

## 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](http://www.westernarcticcaribou.net)).

### ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME (ADFG)

**Contact:** Tony Gorn, Division of Wildlife Conservation

**Address:** P.O. Box 1148, Nome, AK 99762-1148

**Phone:** (907) 443-8189

**Email:** [tony.gorn@alaska.gov](mailto:tony.gorn@alaska.gov)

### Projects

- 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 – ADFG Subsistence Division & 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
- 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 Western Arctic, Teshekpuk & Central Arctic caribou herds - 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
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**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)**

**Contact: Bonnie Million, Anchorage Field Manager**

**Address: 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, AK 99507**

**Phone: (907) 267-1246**

**Email: [bmillion@blm.gov](mailto:bmillion@blm.gov)**

**Projects**

- Winter Range Transects - BLM
- Winter range vegetation monitoring – BLM; 5-7 year rotation
- Weather/climate monitoring – 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
  - 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**

**Address: PO Box 270, Kotzebue, AK 99752**

**Phone: (907) 442-3799, ext. 2**

**Email: [susan\\_georgette@fws.gov](mailto:susan_georgette@fws.gov)**

**Ongoing Management Activities**

- Hunter Success Working Group – ADFG/NPS/FWS/DPS/NANA/Maniilaq Association/tribes
  - Enforcement of wildlife regulations – DPS/NPS/FWS/BLM
  - Support WAH Working Group (financial and 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
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**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)**

**Contact: Greg Dudgeon, Superintendent, Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve**

**Address: 4175 Geist Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709**

**Phone: (907) 455-0614**

**Email: [Greg\\_Dudgeon@nps.gov](mailto:Greg_Dudgeon@nps.gov)**

**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
- Diet analysis – NPS; annually
- Grazing exclosures BELA – NPS; every 10 years
- Weather/climate monitoring – NPS; annually
- Vegetation monitoring – NPS; 5-7 year rotation

#### **Collaborative Projects**

- Identify seasonal ranges and migration routes – ADFG/NPS
- Determine and monitor seasonality of WAH - ADFG/NPS
- GPS collar program - ADFG/NPS; annually
- Assess fall migration using GPS data – NPS/UAF
- Assess when new collars are mixed with the herd – ABR/ADFG/NPS/NS Borough

#### **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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#### **THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY**

**Contact: Tim Fullman**

**Address: 705 Christensen Drive, Anchorage, AK 99501**

**Phone: 907-272-9453 x110**

**Email: [tim\\_fullman@tw.s.org](mailto:tim_fullman@tw.s.org)**

#### **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
- Modeling development impacts on WAH and TCH calving habitat – The Wilderness Society/NPS/Audubon Alaska