

Information from BC vet
Information from Park Canada Vet
information from Park Canada
Information from CRP
Information from Rob Serrouya
Info from CRP and Park Canada

Animal well being		
Criteria	Central Selkirk	Columbia North
Animal current state	8- 9 years old - unknown health - could reproduce- most likely not pregnant	
Capture and transport	net-gun capture, sedation and helicopter transport (~30- 40 min) - 90 km-	net-gun capture, sedation and helicopter transport (~30- 40 min)- 70 km
Release	increase mortality risk	
	Soft release	Hard release:
	Soft release in pen with other caribou, recovery from capture, transport in safe environment, veterinarian health monitoring easy, feeding	Hard release, harder to safely shepherd into the herd, uncertainty about landscape acquaintance and animal reaction, veterinarian health monitoring difficult
	facilitates and ensures social bonding with resident animals, ensures a predator-free environment, and eliminates immediate dispersal risk.	The intent is that the caribou would find and join resident caribou after release by locating and following tracks and scent
		Dumping a large amount of lichen and/or caribou food pellets may help anchor her to an area with lots of other Col North caribou.
		Provide food source at the release site
	no clear data on either hard or soft	
	longer period in the pen for bonding	shorter period for bonding in the wild
	Placing her in the pen where she can be fed and monitored and follow other caribou into the alpine upon release gives her the best chance of short-term survival	However, as Dr. Rob Serrouya notes, cow survival in maternity pens has actually proven to be lower than that of wild cows in southern BC- from info provided in Rob's paper to the group last Monday.
	recent work on the Klinse Za herd showed no negative effect of penning on health – findings include slightly lower fecal cortisol in penned animals than free-ranging caribou from the same herd, higher selenium (makes sense, they get an injection upon arrival), and slightly lower inflammatory markers.	The penning success of Klinse Za has not yet been replicated in southern BC and there has already been a cow death in the Central Selkirks pen.
	At first look, the pen may seem like the best way to ensure the short-term welfare of this cow. I do agree with others that holding her under supervision with conspecifics (soft release) and offering supplemental feed may benefit her short-term health and well-being.	I absolutely agree with others that it is possible this cow could make some large or erratic movements post-release and end up at a low elevation in trouble or worse.

	<p>We also believe the cow in question is "older" and her health status is unknown. In my opinion, the risk of penning cannot be discounted in this case.</p>	<p>Due to similar habitat, the presence of a larger caribou population, the capacity for effective reconnaissance using collared cows, and by dropping the translocated cow as near to other caribou as possible (ideally on fresh tracks) the risk may be reduced (erratic movement)</p>
		<p>It is also possible she may not move far from the release site at all.</p>
		<p>We also don't know the true reproductive potential of this cow. Relocating her to a larger, more diverse, and more robust herd may provide an increased opportunity for her to successfully breed and raise a calf or two that are ultimately recruited into the broader population in what remains of her life.</p>
	<p>By the way, the survival rate inside the KlinseZa Pen (central group animals) is much higher than our southern group pens.</p>	<p>Rob Serrouya's opinion paper- high mortality of pregnant cow in the pen- Compared to other penning projects, the RCRW site location was not ideal (too low in the valley) and probably contributed to the in-pen mortalities.</p>

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info from Regional ecologist- Deb MacKillop

Habitat			
Criteria	Central Selkirk	Columbia North	Columbia South
Disturbance <40 years old CC and roads- MATRIX	44	53 (does not include valley bottom private land)	27
Disturbance <40 years old CC and roads- CORE	29	35	29
Protected Area- MATRIX	9	14	15
Protected Area- CORE	90	34	65
Predation- Mortality of cow past 3 years	Wolves and Cougar management		
	Similar Grizzly populations in Central Selkirk North, Columbia South, and Columbia North		
	2 Grizz	1 Wolverine, 1 Wolf	
	caribou will be in the pen- no predator for 4 months	Caribou would be in the wild.	
	higher risk of predation	Lower risk of predation	
Prey- Deer- Moose			
Cow habitat similarity	Less similar to Columbia South	More similar to Columbia South	
	Topography, ecology (plant community, Ecosystems) and snow level are most similar to the caribou current habitat in Columb. South	Due to similar habitat, the presence of a larger caribou population, the capacity for effective reconnaissance using collared cows, and by dropping the translocated cow as near to other caribou as possible (ideally on fresh tracks) the risk may be reduced (erratic movement)	
		It is important to recognize that unlike historical caribou translocations with hard release that have not been successful (i.e. Level-Kawdy to Purcells-South) this scenario would be a "like for like" translocation of caribou into similar habitat. "Like for like" hard release has not been disproven or proven as a viable strategy for mountain caribou translocations to date.	

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Population/Genetic/conservation value			
Criteria	Central Selkirk	Columbia North	Columbia South
Number	28	209	1
Status	Decreasing	Stable	Decreasing
Biological contribution to Herd numbers	Larger % increase	Smaller % increase	
Columbia South genetics conservation	if she has calves (Pen), her genetics will be preserved if the population trend is reversed	if she has calves, her genetics will be preserved if the population trend continues	
		We also don't know the true reproductive potential of this cow. Relocating her to a larger, more diverse, and more robust herd may provide an increased opportunity for her to successfully breed and raise a calf or two that are ultimately recruited into the broader population in what remains of her life.	