



[Teams](#)



Monday, January 23, 2023



13:00- 16:00 Pacific

NOTES

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	Guests: Rob Serrouya Colin Bergeron Meike Siegner	
Richard Martin	Deb MacKillop	Hunter Lampreau	Cory Legebokow	Zach Parker
Rieva McCuaig	Robin Steenweg	Robyn Laubman	Tara DeCourcy	
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	

*** Note: Members in grey were absent.*

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the additional habitat options, the South Columbia translocation, and other updates.

1	13:00	Welcome - Genevieve
2	13:10	FN meeting summary
		Corey Bird presented the summary – having lots of discussions, behind the scenes meetings to push decisions forward. Thanked bands for work, especially new leadership being brought up to date.
2	13:20	CRP update, FLP, Nature agreement- 30X30(COP 15), other news - Kathi Zimmermann/ Genevieve
		Kathi – Bilateral Section 11 Agreement (2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been working on prioritizing options for disturbance constraints. • 60% decline in caribou over BC, most prevalent in southern mountain caribou (DU9). • This proposal has made it all the way to Cabinet; need to understand the socio-ec impacts of the decision. • It has come back through the Deputy Minister, and Assistant Deputy Minister, and back up

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

to Cabinet.

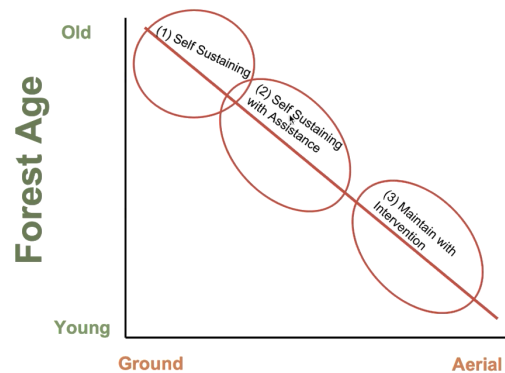
- FN conversations are important, starting in Revelstoke first and will add Wells Grey, etc., as it proceeds.

Genevieve – Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) and caribou habitat (see Genevieve’s slide deck info provided by Jen Psyllakis)

- **ACTION:** Genevieve to include FLP presentation slides (Jen P) with notes- placed on ftp site

3 13:30 Revised additional habitat options and discussion including next steps - Mateen/Genevieve

- New long term options
- Socio-ec considerations
- Leveraging experts and case studies
- Defined core and matrix habitat
- Mateen outlined current habitat protections – Parks, GAR, UWR – and how they are distributed across the southern herds
- Outlined the history of caribou decline – logging -> shrubs -> moose -> predators (that also eat caribou)
- 3 levels of population recovery objectives



Predator Hunting

- Decades of intervention required while habitat recovers, including predator reduction, to achieve self-sustaining status
- Maintain or increase a planning unit population at 75-100 animals
- Mateen outlined the core habitat scenarios – see presentation slides
- Matrix scenarios are in development – will be presented in the near future

Q&A

- Why UD consideration on Groundhog? (Tier#2)
 - Puts protection in currently occupied range – trying to consider socio-ec and put the protections where they count
- Using all data? Yes – excluding the penned animals’ locations. All GPS & UHF collar data
- Tier 1, what percentage would need additional protection?
 - **ACTION:** Mateen will get back to the group on percentage of UD is on top of current protections. We have the data, will create a slide
- Low to no acknowledgment of how we got into this situation. BC allowed decades of resource extraction, but FN also rely on it. FN is vilified by industry that think FN are getting in the way of their business. Reconciliation depends on recognizing the truth. Otherwise, there is no justice to our relationship. Need to acknowledge this at the start of these presentations.

- Difference between tiers 1 & 2 in matrix management. Do we think these are fulsome tier definitions without knowing what's going on matrix?
 - It's incomplete – intentionally. Focus on core first. Second priority is on matrix scenarios. Just introduced the core here because it was “ironed out”, whereas matrix hasn't been yet.
- None of these scenarios match the recommendations from the Federal Recovery Strategy (FRS)
 - Tier 1 is meant to reflect the FRS with minimal disturbance in core. Matrix will be managed to 12 % disturbance <40 years as per FRS.
 - Tier 2 would be to manage the matrix for other uses. Manage the priority, currently used areas (by caribou) for habitat to reduce predators
 - Bevan - two additional degrees of potential error in linking habitat conditions to predator density
- How far away from FRS are the other 2 tiers?
 - Tier 1 is old core
 - Tiers 2 & 3 are UD's (kernals)
- Aaron - We are using BC Linework
- Mateen noted that there could be 3 tiers of matrix as well, including self-sustaining. FN and BC can mix and match to align with local economies
- This is meant for the FN in this group to bring back to council. How are you feeling about presenting this? Are you comfortable presenting this? What would be helpful? What info? Would infographics help? Simpler ways of communicating?
 - Corey: Still digesting, but comfortable presenting the core habitat material. Matrix will make it more challenging, a bigger conversation re: predator, primary prey abundance. So, not “easy” but more streamlined.
 - The primary prey/predator density seems a vague link, harder to explain. Impact to caribou is easier to understand and explain.
 - Would you present this the same way to govt leadership? Yes
 - Prioritizing caribou (one value), when FN hasn't benefited at all from timber extraction and asking FN to be on board isn't helpful. Western-heavy.
 - We want to help support FN processes, so we (govt) don't just go off in our own direction
 - Difficult to explain – other values need to be considered. The socio-ec piece needs to be included. Don't have 3 hours to brief Chief and Council on the whole background, etc.
- Old growth has paused the industry right now. We need to prioritize stewardship. Don't want a confrontational approach. We do need to look at all the values – including socio-ec, and industry. We would do well to meet with them and consider old growth, caribou, FLP, carbon credits, etc. Need ALL the socio-ec info.
- Rob Serrouya - Matrix is tricky, as everyone is saying. One could deal with the matrix via reduce logging to get closer to a natural age class, OR via predator harvest, OR via ungulate prey offtake, OR a combination of all 3. Dealing with matrix only based on forest age classes (i.e., reduce logging) will have huge economic impacts, which is challenging and likely supported by the most ardent conservationists.
- Could try innovative methods in the matrix area. Different ways of going about forestry. Need to brainstorm how to innovate with foresters and biologists
- Bevan - matrix management would impact rate of harvest, not land base eligible for

		<p>harvest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris – not happy with moose management, exploring old growth options, contributed a lot of info to the forest landscape planning. Moratorium on all old growth logging. TFL 55 – conditions of transfer. No contributing grounds to carbon offsets, so no info on that yet. Depends on timber supply review once you have the caribou info considered – then see if Revelstoke is still viable for forestry. Caribou and salmon are priorities. Much of TFL 55 is protected – could focus on that for additional protections. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TSR will use caribou scenarios, which is why they need to be finalized Matrix scenarios will be key – what’s necessary to keep caribou alive and self-sustaining Has this core and matrix methodology been applied to any other FLP's (understanding FLP's are new) or CCFP's? Caribou objectives have not been applied – FLP are new. Only 5 pilots, no output yet. Quesnel has more issues to consider Any other projects using this methodology? What worked? What didn't? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BC has been implementing section 11 agreement in south Peace area. All development needs to go before a review committee to assess impact. So, it is being applied in a landscape level planning process, but not directly as an FLP or CCFP. Learning a lot and applying learnings. Similar way to prioritize areas for caribou, as well as socio-ec opportunities (multiple values). Could we have a report on the learnings? There is a youtube video on the policy background https://youtu.be/kWhhXTqxlM https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/sustainable-development/strategic-environmental-assessment/public-statements/partnership-agreement-southern-mountain-caribou.html if you look on the ALCES website there is some good information on CFX studies done on caribou both from Alberta and BC https://www.alces.ca/reports/ Could we not combine them and say x% of matrix can only be harvested under x method so we could limit impacts in specific areas? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, we can, and predict how much is available in the future. https://bc-crp-apps.shinyapps.io/REVV_WORKING_GROUP/ user= Guest password= password got to <i>disturbance over time</i> tab
4	14:20	<p>Translocation of the South Columbia animal Colin-Aaron:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last discussion on the remnant animal in Columbia South and Frisby-Boulder-Queest Columbia South cow is critical to remove this year, lest she succumb to predation Group agreed to move the animal at the last meeting; still agreed at the start of this meeting (but dissenters were heard at this meeting – see notes below) Option 1 - hard release to Columbia North. Process: capture with helicopter, sedate, carry in helicopter, reverse sedation in new area, and then caribou is free and off on her own to find others in Columbia North herd. No good data on survival rates. Always risk for both types of releases. She may not make contact with other caribou immediately. Option 2 - soft release into mat pen (further travel of approximately 10 mins). Process: capture with helicopter, sedate, carry in helicopter, reverse sedation in pen (in on the same day as the maternity capture), held in pen for 120 days, released with the others in pen. Less chance of predation; would bond with resident animals. Aaron and BC vet prefer Option 2 – soft release.

- Both cost about the same, \$5000-\$7000 helicopter only difference in cost
- Avalanche bombing in same path traveled by this caribou – another threat if she comes back along the same path (along the Trans Canada highway). Avalanche control will be a priority over keeping this animal alive. Working with avalanche control crews – including a protocol, but sound travels 2-3 km and could spook her.
- Hunter: If she's going to die anyway, why not put the money into road rehab; is this just a PR exercise. FN are just the clean-up crew for decades of unmanaged resource extraction.
- High potential for this cow to contribute genetically. Getting older, but not senescent.
- Right now costs a lot to manage the caribou, Parks is putting up the funding
- Mateen: If we hard release her, she could be safer (not competing for resources with calves). Aaron - there'll always be cows in the pen that are not pregnant, so not a real factor.
- No bull known in area for 3 years (assume she's not pregnant)
- Corey leaning to Option #1 Columbia North – more secure habitat (based on population size); since only one caribou – would move to the herd area with more animals
- Jean Polfus – soft release; good to monitor after being drugged
- Leo – would not recommend a hard release, given previous experience; 4% population increase to Central Selkirks vs 1% in Columbia North
 - Rob – in Leo's example they were not the same ecotype. And they have the same migratory patterns (deep snow, double migration).
 - Aaron – soft release with different migration adopted pen caribou migration patterns
 - Rob - cows in pen have lower survival rate than surrounding area
 - No one knows survival of hard releases though
 - Social animals tend to do better with soft release (bighorn sheep)
- Rob – population trend is upward in Columbia North, declining into Central Selkirks
- FN – are there territorial concerns with moving her either way?
- Zach – why don't we shoot her and eat her?
- Aaron - but people in this group last time wanted to do something with her, not just let her die (status quo option). So, what do we want to do?
- Rob - It's true Hunter, what is marginally hopeful though is that cow from south Selkirks actually reproduced and had offspring in Columbia North
- Aaron - 2 years ago, we just would have put her in the pen
- Rhiannon – prefer Option #2 soft release; more valuable to a smaller population, the pen's already there. Are we now saying we're giving up on Central Selkirks? If so, why are we doing a mat pen? Are we sticking to the priorities from the summer?
- Steve – prefer Option #2 put her in the pen
- Potential for conservation backlash – need to have the process to back up the decision (these notes as a record, plus the poll will suffice)
- Jean – OK with any decision, all caribou are going to die anyway
- Any option can lead to mortality
- All individuals die, we are trying to have populations persist
- Nation members who should have a say, like Tina, aren't here, so she'd need to be notified
- Steve – only FN should vote
 - Colin – doesn't represent Parks though
- Will BC do a news release? Will need to communicate it out, yes.
- When do we need the decision? Within the next 1-2 weeks (need permits for Col N release)

		<p>if we do that)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Genevieve to work with Aaron and Colin to provide a background summary of the translocation information and put it out to those Nations (only?) who may have a recommendation for Aaron. Need answer within 2 weeks. No vote
5	14:40	<p>Socioeconomic assessment, ecosystem service valuation, restoration economy - Meike Seigner- Research Fellow with WLRS, specialized in socio-economic information. meike.siegner@gov.bc.ca</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/natural-resource-use/land-water-use/crown-land/land-use-plans-and-objectives/policies-guides/mlup_guide_socio-economic_environmental_assessment_2022.pdf • Need to consider alternative economies like restoration- and conservation-based economies in socio-ec assessments, not just focus on the current industry and what will happen if it disappears • There are funds for community transition • Can include this in species at risk planning? • What is a specific way that these funds could be linked to FN industries? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specific examples in forestry – that account has been around for 4 years ○ Can definitely be accessed ○ As for the recently announced \$90M – related to value-added, might go to smaller mill innovations etc. Not directly for caribou, but is indirect • Trying not just to transition workers but create entire economies with trickle down effects to the communities • FN rely on timber industry but haven't been allowed to participate. Hard to sell a potential future option vs a sure one right now. What is the timescale? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 20 years are being modeled ○ Transition funds are available now ○ Reference to the Ministry letter – high volume to high value ○ Can do these things even with a vibrant forest industry • Marc: https://y2y.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/69/2019/12/11.2019.bc_emerging-economy.columbia-v2.pdf - report relevant to conversation • Can we work with Meike to push a pilot case through right now to test it to advance compensation under the 2 funds mentioned? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meike is not responsible for the funds, but could do projections or scenarios based on these funds ○ ACTION: Deb and Genevieve to bring this question to the economists • Caribou recovery actions must include socio-ec, but it's important to focus on the recovery and then then to develop, with the Nations, an economic plan for the community/area • Short term – need to make sure caribou have the habitat, then work on the long term socio-ec details
6	15:00	<p>Update on carbon - Deb Mackillop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on how to figure out how much carbon opportunity there is • Meeting with the economics professional on this next week • We need core protection to get to answers around caribou • BC govt is about to release next carbon offset protocol • Atmospheric benefit sharing agreements (BC gov site); coastal FN primarily (Great Bear Rainforest) – govt (Fed & BC have been greatest purchasers) to offset forest revenue sharing

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Would group like a GBR/carbon presentation? Yes ○ ACTION: Deb to set up a presentation from GBR for group on carbon off-setting ○ Are we still interested in old growth & caribou overlaps? The overlaps would have greater impact in matrix (core will be protected). <i>(no answer from group)</i> ○ Would retention harvest also qualify for carbon offset in matrix? Yes, Deb has years of research, but may be a bit of time until we have the answers ○ Could use Columbia North to run a Tier 1 scenario, then Tier 3 (bookend)? Not hard to run the analysis if we have the info, including AAC. Tyler can help.
7	15:15	Round Table - for all to give updates on caribou-related matters – N/A
8	15:45	Restoration workshop - March 7, Revelstoke - Carlie Quinn – N/A
9	15:45	Other updates and next steps: Anti-racism contract, Timeline, Funding, next meeting in person March 6 Revelstoke – Genevieve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genevieve quickly touched base on these items before the group adjourned
8	16:00	Adjourned at 1620h

ACTIONS SUMMARY

New items

- **Genevieve** to include FLP presentation slides (Jen P) with notes
- **Mateen** will get back to the group on percentage of UD is on top of current protections. We have the data, will create a slide
- **Genevieve** to work with **Aaron and Colin** to provide a background summary of the translocation information and put it out to those Nations (only?) who may have a recommendation for Aaron. Need answer within 2 weeks. Could be a vote.
- **Deb and Genevieve** to bring this question (Can we work with Meike to push a pilot case through right now to test it to advance compensation under the 2 funds mentioned?) to the economists
- **Deb** to set up a presentation from GBR on carbon off-setting

Older items

- **Aaron** to update the options paper and distribute
- **Genevieve** to follow with anti-racism with a contract to support the engagement process
- **Genevieve** is still waiting on some Contribution agreement to offer funding in support of collaboration with 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 Effects - **More to come in Jan mtg**
- **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?