

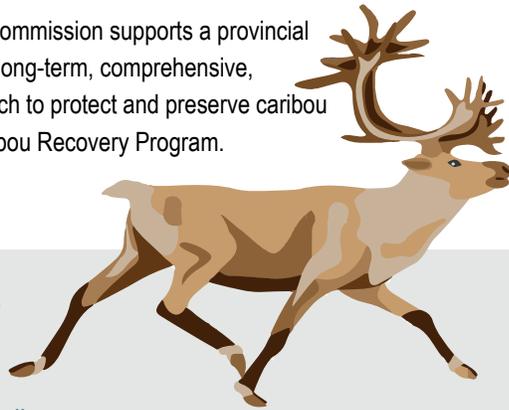
Caribou Recovery

What is Caribou Recovery?

Caribou have roamed British Columbia for thousands of years. Over the last 30 years, many caribou herds have become threatened. The main threat is high predation from bears, wolves and cougars that is out of balance from the natural cycle. Factors that contribute to this include natural events such as forest fires, and human activity such as mining, logging and oil and gas activities.

Provincial wildlife managers and biologists have monitored and developed recovery programs for caribou for many years. Despite these efforts, herd numbers continue to dwindle.

The BC Oil and Gas Commission supports a provincial commitment to a new long-term, comprehensive, science-based approach to protect and preserve caribou populations – the Caribou Recovery Program.



Caribou Facts

- Part of the deer family
- Smaller than moose and elk
- Both males and females grow antlers, which is unique in the deer family
- Males lose their antlers in early winter, females retain theirs until spring when calves are born
- Caribou are medium to light brown with shades of light grey and white on their rumps and necks
- Average lifespan is 4.5 years (maximum 15 years)
- Their main food source is lichens, which grow on bark, branches, leaves, rocks and soils
- The image of the caribou has graced the Canadian quarter since 1937

How are Caribou Impacts Reduced?

As the Crown corporation responsible for applying British Columbia's laws and regulations related to oil and gas activity, the Commission plays an important role in helping safeguard caribou. The Commission provides oversight at every stage of the oil and gas activity lifecycle.

Commission staff review applications within caribou habitat to ensure they are consistent with government's caribou recovery plans. For permits issued within caribou habitat areas, the Commission includes conditions to help reduce impacts to caribou and their habitat (see over), and Commission inspectors take action to achieve compliance.

The Commission works to protect caribou habitat using evidence-based practices that support wildlife protection while meeting the province's energy plan goals.

Caribou Populations



British Columbia is home to 54 herds of caribou. All British Columbia caribou are Woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), and are classified into four designatable units:

- southern mountain
- central mountain
- northern mountain
- boreal

The number of caribou in British Columbia has declined from 40,000 in the early 1900s to less than 19,000 today.

Achieving stable boreal caribou populations in B.C. is complex and requires the best available science and the collaboration of governments, agencies, industry, First Nations and landowners.



For Further Information

Email ogc.communications@bcogc.ca or call 250-794-5200

24 Hour Incident Reporting for Industry 1-800-663-3456

This information is published by the BC Oil and Gas Commission and available online at www.bcogc.ca

What Should Industry Know?

There are rules oil and gas operators must follow in identified boreal caribou habitat in British Columbia. Mitigation guidance specific to reducing impacts on caribou populations and their habitat is developed by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

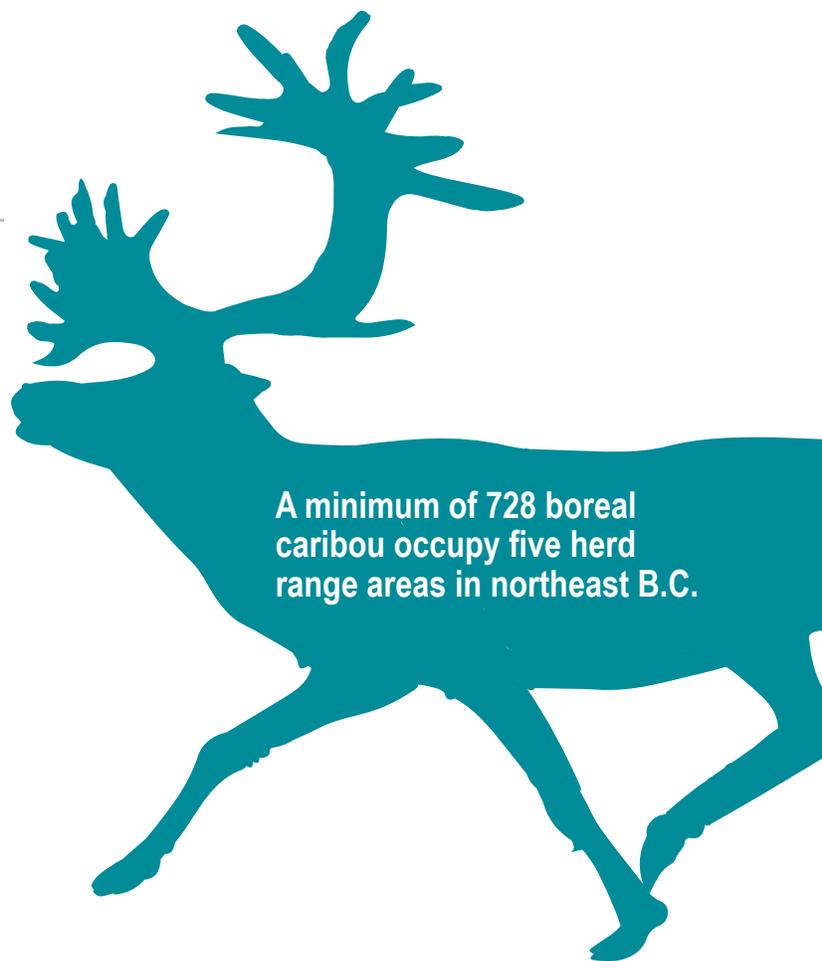
Interim Operating Practices are transmitted to the Commission by the ministry as operational policy that must be followed by all oil and gas operators within identified boreal caribou habitat.

The management intent of these practices is to limit activities that:

- Significantly reduce terrestrial and arboreal lichen forage.
- Enhance predator mobility (primarily wolves).
- Increase caribou visibility to predators (primarily wolves).
- Enhance forage for other ungulate (prey) species.
- Cause significant fragmentation of large tracts of annual range where caribou can exist at low densities as an anti-predator strategy and avoid linear corridors.

Management practices to reduce impacts on boreal caribou apply to many oil and gas activities:

- Seismic and geophysical operations
- Line-sight for linear features
- Pipeline construction
- Well sites and pads
- Reclamation and restoration
- Surface disturbance
- Stewardship
- Roads, including right-of-way, ploughed roads, shared roads and speed limits



A minimum of 728 boreal caribou occupy five herd range areas in northeast B.C.

What Other Steps Are Being Taken?

- ✓ The Commission has taken a leadership role in the Oil and Gas Research and Innovation Society and the BC Boreal Caribou Research and Effectiveness Board, which have invested nearly \$7.9 million in more than 40 boreal caribou projects in the last four years.
- ✓ By working in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources, the Commission is working to accelerate caribou habitat restoration. The Comprehensive Liability Management Plan will speed up land restoration work at inactive oil and gas sites.
- ✓ The Commission is working with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development on the provincial Boreal Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan.
- ✓ 550,000 hectares of resource review areas and enabling habitat restoration and mitigation actions have been established within boreal caribou range.