

## Predator reduction for caribou recovery: five-year plan approved

Authorizations are now in place for a predator reduction program to begin in selected caribou herds throughout B.C., following a consultation and public engagement process completed in 2021.

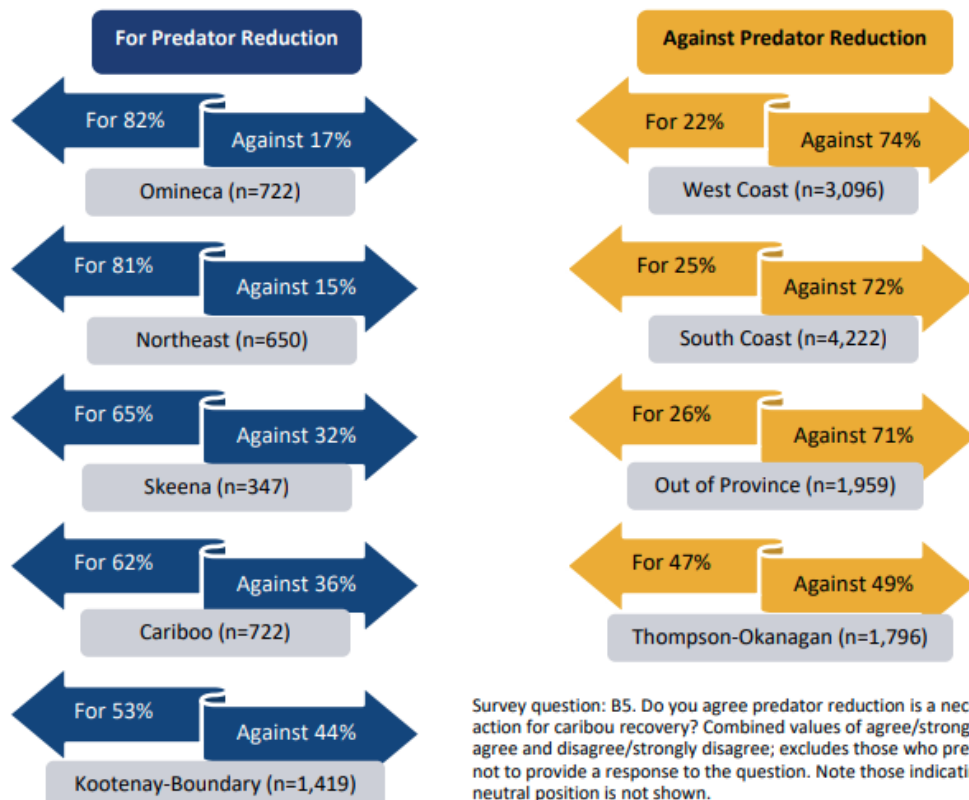
Predator reduction (i.e., reducing the density of wolf populations and removing some cougars from caribou habitat) has been approved under the *Wildlife Act* and *Parks Act* for a five-year implementation window, beginning the winter of 2021-22.

While public opinion is taken very seriously, wildlife management in BC considers many factors and is primarily science-based. The science and population monitoring has demonstrated that reducing wolf densities in caribou recovery areas is one of few short-term management options that will effectively halt or reverse caribou population declines and prevent extirpation.

Predator reduction can and has had immediate, positive impacts on caribou populations, particularly when used with multiple management tools as is done in British Columbia. For example, the Klinse-za (Scott/Moberly) herd has grown from 42 animals to 101 since wolf reduction measures began in 2015 in conjunction with maternity penning.

The 2021 consultation and engagement process indicate that British Columbians have a range of opinions about this caribou recovery action. EngageBC survey results showed:

- 98% of the 15,196 respondents feel that caribou recovery is important to them
- 42% of the respondents from British Columbia were in support of predator reduction (Note: 1,959 responses from people outside of British Columbia were removed from this calculation).
- People in areas where caribou occur indicated greater support for application of this management tool (53% to 82%), compared to other areas of the province (22% to 47%).



Source: Table 4.1 from Predator Reduction for Caribou Recovery Engagement Survey: What We Heard

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2022/01/WWHR-Predator-Reduction-For-Caribou-Recovery-Final-Report-JAN2022.pdf>