

# Indigenous-led conservation

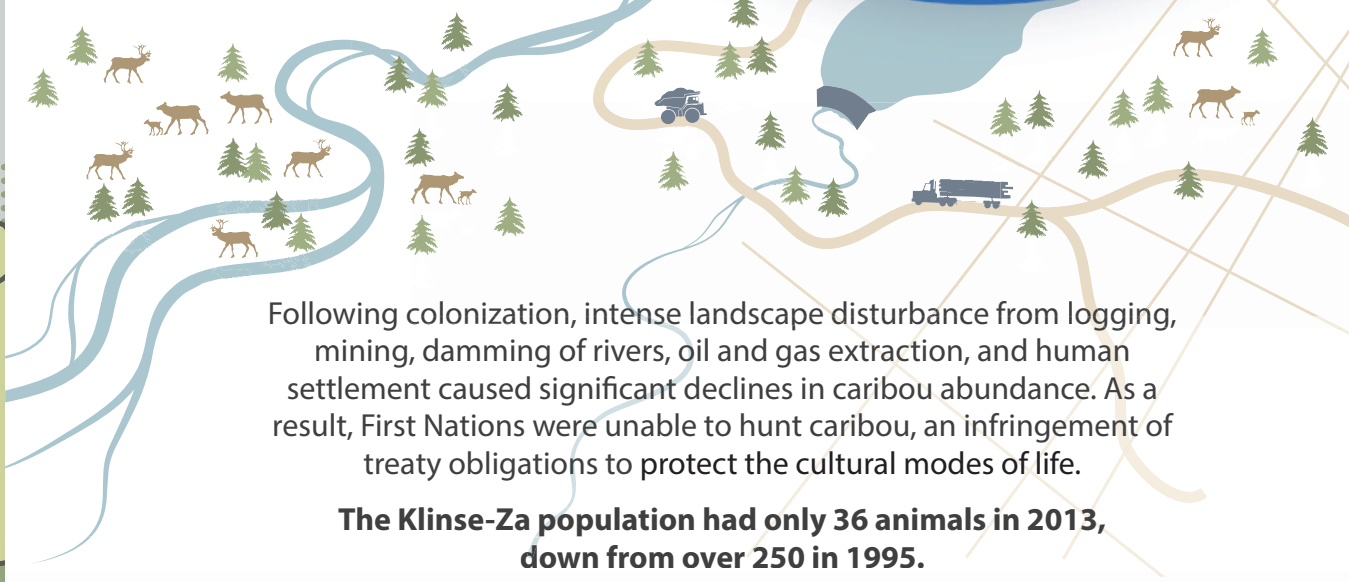
*pathways to recovery for the nearly extirpated Klinse-Za mountain caribou*

Wadzih/Atihk (caribou) have long been a central component of the livelihood and culture of many Indigenous Peoples.

\*wadzih and atihk are the Dunne-za and Cree words for caribou, respectively



In central British Columbia, Canada, Elders from West Moberly First Nations say a **"sea of caribou"** once roamed **"like bugs on the landscape."**



Not accepting the loss of these caribou, West Moberly First Nations and Saulteau First Nations implemented a rapid recovery program to increase caribou abundance so that they could one day hunt caribou again.

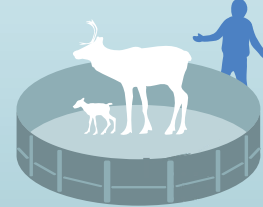
## MULTI-PRONGED APPROACH:

### SHORT-TERM RECOVERY ACTIONS

REDUCE PREDATOR ABUNDANCE  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH PROVINCIAL EFFORTS



MATERNAL PEN  
TO INCREASE SPRING CALF SURVIVAL



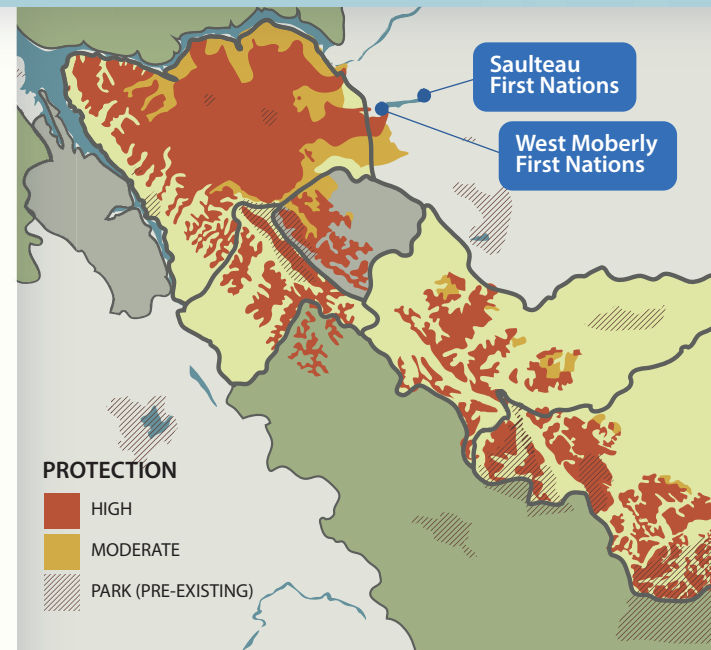
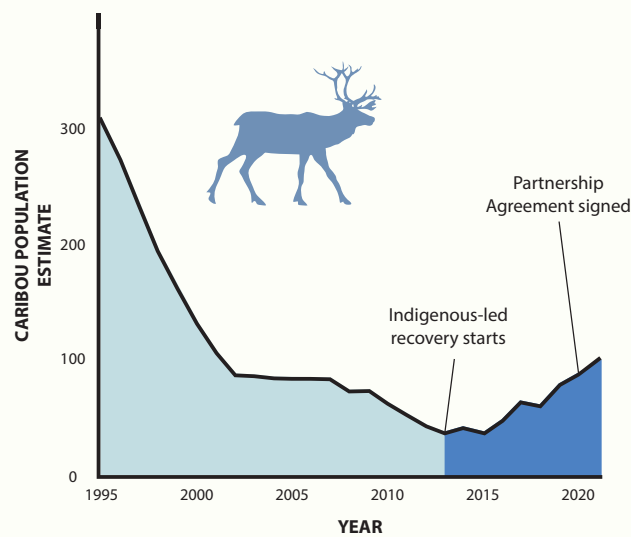
### LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

SECURE AND RESTORE THE LANDSCAPE  
SO IT WOULD ONCE AGAIN SUSTAIN CARIBOU



The outcome of these efforts has been an increase in caribou abundance from 36 in 2013 to 101 in 2021.

Further, the Nations secured a landmark conservation agreement where **8,000 km<sup>2</sup> will be secured for caribou conservation and restoration.**



This work highlights the role Indigenous Peoples can play in wildlife conservation, and how caribou conservation is at the center of legal, economic, ecological, and cultural issues.

Caribou illustrations by **Brandon Cameron, Saulteau First Nations**  
Infographic by Kate at Fuse Consulting

