

## News Release

For Immediate Release

Caribou Maternity-Penning Project Underway for Third Season  
Revelstoke Caribou Rearing in the Wild Society working to reverse decline of threatened species

April 8, 2016

Revelstoke, B.C.

Revelstoke Caribou Rearing in the Wild

In late March, 12 female adult caribou, 10 of which are confirmed pregnant, were safely captured and placed in a specially built pen by a team of veterinarians and wildlife experts supporting the Revelstoke Caribou Rearing in the Wild (RCRW) project. The caribou will be fed, monitored and kept safe from predators while their calves are born. In late July, when the calves have grown and are stronger, the adults and young will be released back into the wild.

The maternal pen is within the animals' natural habitat in the North Columbia Mountains, north of Revelstoke, B.C. Last fall (2015), volunteers and staff expanded the pen from 6 to 9 hectares. Now, this year's caribou are settled into their expanded temporary home.

After caribou cows and calves are released from the pen, they are monitored using satellite-linked collars to track their survival until March, when calves are 10 months old. In 2015, the second year of the project, we met our target by doubling pen-born calf survival to 10 months of age over wild-born calves. In the wild only 20-25% of calves are expected to live to 10 months of age. Eight of 15 calves born in the pen in 2015 are still alive. Our goal is to increase calf survival, and contribute to the recovery of mountain caribou.

### Quick Facts

- Revelstoke Caribou Rearing in the Wild (RCRW) is a community-based partnership, consisting of a cross representation of individuals and organizations committed to the recovery of mountain caribou in the Revelstoke area. RCRW's goal and sole focus is to fundraise, plan and conduct a maternity penning project, to increase caribou calf survival in the North Columbia Mountains over a five-year period.
- This is the RCRW's third project year.
- The Columbia North herd (north of Revelstoke) had approximately 210 caribou in 1994 and approximately 150 in 2013.
- Pregnancy rates for mountain caribou are consistently high, however calf survival rates are low. Increasing calf survival rates is considered key in the conservation and recovery of mountain caribou.
- The Revelstoke Caribou Rearing in the Wild Society (RCRW) is a community-based partnership that includes:
  - Revelstoke Community Forestry Corporation
  - North Columbia Environmental Society
  - Splat-sin First Nation
  - Mica Heliskiing
  - Province of BC
  - Parks Canada
  - Columbia Mountains Caribou Research Project

- Major RCRW supporters include the Government of Canada, Columbia Basin Trust, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, Province of BC, Revelstoke Community Forestry Corporation, Parks Canada, Shell Canada, Golder and Associates Ltd., Downie Timber and Selkirk Tangiers Heliskiing. A broader list of project funders is located at [rcrw.ca/contributors](http://rcrw.ca/contributors)

## Quote

*“This is an ambitious, community-based initiative aimed at increasing survival rates of newborn mountain caribou. We are proud to be in our third season and grateful for all the many dedicated volunteers and supporters we have had over the past three years. Together we can make a difference for the future of mountain caribou.”*

*Kelsey Furk*

*Executive Director, RCRW*

## Associated Links

[www.rcrw.ca](http://www.rcrw.ca)

[www.facebook.com/revelstokecaribou](http://www.facebook.com/revelstokecaribou)

[www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/bc/glacier/natcul/natcul6/caribou.aspx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/bc/glacier/natcul/natcul6/caribou.aspx)

[www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/speciesconservation/mc/index.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/speciesconservation/mc/index.html)

[http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/species/speciesDetails\\_e.cfm?sid=1295](http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/species/speciesDetails_e.cfm?sid=1295)

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