

Mountain Caribou Recovery Compliance and Effectiveness-Monitoring Program Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference (ToR) support the October 2007 BC Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan (MCRIP) and are intended to provide direction for the implementation of the adaptive management strategy (Wilson and Nyberg 2009).

Background

In October 2007, the BC government announced the MCRIP with a goal to:

To 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.

The MCRIP is not without 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. The MCRIP includes the development of adaptive management and effectiveness-monitoring plans for habitat, recreation and predator-prey management efforts. In addition, research addressing knowledge gaps should be supported.

The MCRIP has six recovery objectives. These ToR address the implementation of Objective #6 – *supporting the implementation of the adaptive management strategy to increase the probability of successful recovery.*

Adaptive management means “a formal, systematic, and rigorous approach to learning from the outcomes of management actions, accommodating change, and improving management. It involves synthesizing existing knowledge, exploring alternative actions, and making explicit forecasts about their outcomes.” (Wilson and Nyberg 2009).

Purpose

To guide, design, and implement a comprehensive approach to the implementation of monitoring and adaptive management research associated with MCRIP, and to ensure field level practices are strategically aligned with government’s direction for mountain caribou recovery.

Guiding Principles:

- Wilson and Nyberg (2009) will provide the strategic direction for the monitoring requirements;
- A lack of science/information will not be used as a rationale to defer management recommendations;

- Monitoring requirements should not be onerous for agencies and should be achievable and sustainable, given current available resources.

Team Members:

Chris Pasztor (MoE) - Chair
Phil Belliveau (MoE)
Doug Krogel (ILMB)
Robin Munro (MoE)
Richard Thompson (MoE)

Gerry Kuzyk (MoE)
Sara Dickinson (MEMPR)
Kurt Huettmeyer (MoFR)
Shelia Richardson (MoE)
Steven Wilson (Ecologic Research)

Tasks:

- Identify adaptive management monitoring requirements and agency responsibility for data collection and delivery;
- Develop and implement processes within respective agencies to acquire information/data required to address compliance monitoring and effectiveness questions;
- Develop workflows and identify responsibilities for the warehousing, analysis and reporting of monitoring outcomes;
- Develop analysis methods and reporting requirements for monitoring data;
- Identify incremental resource requirements;
- Identify any outstanding gaps or risks related to the implementation of the MCRIP;
- Identify opportunities to leverage internal or outside funding sources to improve monitoring and/or fund research designed to key adaptive management questions;

Estimated Timeline:

1. Review and approval of ToR (February 10)
2. Process map for data collection and delivery by agencies, with responsibilities (March 17)
3. Analysis methods, reporting outline and schedule (March 31)
4. Report of outcomes, status of implementation, and recommendations

Reference:

Wilson, S. F., and J. B. Nyberg. 2009. A proposed monitoring and adaptive management strategy for mountain caribou recovery implementation. Prepared for Ministry of Environment, Victoria, BC.