



# REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: DS-BRD-077

From: Shawn Dahlen, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: September 28, 2020

**Subject: Designated Interest Area for Southern Mountain Caribou Recovery in the PRRD**

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## **RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board receive the report titled "Designated Interest Area for Southern Mountain Caribou Recovery in the Peace River Regional District", which provides an overview of the areas of interest to be alienated and unencumbered by the Government of British Columbia to preserve and grow Caribou population, for discussion.

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

The Government of British Columbia signed the *Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement for the Conservation of the Central Group of the Southern Mountain Caribou* with Saulteau First Nations and West Moberly First Nations on February 21, 2020. That agreement established new conservation measures and protected areas within the habitat of the Central Group of Southern Mountain Caribou.

On September 21, 2020, the PRRD received three FrontCounter referrals for Section 17 Conditional Withdrawal of lands for the conservation of the Central Group of the Southern Mountain Caribou. The lands to be alienated and unencumbered are located on the attached maps and identified as Interest Areas "A2", "B2", and "B3".

The Province intends to alienate the designated lands to expedite the growth of the population of the Central Group of Southern Mountain Caribou to levels that are self-sustaining, and support traditional aboriginal harvesting activities, consistent with existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

Staff have compiled information on the proposed impacted areas of interest and identified the impacted PRRD Official Community Plans and Zoning Bylaws, as well as applicable land use designations and zones. The intent of this research was for the PRRD to review current plans and policies and how they apply to the areas identified for caribou conservation.

It should be noted that many of the PRRD's Official Community Plans were developed prior to any discussions regarding the preservation of Caribou populations in the region, and therefore any related language is minimal and general in nature.

### Summary of Findings

A total of 570,755.33 ha of lands identified as the interest area for the conservation of the Southern Mountain Caribou populations fall within the PRRD. The PRRD's total land base is 11,979,802 ha. The interest area equates to 4.79% of the PRRD's total land base. Of that total 8,935.77 ha (1.6%) fall within the PRRD's planning areas.

In general, the majority of the areas of interest for the conservation of the Central Group of the Southern Mountain Caribou are unsurveyed crown land and situated away from development. Table 1 demonstrates the interest area as they relate to the Peace River Regional District and planning area.

Interest Area	Size of Interest Area	Portion of Interest Area within the PRRD	Portion of Interest Area within the PRRD Planning Area	PRRD OCP Bylaws Impacted  PRRD Rural Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1940, 2011	PRRD Zoning Bylaws Impacted  Zoning Bylaw No. 85, 1979
A2	556,876.11 ha	398,410.14 ha (71.5%)	2,006.11 ha (0.5%)	Agricultural Rural (Ag-Rural)	Small Holding Zone I (RU1)
B2	3,634.96 ha	3,634.96 ha (100%)	0	No	No
B3	168,710.23 ha	168,710.23 ha (100%)	6,929.66 ha (4.1%)	Agricultural Rural (Ag-Rural)  Residential (R) Light Industrial (LI)	Small Holding Zone I (RU1)  Tourist Commercial (C1)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>729,221.30 ha</b>	<b>570,755.33 ha (78.3%)</b>	<b>8,935.77 ha (1.6%)</b>		

Table 1: An overview of the proposed Interest Area for Caribou preservation in relation to PRRD lands.

The following are observations as they relate to each interest area.

### A2 Interest Area

#### Official Community Plan

There is a total of 398,410.14 ha (71.5%) of the A2 interest area located within the PRRD. Of that, a total of 2,006.11 ha (0.5%) are located within the PRRD planning area, designated Agricultural Rural (Ag Rural) in the PRRD Rural Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1940, 2011.

#### Zoning

A total of 2,006.11 ha (0.5%) of the A2 interest area are zoned Rural and Small Holding Zone I (RU1) in the Peace River-Liard Regional District Zoning Bylaw No. 85, 1979.

### **B2 Interest Area**

The entire B2 interest area is located within the PRRD, for a total of 3,634.96 ha (100%). None of the B2 interest area located within the PRRD planning area.

### **B3 Interest Area**

#### **Official Community Plan**

The entire B3 interest area is located within the PRRD, for a total of 168,710.23 ha (100%). Of that, 6,929.66 ha (4.1%) are located within the PRRD's planning area. A total of 6,915.35 ha (99%), is designated as Agricultural Rural (Ag Rural), 12.19 ha (<0.1%) is designated as Residential (R), and 2.12 ha (<0.1%) is designated as Light Industrial (LI) in the PRRD Rural Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1940, 2011. The remaining lands are located outside of the PRRD planning area.

#### **Zoning**

A total of 1,762.46 ha of the B3 interest area is zoned as Small Holding Zone I (RU1) and 16.79 ha (<1.0%) is zoned Tourist Commercial in the Peace River-Liard Regional District Zoning Bylaw No. 85, 1979.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- ☒ Partnerships
  - ☒ Collaboration with the Government of British Columbia
  - ☒ Collaboration with the First Nation Governments

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

### **COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

### **OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

#### **Attachments:**

1. Map of A2, B2, and B3 Interest Area