

Action Plan for 2026/2027

BLUENOSE-EAST CARIBOU

— *YELLOW STATUS* —



Tuktuvialuk (Inuvialuktun, Siglitun dialect)
Tuktut (Inuinnaqtun, Kugluktuk, Western Kitikmeot)
ʔedə (K'áhsho Got'íne, Dela Got'íne)
ʔehdaɣla Goʔekwé (Délíne Got'íne)
Sahti Ekwò (Tłıchǫ, Wek'èezhìı)

**Prepared by the Advisory Committee for
Cooperation on Wildlife Management
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This Action Plan was prepared by the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management Working Group. For additional copies contact:

Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management
c/o Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board
102 A 4504 49th Avenue, Yellowknife, NT X1A 1A7 Tel.: (867) 873-5740 Fax: (867) 873-5743
Email: jpellissey@wrrb.ca

About the ACCWM

The Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management was established to exchange information, help develop cooperation and consensus, and make recommendations regarding wildlife and wildlife habitat issues that cross land claim and treaty boundaries. The committee consists of Chairpersons (or alternate appointees) of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, Ɂehdzo Got'ıne Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board), Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, and Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board.

**About *Taking Care of Caribou* and the associated Action Plans**

In late 2014 and early 2015, members of the ACCWM approved *Taking Care of Caribou: the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East barren-ground caribou herds management plan*. The Plan was developed in consultation with 17 communities that harvest from the three herds. The intent is for the Plan to address caribou management and stewardship over the long term. It was presented to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (Government of the Northwest Territories), the Minister of Environment (Government of Nunavut), and the Environment Minister (Government of Canada) in 2014. The Management Plan is supported by two companion documents: a report summarizing recent scientific information about the herds, and a report that provides a summary of the information that was shared during community meetings to develop the Plan. Individual Action Plans were then developed for each of the three herds. These Action Plans provide details on the types of actions that are recommended based on a herd's status, as well as who is responsible for the actions, and when they should be done.

Disclaimer:

The ACCWM recognizes that the implementation of management actions moving forward is subject to appropriations, prioritizations, and budgetary restraints of the participating agencies and organizations.

ACCWM and the Taking Care of Caribou Management Plan

The **Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management** (ACCWM) was established in 2008, to exchange information, help develop cooperation and consensus and make recommendations regarding wildlife and wildlife habitat issues that cross land claim and treaty boundaries. In 2014, the ACCWM recommended the **Taking Care of Caribou** management plan to the governments with management jurisdictions of these three herds. The plan was reviewed and updated in 2021. The plan is currently being revised as part of a ten-year review process. The current version of the plan can be found here: [link](#)

How a Herd's Status and Appropriate Management Actions are Determined.

The ACCWM is responsible for determining herd status each year and developing appropriate management actions based on that status. Each fall, the member boards meet for the Annual Status Meeting (Terms of Reference [TOR] can be found [here](#)) to share information and make collaborative decisions regarding the herds, including herd status, according to the requirements of regional legislation and land claims agreements. The implementation of the Action Plans is also reviewed at this time and actions for the Bluenose-East (BNE) herd can be found in the Management Action table section of this Action plan (see page 13).

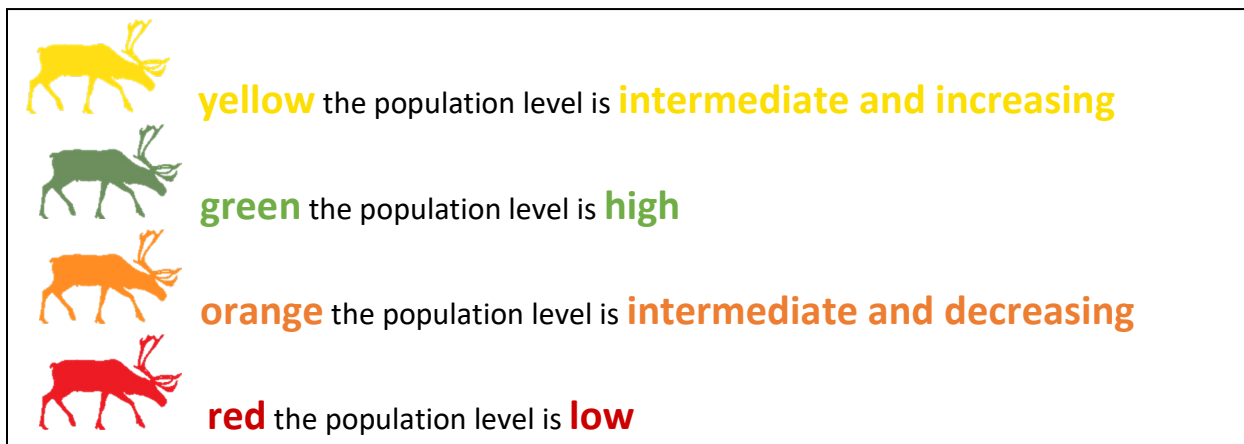


Figure 1: Herd status based on the phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans.

Status Decision 2025

Management actions are based on these phases of the population cycle, using approximate levels or "thresholds" as a guide. Thresholds for the herds were determined by the ACCWM based on known historic highs and lows, with input received from community and technical experts in a consensus-based process **to determine the colour zone – the determination of herd status takes into account all available information**. The traffic light approach to understanding risk in caribou population cycles is shown in Figure 2 along with the approximate

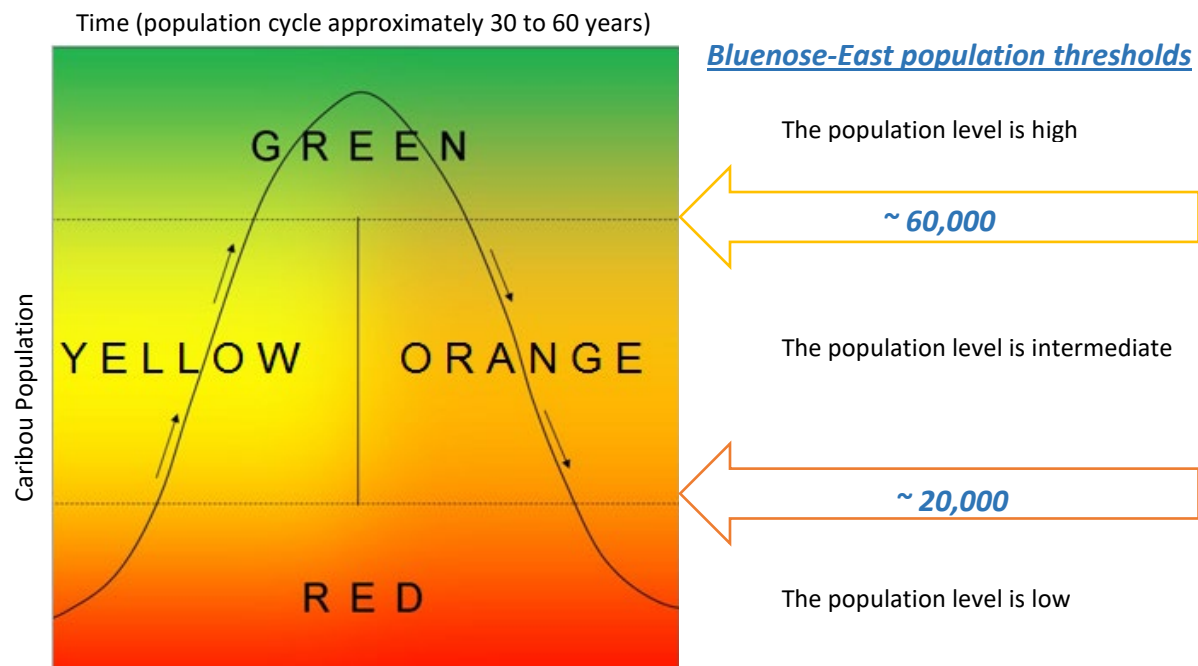
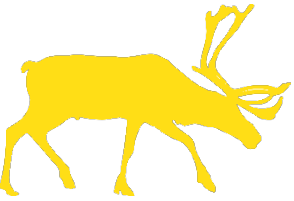


Figure 2: Phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans with Bluenose-East Population thresholds.

thresholds for the Bluenose-East herd. According to the process outlined in the Management Plan, numerous criteria are used to make an annual status decision. Information considered by the ACCWM in making the 2025 decision is summarized in Table 1 below. During the annual status meeting, stakeholders are encouraged to provide important local and Indigenous knowledge that helps to inform the status decision. This data is reported in the Annual Meeting Summary report when it doesn't fit into the monitoring criteria listed in Table 1.

In 2026/27



**the Bluenose-East caribou population status is
Yellow: intermediate and increasing**

In November 2025, the ACCWM reviewed community and scientific data for the Bluenose-East caribou herd and determined its status remains **Yellow (intermediate and increasing)**. This decision reflects that the herd population has experienced a gradual and sustained increase since 2018, with monitoring criteria highlighting several positive factors that support the likelihood of this growth being maintained.

Table 1: Criteria used to assess Bluenose-East herd status in 2025.¹

Criteria	Community-Based Information ²	Scientific Information ³	Comments
Population size	KAA: Spring 2025 good numbers to see, lots across river; herd after herd passing through past Twin Lakes.	Estimated number of adult caribou at least 1.5 year old in 2025: 28,759 (95% CI 25,997-31,816)	Estimate based on June 2025 calving ground survey and Oct 2024 and 2025 fall composition surveys.
Population trend and rate of change	Tłıchq: - The two teams at Deèzàatì saw a total of 668 caribou in 67 groups. - Group size ranged from 1 to 100; average group size was 10 and median group size was 5. KAA: - Last year – lot more calves. - This year still seeing a lot of calves. - Increasing.	The 2025 estimate is lower than the 2023 estimate but still higher than the 2018 and 2021 estimates.	Preliminary population models suggest a “slower and steady” increase since 2018.

¹ This table is populated with information presented to the ACCWM to assess herd status at the annual status meeting and is adapted from the monitoring criteria table included in *Taking Care of Caribou*.

² Bluenose-East caribou usually migrate through four settlement areas/regions in the Northwest Territories and into the western portion of the Kitikmeot Region, Nunavut. The herd may be harvested by ten communities: Wrigley, Norman Wells, Tulı́t’a, Délı́nq, Whatı, Gamètı, Behchokq, Wekweètı, Paulatuk, and Kugluktuk.

Délı́nq is the Sahtú community that primarily harvests ʔehdaɣla ʔekwé. Colville Lake is the Sahtú community that primarily harvests ʔədə. As such, the SRRB annually invites Délı́nq and Colville Lake to provide direct presentations of community knowledge to the ACCWM. As part of the SRRB’s ongoing Public Listening Session series, publicly available community and scientific information about status of ʔehdaɣla ʔekwé (Caribou Point or Bluenose-East caribou, ʔədə (barren-ground caribou in the K’áhsho Got’ı́nq District or Bluenose-West caribou), people, and planning for 2021 can be found in Délı́nq and Colville responses to Information Requests, as well as Indigenous knowledge and science literature reviews. These are posted on the Délı́nq 2021 PLS Public Registry at www.srrb.nt.ca.

³ All scientific information and comments were provided by Environment and Climate Change (ECC) (GNWT) unless otherwise noted.

	Délįnę (DRRC): We're not going to have caribou here any time soon. The population is going up but they are not coming back in the near future.		
Productivity and recruitment	KAA: - Spring 2025 – almost every cow had a calf. - Still lots of yearlings observed. - Fall 2025 – little harder to say as herd was scattered. Tłıchǫ: - At Deèzàatì there was a total of 67 ekwò groups; 39 of those groups had at least one cow and were used to estimate an overall late summer calf:cow ratio. - The 19 groups included a total of 151 cows and 28 calves and resulted in an estimate of 18 calves per 100 cows (i.e., 0.184 ± 0.035 SE); this ratio would be low even if most calves survived the coming winter. - In general, a caribou herd's trend would be stable if late winter calf recruitment was 35 calves per 100 cows in combination with an average adult female survival rate of 85%. - During last week of August, the calf: cow ratio was 0.54, showing a reasonable presence of calves.	Pregnancy rate of captured cows 2025: 23/24 (96%). 2025 fall calf cow ratio: 49 calves: 100 cows (SE 0.02; 95% CI 45-52).	Pregnancy based on serum progesterone. No March 2025 recruitment survey due to overlap with other herds.

	In September, we saw fewer calves and the calf:cow ratio was low. Groups of females with only 1 calf with them were observed.		
Adult composition	KAA: • Last year – lots of bulls. • This year – didn't see as many. • By fall 2025 people were seeing more. Tłıchq: • Most caribou groups observed were small and scattered throughout the landscape. • The herds observed were a mix of bulls, cows, and calves. • Many caribou were ts'ida` and yèagoa – young cows and bulls. • More bulls than cows were observed in the herds.	2025 fall bull cow ratio: 38 bulls:100 cows (SE 0.03; 95% CI 33-43)	The 2025 ratio is lower than the 5 ratios observed from 2020-2024 (58-66 bulls: 100 cows) and similar to the 6 ratios observed from 2009-2019 (35-43 bulls: 100 cows).
Body condition and health	KAA: • Not as many sick caribou harvested this year compared to last year. • With people now aware of the leg worm and abdomen worm, people not leaving whole caribou behind as when butchering, caribou seemed very sick from the worms. Délıne (DRRC): • Some hunters harvested a few caribou near Colville Lake. All the caribou harvested looked healthy.		

	Tłıchq: • The Sahti ekwò were in good shape, and the adult bulls and cows were described as having good condition or fat. In mid-September, they have new healthy fall coats and most of the velvet has peeled off the antlers, normal for this time of the year. • The teams at Deèzàati observed body condition of 69 bulls, 85 cows, and 39 calves respectively. One thin caribou bull was seen. Of the 69 bulls in 26 groups, 52% were fat and 42% were good and one bull (1%) was thin. Of 85 cows observed, 54% were fat and 42% were in good condition. Most calves (82%) were in good condition and 18% were considered fat (see tables in comments). • Of the 668 caribou observed, monitors watched 493 caribou (74%) within 42 groups to see if any animals showed signs of injury while walking. On the 27th of August, the team observed one caribou calf travelling alone; it was limping and may have got lost from the herd. On the 20 September, monitors observed a group of 6 caribou (2 bulls, 3 cows, and a calf) and saw that a bull was limping and appeared to have an injured left hind leg. Monitors observed a thin caribou on the 23 September, which had an injured right leg.		
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Harvest levels	KAA: • 2024-25 TAH 450: 174 harvested, 138 males/36 females. • 2025-26 TAH 450: • 2025-26 TAH 450: As of November 26, 2025, 84 harvested, 54 males/30 females. Délı̄nē (DRRC): • A couple caribou were harvested near Colville Lake. • No caribou came near the community, so the harvest in the last year was essentially zero. Tłı̄chǫ: • There was a total harvest of 14 Sahtı̄ ekwǫ caribou during the harvesting season of 2024/25. • The Mobile Core Bathurst Conservation Zone was so large that it encompassed most of the BNE caribou during winter, making it challenging for BNE caribou to be harvested. • Last year, August 2024, one bull was harvested during the canoe trip from Tatsotı̄ (Grenville Lake) to Deèzàatı̄ (Point Lake): the first bull to be harvested in fall since 2012.		
Predator populations	KAA: • Didn't see as many wolves compared to last year due to the wolf incentive program. • Close to community observations of many wolves and grizzly bears.		

	- Grizzly bear sows still being seen with multiple cubs. Tłıchq: - This year there were six wolf observations. A new wolf den was found near camp and numerous caribou bones in various stages of decomposition were observed in the vicinity of the den. - Four grizzly bears observed on the island, including one mama bear with two cubs.		
Range and movement patterns	KAA: - Choppers around may have changed some movement. - More westerly migration. Tłıchq: - During mid-August, numerous groups of Sahtı ekwò migrated southward to Deèzàatı, the herds stayed north of Deèzàatı for weeks. Some herds went further south to Grenville Lake. This is their traditional way of migrating. - Most caribou groups were seen were small and scattered throughout the landscape.	During winter 2024-25 Bluenose-East herd overlapped with the Bathurst and Beverly herds. Of 38 cows on the Bluenose-East calving ground in 2024 that were still monitored in June 2025, 34 returned to the Bluenose-East calving ground. 1 went to Beverly, 1 returned to Bathurst, and 2 approached from west but did not get to the core calving area.	

		25 additional cows with new collars deployed in March 2025 went to Bluenose-East.	
Environment and habitat	KAA: • Lots of muskrats, mice, lemmings and weasels. • Cooler summer; insects were moderate. • Vegetation in good condition this year. • The past couple of years there are more horseflies. They are no longer just found along the river. Délıne (DRRC): • Climate change is affecting our wildlife. • The marshlands are gone. • Wind events seem to be drying out the land • Spring is coming earlier; fall is coming later. • Summers are earlier hotter and drier. • Wildfire dynamics are changing. There are no longer marshlands to slow them down in the boreal forest. • Permafrost melt is increasing the amount of mercury being released into the water. Tłıchǵ: • Caribou forage and the vegetation were good and in healthy quality. • A variety of berries were abundant. Blueberries were very large this season.	Average amount burnt per year: 2020: 82 km² 2021: 308 km² 2022: 2,012 km² 2023: 2,877 km² 2024: 7,837 km²	

	Large numbers of mushrooms of various sizes were observed. • Low water levels for the 4th year in a row. • Small lakes are all dried up. • On the fall range around Deèzàatì in September, the vegetation and ekwò food were described as overall good and healthy quality. Caribou forage quality ranged from average to good. • Blueberries, crowberries, cranberries were abundant, while cloudberry were not found, though their leaves were present. Blueberries were very large this season Large numbers of mushrooms of various sizes were observed. • Water levels had dropped significantly, for the fourth year in row, as indicated by exposed shorelines and sand dunes. The water level decreased by an estimated 3 meters, with exposed shoreline ranging 10–20 meters in some places.		
Human disturbance	KAA: • Multiple choppers, one low flying survey plane, two different exploration companies south of community. • Lots of disturbance every day, morning until night all summer long. Tłchq: • No new human disturbance observed in 2025. • By the outflow of the river from Itchen Lake, there is an old exploration camp with garbage	Limited, no active mines. Development footprint 2025 0.022% of range. Mackenzie Valley Road extension proposed east of BNE range; Slave Province Road & Grays Bay Road proposed west of BNE range.	Cumulative effects assessment project underway (multi-herd).

	and debris from camps scattered along the esker, on east side of the river. • Old fuel drums found at several locations around Deèzàatì; most likely left behind by mineral exploration companies.		
Competitors	KAA: • Quite a few moose close to community; lots in treeline. • Muskox – not as many seen close by as they are further inland. Tłıchq: • In 2025, one moose, no muskox observed		

Yellow Status Management Actions for Bluenose-East Caribou

Management actions described in *Taking Care of Caribou* fall into five main categories: *Education*, *Habitat*, *Land Use Activities*, *Predators* and *Harvest Management*. We have included a sixth category here to capture the *Monitoring* actions that were also identified in the Management Plan. Monitoring is a key part of learning and assessing the success of management actions. For the most part, monitoring actions differ from management actions as they are not as dependent on herd status – they are ongoing in many cases, but their frequency or intensity may change with changing status.

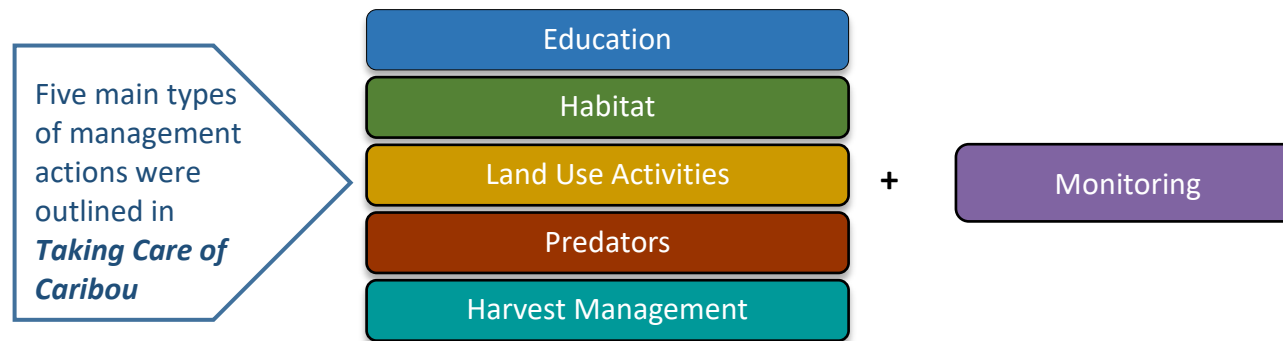


Figure 3: Management action categories.

To make it easier to find specific information for each of these action categories they have been colour-coded throughout this document.

Different actions are often required depending on whether a herd's status is determined to be green, yellow, orange or red. A table summarizing appropriate management actions for all status levels as agreed to in *Taking Care of Caribou* is included in **Appendix B**. As the status of the Bluenose-East herd is **Yellow (intermediate and increasing)** each of the bulleted actions outlined for yellow status in that table has now been developed into a series of specific tasks in the **Management Actions Table** of this Action Plan.

Because most activities under *Education* and *Habitat* require very long-term approaches to be effective, the suggested management actions remain the same no matter the status of the herd. For actions in the *Land Use Activities*, *Predators*, and

Harvest Management categories to be responsive to different phases of the population cycle, different actions are required depending on a herd's status – for example, when setting a herd Total Allowable Harvest (see **Appendix G** of Taking Care of Caribou Management Plan for an explanation of how allocations and the Total Allowable Harvest for a herd are set).

Management Actions Table for Bluenose-East Caribou

Following principles laid out in **Taking Care of Caribou**, all actions and tasks described in this table will draw upon both community-based knowledge (including traditional knowledge) and scientific information. The ACCWM recognizes that documenting and using traditional knowledge is a priority for all member boards. The ACCWM reviews the relevant data presented at the annual meeting and provides advice to member boards.

A. Education ⁴					
A – 1. Develop education strategy <i>Objective – address community concerns regarding a lack of education (see various themes identified in Taking Care of Caribou) and clarify an approach</i>					
Task	Partners ⁵	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level ⁶	Status November 2025 – plans for 26/27
A.2.1 Engage community organizations regarding types of materials and distribution		Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions	Ongoing	Top	SRRB receives input on education needs through annual Public Listening Sessions (hearings) planned for 2020-2028. During their 2025 strategic planning workshop, KRWB prioritized the need for summer student programs and a focus on hunter education to

⁴ Education specific to industrial land uses is dealt with in section C – Land Use Activities (C.3.1 and C.3.2).

⁵ Potential partners have been identified for individual tasks. Leads on tasks may vary and will be determined at a later date.

⁶ While the ACCWM member boards feel that most of the management actions included here have a high priority, only those tasks and actions that call for immediate attention have been given a priority and deliverable deadline to date. These actions/tasks are categorized as 'Top' priority in the table. Further prioritization work (i.e., assigning High Medium or Low priority and deliverable dates to the remaining actions/tasks) will be done at a later date.

					ensure Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is part of their training. KRWB will be looking into funding opportunities to support program development.
A.1.2 ACCWM reviews educational strategy annually based on community and member board priorities, based on ToR for Communication and Education Working Group	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards	Annually	Top	ACCWM member boards review educational strategy annually, prior to Annual Status Meeting.
A.1.3 Implementation of educational strategy	Member boards, government partners and regional partners ⁷	Summary report	2018/19 and onwards	Top	Working group holding regular teleconferences. Materials placed in Dropbox for all Member boards to utilize. ACCWM website launched in 2020 and has been updated regularly. Several materials have been developed by the Communications and Education Working Group. This includes thank you notes and posters, post cards, shooting targets, etc. ECC created an annual movement animation. SRRB: In the Sahtú Region, Hı́dó Gogha Śenégots'ı́á (Planning for the Future) processes and the Nę K'ə Dene Ts'ı́ı - Living on the Land Forum are the primary vehicles for

⁷ Regional partners, who vary significantly by region, may include individual community members, community organizations, such as RRCs/HTCs/HTOs, and regional organizations.

					communication and education. The focus of educational activities is related to conservation “hot topics” of Public Listening Sessions (hearings), the focus of the next session will be on knowledge about caribou and landscapes. Indigenous knowledge and science toolkits are prepared to support knowledge sharing.
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B. Habitat

B – 1. Identify and recommend protection for key habitat areas

Objective – address community concerns that key habitat areas are not protected sufficiently

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
B.1.1 Engage with community organizations and other co-management partners to identify key habitat areas. Develop a sensitive habitat report.	ACCWM WG	Summary of input/guidance from communities Provide report to ACCWM, including draft maps of key areas	Ongoing.	Top	Ongoing. Member boards will pursue the development of a sensitive habitat report. Déḻṉ Plan identifies key habitat areas as does the land use plan for the Sahtú. Déḻṉ is working towards establishing the Great Bear Lake watershed as Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area in addition to the International Biosphere Reserve. This process will include identification of key habitat areas. The Tł̱cẖ Land Use Plan currently covers Tł̱cẖ lands. The Ekw̱ Nàxoède K’è (Boots on the Ground) Monitoring Program has identified key habitat areas.

B – 2. Review results of monitoring, including cumulative effects, to ensure enough habitat is available and caribou are able to move between areas of good habitat.

Objective – ensure research and monitoring programs are relevant and addressing current information needs for habitat management

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
B.2.1 Map and track landscape disturbances. Identify and review recent relevant information and gaps.	ACCWM WG and government partners, academics	Compilation map			GNWT 'Inventory of Landscape Change' updated annually. Annual tracking of wildfire footprint. Mackenzie Valley GIS submission standards in place. GNWT Cumulative Effects Assessment of Four Barren-ground Caribou Herds underway. SRRB is working with Carleton University's Geographic and Cartographic Research Centre in development of a caribou atlas that will encompass both barren-ground and boreal caribou landscapes and will include landscape disturbance data.
B.2.2 ACCWM reviews information and provides advice for research and monitoring based on information from B.2.1. Member boards make and communicate recommendations to appropriate authorities.	ACCWM; Member boards	Advice provided			
B – 3. Recommend important habitat as a 'value at risk' for forest fire management <i>Objective – ensure sufficient winter habitat for caribou</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status

B.3.1 Based on B – 1 and B – 2, provide advice to member boards on values at risk. Member boards make and communicate recommendations for fire management	ACCWM; Member boards	Key areas identified for fire management and advice provided to member boards			GNWT, North Slave Region: Identification of key caribou habitat was submitted in 2019 with a goal of including important caribou areas as a value-at-risk (VAR) and included in wildfire response decision making. GNWT, TG, and WRRB are finalizing the Wek'èezhìi Forest Management Plan based on recent community verification sessions. Prior to implementation, the Plan will be submitted to the WRRB for final review and approval.
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C. Land use activities

C – 1. Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs

Objective – ensure cumulative effects monitoring programs are operational and relevant

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
C.1.1 Identify and/or review any gaps in cumulative effects data or previous gaps assessments.	ACCWM WG and government partners	Summary report			GNWT Cumulative Effects Assessment of Four Barren-ground Caribou Herds underway.

C – 2. Provide advice on mitigation of industrial⁸ impacts to proponents and regulators

Objective – minimize industrial impacts to caribou and their habitat

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
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⁸ In this context, the term “Industrial” includes major development projects such as roads.

C.2.1 Review Appendix G ⁹ of the Management Plan according to modern best practices.	ACCWM WG; Member boards				SRRB: Preliminary preparations are underway for a Public Listening Session (hearing) on knowledge about caribou and landscapes in the Sahtú in 2027.
C.2.2 Apply Appendix G: member boards make and communicate recommendations to proponents (including air carriers and other subcontractors) and regulators.	Member boards				SRRB reviews permit and license applications and provides advice on wise practices with respect to wildlife and landscapes; where possible, proposals are discussed with the Nę K'ə Dene Ts'ı́ı - Living on the Land Forum and/or ʔehdzo Got'ı́nę (Renewable Resources Councils) to support input from community leadership organisations. WRRB reviews LUP and WL applications as well as Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plans in Wek'èezhıı. KAA is part of and actively participates in the environmental regulatory process. KAA also reviews proposals, reports and/or other deliverables from proponents (e.g., sightings logs, wildlife management and monitoring plans) and also makes recommendations to them in their engagements (also applicable for C.2.4).
C.2.3 Develop and/or adapt communication and education programs with/for industrial proponents	Communication and Education working group				

⁹ Appendix G of Taking Care of Caribou: https://www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/rev_bluenose_caribou_herds_draft_management_plan_v10_final_signed_-_nov_4_2014_0.pdf#page=81

C.2.4 Identify and review regulations and current inspection/enforcement strategies involving land use in caribou habitat. Recommend increased enforcement of regulations when appropriate. Work with other relevant agencies (GNWT Lands, regional Land and Water Boards)	Member Boards				SRRB: Public Listening Session (hearing), scheduled for 2027, will discuss knowledge about caribou and landscapes in the Sahtú.
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D. Predators

D – 1. Continue research programs to monitor predator condition (e.g., carcass collection and community monitoring programs)
Objective – determine which predators impact caribou and the relative intensity of their impacts

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
D.1.1 Gather, compile, review and present predator research and monitoring results to ACCWM (including	ACCWM WG and government partners	Summary report	Ongoing	Top	WRRB: Completed wolf feasibility assessment for Bathurst caribou range (Nov 2017) ¹⁰ , which can be applied to other barren-ground caribou herd ranges. Wolf management program conducted in Wek'èezhìi from 2019 to 2024. Program is currently being analyzed. Annual reports can be found on the WRRB website.

¹⁰ <https://www.wrrb.ca/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Wolf%20Feasibility%20Assessment%20-%202010nov17.pdf>

community and scientific monitoring results)					TG has conducted a community-based wolf harvesting camp, since 2021. In Nunavut, HTOs participate in a territory-wide wolf harvest incentive program. HTOs also contribute samples for predators (wolf, wolverine, and grizzly bear) as part of harvest monitoring programs led by the GN WRRB: Completed grizzly bear (2021) and wolverine (2022) biological assessments and initial options for management for Bathurst caribou range, which can be applied to other barren-ground caribou herd ranges. SRRB: Indigenous knowledge and science “toolkits” (literature reviews) were compiled on predator-caribou relationships in preparation for the Public Listening Session (hearing) on <i>Tjch’ádii hé Gots’edí (Living with Wildlife): Caribou Predators and Competitors</i>.
D.1.2 Engage community organizations to identify and prioritize research needs by region	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities	Ongoing	Top	SRRB: Délı̨ę 2021 Public Listening Session (hearing) addressed knowledge regarding predators including wolves. It is expected that this will give rise to research priorities in the region for predators. SRRB recommends that further studies that take a biocultural approach and incorporate Dene/Métis ts’ı̨ı (ways of life), náowerę (knowledge), and ɁəɁa (law) and scientific knowledge be undertaken to establish and better understand the impacts of predation on caribou.
D.1.3 ACCWM reviews and provides advice to member boards.	ACCWM; Member boards	Advice provided	Ongoing	Top	WRRB has a Reasons for Decision report that was submitted in January 2022, as part of the wolf management program.

Boards recommend research priorities to appropriate authorities					SRRB delivered a Reasons for Decision report in 2022, with a focus on predators.
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E. Harvest Management

E – 1. Recommend easing limits on subsistence and then resident harvests ¹¹

Objective – support a balanced harvest to assist in herd recovery

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.1.1 Based on results of discussions concerning a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) and harvest ratios, member boards make and communicate recommendations to appropriate authorities	Member boards	Recommendations provided			SRRB continues to consider TAH as part of our Public Listening Series. As of January 15, 2025, WRRB has increased the TAH for the BNE herd from 193 to 395. On 28 May 2024, the Government of Nunavut accepted a NWMB decision to increase the TAH of Bluenose-East caribou to 450 of either sex following KAA's recommendation. KAA allocates this TAH among their members.

E – 2. Consider recommending outfitter and commercial harvests at discretion of the ACCWM.¹²

Objective – limit non-subsistence harvest to assist in herd recovery

¹¹ The process differs in Nunavut, where the Land Claim Agreement (1993) specifies that an Inuk “shall have the right to dispose freely to any person any wildlife lawfully harvested. This includes the right to sell, barter, exchange and give either inside or outside the Nunavut Settlement Area” (5.7.30).

¹² As strict conservation measures are needed areas with land claim agreements establish a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH). As circumstances require each ACCWM member (with the exception of the TNNPMB) will set the TAH for their region. When a herd is shared over land claim areas and/or areas without settled land claim agreements proportional allocations are set as to determine how the user groups will share the TAH.

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.2.1 ACCWM to discuss based on E.1.1	Member boards and government partners	Recommendations provided as required		Top	

F. Monitoring

F – 1. Develop a comprehensive harvest reporting program

Objective – develop or adapt existing harvest reporting programs to collect and provide standardized harvest data from all regions

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
F.1.1 Compile and review information on existing harvest reporting programs and develop minimum standards	ACCWM WG	Summary report	2017/18 2018/19	Top	Ongoing.
F.1.2 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for harvest data collection		Summary report	2018/19	Top	Ongoing.
F.1.3. Adapt harvest reporting programs based on information from F.1.1 and F.1.2. to		Finalized harvest reporting program	2018/19	Top	In 2024, the WG developed an annual harvest data reporting template that will help provide consistency across the regions, supporting a comprehensive harvest reporting system.

standardize harvest data					
F.1.4 Implement harvest data collection program	Member boards and government partners	Collections initiated	2018/19	Top	TG has community monitors collecting harvest data in each Tłıchq community as well as winter road monitors
F.1.5 Establish annual data reporting template		Template	2018/19	Top	
F.1.6 Adapt and / or develop database and protocols		Pilot database program developed	2018/19	Top	
F.1.7 Gather, compile and present total herd harvest data to ACCWM	ACCWM WG	Annual summary table	2018/19	Top	Ongoing. Presented at ASM.
F – 2. Develop and initiate community-based monitoring (CBM) programs (including observational and experiential data) <i>Objective – develop or adapt existing community-based monitoring programs to collect data in a format that can be used for decision-making</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
F.2.1 Compile and review information on existing community-based monitoring programs	ACCWM WG	Summary report			
F.2.2 Compile existing traditional knowledge documentation and identify any new documentation /	ACCWM WG with regional partners	Draft 'state of traditional knowledge' report(s)			In 2024, the WG considered compiling a draft state of traditional knowledge report. Upon consideration, it was determined to undertake this report following the Sensitive Habitat, and Harvest Data Reporting Template reports.

work required as basis for a community-based monitoring program					
F.2.3 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for community-based monitoring to collect herd status information (see Table 1 in <i>Taking Care of Caribou</i>)	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities			
F.2.4 Adapt and / or develop CBM program(s) based on information from F.2.1-3		Finalized CBM program			TG, GNWT & WRRB: expansion of the Ekwò Nàxoède K'è (Boots on the Ground) Monitoring Program to Bluenose-East caribou herd range.
F.2.5 Recommend appropriate CBM programs including traditional knowledge studies	Member boards	Recommendations provided			KRWB had been leading a Kitikmeot caribou Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit mapping and monitoring project since 2018. This project uses interviews, surveys, and a mobile app to document knowledge and information on caribou herds encountered by harvesters on an opportunistic basis. This program was paused for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, however, HTOs recommended the program resume in the new fiscal year. KRWB will be looking into funding opportunities to resume this program.

F.2.6 Establish data-sharing arrangements and / or information-sharing protocols	Member boards and regional partners	Signed data-sharing agreements			KRWB is currently developing a regional data sharing process and documented protocols for projects involving caribou and data sourced from communities (e.g., traditional knowledge and/or biological data); agreements will vary based on the nature of information being collected, projects and organizations involved.
F.2.7 Adapt and / or develop database	ACCWM WG	Database program developed			
F.2.8 Gather, compile and present results to ACCWM	Regional partners	Summary report	Annual ACCWM meeting		
F – 3. Conduct scientific monitoring to assess herd status <i>Objective – develop or adapt existing scientific monitoring programs to collect data in a format that can be used for decision-making</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
F.3.1 Compile and review information on existing scientific monitoring programs	ACCWM WG	Summary report			
F.3.2 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for scientific monitoring to collect herd status information (see also F.2.3) and	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities		Top	TG and WRRB participation during BNE Calving Ground surveys. WRRB participation in TG's ENK program

appropriate ways to collaborate					
F.3.3 Research and develop mechanism for collaboration between regions, compiling information and reporting on research programs	ACCWM to determine responsible parties	Decide on mechanism for collaboration		Top	
F.3.4 Construct scientific monitoring schedule based on engagement and Table 1 in <i>Taking Care of Caribou</i>	ACCWM WG	Annual report / work plan	Annual status meeting	Top	
F.3.5 Support appropriate scientific monitoring studies	Member boards	Approval by member boards	Annual status meeting	Top	ACCWM developed a discussion paper on alternatives to collaring caribou (Link). SRRB hosted a Caribou Monitoring Workshop (Nov 2025) bringing together community members, Sahtú leadership, researchers, and co-management partners to share and discuss alternatives to caribou collaring.
F.3.6 Establish information sharing protocols	Government partners	Information shared according to protocol		Top	Member boards & ACCWM have asked ECC for clarity on releasing scientific information.
F.3.7 Gather, compile and present results to ACCWM		Status of all monitoring criteria communicated to the ACCWM	Annual status meeting	Top	Ongoing. Presented at ASM.

Acronyms used in this Plan

ACCWM (WG)	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (Working Group)
CBMP	Community Based Monitoring Program
CI	Confidence Interval
ENV	Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut
ECC	Department of Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
GN	Government of Nunavut
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GRRB	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
HTC	Hunters and Trappers Committee
HTO	Hunters and Trappers Organization
ISR	Inuvialuit Settlement Region
NWMB	Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
NWT	Northwest Territories
PCA	Parks Canada Agency
RRC	Renewable Resources Council
SE	Standard Error
SRRB	ᐆhdzo Got'Inę Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
TAH	Total Allowable Harvest
TG	Tłchq Government
TNNPMB	Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board
TOR	Terms of Reference
WEMP	Wildlife Effects Monitoring Plan
WMAC (NWT)	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories)
WWHPP	Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Protection Plans

Appendix A: List of ACCWM Working Group members

The ACCWM formed a working group to draft the Action Plans that accompany the *Taking Care of Caribou* Management Plan. The Working Group included representatives of the following organizations:

- ʔehdzo GotʼInę Gotsʼé Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
- Dehcho First Nations¹³
- Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut
- Environment and Climate Change (ECC), GNWT
- Gwichʼin Renewable Resources Board
- Inuvialuit Game Council
- Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board
- Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization (Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association)
- Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
- Parks Canada Agency
- Tłıchq Government
- Tukturnogait National Park Management Board
- Wekʼèezhıı Renewable Resources Board
- Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT).

¹³ The Dehcho First Nations organization is part of the Working Group, but has had very limited involvement. There is an outstanding invitation for them to join the ACCWM.

Appendix B: Summary table of management actions presented in *Taking Care of Caribou*

Management Actions Based on Herd Status/Colour Zone				
Management Action	The population level is intermediate and increasing	The population level is high	The population level is intermediate and decreasing	The population level is low
Education	Recommend education programs for all status levels. Ideas for educational themes include: • Promoting total use of harvested caribou, and proper butchering and storage methods; • Limiting wounding loss; • Letting the leaders pass; • Promoting community hunts with experienced hunters; • Use of alternate species; and • Increased sharing of traditional foods.			
Habitat	• Identify and recommend protection for key habitat areas; • Review results of monitoring, including cumulative effects, to ensure enough habitat is available and caribou are able to move between areas of good habitat; • Recommend important habitat as a 'value at risk' for forest fire management.			
Land use activities	• Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; • Provide advice on mitigation of industrial impacts to proponents and regulators.	• Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; • Provide advice on mitigation of the impacts of exploration and development activities to proponents and regulators.	• Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; • Provide advice on mitigation of industrial impacts to proponents and regulators; • Provide active and accessible communication and recommend education programs for all including proponents and airlines; • Recommend increased enforcement of land use regulations, including community monitors.	• Work directly with proponents and regulators of exploration and development activities to advise on mitigation measures; • Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; • Provide active and accessible communication and recommend education programs for all including proponents and airlines; • Recommend increased enforcement of land use regulations, including community monitors.

Management Actions Based on Herd Status/Colour Zone				
Management Action	The population level is intermediate and increasing	The population level is high	The population level is intermediate and decreasing	The population level is low
Predators	Continue research programs to monitor predator condition (e.g., carcass collection and community monitoring programs).	Continue research programs to monitor predator condition (e.g., carcass collection and community monitoring programs).	- Review results of research programs that monitor predator abundance and predation rates; - Consider recommending options for predator management.	- Review results of research programs that monitor predator abundance and predation rates; - Consider recommending options for predator management.
Harvest	- Recommend easing limits on subsistence and then resident harvests; - Consider recommending outfitter and commercial harvests at discretion of the ACCWM.	- Support harvest by beneficiaries of a Land Claim and members of an Aboriginal people, with rights to harvest wildlife in the Region; - Recommend that if subsistence needs are met resident harvest should be permitted (with limits); - Potentially recommend resident (non-beneficiary), non-resident, sport hunts, and/or commercial harvests.	- Recommend a mandatory limit on subsistence harvest based on a TAH accepted by the ACCWM; - Prioritize the collection of harvest information; - Recommend no resident, outfitter or commercial harvest; - Recommend a majority-bulls harvest, emphasizing younger and smaller bulls and not the large breeders and leaders; - Recommend harvest of alternate species and encourage increased sharing, trade and barter of traditional foods, such as the use of community freezers; - Recommend increased enforcement including community monitors.	- Recommend harvest of alternate species and meat replacement programs, and encourage increased sharing, trade and barter of traditional foods; - Prioritize the collection of harvest information; - Review of mandatory limit for subsistence harvest for further reduction; - Recommend increased enforcement including community monitors; - Resident, commercial, or outfitter harvest remain closed.