

BACKGROUND

Woodland Caribou

The main cause of the Woodland Caribou decline is industrial development resulting in:

- increased access of predators (wolves and humans) through road construction;
- reduced lichen and other food sources; and
- destruction of habitat vital for giving birth.

Woodland Caribou have been forced from 50% of their historic range within Canada over the past century, losing roughly 35,000 square kilometres of range every decade.

Caribou live at low population densities. For a herd of Woodland Caribou to be viable they require large areas (around 9000 square kilometres).

Caribou reproduce slowly and suffer high calf mortality rates with only 30-50% of calves surviving their first year. Most predation occurs during the snow-free months, just prior to calving for females and within 6 weeks of birth.



Even low levels of industrial activities can threaten woodland caribou and there is no evidence of caribou re-inhabiting an area following industrial activities. Studies have shown that caribou can be negatively impacted by activities 2-10 kilometres away.

The Boreal population of Woodland Caribou was designated as “threatened” under the Federal *Species At Risk Act* in 2002.

