



 Location: [MS Teams Meeting](#)
 Date: Monday, February 28, 2022
 Time: 1300-1600 Pacific

Revelstoke Complex and Central Selkirks Caribou Technical Working Group

Members (grey indicates not in attendance)

Genevieve Lachance (moderator)	Christine Friedrichsmeier (notes)	Guests: Kathi Zimmerman, Tyler Muhly		
Tim Eugene	Deb McKillop	Cory Legebokow		
Rieva McCuaig	Rob Steenweg	Robyn Laubman		
Aaron Reid	Celia Nord	Leo DeGroot		
Gwen Bridge	Brier Cadden	Laura Machial	Chris Joseph	
Corey Bird	Allison Pagett	Darcy Peel	Brennan Lund	
Tina Donald	Colleen Marchand	Mark Thomas	Heather Wiebe	
Greg Johnson	John Krebs	Bevan Ernst	Emily Sunter	

AGENDA

1:00-1:15	Welcome and review of Action Items from last meeting (Genevieve Lachance)
<h3>PREVIOUS ACTIONS SUMMARY</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rob Serrouya to create a folder of graphs, materials and send link to Genevieve to send to the group, and Adam/anyone in group can send Rob an email to get specific info, media.- Info placed on ftp Cory Legebokow and Rob Serrouya to continue the temperature data analysis discussion offline, bring back to group- Allison to send the consultation package to Tim and speak to Bonnie about the follow-up. Cc to Genevieve. Completed Genevieve to make the Nakusp pen a standing agenda item. - Done Genevieve to plan a field visit for the group to the Nakusp pen site. To further discuss Deb to send VRI polygon links to Genevieve when available. See website link in Notes Genevieve to send out the framework and process (outside of the group) before next meeting- not done- will talk about today All- review maps and provide comments on additional habitat protection. Continue Action for Nations 	

1:15-1:30	The new provincial Ministry changes- Heather Wiebe
<p><i>The Ministry of FLNROD is going through a restructuration. Heather will give us an update and how it might influence this group.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Forests – permitting • Ministry of Lands – land use planning, species at risk, old growth • April 1st is the start of the new Ministry • Decision-making should be quicker than the old FLNRO – fewer bottlenecks 	
1:30-1:45	The framework and decision making process – Heather Wiebe/Darcy Peel
<p><i>The caribou program has had some direction from senior government and can share some insights of the developing process and framework</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather presented how the new ministry affects decision-making and how this group fits into the framework – see Heather’s presentation • Procedures – starting point for implementation • Wait for new Ministry to see new decision path to see if the TOR needs to be reviewed • Layer in as many values as possible – OG, SAR, watershed, LUP. The process in Heather’s diagram would be for highest priority herds • OKIB process – Heather not sure how it fits in, but this is the process with MLIB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ OKIB process on pause for last 6 months, they were encouraged to come to this group • Heather talked about the spectrum of engagement and how it fits into the new framework • David Muter is the ADM • No TOR for Leadership Table yet; not relying on executive for decisions on technical information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Relying on Science Team for all the data for technical conversations • How are we going to communicate what this group has come up with? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Leaders to have conversations with their own colleagues, then comes back to this table with the results ◦ If that doesn’t work, then Engage BC – which we used for predator reduction and snowmobile closures ◦ Group will decide how they want to proceed, what’s right for the group, on how to engage with public ◦ Engagement may or may not include enough to be considered consultation – this group will decide that as well • Chris Joseph – cultural conservation forest survey (like FREP) with forestry companies; building a database for infoshares – wildlife features etc. Will use for forestry training, wants to see it in policy. North Slokan to Kinbasket. • 	
2:35-2:00	Update from Darcy Peel

Conservation breeding

- Ongoing conversation since the first maternal pen in Revelstoke, with diverse groups
- BC is very interested in this
- Conservation breeding center near Jasper – will learn from it, hopefully be involved
- Issues where the caribou for this project come from, where the calves will spend the rest of their lives
- Parks Canada has advanced planning, but needs further conversation
- Tim – how to participate?

Recreation- Heli-Ski industry engagement

- Lots of expansion in this industry
- Not just winter, not just skiing and hiking
- Continuing efforts for flight tracking data from operators, 2000m separation, information on other species in their annual submission. Will help to prevent or mitigate issues.
- Information to Transport Canada
- Will attend AGM for Helicat Canada to provide this info – want them to be early adopters
- It's not currently regulated. Their plans say they will provide the info, but then they don't
- Trying to gently nudge them into helping out
- Tim – we do need them working with us – CMH is willing, talks forthcoming. Darcy willing to discuss further.

ACTION: Darcy to contact Tim and Tina re: heli/CMH, and Jasper conservation breeding

- Tina – working with Yellowhead
- Only one company who is working with BC so far
- Robyn – share your challenges with ECCC – common concern for the wellbeing of the animals. Can't share the message if we don't know.
 - Darcy - Asked for GPS flight tracking – major cost issue that they won't provide to us, need to know why we need it, feel like they are being penalized (laughable compared to forest industry)
 - Leo – largest player says they “play” but they don't – sabotage caribou research, including census work (Corey Bird: CMH)
 - Corey – license to operate on Crown Land, they shouldn't be able to assert their rights. Should be a condition of their permit. It's not expensive. They ski in caribou habitat and use explosives to manage avalanches – they don't need to say where. Operating on their own in caribou habitat, just over treetops with poor visibility. Is BC willing to do closures based on collar data?
 - Darcy - that is a consideration down the road. Don't want to use collar data for that
 - Leo – doing that for Central Selkirks for snowmobiling and heliskiing because high percentage of animals is collared – but don't want to keep doing that – expensive and invasive for animals. Don't want to do this broadly
 - Aaron – they've agreed to stay away from the collars, but we don't know that they do – we only have half the data! The sector wants to continue to protect the freedom they've had. There's heliskiing in every single drainage after a snowfall.
 - Leo – most heli guides are great to get along with – it's the senior management causing the issues (1-2 people)
 - Bevan – with COVID things have been shut down, so Bevan is trying to quantify the difference between active and non-active impacts. But only have the tenure boundaries, not the GPS tracks. Unique behaviors being observed with the caribou
- Adam – caribou collar data – who gets this data right now? A specific area?
 - Kootenay and Galena CMH operates in Central Selkirks
 - How many years of data for the active/COVID? And what about snowmobiling?
 - Darcy – snowmobile industry got shut down same way as forestry with Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan

- Flight following is what they are against – Parks gets run data (mandated)
- Tim – GPS costs for heli? Leo – use the same machines for wildfires in the summer, so they have flight following. Knowledge management branch has the ability to store the data – so they don't have that cost either.
- Tim asserts the need to have this no-go data to bring to the conversation they will be having with CMH on March 2nd. Should be able to gain some traction in this arena.

ACTION: Darcy will send helicopter issues needing resolution (info/list), including the Transport Canada information to Tim

- Adam needs a map with population numbers, shapefiles of herd ranges.
 - Corey – if Adam can get a map from CMH then they can compare maps
 - Leo – caribou tracks are easy to see, plus the collar data – the no-go zones vary day-to-day
- Bevan – data package that just went out – has core caribou habitat in it, so anywhere they are flying in core habitat will be disturbance
- Maps on FTP site have this info
- Can connect with Bevan or Aaron to get more information
- Can we get heliski tenure areas? (Corey) Bevan – yes, will add it

ACTION: Bevan to add heliski tenure boundaries to geodatabase

2:00-2:15	Workplan- Next steps – Genevieve Lachance
<i>Reviewing the workplan and next steps for the group – N/A</i>	
1:38-2:10	Additional Habitat Protection - Next Steps – Kathi Zimmerman- Bevan Ernst, Aaron Reid and all.
<p><i>Review and discuss the current products available to consider the next steps for recommending Habitat protection options?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathi presented slides on habitat protections and constraints in DU9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 options – both have risks (SARA/ECCC challenge or socio-ec impacts) ○ #1 - Federal recovery strategy requires 100% protection in core, limited impact in matrix – 5M m³ impact (8.6% of volume) ○ #2 - CRP option is to protect 85-90% in core, limit disturbance in prioritized matrix habitat - <2M m³ impact (2.7% of volume at low end, 4% at high end) – no additional protections for extirpated herds • Bevan talked about a data-sharing package available to group – Genevieve will put on FTP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Includes raw data so users can see the depth of data being used ○ Includes protections layer ○ Can be used for mapping (Arc) – geodatabase ○ What about approved future disturbance areas? Has been identified as a next step – will be able to know who has tenures and what the impacts will be – no just forestry ○ Old growth management areas are included (legal OGMA's), Kootenay-Boundary area OGMA's are non-legal, undergoing review shortly. Non-legal are on a separate layer. ○ Lots of information! ○ Tina wants to be able to see the beneficial impacts on the other species as well – grizzly, etc. Matrix will be important (Brennan) – nice to see it all laid out ○ Nice to be able to consider the pros and cons and provide feedback. View this from different levels and consider the values you find important. ○ Focus on environmental layers here, but to inform decisions we need to consider all areas of stewardship (gap) – enviro, social, economic, cultural pillars to information ○ Tina – wants to work with Bevan to account for grizzly to see how everything fits together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bevan – focused on caribou, need to ask to incorporate other data like grizzly. Would be a great outcome to be able to include other cultural values, higher holistic outcome ▪ Kathi – can continue to add layers – species at risk, identified watersheds. It's huge, but possible <p>Genevieve asked Tim how he would like to receive info for Shuswap. 6 communities who are working together (overlapping protection areas, IPCAs. East Kootenays wants their own caribou shepherds, mat pen</p> <p>ACTION: Genevieve to set up a separate meeting with the Nations to discuss where the group wants to go from here, once they've had a chance to digest the database a bit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kathi - need habitat for caribou to persist, and we also need to keep caribou around until they get the habitat they need. Thanks for all your perspectives. ○ 	
3:00 – 3:05	Break
3:20- 3:45	Climate change and caribou- Tyler Muhly

Tyler has been working with some climate change data relating to caribou.

- See presentation for the details
- Deb – have you seen maps updated from Wang, non-analogs (= novel climates, don't fit in existing biogeoclimatic zones). ICH spread is an artefact because the climate data isn't as strong in the mountains
 - More rain instead of snow, fits best with coastal western hemlock not Sitka spruce, snow level rises until later in the season – will affect caribou
 - If we think climate change is going to destroy habitat, then it paints a bleak picture. Need to grow climate resilient caribou habitat
- Robyn – agree with looking at climate refugia for prioritization for restoration and preservation. Snow-dependent industry wants to know how secure their industry is – need to have these hard conversations (work together to be resilient)

3:20-3:30

Update on the Nakusp Maternity Pen (Aaron Reid)

- Pen is ready to go, but complicated getting everything together
- Funding is there – needs, not wants – not enough for shepherds from season start to end, so will rotate with BC staff in 1-week shifts. Open to training people who want to be involved – no pay
- Where are the caribou coming from? – Central Selkirks – 8 cows nearby
- Possible to go bigger next year
- Ready for April

ACTION: Genevieve to talk to Cory Legebokow for when a field trip would work (before calving) – likely early May (will be very limited people allowed)

- Robyn – what is the best way to follow up with the “items we discussed”? Stakeholders want to prove they can manage it on their own – uncomfortable. Is it for their benefit or the caribou? BC responded, but Robyn still has questions that need addressing

ACTION: Genevieve to set up a meeting to follow up with stakeholder management of mat pen discussion. Email or message Genevieve if you're interested. Tina, Tim.

3:30--3:45

Funding, ToR, (Genevieve Lachance)

Where are we at?

- Contribution agreement signed, first payment out
- TOR – last look before finalization – let Genevieve know ASAP if any questions. Genevieve will follow up with each community
- Funding to continue this group for next year

3:45-3:55

Round Table All

All to bring caribou updates to the table

- Tina appreciative of information today
- May need to separate info from admin for these meetings
- Apologies for lack of proper roundtable

3:55-4:00

Next Steps Next meeting topics (Genevieve Lachance)

ACTIONS SUMMARY

Genevieve to set up a separate meeting with the Nations to discuss where the group wants to go from here, once they've had a chance to digest the database a bit

Darcy to contact Tim and Tina re: heli/CMH, and Jasper conservation breeding

Darcy will send helicopter issues needing resolution (info/list), including the Transport Canada information to Tim

Bevan to add heliski tenure boundaries to geodatabase

Genevieve to talk to Cory Legebokow for when a field trip would work (before calving) – likely early May (will be very limited people allowed)

Genevieve to set up a meeting to follow up with stakeholder management of mat pen discussion. Email or message Genevieve if you're interested. Tina, Tim have already opted in.