

## Mountain caribou recovery plan for British Columbia

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Mountain caribou are an ecotype of woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) that live in the mountains of south-eastern British Columbia. The mountain caribou ecotype live in an area of deep snow which precludes digging for forage under the snow, and consequently they feed almost exclusively on arboreal lichens in old-growth forests during winter. These caribou are part of the nationally Threatened woodland caribou population in the Southern Mountains National Ecological Area. The caribou have experienced significant population declines and range reduction leading to them being Red-listed or “Endangered” in British Columbia. The primary cause of population declines is predation, but excessive levels of predation appear to be associated with human caused landscape change. There is also concern about disturbance and displacement of caribou by snowmobiles and heli-skiing. The British Columbia government endorsed the Mountain Caribou Recovery Strategy in 2007. The strategy includes: Protecting 2.2 million hectares of core habitat from logging and road-building; managing recreation to reduce disturbance of caribou through closures and best-management practices; Managing predators and alternate prey species to reduce predation on caribou; Transplanting caribou to supplement very small herds; and ongoing monitoring and adaptive management. Implementation and monitoring of the plan are ongoing.

