

Government of  
Northwest Territories



Barren-ground

# Caribou

## Co-Management

in the Northwest Territories

*A Companion Guide to Wildlife Co-Management  
in the Northwest Territories*





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### ***Coordination with Nunavut***

*Many of the NWT's barren-ground caribou herds spend part of the year in Nunavut. The GNWT works closely with the Government of Nunavut to conduct caribou research and monitoring, share information and results, and coordinate caribou management efforts.*

# Co-Management and Caribou Management Boards

Nine barren-ground caribou herds spend all or part of their annual cycle in the Northwest Territories (NWT). They travel great distances every year from their wintering grounds to their calving areas and back. Many herds are shared between settlement areas and may even cross territorial or international borders, and therefore any decisions about barren-ground caribou must be made collaboratively.

In 2018, barren-ground caribou (not including the Porcupine herd) were added to the NWT List of Species at Risk as a Threatened species, which means a recovery strategy will need to be developed. A similar Canada-wide listing decision for barren-ground caribou is being considered by the Government of Canada.

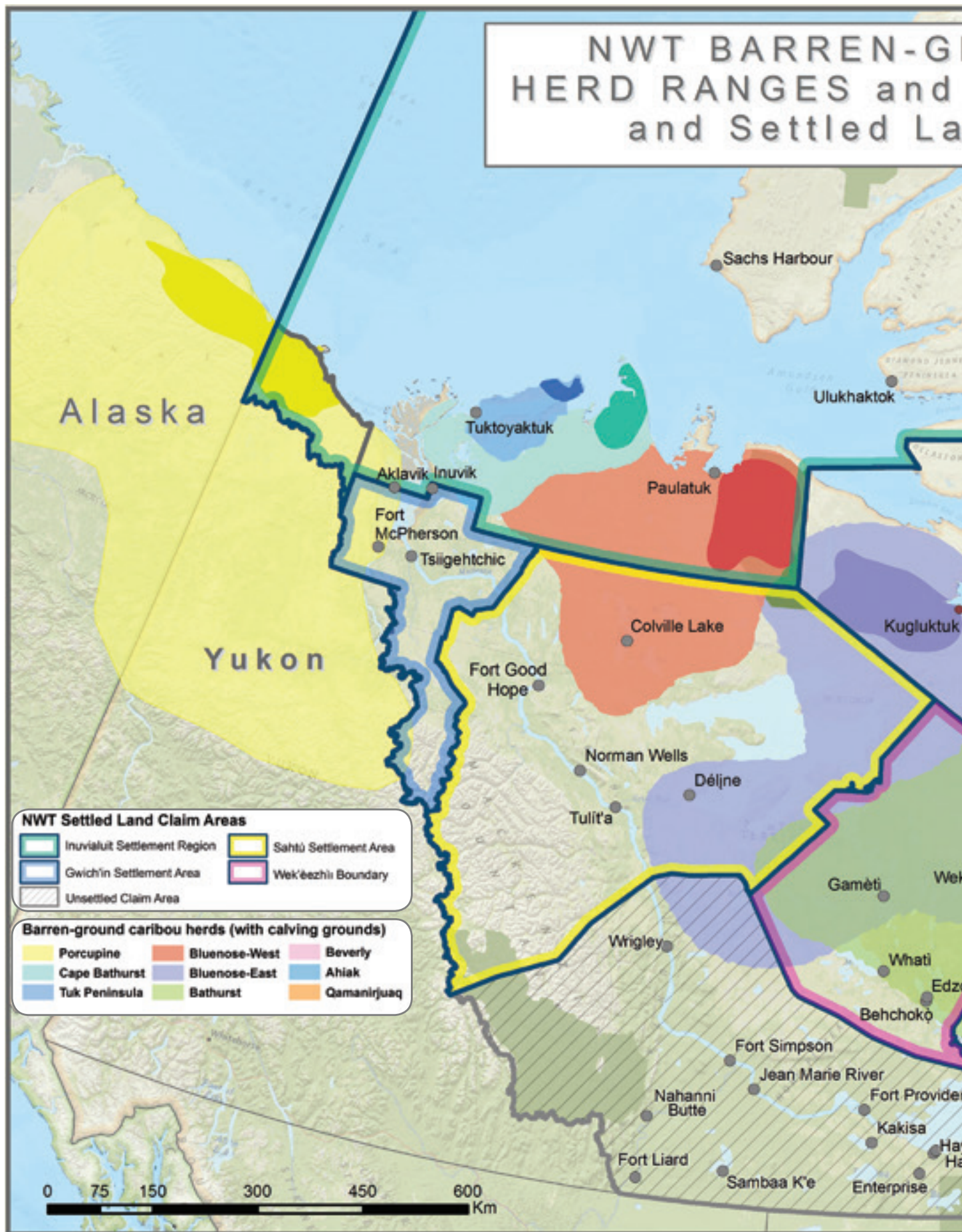
There are no automatic prohibitions or protections for barren-ground caribou or their habitat that come with a listing under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. Co-management boards established under land claim agreements are all involved in making decisions and recommendations with respect to the management of caribou herds within their settlement areas.

Other co-management processes have also been established to provide direction and advice to governments on the management of human activities with respect to caribou herds and their habitat. These processes involve governments and organizations from neighbouring jurisdictions, including Nunavut, Yukon, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

*In 2018, barren-ground caribou (not including the Porcupine herd) were added to the NWT List of Species at Risk as a Threatened species...*





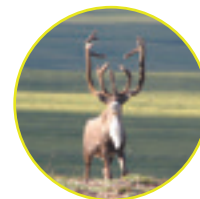




# ROUND CARIBOU CALVING GROUNDS and Claim Areas



# Porcupine Caribou



The Porcupine caribou herd range includes Yukon, NWT and Alaska, with calving grounds shared by Alaska and Yukon. Porcupine caribou are harvested by Gwich'in and Inuvialuit from the Northwest Territories, as well as hunters from Yukon and Alaska.

The herd is managed by two co-management boards: the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) in Canada and the International Porcupine Caribou Board (IPCB).



Settlement areas with management authority for the Porcupine caribou herd (with historical herd range)

REGION	ORGANIZATION	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
Entire Range	Porcupine Caribou Management Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides recommendations to Parties responsible for managing the herd</li> <li>PCMB has precedence over land claims</li> </ul>
	International Porcupine Caribou Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicates information about the herd and provides recommendations to agencies responsible for managing the herd that require international coordination</li> </ul>
Gwich'in Settlement Area	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides recommendations to the responsible Ministers on caribou management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area</li> </ul>
	Gwich'in Renewable Resource Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage and promote local involvement in conservation, harvesting studies, research and wildlife management</li> </ul>
Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR)	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides recommendations to responsible Ministers on caribou management within the Western Arctic Region of the ISR</li> </ul>
	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides recommendations to responsible Ministers on caribou management on the Yukon North Slope</li> </ul>
	Inuvialuit Game Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authority for harvesting rights, renewable resource management and conservation within the ISR</li> </ul>
	Hunters and Trappers Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each community in the ISR has its own Hunters and Trappers Committee</li> <li>Responsible for certain harvesting rights and management functions as outlined in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement</li> </ul>



# Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula Caribou



The Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula caribou herd range is in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Its calving grounds are on the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula.

The Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula herd is harvested by Inuvialuit primarily from the community of Tuktoyaktuk as well as the community of Inuvik.



Settlement areas with management authority for the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula caribou herd (with historical herd range)

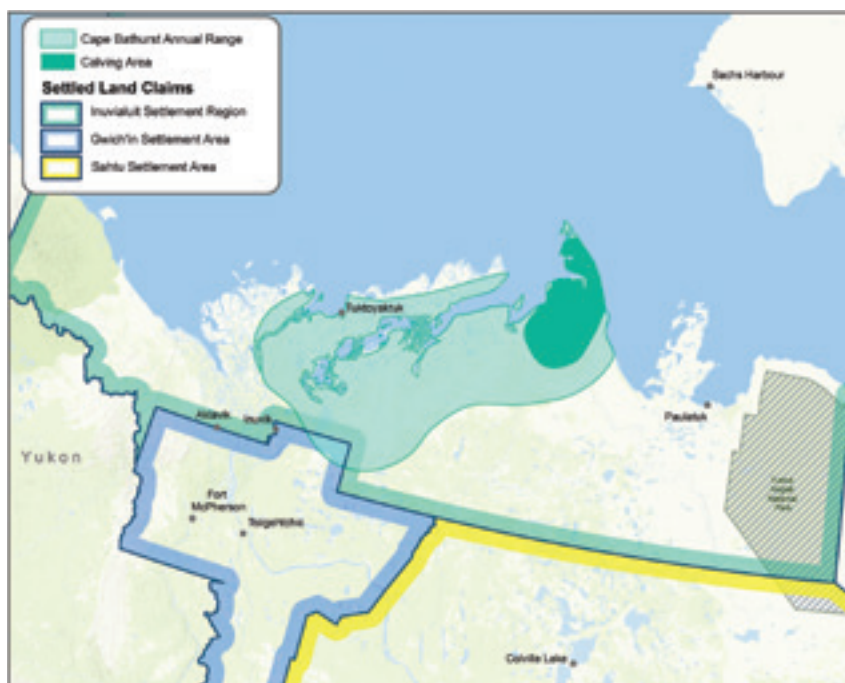
REGION	ORGANIZATION	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR)	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides recommendations to responsible Ministers on caribou management within the Western Arctic Region of the ISR</li> </ul>
	Inuvialuit Game Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authority for harvesting rights, renewable resource management and conservation within the ISR</li> </ul>
	Hunters and Trappers Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each community in the ISR has its own Hunters and Trappers Committee</li> <li>Responsible for certain harvesting rights and management functions as outlined in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement</li> </ul>

# Cape Bathurst Caribou



The range of the Cape Bathurst caribou herd includes the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in settlement areas. The herd's calving grounds are on the Cape Bathurst Peninsula.

The Cape Bathurst herd has historically been harvested by the communities of Aklavik, Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic and Tuktoyaktuk.



Settlement areas with management authority for the Cape Bathurst caribou herd (with historical herd range)

REGION	ORGANIZATION	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
<b>Gwich'in Settlement Area</b>	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides recommendations to the responsible Ministers on caribou management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area</li> </ul>
	Gwich'in Renewable Resource Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage and promote local involvement in conservation, harvesting studies, research and wildlife management</li> </ul>
<b>Inuvialuit Settlement Region</b>	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides recommendations to responsible Ministers on caribou management within the Western Arctic Region of the ISR</li> </ul>
	Inuvialuit Game Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authority for harvesting rights, renewable resource management and conservation within the ISR</li> </ul>
	Hunters and Trappers Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each community in the ISR has its own Hunters and Trappers Committee</li> <li>Responsible for certain harvesting rights and management functions as outlined in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement</li> </ul>
<b>All regions</b>	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborates in determination of herd status and conservation actions under the framework of the 'Taking Care of Caribou' plan</li> <li>Develops and updates Action Plans for Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst caribou herds</li> </ul>

# Bluenose-West Caribou



The historical range of the Bluenose-West caribou herd includes the Sahtú, Gwich'in and Inuvialuit settlement areas. The herd's calving grounds are located west of Bluenose Lake, Nunavut, in Tuktu Nogait National Park.

In the Sahtú, Bluenose-West caribou are harvested primarily by the communities of Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope and Norman Wells. The herd is harvested by the Inuvialuit communities of Paulatuk and Tuktoyaktuk and both Gwich'in and Inuvialuit residents from Inuvik.



Settlement areas with management authority for the Bluenose-West caribou herd (with historical herd range)

REGION	ORGANIZATION	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
<b>Sahtú Settlement Area</b>	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides recommendations to the responsible Ministers on caribou management in the Sahtú Settlement Area</li> </ul>
	Sahtú Renewable Resource Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage and promote local involvement in conservation, harvesting studies, research and wildlife management</li> <li>Presidents participate in SRRB meetings as special advisors to the Board</li> </ul>
<b>Gwich'in Settlement Area</b>	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides recommendations to the responsible Ministers on caribou management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area</li> </ul>
	Gwich'in Renewable Resource Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage and promote local involvement in conservation, harvesting studies, research and wildlife management</li> </ul>
<b>Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR)</b>	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides recommendations to responsible Ministers on caribou management within the Western Arctic Region of the ISR</li> </ul>
	Inuvialuit Game Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authority for harvesting rights, renewable resource management and conservation within the ISR</li> </ul>
	Hunters and Trappers Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each community in the ISR has its own Hunters and Trappers Committee</li> <li>Responsible for certain harvesting rights and management functions as outlined in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement</li> </ul>
	Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calving grounds are located in the park</li> <li>Advises on all aspects of planning, operations and management within Tuktut Nogait National Park</li> </ul>
<b>All regions</b>	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborates on the determination of herd status and conservation actions under the framework of the 'Taking Care of Caribou' plan</li> <li>Develops and updates Action Plans for Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst caribou herds</li> </ul>

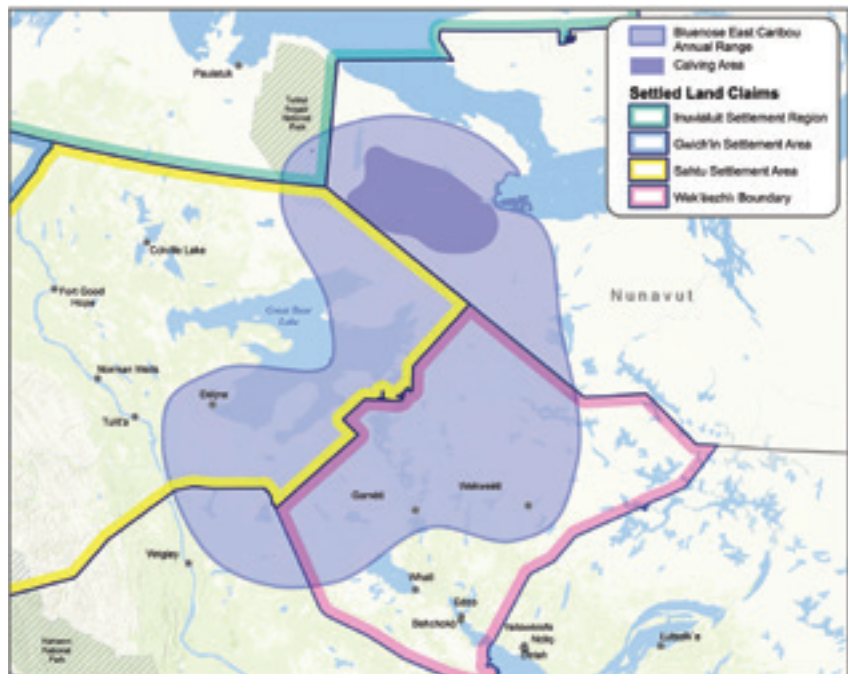


# Bluenose-East Caribou



The historical range of the Bluenose-East caribou herd includes the Sahtú Settlement Area and the Tłı̨chǫ Settlement Area (Wek'èezhii), Nunavut, and the bottom corner of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

In the Sahtú, Déljne is the primary community that harvests from the Bluenose-East herd. There has also been increased harvest by Tłı̨chǫ communities and other Indigenous groups in the NWT following reductions in the Bathurst caribou harvest in 2010. In Nunavut, the Bluenose-East herd is harvested by the community of Kugluktuk.



Settlement areas with management authority for the Bluenose-East caribou herd (with historical herd range)

REGION	ORGANIZATION	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
<b>Tłı̨chǫ Settlement Area (Wek'èezhii)</b>	Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides recommendations to the responsible Ministers on caribou management in Wek'èezhii</li> <li>Can make binding determinations on harvest levels (Total Allowable Harvest) within Wek'èezhii</li> </ul>
<b>Sahtú Settlement Area</b>	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides recommendations to the responsible Ministers on caribou management in the Sahtú Settlement Area</li> </ul>
	Déljne Renewable Resources Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists hunters and trappers in the community, and encourages and promotes local involvement in conservation, harvesting studies and wildlife management.</li> </ul>
	Sahtú Renewable Resource Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage and promote local involvement in conservation, harvesting studies, research and wildlife management</li> <li>Presidents participate in SRRB meetings as special advisors to the Board</li> </ul>
<b>Nunavut</b>	Nunavut Wildlife Management Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has no jurisdiction in the NWT, but has a key role in management of shared caribou populations as the main instrument of wildlife management in the Nunavut Settlement Area</li> </ul>
	Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for harvest management within the communities of the Kitikmeot region</li> </ul>
	Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for certain harvesting rights and management functions in Kugluktuk</li> </ul>
<b>All regions</b>	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborates on the determination of herd status and conservation actions under the framework of the 'Taking Care of Caribou' plan</li> <li>Develops and updates Action Plans for Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst caribou herds</li> </ul>

# Bathurst Caribou



The range of the Bathurst caribou herd includes the Tłı̨ch̨ Settlement Area (Wek'èezhii), with a significant part of the herd's historical range extending into areas with unsettled land claims. The herd's calving grounds are located in Nunavut.

The Bathurst herd has traditionally been harvested by Tłı̨ch̨ communities, the Yellowknives Dene, the Łutselk'e Dene, the Northwest Territory Métis Nation and North Slave Métis Alliance, as well as other Indigenous groups in the NWT, Nunavut and Saskatchewan. Resident hunters and outfitters also harvested from the Bathurst herd until 2010.



Settlement areas with management authority for the Bathurst caribou herd (with historical herd range)

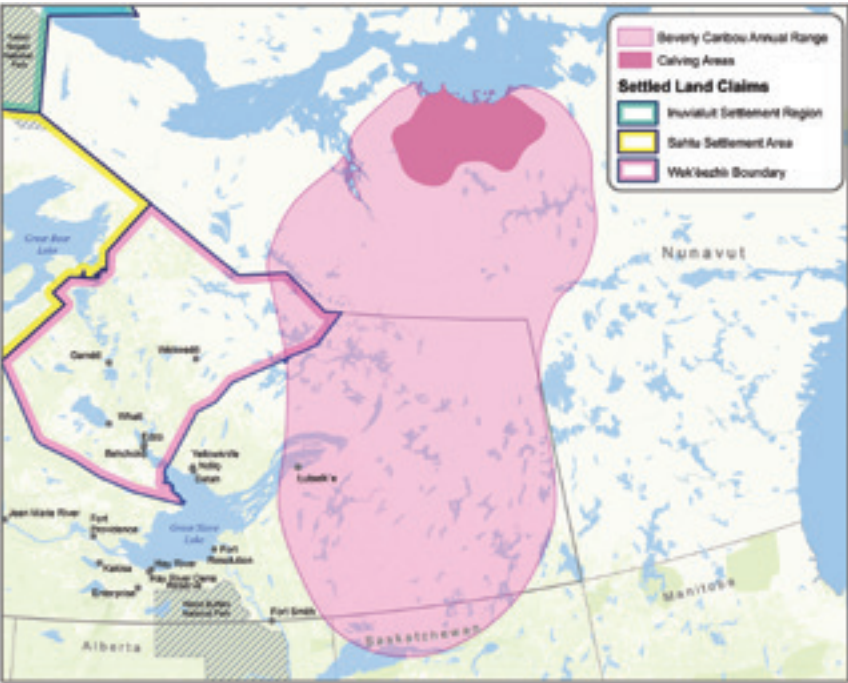
REGION	ORGANIZATION	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
<b>Tłı̨ch̨ Settlement Area (Wek'èezhii)</b>	Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides recommendations to the responsible Ministers on caribou management in Wek'èezhii</li> <li>Can make binding determinations on harvest levels (Total Allowable Harvest) within Wek'èezhii</li> </ul>
<b>Nunavut</b>	Nunavut Wildlife Management Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has no jurisdiction in the NWT, but has a key role in management of shared caribou populations, as the main instrument of wildlife management in the Nunavut Settlement Area</li> </ul>
	Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manages harvest in the communities of the Kitikmeot region</li> </ul>
<b>All regions</b>	Bathurst Caribou Advisory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides advice on the management of the Bathurst caribou herd and its habitat</li> <li>Developing new Bathurst Caribou Management Plan</li> </ul>

# Beverly Caribou



The traditional range of the Beverly caribou herd includes the eastern part of the NWT and Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut up to the Western Queen Maud Gulf area where it calves. The herd also has traditional calving grounds near Beverly Lake in Nunavut.

The Beverly herd is primarily harvested by communities in the NWT, including Łutselk'e and the Tłı̄chq communities. Monitoring and co-management of the herd is shared between the NWT, Nunavut and Saskatchewan, with advice from the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board.

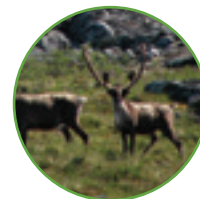


Settlement areas with management authority for the Beverly caribou herd (with historical herd range)

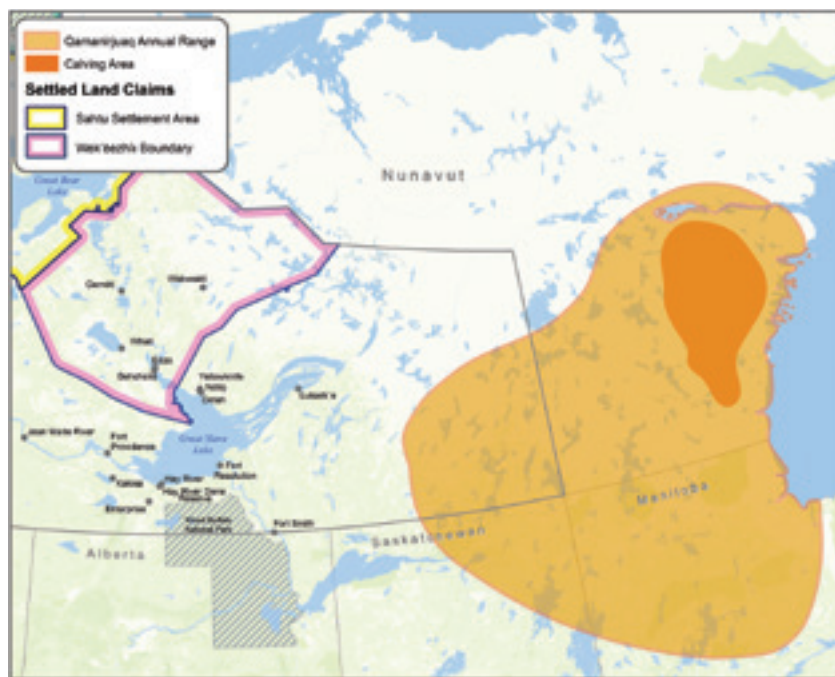
REGION	ORGANIZATION	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
<b>Tłı̄chq Settlement Area (Wek'ezhii)</b>	Wek'ezhii Renewable Resources Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides recommendations to the responsible Ministers on caribou management in Wek'ezhii</li> <li>Can make binding determinations on harvest levels (Total Allowable Harvest) within Wek'ezhii</li> </ul>
<b>Nunavut</b>	Nunavut Wildlife Management Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has no jurisdiction in the NWT, but has a key role in management of shared caribou populations as the main instrument of wildlife management in the Nunavut Settlement Area</li> </ul>
<b>All regions</b>	Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides recommendations and advice on total allowable harvest, non-quota limitations and management plans</li> </ul>



# Qamanirjuaq Caribou



The traditional range of the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd straddles two territories (NWT and Nunavut) and two provinces (Saskatchewan and Manitoba). The herd calves in the vicinity of Qamanirjuaq Lake in the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut. It is traditionally harvested by Łutselk'e Dene and the Northwest Territory Métis Nation, along with the communities of the Kivalliq region of Nunavut and Indigenous groups in northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba.



Settlement areas with management authority for the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd (with historical herd range)

REGION	ORGANIZATION	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
Nunavut	Nunavut Wildlife Management Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has no jurisdiction in the NWT, but has a key role in management of shared caribou populations, as the main instrument of wildlife management in the Nunavut Settlement Area</li> </ul>
All regions	Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides recommendations and advice on total allowable harvest, non-quota limitations and management plans</li> </ul>

# Ahiak Caribou



The traditional range of the Ahiak caribou herd is primarily in Nunavut. However, Ahiak caribou may be harvested primarily by communities in the NWT, including Łutselk'e and the Tłıchq communities, depending on where the herd spends the winter.

The Ahiak caribou calve in the vicinity of the Adelaide Peninsula (eastern Queen Maud Gulf) up to Pelly Bay, Nunavut.



Settlement areas with management authority for the Ahiak caribou herd (with historical herd range)

REGION	ORGANIZATION	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
<b>Tłıchq Settlement Area (Wek'ezhii)</b>	Wek'ezhii Renewable Resources Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides recommendations to the responsible Ministers on caribou management in Wek'ezhii</li> <li>Can make binding determinations on harvest levels (Total Allowable Harvest) within Wek'ezhii</li> </ul>
<b>Nunavut</b>	Nunavut Wildlife Management Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has no jurisdiction in the NWT, but has a key role in management of shared caribou populations, as the main instrument of wildlife management in the Nunavut Settlement Area</li> </ul>

# NWT Wildlife Co-Management Board Membership

## RENEWABLE RESOURCE BOARDS

### **Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB)**

- Eight members representing the Tłıchq Government (four members) and the Government of Canada and the GNWT (two members each). The Chair is nominated by the Board.

### **Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB)**

- Six members, including one board member from each of the three districts of the Sahtú Region (Délıne, Tulı́'a and K'asho Got'ıne), and one member representing each of the GNWT, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The Chair is nominated by the Board.

### **Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)**

- Six members, including three members nominated by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and three members nominated by the GNWT. The Chair is nominated by the Board and must be a resident of the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

### **Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) (WMAC-NWT)**

- Six members, including three members appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council and three government-appointed members (one appointed by the Government of Canada and two by the GNWT). The Chair is appointed by the GNWT with the consent of the Inuvialuit Game Council and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

## ADVISORY BOARDS, COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

### **Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM)**

Membership in ACCWM includes representation from six wildlife management boards:

- Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
- Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
- Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
- Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
- Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board
- Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board

### **Bathurst Caribou Advisory Committee**

Membership includes one representative from each of the following organizations:

- Government of the Northwest Territories
- Government of Nunavut
- Tłıchq Government
- Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation
- Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation
- Deninu Kue First Nation
- Salt River First Nation
- NWT Métis Nation
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation
- Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
- Burnside Hunters and Trappers Organization (Bathurst Inlet)
- Umingmaktok Hunters and Trappers Organization (Bay Chimo)
- Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization
- Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board



### **Inuvialuit Game Council**

The council consists of an Inuvialuit elected chair and a 6-member board, containing one representative from each of the six Inuvialuit communities:

- Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee
- Inuvik Hunters and Trappers Committee
- Olokhaktomiut Hunters and Trappers Committee
- Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee
- Sachs Harbour Hunters and Trappers Committee
- Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committee

### **Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB)**

The PCMB consists of a chair and 8 appointed members from:

- Gwich'in Tribal Council
- Na-cho Nyäk Dün
- Vuntut Gwitchin
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
- Inuvialuit Game Council
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- Government of Yukon
- Government of Canada

### **International Porcupine Caribou Board (IPCB)**

The IPCB consists of four members from Canada and four members from the United States. Canada's members include representation from the Governments of Canada, Yukon, Northwest Territories and the PCMB Chair.

### **Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board (TNNPMB)**

The TNNPMB consists of a Chair appointed jointly by the IGC and the Minister responsible for Parks Canada, and four appointed members as follows:

- One member appointed by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation on the advice of the Paulatuk Community Corporation
- One member appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council on the advice of the Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee
- Two members appointed by the Minister of Parks Canada, including one on the recommendation of the GNWT

### **Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Management Board (BQCMB)**

The BQCMB consists of 13 members as follows:

- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Government of Canada
- Conservation and Water Stewardship, Government of Manitoba
- Environment, Government of Saskatchewan
- Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories
- Environment, Government of Nunavut
- Two residents from the communities of Northern Manitoba
- Two residents from the communities of Northern Saskatchewan
- One member from the Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation
- One member from the Northwest Territory Métis Nation
- Two residents from the communities in the Kivalliq region of Nunavut





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For more information:

[www.enr.gov.nt.ca](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca)

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