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NWT SPECIES AT RISK

PORCUPINE CARIBOU AND BARREN-GROUND CARIBOU

UPCOMING ASSESSMENT: APRIL 2027

CURRENT STATUS IN THE NWT: BARREN-GROUND CARIBOU - THREATENED

Barren-ground caribou (not including Porcupine caribou) were added to the **NWT List of Species at Risk** as a **Threatened** species in 2018. Both species are being reassessed in 2027.

A draft **species status report** for the upcoming reassessment is available for review until **January 22, 2027**.

➔ [**CLICK HERE**](#)

to read the draft barren-ground caribou status report



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
**SPECIES
AT RISK**
COMMITTEE

BARREN-GROUND CARIBOU SPECIES STATUS REPORT

The Species at Risk Committee uses the best available knowledge from Indigenous, community and scientific sources to determine whether a species is at risk of disappearing from the NWT.

Species on the **NWT List of Species at Risk** are reassessed every 10 years to evaluate new information and determine if its status has changed. Barren-ground caribou are scheduled for reassessment in 2027.

What is in a status report?

The status report includes information about species biology, population, distribution, threats and positive influences. Community observations and concerns and impacts on cultural practices such as harvesting are also considered in the assessment.

How can my knowledge help the next assessment?

We need your help to ensure the status assessment is based on the most complete and accurate information. If you are interested in reviewing the report and submitting comments, please use the following questions to guide your review:

- Has the report fully investigated the best available sources of information?
- Is the information from those sources portrayed accurately?

Submit your comments to:

NWT Species at Risk Secretariat

PO Box 1320

Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9

Toll-free: 1-855-783-4301

Email: SARA@gov.nt.ca



www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca



Top: Historic maximum range of barren-ground caribou (brown) and Porcupine caribou (green) based on spatial data and written descriptions of range (1890s-2023). Map courtesy of GNWT.

ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

These are some of the questions SARC will use to determine the current biological status of Porcupine caribou and barren-ground caribou in the NWT.

POPULATION

- How often are barren-ground caribou seen out on the land compared to past generations (more, less, same)?
- What are people saying about these changes?

DISTRIBUTION

- Have barren-ground caribou disappeared completely from areas where they used to be?
- Are these changes considered normal or unusual for this species?
- What are people saying about these changes?
- Could barren-ground caribou have gone elsewhere?

HABITAT

- How healthy is the habitat where barren-ground caribou live?
- How has the amount of habitat changed over time? Is there more, less, or the same?
- Have important caribou areas burned or become more wet compared to the past?

THREATS

- How sensitive are barren-ground caribou to natural or human-caused threats?
- What specific threats are known to impact barren-ground caribou in the NWT?
- How concerned are people about these threats?

RELATIONSHIPS

- Have changes to barren-ground caribou populations or their habitat affected traditional ways of life?
- Have cultural connections to barren-ground caribou changed? If so, how?
- Are community members concerned about the future of barren-ground caribou in the NWT? Why or why not?