

Mountain Caribou Recovery

- [Resources](#)
- [Additional Resources](#)

Although genetically indistinct, Mountain Caribou are a globally unique population as the world's southernmost Caribou population and the only remaining Caribou that live in rugged, mountainous terrain and feed on arboreal lichens in winter (brochure [PDF 308KB](#)). The population has drastically declined over this century, with a sharp decline from about 2500 animals in 1995 to about 1700 in 15 herds today.

The decline of this ecotype is proximally due to high mortality linked to predation and disturbance in the short-term. In the long-term, Mountain caribou are threatened by habitat fragmentation, alteration and loss of old growth forest (for more information on threats to Mountain Caribou, please see background documents below).

In 2005, the Species at Risk Coordination Office (SaRCO), Integrated Land Management Bureau, coordinated the recovery planning for Mountain Caribou. Actions toward recovery planning included:

- Convening a 14 member independent Mountain Caribou Science Team in 2005 to identify core mountain caribou habitat and the necessary management actions to maintain or recover Mountain Caribou throughout their range (see Science Team documents below);
- Developing a DRAFT Mountain Caribou Recovery Strategy released in November, 2006, for the purpose of public consultation on Mountain Caribou recovery (see recovery strategy documents below);
- Engaging other government agencies, environmental groups, community groups, industry and the public in a four month long comprehensive consultation process; and,
- Developing a cross-agency Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan based on Science Team results and informed by consultations for decision by provincially-elected officials in summer 2007.

On October 16, 2007, government announced its endorsement of the Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan (MCRIP) (see news release below). Included among the Province's commitments to Mountain Caribou recovery implementation:

- Protecting 2.2 million hectares, including 95% of high suitability Mountain Caribou habitat, from logging and road building;
- Managing recreation to reduce human disturbance in Mountain Caribou habitat;
- Managing predator and alternate prey populations to reduce predator densities in areas where predation is preventing Mountain Caribou recovery;
- Increasing Caribou subpopulations by transplanting animals from large to small herd areas;
- Ensuring that all components of management proceed through a monitoring-based adaptive management framework; and,

Mountain Caribou Recovery in BC

- Instituting a cross-sector progress board in spring 2008 to monitor the effectiveness of recovery efforts.

In fall 2008, SaRCO was transferred from the Integrated Land Management Bureau to the Ministry of Environment (MoE) in order to transition the coordination role to MoE. At the MoE, staff will support the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations with delivering implementation activities to support the MCRIP. For more information on Mountain Caribou recovery, please call (250) 614-9912.

Government would like to thank all participants who provided comments and recommendations during the Mountain Caribou recovery consultation process. We would like to encourage continued support for the recovery of Mountain Caribou as the success of implementation efforts will require the collaboration of all stakeholders.

Resources

Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan (MCRIP)

- **MCRIP Background Information**

- The current ecological status of Mountain Caribou, including the factors believed to be important in their decline ([Mountain Caribou Situation Analysis](#) - PDF 91KB).
- Mountain Caribou habitat suitability model and associated maps (see [Reduction and Recalibration of Bayesian Models Used to Assess Mountain Caribou Winter Ranges in British Columbia](#) - PDF 90KB)
- Options for proposed incremental habitat for Mountain Caribou within the Timber Harvesting Land Base (see [Analysis of Habitat Options for Forest Industry Stakeholders](#) - PDF 679KB)
- Results from the 2006 Mountain Caribou Population Census, including population trends since 1987: [Mountain Caribou 2006 Population Survey](#) (PDF 923KB). Methods and results of Science Team modeling summarized in two progress reports: [January 2006](#) (PDF 1.0MB) and [March 2006](#) (PDF 1.6MB).
- A description of the broad-scale actions that the Mountain Caribou Science Team considers necessary to meet defined management options for Mountain Caribou by Planning Unit. ([Science Team Management Actions summary](#) - PDF 75KB), [Science Team Management Actions table](#) - PDF 91KB).
- To update the technical perspective on a variety of Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan issues and challenges, the Ministry of Environment on September 15th and 16th, 2009, facilitated a workshop with the Mountain Caribou Science Team. The outcomes of the workshop were captured in a report of recommendations to government. The report is entitled "[A Review of Management Actions to Recover Mountain Caribou in British Columbia](#)" (PDF 417KB).

- **Government's Decision**

- [Announcement](#) (PDF 33KB)
- [Details](#) (PDF 36KB)
- [Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan map](#) (PDF 2.55MB)

- **Management Actions to Support Mountain Caribou Recovery**

- Habitat
 - [Terms of Reference for Protecting Habitat Component](#) (PDF 299KB)
 - [Ungulate Winter Range Orders](#)
 - [Wildlife Habitat Area Orders](#)

Mountain Caribou Recovery in BC

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<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/speciesconservation/mc/index.html>

- [Wildlife Habitat Areas and Ungulate Winter Range \(8.5x11 map\)](#) (PDF 347KB)
- [Mineral Exploration Permit Conditions and Guidelines](#) (PDF 1.88MB)
- [Heli- and Cat-skiing Standard Operating Practices and Guidelines](#) (PDF 565KB)
- Silviculture Options for Mountain Caribou
<http://www.forrex.org/publications/other/ProjectReports/hamilton.pdf>
- [Terms of Reference for Forest Health Component](#) (PDF 23KB)
 - Forest Health Guidance(coming soon)

o Recreation

- Public Recreation
 - [Terms of Reference for Snowmobiling Component](#) (PDF 59KB)
 - [A Framework to Determine How to Implement Snowmobile Closures and Stewardship Management Agreements \(SMA\)](#) (PDF 27KB)
 - [A Flow Chart to Guide the Decision Process for Implementing Snowmobile Closures and Stewardship Management Agreements \(SMA\)](#) (PDF 27KB)
 - [Mapped areas closed to Snowmobiling under the Wildlife Act](#)
 - [Snowmobile-Mountain Caribou Interactions: Perceptions and Trends in Caribou Displacement](#) (PDF 740KB)
- Commercial Recreation
 - Memoranda of Understanding Regarding Management of Helicat and Snow-cat Skiing in Mountain Caribou Habitats
 - [Mike Wiegele Helicopter Skiing](#) (PDF 290KB)
 - [Helicat Canada](#) (PDF 296KB)
 - [Terms of Reference for Commercial Winter Recreation Component](#) (PDF 29KB)
 - [Heli and Catskiing Compliance and Effectiveness Monitoring of SOPs](#) (PDF 378 KB)
 - [Heli and Catskiing Operating Procedures Monitoring Form](#) (71.7 KB)
 - [Heli and Catskiing Wildlife Sighting Template](#) (101 KB)
 - [Definitions of Wildlife Sighting Template](#) (39.4 KB)
 - Section 16 Land Act Map Reserves
 - [Five Year Moratorium](#) (PDF 117KB)
 - [Amendment to One Year Moratorium](#) (PDF 172KB)
 - Section 16 Maps

Link to PDF	Planning Unit
SW Kootenay (PDF 3.85MB)	Planning Unit 1A
SE Kootenay (PDF 4.71MB)	Planning Unit 1B
South Monashee (PDF 5.76MB)	Planning Unit 2A
Central Kootenays (PDF 5.9MB)	Planning Unit 2B
Revelstoke - Shuswap (PDF 6.84MB)	Planning Unit 3A
Kinbasket (PDF 4MB)	Planning Unit 3B
Wells Gray - Thompson (PDF 4.25MB)	Planning Unit 4A
Upper Fraser (PDF 4.7MB)	Planning Unit 5A
Quesnel Highlands (PDF 5MB)	Planning Unit 5B
Hart Ranges (PDF 4MB)	Planning Unit 6

Mountain Caribou Recovery in BC

3

Pasted Wednesday, September 14, 2011

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/speciesconservation/mc/index.html>

- **Management Actions (cont.)**

- Predator/Prey Management
 - [Terms of Reference for Predator/Prey Component](#) (PDF 39KB)
 - [Interim Strategy for Predator/Prey Management Actions in Support of Mountain Caribou Recovery](#) (PDF 117KB)
 - [Recommendations for Predator/Prey Management Actions in Support of Mountain Caribou Recovery](#) (PDF 976KB)
- Augmentation Management
 - [Augmentation Plan for the Purcells-South Mountain Caribou Population](#) (PDF 3.51MB)
- Adaptive Management
 - [Terms of Reference for Adaptive Management Component](#) (PDF 39KB)
 - [Adaptive Management Strategy](#) (PDF 460KB)
 - [Terms of Reference for Adaptive Management Team](#) (PDF 26KB)
- Cross-Sector Progress Board
 - [Terms of Reference for Cross-Sector Progress Board Component](#) (PDF 36KB)
 - Progress Board Updates and Annual Reports
 - [April, 2008](#) (PDF 39KB)
 - [February 2009 Update](#) PDF (221KB)
 - [2009/2010 Annual Report](#) (PDF 249KB)
 - [2010/2011 Annual Report](#) (PDF 631KB)

Additional Resources

- [Environmental Stewardship Division](#) (MOE)
- [Endangered Species and Ecosystems](#)
- [British Columbia Conservation Data Centre](#)
- [Environment Canada Species at Risk Database](#)
- [Species at Risk Act Public Registry](#)
- [Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada \(COSEWIC\)](#)
- [Mountain Caribou and Mineral Exploration](#)