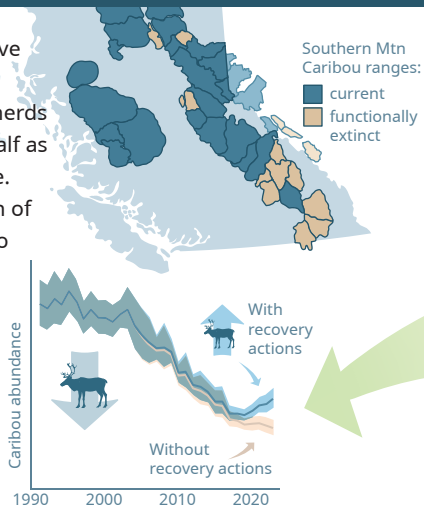


# Recovery actions have steered Southern Mountain Caribou away from extinction, but they still have a long way to go.

Lamb *et al.* (2024)

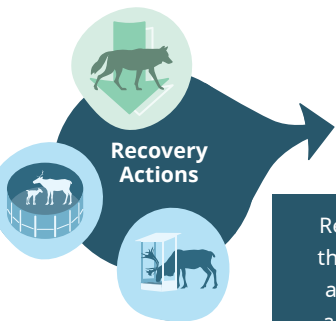


Southern mountain caribou have declined dramatically in recent decades. Since 1990, multiple herds have been lost and there are half as many caribou on the landscape. This study draws upon a wealth of data to provide new insight into caribou population trends and strategies for recovery.



While recovery actions have stabilized or increased a number of herds, abundance will remain dangerously low for years to come. It will take determined and continued recovery efforts to achieve a resilient, self-sustaining caribou population.

Habitat protection and restoration are essential for long-term caribou recovery. But it will take decades to regrow mature forests that are naturally low in predators, which caribou need to survive. In the meantime, other recovery actions like predator reduction will be critical to keeping caribou on the landscape.



Recovery actions have helped avert the extinction of many herds. There are likely about 50% more caribou alive today thanks to these efforts.



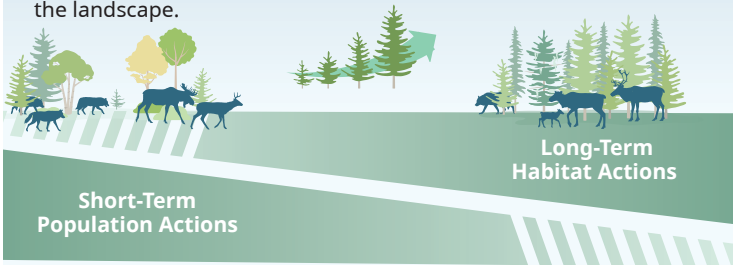
# New insights on the effectiveness of recovery actions to support Southern Mountain Caribou.

Lamb *et al.* (2024)



Southern Mountain Caribou have declined dramatically in recent decades. Multiple recovery actions have been implemented, but there has been uncertainty regarding their effectiveness. Using unprecedented demographic data and sophisticated statistical tools, this new study compares the effectiveness of recovery actions.

The ultimate cause of caribou decline is habitat loss and degradation that upsets predator-prey relationships. While habitat protection and restoration efforts are growing, restored habitat will take decades to fully mature, meaning interim measures like wolf reduction will need to continue for many years to keep caribou on the landscape.



There is strong evidence that predator reduction increases caribou populations, and it was the only recovery action that was consistently effective in isolation.



Maternal penning and supplemental feeding were most effective when combined with wolf reduction, ensuring safe release from pens and use of feeding sites.



**The combined effect resulted in rapid increases in caribou.**



Supplemental feeding appears promising but was only applied in isolation for one year to one herd. More trials are needed to confirm its efficacy.