

## **Habitat supply as a paradigm for planning recovery of caribou in north-central British Columbia**

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We used the Caribou Habitat Assessment and Supply Estimator (CHASE) to evaluate the effect of 4, hypothetical forest development scenarios on habitat supply for northern caribou in 4 herd areas deemed at risk in north-central British Columbia. Results of these habitat supply forecasts focused on seasonal range values which included an interaction of predation risk. The habitat values, sustainability of those values, comparison of the values to those expected under natural disturbance, and the modeled interaction among seasonal ranges and movement corridors allowed us work effectively toward developing definitions of critical habitat. We also used analysis of the resulting data to aid the development of recovery goals and objectives for the 4 herds. In conclusion, habitat supply modeling provided a basis for discussion at recovery team meetings and enabled decision-makers to form technical-based goals and objectives that can now be effectively monitored during recovery efforts.