



Maternal Penning to Enhance Survival of Caribou within the Klinse-Za Herd

External: Issued May 19, 2017

This external memo is forwarded to report on events and conditions occurring since the caribou cow capture that took place on March 22 and 23, 2017.



Figure 1. Scenes from inside the 2017 Klinse-Za maternity pen: caribou eating lichen (left) and the first calf of the season (right). Thanks to Florian Graner for the great picture of the cow eating arboreal lichen.

Days in pen → 57

Days to release → 64

Summary of significant events since capture

- Evidence would suggest that one of the cows aborted her pregnancy ~ April 15th. The first healthy calf was born on May 11th (see above).
- Snow conditions at the pen have been very different this year – very deep snowpack late in the year meant we needed to shovel snow around the pen perimeter to lessen the chance of predators jumping into the pen and allowing us to activate the electric fence. Thanks again to the team from the Mackenzie Fire Base for helping us with that.
- We began collecting fecal pellets as a part of a new study on health of the penned caribou.



- We had a videographer (Florian Graner) visit the pen to take close-up photographs of the caribou to fill a short segment needed for a film on the Nature Conservancy of Canada Darkwoods property in southern BC
- We hosted the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program Board members at the pen on May 10th.
- There have been no other incidents to report. Cows are feeding well and all seem to be in fair to good condition.



Figure 2. Fire crews helping to remove snow around the outer perimeter of the pen.

Other news

- As part of the FWCP (Peace Region visit) we constructed a table of the cumulative, 3-year results (see below).
- The 2016 final year-end report is now complete and has been, or will soon be, uploaded to the FWCP and HCTF websites.

Table 1. Cumulative results for the Klinse-Za maternity pen.

Year	Wolves removed		Cows In pen	Preg - nant	Failed	Calves born	Deaths in pen ^a	Released ^a	Pen deaths outside ^a	Survived full year ^a	Wild death ^a	Wild calf survival	Pop' n size	Collars	
	Ground	Air												Pen	Wild
2013	22												32		04
2014	20		10	10	0	10	0f,1c	10f,09c	2f,5c	08f,04c	2f	2c	40	10	05
2015	20	69	11	09	2	07	0f,2c	11f,05c	0f,0c	11f,05c	0f	4c	42	11	06
2016	46	57	14	13	2	11	1f,0c	13f,11c	0f,4c	13f,07c	3f,2m	5c	54 ^b	13	09
2017	35	26	09										61	09	13

a- Where f is adult females, c is calf, and m is adult male;

b- Includes 3 immigrants



Important dates

- May 29th – Níkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society general meeting .

Funding update

We now have ~\$ 540,000 confirmed funds (of the \$550,000 necessary) for the 2017 penning year so far – so pretty much there. Welcome to BC Hydro and BC Wildfire Services as new sponsors and a very genuine thanks to all the supporters of the 2017, and previous years, maternity pens.



The teams:

- Níkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society
 - West Moberly First Nations (Chief Roland Willson/Tamara Dokkie)
 - Saulteau First Nations (Estelle Lavis/Naomi Owens)
- Caribou Mat Pen Working Group¹
 - West Moberly First Nations (George Desjarlais/Jason Lee, alt - Jeff Richert)
 - Saulteau First Nations (Naomi Owens/Carmen Marshall)
 - Wildlife Infometrics (Scott McNay/Brian Pate, alt - Line Giguere)
- Mat Pen Technical Advisory Team²
 - Little Smokey penning trial (Kirby Smith)
 - Revelstoke penning trial (Rob Serrouya/Kelsey Furk)
 - UNBC (Kathy Parker)
 - FLNRO (Chris Addison/Chis Ritchie/Helen Schwantje)
 - MOE (Dale Seip)
- Support teams – capture specialists, veterinarian team, shepherds, lichen collectors

¹ The Caribou Mat Pen Working Group is a committee appointed by the Níkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society.

² The Mat Pen Technical Advisory Team is an ad hoc committee chosen by the Working Group to obtain technical advice.