



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

External: Issued June 09, 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 the 2017 Klinse-Za maternity pen: Cow and her calf walking in meadow (left) and grizzly paw print found near pen (right).

Days in pen → 78

Days to release → 43

Summary of significant events since capture

- Total calf count for this year is as follows: 9 cows pregnant to start, 1 abortion, 1 stillborn, leaving us with 7 calves to date.
- We have been keeping a close eye on the last calf that was born. She didn't seem to be as healthy as the rest and was not using one of her hind legs. However, she is now 17 days old, looks better, is using her leg and so we think she is probably out of trouble.
- The snow is completely gone from in and around the pen, and therefore full operation of the electrical fence is a priority.



- There have been no compromises to the pen. However a grizzly was found within approx. 20m of the pen (see photo of print above). The grizzly left the area when an unknowing work crew arrived on the scene, probably scaring the bear off; it has not returned since.
- In the past week, several other bears have been seen in the vicinity of the pen and one had to be dispatched by the shepherds. Around the same time, tracks and a broken electric wire at the pen was evidence that a bear had likely tried entering the pen area.
- According to relocations of radio-collared wolves, there is some evidence that wolves may have established a den site about 8km from the pen so shepherds are currently investigating that.
- First phase (pre-calving) of the pellet collection is now completed for both wild and penned caribou. The next phase (post-calving) will be happening soon. This study will be used to contrast health/stress levels of penned vs. wild caribou, among many other comparisons.



Figure 2. Collecting pellets from the wild population.



Other news

- On May 10th, we hosted the FWCP (Peace Region) board members to a visit at the mat pen site.
- May 29th the Níkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society held a general meeting. During this meeting we discussed, among other things, selection of a new site for the mat pen in 2018.
- The 2016 final year-end report is now complete and has been uploaded to the FWCP website.
- On June 06th, we hosted the BC Governments' new management team that is going to provide a specific focus on caribou recovery in BC.
- There were a couple of mistakes in the cumulative data results from the pen sent in the last newsletter so we have fixed those errors and present the corrected version of the table below.

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	3	07	0f,1c	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	09	2	07							61	09	13

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

b- Includes 3 immigrants

Important dates

- June 14th – next meeting of the Níkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society with a specific focus on caribou habitat restoration projects.
- June 15th – next pellet collections in the wild and will pick up dropped calf collars from previous years.
- Mid-June – HCTF board members' visit to the mat pen.



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. 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.