risk to current habitat protection will exist regardless, but at least the timing would be put off for several years. However, it is still more sensible to move the animals and help them, and the herds they are translocated to, than to leave them ○ Higher levels of recreation come at a cost to caribou ○ Must let industry and recreation know that once caribou are translocated the restrictions won't be lifted, nor the habitat protections ○ Provincially, you have a mandate now, to WLRS mandate is specific to protecting species at risk, while working with federal government. ○ Another consideration is going a little deeper into the wellbeing of an animal. The one female left in Columbia South might still be content living where she is, where she knows the area, and has years of experience living in. Being moved might be stressful and unpleasant - a negative event at the end of her life. Translocation
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		<p>has mortality risk, but also would increase stress - potentially decreasing wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to focus on Columbia North which has a better chance of caribou survival – need to make sure that we protect habitat in Columbia North
	14:45	<p>Round Table - for all to share caribou-related updates</p> <p>CF note: this came after the anti-racism talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chris Joseph – “Here at KNC we will be meeting with the local forest licensees of the area to discuss future logging operations including the Revelstoke Community Forest, Pacific Woodtech, Interfor and BCTS. We are working with BC to implement a set of forestry standards developed by Ktunaxa FNs technical staff to modernize forest practices. One thing we don't know is what the other FNs are saying at the table with these proponents. We are pushing for habitat connectivity, seral distribution, OGMA redeployment and increased retention. We are reviewing the Tenure transfer from Louisiana Pacific to Pacific Woodtech with support from various conservation groups asking for a possible change in land designation for TFL55. Are the other FNs saying anything? Maybe this isn't the place to ask these questions? We 've received a moratorium proposal for logging from Splatsin but noting for mining. Why was the mining left out?” ● Marc S – “Thanks Aaron and group. Wondering if we can we create another version, or revise, the advantages disadvantages document to focus, in a practical way, on caribou welfare first and the likelihood of success and survival for the remaining animals. A nuanced approach that respects the needs of these animals first would be good. Also, maybe early days, but can we create a First Nations specific communications plan re: extirpation of additional herds, so we have some tools to take this discussion to our respective leaderships? Many Indigenous groups may know this is coming through the referrals about lifting snowmobile closures, but have been left to interpret these referrals and their content in their own way. Some direct and practical messaging about what is coming may be good.” Wants to know the option that has the highest chances of success, including animal welfare. Greatly interested in Robert and Lindsay's work – will there be some skills development or tools to use “on the ground” for anti-racism? ● Austin Ingram – NA ● Brennan – lots to think about with the options, especially for a caribou-first perspective with the Nations this Weds. ACTION: Kathi or Aaron to get Brennan the updated options paper to Brennan before his Weds meeting ● Caroline – N/A ● Ceryne – looking to bring back to Nation ● Colin – one female caribou in Columbia South entered Mount Revelstoke National Park about 200 m from Highway, implemented closure Dec 2. Lots of travelling around, wondering about her welfare – looking for other caribou? Wondering what BC would like for communications if she goes on Provincial land? (Aaron has a collar on her. Would like to get helicopter pilots (heliskiing) have it so they can avoid her). ACTION: Colin to connect with Aaron). Can offer financial resources for translocation to act as soon as possible. May need a SARA permit – may need to consider if caribou is on Provincial or Federal land. Data-sharing agreement with Kathi and Aaron – you

		<p>have the shapefiles, other materials? KMB has not responded. Genevieve let Kathi know if KMB needs a reminder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leo – N/A • Bevan – will be putting out feed for Groundhog feed trial this week, preparing for winter surveys • Christine – N/A • Hunter – would like to see refined options, and compare to new Minister mandate letters. Worried about remaining status quo. Happy to acknowledge the racism issues, and given they will happen anyway, wants to encourage the group to put forward the most caribou-positive option forward • Leonard – mining is happening in caribou habitat – needs to be put in the proposal. Need to take action • Deb – working with GIS on carbon-accounting, opportunities for conservation not just harvesting; nature-based solutions. Cost-assessments of ecosystem co-benefits. • Mateen – N/A • Darcy – mandate letters – caribou is not as prominent as in the past, but links to many other initiatives; this group knows what caribou need – just need to get it across the finish line and leave the socio-ec to others; missing the helicopter disturbance piece – not just recreation but also industry recces; tools for dealing with racism – meets with Lindsay and Robert every week and will bring it up • Jean – funding for Recovery Strategy (\$2000 per community) – need the applications this week (not difficult; few strings attached). Talk to Jean if you need help. Needs to be spent by end of fiscal. • Carlie – reminder that the restoration workshop will happen in spring • Aaron – will focus on refining options. Re: which option has the best chance of success? Animals themselves? Population? Survive and contribute as a definition of success? • Rhiannon – just got back from the field, just answering emails (if you're waiting); moratorium meetings, ECCC amendments. • Rob – focus on habitat in the province, but need to think about private land, too. Reduction in moose habitat is helping, but the private land (12000 ha) is due back online for harvesting (belongs to a group in Germany) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In case there is not time, I wanted to remind folks of the Beaumont lands, further to Chris Joseph's points, I often forget that there is substantial disturbance on non-provincial lands. https://archive.news.gov.bc.ca/releases/archive/pre2001/1994/1994nr/1994122.asp • Robyn – feels a sense of urgency with this; encouraging on-the-ground action; prefers caribou-first focus and wellbeing; mining dealt through referral process (though it should be in the moratorium letter); engagement strategy is long overdue – happy to have that team on board • Kathi – works on bringing the science of caribou recovery into decision-making, focused on habitat first. The socio-ec piece is to help understand what's important to people, and then how to move away from a forestry-dependent economy. Thanks to the people putting the habitat and it's importance to caribou spatially. Momentum is being increased by recent social interest in nature, co-management
4	14:15	<p>Anti-Racism - Robert Daum and Lindsay Heller</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindsay – a research fellow, working in the Peace region in investigating the

		<p>racism in 2019 engagement; Schedule 5.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert – works very closely with Lindsay; close work with many governments – BC, Feds, West Moberly, Saulteau. Engagement specialists, dealing with a lot of trauma, even hate crimes. • Both work together on communications strategy, secure environment. • Racist behaviour occurred in a context, so they are learning how processes could be improved; understand the environment in which racism occurred to avoid in the future. This work is among the most complex in North America – engagement won't be perfect, but we can strengthen and better the process and relationships. • The feedback from the interviews wasn't always what they expected, but looked at it overall as to what worked well, what didn't and what needs to be done. Much more consensus than expected. Learned something different from everyone. • The stronger the partnership, the better the communication, the better the process – always learning and refining the process • How much education was included in the process: rights-holders vs stakeholders? They do not assume everyone has the same basic information, both in the content as well as the engagement process itself. There is an engagement spectrum, from information to decision-making. Decision-making has inherent issues to deal with – legislation, caribou ecology, etc. If there is a misalignment between what the engagers and engagees' expectations, then there are difficulties; not safe. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the question you want answered by the people you are engaging with? Just doing it because they are legally required to isn't reason enough. Must meet legal requirements, and constraints, but need to come prepared. ○ Changes occur because of what we heard – common ground within the community. • FN embrace leadership, but don't necessarily want to be the point person all the time – due to the spotlight and the danger of racism • Can help this group to develop an agile, multi-faceted, responsive communications plan. Need to start now, get ahead of things. Consider security, govt timelines, media graphics, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Only just brought into this group, but important lessons can be brought in immediately based on the Partnership Agreement (PA)/Peace work ○ Committed to not replicating the harms: communication and security were the biggest issues ○ Comprehensive communications strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Who is involved with media (to look for patterns of threats)? ▪ What is the process of receiving, reviewing, and triage of info? ▪ What's the strategy to deal with misinformation? Sometimes the process of responding is not quick. ▪ What are the narratives? Need a plan to address. ▪ Need a security plan – assessment, coordination, reporting incidents (a system or process; who?)
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5	15:38	<p>Next steps, review of actions items, funding and TWG Contribution Agreement, and next meeting on January 24th- Genevieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who haven't replied about funding, please connect with Genevieve ASAP
6	15:43	Adjourn

ACTIONS SUMMARY

New items

Aaron to update the option paper and distribute

Genevieve to follow-with anti-racism with a contract to support this engagement process

Genevieve is still waiting on some Contribution agreement to offer funding in support of collaboration to TWG

Mateen will look at suggestions to explore making Core and Matrix slides, clearer, the current state, and Pros/cons for caribou for each option. Risks/costs for each option. federal process/threshold. Cumulative Effect.- More to come in Jan mtg

Older

Genevieve seeking Policy/Legislation people to come to speak to this at the next meeting or March meeting

- **Jean Polfus** suggested that **Mateen** creates a table to clarify the options, management, and implications to caribou- **Completed by Genevieve- will be shared January mtg**
- **Rob, Kathi, Leo, Aaron, and Bevan** to work on the rationales of the different scenarios proposed. Why is 95% better than 75% or why is protecting High and Moderate better than just the Low option, etc? **Will be completed by the next meeting in January**
- **Genevieve** Ensure we are stating clear objectives at the start of the document- **Mateen completed**
- **Genevieve/Bevan** to create a map to add a layer for cat skiing, heli-ski tenures, and snowmobile closures to the scenario.- **will be added to the presentation**
- Hunter to write a paragraph on vision towards decision making? for Genevieve to include in the summary doc. **Not completed**
- Robyn L.: Hwy 23 - concerns for caribou - to discuss **later meeting?**