



## Historic records of high and low caribou numbers:

1863 – Fort Rae – caribou kills low<sup>1</sup>

1871- Fort Rae – caribou kills low<sup>2</sup>

1875 – Fort Rae – no caribou<sup>3</sup>

1909-12-02 – Fort Rae – several bands of caribou crossing lake between here and old fort<sup>4</sup>

1909-12-15 – Fort Rae – people from Providence came for caribou but there is none here.<sup>5</sup>

1889 – Simpson Islands – previously large herds of caribou no longer come<sup>6</sup>

1889-09 – Lake Camsell - 30miles north of lac du rocher – caribou located and coming south in great numbers<sup>7</sup> and a wolverine stole a white caribou hide

1889-09 – caribou are staying away from Fort Smith and McKenzie river due to great fires and forest incapable of moss they love so dearly but showing up at York Factory in thousands after not being seen for 30 years. It is not from hunting, as whites never venture far from forts, and Indians themselves surely dying out<sup>8</sup>

1889-09 – Point Misiere- killed 8 caribou and cached them underwater – no one supposed to camp here, or caribou won't come south of McKay – evidence of camping explains why no caribou on lac du rocher<sup>9</sup>

1889-10-20 – Camsell lake – big herd of bulls, but too skinny and skunk to eat – dogrib camped 40 miles away were starving.<sup>10</sup>

1889-11-10 - Yellowknives camp at Lac de Gras – no meat there<sup>11</sup>

1910 – Fort Rae – people starving for lack of caribou<sup>12</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hudson's Bay Company, Unknown, Fort Rae and Area, 1789-1972, Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Winnipeg, MB.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> ibid

<sup>4</sup> Unknown (same as above A.B) 1896-1896, Fort Rae Journals, Hudson's Bay Company Archives, MB.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Pike, Warburton. 1892 (1967 reprint). Journeys to the Barren Ground of Northern Canada in Search of Musk-Ox, Macmillan and Co. London and New York. (Arno Press, New York. 1967)

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> ibid

<sup>12</sup> Whaèhdoò Nàowoo Kò Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, 2001, Caribou Migration and State of their Habitat Final Report, West Kitikmeot Slave Study, Yellowknife, NT.

Unanswered questions.

- 1- The numbers are not believable – inadequate evidence
- 2- Collars are too few, have been used for too short a time, and last too short a time, can not justify herd based managemt.
- 3- How low have herds gotten in the past?
- 4- Commercial and resident harvest and sport hunting have to stop first
- 5- Can a herd become extinct when other herds have overlapping ranges
- 6- Education regarding traditional harvesting methods'
- 7- Reporting of harvest
- 8- Have the caribou gone to Saskatchewan?
- 9- What other management options besides harvest ban considered or carried out?
- 10- Consultation inadequate