

Apr-Sept
2018

Engagement and
Consultation
Period

August
2019

Final
Range
Planning
Framework

2019
through
2023

Develop
Regional
Range
Plans

Review and revision

The range plans will be revised and updated every 10 years. Every five years, a mid-term review will take place to make corrections and adjustments to the plans if there are unexpected or rapidly changing conditions. Each regional range plan will include a plan for monitoring the boreal caribou population and their habitat, which will help us better understand how well the plans are working.

What's next?

Range plans will be developed collaboratively through regional working groups made up of representatives from relevant Indigenous governments and organizations, renewable resources boards, community members, GNWT departments, land use planning boards, land and water boards, federal agencies and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate.

Range planning will start in the southern NWT and Wek'èezhì regions, which currently have the highest levels of disturbance, followed by the Sahtú, Gwich'in and Inuvialuit regions. Each plan is expected to take about two years to develop. All five plans will be completed by 2023.



Questions?

Environment and Natural Resources

Wildlife Division
Yellowknife, NT
1-867-767-9055
Boreal_Caribou_RangePlan@gov.nt.ca

www.enr.gov.nt.ca

A Framework for Boreal Caribou Range Planning



What is a Framework for Boreal Caribou Range Planning?

The Framework is a guide for developing five regional range plans that will determine how habitat for boreal caribou will be managed across the Northwest Territories (NWT).

Why do we need range planning?

Boreal caribou are in serious decline in many parts of Canada and are a threatened species under federal and territorial species at risk legislation. Population declines across Canada are linked to changes in habitat from industrial activity such as roads, logging and seismic lines as well as wildfire.

The NWT population of boreal caribou is currently considered to be stable, but careful management of habitat disturbance through range planning will be important to maintain a healthy and sustainable boreal caribou for the future. Other issues affecting boreal caribou, such as harvest, will be addressed collaboratively through the NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy.



NT1 Range

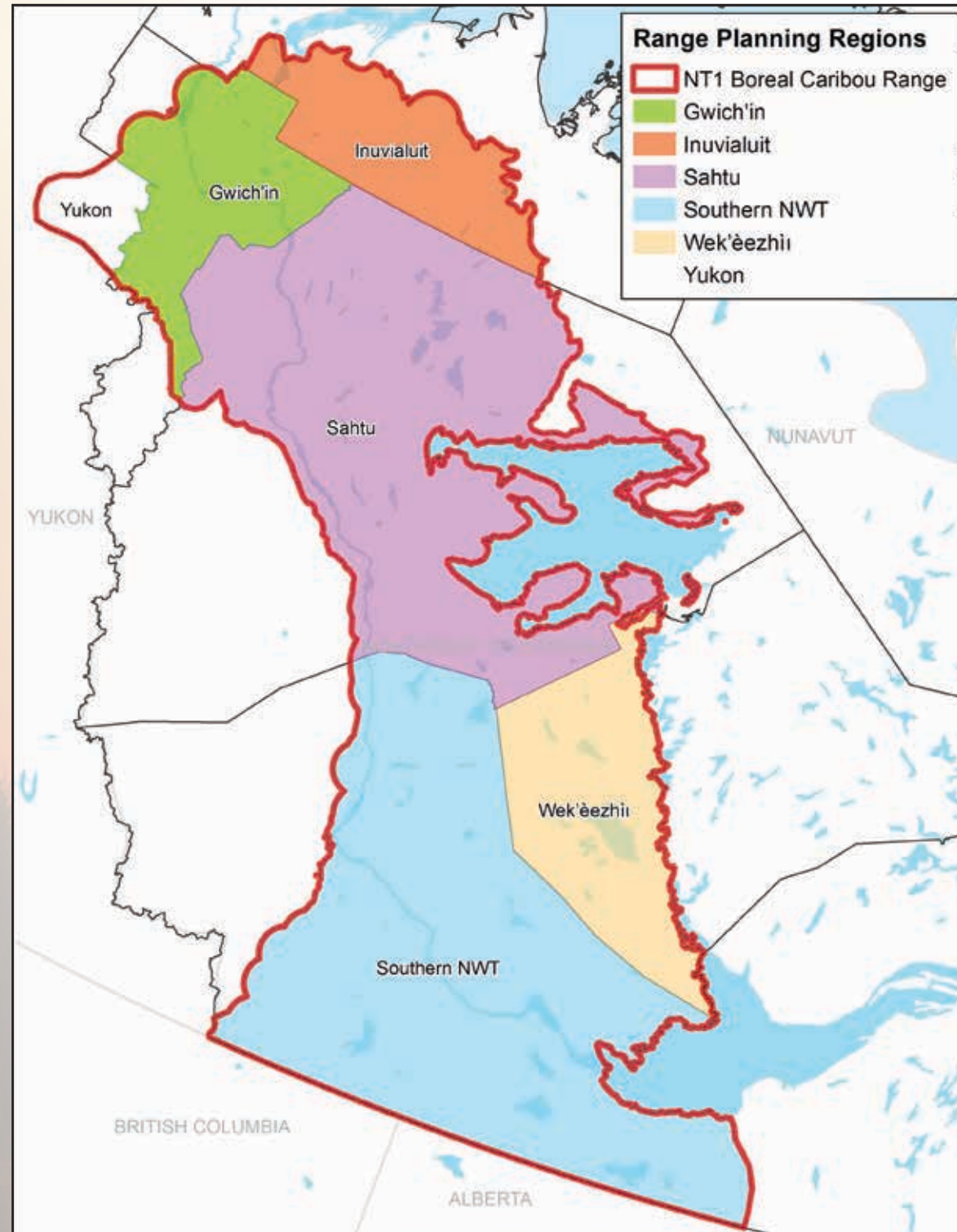
- The NWT range of boreal caribou as defined in the **National Recovery Strategy**
- Extends from the border with Alberta and British Columbia to the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit regions in the north
- Includes some habitat in the Yukon Territory



WHAT'S IN THE FRAMEWORK?

Developing regional range plans

The Framework proposes separate range plans for the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Sahtú, Wek'èezhì and southern NWT portions of the boreal caribou range. The Framework does not apply to the Yukon portion of the range, which will be managed by the Yukon Government.



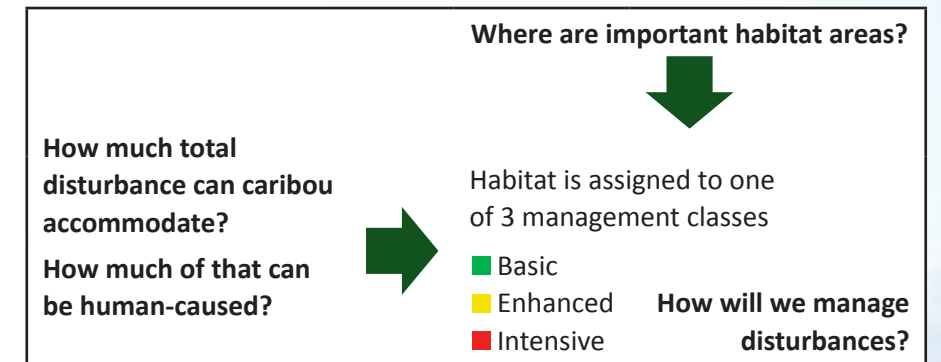
Managing habitat disturbance

The Framework proposes mapping and managing the boreal caribou range according to:

- Importance of habitat for caribou
- Amount of habitat change from industrial development activity (human disturbance, such as roads, seismic lines, logging)
- Wildfire patterns (natural disturbance)
- Existing land protections and development interests

Areas within a region would be assigned to different **management classes** (Basic, Enhanced or Intensive). These classes determine the intensity of management actions required in that area. The level of human disturbance in each region will determine which types of management classes are needed in each range plan.

The best available local, traditional and scientific knowledge will be used to identify and map important areas for caribou. Maps of important areas, and other factors, such as existing land protections and development interests, will be considered in decisions about which areas to assign to different management classes.



Managing development activity and wildfire

The Framework proposes a number of actions to address both human disturbance (development activity) and natural disturbance (wildfire). Stricter management actions will be applied in Enhanced and Intensive management class areas to avoid creating new disturbances and to ensure disturbed habitat is recovering. Key patches of boreal caribou habitat will be identified as priorities when responding to wildfires.

How will range plans be used?

To ensure range plans are used effectively to guide decisions about land uses that may impact caribou habitat, we need to make sure approaches are in place to implement these plans. This may include the use of land use plans and community conservation plans, laws and regulations administered by the GNWT, environmental assessment processes, community-led guardian programs, and other planning and decision-making processes available under land claim agreements.



Names for Boreal Caribou

- woodland caribou (boreal population)
- La population boréal du caribou des bois
- rangifer tarandus caribou
- medzih
- ɬądzié
- ɬądzi
- tuktut
- sakaw atihk
- etthen
- tuttut
- mbedzih
- vadzaih