

Western Arctic Caribou Herd Research & Management Activities

In 2011, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group asked the agencies assisting the group to compile a list of funded research, survey and information gathering work that is ongoing related to the WAH. The list is to be updated annually and then posted on the website (www.westernarcticcaribou.net).

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME (ADFG)

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Projects

- Spring range-wide telemetry surveys – ADFG; annually
- Fall range-wide telemetry surveys - ADFG; annually
- Fall composition surveys - ADFG; every other year
- Harvest assessment - ADFG; annually
 - Harvest reports – product of statewide license vending system: harvest tickets registration permits
 - Community harvest assessments – Subsistence Div./many other organizations (selected communities)
- Spring composition surveys - ADFG; annually
- Caribou health assessments – ADFG; every 3 years
- Serological survey for disease work – ADFG; annually
- Calving surveys – ADFG; annually
- Jaw collection (age, body size, body condition) – ADFG; year round annually
- Population censuses – ADFG; every 2-3 years
- Deploy radio collars - ADFG; annually
- Retrieve radio collars – ADFG; annually
- Monitor adult caribou mortality (timing, levels and causes) – ADFG; annually
- Assess mixing of WAH, TCH, & CAH - ADFG; annually
- Evaluate effects of climate/weather on caribou movements seasonality - ADFG

Collaborative Projects

- Identify seasonal ranges and migration routes – ADFG/NPS
- Determine monitor seasonality of WAH - ADFG/NPS
- Satellite/GPS collar program - ADFG/NPS; annually
- Resource selection function analysis – ADFG/The Wilderness Soc./NPS/FWS/BLM
- Assess factors influencing migration and winter fidelity – ADFG/NSB/The Wilderness Soc./CPAI/ABR
- Genetic identity of caribou herds in Alaska and North America – ADFG/UAF/Univ. of Laval

Ongoing Management Activities

- User conflicts – ADFG/NPS/BLM/FWS/DPS
- Enforcement of wildlife regulations – DPS/ADFG/NPS/FWS/BLM
- Reindeer grazing permits – BLM/NPS/DNR/ADFG; annually
- Support WAH Working Group (financial/administrative)– ADFG/BLM/FWS/NPS

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

Contact: Bonnie Million, Anchorage Field Manager

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Projects

- Winter Range Transects - BLM
- Weather/climate monitoring – NPS; annually
- Winter range vegetation monitoring – BLM; 5-7 year rotation
- Diet analysis – BLM; 5-7 year rotation
- Weather/climate monitoring – BLM; annually
- Geographic Information System (GIS) based habitat analysis, as a component of Rapid Ecological Assessment – BLM; on-going

Collaborative Projects

- Determine monitor seasonality of WAH - ADFG/NPS/BLM
- Satellite/GPS collar program - ADFG/NPS/BLM; annually

Ongoing Management Activities

- Weather Stations Routine Maintenance – NPS/BLM; annually
 - Fire monitoring – BLM/NPS; annually
 - Firefighting – BLM/DNR; annually
 - Enforcement of wildlife regulations – DPS/ADFG/NPS/FWS/BLM
 - Reindeer grazing permits – BLM/NPS/DNR/ADFG; annually
 - Squirrel River Management Plan development - BLM
 - Guide Capacity Study development – BLM
 - Winter Range Habitat Management Plan – BLM
 - Support WAH Working Group (financial administrative)– ADFG/BLM/FWS/NPS
 - User conflicts – ADFG/NPS/BLM/FWS/DPS
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U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (FWS)

Contact: Susan Georgette, Refuge Manager, Selawik National Wildlife Refuge

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Collaborative Projects

- Identify migration routes and critical habitat on Selawik Refuge –NPS/FWS

Ongoing Management Activities

- User conflicts – ADFG/NPS/BLM/FWS/DPS
- Enforcement of wildlife regulations – DPS/ADFG/NPS/FWS/BLM
- Support WAH Working Group (financial administrative)– ADFG/BLM/FWS/NPS
- Weather stations routine management-FWS, annually
- Outreach and education on herd status, caribou biology, and hunting regulations-FWS/NPS/ADFG

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)

Contact: Kyle Joly

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Projects

- Deploy radio collars - NPS; annually
- Retrieve radio collars – NPS; annually
- Monitor adult caribou mortality – NPS; annually
- Assess migration phenology and spatial distribution - NPS; annually
- Evaluate effects of climate/weather on caribou movements seasonality - NPS
- Telemetry surveys – NPS, annually
- Diet analysis – NPS; annually
- Grazing exclosures BELA – NPS; every 10 years
- Weather/climate monitoring – NPS; annually
- Vegetation monitoring – NPS; 5-7 year rotation
- Identify potential corridor for Ambler Road – NPS, due end of 2017

Collaborative Projects

- Identify seasonal ranges and migration routes – ADFG/NPS/BLM
- Determine and monitor seasonality of WAH - ADFG/NPS/BLM
- Satellite/GPS collar program - ADFG/NPS/BLM; annually
- Assess calving dates using GPS data – ADFG/NPS/UAF
- Assess factors influencing migration – NPS/The Wilderness Soc./USGS
- Identify potential corridor for Ambler Road – NPS/USCG/BLM/USACOE

Ongoing Management Activities

- Outreach and education on herd status, caribou biology, and hunting regulations (including Caribou Hunter Success Working Group) – FWS/NPS/ADFG
 - User conflicts – ADFG/NPS/BLM/FWS/DPS
 - Enforcement of wildlife regulations – DPS/ADFG/NPS/FWS/BLM
 - Fire monitoring – BLM/NPS; annually
 - Reindeer grazing permits – BLM/NPS/DNR/ADFG; annually
 - Support WAH Working Group (financial administrative)– ADFG/BLM/FWS/NPS
 - Weather stations routine maintenance – NPS/BLM; annually
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UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS (UAF)

Collaborative Projects

- Genetic identity of caribou herds in Alaska and North America – ADFG/UAF/Univ. of Laval
 - Assess calving dates using GPS data – ADFG/NPS/UAF
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THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

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Collaborative Projects

- Application of circuit theory analyses to identify WAH migration areas and resource selection- NPS/USGS/The Wilderness Society
- Assess factors influencing migration and winter fidelity – The Wilderness Society/ADFG/NSB/CPAI/ABR