

# NBCKC Management Practices for Boreal Caribou COMPLEMENTING HABITAT ACTION WITH POPULATION MANAGEMENT POPULATION MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW



- BOREAL FOREST REGION
- BOREAL CARIBOU DISTRIBUTION



## BOREAL CARIBOU

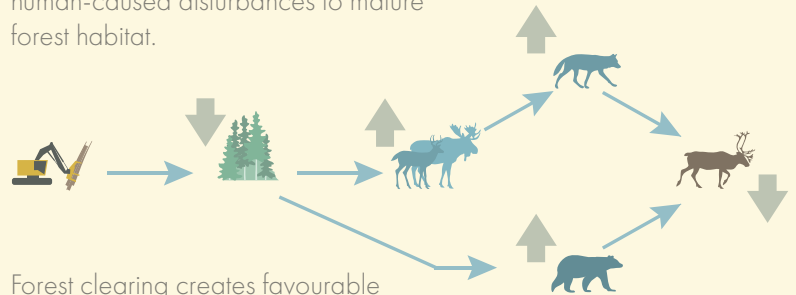
Boreal caribou are an iconic species and are culturally important to many Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

They live in boreal forests year-round, generally favouring old-growth conifer forests with few predators. **The presence of self-sustaining populations are indicative of a naturally functioning ecosystem.**



## Population Declines of Boreal Caribou: A Conservation Challenge

Populations of boreal caribou are experiencing widespread declines and are currently listed as Threatened under the Species at Risk Act. Boreal caribou face several threats, but a primary cause of decline is believed to be increased predation ultimately resulting from human-caused disturbances to mature forest habitat.

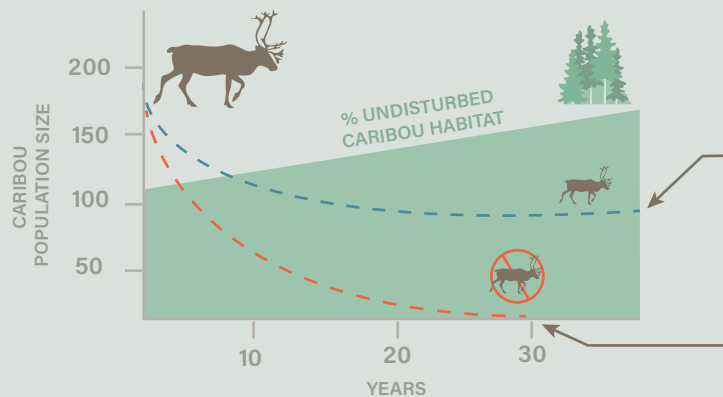


Forest clearing creates favourable conditions for moose and deer, which leads to more predators, like wolves. Omnivores like black bears also benefit from these conditions. This puts an unsustainable predation pressure on caribou.

For small and rapidly declining caribou populations, **interim population management actions are needed to prevent the loss of these caribou before the effects of habitat restoration are realized.**

## Sustaining Caribou on the Landscape

With human-caused disturbances being the primary cause of caribou declines, **habitat protection and restoration are necessary to re-establish self-sustaining populations over the long-term.**

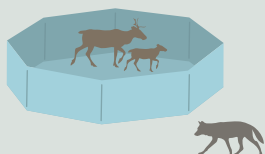


**Interim population management** can help sustain caribou populations while habitat recovers.

**Without interim population management**, caribou populations may be lost before habitat recovers.

## Examples of Population Management:

### Maternal Penning



Temporarily penning pregnant caribou can reduce predation risk to vulnerable young calves.

### Primary Prey Management



Increasing hunter harvest of moose can benefit caribou by indirectly reducing predators.

### Predator Management



Reducing predator populations can stabilize or increase caribou populations.

### Translocations



Translocating caribou from a healthy donor population can help stabilize a declining population.