Indigenous-led conservation

KLINSE-ZA

(ENNEDY SIDING

MOUNTAIN CARIBOU

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

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

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

NARRAWAY

Saulteau First Nations

West Moberly First Nations

QUINTETTE

EXTIRPATED

HISTORIC RANGE

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

> Following colonization, intense landscape disturbance from logging, mining, damming of rivers, oil and gas extraction, and human settlement caused significant declines in caribou abundance. As a result, First Nations were unable to hunt caribou, an infringement of treaty obligations to protect the cultural modes of life.

The Klinse-Za population had only 36 animals in 2013, down from over 250 in 1995.

MULTI-PRONGED APPROACH:

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.

SHORT-TERM RECOVERY ACTIONS

REDUCE PREDATOR ABUNDANCE IN CONJUNCTION WITH PROVINCIAL EFFORTS

MATERNAL PEN TO INCREASE SPRING CALF SURVIVAL



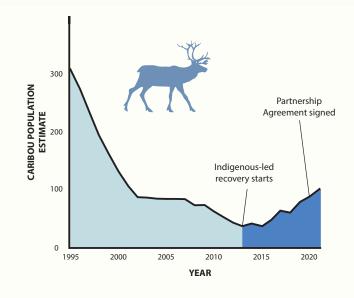
LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

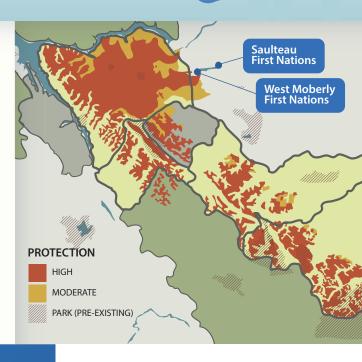
SECURE AND RESTORE THE LANDSCAPE SO IT WOULD ONCE AGAIN SUSTAIN CARIBOU



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 km² 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









