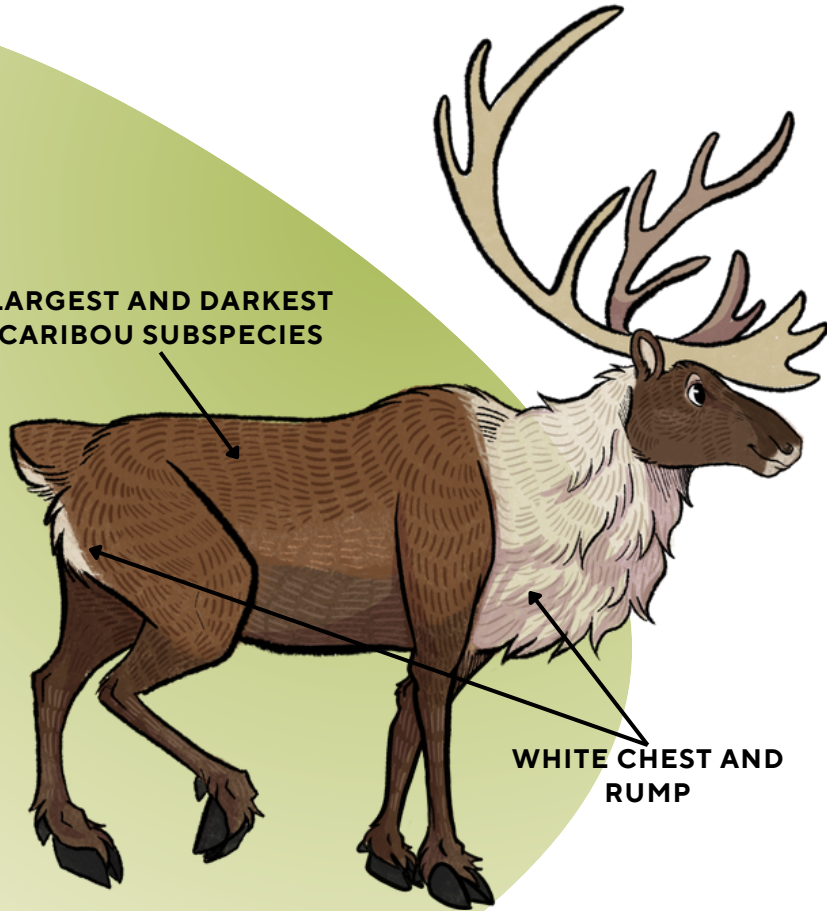


WOODLAND CARIBOU

RANGIFER TARANDUS CARIBOU

LARGEST AND DARKEST
CARIBOU SUBSPECIES



WHITE CHEST AND
RUMP

THREATS

The main threat to woodland caribou is habitat loss and degradation. Woodland caribou rely on vast, old and undisturbed forests for food and protection. Logging, oil and gas extraction, and road networks are fragmentating the forest, creating pathways that allow predators to enter caribou habitat more easily and generating young forest growth that attracts moose, deer and ultimately more predators. Human activity within caribou habitat can displace caribou into a lower quality habitat and stress them.

CONSERVATION

Woodland Caribou are listed as *Threatened* under the Species of Risk Act. Several herds are small and many have already been extirpated. Conservation breeding and maternity pen programs are ongoing in Quebec, British Columbia and Jasper National Park to support the recovery of some of the most vulnerable populations.

HABITAT

Woodland caribou are found in boreal forests throughout every Canadian province except the Maritimes. They are classified into five populations: the boreal, Northern and Southern mountain, Newfoundland, and Atlantic-Gaspésie populations. Woodland caribou were found in the United States until 2019.

DIET

Woodland caribou travel short distances (50-150 km) in search of food. They feed on grasses, sedges and shrubs in the spring and summer, and mainly on lichen during the winter. They use their sense of smell to find lichen under the snow and dig for it using their hooves. As the snowpack increases, caribou use their large hooves as snowshoes to stand on top of the snow and reach lichen in the trees.

WEIGHT

MALES: 160-225 KG (350-500 LB)
FEMALES: 110-150 KG (240-330 LB)

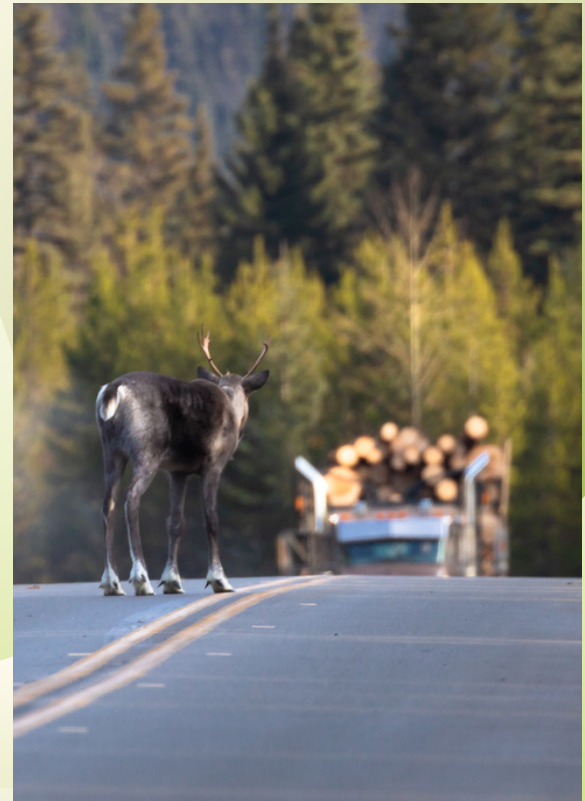


Photo: Cory DeStein

