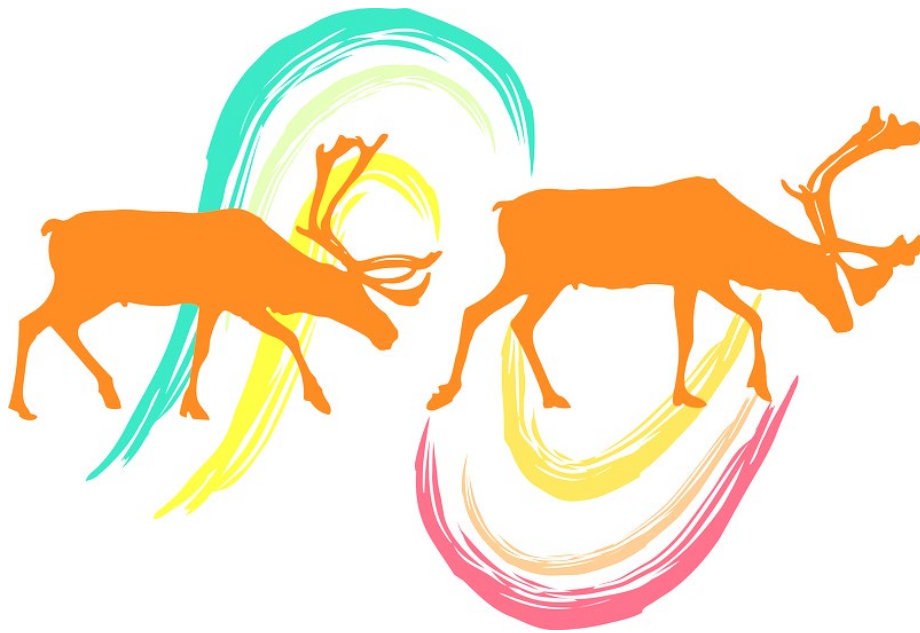




Action Plan for 2024/2025

BLUENOSE-WEST CARIBOU

– ORANGE STATUS –



Tuktuvialuk (Inuvialuktun, Siglitun dialect)
Vadzaih (Teet'it and Gwichya Gwich'in)
ʔedə (K'áhsho Got'jne, Dela Got'jne)
ʔehdajla Goʔekwé (Déljne Got'jne)

**Prepared by the Advisory Committee for
Cooperation on Wildlife Management**

February 2024

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This Action Plan was prepared by the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management Working Group. For additional copies contact:

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About the ACCWM

The Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management was established to exchange information, help develop cooperation and consensus, and make recommendations regarding wildlife and wildlife habitat issues that cross land claim and treaty boundaries. The committee consists of Chairpersons (or alternate appointees) of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, ʔehdzo Got'ıne Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board), Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, and Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board.

**About Taking Care of Caribou and the associated Action Plans**

In late 2014 and early 2015, members of the ACCWM approved *Taking Care of Caribou: the Bluenose West, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East barren-ground caribou herds management plan*. The Plan was developed in consultation with 17 communities that harvest from the three herds. It was presented to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (formerly the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories), the Minister of Environment (Government of Nunavut), and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (formerly the Environment Minister, Government of Canada) in 2014.

The Management Plan is supported by two companion documents: a report summarizing recent scientific information about the herds, and a report that provides a summary of the information that was shared during community meetings to develop the Plan. Individual Action Plans were then developed for each of the three herds. These annual Action Plans provide details on the types of actions that are recommended based on a herd's status, as well as who is responsible for the actions, and when they should be done.

Disclaimer:

The ACCWM recognizes that the implementation of management actions moving forward is subject to appropriations, prioritizations, and budgetary restraints of the participating agencies and organizations.

ACCWM and the Taking Care of Caribou Management Plan

The **Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management** (ACCWM) was established in 2008, to exchange information, help develop cooperation and consensus and make recommendations regarding wildlife and wildlife habitat issues that cross land claim and treaty boundaries. In 2014, the ACCWM recommended the **Taking Care of Caribou** management plan to the governments with management jurisdictions of these three herds. The plan was reviewed and updated in 2022. The plan will be revised again in 2024. The current version of the plan can be found here: [link](#)

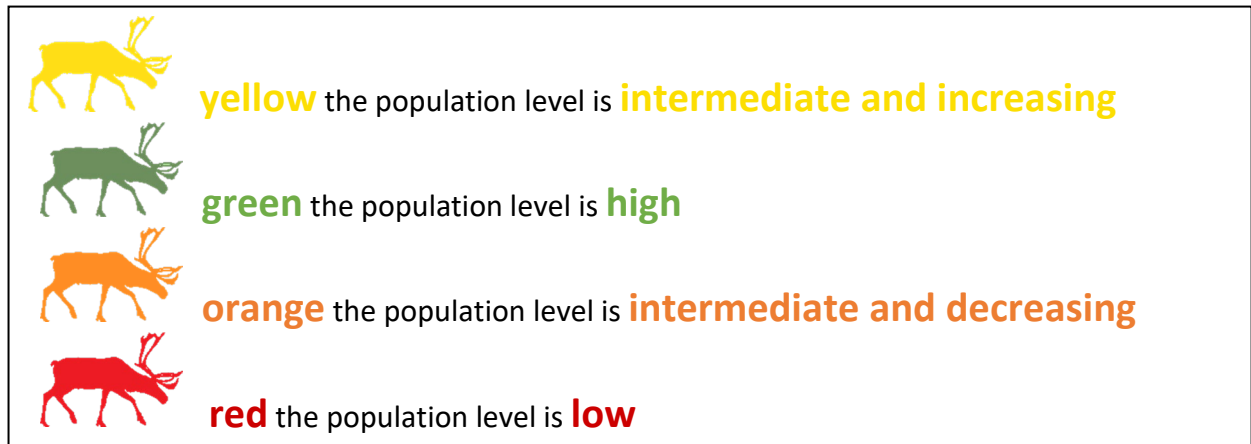


Figure 1: Herd status based on the phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans.

How a Herd's Status and Appropriate Management Actions are Determined.

The ACCWM is responsible for determining herd status each year and developing appropriate management actions based on that status. Each fall, the member boards meet for the Annual Status Meeting (Terms of Reference [TOR] can be found [here](#)) to share information and make collaborative decisions regarding the herds, including herd status (Figure 1), according to the requirements of regional legislation and land claims agreements. The implementation of the Action Plans is also reviewed at this time and actions for the Bluenose-West (BNW) herd can be found in the Management Action table section of this Action plan (see page 14).

Status Decision 2023

Management actions are based on these phases of the population cycle, using approximate levels or "thresholds" as a guide. Thresholds for the herds were determined by the ACCWM based on known historic highs and lows, with input received from community and technical experts in a consensus-based process. **However, it is not only the threshold value that is used to determine the colour zone – the determination of herd status takes into account all available information.** The traffic light approach to understanding risk in caribou population cycles is shown in Figure 2 (below) along with the approximate thresholds for the Bluenose-West (BNW) herd.

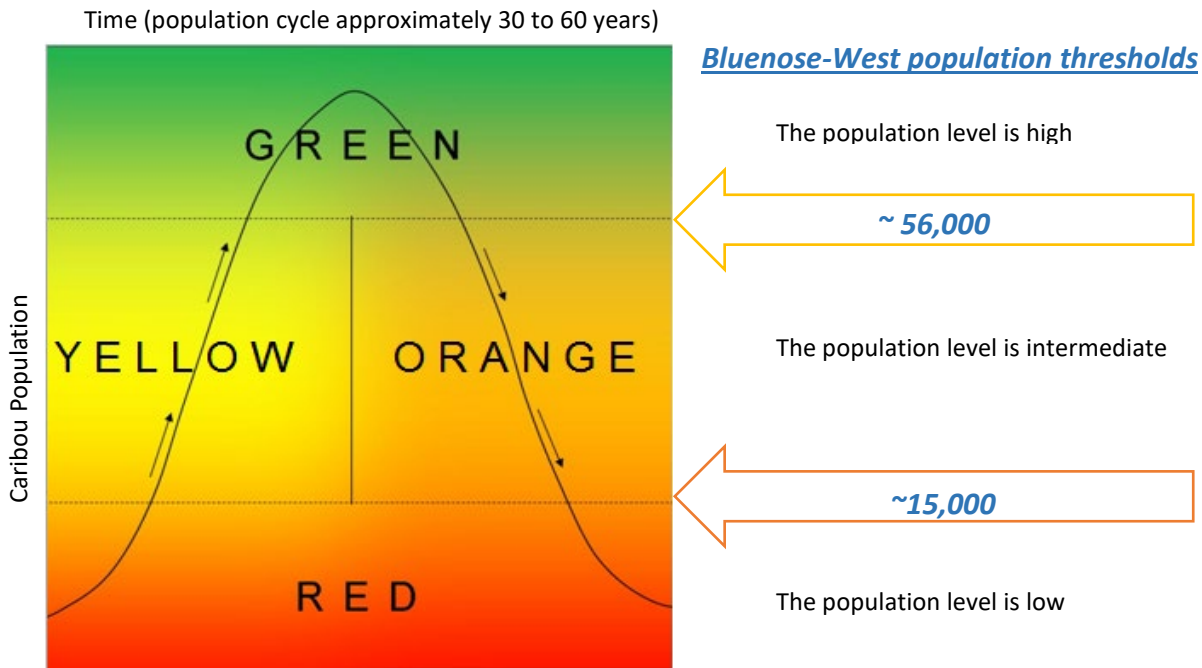


Figure 2: Phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans with Bluenose-West population thresholds.

According to the process outlined in the Management Plan, numerous criteria are used to make an annual status decision. Information considered by the ACCWM in making the 2023 decision is summarized in Table 1 below. During the annual status meeting, stakeholders are encouraged to provide important local and Indigenous knowledge that helps to inform the status decision. This data is reported in the Annual Meeting Summary report when it doesn't fit into the monitoring criteria listed in Table 1.

Based to the information presented at the annual status meeting, the ACCWM decided in that the status of the Bluenose-West herd falls within the **orange (intermediate and decreasing)** status. Member Boards acknowledged positive aspects highlighted in community and scientific presentations but decided to err on the side of caution since a population survey had not been completed for this year. Consequently, ACCWM members opted to retain the status designation from the previous year, emphasizing the need for continual conservation efforts to support the recovery of the Bluenose-West herd.



IN 2024/25

the Bluenose-West caribou population status is
ORANGE: intermediate and decreasing

Table 1: Criteria used to assess Bluenose-West status in 2023.¹

Criteria	Community-Based Information ²	Scientific Information ³	Comments
Population size	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAc-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March through to late May during guiding – a big herd was seen. Mostly cows and calves. Between Cape Bathurst and Anderson River. • Near a lake at least 400 seen in late October 2023. • A harvester was at Rendezvous Lake around September 30th. Nothing seen during that time, used to see large migrations 80/90s, could be the timing that caribou are coming later. <p>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT):</p>	Estimated number of adult caribou in 2021 Rivist: 18,440 ± 5211 (95%CI)	Estimated based on July post-calving ground survey

¹ This table is populated with information presented to the ACCWM to assess herd status in 2023 and is adapted from the monitoring criteria table included in *Taking Care of Caribou*.

² Bluenose-West caribou usually migrate through two settlement areas/regions and are typically harvested by four communities: Aklavik, Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic and Tuktoyaktuk. In 2023, community-based information was documented in the following ways:

- The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAc, (NWT)) held community meetings in Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk. Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk are the Inuvialuit communities that mostly encounter and harvest Bluenose-West caribou.
- Few Gwich'in Participants harvest from this herd, so the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB) had no community-based information to present in 2023.
- Déljñę is the Sahtú community that primarily harvests ʔehdajla ʔekwé. Colville Lake is the Sahtú community that primarily harvests ʔədə. As such, the SRRB annually invites Déljñę and Colville Lake to provide direct presentations of community knowledge to the ACCWM. As part of the SRRB's ongoing Public Listening Session series (2020-2024), publicly available community and scientific information about status of ʔehdajla ʔekwé (Caribou Point or Bluenose East caribou, ʔədə (barren-ground caribou in the K'áhsho Got'jñę District or Bluenose West caribou), people, and planning for 2021 can be found in Déljñę and Colville responses to Information Requests, as well as Indigenous knowledge and science literature reviews. These are posted on the Déljñę 2021 PLS Public Registry at www.srrb.nt.ca.

³ All scientific information and comments were provided by Environment and Climate Change (ECC) (GNWT) unless otherwise noted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herd was healthy past Kugaaluk River. Big winds pushed them into the trees. Health and numbers looked really good. Haven't seen that in a long time. 2 years ago, herds of 1500, looked good then too. <p>Paulatuk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plentiful this year. <p>Colville Lake (BAFN):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plentiful this year. 		
Population trend and rate of change	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "The reason I am out there makes it difficult to count the caribou numbers. I may see ten, I harvest my few and then I am done." Noticing 10-20yrs the ratio of calves and cows is much higher than 20/30yrs. Hard question to answer. I can't say if the population is smaller or bigger. Used to hunt a lot of caribou around Miner River, where I used to hunt annually. Not seeing any nowadays. <p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less snow in the tree line makes for more available food source. <p>Colville Lake (BAFN):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The numbers are going back up. 	Between 2005 and 2021 the herd shows a non-statistically significant decrease of 2% per year (95%CI of stable to 4% decline)	<p>Trend analysis is based on Rivest estimates:</p> <p>2021 18,440 ± 5,211 2018 21,011 ± 4,602 2015 21,535 ± 5,136 2012 32,326 ± 15,482 2009 21,773 ± 4,884 2006 28,461 ± 7,431 2005 26, 228 ± 5,878</p>
Productivity and recruitment	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More calves and cows. Cows with even 2 or 3 calves. 	Pregnancy rate of captured cows	Pregnancy based on serum progesterone.

	<p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeing lots of cows and calves. <p>Colville Lake (BAFN):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Younger cows are having calves. In the spring-time, seeing more calves alone. 	<p>2021: 24/33 (73%).</p> <p>Last recruitment survey was 2017 so no current information available.</p>	<p>2017 recruitment survey estimated was 34 ± 2.8 (SE) calves per 100 cows.</p>
Adult composition	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good mix of cows and bulls - McKinley Bay - later part of August/ early Sept - half cows and half bulls Every year after freeze-up (Oldman Lake) they migrate east from there. Good size herd half cows and bulls Husky Lakes towards river side use to see lots of caribou. Now you are more likely to see a couple stray reindeer. <p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over last few years, only see bulls in the area of Williams Lake North of Old Man Lake. December hunting, changes, migration route change or wolves? Not the normally migration, they are staying east. 	<p>There is only one bull to cow ratio for BNW (2009) so trend is unknown; the 2009 result is considered high.</p> <p>Estimated number of bulls per 100 cows in 2009: 70</p>	
Body condition and health	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good shape right now. "Haven't noticed the shape of caribou. 35 years ago we used to be more selective of the caribou we harvested, but now we take what we can get. Not aware of any abnormalities." 	<p>No new information available.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribou are in really good condition. Every year you will get the odd one, but not enough to create a trend. Odd comment of “looks sick”, or “swollen joints”. If it’s really bad they will not take it. Sample/testing - when caribou first started coming around Tuk very rare to see any caribou that were bad. When they came closer and closer to Tuk, because they were so tame, we were able to observe them more easily. Females with calves, very rare that that female will have fat. Caribou are more wild now and will run as soon as they see you. • Sometimes we do get caribou with pus marks, majority of the time you just cut that part out. <p>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Really good. Health has been good, same as usual. <p>Paulatuk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The caribou were in good shape this year. • Dry cows are really in great shape. “Lots of fat” <p>Colville Lake (BAFN):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The east and west herds are both looking very healthy. • Very thick back fat especially on the dry cows during the spring-time. • Bulls and calves are very healthy too. • Bulls have fat in the breast area in the fall time. 		
Harvest levels	Tuktoyaktuk (WMAc-NWT):	Total harvest uncertain.	TAH tag returns in Inuvik Region 2022/2023

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue around enforcement. Restriction needs more enforcement from ENR. Bylaws without enforcement are challenging. Being raised to authorities. Hiring process underway, it is actively being pursued. Dedicated funded received, specifically for patrols. • The accessibility of the ITH, more hunters from Inuvik, more poaching. 6 caribou all butchered and left behind, abandoned as they may have thought we were ENR. Was salvaged. • Monthly HTC meetings with a dedicated spot for ENR/ECC. 15 mins on zoom is accessible, but we have not been successful in securing an invite. It is discouraging. If the issue is important enough we can allot an hour. • Enforcement for Grizzly harvesting, harvested and not certain if it was a necessary kill. Unused tags from previous year will be applied to DLPs. Anything concerning can be reported to the 24hr line. HTCs have powers of discipline if offenders are contravening HTC by-law rules that are signed and put into force. • Patrols almost catch offender but cannot pursue a chase. - If you see something that is not right, you have to do something about it. Management - rules when we take a tag out, process to signing out a tag and a timeline. No samples returned. Although the tags are returned, there is reason to believe that they are harvesting. 90% of the tags have samples. <p>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest levels are being recorded. 	<p>Sex of harvest is not always reported ECC believes the 80% bull target is not being met.</p>	<p>Inuvialuit: 403 Quota, 306 harvested Gwich'in: 34 quota7 harvested. Sahtú: harvest unknown.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluenose West harvest quotas have not been filled in the last few years. When harvest study being pushed by IGC would be really good, as it is a good tool for collecting data and information regularly. • Quota not filled, the tags go back to IGC to be redistributed to other communities. • Letter submitted by the IHTC to change the zone a smidge at the south side of husky lakes near Bonnyville. Was denied twice. • Tags are not being reported on properly. 		
<p style="text-align: center;">Predator populations</p>	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wolverine in the last few years in increasing numbers. • A lot of grizzly bears too. • With the fires we are likely to see more predators moving north that might effect the population. • Hungry wolves, noted that a muskox aborted her young from being chased extensively. • “Once safe to cross husky lakes I went up to Old Man Lake, many caribou that were looking around, driven by wolves.” <p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wolves and wolverines are at higher levels, many community monitoring reoccurring bears from cabins, not sure if calves are being killed by them. • Members are getting lots of wolves. Keeping the levels down at a sustainable level. Lots of Wolverines are being reported. Grizzly Bears are not as many in the past. More observations of wolves. 	<p>Paulatuk submitted 0 wolves in the 22/23 season. The payment for wolves increased in BNW range in the ISR.</p>	<p>Changes in wolf harvest does not necessarily reflect changes in wolf abundance.</p>

	<p>Paulatuk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a tonne of bears but that is not unusual. Seeing the same individual bears year after year. • More wolves moving north with the caribou. <p>GRRB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the harvesters that went out to the BNW Range saw an increased number of wolverines in the area. <p>Colville Lake (BAFN):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not many wolf tracks. This different than past years. • Few to no wolves sighted. They may be staying north where the young caribou are. • Wolves seem to be hanging around muskox. • Not many bears this year, maybe moving north. 		
<p>Range and movement patterns</p>	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May have come down later this year, due to warmer climate - couple of wolves observed near the camp that may have impacted the presence of caribou. • At Rendezvous Lake, Grizzly bear shot, seen tracks but no caribou seen compared to historical trends. <p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year, caribou hunting Kugaaluk Lake. East side of Husky Lakes. Storm pushed the caribou into the trees, and you would just see a handful come out here or there, they did not emerge until the spring. 	<p>In June 2023, 30 BNW collared cows were still active from the 2021 deployment and all returned to BNW calving ground.</p> <p>Between 2010 and 2022, 99% of collared BNW cows (258 records) returned year after</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeing more caribou in the Devil Lake area. Woodland caribou are moving north. • They'll be in a certain area from many years, good food source in the trees so they are staying there longer. <p>Paulatuk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribou migration came within 5 km of town. <p>Colville Lake (BAFN):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The migration route and timing are starting to go back to normal (especially at Horton Lake). 	<p>year to calving ground.</p>	
<p>Environment and habitat</p>	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and habitat - no bumble bees, no horseflies, freezing rain. No mosquitos. • Cannot travel back and forth to husky lakes right now, we should be able to right now based on history. • At the bottom of an estuary noted the water temperature was 22.4 C degrees. • Lots of slumping along the rivers and streams. <p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change is affecting the smallest and biggest migrations, lots of open water open, and Moose are really moving north on Tuk Peninsula. Shrubs are changing and moving further north. Odd year, clear blue water, super clear and low water long place for sand bar. • Willows are moving north, where there used to be barren land is willows and more snow. 3ft of snow in 	<p>There were very few fires in the 2023 season on the BNW range.</p>	

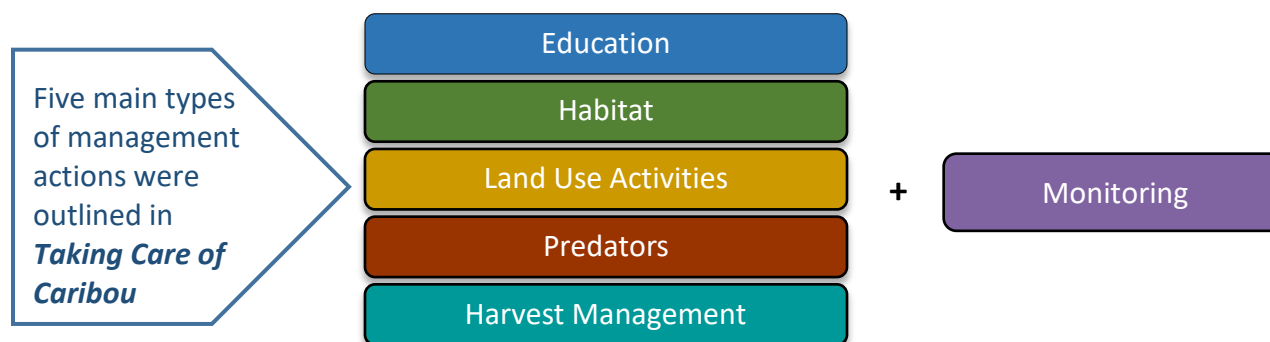
	<p>areas that used to be wind swept barren land. Used to be able to see long distances, now that is impacted by shrubs and trees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ulukhaktok, open water impacting caribou going across straits and inlets to get to the island (Dolphin Union herd). • Super low water. Bugs weren't as bad. • Lots of slumping along the rivers and streams. <p>Paulatuk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change may be impacting migration timing and routes. • There is a lot of slumping happening all over the area. Inland there are lots of building sized slumps that can impact the migration routes. <p>GRRB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire northeast of Inuvik did not disturb the area where Gwich'in harvesters would be hunting. <p>Colville Lake (BAFN):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The snow is softer in some areas right along treeline near the barrenlands, which makes it easier for the caribou to forage. • No rain in the fall, so caribou seem to be closer and changing how they are migrating. • Lakes and creeks are low, lots of swampy water on the ground, here and there. 		
<p>Human disturbance</p>	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More hunters impacting caribou. 	<p>The Cumulative Effects project is ongoing, initial</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inuvik-Tuk Highway makes more caribou accessible to hunters from McPherson and Aklavik. People bring boats from Inuvik to Tuk Harbour and through Husky Lakes to go hunting. <p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Cruise ships may be the only observed disturbance. <p>GRRB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new disturbance in the area 	<p>steps to map all current disturbance in the range show that there is a low human footprint on the range (less than .05% of the range)</p>	
Competitors	<p>Colville Lake (BAFN):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a lot of moose moving on to the barrenlands. 	<p>Muskox survey in March 2021 shows changes in muskox distribution from past surveys. Population in the ISR appears stable.</p>	

Orange Status Management Actions for Bluenose West Caribou

Management actions described in *Taking Care of Caribou* fall into five main categories: *Education*, *Habitat*, *Land Use Activities*, *Predators* and *Harvest Management*.

We have included a sixth category here to capture the *Monitoring* actions that were also identified in the Management Plan. Monitoring is a key part of learning and assessing the success of management actions. For the most part, monitoring actions differ from management actions as they are not as dependent on herd status – they are ongoing in many cases, but their frequency or intensity may change with changing status.



To make it easier to find specific information for each of these action categories they have been colour-coded throughout this document.

Different actions are often required depending on whether a herd's status is determined to be green, yellow, orange or red. A table summarizing appropriate management actions for all status levels as agreed to in *Taking Care of Caribou* is included in **Appendix B**. As the status of the Bluenose-West herd is **orange (intermediate and decreasing)**, each of the bulleted actions outlined for red status in that table has now been developed into a series of specific tasks in the **Management Actions Table** of this Action Plan.

Because most activities under *Education* and *Habitat* require very long-term approaches to be effective, the suggested management actions remain the same no matter the status of the herd. For actions in the *Land Use Activities*, *Predators*, and *Harvest Management* categories to be responsive to different phases of the population cycle, different actions are required

depending on a herd’s status – for example, when setting a herd Total Allowable Harvest (see **Appendix G** for an explanation of how allocations and the Total Allowable Harvest for a herd are set).

Management Actions Table for Bluenose West Caribou: Orange Status

Following principles laid out in *Taking Care of Caribou*, all actions and tasks described in this table will draw upon both community-based knowledge (including traditional knowledge) and scientific information. The ACCWM recognizes that documenting and using traditional knowledge is a priority for all member boards. The ACCWM reviews the relevant data presented at the annual meeting and provides advice to member boards.

A. Education ⁴					
A – 1. Develop education strategy. <i>Objective – address community concerns regarding a lack of education (see various themes identified in Taking Care of Caribou) and clarify an approach.</i>					
Task	Partners ⁵	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level ⁶	Status November 2023 – plans for 24/25
A.1.1 Engage community organizations regarding types of materials and distribution		Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions	Annually		WMAC (NWT) engages during annual community tour. ACCWM swag was used for door prizes. SRRB: Engagement through community conservation planning, especially with Colville Lake and Délı̄nę.

⁴ Education specific to industrial land uses is dealt with in section C – Land Use Activities (C.3.1 and C.3.2).

⁵ Potential partners have been identified for individual tasks. Leads on tasks may vary and will be determined at a later date.

⁶ While the ACCWM member boards feel that most of the management actions included here have a high priority, only those tasks and actions that call for immediate attention have been given a priority and deliverable deadline to date. These actions/tasks are categorized as ‘Top’ priority in the table. Further prioritization work (i.e., assigning High Medium or Low priority and deliverable dates to the remaining actions/tasks) will be done at a later date.

<p>A.1.2 ACCWM reviews educational strategy annually based on community and member board priorities, based on ToR for Communication and Education Working Group</p>	<p>ACCWM</p>	<p>Advice provided to member boards</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>ACCWM member boards review educational strategy annually, prior to Annual Status Meeting</p> <p>WMAC (NWT) identifies priorities during community tour.</p> <p>GRRB reviewed the educational strategy in December 2021.</p> <p>SRRB receives input on education needs through annual Public Listening Sessions (hearings) planned for 2020-2024.</p>
<p>A.1.3 Implementation of educational strategy</p>	<p>Member boards, government partners and regional partners⁷</p>	<p>Summary report</p>	<p>2018/19 and onwards</p>	<p>Working group holding regular teleconferences</p> <p>Materials placed in Dropbox for all Member boards to utilize.</p> <p>ACCWM website launched in 2020 and updated in 2023.</p> <p>Several materials have been developed by the Communications and Education Working Group. This includes thank you notes and posters, post cards, shooting targets, etc.</p> <p>ENR created an annual movement animation.</p>

⁷ Regional partners, which vary significantly by region, may include individual community members, community organizations, such as RRCs/HTCs/HTOs, and regional organizations.

					<p>GRRB is providing RRCs with information on wildlife diseases and parasites to distribute to their members.</p> <p>SRRB: In the Sahtú Region, Hjdó Gogha Sḗnḗgots'íḡá (Planning for the Future) processes and the Ne K'ə Dene Ts'ı́ı - Living on the Land Forum are the primary vehicles for communication and education. The focus of educational activities is related to conservation “hot topics” of annual Public Listening Sessions (hearings), the focus of the next session will be on caribou landscape. Indigenous knowledge and science toolkits are prepared to support knowledge sharing.</p>
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B. Habitat

B – 1. Identify and recommend protection for key habitat areas.

Objective – address community concerns that key habitat areas are not protected sufficiently.

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
B.1.1 Engage with community organizations and other co-management partners to	ACCWM WG	Summary of input/guidance from communities	Ongoing	Top	<p>Ongoing. Member boards are the developing of a sensitive habitat report in 2023-2004.</p> <p>Délıne Plan identifies key habitat areas as does the land use plan for the Sahtú. Délıne is working towards establishing the Great Bear Lake watershed as</p>

identify key habitat areas. Develop a sensitive habitat report.		Provide report to ACCWM, including draft maps of key areas			<p>Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area in addition to the International Biosphere Reserve. This process will include identification of key habitat areas.</p> <p>Parks Canada has completed a BNW forage project in Tuktut Nogait National Park which can be used to predict and map summer forage quality and availability for BNW. This acts as a baseline to monitor changes in forage availability overtime.</p>
<p>B – 2. Review results of monitoring, including cumulative effects, to ensure enough habitat is available and caribou are able to move between areas of good habitat.</p> <p><i>Objective – ensure research and monitoring programs are relevant and addressing current information needs for habitat management.</i></p>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
B.2.1 Map and track landscape disturbances. Identify and review recent relevant information and gaps.	Government partners	Compilation map			<p>GNWT ‘Inventory of Landscape Change’ being updated.</p> <p>Annual tracking of wildfire footprint.</p> <p>Mackenzie Valley GIS submission standards in place.</p> <p>GNWT Cumulative Effects Assessment of Four Barren-ground Caribou Herds underway.</p> <p>SRRB is working with Carleton University’s Geographic and Cartographic Research Centre in development of a caribou atlas that will encompass both barren-ground and boreal caribou landscapes and will include landscape disturbance data.</p>

B.2.2 ACCWM reviews information and provides advice for research and monitoring based on information from B.2.1. Member boards make and communicate recommendations to appropriate authorities.	ACCWM; Member boards	Advice provided			
B – 3. Recommend important habitat as a ‘value at risk’ for forest fire management. <i>Objective – ensure sufficient winter habitat for caribou.</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
B.3.1 Based B – 1 and B – 2, provide advice to member boards on values at risk. Member boards make and communicate recommendations for fire management	ACCWM; Member Boards	Key areas identified for fire management and advice provided			

C. Land use activities

C – 1. Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs.

Objective – ensure cumulative effects monitoring programs are operational and relevant.

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
C.1.1 Identify and/or review any gaps in cumulative effects data or previous gaps assessments.	ACCWM WG and government partners	Summary report			GNWT Cumulative Effects Assessment of Four Barren-ground Caribou Herds underway. SRRB has obtained funding to support enhanced Délı̄ne and Colville Lake community involvement in working with ALCES to consider cumulative effects with respect to Bluenose-West ɁəɁə and Bluenose-East Ɂekwĕ within the Sahtú region.

C – 2. Provide advice on mitigation of industrial⁸ impacts to proponents and regulators.

Objective – minimize industrial impacts to caribou and their habitat .

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
C.2.1 Review Appendix G ⁹ of the Management Plan according to modern best practices.	ACCWM WG; Member boards				SRRB: Preliminary preparations are underway for a Public Listening Session (hearing) on caribou and the Sahtú mixed economy in 2024.

⁸ In this context, the term “Industrial” includes major development projects such as roads.

⁹ Appendix G of Taking Care of Caribou: https://www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/rev_bluenose_caribou_herds_draft_management_plan_v10_final_signed_-_nov_4_2014_0.pdf#page=81

<p>C.2.2 Apply Appendix G: member boards make and communicate recommendations to proponents (including air carriers and other subcontractors) and regulators.</p>	<p>Member boards</p>				<p>WMAC (NWT) and other ISR partners review proposals going through EISC.</p> <p>The GRRB reviews research, regulatory, and land access permit applications and provides advice to proponents on best practices for reducing their impacts on caribou and other wildlife.</p> <p>SRRB reviews permit and license applications and provides advice on wise practices with respect to wildlife and landscapes; where possible, proposals are discussed with the Nę K'ə Dene Ts'ı̨ı̨ - Living on the Land Forum and/or ʔehdzo Got'ı̨ı̨ (Renewable Resources Councils) to support input from community leadership organisations.</p>
<p>C.2.3 Develop and/or adapt communication and education programs with/for industrial proponents</p>	<p>Communication and Education working group</p>				
<p>C.2.4 Identify and review regulations and current inspection/enforcement strategies involving land use in caribou</p>	<p>Member boards</p>				<p>SRRB: Public Listening Session (hearing), scheduled for 2024, will discuss caribou and the mixed economy in the Sahtú.</p>

<p>habitat. Recommend increased enforcement of regulations when appropriate. Work with other relevant agencies (GNWT Lands, regional Land and Water Boards)</p>					
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D. Predators

D – 1. Review results of research programs that monitor predator abundance and predation rates.
Objective – determine which predators impact caribou and the relative intensity of their impacts.

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
D.1.1 Gather, compile, review and present predator research and monitoring results to ACCWM (including	ACCWM WG and government partners	Summary report	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing Wolf Feasibility Assessment Technical Working Group, which includes ENR and some ACCWM member boards, completed wolf feasibility assessment (Nov 2017) ¹⁰

¹⁰ <https://www.wrrb.ca/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Wolf%20Feasibility%20Assessment%20-%202010nov17.pdf>

community and scientific monitoring results)					<p>KHTO & GN DOE wolf sampling program pilot program are ongoing. GN will be doing TK and SK studies on grizzly bears in 2021.</p> <p>Dropbox folder created for people to add materials.</p> <p>PC is developing the raptor monitoring program.</p> <p>SRRB: Indigenous knowledge and science “toolkits” (literature reviews) were compiled on predator-caribou relationships in preparation for the Public Listening Session (hearing) on <i>Tjch’ádii hé Gots’edí (Living with Wildlife): Caribou Predators and Competitors</i>.</p> <p>The GRRB and RRCs worked together to develop a new Shih (Grizzly Bear) Management Plan for the Gwich’in Settlement Area, which came into effect in 2022.</p>
D.1.2 Engage community organizations to identify and prioritize research needs by region	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities	Ongoing	Top	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Research prioritization (GRRB & WMAC-NWT)</p> <p>The GRRB continually gathers and records research interests that are brought forward by community members. We also perform a review of our research and management priorities every five years, which includes consultations with each RRC. The next review will take place this fall (2024).</p>
D.1.3 ACCWM reviews and provides advice	ACCWM; member boards	Advice provided to	Ongoing	Top	SRRB will be delivering a Reasons for Decision report in 2022, with a focus on predators.

to member boards. Boards recommend research priorities to appropriate authorities		member boards			
D – 2. Consider recommending options for predator management. <i>Objective – review information from all partners to determine whether predator management is a viable option.</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
D.2.1 Engage with other jurisdictions that have predator control experience		Information for summary report		Top	The SRRB has encouraged other jurisdictions and the GNWT to present submissions to the 2021 public listening session on the topic of predators.
D.2.2 Identify jurisdictional / regional rules and regulations around predator management		List of existing regulations and rules		Top	SRRB: The Public Listening Session (hearing) on <i>Tłch'ádıı hé Gots'edı (Living with Wildlife): Caribou Predators and Competitors</i> will address the central question, “What should people’s role be in maintaining healthy relationships between caribou and other wildlife?”
D.2.3 Engage community organizations regarding potential options for predator management		Summary of input / guidance from communities		Top	WMAC (NWT) is updating the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan. Two rounds of community input have been completed, and the final draft is being reviewed internally. GRRB and communities are updating the Grizzly Bear management plan for the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

D.2.4 ACCWM provides advice to member boards regarding options for predator management. If justified, member boards recommend predator management tools to appropriate authorities	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards		Top	WRRB and SRRB have provided information to the member boards.
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E. Harvest Management

E – 1. Resident, outfitter or commercial harvest remain closed.¹¹

Objective – limit licensed harvest to assist in herd recovery.

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.1.1 Based on results of discussions concerning a Total Allowable	Member boards	Recommendations provided			Done

¹¹ The process differs in Nunavut, where the Land Claim Agreement (1993) specifies that an Inuk “shall have the right to dispose freely to any person any wildlife lawfully harvested. This includes the right to sell, barter, exchange and give either inside or outside the Nunavut Settlement Area” (5.7.30).

Harvest (TAH) and harvest ratios, member boards make and communicate recommendations to appropriate authorities					
E – 2. Review of mandatory limit for subsistence harvest for further reduction. ¹² <i>Objective – limit subsistence harvest to assist in herd recovery.</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.2.A.1 Compile historical and current harvest information by region	Member boards and government partners	Summary documents			Done
E.2.A.2 Review information from preceding step with community organizations and advise regarding regional processes (e.g., public hearings)	Member boards and regional partners	Summary of input / guidance from communities			SRRB: The Sahtú Harvest Study was validated by the five ʔehdzo Got'Inę (Renewable Resources Councils); community reports on the data and validation results were prepared; the final report on the SHS was presented at the 2020 Public Listening Session (hearing) on <i>Sahtú Ragóʔa (Hunting Law) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting</i> .

¹² As strict conservation measures are needed areas with land claim agreements establish a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH). As circumstances require each ACCWM member (with the exception of the TNNPMB) will set the TAH for their region. When a herd is shared over land claim areas and/or areas without settled land claim agreements proportional allocations are set as to determine how the user groups will share the TAH.

E.2.A.3 Meetings to discuss and propose regional proportional allocations ¹³	Member boards and other traditional users	Provide percentages for inclusion in Action Plan			
E.2.B.1 Based on information presented at annual status meeting, ACCWM proposes a herd TAH and sex ratio to member boards.	ACCWM	Proposed TAH and definition of majority bull harvest	Every year, following annual status meeting		
E.2.B.2 ACCWM advises member boards regarding the proposed herd TAH, based on E.2.B.1	ACCWM	Proposed TAH provided to member boards			Ongoing. In the ISR, every change to harvest bylaws follows the Memorandum of Understanding for consultation with communities, HTC's, and the Inuvialuit Game Council.
E.2.B.3 Each member board consults with communities on regional TAH as required by their respective land claim	Member boards	Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions			SRRB: Decisions resulting from the 2020 Public Listening Session on <i>Sahtú Ragóʔa (Hunting Law) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting</i> are under judicial review. Colville Lake's <i>Dehlá Got'Inę ʔadā Plan</i> and <i>Ts'jduweh ʔadā ʔeʔá (Ancient Hunting Law)</i> have been approved by the Behdzi Ahda First Nation and highlights the community's harvest regulation system.

¹³ The processes for determining Total Allowable Harvests and regional allocations are described in Appendix F.

agreements (including public hearings as required by respective land claim agreements)					
E.2.B.4 Boards recommend TAH to Minister		Recommendations provided			4% TAH based on most recent population estimate was recommended by the WMAC(NWT) and GRRB. SRRB recommended the removal of 4% TAH once community conservation plan is approved. GNWT set aside and replaced this recommendation. In addition to community conservation plan, the TAH will remain in place; general working of the community conservation plan and TAH is under judicial review.
E – 3. Prioritize the collection of harvest information (see F – 1. Develop harvest monitoring program). <i>Objective – record accurate harvest information</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.3.1 Assess status of harvest reporting programs (see F – Monitoring) and identify any roadblocks / challenges to success	ACCWM WG and regional partners	Review reports from existing programs		Top	WMAC (NWT): Part of annual community tour SRRB: Pending approval of community conservation plans, which include harvest monitoring components. The WG is developing an annual harvest data reporting template that will provide consistency across the regions, supporting a comprehensive harvest reporting system.

E.3.2 Adjust educational programming or communication plan if required (see A - Education)	Communication and Education WG	Revised materials, as needed		Top	
E – 4. Recommend harvest of alternate species and meat replacement programs, and encourage increased sharing, trade and barter of traditional foods. <i>Objective – explore other species to harvest to reduce pressure on caribou</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.4.1 Develop list of regionally appropriate alternate species for harvest and options for meat replacement programs, based on best available information.	Member boards	List of alternate species and meat replacement options			Ongoing work as part of community-based planning programs. Alternate harvests are being promoted regionally. In Nunavut there is a program to subsidize harvesting in Muskox, in the Sahtú alternate species are promoted for harvesting the GRRB is discussing options for commercial harvests. SRRB: the Sahtú Harvest Study includes 84 species and was used as the basis for developing a Sahtú harvest calendar. Community conservation plans include alternative harvest as a component.
E.4.2 Collaborate with partners to recommend the development and funding of harvest or	Member boards	Recommendations provided			SRRB: Funding has been secured for a multi-year Dene Béré (Country Foods) Campaign that will support development of country food security plans.

sharing programs (may include trade and barter, community hunts or freezers, etc.)					
E.4.3 Adapt existing Communication Plan and educational materials to better promote use of alternate species and meat replacement programs (see A – Education and Appendix C)	Education and Communication Working Group	Draft communication plan and education materials			
E – 5. Recommend increased enforcement including community monitors (see footnote clarifying monitoring and enforcement responsibilities at C – 4). <i>Objective – maximize approaches and tools to ensure compliance of regulations</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.5.1 Engage community organizations and enforcement officers regarding enforcement/monitoring approaches and	Member boards	Summary of input / guidance	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing. WMAC (NWT): Community tour. SRRB: Enforcement is a feature of community plans.

whether they are adequate.					
E.5.2 Member boards provide recommendations to government based on ACCWM advice	Member boards	Recommendations provided	Ongoing	Top	
E.5.3 Engage partners to assist in training and implementing community monitoring programs	ACCWM	Funding plan, training program	Ongoing	Top	Various community monitoring programs active in the regions (JS-CBMP, Imaryuk, Munaqsiyit)

F. Monitoring

F – 1. Develop a comprehensive harvest reporting program.

Objective – develop or adapt existing harvest reporting programs to collect and provide standardized harvest data from all regions

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
F.1.1 Compile and review information on existing harvest reporting programs and develop	ACCWM WG	Summary report	2017/18 2018/19	Top	Ongoing.

minimum standards					
F.1.2 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for harvest data collection		Summary report	2018/19	Top	Ongoing.
F.1.3. Adapt harvest reporting programs based on information from F.1.1 and F.1.2. to standardize harvest data		Finalized harvest reporting program	2018/19	Top	In 2024/2025, the WG will prioritize the collection of harvest information this will be supported through the development of an annual harvest data reporting template that will provide consistency across the regions, supporting a comprehensive harvest reporting system.
F.1.4 Implement harvest data collection program	Member boards and government partners	Collections initiated	2018/19	Top	ISR/GSA harvest reported through tag program; SSA harvest reporting plan being developed.
F.1.5 Establish annual data reporting template		Template	2018/19	Top	
F.1.6 Adapt and / or develop database and protocols		Pilot database program developed	2018/19	Top	

F.1.7 Gather, compile and present total herd harvest data to ACCWM	ACCWM WG	Annual summary table	2018/19	Top	Ongoing. Presented at ASM.
<p>F – 2. Develop and initiate community-based monitoring (CBM) programs (including observational and experiential data). <i>Objective – develop or adapt existing community-based monitoring programs to collect data in a format that can be used for decision-making</i></p>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
F.2.1 Compile and review information on existing community-based monitoring programs	ACCWM WG	Summary report			
F.2.2 Compile existing traditional knowledge documentation and identify any new documentation / work required as basis for a community-based monitoring program	ACCWM WG with regional partners	Draft 'state of traditional knowledge' report(s)		Top	In 2024, the WG consider compiling a draft state of traditional knowledge report. Upon consideration, it was determined to undertake this report following the Sensitive Habitat, and Harvest Data Reporting Template reports.

F.2.3 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for community-based monitoring to collect herd status information (see Table 1 in <i>Taking Care of Caribou</i>)	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities			
F.2.4 Adapt and / or develop CBM program(s) based on information from F.2.1-3		Finalized CBM program			Inuvialuit CBMP is running with Imaryuk and Munaqsiyit monitors.
F.2.5 Recommend appropriate CBM programs including traditional knowledge studies	Member boards	Recommendations provided			
F.2.6 Establish data-sharing arrangements and / or	Member boards and regional partners	Signed data-sharing agreements			

information-sharing protocols					
F.2.7 Adapt and / or develop database	ACCWM WG	Database program developed			
F.2.8 Gather, compile and present results to ACCWM	Regional partners	Summary report	Annual ACCWM meeting		
F – 3. Conduct scientific monitoring to assess herd status. <i>Objective – develop or adapt existing scientific monitoring programs to collect data in a format that can be used for decision-making</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
F.3.1 Compile and review information on existing scientific monitoring programs	ACCWM WG	Summary report		Top	
F.3.2 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for scientific monitoring to collect herd status information (see also F.2.3) and	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities		Top	WMAC (NWT): Priorities collected on annual community tour

appropriate ways to collaborate					
F.3.3 Research and develop mechanism for collaboration between regions, compiling information and reporting on research programs	ACCWM to determine responsible parties	Decide on mechanism for collaboration		Top	
F.3.4 Construct scientific monitoring schedule based on engagement and Table 1 in <i>Taking Care of Caribou</i>	ACCWM WG	Annual report / work plan	Annual status meeting	Top	
F.3.5 Support appropriate scientific monitoring studies	Member boards	Approval by member boards	Annual status meeting	Top	ACCWM developed a discussion paper on alternatives to collaring caribou.
F.3.6 Establish information sharing protocols	Government partners	Information shared according to protocol		Top	Completed - The ACCWM corresponded with GNWT about sharing of preliminary population numbers in 2019. Commitment made by GNWT to provide survey results as soon as possible.

F.3.7 Gather, compile, and present results to ACCWM	Government partners	Status of all monitoring criteria communicated to the ACCWM	Annual status meeting	Top	Government partners presented information gathered at 2023 ASM.
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Acronyms used in this plan

ACCWM (WG)	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (Working Group)
CBMP	Community Based Monitoring Program
CI	Confidence Interval
ENV	Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut
ECC	Department Environment and Climate Change, GNWT
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
GN	Government of Nunavut
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GRRB	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
HTC	Hunters and Trappers Committee
HTO	Hunters and Trappers Organization
ISR	Inuvialuit Settlement Region
NWMB	Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
NWT	Northwest Territories
PCA	Parks Canada Agency
RRC	Renewable Resources Council
SE	Standard Error
TAH	Total Allowable Harvest
TG	Tłı̄chǫ Government
TNNPMB	Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board
TOR	Terms of Reference
WEMP	Wildlife Effects Monitoring Plan
WMAC (NWT)	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories)
WWHPP	Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Protection Plans

Appendix A: List of ACCWM Working Group members

The ACCWM formed a working group to draft the Action Plans that accompany the *Taking Care of Caribou* Management Plan. The Working Group included representatives of the following organizations:

- ʔehdzo Got'Inę Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
- Dehcho First Nations¹⁴
- Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut
- Department Environment and Climate Change, GNWT
- Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
- Inuvialuit Game Council
- Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board
- Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization (Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association)
- Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
- Parks Canada Agency
- Tłıchq Government
- Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board
- Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board
- Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT).

¹⁴ The Dehcho First Nations organization is part of the Working Group, but has had very limited involvement. There is an outstanding invitation for them to join the ACCWM.

Appendix B: Summary table of management actions presented in *Taking Care of Caribou*

Management Actions Based on Herd Status/Colour Zone				
Management Action	The population level is intermediate and increasing	The population level is high	The population level is intermediate and decreasing	The population level is low
Education	Recommend education programs for all status levels. Ideas for educational themes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting total use of harvested caribou, and proper butchering and storage methods; • Limiting wounding loss; • Letting the leaders pass; • Promoting community hunts with experienced hunters; • Use of alternate species; and • Increased sharing of traditional foods. 			
Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and recommend protection for key habitat areas; • Review results of monitoring, including cumulative effects, to ensure enough habitat is available and caribou are able to move between areas of good habitat; • Recommend important habitat as a 'value at risk' for forest fire management. 			
Land use activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; • Provide advice on mitigation of industrial impacts to proponents and regulators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; • Provide advice on mitigation of the impacts of exploration and development activities to proponents and regulators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; • Provide advice on mitigation of industrial impacts to proponents and regulators; • Provide active and accessible communication and recommend education programs for all including proponents and airlines; • Recommend increased enforcement of land use regulations, including community monitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work directly with proponents and regulators of exploration and development activities to advise on mitigation measures; • Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; • Provide active and accessible communication and recommend education programs for all including proponents and airlines; • Recommend increased enforcement of land use regulations, including community monitors.

Management Actions Based on Herd Status/Colour Zone				
Management Action	The population level is intermediate and increasing	The population level is high	The population level is intermediate and decreasing	The population level is low
Predators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue research programs to monitor predator condition (e.g., carcass collection and community monitoring programs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue research programs to monitor predator condition (e.g., carcass collection and community monitoring programs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review results of research programs that monitor predator abundance and predation rates; Consider recommending options for predator management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review results of research programs that monitor predator abundance and predation rates; Consider recommending options for predator management.
Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend easing limits on subsistence and then resident harvests ; Consider recommending outfitter and commercial harvests at discretion of the ACCWM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support harvest by beneficiaries of a Land Claim and members of an Aboriginal people, with rights to harvest wildlife in the Region; Recommend that if subsistence needs are met resident harvest should be permitted (with limits); Potentially recommend resident (non-beneficiary), non-resident, sport hunts, and/or commercial harvests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend a mandatory limit on subsistence harvest based on a TAH accepted by the ACCWM; Prioritize the collection of harvest information; Recommend no resident, outfitter or commercial harvest; Recommend a majority-bulls harvest, emphasizing younger and smaller bulls and not the large breeders and leaders; Recommend harvest of alternate species and encourage increased sharing, trade and barter of traditional foods, such as the use of community freezers; Recommend increased enforcement including community monitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend harvest of alternate species and meat replacement programs, and encourage increased sharing, trade and barter of traditional foods; Prioritize the collection of harvest information; Review of mandatory limit for subsistence harvest for further reduction; Recommend increased enforcement including community monitors; Resident, commercial, or outfitter harvest remain closed.