

Species At Risk Act (SARA) Consultation, Cooperation, and Accommodation
Virtual Workshops - Third Series 2023

Southern Mountain Caribou - Critical Habitat

Hosted By:

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER)

Registration

We are holding 3 workshop sessions, each with the same agenda and content. Please register for your preferred date via the Zoom registration links below.

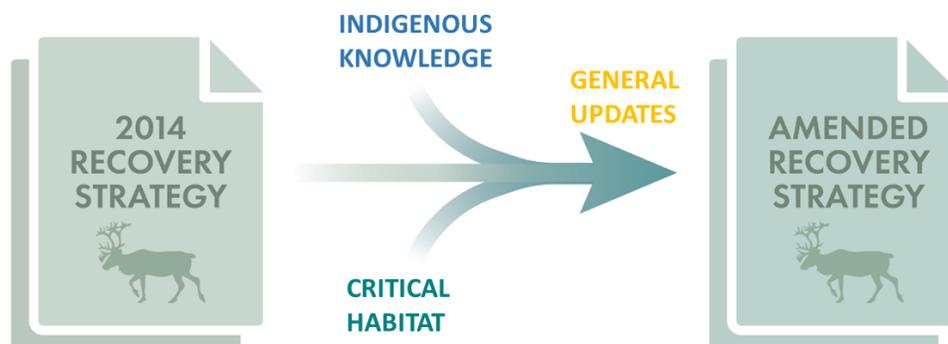
[Wednesday, February 22- 9:00am to 12:00pm PST | 10:00am - 1:00pm MST](#)

[Tuesday, February 28 - 9:00am to 12:00pm PST | 10:00am - 1:00pm MST](#)

[Thursday, March 2 - 1:00pm to 4:00pm PST | 2:00pm - 5:00pm MST](#)

Workshop Purpose

The purpose of this workshop series is to support Indigenous engagement in the amendment to the [2014 federal Southern Mountain Caribou Recovery Strategy](#). We will build on the conversations from the two previous virtual workshops held in winter 2021 and fall 2022. These upcoming workshop sessions will focus on **caribou critical habitat including updates to boundaries, categories, and disturbance thresholds, and on outlining a plan for participation and feedback**. Please note: these are *repeat* sessions and you do not need to have attended past virtual workshops to attend the 2023 Critical Habitat workshops.



2023 Critical Habitat Workshop Objectives

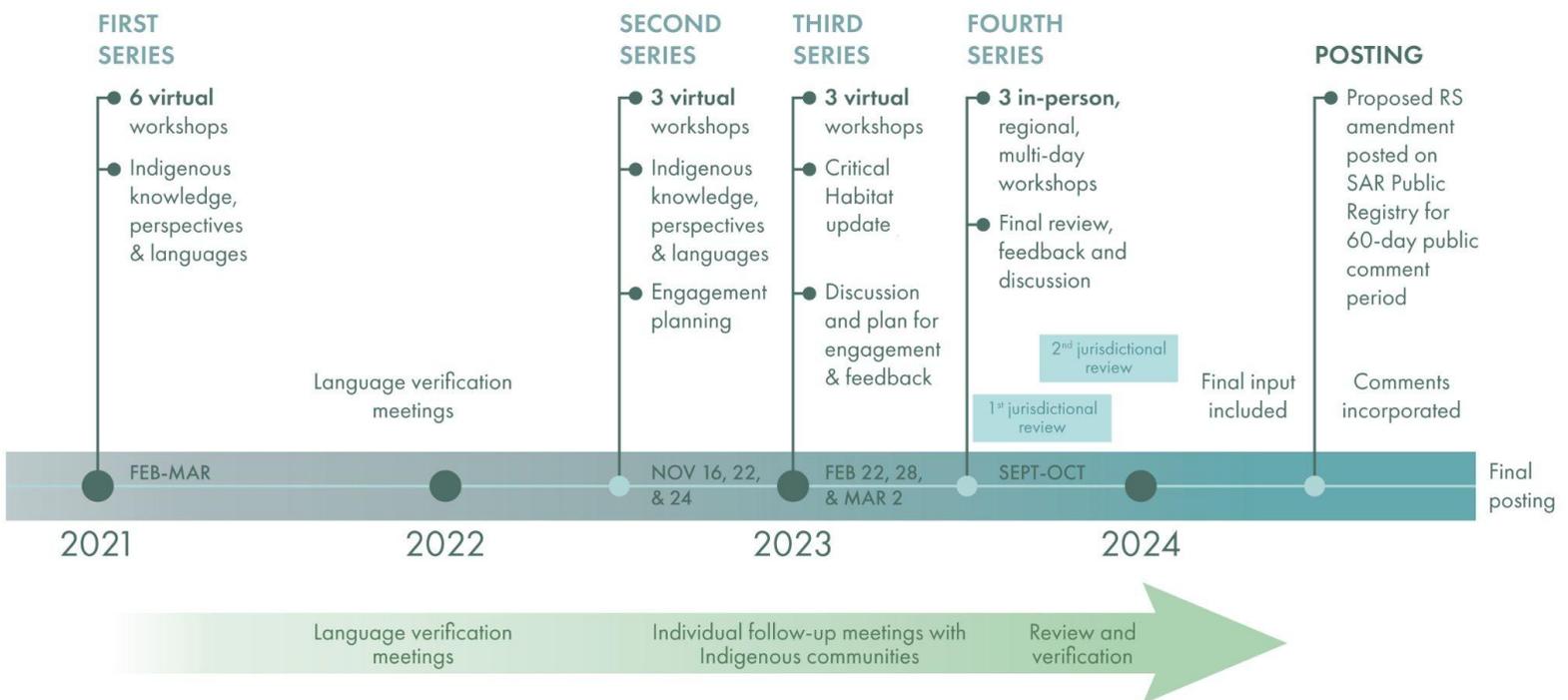
- Build on past engagement and continue to share information on the status and process of the federal Recovery Strategy amendment for Southern Mountain Caribou;
- Share updated information on Southern Mountain Caribou Critical Habitat;
- Discuss options for the co-development of respectful, personalized, and inclusive approaches to participation and providing feedback on Critical Habitat for the amendment, including:
 - One-on-one collaboration with individual communities
 - Written feedback
 - In-person multi-day workshops in fall 2023
 - And other preferred options/alternatives
- Create opportunities for networking among Indigenous communities with current and historical relationships to caribou, and provide opportunities for learning from Indigenous-led work supporting caribou recovery



June 2014
Southern Mountain Caribou
Recovery Strategy published

AMENDMENT TIMELINE

WORKSHOPS



Proposed Agenda

RS: Recovery Strategy **CH:** Critical Habitat **SMC:** Southern Mountain Caribou **IK:** Indigenous Knowledge

Topic	Description and Outcomes
Opening	<p>Welcome Virtual housekeeping Round of introductions Agenda overview</p>
Summary of Federal Recovery Strategy Amendment and Critical Habitat (CH)	<p>2014 Southern Mountain Caribou Recovery Strategy and current opportunities for updating the document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overview of RS amendment process, timelines, and work to date <p>Federal Critical Habitat Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is Critical Habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Definition under the Species at Risk Act (SARA) ● How does Critical Habitat contribute to caribou recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implications related to action plans, herd plans, environmental assessments, and emergency orders ● How does Critical Habitat contribute to caribou management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Federal and Provincial - how jurisdictional differences influence on the ground actions
Questions/Feedback	<p>Open dialogue</p>
Recent work to improve Southern Mountain Caribou Critical Habitat Discussion	<p>Components of Critical Habitat under the Species at Risk Act (SARA)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Location (i.e. boundaries of local population units) 2. Type (i.e. biophysical attributes and categories) 3. Quantity (i.e. management recommendations) <p>Review of recent work and considerations for updates to Critical Habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Critical Habitat quantity and type <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Simplifying management recommendations/categories ● Critical Habitat location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Finding ways to enhance spatial boundary alignment with all jurisdictions ● Discussion of changes and updates for consideration
Coffee Break	<p>Participants have the option to connect through informal discussion</p>
Next Steps	<p>Overview of next steps to complete critical habitat updates and to amend the federal Recovery Strategy for posting on the SARA public registry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How can community feedback be included in the best way? ● How can ECCC and CIER best facilitate and support community feedback? ● What capacity or funding is required? ● Range retraction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Documenting caribou declines in size and distribution (range size) ○ Indigenous perspectives and history will be essential
Closing	<p>Closing and discussion of plans for next steps</p>

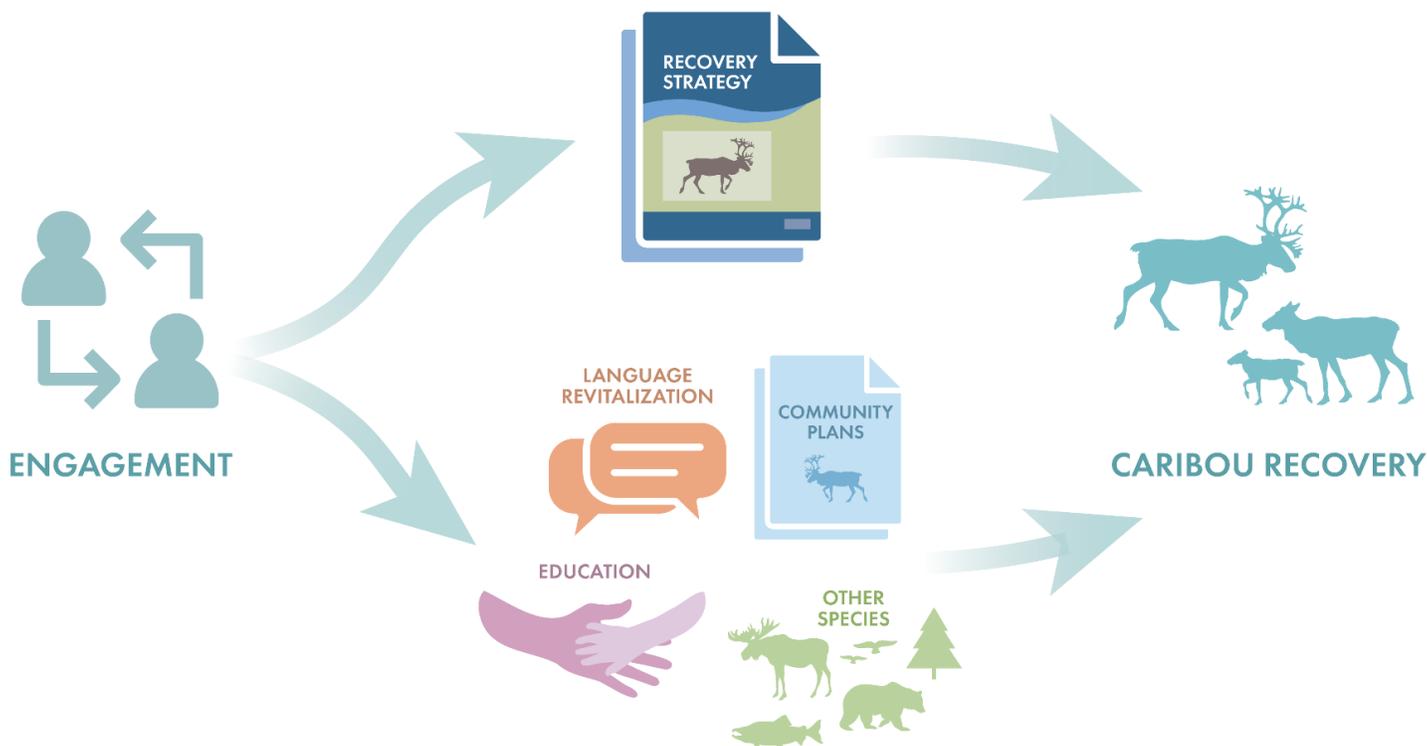
Principles for Participation

This workshop will provide a safe virtual environment for cross-cultural discussions and listening using the principles of [ethical space](#) and the [Guiding Principles for Cross-cultural Collaboration](#) developed by the Indigenous Knowledge Circle (IKC) of the National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium (NBCKC), where everyone agrees to:

- Respect the integrity of all knowledge systems;
- Create a place for knowledge systems to interact with mutual respect, kindness, and generosity;
- Provide a venue for collaboration, sharing and providing advice in a safe and empowering environment;
- Embrace flexibility;
- Recognize that one system of knowing or one language does not have more legitimacy than another, and one system does not need another to achieve internal validity.

The virtual space will also be respectful of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Governments of British Columbia and Alberta are also working on pressing activities related to caribou, guided by their own legislation and policy. We intend to continue to clarify roles and align engagement around the many caribou initiatives in progress.



Background

In June of 2014, ECCC posted the federal [Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou, Southern Mountain population](#) to the Species at Risk public registry. The implementation of the recovery strategy has been impacted by incomplete critical habitat mapping, confusion around the categories of critical habitat, and a lack of meaningful representation of Indigenous Knowledge, languages, and perspectives. There is a strong need to amend and strengthen the recovery strategy so it better reflects Indigenous voices and more clearly maps caribou critical habitat.

ECCC is committed to preparing the amended Southern Mountain Caribou recovery strategy through meaningful engagement and cooperation with Indigenous communities with a connection to caribou, including advancing reconciliation, and implementing the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) and the Canadian [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#).

In 2021, to improve collaborations with Indigenous communities and begin the amendment process, ECCC partnered with the Center for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) in the **SARA Consultation, Cooperation, and Accommodation Workshop series**:

1. The **first series** of virtual workshops took place between January 26th and March 17th, 2021. At these workshops, ECCC presented tables and maps of words for caribou in the Indigenous languages of British Columbia and Alberta that had been compiled from publicly available sources (e.g., books, articles, dictionaries, websites, etc.).
 - Following the 2021 workshops, we continued to work with communities to ensure the accuracy of Indigenous languages to be included in the amendment. Our intention is to continue to support language revitalization work through the amendment process and work individually with communities to verify the words for caribou in their own languages and dialects.
2. The **second series** of virtual workshops was held in November 2022 where we developed a plan for how feedback from Indigenous communities will be included in the recovery strategy.
 - Following the 2022 workshops we continued to hold one-on-one meetings with communities and helped facilitate knowledge sharing meetings and language verification work through CIER capacity funding.
3. The **third series** of virtual workshops will focus on updates to critical habitat in late February and early March 2023.
4. Finally, we are planning to hold **three in-person multi-day workshops** in September and October 2023 to continue refining the Recovery Strategy amendment.

Importantly, ECCC recognizes that Southern Mountain Caribou, as a species, are profoundly woven with Indigenous identity, history, and values, and that Indigenous communities maintain deep personal, cultural, and socio-ecological relationships with caribou. The communication and government-to-government discussions that are taking place as part of the amendment process give us an opportunity to develop important relationships that will help support other Indigenous community goals such as community-based caribou plans, Guardian programs, Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) proposals, and education and language revitalization interests.

Background Materials

1. [2014 Southern Mountain Caribou Recovery Strategy](#) (document being amended)
2. [ECCC SMC Recovery Strategy Amendment Timeline Infographic](#)
3. First Series of Southern Mountain Caribou Recovery Planning Workshops 2021
 - o [2021 Agenda](#)
 - o [ECCC Southern Mountain Caribou presentation powerpoints](#)
 - o [Workshop summary report](#)
 - o [Workshop infographic](#)
4. Second Series of Southern Mountain Caribou Recovery Planning Workshops 2022
 - o [2022 Agenda](#)
 - o [ECCC Southern Mountain Caribou presentation powerpoints](#)
 - o Workshop summary report (coming soon)
5. Additional information on federal Species at Risk Act for [Southern Mountain Caribou](#)
6. The [Indigenous Knowledge Circle](#) (of the [National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium](#)), is open to Indigenous communities and organizations with relationships with any species/group of caribou. This group can be joined by emailing Kristin Clark kristin.clark@ec.gc.ca
7. ECCC and the Government of British Columbia are hosting a two-day workshop on Climate Change and Caribou, February 15th and 16th, 2023. The workshop will be both online and in-person in Prince George, BC. For more information about registration please contact kristy@fuseconsulting.ca
8. There is an ongoing-call for proposals to the federal [2 Billion Trees](#) program for funding for eligible projects. Find out more [here](#).
9. The [North American Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate Conference](#) is taking place in Anchorage, Alaska, USA from 8-12 May 2023.
10. This Yellowstone to Yukon Youtube video, [Partnerships for Caribou Recovery: Protecting the Sacred Twin Sisters Area](#), describes a successful Indigenous-led caribou conservation program run by Saulteau and West Moberly First Nations

Questions

This workshop is a step in the process to amend the Southern Mountain Caribou Recovery Strategy. There will also be future opportunities and additional ways to continue working together.

<p>Robin Steenweg</p> <p>Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) – Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)</p> <p>Senior Wildlife Biologist (Southern Mountain Caribou)</p> <p><i>Questions about SMC and ECCC processes, specifically critical habitat or science-based updates, and the Recovery Strategy amendment</i></p> <p>robin.steenweg@eg.gc.ca</p> <p>250-979-8267</p>	<p>Natasha (Tash) Prokop</p> <p>Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER)</p> <p>Indigenous Knowledge and Engagement Coordinator</p> <p><i>Questions about Indigenous Knowledge inclusion in the Recovery Strategy, networking with other Indigenous Nations, Species at Risk training opportunities, and CIER capacity funding</i></p> <p>natasha_prokop@live.com.au</p> <p>236-886-2264</p>
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Hosts

Environment and Climate Change Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service

ECCC is the federal department of the Government of Canada responsible for coordinating environmental policies and programs, and preserving and enhancing the natural environment and renewable resources. The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) is a branch of ECCC that is responsible for (within jurisdictional constraints) the protection and management of migratory birds, species at risk, and their nationally important habitats, the management of National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, the review of environmental assessments, the review and issuance of permits under the Migratory Bird Regulations, Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations, Wildlife Area Regulations, and Species at Risk Act, Bird Conservation Region Plans under the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, and Recovery Strategies and Management Plans under the Species at Risk Act.

The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources

CIER is Canada's first, national Indigenous-directed environmental charitable organization. CIER's mission is to work in partnership with Indigenous Nations to support and build sustainable Indigenous communities and a healthy environment. CIER's work focuses on "Building Sustainable Communities" and "Protecting Lands and Waters" through capacity building, training, and collaborative research using traditional, local, and Western science methods. CIER works across political boundaries and cross-cultural settings on environmental issues, recognizing and respecting Indigenous rights.



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