

How are caribou responding to predator reductions in B.C.?

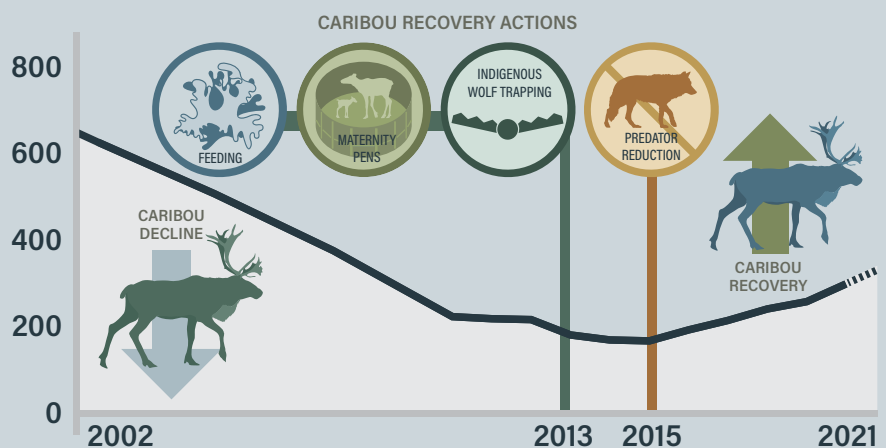
Woodland caribou recovery is a key priority of the Province of British Columbia (B.C.). Human-caused habitat alteration, the ultimate cause of caribou declines in B.C., has disrupted predator-prey dynamics. This has boosted populations of wolves and their primary prey, and provided wolves easy access into caribou habitat.

Predator reduction is an emergency, short-term recovery action to support caribou recovery while long-term solutions are implemented. In 2015, B.C. began predator reduction efforts in select caribou ranges where unsustainable predation from wolves caused declines in caribou. Early monitoring efforts suggest several of these herds have responded positively to predator reduction.

Herds in the South Peace have increased following predator reduction

Caribou herds in the South Peace region have had predator reduction for the longest period of time, therefore these are the herds for which the best data are available. These herds also had other short-term recovery actions, such as maternal penning and supplemental feeding.

The three herds in the South Peace (Klinse-Za, Kennedy Siding, and Quintette) **have increased by a combined ~81% since the initiation of aerial wolf reduction.** Calf survival has increased by about 25% compared to pre-reduction numbers, and adult female survival has increased by about 13%.



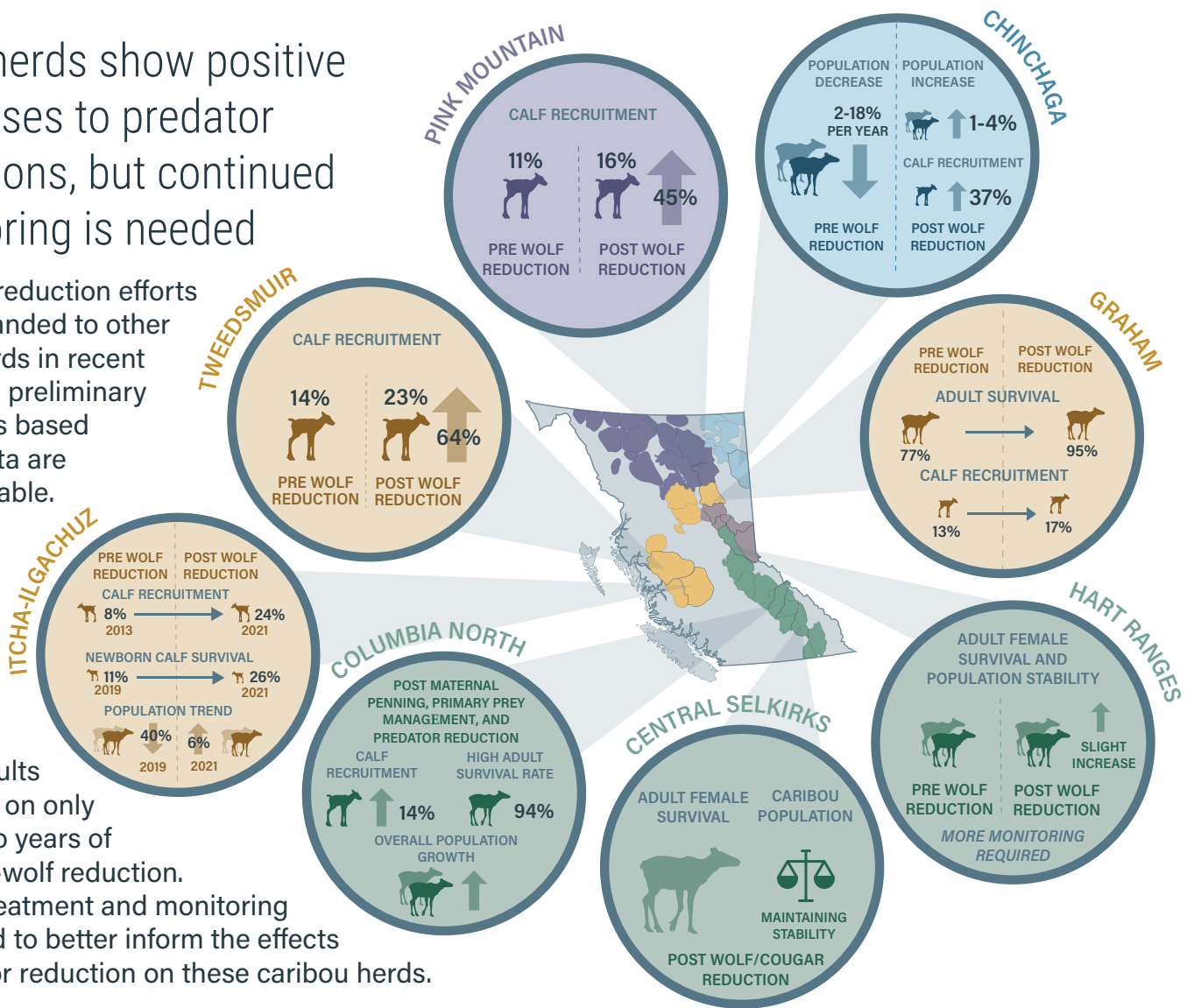
CARIBOU POPULATION RESPONSE RELATIVE TO RECOVERY ACTIONS

Increases in caribou numbers in the South Peace reflect a response to the combined effect of multiple recovery action levers.

Other herds show positive responses to predator reductions, but continued monitoring is needed

Predator reduction efforts have expanded to other select herds in recent years and preliminary responses based on the data are now available.

These results are based on only one or two years of data post-wolf reduction. Further treatment and monitoring is required to better inform the effects of predator reduction on these caribou herds.



Predator reduction is part of a multi-level approach to recover caribou

The strongest increases in caribou numbers occur where and when multiple recovery actions are occurring, including short-term actions like predator reductions.

EXAMPLES OF SHORT TERM RECOVERY ACTIONS

EXAMPLES OF LONG TERM RECOVERY ACTIONS

SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING

MATERNAL PENS

PREDATOR REDUCTIONS

CHANGES TO INDUSTRY PRACTICES

RESTORATION

HABITAT PROTECTION



Reducing predator populations to support caribou recovery is a tremendous responsibility. B.C.'s predator reduction programs are delivered with a high level of oversight by professional biologists through adaptive management. Reduction methods are consistent with the current veterinary guidelines for euthanasia of wildlife in field conditions, and follow the applicable policies and procedures for predator reduction.

