



Boreal Caribou Implementation Plan Revision

Presented by Megan Watters, Ecosystem Biologist (FLNRO)



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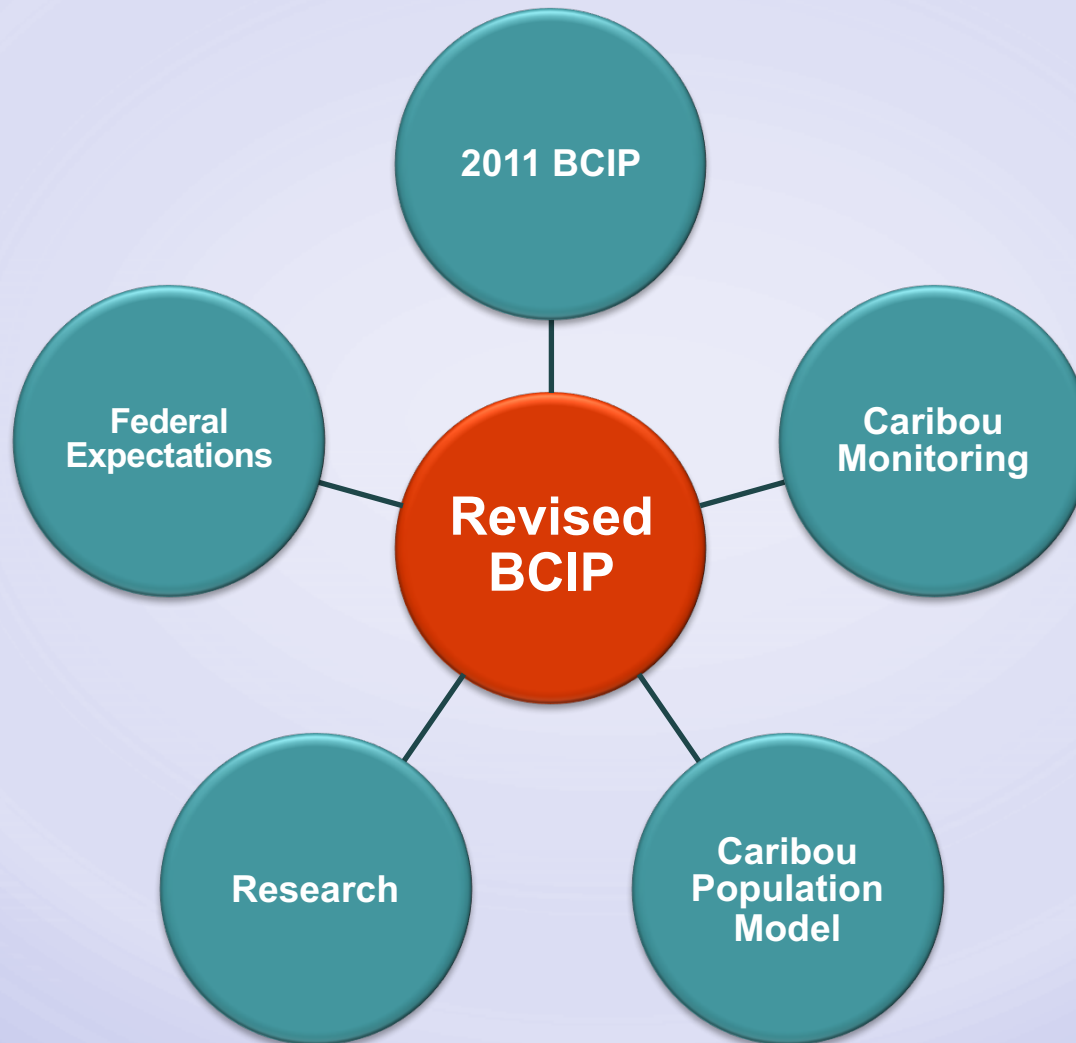


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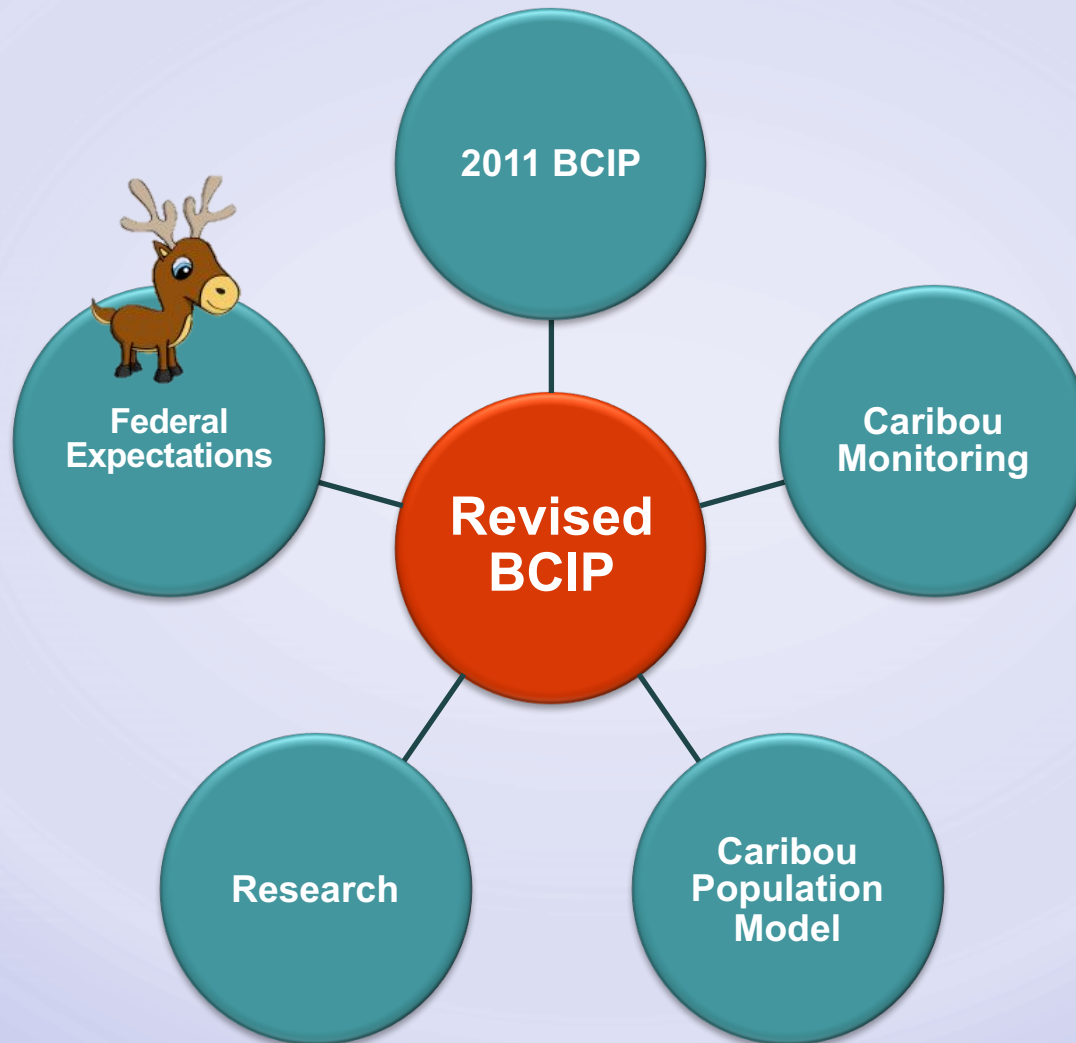


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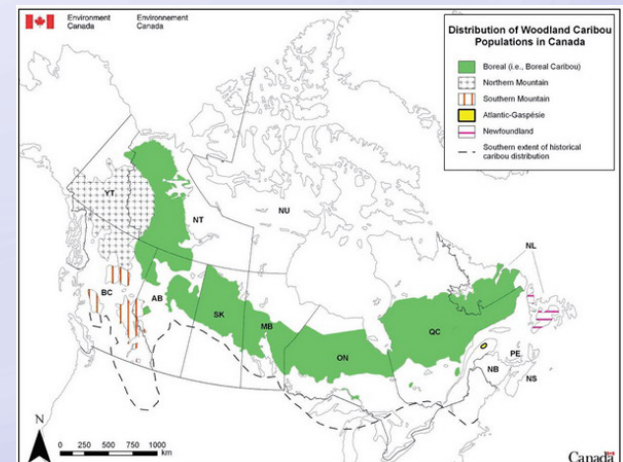
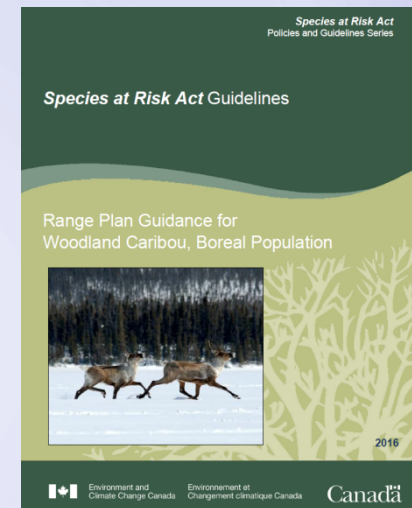


Federal Expectations

- Boreal caribou recovery strategy posted in 2012
- Jurisdictions are expected to develop range plans to protect, and improve condition of, Critical Habitat.
- Environment and Climate Change Canada has provided Range Plan Guidance for boreal caribou.
 - General guidance on development of range plans
 - ECCCs perspective on desired content of range plan

Federal population and habitat goals:

1. *Stabilize and achieve self-sustaining populations across each boreal caribou range, and;*
2. *Achieve and maintain at least 65% undisturbed habitat in each range.*



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2011 BC Boreal Caribou Implementation Plan

Goals:

- Decrease the expected rate of decline in the boreal caribou population;
- Significantly reduce the risk of boreal caribou extirpation in 4 ranges within 50 years.

Objectives:

- Protect caribou habitat to provide opportunities to recover populations in all six range within 50 years;
- Recruit capable habitat into suitable condition through restoration activities in Chinchaga, Parker, Prophet, and Snake-Sahtaneh ranges;
- Manage size of industrial footprint in all six ranges and require industry standard management practices;
- In all six ranges, mitigate effects of industrial footprint by reducing predators and fire suppression; and
- Monitor effectiveness of management actions and modify actions to ensure goals are being achieved.



Photo Credit: D. Culling



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2011 BC Boreal Caribou Implementation Plan

Actions and Performance Measures:



- Develop Research and Effectiveness Monitoring Board
- Develop and implement boreal caribou population monitoring strategy
- Establish UWRs and WHAs in Fort Nelson Forest District
- Establish UWRs and WHAs in Fort St. John Timber Supply Area (Chinchaga)
- Establish Resource Review Areas (RRAs)
- Develop performance measures for RRAs
- Develop and implement PNG industry standard operating and planning practices (IOPs)
- Determine predation risk to caribou



Photo Credit: D. Culling

To do List:



- Determine TEK related to historic and current caribou populations **UNDER WAY**
- Develop and implement a habitat suitability monitoring strategy
- Develop and implement a fire response/suppression strategy
- Develop and implement a habitat restoration strategy
- Determine need for predator/alternate prey management, develop and implement predator management strategy if necessary **UNDER WAY**



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Boreal Caribou Population Monitoring

Minimum Population Counts

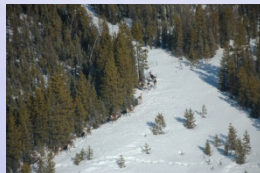
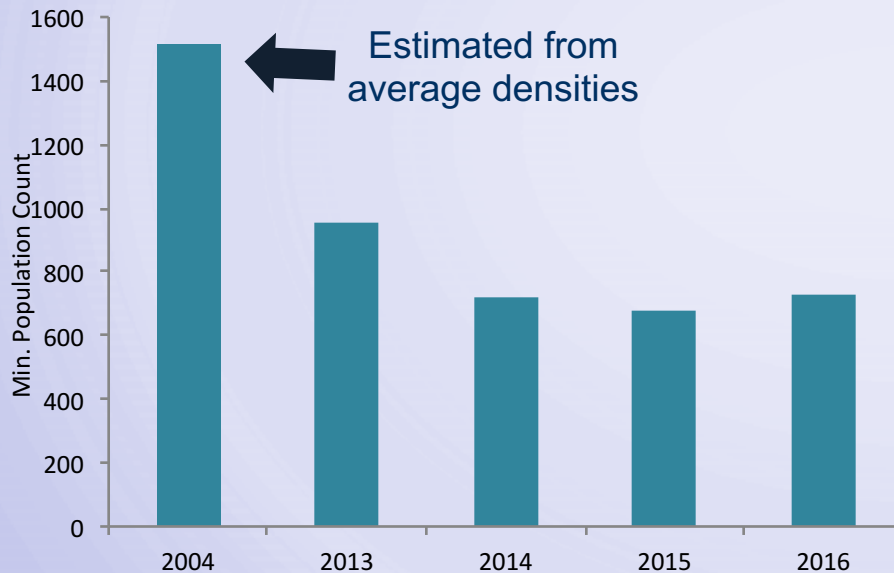


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Recruitment Rates

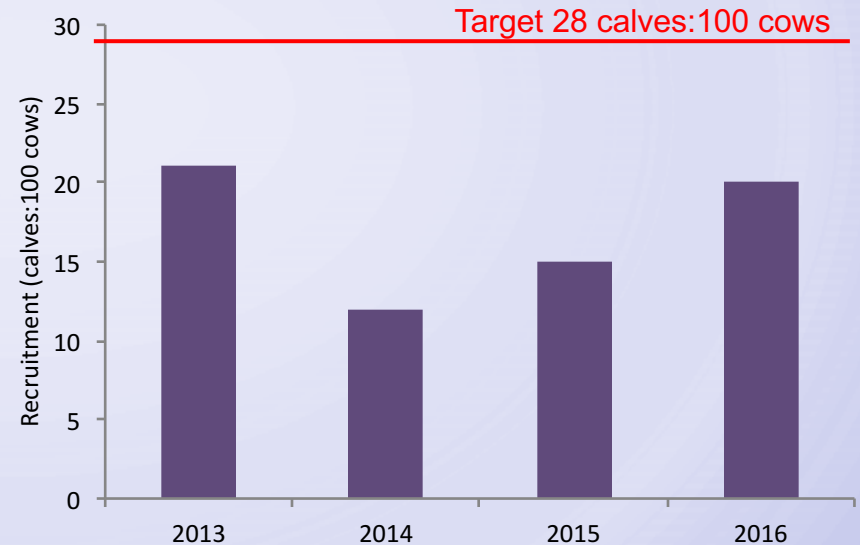


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Mortality Risk

Mortality Cause or Suspected

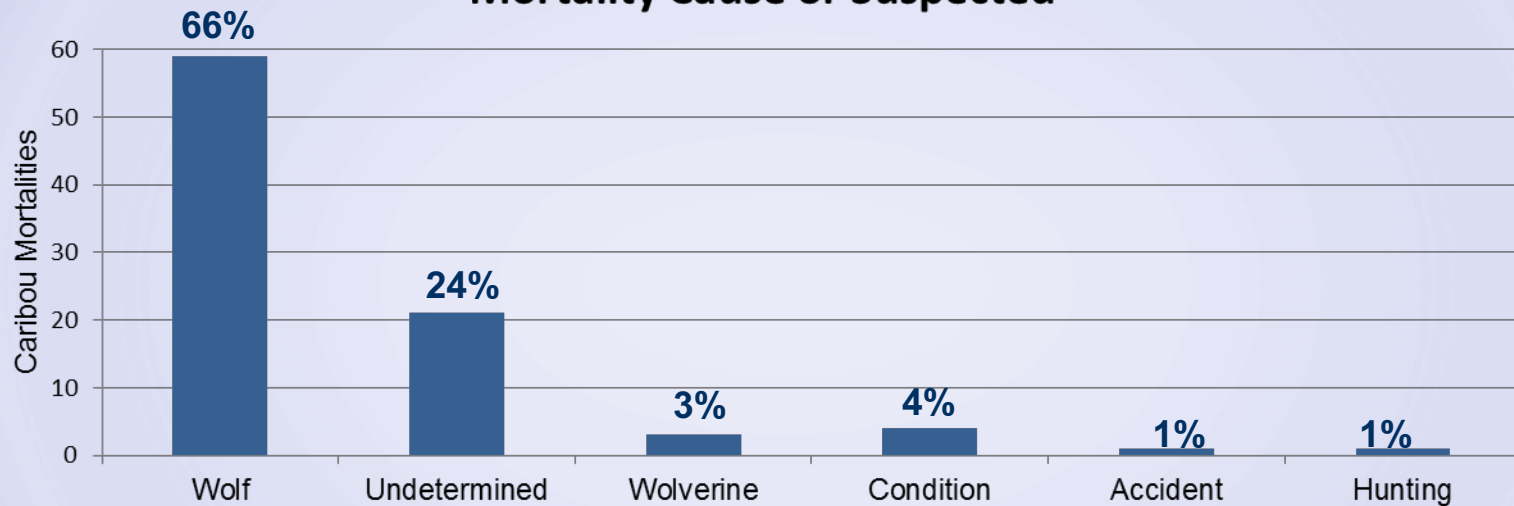


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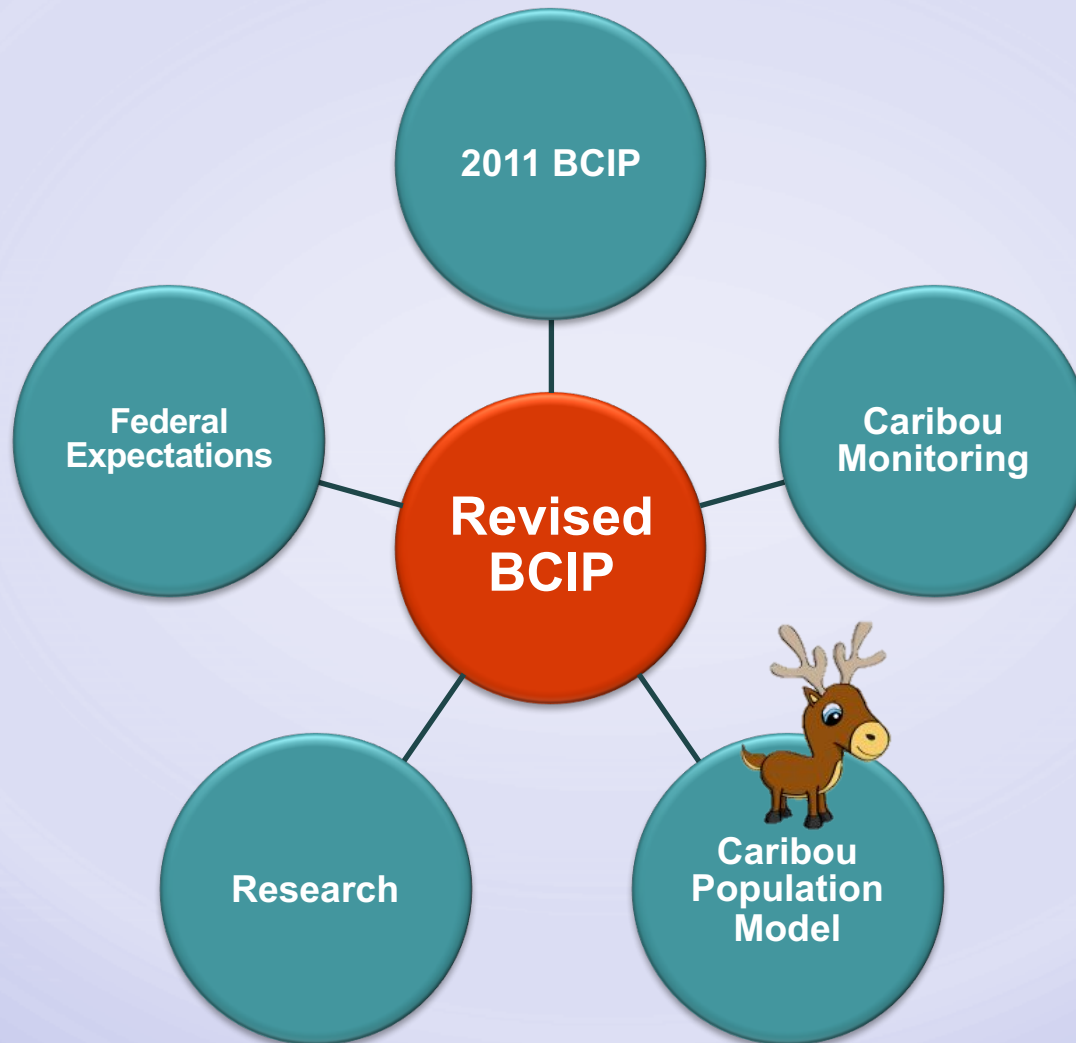


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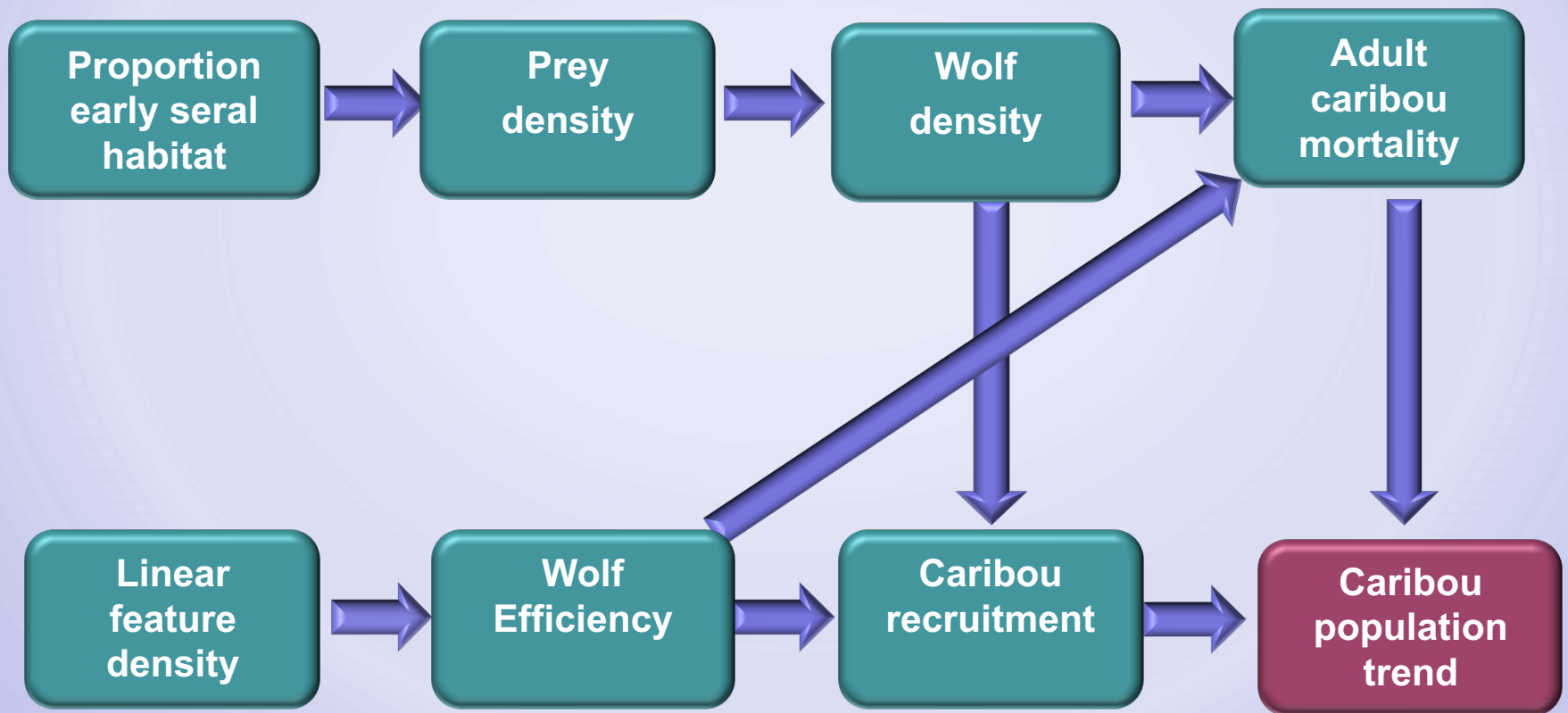
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Caribou Population Model



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Research, research and more research!

<http://www.bcogris.ca/boreal-caribou/projects>

Boreal caribou habitat restoration

Wolf density and control

Role of moose in caribou survival

Role of disturbance in caribou survival

Boreal caribou habitat requirements

Boreal caribou monitoring



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Photo Credit: M.Watters

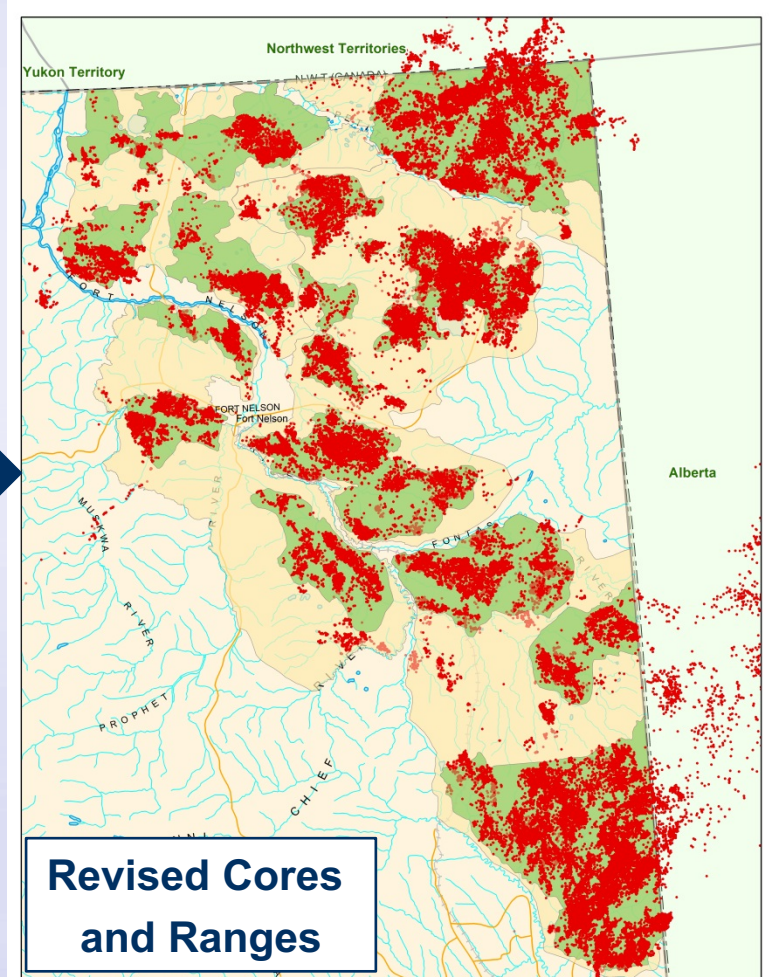
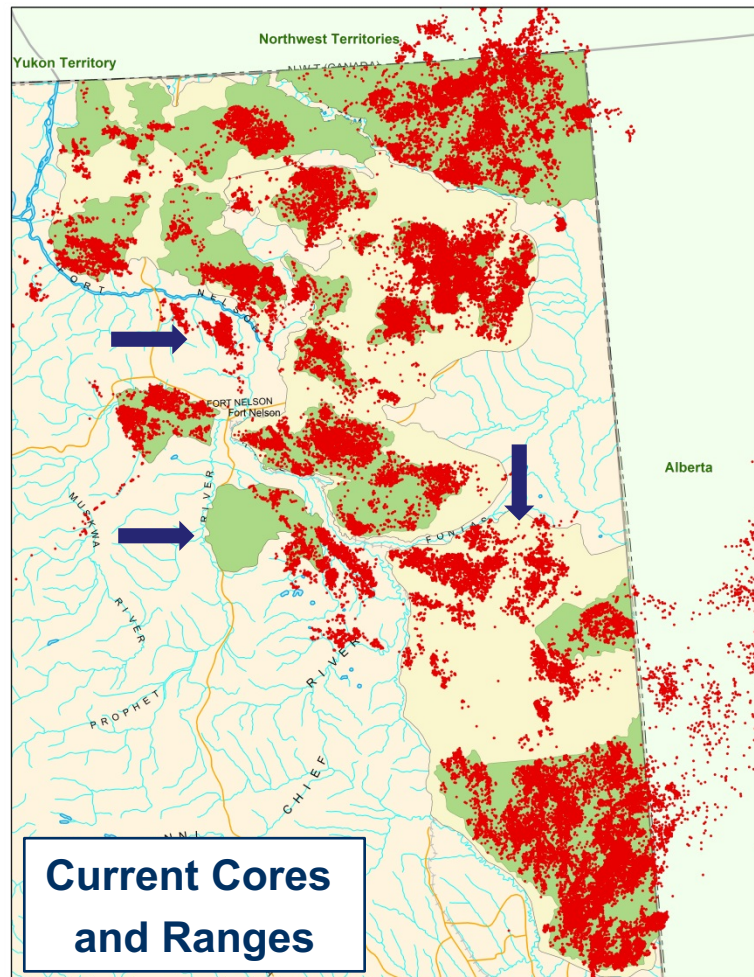


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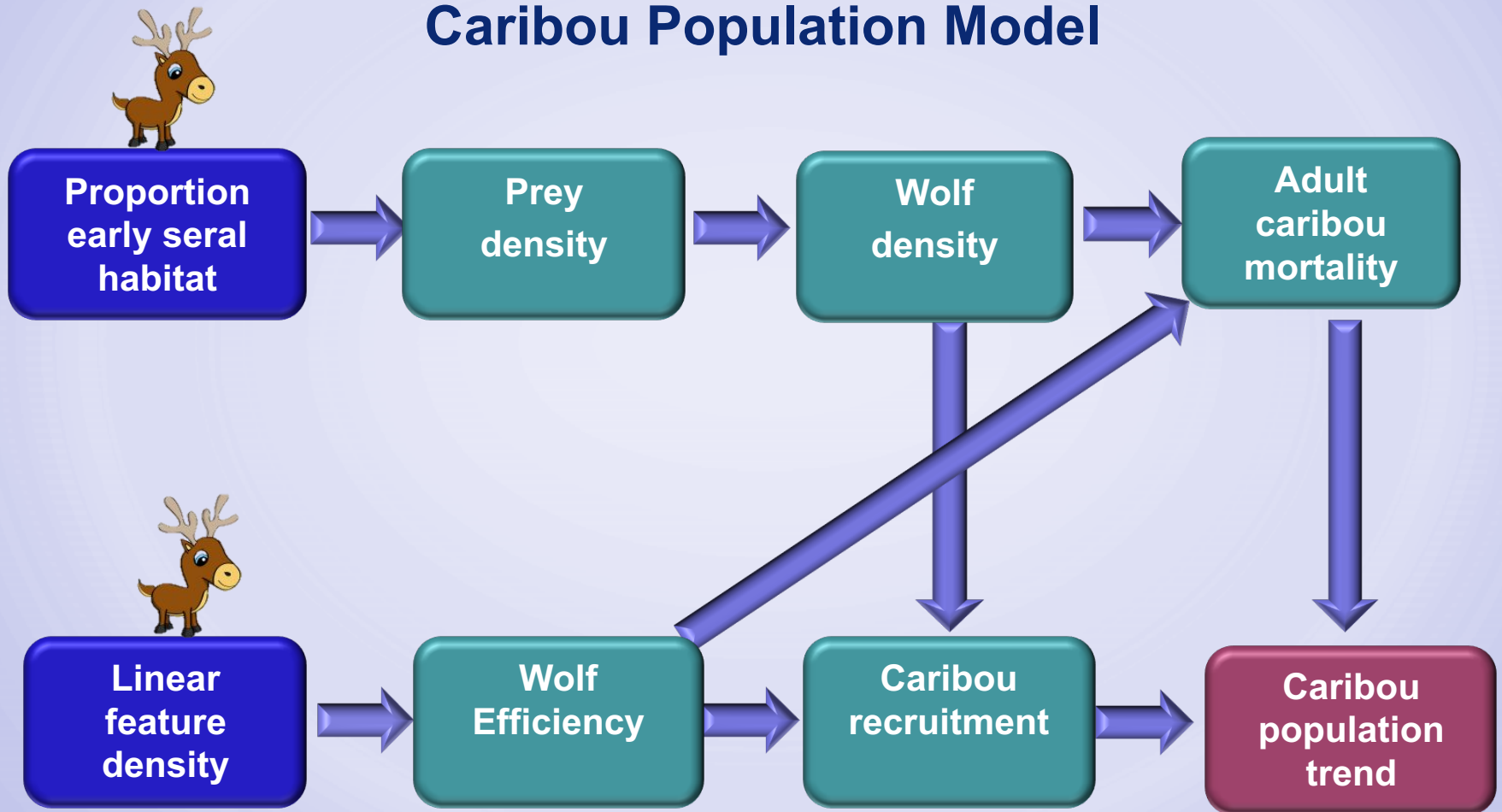
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Caribou Distribution





Caribou Population Model



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Revised BCIP

Management of proportion of early seral habitat

- Primary/alternate prey
- Predator density
- Availability of preferred caribou habitat
- Ecological restoration



Management of linear feature density

- Predator movement
- Functional restoration



Population management

- Predator exclusion/control



Stay tuned...

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Any questions?



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