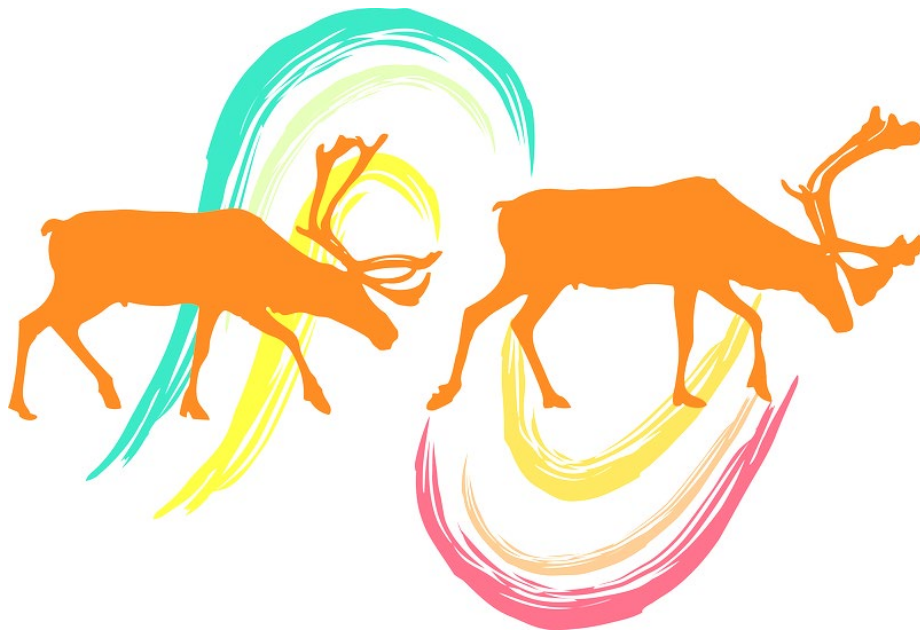


Action Plan for 2021/2022

# 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 2021

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**Production note:**

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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. The intent is for the Plan to address caribou management and stewardship over the long term. It was presented to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (Government of the Northwest Territories), the Minister of Environment (Government of Nunavut), and 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 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.* That plan can be found here: [link](#)

## 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 11).

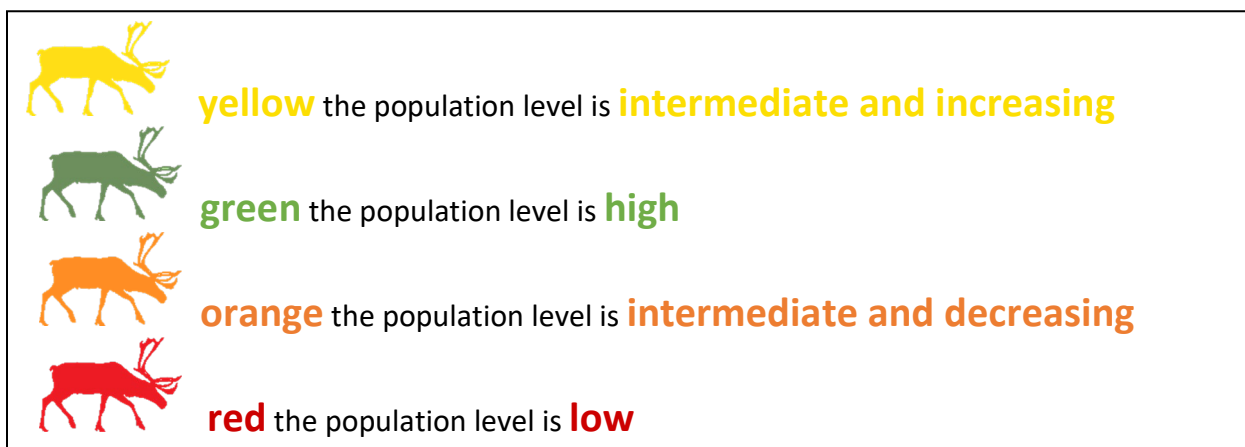


Figure 1: Herd status based on the phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans.

## Status Decision 2020

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.

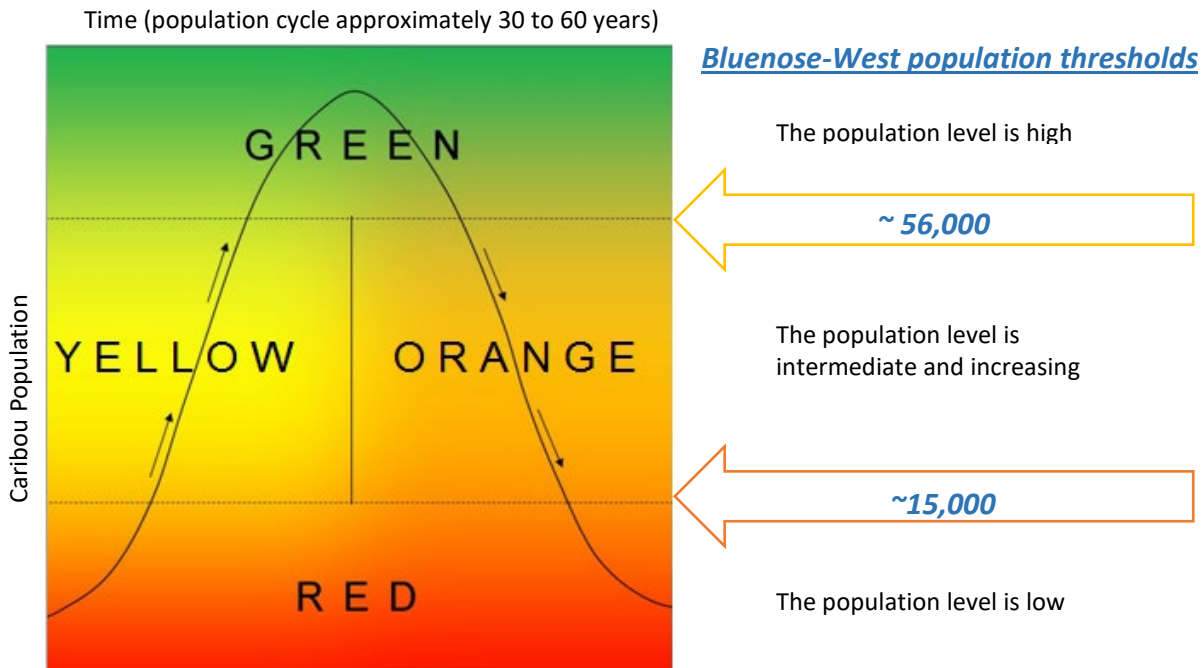


Figure 2: Phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans with Bluenose-West population thresholds.

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 2020 decision is summarized in Table 1 below.

Based on the information provided, the ACCWM determined the Bluenose-West herd status colour zone to be **orange (intermediate and decreasing)** in November 2020. Member Boards noted that while there are some positive factors described by both the community and scientific presentations, the lack of any indicators strongly showing signs of population growth pushed the ACCWM members to err on the side of caution and maintain the previous year's status designation. This decision recognizes that the herd size appears to be stable and that ongoing conservation actions are needed to help the Bluenose-West herd recover.



**IN 2021/22**

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

Table 1: Criteria used to assess Bluenose West status in 2020.<sup>1</sup>

Criteria	Community-Based Information <sup>2</sup>	Scientific Information <sup>3</sup>	Comments
<b>Population size</b>	<p><b>GRRB:</b> Hunters either did not see any caribou or saw a small bunch of around 10. It seems that this small group was seen by several hunters on and around the ITH between Inuvik and Jimmy Lake.</p> <p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> The population is about the same as previous years. Not many people have gone out as other years as the herd is more spread out.</p> <p><b>Paulatuk (ISR):</b> Observations were quite positive; There were thousands. The hills were rolling.</p>	Estimated number of adult caribou at least 1.5 year old in 2018 Rivest: 21,011 ± 4,602	Estimated based on July post-calving ground survey
<b>Population trend and rate of change</b>	<b>Délıne (Sahtú):</b> Haven't seen any Ɂekwé this year; they don't want to see us these days. Tried looking for Ɂekwé at ʔehajla and Neregha in fall and summer 2-3 times in 2020	Between 2005 and 2018 the herd shows a non-statistically significant decrease of 2%	TAH updated based on 4% of the most recent estimate (2018 Rivest estimate 21,011)

<sup>1</sup> This table is populated with information presented to the ACCWM to assess herd status in 2019 and is adapted from the monitoring criteria table included in [Taking Care of Caribou](#).

<sup>2</sup> Bluenose-West caribou usually migrate through two settlement areas/regions and are typically harvested by four communities: Aklavik, Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic and Tuktoyaktuk. In 2018, community-based information was documented in the following ways: 1. The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB) held a community meeting in Inuvik, and 2. The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC, (NWT)) held community meetings in Inuvik, Paulatuk, and Tuktoyaktuk; of these communities, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk are the communities that mostly encounter and harvest Bluenose-West caribou.

<sup>3</sup> All scientific information and comments were provided by Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) (GNWT) unless otherwise noted.

	<p>and saw nothing.</p> <p><b>GRRB:</b> One hunter mentioned that there is not enough BNW, and to let them repopulate. This was mentioned in relation to Porcupine caribou being readily available on the highway.</p> <p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> No change from previous year.</p>	<p>per year (CI -4 to 1%).</p>	<p>Trend analysis is based on Rinvest estimates</p> <p>2015 21,535 ± 5,136</p> <p>2012 32,326 ± 15,482</p> <p>2009 21,773 ± 4,884</p> <p>2006 28,461 ± 7,431</p> <p>2005 26, 228 ± 5,878</p>
<b>Productivity and recruitment</b>	<p><b>Délıne (Sahtú):</b> No harvest, so no knowledge on this topic.</p> <p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> The herds are spread out and hunters have to travel farther to get to them, so it is hard to make observations.</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>
<b>Adult composition</b>	<p><b>Délıne (Sahtú):</b> No sightings, so no knowledge on this topic.</p> <p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> About 1:1</p> <p><b>Paulatuk (ISR):</b> The majority were</p>	<p>There is only one bull to cow ratio for Bluenose-West (2009) so trend is unknown but the 2009 result is considered high.</p>	<p>The bull ratio is monitored because a bull dominated harvest was recommended.</p>

	cows, but with lots of bulls mixed in.	Estimated number of bulls per 100 cows in 2009: 70	
<b>Body condition and health</b>	<p><b>Déłıne (Sahtú):</b> No sightings, so no knowledge on this topic.</p> <p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> Our caribou are healthy and are fat. The more isolated they are from people, the more stressed they are by wolves. So, local hunters are encouraged to spend more time in these areas.</p> <p><b>Paulatuk (ISR):</b> We're not noticing any numbers of unhealthy caribou, maybe one or two here or there.</p>	<p>The condition of both bulls and cows was on average 'good' in the 2019/2020 harvest season.</p> <p>Average back fat in 2019/2020 season was 2.08 cm (range 1 to 3 cm) for cows and 3.63 cm (range 1 to 5.8 cm) for bulls.</p> <p>The average Condition code was 2.4 (range 1 to 4) for cows and 3 for bulls (range 1 to 4). The average percent marrow fat for cows was 92% (range 91 to 95%) for cows and 74% (Range 33 to 95%) for bulls</p>	<p>Scientific information based on harvester reported samples harvested in range of the Bluenose-West herds. In 2019/2020 season, condition information was reported for 12 cows and 3 bulls, back fat information was collected for 10 cows and 3 bulls, and Marrow fat information collected for 12 cows and 3 bulls</p>
<b>Harvest levels</b>	<p><b>Déłıne (Sahtú):</b> Zero harvest in 2020.</p> <p><b>GRRB:</b> 6 caribou (tags) were harvested out of the 34 tags available. No BNW caribou were harvested amongst the 5 hunters interviewed. One harvester went around Sitidgi</p>	<p>Total harvest uncertain.</p> <p>Sex of harvest is not always reported ENR believes the 80% bull target is not being met.</p>	<p>TAH tag returns in Inuvik Region 2019/2020</p> <p>Inuvialuit: 403 Quota, 341 harvested</p> <p>Gwich'in: 34 quota,</p>

	<p>Lake for fish. He saw several old tracks, some old skidoo tracks, but no gut piles.</p> <p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> Far people less went hunting. People who hunt as a subsistent living got CERB and may have chosen to stay home. Less than 130 caribou were harvested. Community did not go hunting in Horton Lake but about 5 caribou were harvested while fixing up camp. For the first time in oral history, a moose was seen in Horton Lake. Did a scouting flight a week and a half later saw caribou spread out with groups of 5 to 50. One big herd of muskox was seen in the area.</p> <p>More woodland caribou closer to the community.</p> <p><b>Paulatuk (ISR):</b> Lots more caribou around, harvest has shifted to mainly bulls during a community harvest. 18 bulls and two cows were harvested.</p>		<p>6 harvested</p> <p>Sahtú: harvest unknown</p>
<p><b>Predator populations</b></p>	<p><b>Délı̄ne (Sahtú):</b> No observations.</p> <p><b>GRRB:</b> Most hunters mentioned that they did not see any predators and predator tracks. One mentioned that he has not seen many predators.</p>	<p>Paulatuk submitted 0 wolves and Colville lake submitted 0 wolves in the 19/20 season.</p>	<p>Changes in wolf harvest does not necessarily reflect changes in wolf abundance.</p> <p>Raptors are being monitored along a small section of the Hornaday River by Parks Canada.</p>



	<p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> Lots of wolves. Bears seem healthy and hardly show up in the community. When there are more hunters and trappers on the land, then the wolves have less of an impact on the caribou.</p> <p><b>Paulatuk (ISR):</b> Monitoring of predators, including eagles, is happening. Wolves are following the herds into the calving grounds. Hunters have been asking for more tags for grizzly bears as the population appears high.</p>		
<p><b>Range and movement patterns</b></p>	<p><b>Délıne (Sahtú):</b> No observations.</p> <p><b>GRRB:</b> Based on one harvester observations, the caribou had been grazing around, lots of tracks and trampling by Sitidgi. This was late spring. The only harvester seeking BNW mentioned that the caribou were too far away in late spring to access them.</p> <p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> Different movement pattern this year as we have less snow than in previous years.</p> <p><b>Paulatuk (ISR):</b> The caribou are resilient and move large distances when they need to find good habitat. Observations are really positive. Their migration is</p>	<p>In 2020, 12 BNW collared cows were still active from the 2018 deployment and all returned to BNW calving ground.</p> <p>Between 2010 and 2020, 99% of collared BNW cows (208 records) returned year after year to calving ground.</p>	

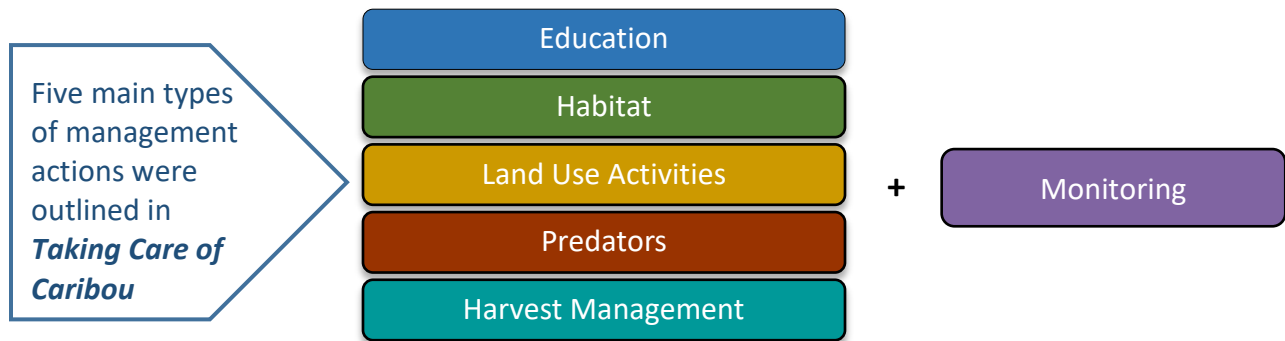
	<p>close to the community. This hasn't been seen this since the 1980s. They were just 3km south of town.</p>		
<p><b>Environment and habitat</b></p>	<p><b>Déjñę (Sahtú):</b> Lots of rain and no fires, both of which can be good for caribou, but there was rain in December which would have been hard on them.</p> <p><b>GRRB:</b> Most hunter mentioned that the environment and habitat were similar to last year. No notable changes were recorded. One harvester mentioned that during his hunt for BNW, there was too much snow further away from the ITH and he had to turn back. The caribou were too far. One hunter mentioned that when he was out in April, it was getting warm, snow was melting fast.</p> <p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> No fires. Permafrost melts have led to changes in habitat.</p>	<p>There were very few fires in the 2020 season.</p>	
<p><b>Human disturbance</b></p>	<p><b>Déjñę (Sahtú):</b> Not applicable within Déjñę District.</p> <p><b>GRRB:</b> When asked about human disturbance, all hunters either skipped the question or had no comments to bring forward.</p> <p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> Hardly any disturbance.</p>	<p>Minimal human disturbance.</p>	

<p><b>Competitors</b></p>	<p><b>GRRB:</b> Hunters mentioned that there is no competition in this area [ITH/Sitidgi and Jimmy Lake]. One mentioned that species mind their own business, and another said: <i>'There is no competition between moose and caribou. For muskox, shot them and eat them. One of the reasons why I was talking about caribou-moose is because I was in Deline. They talk about caribou going down. They were not sure about the relationship for barrenground and moose.'</i></p> <p><b>Délıne (Sahtú):</b> There are concerns about the impacts of muskoxen in making caribou move away.</p> <p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> Lots of muskox and bigger herds are seen some closer to the community. The muskoxen are everywhere and eat up a lot of the food the caribou rely on.</p>		<p>March 2020 in Muskox survey completed in the Sahtú</p> <p>March 2021 surveys in more regions.</p>
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## 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 <sup>4</sup>					
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 <sup>5</sup>	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level <sup>6</sup>	Status November 2020 – plans for 21/22
A.1.1 Engage community organizations regarding types of materials and distribution		Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions	Annually	Top	WMAC (NWT) engages during community tour. In 2020, COVID-19 prevented some meetings. An in-person meeting was held in Tuktoyaktuk.  SRRB: Engagement through community conservation planning, especially with Colville Lake and Déljñę.
A.1.2 ACCWM reviews educational strategy annually based on community and member board priorities, based on	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards	Annually	Top	ACCWM member boards review educational strategy annually, prior to Annual Status Meeting  WMAC (NWT) identifies priorities during community tour.

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

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

<sup>6</sup> 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.

ToR for Communication and Education Working Group					
A.1.3 Implementation of educational strategy	Member boards, government partners and regional partners <sup>7</sup>	Summary report	2018/19 and onwards	Top	<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</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> <p>SRRB was involved in the programs such as the Dene Ts'įłı camp which discussed hunter mentorship and caribou in general.</p> <p>ENR Beaufort Delta Region holds 4 SIYR per year in communities in the ISR and GSA. 2019: Ulukhaktok, Paulatuk, Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson. GRRB was involved this year and shared ACCWM material.</p> <p>The C/E working group is developing more communications items (shooting targets, banners for community tours) in order to spread the message to the communities.</p>

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

## 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 identify key habitat areas. Develop a sensitive habitat report.	ACCWM WG	Summary of input/guidance from communities  Provide report to ACCWM, including draft maps of key areas	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing.  Déljñę Plan identifies key habitat areas as does the land use plan for the Sahtú.  GRRB working with Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board (GLUPB) to identify critical habitat for caribou in the GSA. GLUPB could support measure for habitat management for barren-ground caribou recommended by the ACCWM in the GSA.  Parks Canada is working on a BNW forage project in Tutkut Nogait National Park to predict and map summer forage quality and availability for BNW. This is expected to be able to act as a baseline to monitor changes in forage availability overtime. Once completed, it will be shared with ACCWM.

### 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

*Objective – ensure research and monitoring programs are relevant and addressing current information needs for habitat management*

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
B.2.1 Map and track landscape disturbances. Identify and review recent relevant	Government partners	Compilation map			GNWT 'Inventory of Landscape Change' being updated.  Annual tracking of wildfire footprint.  Mackenzie Valley GIS submission standards in place.

information and gaps.					
B.2.2 ACCWM reviews information and provides advice for research and monitoring based on information from B.2.1-4. 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>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Deliverable date</b>	<b>Priority level</b>	<b>Status</b>
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 is moving forward with NWT CIMP to use ALCES program for cumulative effects monitoring within the ranges of the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East herds. Co-management boards are partners to the project.

### C – 2. Provide advice on mitigation of industrial<sup>8</sup> 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 <sup>9</sup> of the Management Plan according to modern best practices.	ACCWM WG; Member boards				
C.2.2 Apply Appendix G: member boards make and communicate recommendations	Member boards				WMAC (NWT) and other ISR partners review proposals going through EISC.  GRRB reviews proposals through the Land and Water board.

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

<sup>9</sup> Appendix G of Taking Care of Caribou: [https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/rev\\_bluenose\\_caribou\\_herds\\_draft\\_management\\_plan\\_v10\\_final\\_signed\\_-\\_nov\\_4\\_2014\\_0.pdf#page=81](https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/rev_bluenose_caribou_herds_draft_management_plan_v10_final_signed_-_nov_4_2014_0.pdf#page=81)

to proponents (including air carriers and other subcontractors) and regulators.					
C.2.3 Develop and/or adapt communication and education programs with/for industrial proponents	Communication and Education working group				
C.2.4 Identify and review regulations and current inspection/enforcement strategies involving land use in caribou habitat. Recommend increased enforcement of regulations when appropriate. Work with other relevant agencies (GNWT Lands, regional Land and Water Boards)	Member boards				

## D. Predators

D – 1. Review results of research programs that monitor predator abundance and predation rates

<i>Objective – determine which predators impact caribou and the relative intensity of their impacts</i>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Deliverable date</b>	<b>Priority level</b>	<b>Status</b>
D.1.1 Gather, compile, review and present predator research and monitoring results to ACCWM (including community and scientific monitoring results)	ACCWM WG and government partners	Summary report	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing  Completed wolf feasibility assessment (Nov 2017) <sup>10</sup>  KHTO & GN DOE wolf sampling program pilot program are ongoing. GN will be doing TK and SK studies on grizzly bears in 2021.  Dropbox folder created for people to add materials.  PC is developing the raptor monitoring program.
D.1.2 Engage community organizations to identify and prioritize research needs by region	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing  Research prioritization (GRRB & WMAC-NWT)  WRRB: To begin a research prioritization exercise in Wek'èezhìi in 2020
D.1.4 ACCWM reviews and provides advice to member boards. boards recommend research priorities to appropriate authorities	ACCWM; member boards	Advice provided to member boards	Ongoing	Top	
<b>D – 2. Consider recommending options for predator management</b>					
<i>Objective – review information from all partners to determine whether predator management is a viable option</i>					

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

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	WRRB: submitted request for a wolf management proposal to GNWT and TG in January 2019; no response to date.
D.2.2 Identify jurisdictional / regional rules and regulations around predator management		List of existing regulations and rules		Top	
D.2.3 Engage community organizations regarding potential options for predator management		Summary of input / guidance from communities		Top	<p>WMAC (NWT) is starting a contract to update the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan by September 2021, including two rounds of community input.</p> <p>GRRB and communities are updating the Grizzly bear management plan and management agreement for the Gwich'in Settlement Area.</p> <p>SRRB: Public listening session focused on predators will occur in 2021.</p>
D.2.4 ACCWM provides advice to member boards regarding options for predator management. If justified, member boards recommend predator management tools	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards		Top	

to appropriate authorities					
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## E. Harvest Management

E – 1. Resident, outfitter or commercial harvest remain closed<sup>11</sup>

*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 Harvest (TAH) and harvest ratios, member boards make and communicate recommendations to appropriate authorities	Member boards	Recommendations provided			Done

E – 2. Review of mandatory limit for subsistence harvest for further reduction<sup>12</sup>

*Objective – limit subsistence harvest to assist in herd recovery*

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.2.A.1 Compile historical and	Member boards and	Summary documents			Done

<sup>11</sup> 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).

<sup>12</sup> 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.

current harvest information by region	government partners				
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			
E.2.A.3 Meetings to discuss and propose regional proportional allocations <sup>13</sup>	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	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			
E.2.B.3 Each member board	Member boards	Summary of input /			SRRB: Public listening sessions and community caribou conservation plans discuss harvest thresholds and planning.

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

consults with communities on regional TAH as required by their respective land claim agreements (including public hearings as required by respective land claim agreements)		guidance from communities and related revisions			SRRB: The Colville Lake Community Caribou Conservation plan is under interim agreement. Once the plan is approved, it will replace the TAH in for the community and require updates to the Wildlife Act.
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
E – 3. Prioritize the collection of harvest information (see F – 1. Develop harvest monitoring program) <i>Objective – record accurate harvest information</i>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Deliverable date</b>	<b>Priority level</b>	<b>Status</b>
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	
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

*Objective – explore other species to harvest to reduce pressure on caribou*

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			<p>Ongoing work as part of community-based planning programs.</p> <p>ISR/GSA harvest reported through tag program; SSA harvest reporting plan being developed.</p> <p>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.</p>
E.4.2 Collaborate with partners to recommend the development and funding of harvest or sharing programs (may include trade and barter, community hunts or freezers, etc.)	Member boards	Recommendations provided			
E.4.3 Adapt existing Communication Plan and educational materials to better promote use of	Education and Communication Working Group	Draft communication plan and education materials			



alternate species and meat replacement programs (see A – Education and Appendix C)					
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>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Deliverable date</b>	<b>Priority level</b>	<b>Status</b>
E.5.1 Engage community organizations and enforcement officers regarding enforcement/monitoring approaches and whether they are adequate.	Member boards	Summary of input / guidance	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing.  Community tour.
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	

## 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 minimum standards	ACCWM WG	Summary report	2017/18 2018/19	Top	Ongoing.
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	
F.1.4 Implement harvest data collection program	Member boards and	Collections initiated	2018/19	Top	

F.1.5 Establish annual data reporting template	government partners	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.
<b>F – 2. Develop and initiate community-based monitoring (CBM) programs (including observational and experiential data)</b> <i>Objective – develop or adapt existing community-based monitoring programs to collect data in a format that can be used for decision-making</i>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Deliverable date</b>	<b>Priority level</b>	<b>Status</b>
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)			

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			
F.2.5 Recommend appropriate CBM programs including traditional knowledge studies	Member boards	Recommendations provided			
F.2.6 Establish data-sharing arrangements and / or information-sharing protocols	Member boards and regional partners	Signed data-sharing agreements			
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 appropriate ways to collaborate	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities		Top	
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 is developing a discussion paper on alternatives to collaring caribou.
F.3.6 Establish information sharing protocols	Government partners	Information shared according to protocol		Top	Member boards & ACCWM will ask for clarity from ENR on releasing scientific information.
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 2020 ASM.

## Acronyms used in this Plan

ACCWM (WG)	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (Working Group)
CBMP	Community Based Monitoring Program
CI	Confidence Interval
DoE	Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut
ENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
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	Tłıchǫ 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'ıne Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
- Dehcho First Nations<sup>14</sup>
- Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut
- Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), 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
- Tıjchq Government
- Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board
- Wek'èezhıı Renewable Resources Board
- Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT).

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<sup>14</sup> 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
<b>Education</b>	Recommend education programs for all status levels. Ideas for educational themes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting total use of harvested caribou, and proper butchering and storage methods;</li> <li>• Limiting wounding loss;</li> <li>• Letting the leaders pass;</li> <li>• Promoting community hunts with experienced hunters;</li> <li>• Use of alternate species; and</li> <li>• Increased sharing of traditional foods.</li> </ul>			
<b>Habitat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and recommend protection for key habitat areas;</li> <li>• Review results of monitoring, including cumulative effects, to ensure enough habitat is available and caribou are able to move between areas of good habitat;</li> <li>• Recommend important habitat as a 'value at risk' for forest fire management.</li> </ul>			
<b>Land use activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs;</li> <li>• Provide advice on mitigation of industrial impacts to proponents and regulators.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs;</li> <li>• Provide advice on mitigation of the impacts of exploration and development activities to proponents and regulators.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs;</li> <li>• Provide advice on mitigation of industrial impacts to proponents and regulators;</li> <li>• Provide active and accessible communication and recommend education programs for all including proponents and airlines;</li> <li>• Recommend increased enforcement of land use regulations, including community monitors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work directly with proponents and regulators of exploration and development activities to advise on mitigation measures;</li> <li>• Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs;</li> <li>• Provide active and accessible communication and recommend education programs for all including proponents and airlines;</li> <li>• Recommend increased enforcement of land use regulations, including community monitors.</li> </ul>

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