

UPDATES FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:



▶ OUTCOMES FROM THE NBCKC ANNUAL DECEMBER TELECONFERENCE

▶ MONITORING REPORT COMPLETE!

▶ UPDATE ON ECOLOGICAL MODEL FOR HABITAT RESTORATION



▶ KNOWLEDGE SHARING PORTAL APPROACHING LAUNCH



▶ REPORT ON INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING BOREAL CARIBOU UNDERWAY

○ ISSUE 6 | ○ December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

# NBCKC

## Newsletter

*The National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium is a forum for sharing knowledge and lessons learned, as well as for pooling capacity to collaboratively address knowledge gaps to inform conservation and recovery of boreal caribou.*

## Working together to support boreal caribou recovery

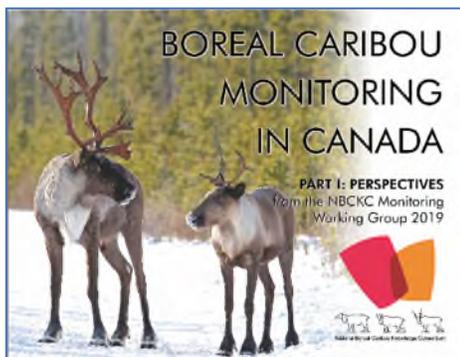
In December, members of the National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium (NBCKC) met for the annual teleconference. Represented at this meeting were Indigenous organizations, wildlife management boards, ENGOs, academics, industry and Federal, Provincial, and Territorial governments. The purpose of this gathering was to showcase completed work, provide project updates, share lessons learned, and set the direction for work in the coming year. On day one, members of the Indigenous Knowledge Circle (IKC) provided the NBCKC with an overview of their working mandate, an introduction to a proposed report on Indigenous ways of knowing boreal caribou, and an update on projects supported by contribution agreements with Environment and Climate Change Canada. The NBCKC was also treated to a sneak peak of the test site for an online portal that will be used to share knowledge concerning boreal caribou: the Canadian Conservation and Land Management (CCLM) Knowledge Portal.

Day two of the meeting began with updates and knowledge sharing from NBCKC members concerning projects and initiatives underway from their respective region or jurisdiction. Following this, the NBCKC Monitoring and Habitat Restoration working group leads updated the NBCKC on the status of work and deliverables. Next steps were also laid out for new work, including the creation of a Management Working Group and a Stewardship Perspectives report.

In this Newsletter issue you will find updates and next steps identified during the December meeting for each of the three priority areas of work leading up the NBCKC in-person meeting in Ottawa from June 9-11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Sincerely,  
*The NBCKC Secretariat*

### News



**November 2019:** NBCKC Webinar – Conquering the Caribou Conundrum: A First Nations Initiative to Implement Caribou Recovery Measures (Scott McNay). If you missed this informative webinar please contact us for some supplementary material.

**November 2019:** The launch of the Alberta Regional Caribou Knowledge Network, a consortium of academia, government and industry, was announced.

**December 2019:** The NBCKC Monitoring Working Group released it's 1<sup>st</sup> deliverable 'Boreal Caribou Monitoring in Canada, Part I: Perspectives'! Please contact the NBCKC Secretariat if you would like a copy of the report.

**May 2020:** North American Caribou Workshop – *Now accepting abstracts!*



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# NBCKC Updates

## Indigenous Collaboration

The Indigenous Knowledge Circle (IKC) now has about 30 members, with representation from First Nations, Métis and Inuit knowledge holders, communities and organizations across the boreal. Their working mandate is to provide strength and power to members and others to advocate for the recognition of Indigenous knowledge of caribou and results-based action. During the December meeting the IKC presented updates on Indigenous led projects and updated the NBCKC on their collaborations with the working groups. This group is currently setting the scope for a report documenting Indigenous ways of knowing boreal caribou. This report will be drafted in time for the June 2020 face-to-face meeting.

Early in 2020, members of the IKC will play a leadership role on the Stewardship Working Group. This new group will provide guidance concerning the importance of stewardship as a key tool for caribou conservation, one that can be complementary to other recovery measures. The scope of work will be determined in the New Year.

## Working Groups

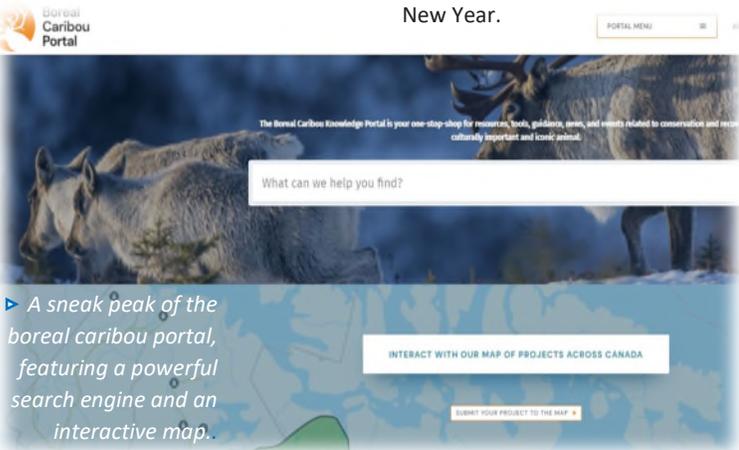
The Monitoring Working Group announced the release of their first report outlining perspectives on monitoring from the diverse groups represented by the NBCKC across the boreal region. A draft outline of their second report on best practices for monitoring under a variety of ecological and economic conditions was presented. Members conveyed that the tools being developed in the report would be useful for communicating with partners and decision-making.

The Habitat Restoration Working Group aims to use knowledge, best practices and lessons learned to support, adapt and ultimately improve our ability to restore caribou habitat. At the December teleconference, the working group leads presented an update on a boreal caribou ecological model that will serve as a communication tool to guide habitat restoration efforts. Restoration projects are also being compiled to populate the interactive map to ensure innovative projects, techniques and lessons learned are shared with practitioners.

In January 2020, the NBCKC will launch the Management Working Group to facilitate the creation of a network of adaptive management ranges, a key step set out in the 2018 Action Plan for boreal caribou. This group will take stock of the various management actions underway for caribou, assess their effectiveness, share lessons learned and provide guidance to wildlife managers through reports and best practice documents.

## Knowledge Sharing Portal

The development of the Canadian Conservation and Land Management Knowledge Network (CCLM) online portal, a joint project between Ducks Unlimited Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Innotech Alberta, and the North American Institute of Technology, is well underway and on track. This public website will serve as a portal to showcase the work and resources of the NBCKC's working groups and members. An interactive map that profiles boreal caribou projects and contacts across Canada will be an integral component of the boreal caribou sub-portal. The NBCKC Secretariat will be reaching out to NBCKC contacts, caribou experts and other knowledge holders in the coming months to collect information to be displayed on the map for the public launch of the CCLM in Spring 2020.



► A sneak peak of the boreal caribou portal, featuring a powerful search engine and an interactive map.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **NBCKC Face-to-face (Ottawa):**  
June 10-11<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- **IKC Face-to-face (Ottawa):**  
June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- **North American Caribou Workshop (Quebec City):**  
May 11-15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Next Steps

- A review of Indigenous ways of knowing boreal caribou
- Best practices for monitoring boreal caribou
- Plot initiatives and research supporting boreal caribou conservation on the interactive map
- Refine the habitat restoration ecological model
- Convene the Management Working Group
- Set the scope for a stewardship perspectives piece

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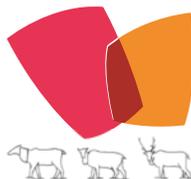
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*If you have any suggestions for webinar topics or would like to present please email us!*



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