

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

- 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: Tom Sparks, Associate Field Manager, Nome Field Station

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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)

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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: Mark Dowdle, Acting Superintendent, Western Arctic Parklands

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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
- 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 survival – ADFG/NPS/ State Univ of NY (SUNY)
- North American assessment of calving – NPS/SUNY/others

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

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Collaborative Projects

- Assess factors influencing migration and winter fidelity – The Wilderness Society/ADFG/NSB/CPAI/ABR/BLM
- Detect ice roads using satellite images – The Wilderness Society/Michigan State Univ.