



Arrow Lakes Caribou Society

Mt Jordan Habitat Restoration Project

Information Session – January 21, 2026

AGENDA

PURPOSE: to provide information and an opportunity for public and stakeholder respectful input, dialogue and questions; gauge support for the project

1. Arrow Lakes Caribou Society
 - Introduction of panellists
 - Meeting Format and Google Meet tools
 - Society Background and support
2. Context for caribou habitat restoration
 - Central Selkirk herd status
 - Other recovery actions
3. Habitat restoration objectives
 - Long-term recovery action
 - Limit predator and human disturbance
 - Types of habitat restoration
4. Habitat restoration project background
5. Treatment area selection process
 - Preliminary planning, filter and rank potential areas
 - Field reconnaissance
 - Collar data analysis and connectivity mapping
6. Mt Jordan project area description
 - Other considerations
7. Q&A / Discussion

Q & A:

Please hold your questions until the end of the presentation. We will have a dedicated period of time for questions.

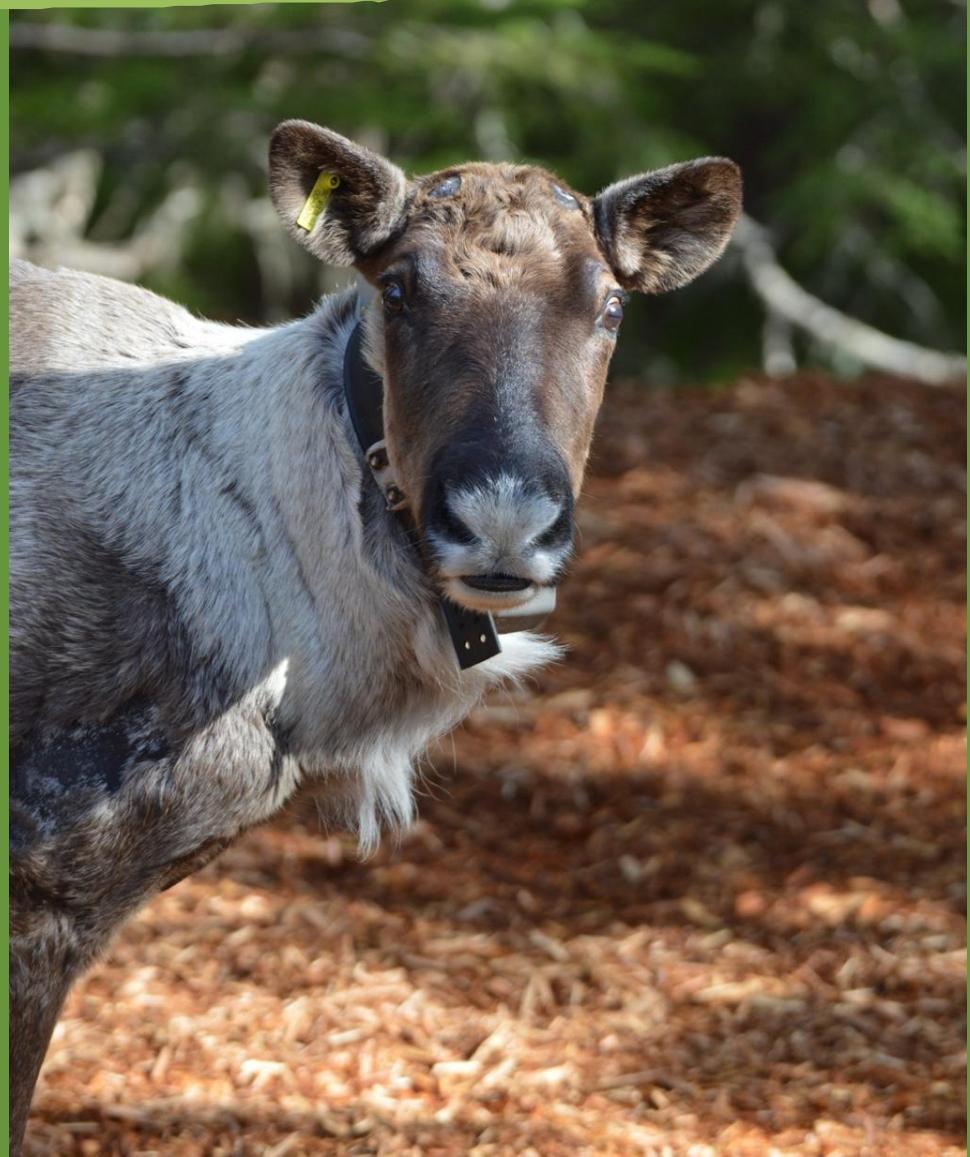
If a participant would like to ask a question, please state your name, community, and group/ affiliation before your question. We will be recording this session and questions to summarize for future information sharing.

Arrow Lakes Caribou Society

Arrow Lakes Caribou Society is a non-profit society in Nakusp focused on the recovery and management of the Central Selkirk subpopulation of Southern Mountain woodland caribou.

ALCS was created in 2019 by local land-user groups and community stakeholders.

The Society's **Vision** is a transparent, cooperative, and collaborative approach to land use decision making, where decisions about local land use are evidence-based and result in integrated land use decisions that address caribou recovery while reflecting local values and needs.



ALCS Support

ALCS has many supporters, both locally and internationally, including:

- Local and provincial government
- Recreation groups (snowmobiling, ATV, Rod and Gun club, ski clubs, bike society)
- Industry representatives (forestry, heli-skiing)
- First Nations (Sinixt Confederacy, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Kalispel Tribe, BC First Nations)



Financial support has been received from individual supporters, local companies and groups, Indigenous groups, and local and provincial governments.

ALCS is governed by a board of directors representing land users and stakeholders with an interest in caribou recovery.



Central Selkirk Caribou Herd

The Central Selkirk herd is the **southernmost population** of mountain caribou in North America.

The herd is experiencing a **drastic population decline**:

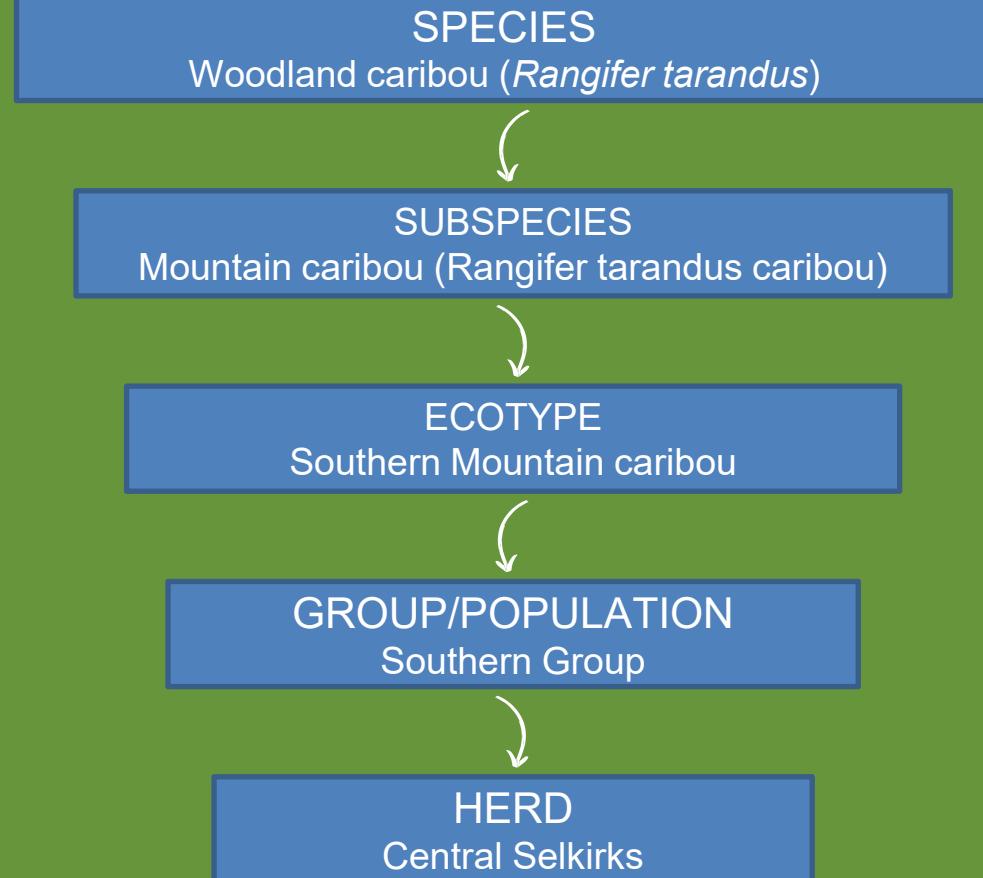
1997 census: 222 animals

2010 census: 92 animals

2021 census: 26 adults, 2 calves

2023 census: 19 adults, 6 calves

**89% decline
in 26 years**

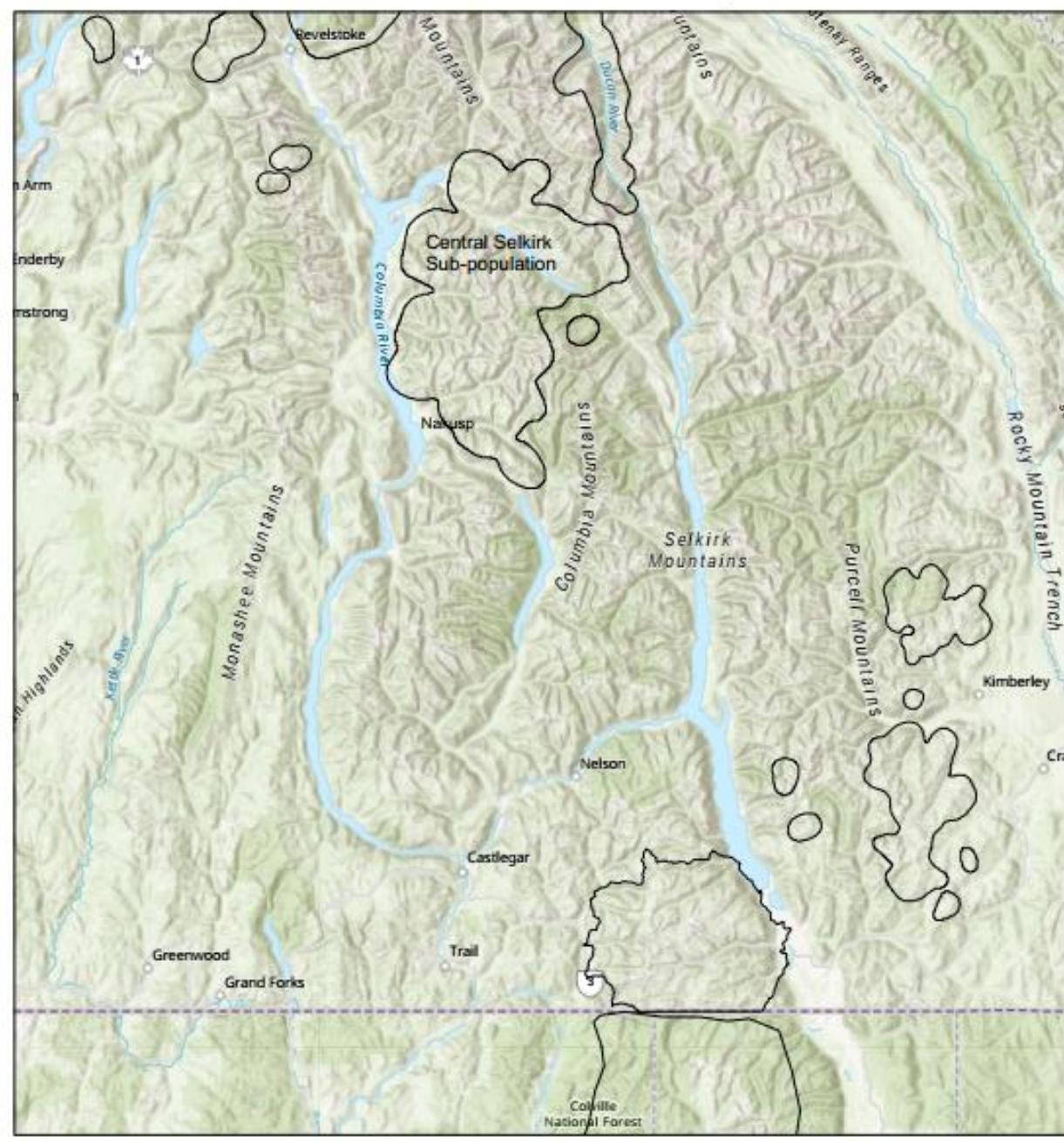


Historically, the Central Selkirk herd occupied the Monashee, Selkirk, and Purcell mountain ranges.

Currently, caribou are found in small groups in the Selkirk range near Nakusp and Trout Lake.

The South Selkirk and South Purcell herds are extirpated.

Central Selkirk Caribou Sub-Population



Recovery Actions

Recovery actions will prevent further loss of caribou populations and help recover declining herds

Multiple recovery actions are ongoing in the Central Selkirk herd area:

- Core habitat protection through government legislation and parks is in place (approx. 300,000 ha)
- Adaptive winter recreation management (snowmobiling and heli-skiing)
- Predator reduction (wolves and cougars)
- Maternity pen project



Central Selkirk Caribou Maternity Pen
ALCS photo

Habitat restoration is a key long-term caribou recovery tool that will support these ongoing actions for the Central Selkirk herd.

Restoration Objectives

1. Control access into caribou habitat by predators and humans.
2. Accelerate the rate of recovery of native vegetation.
3. Over the long term, provide habitat that supports all life processes of caribou populations (seasonal habitats, breeding and calving areas) and is used by caribou equally as much as undisturbed areas

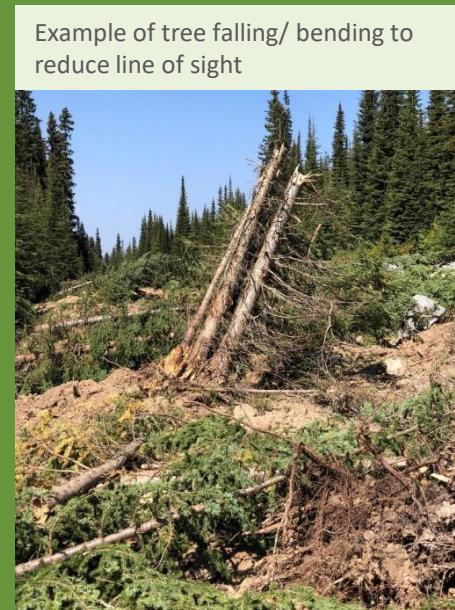
(Caribou Recovery Program, 2021)

Types of restoration

(Caribou Recovery Program, 2021)

Ecological – actions designed to restore habitat to a pre-disturbed state to increase intact habitat over long term.

Functional – actions intended to slow or deter predator and human access into caribou habitat, i.e. reduce linear features; reduces mortality in the short term and reduce need for predator control.



Some treatment examples

Blocking access and reducing sight lines by:

- road restoration – pullback road surface and recontour the slope; planting disturbed areas
- placing slash and debris across trails
- mounding
- tree bending/ falling

Example of road pullback and slope recontouring

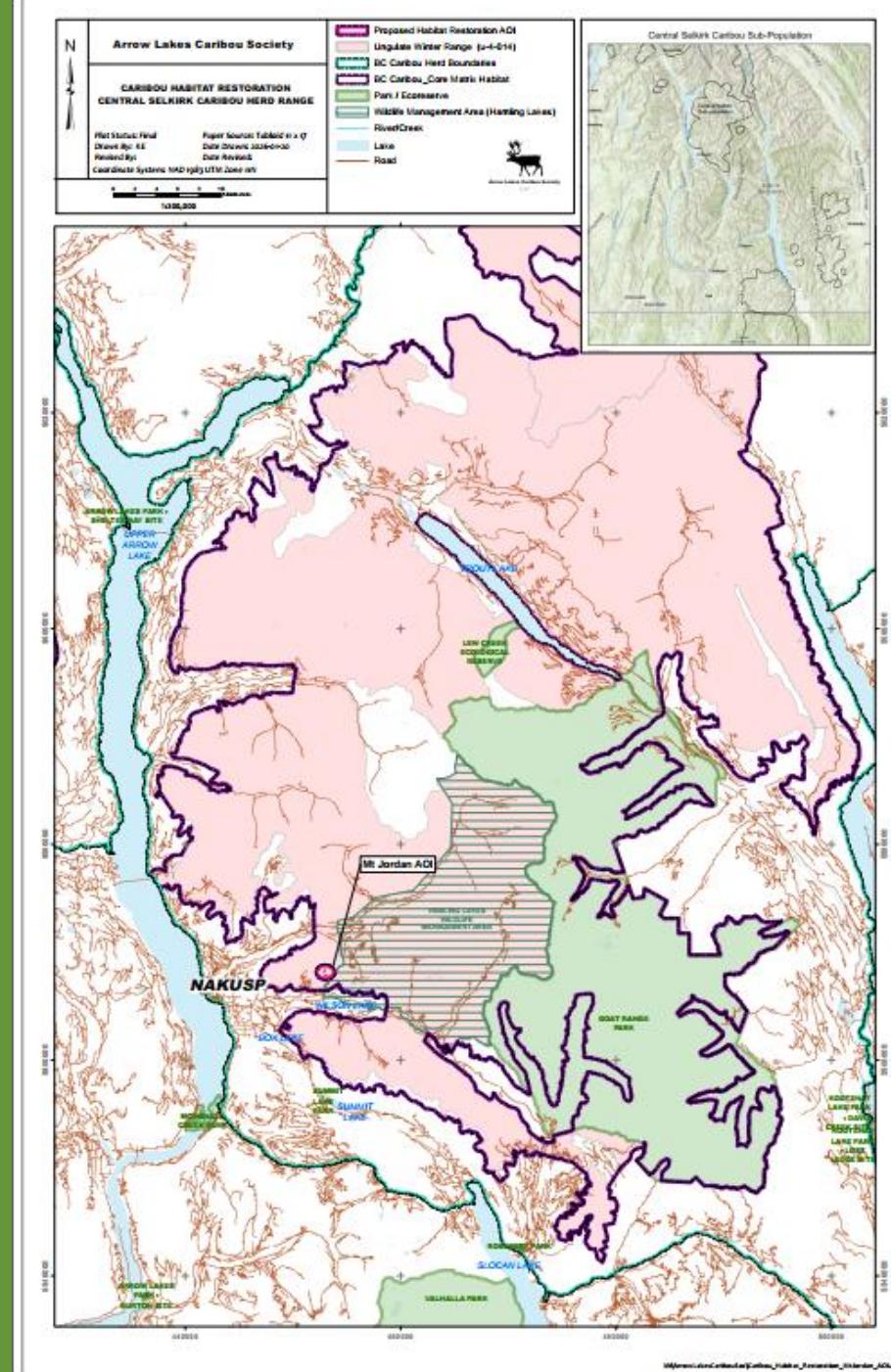


Project Background

2024 – project development funding from the Caribou Recovery Program allowed ALCS to start initial project planning with government staff and to apply for other grants to develop a full project proposal and habitat restoration prescriptions.

April 2025 – received seed funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and Y2Y Partnership Program to support preliminary planning, field reconnaissance, First Nations info sharing and stakeholder engagement. This work will be completed in March 2026.

In 2026, and pending the outcome of community and stakeholder input, the ALCS will continue to apply for funding to complete a restoration prescription and carry out treatments for the Mt Jordan roads in summer/fall 2026, tree planting in spring 2027 and project monitoring periodically through to 2037.



Treatment Area Selection

With guidance from the Caribou Recovery Program habitat specialist, treatment areas were selected using a hierarchical approach.

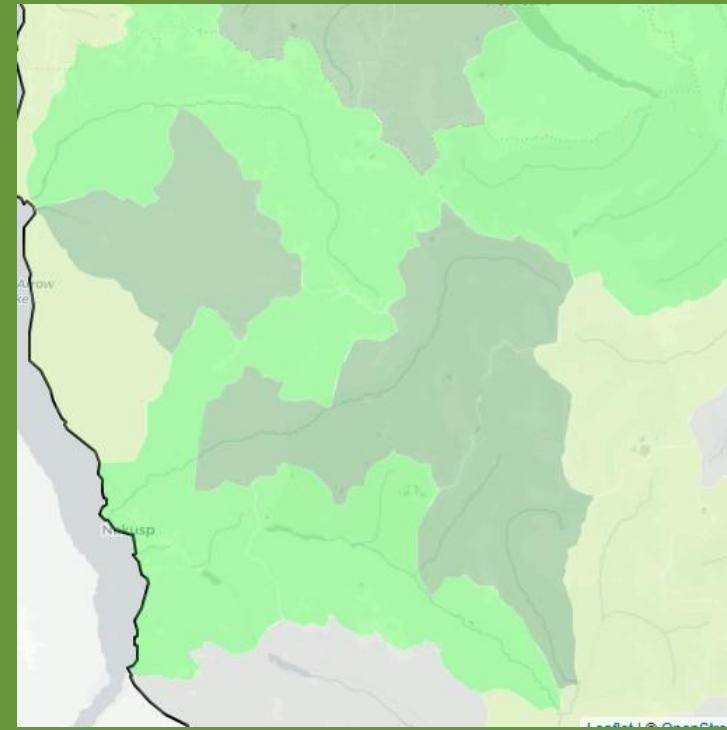
1. A high-level filtering and ranking of candidate priority areas was completed using habitat prioritization and web-based mapping tools.

The BC Prioritization Tool identifies priority zones based considering gains (benefits to caribou) against the economic value (cost) of restoration, or bang for buck

(Prioritizing Zones for Caribou habitat Restoration in BC, M Dickie and R Serrouya)

2. We then looked at Local level Priorities to refine the provincial scale priority areas. At the local level, we considered other factors including:

- recreation use – hunting, ATV use, hiking, snowmobiling
- status of road tenures
- accessibility
- deactivation and/ or natural ingrowth
- other stakeholders
- other caribou habitat restoration projects



BC Prioritization Tool showing priorities for restoration (light green is zone 2)

Treatment Area Selection

Following the local level priority ranking, a list of candidate areas was developed and prioritized for further analysis and recce.

3. Field reconnaissance was completed for two priority areas that were short-listed from the initial candidate areas:

Bremner Creek – deactivated and overgrown at bottom of road; likely low use

Mt Jordan Fire Access Roads – short road system into high value caribou habitat, roads that are deactivated but not brushed in which create easy access for predators, some ATV and snowmobile use, good access for treatments and monitoring

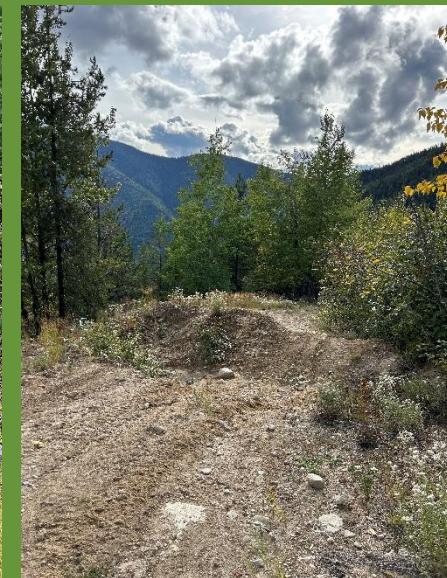
4. The final step was to analyze caribou collar data and caribou connectivity corridor modelling to confirm treatment area selection.

The collar data show that caribou frequently cross the Kuskanax drainage to use the Mt Jordan ridge during winter

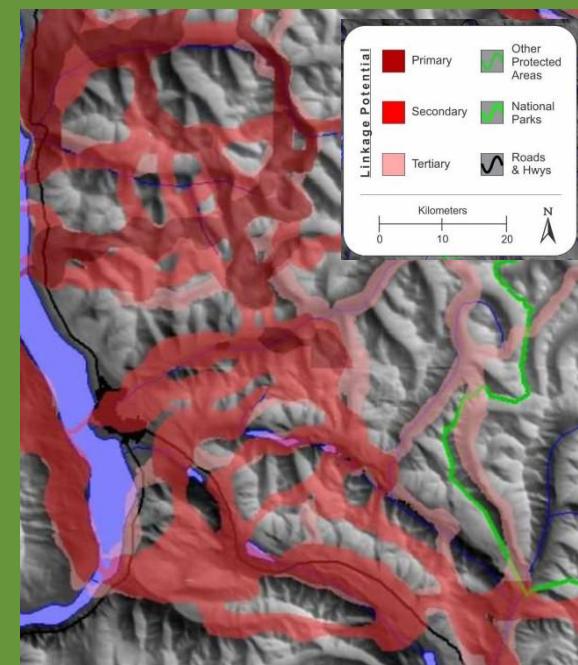
Caribou connectivity and habitat modelling shows that the Mt Jordan area is in a secondary corridor with high conservation value, faces medium to high threat from disturbances and medium to high threat from climate change, and that restoring this road will contribute to improve caribou connectivity corridors (source: C. Bergeron and *Potential Movement & Connectivity Network for Caribou. Apps. 2025*)



Bremner Road



Mt Jordan fire access road



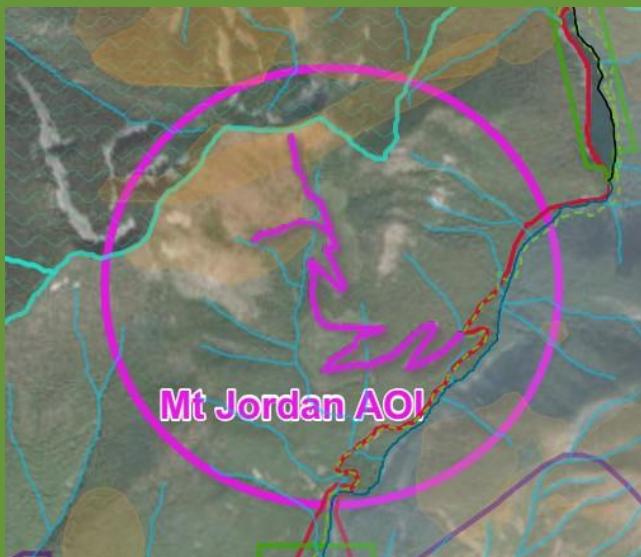
Mt Jordan Project Area

Mt Jordan Fire Access Roads

The cutblock roads were originally built in the early 1990's and reactivated to provide machine access into the 2021 wildfire. Machine trails were extended into the wildfire area along the SE ridge of Mt Jordan.

Total road and trail length is 4.8 km

Access to the proposed project area is from Wilson FSR and Kimbol Lake trail access road.



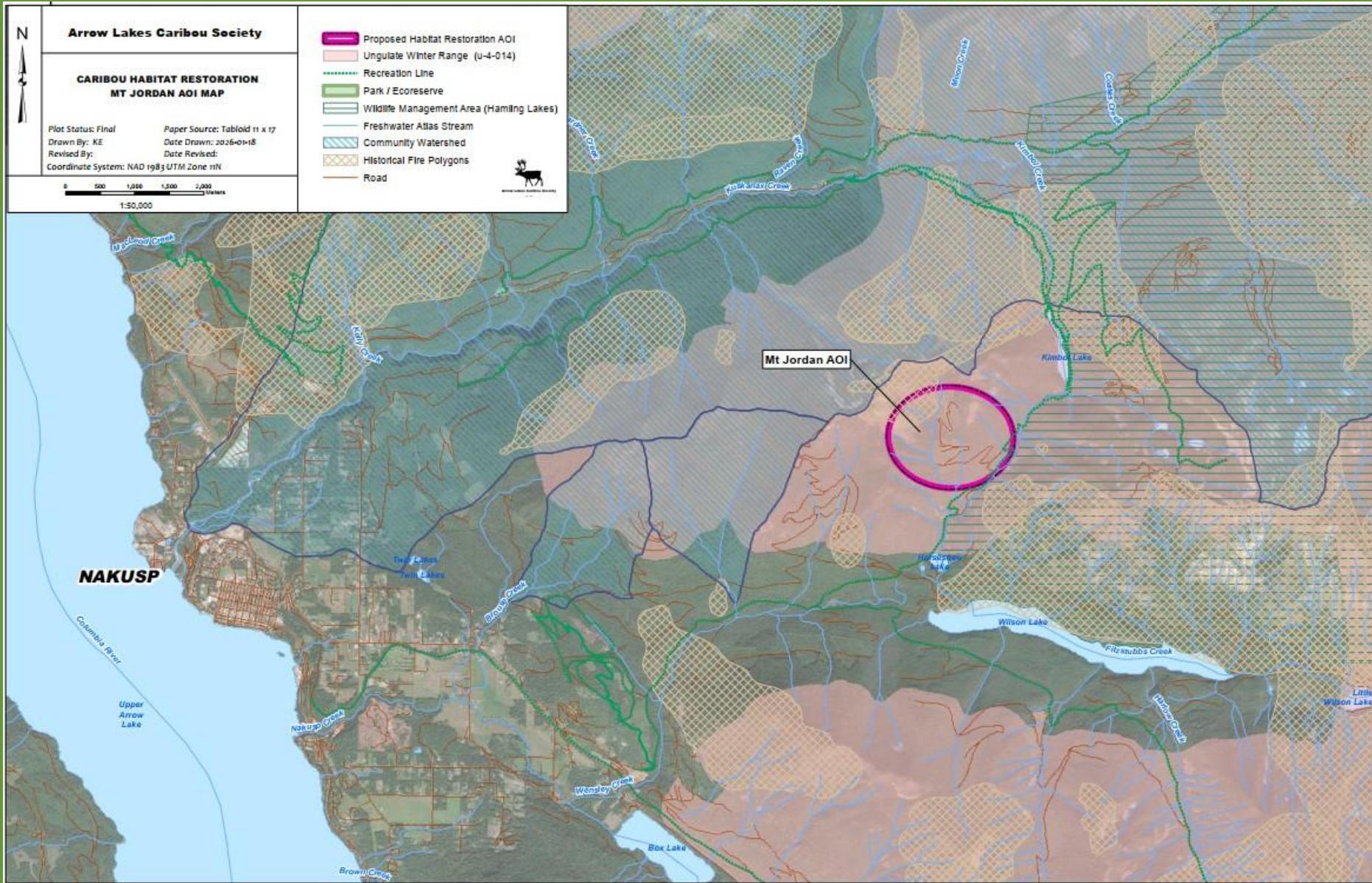
Roads and trails proposed for restoration



2021 Mt Jordan fire perimeter

Other Considerations:

- Recreation users – some hunting, ATV and snowmobiling use; adjacent to Kimbol Lake recreation trail access
- Stewardship Management Agreement - Mt Jordan falls within the snowmobile management zone
- Watersheds – road rehabilitation is outside of the Kuskanax community watershed; no domestic water users within the catchment area
- Wildlife – project area is within legal no harvest UWR and adjacent to the Hamling Lakes Wildlife Management Area
- If the project goes ahead, it will create local work for contractors over the next five years (>\$100,000)
- Ecological and hydrological risk of leaving non-managed roads in the Wilson Creek watershed



Q & A - Discussion

We welcome questions and discussion specific to this Mt. Jordan habitat restoration project.

If a participant would like to ask a question, please raise your hand, state your name, community, and group/ affiliation (if applicable) before your question.

We will be recording this session and questions to summarize for future information sharing.

If you have a question or comment that was not addressed tonight, please email it to al.caribou.society@gmail.com