



SOUTHERN MOUNTAIN CARIBOU

RECOVERY STRATEGY AMENDMENT TECHNICAL REVIEW

Participant Guide for the Virtual Q&A Sessions

[Tue April 9th 9:00-11:00am PT | 10:00-12:00 MT](#)

[Wed April 24th 1:00-3:00pm PT | 2:00-4:00 MT](#)



This guide is intended to support virtual participation following the 2024 in-person workshops

VIRTUAL Q&A SESSIONS

The Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment and Climate Change Canada and Pe Metawe Consulting are hosting two separate 2-hour virtual Q&A sessions in April 2024. These sessions will provide those who were unable to attend the in-person workshops (winter of 2024) with opportunity to share and ask questions, and those who did attend the workshop to check back in with us with new insights or queries!

Facilitated by [Pe Metawe Consulting](#), the Q&A sessions will provide a chance to ask questions related to the federal southern mountain caribou recovery strategy amendment (please see [HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE VIRTUAL Q&A SESSIONS](#) below). Specifically, our focus is on providing Indigenous communities and organizations with dedicated time and space to discuss the very early preliminary draft of the recovery strategy amendment.

We acknowledge that participants may need time beyond the virtual Q&A sessions to process the information shared. The virtual Q&A's and previous in-person workshops aim to take an initial step towards substantial and on-going collaboration on recovery strategy amendment. Please also note that further collaborative work will take place before the draft amendment is posted for official review on the Species at Risk Public Registry.

CLICK THE LINKS TO REGISTER FOR THE ZOOM SESSIONS:

- [Tue April 9th 9:00-11:00am PT | 10:00-12:00 MT](#)
- [Wed April 24th 1:00-3:00pm PT | 2:00-4:00 MT](#)

GOALS OF THE VIRTUAL Q&A SESSIONS

Our primary goal is to provide an additional opportunity to discuss the recovery strategy amendment for those who were not able to attend the in-person workshops. We want to enable your feedback, and to listen and learn from you! We recognize the wealth of knowledge Indigenous communities hold and seek to tap into your expertise to gain new perspectives on the challenges and opportunities of developing effective policy for caribou recovery.

Additionally, our goals are to:

- Establish and build connections between Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) staff and Indigenous communities and organizations interested in caribou recovery
- Help you understand how the federal recovery strategy enables caribou recovery, what its strengths and limitations are, and how an amendment can improve the current recovery strategy
- Equip you with enough information about the preliminary amendment to be able to share relevant content and materials with your community's leaders and members, and to support involvement in the amendment as it evolves, and as is appropriate for your specific needs

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE VIRTUAL Q&A SESSIONS

If you were not able to attend the in-person workshops, we invite you to watch the presentations that were shared during the workshops. The Q&A sessions will not include this presentation material, so we hope you'll be able to watch them prior to attending the Q&A, at a time that is convenient for you. The Q&A sessions will provide a facilitated space for discussion, questions, and dialogue.

Each **YOUTUBE VIDEO** on the draft recovery strategy is around 30 minutes:

1. [Recovery strategy background - how did we get here \(ECCC\) 2024](#)
2. [A closer look at draft critical habitat \(ECCC\) 2024](#)
3. [A closer look at other draft components of the recovery strategy \(ECCC\) 2024](#)



PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF RECOVERY STRATEGY AMENDMENT

We're excited to share the first, very early, preliminary draft of the federal southern mountain caribou recovery strategy amendment. The participant binder, which includes the preliminary draft, was initially presented at the 2024 in-person workshops. It serves as a comprehensive resource designed to facilitate discussions and enable participants to provide meaningful feedback at their own pace.

It's important to note that participants are not expected to have read the binder prior to the Q&A sessions. For your convenience, everything you need to review the amendment post-workshops and Q&A sessions is included in the binder. If you prefer a hard copy, please let us know, and we'll be happy to mail one to you!

To access the digital copy of the participant binder, which includes the preliminary draft of the recovery strategy amendment (155MB), please click the link below and enter the following username and password:

- <http://eccc.iqstorage.com>
- Username: SMC_RecoveryStrategy
- Password: 4jd438rN
- (choose "Web Client" when prompted after entering password)

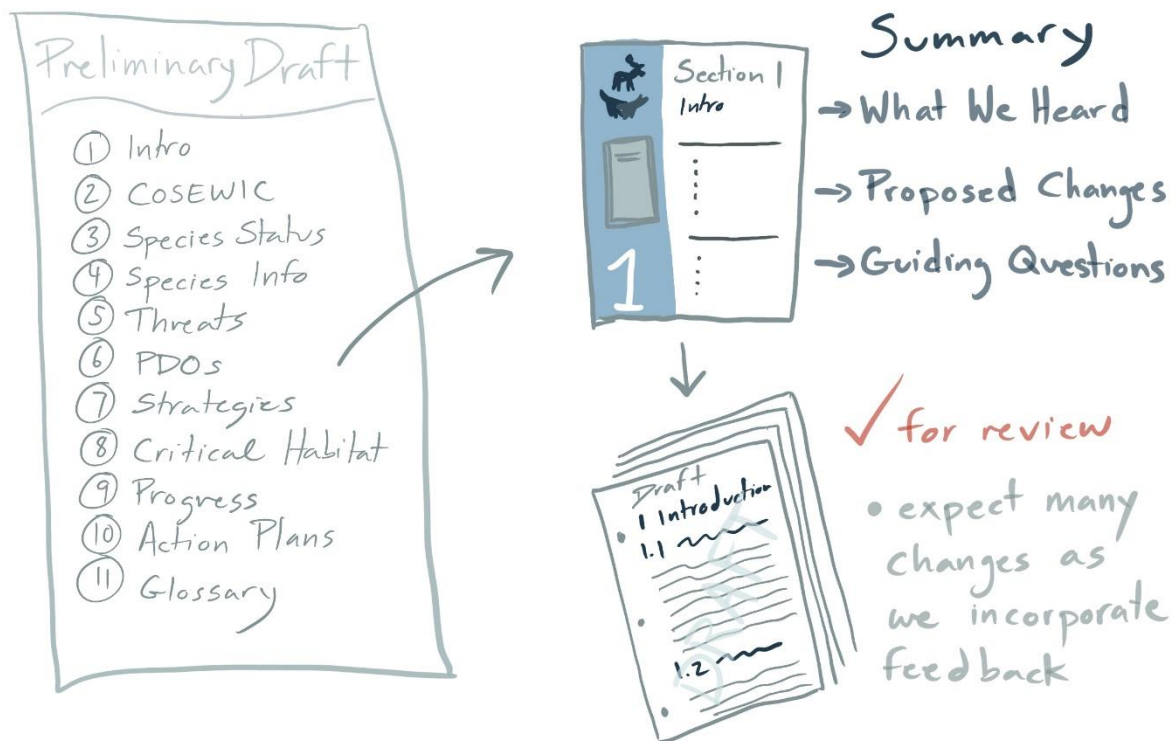
We invite feedback on all sections of the preliminary draft text of the recovery strategy amendment

FEEDBACK ON THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT

We anticipate many and substantial revisions will occur as we continue to collaborate with communities, organizations, and jurisdictions throughout 2024 and into 2025.

The digital copy of the participant binder and draft text of the amendment follow the structure of the recovery strategy, with each section featuring an informational overview that can be identified by the light blue/grey sidebar.

1. A concise summary of the intent of each section, following national guidelines.
2. A compilation of feedback received in previous conversations and engagements.
3. A list of the proposed changes that have been made since 2014.
4. Guiding questions to help you provide input. Please don't limit your input to answering these questions, they are only suggestions.



FUNDING FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE Q&A SESSIONS

Through our continued partnership with the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) we can offer half day honoraria for up to two participants from each Indigenous community or organization at the rates of \$175/half day to members and/or staff who attend and \$250/half day to Elders or Knowledge Holders/Keepers who attend. CIER will disperse cheques approximately 4 weeks after the virtual 2-hour Q&A sessions.

WINTER 2024 IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS

Three in-person workshops were held in winter 2024:

Kelowna, BC : Jan 31-Feb 1
Edmonton, AB : Feb 14-15
Prince George, BC : March 5-6

The in-person workshops were designed to fully embrace the unique advantages of face-to-face interaction, including ample opportunities for participant engagement, collaborative activities, and facilitated discussions within a shared physical space.

THE IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS WERE INTENDED TO:

- Ensure the federal recovery strategy aligns with Indigenous-led caribou recovery priorities and projects, and that Indigenous communities and organizations are supported in implementing recovery actions, by:
 - Supporting relationship-building among Indigenous communities and organizations and with federal and provincial biologists
 - Showcasing Indigenous-led caribou recovery projects and plans
 - Providing information on funding opportunities to support Indigenous-led caribou recovery projects
- Provide workshop participants with the knowledge and tools needed to:
 - Understand the amendment process, key concepts, and policy implications
 - Work through preliminary changes to the recovery strategy during the workshop
 - Take remaining concerns and ideas to their own community and/or organization's leadership for further review as needed
 - Provide feedback to ECCC/CWS on the recovery strategy after the workshop

The virtual Q&A sessions are a direct follow-up to the in-person workshops, offering a chance for Indigenous communities and organizations that couldn't attend the workshops to engage virtually on the federal recovery strategy amendment. Even if you attended an in-person workshop, you are welcome to participate in these virtual Q&A sessions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2021, to improve collaborations with Indigenous communities and begin the amendment process for the Southern Mountain Caribou federal recovery strategy amendment, ECCC/CWS partnered with the Center for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) to host a workshop series:

First Series (6 virtual workshops) - January to March 2021.

- ECCC/CIER initiated the engagement process for the recovery strategy amendment.
- [Summary Report – Series 1](#)
- [Presentation Slides – Series 1](#)
- [Infographic](#) on the Recovery Strategy Amendment process
- Following the workshops, ECCC/CIER worked closely with communities to ensure accurate inclusion of Indigenous languages in the amendment. The goal was to support language revitalization and verify caribou terms in each community's languages and dialects.

Second Series (3 virtual workshops) - November 2022

- ECCC/CIER continued to refine the process for how feedback from Indigenous communities would be included in the recovery strategy amendment through dialogue at the workshops.
- [Summary Report - Series 2](#)
- [Recording of the Workshop Presentation](#) (unlisted YouTube 55 mins)
- [Presentation Slides – Series 2](#)
- Following the 2022 workshops there were one-on-one meetings with communities to help facilitate knowledge sharing and language verification work through CIER capacity funding.

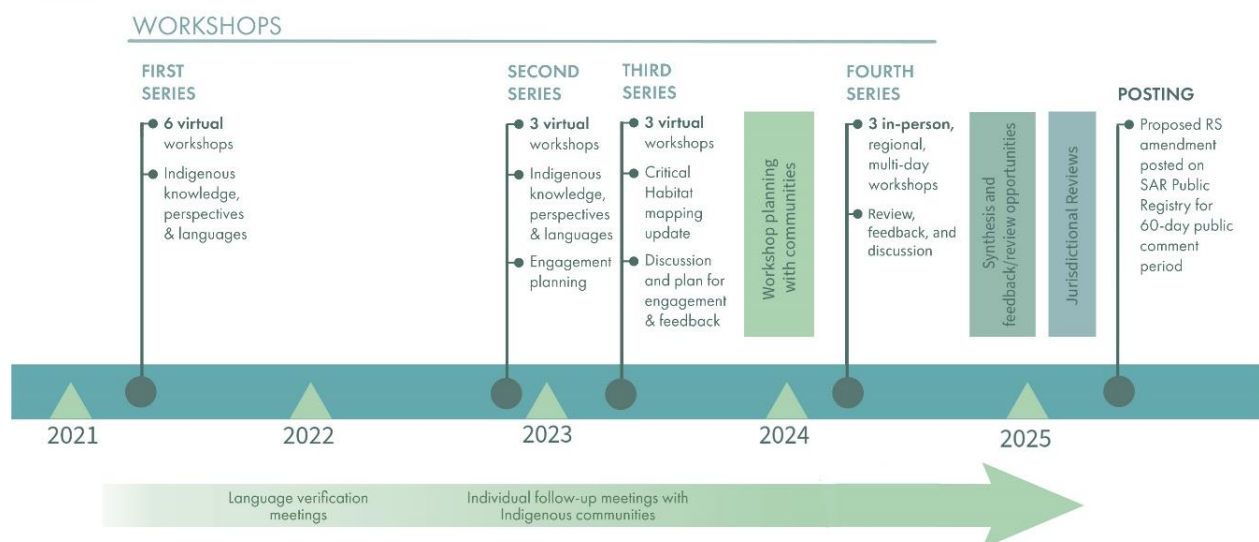
Third Series (3 virtual workshops) - February and early March 2023.

- The goal was to share updated information on critical habitat and work with Indigenous communities and organizations to co-develop respectful, personalized, and inclusive approaches to participation in the preparation of the Recovery Strategy amendment.
- [Summary Report - Series 3](#)
- [Recording of the Critical Habitat Presentation](#) (unlisted YouTube 1 hr 18 min)
- [Critical Habitat Presentation Slides– Series 3](#)



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AMENDMENT TIMELINE



PRINCIPLES FOR PARTICIPATION

This workshop aims to provide a safe 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 of the National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium, 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 space will also be respectful of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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.



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Pe Metawe Consulting

Pe Metawe Consulting is an Indigenous owned and operated consulting organization that provides a range of services to our clients.

Translated from Cree, Pe Metawe means “Come and Play” and serves as the guiding principle of how we approach our work. Indigenous owned and operated, we are working towards the betterment of Indigenous people living in Alberta. Pe Metawe Consulting blends the traditional values of Indigenous culture with the modern needs of our clients.



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