

# Mountain Caribou Implementation Plan

## Terms of Reference Habitat

### Change Log:

Change #1: By Amy Tipler (Nov. 29/07)

#### **APPENDIX 5: GUIDELINES REMOVED:**

##### **A. General approach for distributing the budget**

1. Start with the provided provincial-scale *high suitability map*. PI leading stands included in “High” are intended to be part of high suitable Caribou habitat.
2. Review the local suitability maps available through the herd experts. These maps may be more accurate than the provincial scale map.
3. If possible, map recent disturbance [for example fires, new logging] and issued CPs and RPs. The incremental habitat should avoid these areas.
4. Add new retention areas [no harvest] above and below the operability line until there is sufficient habitat to meet the population target and the “THLB budget” has not been exceeded.
5. If mill viability is an issue:
  - a. First, trade High [provincial scale] for High [local scale] if available and biologically acceptable;
    - i. Both scales must use same “standard”.
  - b. Second, up to 20% of the High suitability habitat can be traded for Low suitability habitat. However the trade is a 2 for 1 trade [2 Low for 1 High];
    - i. The chosen Low must have high capability.

##### **B. Draft legal order [under Land Act and applicable to FRPA] for consideration by the Local Habitat Teams**

The following guidance applies only to primary forest activities for now. There will be more direction in regard to forest health that may change it.

1. No harvesting in the areas shown on map xxxx, subject to 3.
2. No road building in areas shown on map xxxx, subject 4.
3. Harvesting is allowed if there is significant beetle damage occurring and
  - a. There is an approved beetle management strategy in place and
  - b. A registered professional forester with specific relevant expertise or other qualified professional determines
    - i. Harvesting is necessary to implement the strategy; or
    - ii. Harvesting is to the minimum necessary to implement the strategy; or
    - iii. Harvesting is neutral or beneficial to mountain caribou recovery [including, for example, increased wildfire risk to good caribou habitat due to lack of harvesting].
4. Road building is allowed if
  - a. A qualified professional determines
    - i. It is to the minimum necessary to provide necessary access beyond the

- no harvesting area; and
- ii. There is no other practicable option.
- b. Access management to control motorized recreation is planned and approved, and
  - i. includes creating quad access to important seasonal habitats [i.e., calving areas]
- 5. Note:
  - a. The intent is to involve all relevant qualified professionals, including Science Team members and forest health specialists in the above process;
  - b. The issue of replacement and recruitment still needs to be addressed;
  - c. Fire salvage and associated road building is not allowed.

**C. Related issues**

- 1. Existing obligations:
  - o Silviculture: carry on as obligated unless
    - i. Not planting will help caribou. [What happens to change the obligation?]
  - o Deactivation: carry on as obligated unless
    - i. Not deactivating is consistent with an approved access management plan for caribou. [What happens to change the obligation?]
- 2. Guidance for the qualified professional:
  - o Should there be some guidance for the following?:
    - i. Beetles:
      - 1. The context for “occurring” is the current beetle infestation and beetle attack is confirmed;
      - 2. In “harvesting is necessary to implement the strategy”, the strategy is the most recently endorsed Beetle Management Unit [BMU] strategy, either for Mtn. Pine Beetle or for Spruce Bark Beetle;
      - 3. “Necessary” and “minimum necessary” in relation to beetles is to be determined in consultation with a beetle specialist;
      - 4. May need some guidance on what “significant beetle damage” means.
    - ii. Roads:
      - 1. “Access beyond” can mean “through” or “immediately adjacent to”;
      - 2. “Minimum necessary” is to be determined in consultation with a harvesting expert.

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**Appendix 6: Policy Issues renamed to Appendix 5: Policy issues**

**TEXT ADDED TO: *Use Of The Incremental Habitat Budgets Section in The Habitat TOR On Page 8.***

*Use of the incremental habitat caps.*

- Incremental THLB captured in this process (high and low suitability habitat combined) cannot exceed 1% of THLB (115,000 ha) throughout the mountain caribou range.
- INITIAL SPATIALIZATION
  - o Habitat caps provided by the Directors Team to the Local Habitat Teams [and included in these Terms of Reference] are incremental to existing legal habitat retention requirements.

- i. The total impact of the new habitat plan is tallied against the THLB SaRCO generated and posted. The estimate of status quo impact calculated as part of the Valdal et al analysis is subtracted from the total impact of the new habitat plan to determine net impact. This net impact must be equal to or lower than the habitat cap provided to the habitat teams.
    - o The initial maps produced by the herd experts must not exceed the cap unless there is written agreement from licensees.
    - o Incremental habitat should be deployed within linework provided by SaRCO (status quo modified harvest areas or proposed incremental areas).
    - o No incremental THLB inside woodlots is to be set aside for Caribou habitat unless applying the cap is consistent with their management plan.
- **POST MILL/OPERATOR VIABILITY ASSESSMENT**
  - o The most recent information available [for example the THLB as defined in TSR] is to be used to characterize mill viability issues
  - o Where the Directors conclude there are mill viability issues, Local Habitat Teams may trade off high suitability habitat within the initial map for low suitability (but high capability) habitat outside the initial map but they must use a 2 high : 1 low ratio. No more than 20% of high suitability habitat within existing herd areas may be traded for low suitability without the approval of the Directors Team.
  - o Where high suitability areas within current caribou zones are not needed to support populations, these areas can be dropped from existing zones and the equivalent amount of high suitability can be added to the incremental areas.
  - o Unused portions of the Habitat caps cannot be shifted to other Planning Units

# Mountain Caribou Implementation Plan

## Terms of Reference Habitat

These Terms of Reference (TOR) are in support of the implementation of the Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan announced on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (<http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/sarco/mc/index.html>). They are intended to provide direction on the distribution of incremental mountain caribou habitat and associated management guidelines for forestry operations across the Planning Units (see appendix 1). These TOR, in conjunction with those provided for other objectives below, will formulate the commitments and deliverables for an implementation plan.

### **Project Background:**

The goal of the Implementation Plan is as follows:

*Halt the decline of mountain caribou within seven years for each Planning Unit and recover mountain caribou to 1995 population levels (2500 animals) across the mountain caribou range within 20 years in those Planning Units with greater than 10 animals.*

This recovery goal will be realized through the following six recovery objectives:

#### *1. Protect mountain caribou habitat from logging and road building*

The Mountain Caribou Science Team identified habitat loss as the underlying cause of mountain caribou population declines with mortality by predators as the proximate cause. Halting and reversing this habitat loss is a central tenet of the Recovery Implementation Plan. Government's goal is to protect 95% of the high suitability winter habitat within identified herd areas. Accommodations will be made to protect local forest operator viability and to address isolated or otherwise ineffective habitat by increasing protection elsewhere, ensuring future recruitment of high suitability habitat. In addition, government will reserve from harvesting areas within the non-THLB in the most recent Timber Supply Review that are identified as mountain caribou habitat through a legal order, or variance to land use plans, after an operational assessment is completed to ensure that AAC and forest operations are not impacted in the short term (5 years or next TSR).

#### *2. Ensure the effectiveness of protected habitat by managing the human footprint*

Winter backcountry recreation (e.g., backcountry skiing, heli-skiing, cat-skiing and snowmobiling) has the potential to displace mountain caribou from their preferred early and late winter habitat. These activities need to be managed in order to secure effective habitat for mountain caribou. The Recovery Implementation Plan commits government to work with users to manage their activities in a manner that minimises the displacement of mountain caribou. Where activities result in unacceptable displacement of mountain caribou, areas will be closed to those activities. Consultations with users are currently

underway and many areas have already been closed through legal designations or voluntary agreements and implementation of operational guidelines.

### *3. Manage predator populations where they are preventing the recovery of mountain caribou populations*

Although habitat loss was identified by the Science Team as the underlying cause of mountain caribou population declines, high predator populations and unsustainable predation rates on mountain caribou have resulted in significant declines in mountain caribou populations since the mid-1990s. Thus, the Science Team concluded that habitat protection alone will not reverse negative population trends in the short-term. The Recovery Implementation Plan commits government to undertake a variety of measures to address unsustainable predation rates on mountain caribou. These measures include: changing hunting allocations to increase harvest of cougars and wolves; increased trapping; supporting non-lethal control measures, such as wolf sterilization; and the targeted removal of individuals or, where necessary, packs.

### *4. Manage the primary prey of caribou predators to better reflect historic conditions*

Habitat alteration and hunting allocations combined with fewer severe winters in recent years have resulted in higher populations and wider distributions of moose and deer than estimated historic averages. This in turn has resulted in higher populations of predators, mainly wolves and cougars, which prey opportunistically on mountain caribou. The Recovery Implementation Plan commits government to reduce moose and deer populations through changes in hunting allocations to rebalance the predator-prey system.

### *5. Augment critically endangered herds that are feasible to recover*

Small populations are slow to recover, even with favourable environmental conditions. Augmenting small mountain caribou populations (10-50 individuals) with animals transplanted from healthy herds elsewhere can increase population growth rates and more immediately reduce the demographic risks associated with small populations. The Recovery Implementation Plan commits government to augmenting the southernmost mountain caribou herds. In addition, government is considering using maternity pens for the southernmost herds to protect newborns and calves from predators.

### *6. Support adaptive management and research to increase the probability of successful recovery*

The Science Team identified key uncertainties related to mountain caribou ecology and the efficacy of proposed recovery actions. Implementation efforts will need to be monitored closely and assessed to determine whether the strategy needs to be modified in order to meet recovery goals. In addition, research addressing knowledge gaps should be supported. The Recovery Implementation Plan includes the development of adaptive management and effectiveness monitoring plans for habitat, recreation and predator-prey management efforts.

These Terms of Reference address the implementation of Objective #1 above.

## **Project Objective**

To develop recommendations on the distribution of incremental mountain caribou habitat, and associated management guidelines, across the Planning Units that strive to meet government's objective of protecting 95% of the high suitability, early and late winter habitat within identified herd areas in a manner that will not put licensees and mills out of business in the short term.

## **Project Deliverables**

By 31 January 2008:

1. Spatialized recommendations for approval by the Directors Team, by Planning Unit, of incremental habitat [high suitability winter habitat within identified herd areas that reasonably minimize impacts on mills and operators in the short term (i.e. within 5 to 10 years) that meets government's objective of protecting 95% of the high suitability winter habitat.]

By 31 March 2008 (end of deferral period):

2. Advice on legal protection of the spatialized recommendations developed in 1. above

## **Project Description:**

Government has committed to incremental habitat protection to recover mountain caribou within socio-economic bounds. However, government has not yet determined where this incremental habitat protection should be located to maximize mountain caribou recovery effectiveness and minimize socio-economic impacts.

The purpose of these TOR are to outline a process, using outputs from a Habitat Suitability Model (HSM) developed by the Mountain Caribou Science Team, to inform discussions on incremental habitat protection to meet the Project Objective.

These discussions will occur at the Planning Unit level by Local Habitat Teams to spatialize incremental habitat protection in a manner that meets the Project Objective.

Recommendations from Local Habitat Teams will be reviewed by the Directors Team which will then bring forward recommendations to government for legal protection.

**Organizational Units, Roles and Responsibilities** (see Relationship Diagram in Appendices 2 and 4)

*Directors Team:*

Responsible for project coordination and oversight with director-level members from ILMB (chair), MTSA, MoE, MoFR and MEMPR.

Accountabilities include:

1. Balancing caribou needs with mill viability needs and developing a process to provide the Local Habitat Teams with spatialized habitat budgets as soon as possible;
2. Directing the mapping of NTHLB for operational review by Local Habitat Teams;
3. Establishing the composition of, and providing direction to, Local Habitat Teams;
4. Resolving policy issues (e.g., adaptive management, amortizing costs of deferred cutting permits);
5. Funding Local Habitat Teams where necessary;
6. Resolving conflicts or incompatibilities with other management actions;
7. Communications management;
8. Issues management; and
9. Evaluating the Local Habitat Teams' recommendations and advancing final recommendations to government for decision and legal protection.

#### *Central Habitat Team*

Accountabilities include:

Managing the process of the Local Habitat Teams recommending a distribution of incremental caribou habitat and associated management guidelines that are consistent with government's decision.

#### *Local Habitat Teams:*

Accountabilities include:

Using the spatialized habitat budgets provided by the Directors Team to make recommendations to the Directors Team by January 31, 2008 on the distribution of incremental mountain caribou habitat within their assigned Planning Units that:

1. Meets government's commitments to protect 95% of high suitability winter habitat;
2. Maximize benefit to individual caribou herds;
3. Ensure no mills or operators go out of business;
4. Avoid the creation of compensation issues, to the extent possible;
5. Consider potential conflicts with other management 'levers'; and
6. Identify decision points that need to be resolved by Directors Team.

Communications: The Local Habitat Teams are responsible for communicating with local stakeholders and any active local "Caribou Groups" that have expressed interest in being involved during the last consultation process [communications with the media, MLAs and government are handled by SaRCO; communications with the IAMC are handled by Peter Lishman].

If there is an agreed-to process in place that ends with full spatialization [for example, the Arrow District local agreement], the team can chose not to fully spatialize habitat budgets and instead adjust aspatial retention targets to meet the project goal. However, field assessments by a qualified professional are required to confirm actual seasonal habitat value for caribou prior to any harvesting. A tracking and reporting plan must also be in place.

## Guiding Principles and Process Bounds:

### *Use of the Habitat Suitability Model*

- Habitat discussions will be informed by the Habitat Suitability Model (HSM) developed by the Mountain Caribou Science Team.
- Locally developed habitat maps that meet a similar suitability standard (*high* = 50% of use, *high* + *low* = 95% of use) may be used by habitat teams on approval by the Directors Team.

### *Use of the incremental habitat budgets*

- Habitat budgets provided by the Directors Team are incremental to existing legal habitat retention requirements and aspatial retention budgets.
- Incremental habitat should be deployed within linework provided by SaRCO (status quo modified harvest areas or proposed incremental areas).
- Habitat budgets cannot be shifted to other Planning Units.
- Where high suitability habitat cannot be captured due to mill viability concerns or forest heath issues, Local Habitat Teams may trade off high for low suitability (but high capability) habitat using a 2:1 ratio. No more than 20% of high suitability habitat within existing herd areas may be traded for low suitability without the approval of the Directors Team.
- Incremental THLB captured in this process (high and low suitability habitat combined) cannot exceed 1% of THLB (115,000 ha) throughout the mountain caribou range.
- No incremental THLB inside woodlots is to be set aside for Caribou habitat unless applying the budget is consistent with their management plan.
- Incremental THLB captured in this process (high and low suitability habitat combined) cannot exceed 1% of THLB (115,000 ha) throughout the mountain caribou range.
- INITIAL SPATIALIZATION
  - Habitat caps provided by the Directors Team to the Local Habitat Teams [and included in these Terms of Reference] are incremental to existing legal habitat retention requirements.
    - i. The total impact of the new habitat plan is tallied against the THLB SaRCO generated and posted. The estimate of status quo impact calculated as part of the Valdal et al analysis is subtracted from the total impact of the new habitat plan to determine net impact. This net impact must be equal to or lower than the habitat cap provided to the habitat teams.
  - The initial maps produced by the herd experts must not exceed the cap unless there is written agreement from licensees.
  - Incremental habitat should be deployed within linework provided by SaRCO (status quo modified harvest areas or proposed incremental areas).
  - No incremental THLB inside woodlots is to be set aside for Caribou habitat unless applying the cap is consistent with their management plan.
- POST MILL/OPERATOR VIABILITY ASSESSMENT
  - The most recent information available [for example the THLB as defined in TSR] is to be used to characterize mill viability issues
  - Where the Directors conclude there are mill viability issues, Local Habitat Teams may trade off high suitability habitat within the initial map for low suitability (but high capability) habitat outside the initial map but they must use

- o a 2 high : 1 low ratio. No more than 20% of high suitability habitat within existing herd areas may be traded for low suitability without the approval of the Directors Team.
- o Where high suitability areas within current caribou zones are not needed to support populations, these areas can be dropped from existing zones and the equivalent amount of high suitability can be added to the incremental areas.
- o Unused portions of the Habitat caps cannot be shifted to other Planning Units

**Comment [a1]:** Change #1,  
Amy Tipler Nov. 29/07

#### *Process participants*

- Central and Local Habitat Teams will have access to:
  - o herd experts to assist them in evaluating their recommendations [see appendix 3];
  - o a mill viability support team; and
  - o a government “tools committee” to assist them in recommending practical ways to legally implement the final distribution of the incremental habitat and associated guidelines.
- Any requests for changes to the composition of the Local Habitat Teams require approval from the Directors Team.

#### *Analysis support*

- ILMB provides general analysis support [e.g. maps, THLB calculations, etc.] to the habitat teams.
- MoFR provides technical support to the teams for mill viability assessments, including “AAC impact” assessments.

#### *Decision model*

- Consensus within the habitat team is not required in order for Central and Local teams to make recommendations to the Directors Team. Where consensus cannot be reached within a habitat team those areas will be brought to the attention of the Directors Team at the earliest possible date for decision or recommendation to government.
- Ungulate Winter Ranges for species other than Caribou need to be removed where there are conflicts with caribou habitat.
- Draft OGMA's can be moved to reduce impacts.
- Consistent with the *New Directions on Land Use Planning*, recommendations from the Central and Local Habitat teams will not necessarily be vetted by land use planning tables before being advanced to government for endorsement and legal designation. The Directors Team will determine the approval and consultation process for each habitat team and communicate this process to the habitat teams.

As part of government’s announcement of the Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan on October 16, 2007, several policy commitments were made [see appendix 6]. The following specific Terms of Reference for the Central Habitat Team and the Local Habitat Teams have taken these commitments into consideration.

### **Central Habitat Team Specific Terms of Reference**

Participants [see appendix 3]

- a. ILMB – Peter Lishman -Chair
- b. Chairs of the Local Habitat Teams
  1. Jim Britton

2. Frank Wilmer
  3. Mike Geisler
  4. Darcy Peel
  5. Howard Madill
- c. SaRCO – Steve Wilson

Roles and responsibilities:

1. Managing the process of the Local Habitat Teams recommending a distribution of incremental caribou habitat and associated management guidelines that are consistent with the government decision.
2. The role of the Central Habitat Team in First Nations consultation is to be determined
3. Identifying issues that need to be resolved by Directors Team. Issues are to be forwarded to the directors in the form of a ‘decision note’.
4. Sharing of information and recommendations with groups developing plans for the other management levers.
5. Minimizing potential conflicts with other management actions.

### **Local Habitat Teams’ Specific Terms of Reference**

*For all Local Habitat Teams [see relationship diagram in Appendix 4 and the guidelines in Appendix 5]*

All Teams:

Government committed to reserve from harvesting, areas in the “non-THLB” inside the SaRCO line work, if AAC and forest operations are not impacted in the short term. An NTHLB map will be provided to Local Habitat Teams for review. A task of the teams will be to determine the use of this non-THLB by the forest industry [where and how much of this area is under a tenure (e.g. through a Pulpwood agreement or planned for harvesting or road building in the short term)], and to report back to Central Habitat Team and await further direction.

Until more direction is provided, this work must not detract from the priority task of distributing the incremental THLB budget as per the following Terms of Reference.

### ***Kootenay Team***

The incremental THLB budget for Planning Unit 1A is 3803 ha, for 1B is 5984 ha and for 2B is 19985 ha.

Visual constraints in the Kootenay Lake District could be reduced to help mitigate the negative impacts of the incremental habitat on the local forest industry. The Local Habitat Team should explore options to do this.

Participants

- a. SaRCO via a contractor [Mike Geisler - Chair]
- b. Observer: Ktunaxa Tribal Council [Dan Paradise or alternate]
- c. MoFR [Kootenay Lake District-Dale Anderson or alternate, Arrow District-Tara DeCoursey, Rocky Mountain District-Mike Black]
- d. MoE [Leo DeGroot, Mike Knapik (alternate), Peter Holmes (alternate)]
- e. ILMB [Stew Clow]

- f. MSTA [Fred Thiessen]
- g. GIS support [Kathleen McGuinness]

Roles and responsibilities [in addition to the ‘accountabilities’ listed earlier in this document]:

The team is to recommend or generate options for distribution of the incremental habitat budget

- Using a "best fit" distribution provided by herd experts as a starting point.
- One option needs to be incremental habitat that will deliver the target number of animals [given the provided densities].
- Pros and cons of each option are to be generated, particularly with respect to herd and mill viability.

First draft is to be sent to the Central Habitat Team by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

- a. If these budgets, when distributed within the Planning Unit, result in mills or operators becoming non-viable, the team is to forward options and a recommendation to the Directors Team.
- b. If these budgets, when distributed within the Planning Unit, result in herds becoming non-viable, the team is to forward options and a recommendation to the Directors Team.

Chair role and responsibilities

- a. Guide discussion and deliver recommendations to the Director’s Team by end of January 2008.
- b. Facilitate:
  - i. access to herd experts [see appendix 3] for list of herd experts on science team];
  - ii. access to the “tools team” [see appendix 3] and the mill viability assessment support team;
  - iii. collection of comments from stakeholders before making recommendations;
  - iv. development of consistent guidelines for each herd, especially those that cross Planning Unit boundaries;
  - v. sharing of potential recommendations [especially for trans boundary herds], through Peter Lishman, with other habitat teams and stakeholders;
  - vi. documenting the methodology the team used to arrive at the recommended distribution of habitat.
- c. Work with Team to determine ‘status quo’ caribou management and to confirm the recommended habitat is still standing [and not burned for example.
- d. MoE and MSTA member may not be able to attend all meetings. The chair is to follow up with them after meeting they can not attend.

All participants

- a. Review the “best fit” distribution, the associated guidelines and impacts reports.
- b. Consult with stakeholders and evaluate comments received.
- c. Based on comments received, update options and provide to the Directors' Team with recommendations if possible. The recommendation should include the distribution of the incremental habitat budget and an associated set of management guidelines. Also:
  - i. Consider activities recommended by other project teams;
  - ii. Consider the needs of individual herds; and
  - iii. As time allows, identify adaptive management needs and opportunities as appropriate.

The Local Habitat Team can make a written request, with rationale, to the Directors Team via Peter Lishman, if funding is necessary to meet the Project Objective

### ***Revelstoke-Shuswap Team***

The incremental THLB budget for Planning Unit 3A is 10,000 ha

#### Participants

- i. ILMB [Frank Wilmer – Chair]
- ii. SaRCO via a contractor [Mike Geisler]
- iii. MoFR [Columbia District [Kurt Huettmeyer] and OK Shuswap District [Ted McRae]
- iv. MoE [Leo DeGroot, Corey Legebokow (alternate)]
- v. MTSA [Ken Gibson]
- vi. Observer: City of Revelstoke [Al Mason]
- vii. GIS support [Steve Kachanoski]
- viii. Consultative participants (only used as necessary for their specific knowledge\_)
  - i. Darcy Monchak – ILMB
  - ii. Terry MacDonald – ILMB
  - iii. Ron Van der Zwan - MoFR

Roles and responsibilities [in addition to the ‘accountabilities’ listed earlier in this document]:

The team is to recommend a distribution of the budget above that best meets the project objective. First draft is to be sent to the Central Habitat Team by Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 2007.

- a. If these budgets, when distributed within the Planning Unit, result in mills or operators becoming non-viable, the team is to forward options and a recommendation to the Directors Team;
- b. If these budgets, when distributed within the Planning Unit, result in herds becoming non-viable, the team is to forward options and a recommendation to the Directors Team.

#### Chair role and responsibilities

- a. Guide discussion and deliver recommendations by end of January 2008:
  - Schedules meetings and sets agenda;
  - Coordinates minutes;
  - Coordinates table needs such as mapping, GIS.
- b. Work with Team to determine ‘status quo’ caribou management and to confirm the recommended habitat is still standing [and not burned for example].
- c. MoE and MSTTA member may not be able to attend all meetings. The chair is to follow up with them after meetings they can not attend.
- d. Documenting the methodology the team used to arrive at the recommended distribution of habitat.
- e. Ensures comments from stakeholders are collected and evaluated before making recommendations.

#### Facilitator helps provide:

- i. access to herd experts [see appendix 3] for list of herd experts on science team];

- ii. access to the “tools team” [see appendix 3] and the mill viability assessment support team;
- iii. development of consistent guidelines for each herd, especially those that cross Planning Unit boundaries;
- iv. sharing of potential recommendations [especially for trans boundary herds], through Peter Lishman, with other project teams and stakeholders
- v. issues management; and
- vi. preparation of briefing materials with the Chair.

All participants

- a. Review the “best fit” distribution, the associated guidelines and impacts reports;
- b. Consult with stakeholders and evaluate comments received;
- c. Based on comments received recommend a distribution of the incremental habitat budget and an associated set of management guidelines. Also:
  - i. Consider activities recommended by other project teams;
  - ii. Consider the needs of individual herds;
  - iii. As time allows identify adaptive management needs and opportunities as appropriate.

The Local Habitat Team can make a written request, with rationale, to the Directors Team via Peter Lishman, if funding is necessary to meet the Project Objective

Recommendations from the Local Habitat Teams will not be vetted by land use planning tables unless directed by the Directors Team

***Wells Gray-Thompson Team***

Government generally accepted the North Thompson forest licencees’ proposal and this should be used as a starting point for discussion.

The incremental THLB budget for Planning Unit 4A is 6000 ha.

Participants

- a. ILMB [Jim Britton - Chair]
- b. Observer: Simpc’w [Sam Phillips]
- c. Observer: Thompson Nicola Regional District [Steve Quinn,]
- d. SaRCO via a contractor [Pat Field]
- e. MoFR [Ron Van Der Zwan]
- f. MoE [Phil Belliveau]
- g. MTSA [Jennifer Eastwood or alternate; Andy Oetter or alternate]
- h. GIS support [Steve Kachanoski; Clarence Lai]

Roles and responsibilities [in addition to the ‘accountabilities’ listed earlier in this document]:

The team is to recommend a distribution of the budget above that best meets the project objective. First draft is to be sent to the Central Habitat Team by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

- a. If these budgets, when distributed within the Planning Unit, result in mills or operators becoming non-viable, the team is to forward options and a recommendation to the Directors Team.

- b. If these budgets, when distributed within the Planning Unit, result in herds becoming non-viable, the team is to forward options and a recommendation to the Directors Team.

#### Chair role and responsibilities

- a. Guide discussion and deliver recommendations by end of January 2008.
  - Schedules meetings and sets agenda;
  - Coordinates minutes;
  - Coordinates table needs such as mapping, GIS.
- b. Work with Team to determine ‘status quo’ caribou management and to confirm the recommended habitat is still standing [and not burned for example].
- c. MoE and MTSA member may not be able to attend all meetings. The chair is to follow up with them after meetings they can not attend.
- d. Documenting the methodology the team used to arrive at the recommended distribution of habitat.
- e. Ensures comments from stakeholders are collected and evaluated before making recommendations.

#### Facilitator helps provide:

- i. access to herd experts [see appendix 3] for list of herd experts on science team];
- ii. access to the “tools team’ [see appendix 3] and the mill viability assessment support team;
- iii. development of consistent guidelines for each herd, especially those that cross Planning Unit boundaries;
- iv. sharing of potential recommendations [especially for trans boundary herds], through Peter Lishman, with other project teams and stakeholders;
- v. issues management; and
- vi. preparation of briefing materials with the Chair.

#### All participants

- a. Review the “best fit” distribution, the associated guidelines and impacts reports.
- b. Consult with stakeholders and evaluate comments received.
- c. Based on comments received recommend a distribution of the incremental habitat budget and an associated set of management guidelines. Also:
  - i. Consider activities recommended by other project teams;
  - ii. Consider the needs of individual herds;
  - iii. As time allows identify adaptive management needs and opportunities as appropriate.

The Local Habitat Team can make a written request, with rationale, to the Directors Team via Peter Lishman, if funding is necessary to meet the Project Objective.

Recommendations from the Local Habitat Teams will not be vetted by land use planning tables unless directed by the Directors Team.

#### ***Cariboo Chilcotin Team***

The incremental THLB budget for Planning Unit 5B is 25000 ha

Participants are the “regional caribou committee” [a subgroup of the Cariboo Managers Committee [ILMB [Chair], MoFR, MoE, MAL, MEMP, MTSA, Fraser Basin Council, First Nations seat]. This committee includes:

Darcy Peel [ILMB] Habitat Chair  
Harold Armleder [MoFR]  
John Youds [MoE]  
Jim Young [MoE]  
Mike Pelchat [MoFR]  
Mike Gatenby [MoFR]  
Jennifer Eastwood [MTSA]  
Kate Greskiw [ILMB] Recreation chair  
Mark McGirr [ILMB] GIS Support

Roles and responsibilities [in addition to the ‘accountabilities’ listed earlier in this document]:

The team is to recommend a distribution of the budget above that best meets the project objective. First draft is to be sent to the Central Habitat Team by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

- a. If these budgets, when distributed within the Planning Unit, result in mills or operators becoming non-viable, the team is to forward options and a recommendation to the Directors Team.
- b. If these budgets, when distributed within the Planning Unit, result in herds becoming non-viable, the team is to forward options and a recommendation to the Directors Team.

Chair role and responsibilities

- a. Guide discussion and deliver recommendations by end of January 2008.
- b. Facilitate:
  - i. access to herd experts [see appendix 3] for list of herd experts on science team]
  - ii. access to the “tools team’ [see appendix 3] and the mill viability assessment support team;
  - iii. collection of comments from stakeholders before making recommendations;
  - iv. development of consistent guidelines for each herd, especially those that cross Planning Unit boundaries;
  - v. sharing of potential recommendations [especially for trans boundary herds], through Peter Lishman, with other project teams and stakeholders;
  - vi. documenting the methodology the team used to arrive at the recommended distribution of habitat.
- c. Work with Team to determine ‘status quo’ caribou management and to confirm the recommended habitat is still standing [and not burned for example

All participants

- a. Review the “best fit” distribution, the associated guidelines and impacts reports
- b. Consult with stakeholders and evaluate comments received
- c. Based on comments received recommend a distribution of the incremental habitat budget and an associated set of management guidelines. Also:
  - i. Consider activities recommended by other project teams.
  - ii. Consider the needs of individual herds

- iii. As time allows identify adaptive management needs and opportunities as appropriate

The Local Habitat Team can make a written request, with rationale, to the Directors Team via Peter Lishman, if funding is necessary to meet the Project Objective

### ***Prince George Team***

The incremental THLB budget for Planning Unit 5A is 6132 ha and for Planning Unit 6 is 0 ha.

Participants:

- a. ILMB [Chair-Howard Madill]
- b. MoE [Bill Arthur]
- c. MoFR [Jeff Burrows]
- d. MoFR and Herd expert [Dale Seip]
- e. MTSA [Gary Westfall]
- f. GIS support- ILMB [Mark McGirr]

Roles and responsibilities [in addition to the ‘accountabilities’ listed earlier in this document]:

The team is to recommend a distribution of the budget above that best meets the project objective. First draft is to be sent to the Central Habitat Team by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

- a. If these budgets, when distributed within the Planning Unit, result in mills or operators becoming non-viable, the team is to forward options and a recommendation to the Directors Team.
- b. If these budgets, when distributed within the Planning Unit, result in herds becoming non-viable, the team is to forward options and a recommendation to the Directors Team.

Role of Chair

- a. Guide discussion and deliver recommendations by end of January 2008.
- b. Facilitate:
  - i. access to herd experts [see appendix 3] for list of herd experts on science team];
  - ii. access to the “tools team’ [see appendix 3] and the mill viability assessment support team;
  - iii. collection of comments from stakeholders before making recommendations;
  - iv. development of consistent guidelines for each herd, especially those that cross Planning Unit boundaries;
  - v. sharing of potential recommendations [especially for trans boundary herds], through Peter Lishman, with other project teams and stakeholders;
  - vi. documenting the methodology the team used to arrive at the recommended distribution of habitat.
- c. Work with Team to determine ‘status quo’ caribou management and to confirm the recommended habitat is still standing [and not burned for example].

Role of team as a whole:

The team will work to address the project objective by refining a proposal to amend the Ungulate Winter Range [Caribou] order.

- The team will review the content of existing UWR orders in the planning units pertaining to the protection of deer and moose winter habitat and make recommendation to revise the orders to the MOE if it is determined that the maintenance of these habitat areas would likely have a negative impact on caribou recovery effort.

The team will assess and identify needed changes to the proposed UWR order to ensure:

- Consistency of the proposed amendment with the project objective [including the population target].
- Consistency with existing policy direction on the establishment of Ungulate Winter Ranges.
- Consistency with the THLB budgets.

The Local Habitat Team will meet with Steve Wilson to confirm to the proposed order are consistent with the project objective.

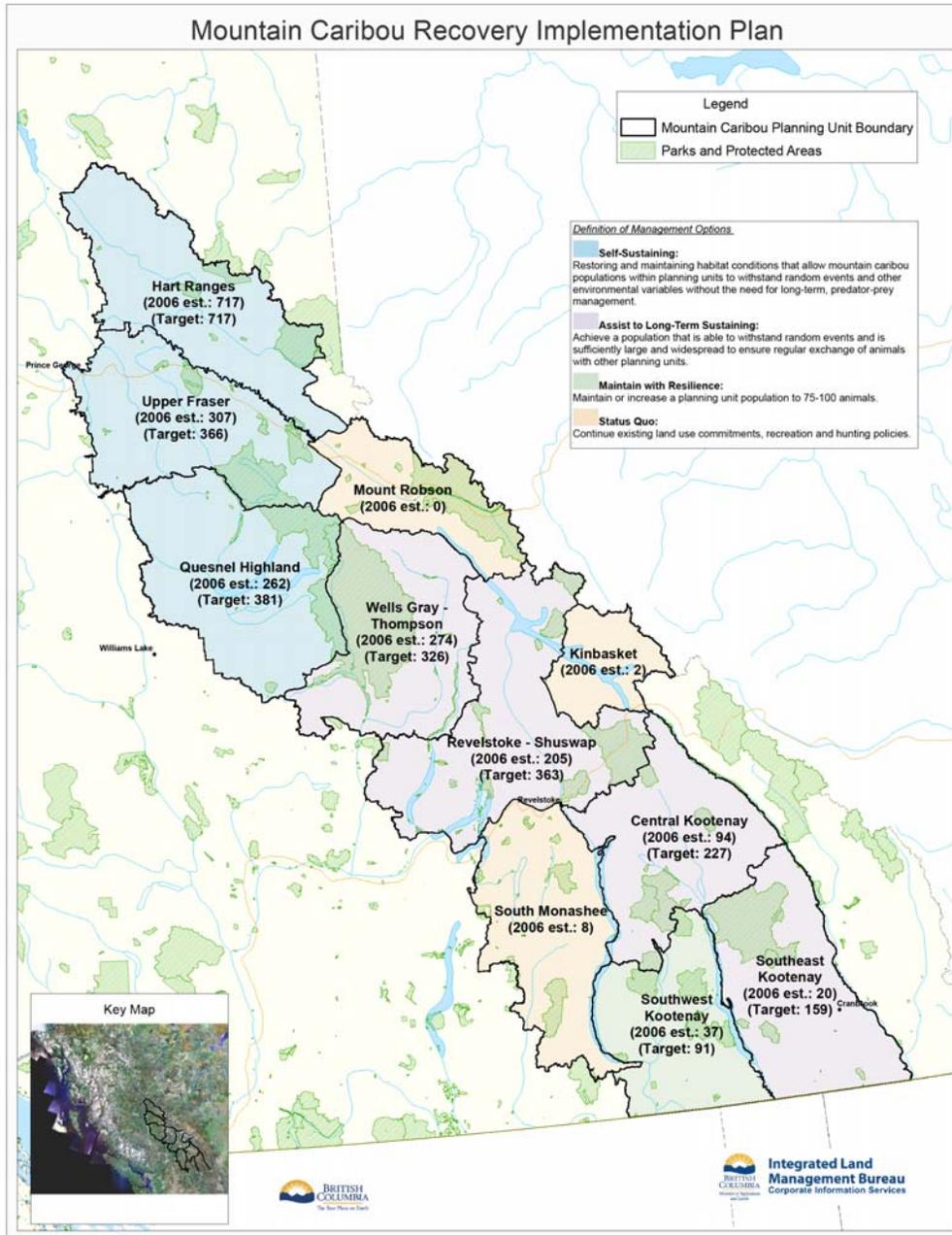
1. If consistent, present the changed proposal to amend the existing UWR order to the Omineca Manager's Committee for interagency review and endorsement. After endorsement proceed with amending the UWR proposed order.

OR

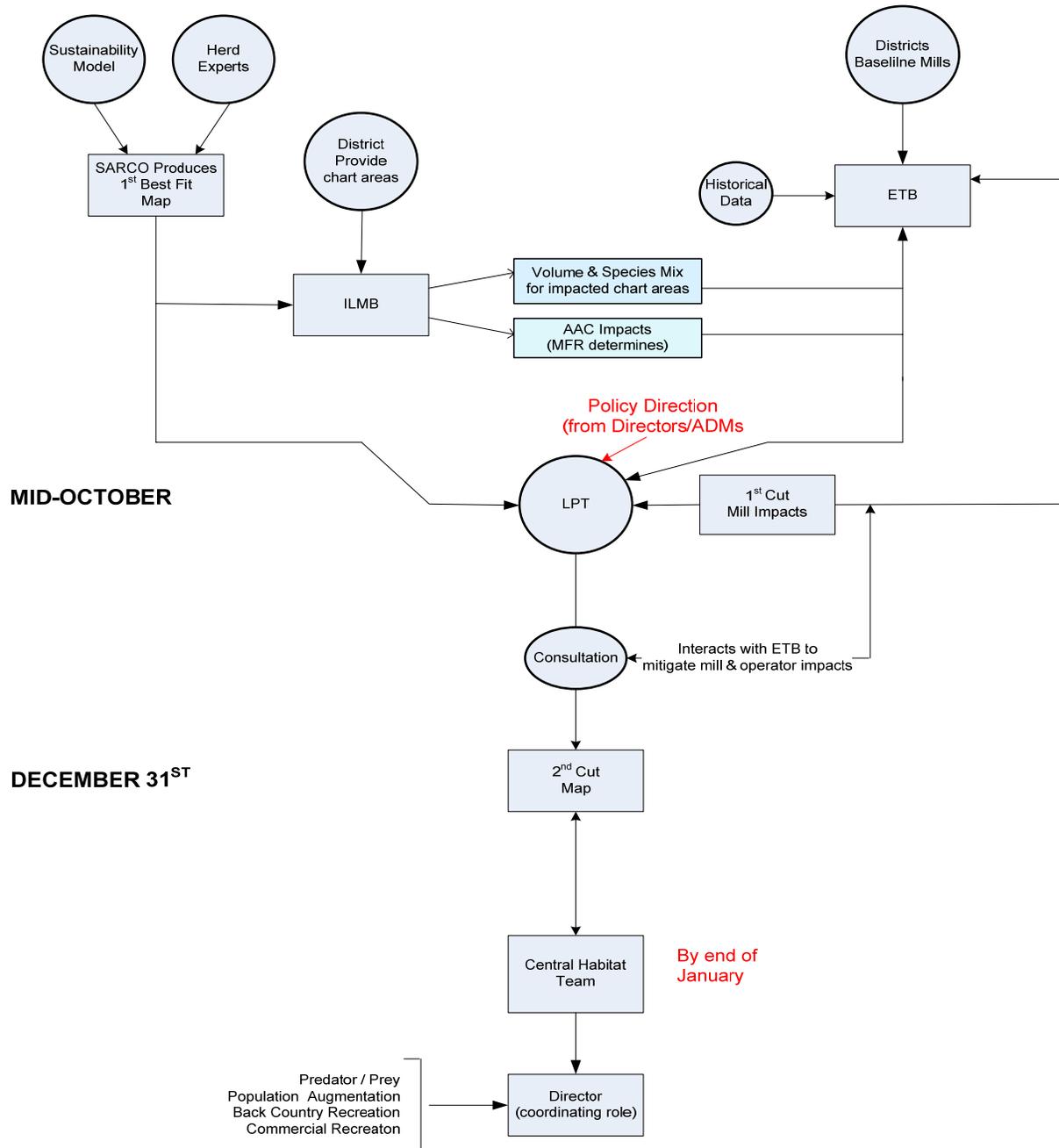
2. If not consistent, the team will make recommendations to the Central Habitat team [through Peter Lishman] on next steps, including but not limited to:
  - a. Recommended caribou habitat areas;
  - b. Recommended tools for protection.

The Local Habitat Team can make a written request, with rationale, to the Directors Team via Peter Lishman, if funding is necessary to meet the Project Objective.

**Appendix 1: Mountain Caribou Recovery Planning Units**



# HABITAT PROCESS



### **Appendix 3: Science Team and Tools Team Members**

#### Science Team (herd experts)

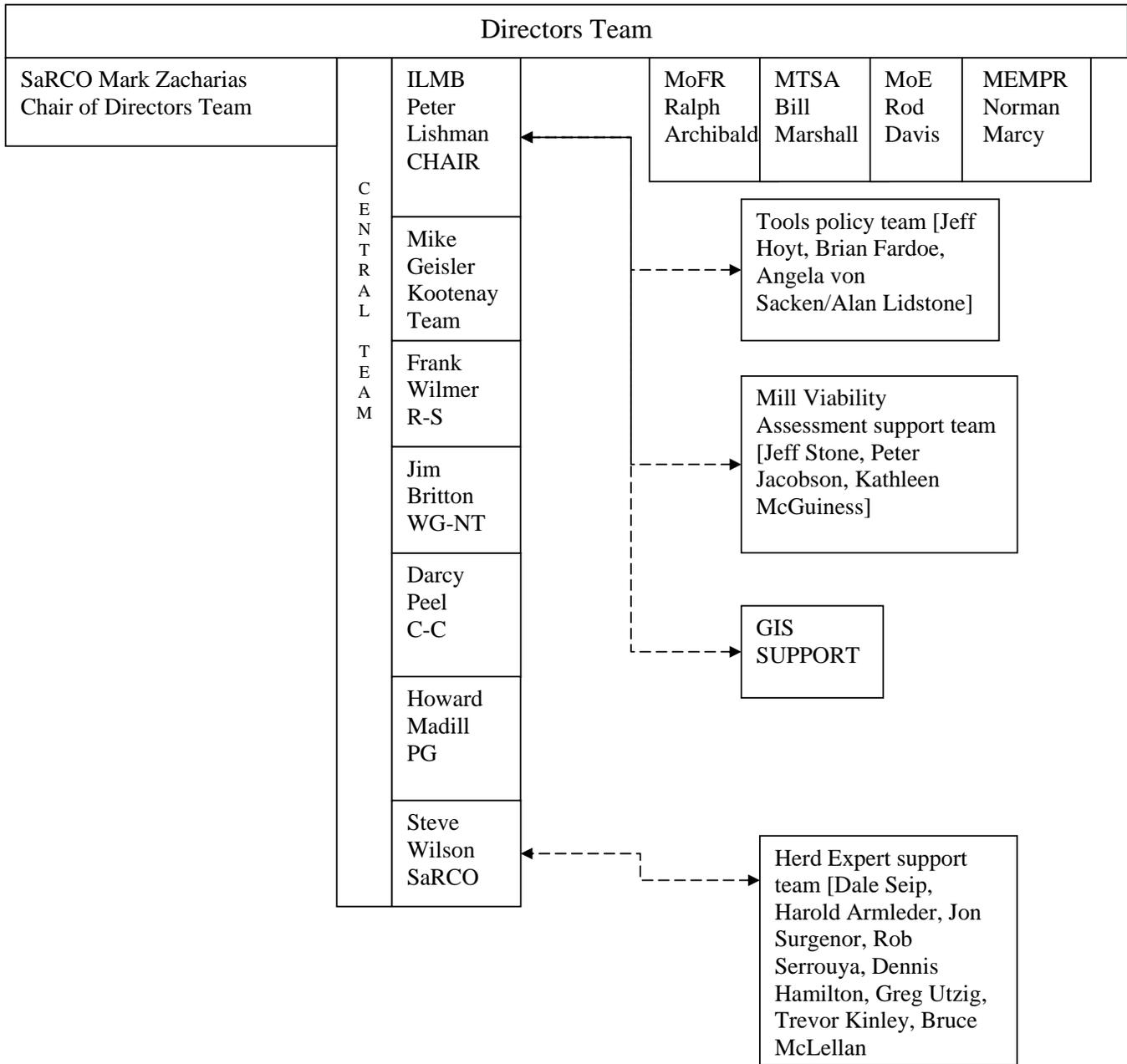
Greg Utzig  
Trevor Kinley  
Dennis Hamilton  
Rob Serrouya  
Bruce McLellan  
Dale Seip  
Harold Armleder  
John Surgenor

#### Tools Team

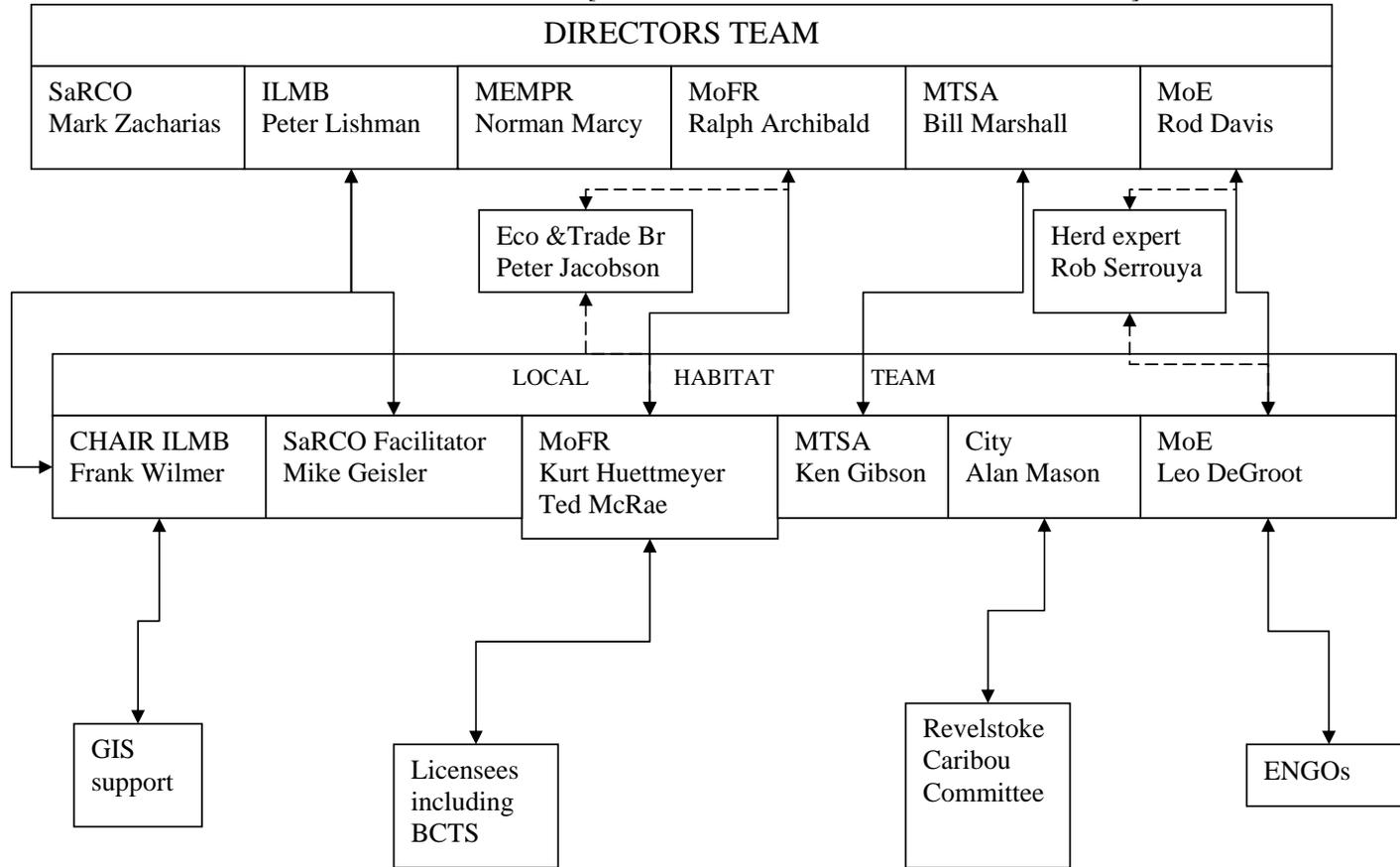
Angela von Sacken [ILMB]  
Jeff Hoyt [supported by Rodger Stewart] [MoE]  
Brian Fardoe [MoFR]  
Jay Bradley [MAL]  
Karen Tannis [MAG]

**Appendix 4: Business maps**

**CENTRAL HABITAT TEAM RELATIONSHIPS**



EXAMPLE OF LOCAL HABITAT TEAM RELATIONSHIPS [REVELSTOKE-SHUSWAP PLANNING UNIT]:



## **Appendix 5: Policy Issues**

### **Forest policy issues**

Government will:

Commit to further research to examine the need to manage the matrix habitat in the Hart, Upper Fraser, and Quesnel Highlands to reduce moose and deer densities adjacent to mountain caribou habitats. If this need is scientifically documented and supported by the Science Team, manage identified habitat areas to reduce ungulate densities.

Commit to using all legal and policy tools under existing statutes to allow licensees who have blocks within mountain caribou habitat to voluntarily abandon approved permits without penalty, relieve take-or-pay obligations, or relocate operations.

Commit to involving qualified professionals, Science Team members and forest health specialists in the development of a set of criteria and indicators to identify when and how to conduct forest health harvesting in caribou protection areas, including strategies to minimize road building. While criteria and indicators are being developed, forest health operations will be permitted where qualified professionals, Science Team members and forest health specialists determine that these areas are neutral or beneficial to mountain caribou recovery. Non forest health related salvage harvesting and associated new road building will not be allowed in caribou protection areas.

### **Mineral exploration issues**

Once local habitat planning teams have identified the high suitability winter mountain caribou habitat to be legally protected, ILMB will work with MEMPR to establish mineral reserves (i.e., conditional- or no-registration reserves) and appropriate operational practices in order to protect mountain caribou habitat and avoid displacement from mineral exploration and development activities.