

Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan Forest Health Team Terms of Reference

As approved by the Mnt Caribou Interagency Directors Committee on December 3, 2007

These Terms of Reference (TOR) are in support of the implementation of the Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan announced on October 16th, 2007 (<http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/sarco/mc/index.html>). They are intended to provide direction to the Forest Health Team in developing guidance and management strategies in relation to the habitat component of the Mnt Caribou recovery Implementation Plan.

Attachments to this ToR

- Appendix A Habitat ToR
- Appendix B Government commitments
- Appendix C: Work plan

1.0 Introduction / Backgrounder

In October of 2007 government announced a plan for the recovery of Mountain Caribou. 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 (for detail refer to appendix A)

1. *Protect mountain caribou habitat from logging and road building*
2. *Ensure the effectiveness of protected habitat by managing the human footprint*
3. *Manage predator populations where they are preventing the recovery of mountain caribou populations*
4. *Manage the primary prey of caribou predators to better reflect historic conditions*
5. *Augment critically endangered herds that are feasible to recover*
6. *Support adaptive management and research to increase the probability of successful recovery*

As part of this recovery plan government committed to involving qualified professionals, Science Team members and forest health specialists in providing guidance and advice on related forest health matters to the habitat component of the recovery plan.

2.0 Purpose of Forest Health Team

To develop recommendations and provide guidance to the “Mnt Caribou Inter-Agency Directors Team” on governments commitments in relation to Forest Health management within the habitat component of the Mnt Caribou recovery plan.

As part of the Mnt Caribou RIP government made a commitment to involve 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. The formation of this team is in response to this commitment as well as to address related requests for guidance from the Directors Team in relation to Forest Health and Mnt Caribou.

The team is asked to address the following:

- 1) Define and identify forest health issues intersecting Mnt Caribou habitat, including raising to the Mnt Caribou Inter-Agency Directors team as necessary and providing input to Local Habitat implementation teams.
- 2) Develop a set of criteria, indicators and thresholds to identify when and how to conduct forest health (Biotic and Abiotic) management in Mountain Caribou habitat areas including;
 - 2 (a) Provide guidance on strategies to minimize access structures in relation to forest health management;
 - 2 (b) Provide advice and recommendations on current forest health management strategies (e.g. Beetle Management Units, Fire Management- prescribed and suppression) and ensure consistency and coordination amongst the strategies with respect to the recovery of Mnt Caribou.

3.0 Team members, Roles and Deliverables

This is an “internal to government team” of qualified professionals, Mnt Caribou science team members and forest health professionals formed to address government’s commitments.

Team Members are:

- **Harold Armleder RPF/RPBio MFR Research Wildlife Habitat Ecologist** (Mnt Caribou Science Team member)
- **Dr. Bruce McLellan P.Ag./RPBio MFR Senior Wildlife Habitat Ecologist** (Mnt Caribou Science Team member)
- **Ken White, RPF/RPBio MFR Entomologist** (Forest Health Specialist)
- **Dr. Art Stock RPF MFR Forest Entomologist** (Forest Health Specialist)
- **Nikki Rivette MFR Regional Fire Management Specialist (Wildland Fire)**
- **Bruce Fraser, RPF, MFR Operations Manager** (Operational Perspective)
- **Tavis McDonald, RPF, BCTS Sustainability Officer** (Chair of team, Operational Perspective)

Role of Chair

- Facilitate meetings and discussions;
- Deliver recommendations to the Director’s Team by end of February 2008.

Role of Team

- Review and address the habitat component of the “Mnt Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan” with respect to forest health management strategies;
- Work within areas of expertise to develop guidance, and advice for forest health management strategies to the Directors team;

Deliverables

By February 29, 2008:

- Recommendations for approval by the Directors Team, by Planning Unit, of forest health management strategies to compliment the habitat component of the Mnt Caribou Recovery Plan