

CARIBOU

(*Rangifer tarandus caribou*)

Caribou vary in size from the smallest, the Peary caribou, to the largest, the boreal woodland caribou. Some populations of subspecies, ecotypes, populations and herds of caribou in North America are in decline, and one subspecies, the iconic boreal woodland caribou, has been listed by COSEWIC as threatened since 2003.

HOME ON THE RANGE

Woodland caribou tend to roam within a specific area or "range". Herds are often named after a prominent geographic feature found in their range. Many caribou ranges are decreasing in size.

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

In the winter, woodland caribou feed on lichen or reindeer moss found in older boreal forests. Caribou are prey for wolves, wolverines, bears and humans.



THREATS

Even though Caribou are a resilient species, they are extremely vulnerable to the fragmentation of their habitat.



Human activity such as logging and oil and gas fragment the caribou's forest habitat.



As disturbed forests regrow, it provides lots of food for moose and deer, which attracts more wolves.



Increasing wolf numbers kill off caribou. The ones left have fewer places to find food and safety from predators.

NAME THAT CARIBOU

Although caribou belong to one species, over time they have been further categorized based on their differences, behaviour and habitat.

- 1) **Woodland Caribou**
Small, dark forest-dwelling caribou found in Canada's Boreal forest.
- 2) **Barren Ground Caribou**
Migratory caribou that lives in Canada's tundra.
- 3) **Peary Caribou**
Small, white-coated migratory caribou that lives in Canada's arctic.
- 4) **Porcupine Caribou**
Migratory caribou found in the Yukon and Northwest Territories.



When caribou are in danger, you are too. Help protect their critical habitat and your future by signing the pledge:

CARIBOUANDYOU.CA