

Boreal Caribou

Tdzi, Sakaw atihk, Tuktut, tthn, Tuttut, Mbedzih, Vadzaih



JOHN NAGY

Should Boreal Caribou be Added to the Northwest Territories List of Species at Risk as Threatened?

Scientific Name: *Rangifer tarandus caribou*

Status: **Threatened in the NWT** (likely to become endangered in the NWT if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction)

- NWT Species at Risk Committee Assessment, December 2012



Boreal caribou can be distinguished from other caribou by their size, markings, tracks (hoof shape) and location. These woodland caribou live in the boreal forest all year. They are found in small groups at naturally low densities. There are only about 6,500 Boreal caribou in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

Boreal Caribou are Threatened in the NWT

Boreal caribou need large areas of intact habitats so they can spread out to avoid predators. The main threats to Boreal caribou are habitat loss, fragmentation from human-caused disturbances (i.e. seismic lines and roads) and natural disturbances (i.e. forest fires).

The Boreal caribou population size is small and declines have already been seen in some parts of the southern NWT. Habitat fragmentation in the NWT is expected to increase in the future due to increased oil, gas and coal exploration activities, commercial uses of the forest and forest fires. This is expected to result in a continuing decline in the amount of secure habitat and the number of Boreal caribou. This could mean Boreal caribou may disappear from the NWT in our children's lifetime.

The Assessment

The Species at Risk Committee, an independent group of experts who hold traditional, community and scientific knowledge, assessed Boreal caribou as **Threatened**. The assessment was based on a status report containing the best available traditional, community and scientific knowledge on Boreal caribou. The report and assessment are available at www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca.

Listing Boreal Caribou

The legal listing of Boreal caribou as 'Threatened in the NWT' would mean a recovery strategy must be developed for Boreal caribou in the NWT. The recovery strategy will recommend objectives and approaches to conserve and recover Boreal caribou in the NWT. The strategy will help address threats to habitat and give Boreal caribou a better chance at recovery in the NWT.

Current Range of Boreal Caribou in the NWT



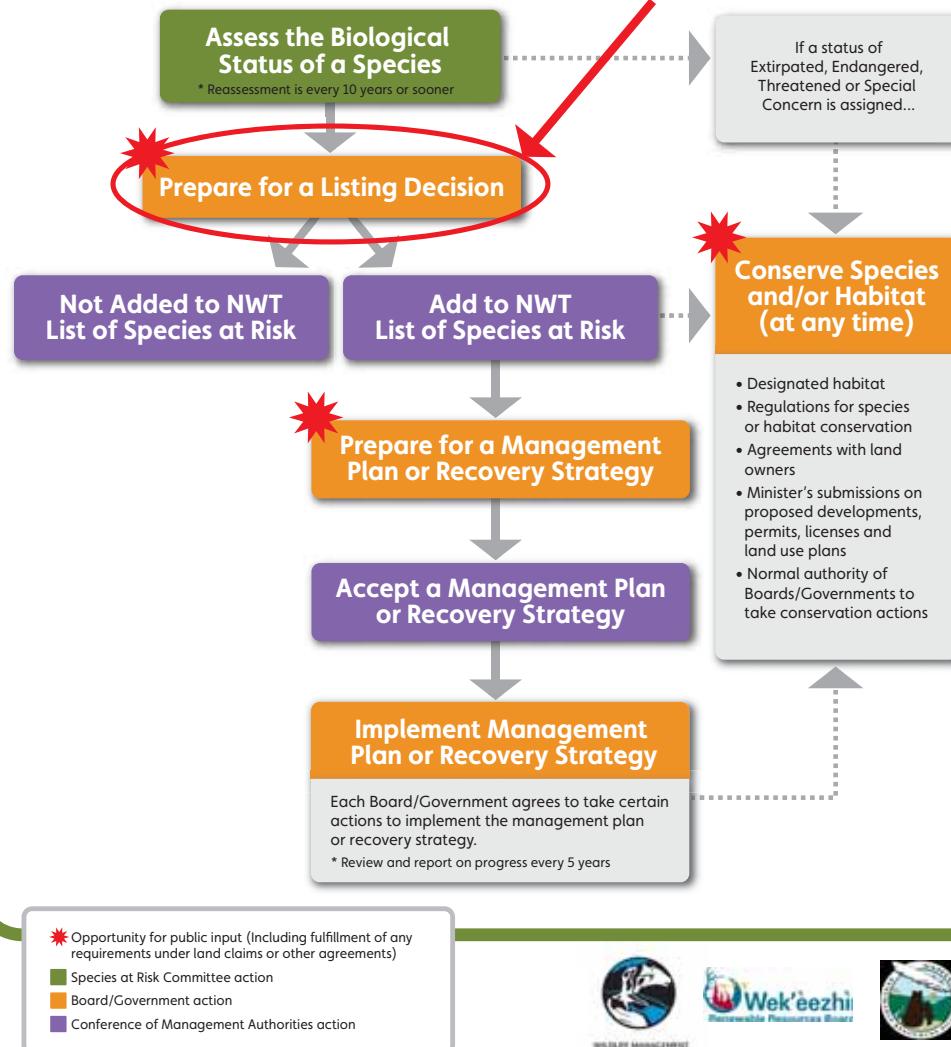
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What's next in the process:

Species at Risk Flow Chart



Frequently Asked Questions

1. People were just in our community talking to us about Boreal caribou. Why are we being asked about them again?

Boreal caribou were listed as Threatened under the federal *Species at Risk Act* and Environment Canada consulted people in the NWT about a federal recovery strategy.

The listing under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* is different because it will address concerns about Boreal caribou in the NWT instead of all across Canada.

2. Why do Boreal caribou need to be listed under the *Species at Risk (NWT)* Act if they are already listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act*?

The listing under the federal legislation is for all Boreal caribou across Canada. The NWT listing looks only at how Boreal caribou are doing in the NWT and recommends recovery actions just for the NWT.

3. If Boreal caribou are added to the NWT List of Species at Risk, will I still be allowed to harvest them?

Adding Boreal caribou to the NWT List of Species at Risk does not automatically mean harvesting must stop. There are no automatic prohibitions or protections for species or their habitat once listed. Conservation tools in the *Species at Risk (NWT)* Act are used on a species-by-species basis. Any new management actions would be discussed as the recovery strategy is developed.

Contact your Renewable Resources Board or ENR at sara@gov.nt.ca or call toll-free at 1-855-783-4301 for more information.

