

# Assessing Southern Mountain Caribou Recovery

Woodland caribou recovery is a complex conservation challenge. Human-caused land alteration has created the ideal conditions for deer and moose to thrive. As a result, wolf populations have increased, putting unsustainable predation pressure on caribou.

## KLINSE-ZA



WOLF  
REDUCTION



MATERNITY  
PENNING

In response to the rapid declines of the Klinse-Za southern mountain caribou herd, an Indigenous-led collaboration initiated multiple recovery actions.

## QUINETTE



WOLF  
REDUCTION

An adjacent herd, Quintette, managed by the Province of B.C. received wolf reduction only.

To assess the effectiveness of these recovery actions, we combined survival, recruitment, and abundance data from each herd within an Integrated Population Model.

Together, these recovery actions increased adult female survival, calf recruitment, and overall population growth, **more than doubling abundance:**



## QUINETTE



## KLINSE-ZA



+



2/3 FROM  
WOLF REDUCTION

1/3 FROM  
MATERNITY PENNING

Wolf reductions alone would have only stabilized the Klinse-Za herd.

Application of two recovery actions allowed for expeditious growth; a condition thought to improve the likelihood of successful recovery.

While maternity penning and wolf reductions can support caribou in the short-term, especially for herds that will be lost if nothing is done, **long-term habitat protection and restoration efforts are critical to sustaining caribou populations into the future.**

McNay et al. (2022) Ecological Applications.

Infographic by Fuse Consulting

