

Action Plan for 2022/2023

CAPE BATHURST CARIBOU

–YELLOW STATUS–



Tuktuvialuk (Inuvialuktun, Siglitun dialect)
Vadzaih (Teet'it and Gwichya Gwich'in)

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

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

Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management
c/o Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board
102 A 4504 49th Avenue, Yellowknife, NT X1A 1A7 Tel.: (867) 873-5740 Fax: (867) 873-5743
Email: jpellissey@wrrb.ca

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, Ɂehdzo 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 Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East barren-ground caribou herds management plan*. The Plan was developed in consultation with most of the 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 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](#)

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 claim agreements. The implementation of the Action Plans is also reviewed at this time and actions for the Cape Bathurst (CB) herd can be found in the Management Actions table section (see page 19).

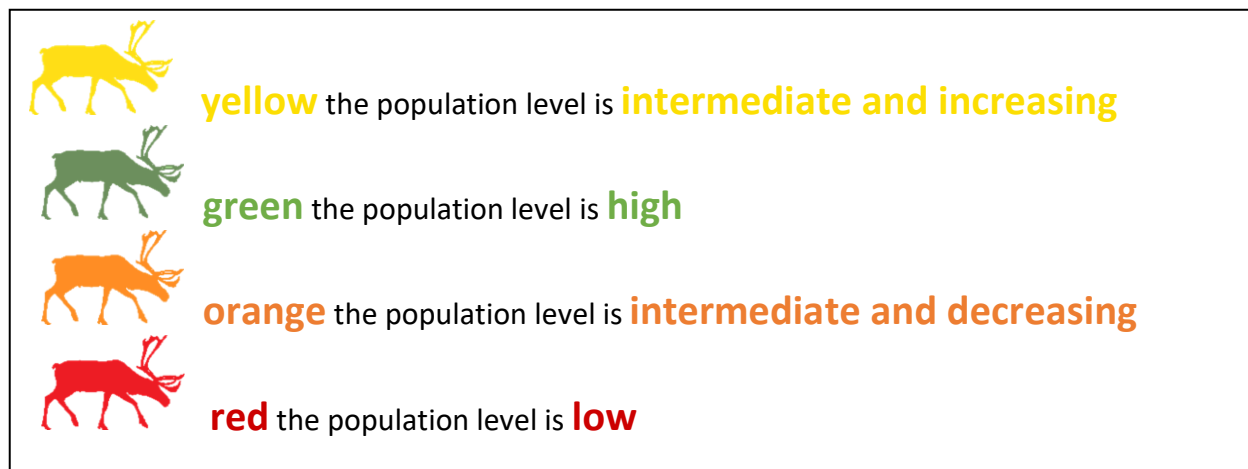


Figure 1: Herd status based on the phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans.

Status Decision 2021

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 along with the approximate thresholds for the Cape Bathurst (CB)

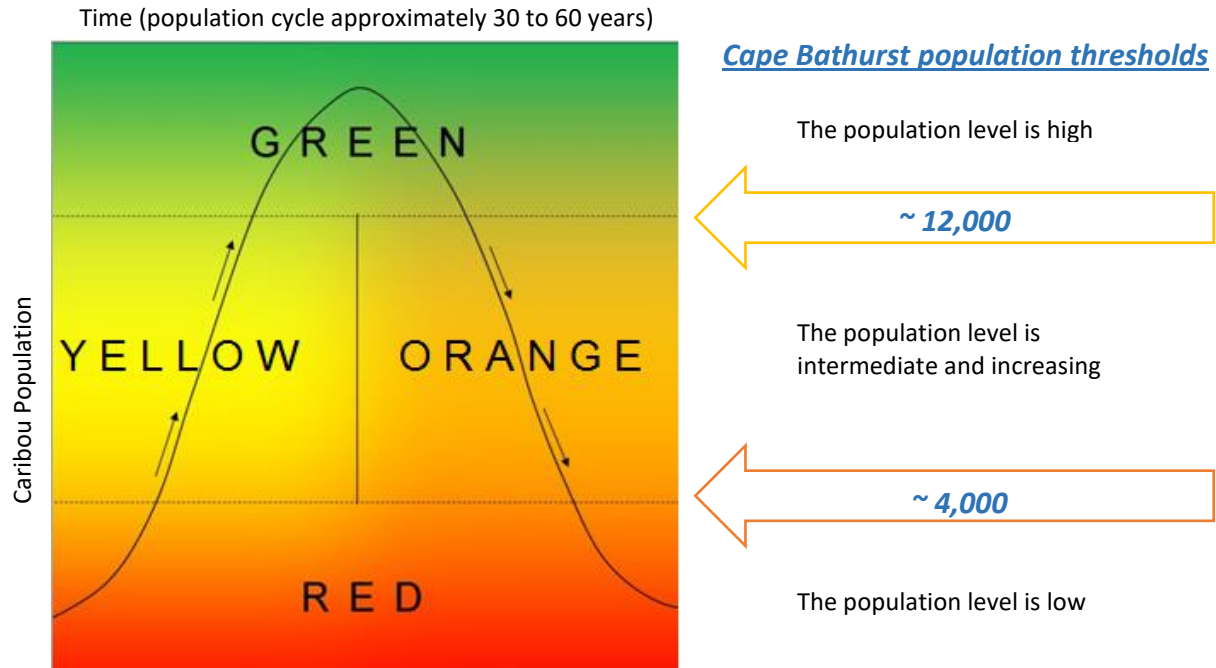


Figure 2: Phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans with defined Cape Bathurst population thresholds.

herd. 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 2021 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 on the information provided, the ACCWM determined the Cape Bathurst herd status colour zone to be **Yellow (intermediate and increasing)** in November 2021. The ACCWM noted that the population continues to be slowly recovering based on the community observations presented. This was the second year in a row where community knowledge indicated that the status of the herd was improving. This year there was a population survey that also indicated that the herd's numbers are increasing. Based on the available information, the ACCWM felt that there was sufficient evidence for status of the herd to be maintained at **Yellow (intermediate and increasing)**.

In 2022/23



the Cape Bathurst caribou population status is

Yellow: intermediate and increasing

Table 1: Criteria used to assess Cape Bathurst herd status in 2021.¹

Criteria	Community-Based Information ²	Scientific Information ³	Comments
Population size	<p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly related to distribution, range and migration routes. Less caribou in Inuvik’s usual hunting areas (see Range and Distribution notes) than there were before the ITH was built. From what knowledge holders observed, numbers are stable but still low. Much lower than they were decades ago. Need to travel 10 times the distance (more due East) to get caribou than in their childhoods. Observation: Last community hunt they filled was about 4 years ago in early December. Saw a herd of about 3000, cows, calves and bulls mixed up. The group separated into two, cows and bulls separated. Haven’t seen that many together since. It was around Old Man Lake, Jonas Lake, Urquhart. Observation: About 2 years ago, from the south end of 500 Lake to Abutuk was trampled, a big herd was there a week before. By the time the harvester got there, the herd was back east, but whole area was trampled. Ran 	<p>Estimated number of adult caribou at least 1.5 year old in 2021 Rivest: 4,912 ± 562 (95%CI)</p>	<p>Estimated based on July post-calving ground survey</p>

¹ This table is populated with information presented to the ACCWM to assess herd status in 2018 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. Community-based information was documented in the following ways:

- 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.
- Few Gwich’in Participants harvest from this herd, so the Gwich’in Renewable Resources Board’s (GRRB) 2021 community-based information is sourced from interviews with only four hunters (three from Inuvik and one from Tsiigehtchic).

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

	<p>into a small bunch of about 50, but other hunters said about a week before there were maybe 5000 caribou around 500 Lake. That's when the ice was not quite formed, people were still hesitant to cross. Falltime, early November, when it was still kind of dangerous to travel.</p> <p>GRRB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few or Same • "Same for about ten years." • "Usually, I see 50 caribou between Husky Lakes and Sitidgi Lake. This year I only saw five." 		
<p>Population trend and rate of change</p>	<p>Inuvik (WMA-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About the same numbers as the past few years, not seeing less; hard to give comment on overall herd population from area of observation. • At a camp on the southern basin of Husky Lakes and crossing up to Indian Lake when it freezes – see more caribou in springtime, seem to be moving south toward Sitidgi creek. • Seems stable otherwise – always get scattered herds in his area. Pretty consistent numbers. • Decades ago, there were thousands of caribou accessible very close to Inuvik – year-round, could get caribou right outside of town behind the water tower or toward the airport. This stopped when seismic activity began around Inuvik. • Observation: many years ago, there was seismic activity around Parsons Lake – this was the first time this knowledge holder noticed the caribou stopped coming. There were big camps, about 500 people, and seismic machines running everywhere. The following year, not 	<p>Between 2005 and 2021 the herd shows an increasing trend of 6% per year (95%CI of 2% to 9%)</p>	<p>Trend analysis is based on Rivest estimates</p> <p>2021 4,912 ± 562 2018 4,521 ± 875 2015 2,524 + 284 2012 2,447 + 350 2009 2,925 + 1,252 2006 2,039 + 319 2005 3,566 + 1,373</p>

	<p>even one caribou showed up. Normally that was the rutting/wintering area. They went back across Husky Lakes and never came back – only in small numbers, not like they used to see. That’s when they started noticing the caribou numbers decline. Used to be able to hunt caribou year-round around Sandy Hills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now there are much less caribou than there used to be – you have to go ten times farther to harvest. They’re staying further East, away from the road, other side of Husky Lakes, toward Anderson River. Harvesters still see and harvest them; they just have to go farther due east. • They see males a lot in their part of the range, in the treeline. • One knowledge holder flew on August 30, 2021, by chopper all the way to Baillie Island, by North Star Harbour, and only saw one caribou on the way out, one on the way back. Saw lots of muskox though. • About 5-10 years ago, one harvester went to Baillie Island 3 years in a row from late April to early May, trying to hunt polar bear, grizzly bear and geese. Used to go to North Star Harbour and Middle Lake – would see lots of cows and calves – all scattered here and there. There’s so much muskox around there now. Was very surprised to fly over this August and not see caribou. • Others flew often (for DFO work) in that area and saw many caribou. • One harvester was out all fall and got one caribou – there were a few more around, but females so he didn’t harvest them. About the same number accessible to him as last winter; probably a little more this year than last year – hardly saw any last year. 		
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	<p>GRRB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About the same as past years. 		
Productivity and recruitment	<p>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the Inuvik end, they see caribou in winter after bulls and cows have separated, and before they've dropped. Hard to comment on proportion of cows because of time of year observing them. Inuvik harvesters typically hunt in the winter when cows have not yet given birth, so it is difficult to comment on productivity or trends in productivity. <p>GRRB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few 	<p>Pregnancy rate of captured cows 2021: 23/24 (96%).</p> <p>Last recruitment survey was 2019 so no current information available.</p>	<p>Pregnancy based on serum progesterone.</p> <p>2019 recruitment survey included both CB and Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula herds Estimated number of calves per 100 cows in 2019: 41 ± 6.7 (95% CI).</p>
Adult composition	<p>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always get cows coming by first, then bulls behind them. Don't know if they're pregnant because they haven't dropped yet. One hunter saw the odd cow here and then with young ones, but mostly in the area where he goes they are bulls. Out of the treeline toward Husky Lakes is when you start running into cows. After mating season, they separate, so we see mostly bulls in Miner River area. Probably about 50/50 between cows and bulls Cows and bulls will separate, migrate and overwinter in different areas, at different times. Cows and calves last seen hanging around Urquhart; a big mixed herd was 	<p>There is only one bull to cow ratio for CB (2015) so trend is unknown but the 2015 results is considered normal.</p> <p>Estimated number of bulls per 100 cows in 2015: 43 ± 4.6 (SE)</p>	

	<p>observed four years ago with cows, calves and bulls. Bulls are observed around husky lakes and treeline. Cows don't follow bulls into the treeline like they used to; before the ITH, the bulls would come down first and the cows behind them. Now the cows seem to stay on the barrens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around Caribou Lakes, only see bulls, almost never cows • North Caribou Lake and Woodbridge Lake area used to be cows and bulls – now only see bulls – cows don't follow into the trees anymore • Cows stay over at Uruqhart Lake and 500 Lake, they hang out and winter there, Miner River country. The treeline starts behind Dennis Creek and Old Man Lake – that's as far as cows and calves go in the winter now. • From this time of year through to Jan/Feb, see lots of migration through Miner River towards North Caribou Lake all the way to Kuugalik – all the bulls go into the trees. <p>GRRB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report. 		
<p>Body condition and health</p>	<p>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hunter got 3 last winter, look nice and fat and healthy, no disease. • Healthy: probably due to global warming, good access to vegetation, seem to be in better shape. • Bulls are putting fat on earlier too, in February they're already getting fat again. By April/May, seeing 2 inches of fat already on older bulls. • One harvester got one bull this fall at Husky Lakes, a bull 	<p>The condition of both bulls and cows was on average 'good' in the 2020/2021 harvest season.</p> <p>Average back fat in 2020/2021 season was 2.06 cm (range 0 to 4.5</p>	<p>Scientific information based on harvester reported samples harvested in range of the Tuk Peninsula and CB herds. In</p>

	<p>with close to 4 inches of fat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haven't seen Brucellosis or disease in them for a while now either. Used to see Besnoitia quite a bit in the bulls, don't see it as much anymore – it used to be really bad under the fur • Suggest handing out the ENR parasite handbook again. People sometimes throw meat away because they don't know what they're seeing – most meat is fine if you cook it, even if there are parasites. <p>GRRB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy, no disease, decent amount of fat. 	<p>cm) for cows and 1.11cm (range 0 to 6 cm) for bulls.</p> <p>The average Condition code was 3.2 for cows and 2.6 for bulls (range 2 to 4). The average percent marrow fat for cows was 91% (range 74 to 95%) for cows and 84% (Range 55 to 94%) for bulls</p>	<p>2020/2021 season, condition information was reported for 46 cows and 18 bulls, back fat information was collected for 54 cows and 19 bulls, and Marrow fat information collected for 47 cows and 19 bulls.</p>
<p>Harvest levels</p>	<p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So much focus on Porcupine herd this year – about 40 tags left over from last year because pressure was focused on Porcupine – alleviated pressure on other herds. • Suggest asking for observations with harvest study rather than just harvest counts • Suggest putting ACCWM questions in tag kits, get HTC's to hold on to them until time to send them in. • Better to do hunts – community hunts– in the fall because that's when you'll get bulls. Hunting in winter, more likely to get cows – dry cows can be pregnant. More people go out this time of year because it's easier to travel with skidoo. More education is needed. Would be easier to do a fall hunt because of access with the highway. 	<p>I/BC/07 and G/BC/02 are closed zone for CB.</p> <p>A total of 141 I/BC/06 tags were possibly used in the wintering area of the Cape Bathurst herd in 2020/2021 – (74 of those have reported sex: 19 males, 55 females)</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTC used SCARF funding to educate young hunters last year; don't chase them, proper techniques to skin and process caribou. • Less pressure from Inuvik; Inuvik hasn't filled that quota in years, they've been harvesting from the Porcupine caribou instead, which are accessible and abundant. • Many went to Aklavik instead last winter to harvest caribou. IHTC hasn't used the portion of tags allocated for the community hunt. They haven't actually filled the quota for years. • Concern was expressed about harvest pressure further north at crossing points over Husky Lakes – at the fingers – too much traffic there, not letting them cross – prevents access to Inuvik hunters, because the caribou are stopped and turned around at their main migration points because there are too many people and boats. Suggestion to let the leaders pass. • Most harvests are recorded in Inuvik – 98%. Just a very small portion not reporting <p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only reporting is with tags because harvest study paused. • Much more being harvested than being reported because of poaching & selling. • Less harvested on Tuk Pen this fall • Good sample returns in tag zone • Need enforcement for tag attachment <p>GRRB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low. • On the topic of harvest practices, we received a report 		
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	of people chasing caribou on snow machines.		
Predator populations	<p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hunter saw hardly any predators in his area usually, no bear tracks around ever - just some wolverine. Increase in wolverine this last season. Wolf numbers in general perhaps climbing. Pack sizes increasing at least • Inuvik might harvest the most wolves in the winter season – shows in last harvest data – this winter lots of wolves harvested. Will never run out of wolves. • A lot of people go out for meat– just a select group of people who hunt predators. Less predator harvesters than caribou harvesters – less people with those skills, less economically feasible with fur prices down. • This spring was a pretty good year for bear harvest for Inuvik, quite a bit of bears out there. Sometimes they come out a little later, harder to get out to Richards Island to harvest. Lot of bears seen and passed up – lots of small bears, give them a few years to grow. • Middle Husky lakes area still a lot of damage done to cabins, sign bear population is still high • More bears and wolves • Wolves – nobody hunts wolves over on the east side – wonder if they’ve moved East, getting killed there? • Wolf incentive is good, would like to see it continue, but it should match what they’re getting in Sahtu • Eagles carry young ones away – crows peck at young ones too – foxes can also predate on calves 	Tuktoyaktuk submitted 6 wolves and Inuvik submitted 15 wolves in the 20/21 season.	A change in wolf harvest does not necessarily reflect changes in wolf abundance.

	<p>GRRB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing • “Lots of wolverines last winter. Most I’ve seen in a long time. Not many wolves.” 		
<p>Range and movement patterns</p>	<p>Inuvik (WMA-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right now there are bunches of caribou from Kugaaluk to North Caribou Lakes – observed about 20. • They’re all in the barrens right now. • Seems like there are still caribou on Tuk Pen. • Discussion about impacts of Inuvik Tuktoyaktuk Highway (ITH). Before ITH, caribou were always in and around Storm Hills and Caribou Hills – seems like they’re gone now with the highway, potentially stayed/moved farther East • Would be good to see trends –harvest data collected – to see if distribution has changed after highway • If they’re not coming here, they’re grazing somewhere else – what kind of effect will that have? Reindeer now grazing where caribou used to be. • Much less caribou than long ago – less habitat, less space to graze. There will probably be less wolf/bear dens in the area because of that, too. • Observed at least one wolf den this year by Parsons that wasn’t returned to. • They don’t cross to the west side of Husky Lakes anymore -probably because of the road, too much traffic • There are some caribou in the treeline year-round – some are woodland 	<p>In 2020, 14 CB collared cows were still active from the 2018 deployment and 12 returned to CB calving ground where 2 went to TP calving ground, and one TP collared cows moved to CB calving ground.</p> <p>Between 2010 and 2021, 97% of collared CB cows (184 records) returned year after year to calving ground.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration routes affected by harvesting pressure - too many boats, folks at fingers, don't let them cross – need to let the leaders pass (like Gwich'in do with Porcupine caribou). Caribou come down to the treeline still though. • Last year: end of April, beginning of May, there were quite a few bulls coming from Bonneville point and crossing toward 500 Lake – lots crossing Husky lakes. Some people saw quite a few around Ration hills, Rough hills – only bulls (not unusual for that season) • When you go further north, toward Anderson River side, you start seeing a lot of caribou. Probably because there's too much traffic here, road, skidoos, boats, and cabins. • All those cabins around Aginalik (on Husky Lakes) – like a barrier, a fence – caribou used to cross there too, now there are so many cabins that caribou avoid it altogether. More cabins, at least 5 new ones per year, since the road opened – plus tent frames. Including tent frames, apx. 100 camps from Tutsi Bay to Sitidgi, right where the caribou migration route was. • They mix with reindeer sometimes; one knowledge holder herds the reindeer every year at Jimmy Lake and sees woodland and barren-ground cows and calves mixed with reindeer – they take off when the herders come near. • Last year or two, the caribou never really reached Old Man Lake – just small bunches here and there. Last time they were around Urquhart, they were always cows and calves. • They always travel in the same general direction, but 		
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	<p>probably sniff out areas where there's fresher food; the migration route is slightly different every year. Predators probably impact this too.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ITH definitely has an impact on their range, shortens it. Before the ITH, the caribou used to migrate to Zed Lake, on the west side of Parsons Lake, Bonnetplume Lake. Right where the ITH goes through the trees, they used to winter in that area. All times of year, caribou could be found in those trees. • Used to be so many caribou at Rough Hills too, would just sit on a highest hill, wait for caribou, and shoot down. • Driving back at night, you could see them sleeping all over the ground – jumping over toboggan – when they get blinded by headlights they run anywhere. • One year, coming back from Tuk by Caribou Hills on the ice road, could see caribou tracks crossing into the Delta. Used to get caribou behind Blue Rogers' in those lakes. During jigging time you could see them in the Delta. They like muskrat pushups, and eating salt off the ice. • Discussion about how caribou move east and west as well as north and south; wondering if some of them go all the way West to the mountains <p>GRRB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One person said that the caribou were not where they normally are, possibly due to reduced insect numbers this year. • Another reported that since construction of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway, caribou are no longer seen on the west side of the road. 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One person requested that collar data be presented to community members so that they can see how migration patterns are changing. 		
Environment and habitat	<p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about slumps. Some caribou get stuck in the mud when the banks drop – they go there to lick salt and minerals from the exposed permafrost and get stuck. Even moose get caught in there. • Whenever one observer sees moose at Husky Lakes, it's in the slumps. • Maybe the type of vegetation that regrows on the slumps is good food for caribou? • With later freeze-ups, maybe they won't even cross anymore, just stay in treeline. Last year there wasn't much snow, they never really came out of the trees last year. • Lots of slumping • Late freeze-ups and early break-ups • Last couple years not much snow: good for caribou to eat and get fat • Didn't have a January warm spell above 0 like in years past. It rained in Tuk but not here this past January. 5-6 years ago, were getting warm spells in the middle of winter. One year it made a crust on the snow, really hard for caribou. They were sliding on hills – the wind and rain hit the hills and glazed over – that year the caribou were in really poor shape. Later that spring with the bad rain-on-snow, went to Herschel Island and Philips Bay and saw dead caribou all over. Saw about 20 dead caribou on the ice near Herschel. 	<p>There were very few fires in the 2021 season on the Cape Bathurst Range</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This fall was the first time in a long time seeing fat ptarmigan. <p>GRRB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warming earlier, lots of erosion and slumping, alders are moving into the tundra, moose are moving further north. There wasn't much snow last winter which should have helped the caribou. 		
<p>Human disturbance</p>	<p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Husky lakes - whenever [one observer] sees moose it's in those slumps - at Herschel Island, they were in the slumps • Maybe the type of vegetation that regrows on the slumps is good food for caribou? • Disagree with collaring – harassment of animals, too intrusive • More involvement from Inuvialuit to figure out how to count these animals without being too intrusive. • Concern about ITH providing access for many new camps and cabins – see “range and movements” – in migration route • • Other than that, pretty quiet for activities in the range right now • More impact at Husky Lakes in the fall, because of easier access for fall hunting, boating activity • Starting to see younger generation going out there – not letting the leaders pass – concerned that they'll keep moving the caribou farther away. • Suggestions for hunter education, teaching young about 	<p>The Cumulative Effects project is ongoing, initial steps to map all current disturbance in the range show that there is a low human footprint on the range (less than 0.4% of the range)</p>	

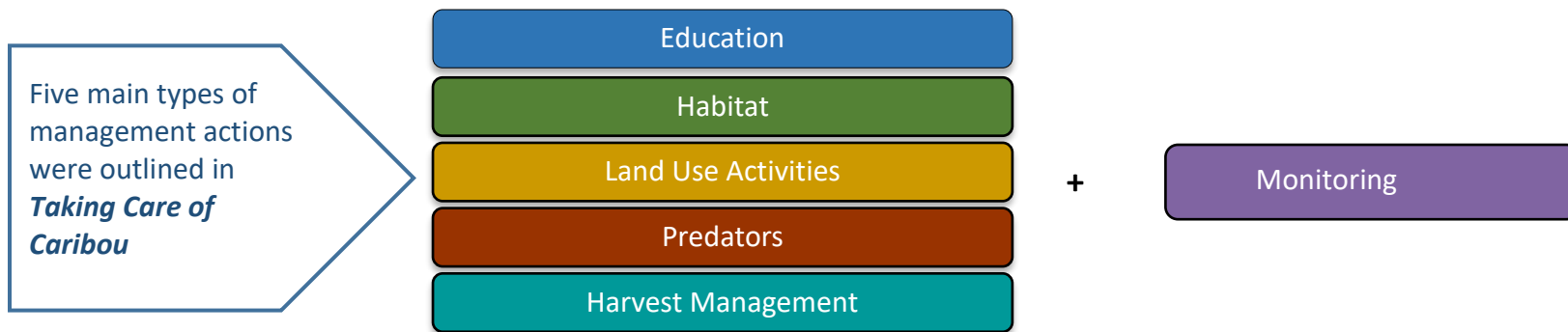
	<p>responsible harvesting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IHTC did get SCARF funding for an on-the-land education trip –community harvest • Suggestion to set dates on hunting season, start in December, let the caribou cross first then there would be lots for everyone. This is an issue to discuss at the HTC level. • Too much hunting for money – dry meat being sold under the table. • The caribou are far away, and gas is expensive, so many are turning to hunt moose instead • Suggest including younger people in wildlife management meetings. School age, youth council. Community corporation has elders committee and youth network; IHTC has a youth representative. Important to get into schools. ENR hunter education handbook is good – we should develop one for our region. <p>GRRB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The caribou no longer follow their old migration patterns since the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway was built. 		
Competitors	<p>Inuvik (WMA-NWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observations of many muskox from Anderson River to Baillie Island • Spring during caribou surveys, muskox around Miner River – even this side of Tsiigehtchic, in the trees, there was a big group of them • Lots of muskox on Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula too. 	<p>Muskox survey in March 2021 shows changes in muskox distribution from past surveys. This includes movement into range of the Cape Bathurst Population in</p>	

	GRRB: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nothing to report.	the ISR as a whole appears stable.	
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Yellow Status Management Actions for Cape Bathurst 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. Please refer to the 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 Cape Bathurst herd is **yellow (intermediate and increasing)**, 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.

Management Actions Table for Cape Bathurst Caribou: Yellow 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. Implement communication and 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 2021 – plans for 22/23
A.1.2 Engage community organizations regarding types of materials and distribution		Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions	Ongoing	Top	WMAC (NWT) engages during annual community tour. In 2021, flyers were mailed to outer communities, and all communities were engaged in person except for Tuktoyaktuk (due to COVID-19). ACCWM swag was used for door prizes.
A.1.2 ACCWM reviews educational strategy annually based on	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards	Annually	Top	ACCWM member boards review educational strategy annually, prior to Annual Status Meeting

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.

community and member board priorities, based on ToR for Communication and Education Working Group					<p>WMAC (NWT) identifies priorities during community tour</p> <p>GRRB reviewed the educational strategy in December 2021.</p>
A.1.3 Implementation of educational strategy	Member boards, government partners and regional partners ⁷	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 and updated in 2021</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>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> <p>GRRB is providing RRCs with information on wildlife diseases and parasites to distribute to their members.</p>

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

					GRRB is looking into potentially holding an educational summer camp for high school students in 2022.
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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 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. WMAC and IGC formed working group in order to develop an Inuvialuit position paper with important habitats and conservation actions and priorities. The final draft is awaiting community verification.

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	ACCWM WG and government partners, academics	Compilation map	Ongoing		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>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
B.3.1 Based on 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 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				
C.2.2 Apply Appendix G: member boards make and communicate recommendations	Member boards				WMA (NWT) and other ISR partners review proposals going through EISC The GRRB reviews research, regulatory, and land access permit applications and provides advice to proponents on

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

⁹ 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

to proponents (including air carriers and other subcontractors) and regulators.					best practices for reducing their impacts on caribou and other wildlife.
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. Predators¹⁰

D – 1. Continue research programs to monitor predator condition (e.g., carcass collection and community monitoring programs)

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 community and scientific monitoring results)	ACCWM WG and government partners	Summary report	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing. Completed wolf feasibility assessment (Nov 2017) ¹¹ Dropbox created for materials 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. This work began in 2020 and we hope to complete it in early 2022.
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) 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 (2022).

¹⁰ Management Plan has different management actions in the yellow zone however Member Boards agreed to leave unchanged for 2020/21

¹¹ <https://www.wrrb.ca/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Wolf%20Feasibility%20Assessment%20-%202010nov17.pdf>

D.1.3 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	
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E. Harvest Management

E – 1. Recommend easing limits on subsistence and then resident harvests ¹²

Objective – support a balanced 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	Recommendation provided as required			

¹² 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).

E – 2. Consider recommending outfitter and commercial harvests at discretion of the ACCWM.¹³

Objective – limit non-subsistence harvest to assist in herd recovery

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.2.1 ACCWM to discuss based on E.1.1	Member boards	Recommendations provided as required			

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	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing.
F.1.2 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for		Summary report	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing.

¹³ 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.

harvest data collection					
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	Ongoing	Top	
F.1.4 Implement harvest data collection program	Member boards and government partners	Collections initiated	Ongoing	Top	
F.1.5 Establish annual data reporting template		Template	Ongoing	Top	
F.1.6 Adapt and / or develop database and protocols		Pilot database program developed	Ongoing	Top	
F.1.7 Gather, compile and present total herd harvest data to ACCWM	ACCWM WG	Summary report	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing.
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>					
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)			
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 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			Next post calving survey: July 2024
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	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		Caribou Collar discussion paper completed in 2021
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		Status of all monitoring criteria communicated to the ACCWM	Annual status meeting	Top	Government partners presented information gathered at 2021 ASM.

Acronyms used in this Plan

ACCWM (WG)	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (Working Group)
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'Inę Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
- Dehcho First Nations¹⁴
- 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
- Tłıchq Government
- Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board
- Wek'èezhìi 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	<p>Recommend education programs for all status levels. Ideas for educational themes include:</p> <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.