



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

External: Issued August 16th, 2018



Days in pen → 141 (Released)

Days in the wild → 15

2018 was another successful year of maternity penning for the Klinse-Za/Scott East herd! Twelve cows, two juveniles, and nine new calves were safely released without any incident.

The caribou were released from the maternity pen on July 31<sup>st</sup> after spending 141 days in the maternity pen on Mt. Rochfort. In contrast to the previous four years, all of animals left as one group at ~6:30pm.



Figure 1. Maternity pen crew opening up a section of the pen to allow the animals to leave



The maternity pen crew cleared out a section of trees that lead to another small meadow. From that meadow a trail was cut to the alpine in order to expedite the caribou's travel to the safety of the alpine and away from several grizzly bears that had been seen around the pen throughout the season.



Figure 2. Meadow just outside of the pen. Feed troughs with lichen were used to entice the caribou out of the pen. One of the Guardians can be seen standing by the pen perimeter, watching the caribou they have protected all year, explore their new home.

Video footage from trail cameras showed that the caribou began to browse the natural forage immediately upon release in the new meadow.



Figure 3. Caribou were hesitant at first to cross the boundary that they have been enclosed in since mid-March, but once C313K started the movement the rest of the group followed suit.

The caribou remained in one large group for the first week and stayed in an area close to Mount Rochfort. They have since split off into several groups. One caribou has crossed the clearwater valley back to the Scott East herd, another caribou headed north towards the peace arm; several caribou still





remain close to the new pen site- providing hope that by moving the maternity pens around the herd area we will be able help distribute caribou back to their entire traditional habitat.



Figure 4. The group of caribou along the alpine ridge of Mt. Rochfort; above the new maternity pen. Caribou seen foraging and utilizing caribou habitat that was historically used by the herd.

### Thanks to our sponsors<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Current and historic