

AUGUST 2020

# CARIBOU QUARTERLY

QUARTERLY UPDATES ON BOREAL CARIBOU RANGE PLANNING IN THE NWT



## Welcome to Boreal Caribou Range Planning in NWT

*Welcome to the first edition of Caribou Quarterly, a newsletter dedicated to keeping you informed about boreal caribou range planning in the Northwest Territories (NWT). This first edition will introduce you to what range planning is, who is involved, and what we have done so far.*

Boreal Caribou are listed as 'threatened' under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) and territorial *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. The national recovery strategy requires that at least 65% of boreal caribou habitat be maintained as undisturbed habitat. Undisturbed habitat means areas that have not burned in at least 40 years, and areas that are more than half a kilometre away from human-caused disturbances, like roads and seismic lines. Boreal caribou range planning is essential to make sure that we continue to meet this target to allow boreal caribou populations to thrive.

Early in planning, it was agreed that the NWT Boreal Caribou Range Plan should be separated into five regional range plans to better address differences in disturbances across our vast territory. Five range plans will be developed for: Southern NWT (Dehcho and South Slave regions), Wek'èezhì, Sahtu, Inuvialuit and Gwich'in.

A Framework for Boreal Caribou Range Planning in the NWT was released in August 2019 to guide the creation of these plans.

### COVID UPDATES

We've all had to make changes to the way we work and play since the onset of COVID-19. Range planning work is no exception. Over the coming weeks, we will be brainstorming with our partners and colleagues on how to proceed safely. We hope to see all of our range planning partners soon, virtually or in person!

### NAME THE NEWSLETTER

Do you think you can come up with a better name for our newsletter than Caribou Quarterly? We do too. Email us your ideas and your name will be entered into a draw to win a prize! [boreal\\_caribou\\_rangeplan@gov.nt.ca](mailto:boreal_caribou_rangeplan@gov.nt.ca)

### MEET THE TEAM

In each newsletter we will introduce you to some members of the range planning team.



**James Hodson, Yellowknife**  
James is the Manager of Environmental Assessment and Habitat at the GNWT-ENR. He likes to dabble in caribou data analysis, and tries to keep up with his 4-year old daughter.



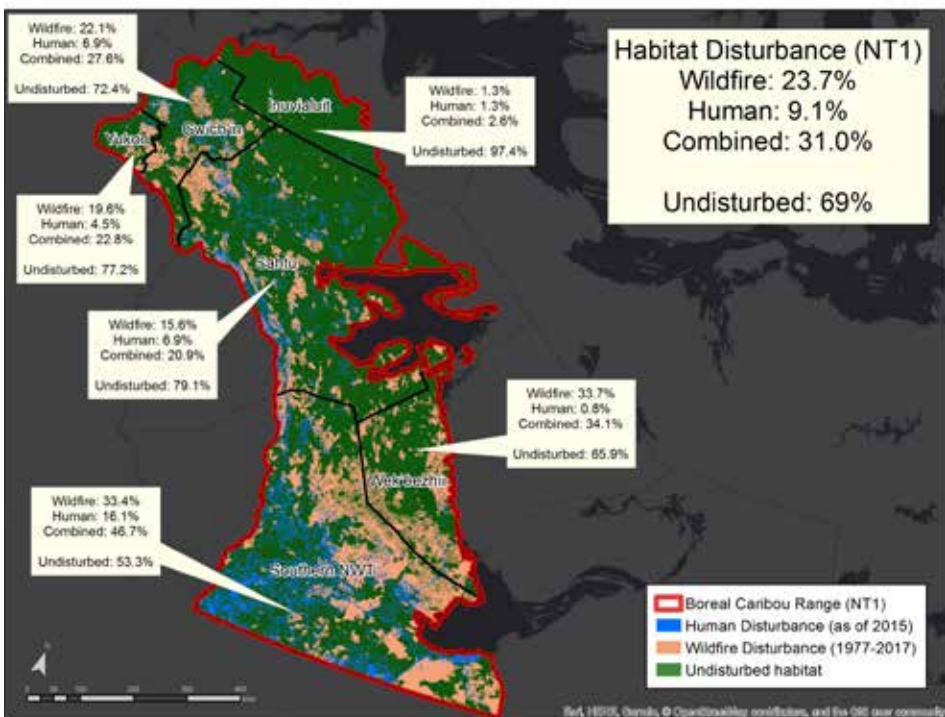
**Kathy Unger, Yellowknife**  
Kathy is a Range Planning Biologist for the GNWT-ENR. She has spent a lot of time studying caribou, at a desk and in the field, and continues to look for the best bug repellent.

### Welcome to Range Planning' Continued...

NWT Boreal Caribou Range Plans must be made in the north by people who know the land and the animals. Each regional plan will be developed by a regional working group, made up of representatives from Indigenous governments and organizations, renewable resources boards, environmental organizations, land and water boards, and federal and territorial governments. Advice from local industry and land use planners, and input from traditional knowledge holders from communities across the NWT boreal caribou range will also be incorporated into the development of the range plans.

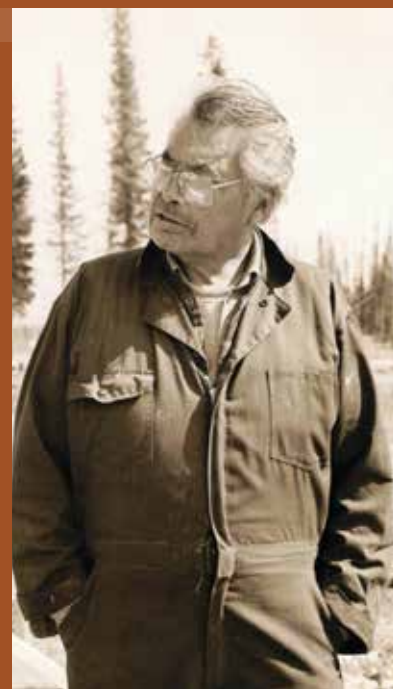
The Wek'èezhì and the Southern NWT regional range plans began in Fall 2019, with the creation of their respective Working Groups, and inaugural meetings. As part of these meetings, the groups discussed the steps needed to prepare a range plan, approaches to gathering and compiling information, and who to involve in the process. Both groups also developed a Terms of Reference. The next meetings are tentatively scheduled for Fall 2020.

The remaining three regional range plans for the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Sahtú regions are also scheduled to begin in Fall 2020. We hope this newsletter will help groups connect and learn from each other.



## In Memoriam

It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to Fred Simba, a meaningful part of the boreal caribou range planning team. Fred was a member of the Southern NWT Working Group on behalf of Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation. He will be remembered for his soft-spoken leadership and advocacy for the wildlife, environment and people of Tathlina region. He leaves behind many friends and family who describe him as an expert fisherman who enjoyed spending time out on the land. Máhsí cho Fred, for the knowledge and dedication you brought to our group.



## A Message from the Working Group

“ Participating in the boreal caribou range planning is important to our community as it is a valuable resource. We are situated near a migration route so we need to carefully plan and balance the healthiness of the herd with our other interests of the area. Due to various factors, including human-led activities, we believe that boreal caribou need wildlife management and their habitats need to be protected. The Fort Providence land users are the most knowledgeable about their movements, habitat areas and migratory routes. Biologists, GIS analysts and local resource management board personnel are also integral to these initiatives. ”

~ Greg Nyuli, Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation