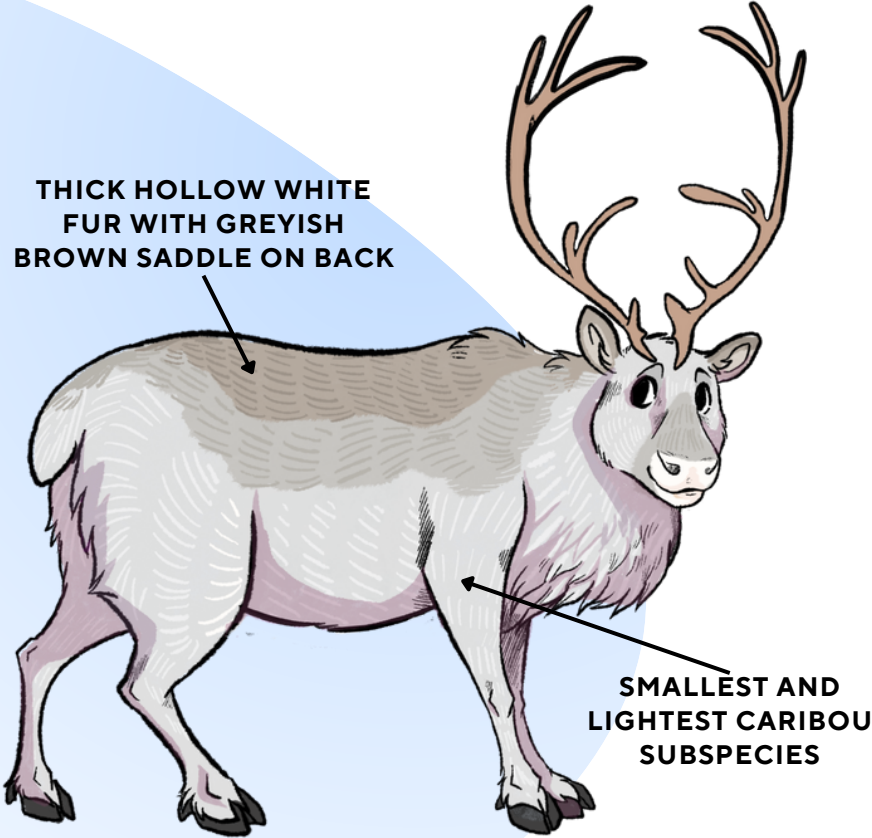


PEARY CARIBOU

RANGIFER TARANDUS PEARYI

THICK HOLLOW WHITE
FUR WITH GREYISH
BROWN SADDLE ON BACK



SMALLEST AND
LIGHTEST CARIBOU
SUBSPECIES

HABITAT

Peary caribou live in the High Arctic and are the northernmost subspecies of caribou. They are found on several Arctic islands where summers are short and cool and winters are long and cold. Their habitat is dominated by dry vegetation with flat plains in the South and West and mountains in the North and East.

DIET

Peary caribou migrate between Arctic islands and across sea ice, foraging for grasses, mosses, herbs and willows and even seaweed. Compared to the other caribou subspecies that mainly feed on lichens, Peary caribou have larger stomachs that allow them to eat higher volumes of less nutritious plants.

WEIGHT

MALES: 70-110 KG (150-240 LB)

FEMALES: ~60 KG (130 LB)



Photo: Lianne Thompson

THREATS

The decline of Peary caribou is largely due to climate change. The Arctic is experiencing more frequent severe weather events that decrease the availability of food. Less sea ice also is impacting caribou movement and plant productivity. Warmer climates have decreased caribou reproductive success and survival. Increased human presence in the Arctic, namely shipping, hunting, military activity and recreation, pose further threats to Peary caribou.

CONSERVATION

Peary caribou were listed as *Endangered* under the federal Species at Risk Act in 2011. Recovery strategies include input from territorial and federal governments, local communities and wildlife managers. The Inuvialuit people are strong leaders in Peary caribou conservation and have implemented self-imposed harvest quotas to ensure harvest remains low.



CARIBOU
CONSERVATION
ALLIANCE