

Zoom

Monday, June 26, 2023

13:00- 16:00 Pacific

Notes

Genevieve Lachance (moderator)	Christine Friedrichsmeier (notes)	Mateen Hessami	Rob Serrouya	
Richard Martin	Deb MacKillop	Hunter Lampreau	Jenn Meilleur	
Rieva McCuaig	Robin Steenweg	Robyn Laubman	Sara Deslaurier	Steve Murphy
Aaron Reid	Aubrey Cartier	Kathi Zimmerman	Marc Steynen	
Ceryne Staples	Miles Howard	Rhiannon Kirton	Cailyn Glasser	Colin Bergeron
Corey Bird	Allison Pagett	Darcy Peel	Brent Davidson	
Tina Donald-	Chris Joseph	Dave Nordquist	Haleigh Parker	
Caroline Feischl	John Krebs	Bevan Ernst	Jean Polfus	

Revelstoke Complex and Central Selkirks Caribou Technical Working Group

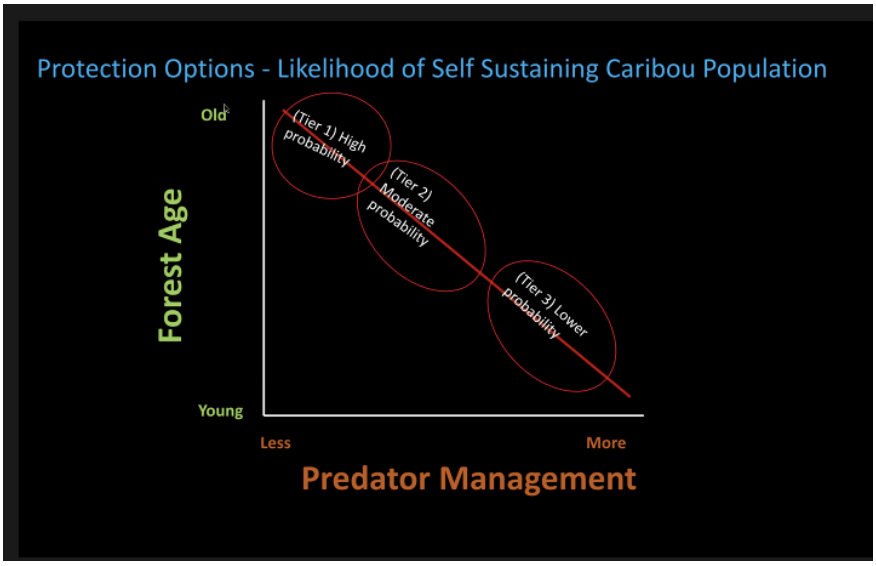
DU9 update and timeline- Jake Bradshaw

- Incremental habitat initiative - still in process internally
- Timelines:
    - Drafting letters to First Nations (FN) – need subgroup to help – invitation to start the process – hopefully summer, but likely fall
    - ACTION: **Jake & Genevieve/ FN subgroup** - need to draft Nation-specific intros to letters
    - Conversations over the next 8 months
        - Engagement on the tiers to Dec, then
        - January 2024 – legislative tools and consultation
        - Designing long-term co-governance structure for DU9; Revy table can be part of that or alone
        - Co-governance structure will be informal at first (January), then formal once habitat protection in place
    - Policy, preferred tier or combo of tiers – work in a G to G relationship with Nations
    - FN need to meet to define what they want with “co-governance” and decide on timelines. Timelines are too long right now.

        - Jake: BC would like to move the habitat protections forward within 6 months; rest of co-governance is a longer term piece
- Legislative tools: Part 13 is a deferral under Forest Act; WHA applies to all forest and range practices. Will bring these into a package for the order, then work on designing the order itself – to manage core and matrix habitat. BC will have the mandate; your work in this group will expedite the order.
    - Will BC act on these tools without FN explicitly saying they want this expedited? Yes, but FN support and pressure will indicate this needs to happen now.
    - It would be helpful to have an inventory of priority areas in each FN territory
- Carbon offsets need to be declared as part of a GAR order, WHA just needs it mentioned. Longer term measures need to spell out benefit to 30x30 – permanent protections
    - Can work through different options with this group, including overlapping measures, too
    - Hunter: would prefer to "ice the puck" on the carbon credit work, and have a meeting.
    - There is no negative consequence to having the carbon option mentioned– Due to current international processes, carbon can't add it later! Need to be clear from the start. Doesn't need to have details, just be included.
        - This is based on the international carbon agreement process, i.e., COP26, not BC's rules (re: additionality)
    - Cailyn: Deb, please share details with Nations to articulate to leadership.
        - ACTION: **Deb MacKillop** will talk to carbon people at MoF to get the details and bring it back to the table/Nations.
- Old Growth Nature Fund – interior cedar hemlock qualifies for funding this year, can be expanded to adjacent forest, not just ICH. Funding is available this year and next year. BC Office of Chief Forester is applying to Natural Resources Canada for this funding
- Colin B (Parks Canada): national mandate to recover Columbia South caribou herd, and work on caribou recovery at the regional level. Interested in BC's regional planning to maximize caribou recovery. Would like to have a presentation to superintendent on the 3-Tiers.
    - ACTION: **Genevieve** to work with Colin to set up a presentation to Parks Canada superintendent on the 3-Tiers. Perhaps together with ECCC managers as well?

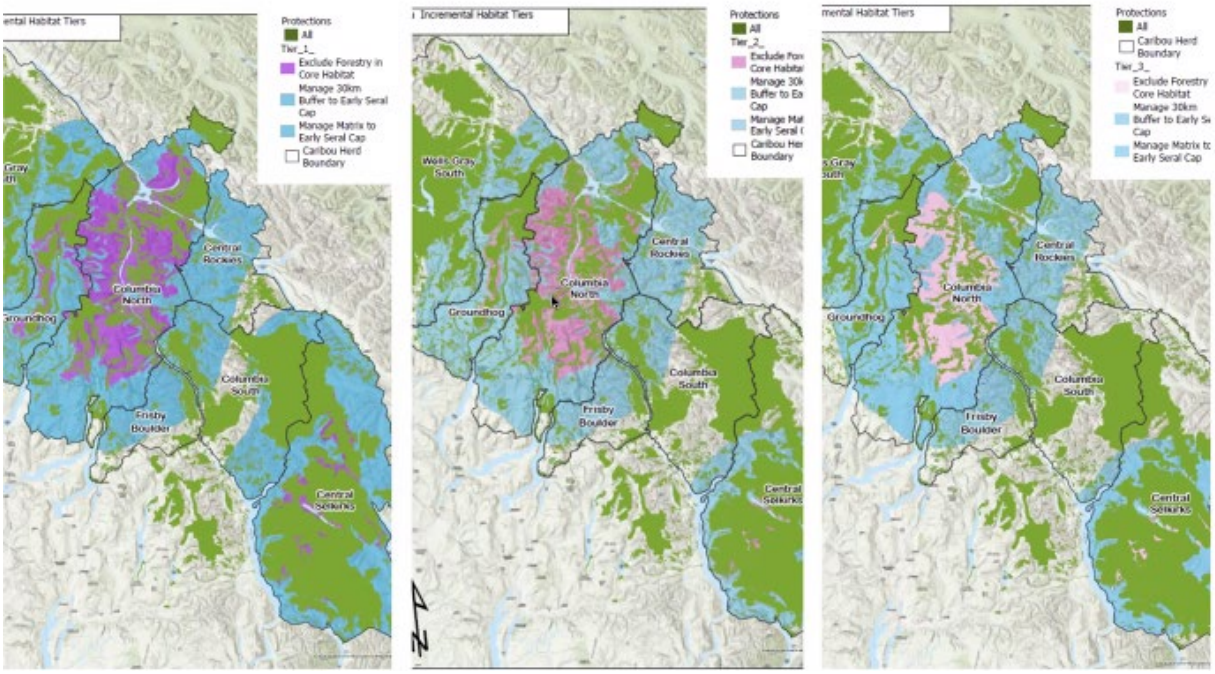
Summary document review- Mateen/Genevieve

- Mateen presented the talk designed for Chief and Council, incorporating the feedback from previous talks (including last week)
- Mateen talked about historical cause of caribou decline (logging, apparent competition), and how we are addressing the short-term necessary interventions while habitat comes back online
- Mateen drew attention to the fact that logging was the cause of decline, and in no way implies FN had anything to do with it
- He then talked about core and matrix habitat, and how they support caribou recovery
- Acknowledges the already-protected areas, while recognizing that more is needed
    - Mostly matrix that is not protected; core habitat is well protected
    - Focusing on:
        - Central Selkirks
        - Columbia North
        - Groundhog

- Important to look at maps for information
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- Forest age could be proportion of age classes on the landscape
- Even though some FN do not support Tier 3 (KNC), it still needs to be presented to all FN
- Cailyn: not entertaining Tier 2 or 3, asked Mateen be available to support at their Weds meeting this week
- Rob: GAR in Columbia North only includes forest; the Central Selkirks and Groundhog include rock and ice – so the map (Habitat Status) is misleading. It's 40-60% protected. The ecology of these herds are different, so there is no comparison between herds. So, don't make assumptions based on the map; Mateen must present it with the caveats! Or include the rock and ice on the map for Columbia North.
    - GAR order netted out cutblocks for CN – why it looks patchier. Cannot necessarily call it protected just because it's above the treeline
    - FEEDBACK: Kathi noted that we should define the Tiers *before* the probabilities of achieving recovery (the graph above)
    - 2.2M ha protected in the GAR, but most is rock and ice… a bit disingenuous, but also important to note
- TIER 1 – highest probability for self-sustaining
    - For all priority herds: where the core linework ends, there will be a 30km buffer that will extend out and will have a 12% disturbance (early seral forest).
    - Supported by the biologists to limit prey, therefore wolves.
    - If implemented tomorrow, the area still needs decades to recover the habitat. Likely 40 years of predator reduction. Also, likely prey reduction, and recommendation for maternal penning.
- TIER 2 – moderate probability of self-sustaining
    - slightly less encompassing core, but in essence similar – uses collar date (95% UD for Columbia North and Central Selkirks and 90 % UD for Groundhog). 30km buffer from the proposed protected areas and will have a 12% disturbance threshold.
    - Human intervention is not a "silver bullet"; more decades of all human interventions

- TIER 3 – The lowest possibility of self-sustaining, using collar data ((90% UD for Columbia North and Central Selkirks and 85 % UD for Groundhog). Requires the most human intervention. 30km buffer from the proposed protected areas and will have a 12% disturbance threshold.

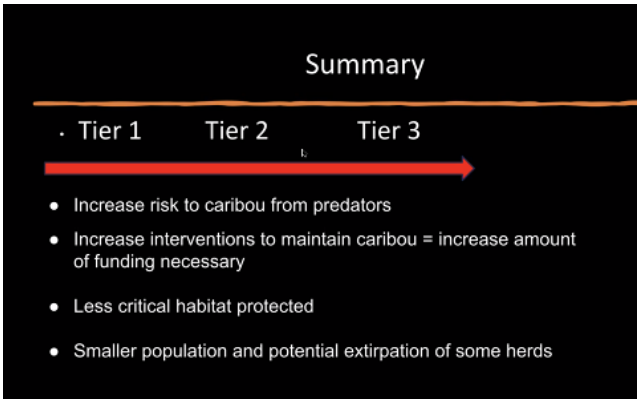


- 12% disturbance if unbuffered, 35% if buffered. Disturbance = Roads, logging – not fires,
    - Is rock and ice factored into the 12%? It's by landscape unit, or moose unit – 12% linked to predator reduction as well.
    - 30km buffer is 140000 ha in Columbia North to be managed to early seral limits
    - Economic impact values need to be updated to this expanded footprint
    - Still open for discussion
- Goldstream – KNC Nation would like to make it part of the core protection – 100% protection (Chris Joseph, KNC) – compare to the inclusion of the Beaumont in core habitat, despite similar condition.
    - The Goldstream was not included in core originally possibly due to recreation (2 major CM Helicopter tenures), fewer caribou telemetry points (as evidence of use of the area), also early seral condition. It should be included due to potential value to caribou, but it's currently producing large numbers of moose.
    - Mateen agrees it should be included in core especially since it's a good connectivity corridor
    - The addition of a 30km buffer has included more areas to be managed to the 12% threshold. Each tier then is closer to each other.
    - Need to demonstrate what % HA protected, % matrix and early seral. Is Tier 3 so much lower a chance of self-sustaining? Need to clarify the difference between them to understand the impact to caribou.

TIERS_SUMMARY.csv

- From the comments - Jake: “Bevan, in the TIERS summary , can we simply add "Current Protections Percent" and "Increment Protection Percent" to get Total Protection Percent? Or will there be issues in the spatial data with overlap?” [Not answered in group discussion]

- Deb MacKillop presented the socio-economic issues
  - Hard impacts to timber supply, but timber supply is projected to decline over the next 20 years anyway. The forest industry will need to adapt regardless of conservation measures.
  - Carbon is projected to bring $6M @ Tier 1, but is not an economy unto itself
    - Opportunities – forest carbon offsets, restoration economy, conservation funding
    - Great Bear Rainforest is a good example of a FN-led process. See Deb for more information
- Landscape & Biodiversity
  - Caribou are an umbrella species – for ecosystem health and resilience



- Caribou need high enough populations to withstand climate change events like droughts, wildfire
- Can a recreation economy be added to the carbon, conservation, and restoration?
  - Need to be mindful of it’s potential to negatively impact caribou
- Should include importance of caribou to FN wellbeing & culture
- Colin: re: Goldstream is a good connectivity point. FN can access on app (access on FTP, under data. ACTION: **Genevieve** to re-send link to the app to everyone, and walk Edyta through the app info). Makes sense to include this area as core.
  - Kathi: Re: Goldstream - any significant changes in how we’ve ID core habitat must adhere to a rigorous process of mapping. It’s not just a simple matter of calling it core habitat. Won’t impact this process but need to discuss to proceed. ACTION: **Genevieve** to set up meeting to discuss the habitat mapping principles.
  - Does it need to be core? Could it be designated as something else? Yes, that’s included in matrix definition.
    - Could have the same level of protection as core, but still remain matrix, with a rationale to increase its value. Yes, we have done this in other areas

    - Indigenous component of knowledge to be considered alongside western science, and added as a recommendation
    - "Unmapped" range in LPUs – ECCC working on updating these maps for the federal recovery strategy. Important to have FN traditional knowledge. Need to have as many places as possible of alignment on the linework, etc., between BC and ECCC. Fed recovery strategy will have caribou habitat in ranges of extirpated herds. Federal guidelines cannot just drop caribou once they are extirpated.
        - If this group has decided to not to focus on extirpated herds, it's not an issue. BC needs to have the protections and actions, not FN. Wouldn't come back to this group.
        - BC has prioritized herds and will focus on those first
- Marc: can THLB impact be reduced in places where herds have been extirpated? i.e., GAR. Is this scenario being considered?
    - Darcy: According to BC's leadership direction, this option is not on the table, since it is contributing to 30x30. Not currently being considered, but it could be recommended by the group for future consideration
    - Genevieve – 30km buffer has an impact on THLB, but maybe we don't add that to Tier 3 (as another option)
- Rhiannon: how does broader DU9 protections jibe with the 3 tiers?
    - No capacity to remove any protections
    - Not including any functionally extirpated herds in the southern group
- Just using DU9 as a shorthand for "Southern Mountain Caribou – Southern Group", not specified in the order as "DU9" (ECCC was concerned about the terminology, especially given the potential re-classification based on new genetics studies)

ACTIONS SUMMARY:

- **Jake & Genevieve/ FN subgroup**: Nation-specific intros to letters
- **Bevan or Genevieve** :
    - MAPS – take rock & ice out for Columbia North or make all maps comparable.
    - More refinement of Tiers on area protected
    -
- **Mateen**
    - Goldstream – FN meeting first, then larger group
    - Graph axis
    - More indigenous context
        - to reach out to absent Nations
- **Deb MacKillop** :
    - adding recreation to economy
    - talk to carbon people at MoF to get the details and bring it back to the table/Nations
- **Genevieve** to:
    - work with Colin to set up a presentation to Parks Canada superintendent on the 3-Tiers. Perhaps together with ECCC managers as well?
    - re-send link to the app to everyone, and walk Edyta through the app info

Where do we go from here- TWG-linkage to bigger process- role/purpose/composition- Brenna Atnikov

- Deferred to next meeting in July to have time to focus on this solely

Roundtable Updates

Aaron – Nakusp mat pen – all animals are doing very well, one cow left to calve (the yearling from last year; late, but still normal range of parturition). 6 males, one female calves. Older cows could maybe account for the skewed sex ratios. Klinse-Za had this happen a couple of years ago. The younger females produced in the last couple of years should bring the ratios back to normal. Need to play the long game.

- In early June had a couple of mortalities, 2 cows. One was a cougar (rare) – difficult to access area for cougar management. The other was a Groundhog cow – immigrated to Columbia North. Spent a couple of days on top of mountain, but fell to her death.

Bevan – trying to pull together the changes made to the Tiers so we quantify outcomes and changes

Colin – Parks Canada – interviewed by CBC (also Arrow Lakes Society) about Columbia South caribou relocation. Will broadcast on August long weekend. Jasper conservation breeding facility too. $1M funding to work on neighbouring herds over next 2 years (Columbia South). Half $M for Jasper. Looking forward to helping with regional planning.

Corey Bird – no updates

Deb – no updates

Edyta – no updates; worked formerly on cumulative effects

Jean – working on Federal caribou recovery strategy amendment. Working with FN communities for input.

Jenn Meilleur – no updates

Marc – restoration subgroup – waiting for initial cut from road work, then move on to assessment and analysis. Okanagan Nation Alliance – shutting down for summer for admin, still doing field work

Genevieve – workshop – restoration on the ground in Valemount in September 19th . Has funding, working on contribution agreements.

Kathi – science team working on many fronts to fill in knowledge gaps – including traditional FN knowledge

Mateen – no further updates

Rhiannon – good meeting with Nicola Bickerton on Backcountry Rec Guidelines

Miles – new hire for restoration work, Julia, started today. ACTION: Miles to send new restoration tech, Julia, email address to Genevieve

Sara D – no updates

WRAP UP

Next meeting in July – agenda items include the purpose of this group and what the group will look like, as well as today's deferred topic on linkages to larger processes in the province.

Ended at 1545h