



June 10, 2021

Dear Community Representative:

The Province is committed to the recovery of southern mountain caribou. As you know, various pressures on this species have threatened its long-term survival in our province. These threats are brought on by ongoing climate change and impacts to its habitat resulting in declining numbers in most parts of its range. In an attempt to reverse this trend, the Province entered into the *Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement for the Conservation of the Central Group of the Southern Mountain Caribou* (“Partnership Agreement”) between West Moberly First Nations, Saluteau First Nations, and the Federal Government on February 21, 2020.

This historic agreement takes bold steps to stabilize and recover caribou in this part of its range. The measures in the agreement are intended to immediately stabilize and expeditiously grow the population of the Central Group to levels that are self-sustaining and support traditional aboriginal harvesting activities, consistent with existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

Key activities in the Partnership Agreement include: areas of habitat protection measures, management of winter motorized recreation and development of Land Use Objectives to guide resource development in these important areas. Some of these measures are already in development and some have been completed.

In an effort to ensure a transparent analysis process, the Province is commissioning a contractor to perform analysis and provide a socio-economic analysis to further document impacts and benefits resulting from this important agreement.

In addition, for those measures still in progress, this document will help guide decisions to ensure the commitments in the agreement are met and impacts associated with those decisions are documented and mitigated to the extent practicable.

To ensure this analysis project considers all information in providing the results of the assessment, we are seeking to form a committee to help develop a contract that will meet the needs of the province and represent all potential forms of impact and benefit. In addition, this committee would provide advice to the contractor on key measures to consider and sectors or stakeholders that should be consulted.

If you or one of your members would like to participate in this process or have questions please contact Katie Connah at [Katie.Connah@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Katie.Connah@gov.bc.ca). To provide maximum value of this work we look forward to starting as soon as reasonable, therefore please indicate your interest in participation by June 18, 2021 if possible.

Page 1 of 2

Sincerely,

Russ Laroche  
Executive Director, Species at Risk Recovery  
Resource Stewardship Division

pc: Katie Connah, Project Administrator, Regional Operations Division – North Area  
Heather Wiebe, Director, Caribou Recovery, Resource Stewardship Division