

INFORMATION REPORT

DATE: February 8th, 2021
SUBJECT: Mayor's Monthly Report
FROM: Mayor Zeleznik



January 12, 14, & 21, 2021 - Arrow Lakes Caribou Society ALCS urgent meetings!!

Background:

Last herd: Of the six caribou herds south of Hwy 1, the Central Selkirk herd is the last one remaining. Within this herd, caribou numbers declined 89% in the last 20 years (230 down to 24) and 75% in the last 10 years (102 down to 24).

Habitat: There is ample high capability/high suitability protected habitat for the Central Selkirk

herd. A Government Action Regulation order in 2008 set aside 300,000 ha of core habitat from logging and mining activity. Add in adjoining parks and protected areas and there is approx. 400,000 ha.

Previous herd management: Government management of the Central Selkirk herd consisted of periodic caribou and predator monitoring only during 2009-2019.

Arrow Lakes Caribou Society: ALCS formed in early 2019 and pushed for management action through a **collective community voice**. This group has taken the lead locally to help coordinate and facilitate caribou recovery actions. The ALCS is widely supported in community and local government.

The Society is committed to undertaking practical projects that will provide benefit to Central Selkirk caribou.

Progress to date:

Community voice to government: Starting from public meetings the ALCS has brought the local communities together as a collective voice on local caribou recovery.

Coordination of local user groups: working with govt and local clubs and based on **real time** caribou location, **effective winter recreation closures** <https://snowmobileselkirks.ca/home-1> were implemented in 2019.

Herd priority: ALCS efforts helped raise the priority for active management of the local herd within the Provincial Caribou Recovery Program framework.

Maternity pen project: From concept to construction, ALCS bootstrapped a **caribou maternity pen** which is now substantially completed. We have built a science and operational team to carry this five-year project forward. We are actively getting all permitting in place. **We now need commitments of operational funding to put the pen to use.** Caribou capture is planned for early April 2021. Cows would be put in the pen to give birth and rear calves until release in Mid July. Protection from predation will increase cow and calf survival. Providing sufficient and nutritious rations will put caribou back on the landscape in good condition which will increase fecundity of cows.

Issues:

Population trend: Without continued **immediate and focused resources, the herd follows a dangerous trend to extirpation** which would follow the same history of the other southern herds.

Core habitat: The Central Selkirk herd is in the unique situation of having **sufficient and protected habitat** close at hand. We need to increase and stabilize herd numbers to make use of the habitat.

Community: ALCS and the local **communities are supportive, willing, and able** to take the lead. People want to positively contribute to the local environment. **Local governments support this initiative and have provided land and resources to get started.**

Government support: ALCS has worked hard to gain full government support in concept for this project. An experienced project team, a full project plan, and science support were some of the facets developed.

Funding: ALCS has been supported through in-kind donations from the community, local and provincial government grants, Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives funding, a Go-Fund-Me campaign, and donations from international organizations. We have applied for large grants to cover maternity pen operational costs in 2021-2022 but this funding is uncertain. Stable funding is needed for ongoing operations and projects.

Recommendations:

Within 30 days: **Government needs to guarantee, or risk manage operational funding** for Year 1 and Year 2 of the Central Selkirk maternity pen project. ALCS will continue to apply for outside grants but we need direct support if grant funding is unsuccessful.

Time is of the absolute essence: If we cannot initiate the project this year (early April 2021) we will “lose the year”. This will result in additional risk to the herd population and potential loss of the critical mass of community support. Check out the [ALCS website and blog](#)

Upcoming important Meetings with Minister of Forests, and First Nations.

Yes, maternity penning does work in the right conditions. Here is an example of how two First Nations succeeded where BC’s government had failed. In 2013, the Klinse-Za caribou herd was put on life support. The herd, which roams the northern Rockies west of Hudson’s Hope and Chetwynd, B.C., had dwindled to 16 animals. The Saluteau and West Moberly First Nations knew they had to act quickly if they were going to save the southern mountain caribou population that their ancestors depended upon.

Seven years later, the Klinse-Za herd sits at more than 100 animals — putting it in serious but stable condition — these efforts are touted as one of B.C.’s most successful caribou recovery programs. Advocates hope an agreement signed between the First Nations, provincial and federal governments earlier this year could become a model in caribou recovery.



January 21, 2021 - Nakusp and Area Community Forests NACFOR Manufacturing Committee meeting on Sawmill/value-added feasibility study. Good discussions on steps going forward, there are still a lot of questions about the concept, and much work must be done to hammer down the fine details. Also decided to look at the industrial land to develop that is a 10-acre parcel that already includes the Village owned land that the NACFOR storage/scale yard encompasses. There is approximate 6 or more acres that needs to be developed, with the recent windstorm more than ½ the timber has blown over. There is good access to the upper part, and a road to the lower part of this village industrial property which abuts the property of where the chipping plant is situated, (Issacs gravel pit and Redi mix operation)

with power line through the property. A resolution of council is required to have the rest of this property developed and have NACFOR management prepare an estimate to develop to be ready to use for industrial use. As per our Strategic Plan Land Use/Industrial Growth • Support development of industrial land within Nakusp and Area K; • Investigate developing Village owned lands for industrial and residential use.

Interesting facts of creating value-added direct jobs to our local economy, could result by example, of only cutting just 1000 cubic meters (2 logging truck loads) of community forests lumber, could equate to 3.3 jobs per 1000 cubic meters. The industry average in BC is about 0.7 of a job per 1000 cubic meters, one of the lowest averages in the world from a province that has some of the best quality softwood globally. Milling and selling wood locally rather than shipping logs out and then back as finished product also dramatically reduces the carbon footprint of lumber manufactured and used. Community Forests are managed with a broad range of social, environmental, and economic goals in mind.



.....With the recent exceptionally large spike in the price of lumber our local value-added companies like our local Pole yard (>5 employees) and Box Lake Lumber (>40 employees) are feeling the economics of this squeeze. Larger companies are now cutting all the value-added products that were previously sold to these local companies, these local companies see possible long shutdowns in the horizon that hurts our local economy. Interesting article In the BC Community Forest Association pamphlet 2019, Measuring the Benefits of Community Forestry states. Distribution of log sales

to Value-Added mills from BC Community Forests equates to 0.9% of all log sales.

January 22 & 29, 2021 – Municipal Campground Expansion Committee meetings. Review was determined that all LA West deliverables who did the study are completed except for one item as per the Terms of Reference, under Deliverables and Timelines. Once completed all documents of LA West’s will be submitted to staff and will be evaluated and reviewed and sent to the committee for final review with the committee’s **In-Depth** final report before submitting to council.

On behalf of council and staff we wish to thank the volunteer campground expansion committee members for the many hours contributed to this project, especially for finding the time, dedication, and the deep passion for our community. The three council members who sat on this committee are in much gratitude to these committee members to see this project through to the end. Also wish to thank the members of the Nakusp So-Pitch Society for their support for working with our committee, along with Will Nixon of CBT for helping secure the funding for this invaluable project.

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umbia Municipalities annual con-
vention in Prince George in Aug-
ust

**Nakusp Campsite
Ready In Weeks**

The Nakusp campsite should be
ready for its first campers, within
weeks.

Village crews have now clear-
ed camping sites for 19 or more
units, have installed road access
to the areas, have installed water
lines and are now constructing
the flush toilets and wash basins.
Within weeks the camping plots
will be leveled and ready for
campers.

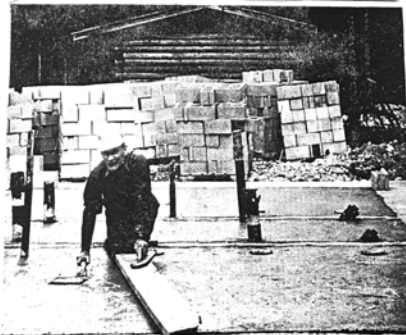
There will be a shortage of
camping benches and tables this
year as the village is not prepar-
ed to build them. However,
some are expected to be provided
as a start this summer.

The campsite is located on the
northern edge of the Nakusp Rec-
reation Park adjacent to the Cel-
gar Subdivision west of Beach
Avenue.

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site now.”

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ON MONDAY J. DAVIS working for the Parks Board was finishing the floor of the new washrooms in the municipal campsite. The blocks for the building have arrived and it should be taking shape soon.

January 27, 2021 – Attended the West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital District Board meeting. Agenda, election of officers and delegation/presentations by Todd Mastel, Interim Corporate Director, Financial Services Diane Shendruk, Executive Director, Clinical Operations - Kootenay Boundary. For Interior Health Capitol Update 2021/22 Funding Request.