

## **British Columbia Snowmobile Federation - BCSF**

December 21, 2018 at 6:00 PM ·

**\*Important\*** It is long but please read and share. Attached are the detailed caribou habitat maps related to the South Peace received by the BCSF from the Province. The BCSF requested these maps to be very detailed to allow us all to have a better understanding of caribou movements by herd, winter vs summer, and core habitat vs incidental usage. This results in a lot of data on one map.

We are told that the data reflected only goes to 2013, which was the last time this level of analysis was completed, though it is still an accurate representation of current caribou habitat usage trends. There is a plan to provide more detailed and recent data at the consultation open houses.

Facebook will not allow us to upload large files so I have just attached small image files for the purpose of getting attention to what this post is about. To fully review the maps you should download the full high res maps from <https://drive.google.com/.../11MwJhDJJyvIRCrsvWEkKveLne1Jbb7...> and look at the different layers. To open these files with layers you will need Adobe Acrobat which is a free program that can be searched on any internet browser to download a copy. When you open the files in Adobe Acrobat on the far left is an icon that looks like a stack of papers. You can click on the stack and open the layers. By clicking on a layer name it turns that layer on or off. I have found this is very useful to show me where the layer is. By turning a layer on and off it gives a real visual of the area referenced in that layer.

For explanation on the 70%, 80% and 90%. I am told this is a kernel analysis of telemetry locations which is a statistical method of demonstrating portions of the range where animal activity is most concentrated. This method can calculate areas that contain different proportions of the total locations (e.g., 70%, 80% or 90% of total locations). So the darker blue (70% of winter locations) indicates where telemetry points are the most densely located and represents the most frequently used habitat, while the green (90%) indicates where points are still common, but more spread out, representing the edges of core habitat.

Please note the trails shown on this map are the best shapefiles government currently has; part of our snowmobile engagement will be to improve these trail maps. The snowmobile sector has been assured that we will be provided an opportunity for really focused engagement on possible snowmobile management in the South Peace early in the New Year.

We are asking you to review the attached maps and provide feedback and questions that you have via email to me at [office@bcsf.org](mailto:office@bcsf.org). This will allow me to compile all of our questions into a single BCSF document that hopefully will assist government in being able to respond. The more questions and misconceptions we can get cleared up prior to the consultation open houses, the more we will be able we will be to focus on solutions that meet the goals of caribou recovery and access to areas for snowmobiling.

Please read, like, and share. Be sure to "include original post" so people don't just see a link to a google drive with no explanation 😊

Donegal Wilson  
Executive Director

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