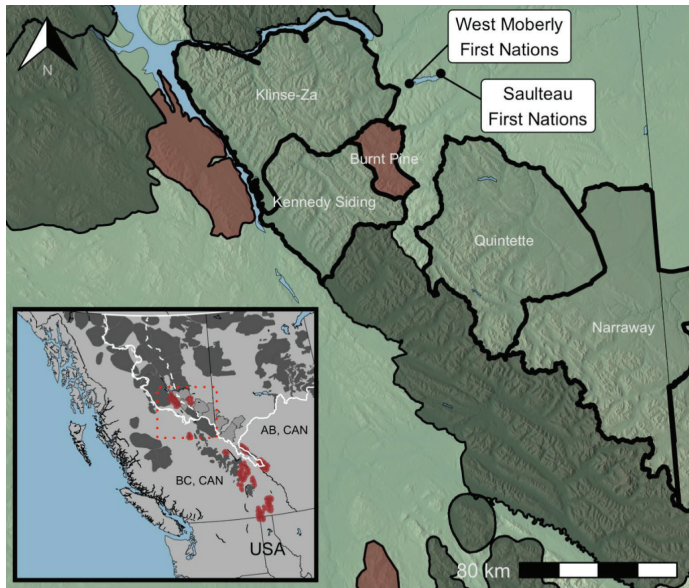


Indigenous-led conservation:

pathways to recovery for the nearly extirpated Klinse-Za mountain caribou



Caribou have long been a central component of the livelihood and culture of many Indigenous Peoples.



In Central, British Columbia, Canada, Elders from West Moberly First Nations say a “sea of caribou” once roamed the landscape, which were “like bugs on the landscape”.



Following colonization, intense landscape disturbance from logging, mining, damming of rivers, oil and gas extraction, and human settlement, caused significant declines in caribou abundance. The Klinse-Za population, had only 36 animals in 2013, down from >300 in 1995.

Not accepting the loss of these caribou, the West Moberly First Nations and Sauleau First Nations implemented a rapid recovery program to increase caribou abundance so that they could one day hunt caribou again.

Multi-pronged approach:

SHORT-TERM RECOVERY ACTIONS

REDUCE PREDATOR ABUNDANCE IN CONJUNCTION WITH PROVINCIAL EFFORTS



MATERNAL PEN

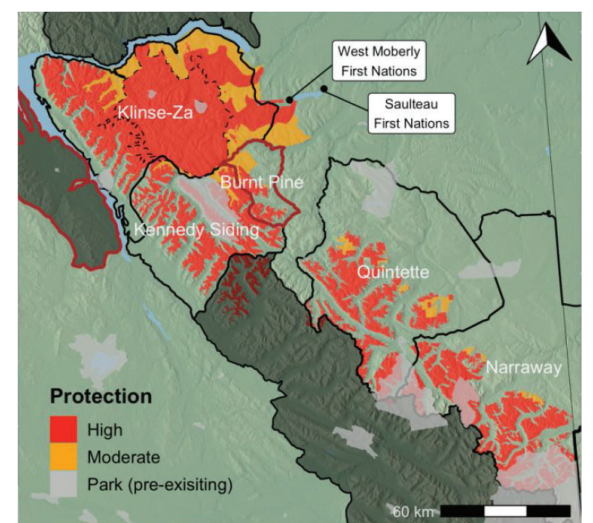
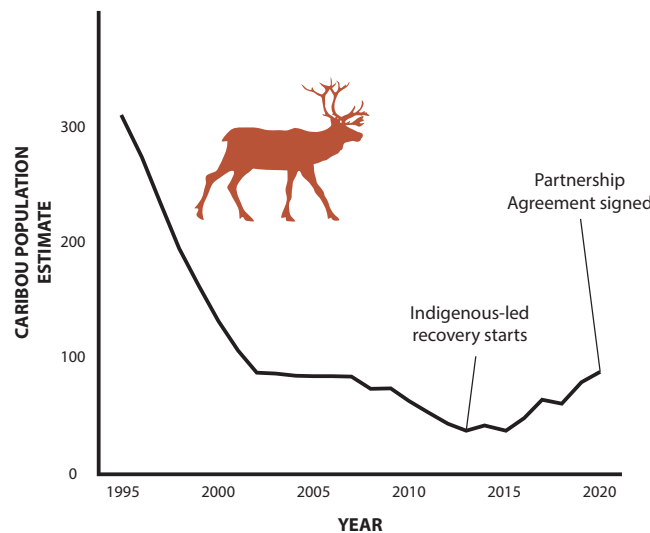


LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

SECURE AND RESTORE THE LANDSCAPE SO IT WOULD ONCE AGAIN SUSTAIN CARIBOU



The outcome of these efforts has been an increase in caribou abundance from 36 in 2013 to 101 in 2021. Further, the Nations secured a landmark conservation agreement where ~8,000 km² will be secured for caribou conservation and restoration.



This work highlights the role Indigenous Peoples can play in wildlife conservation, and how caribou conservation is at the center of legal, economic, ecological, and cultural issues.