

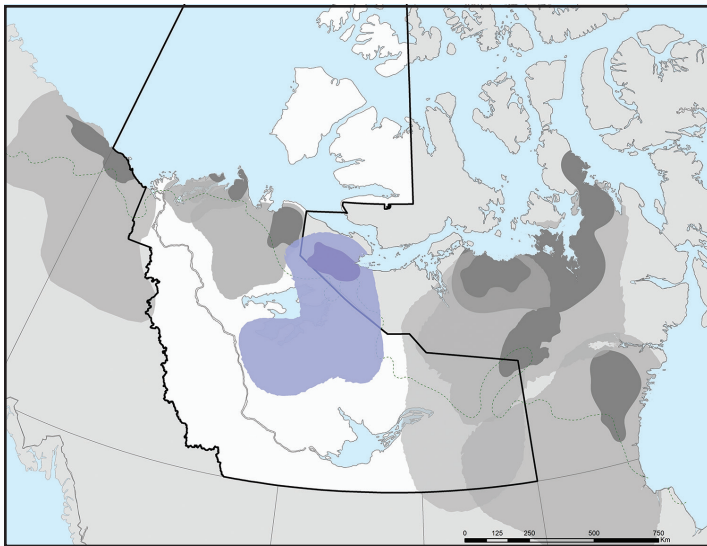
Barren-ground Caribou in the NWT Bluenose-East Herd



The Bluenose-East caribou herd is one of nine barren-ground caribou herds that spends all or part of its time in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

Bluenose-East caribou range

The Bluenose-East range, where caribou live throughout the year, extends from Great Bear Lake in the NWT to the area west of Kugluktuk, Nunavut, where the herd's traditional calving grounds are located.



Historical Bluenose-East caribou range and calving grounds

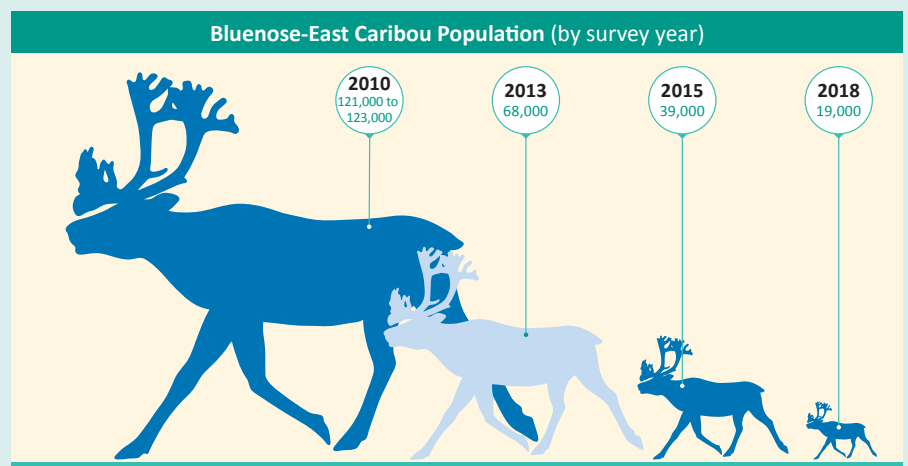


Government of
Northwest Territories

In the Sahtú, Déline is the primary community that harvests from the Bluenose-East herd. There has also been increased harvest by Tłı̄chǫ communities following reductions in the Bathurst caribou harvest in 2010. The Bluenose-East herd is also harvested by hunters in Kugluktuk, Nunavut.

Population

The Bluenose-East herd has declined from about 120,000 caribou in 2010 to a low of about 19,000 today. The 2018 estimate for the Bluenose-East herd shows the herd is about half the size it was three years ago.



Shared Management

Caribou management decisions in the NWT are made collaboratively. The Government of the Northwest Territories works side by side with Indigenous governments and organizations, renewable resources boards and affected communities. Where caribou herds migrate across territorial borders, we coordinate with neighbouring provincial and territorial governments. In the case of Bluenose-East herd, the Sahtú and Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Boards in the NWT and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in Nunavut are key decision-making bodies.

Our efforts to help the Bluenose-East herd are primarily focused on managing harvest and predation, research and monitoring, ensuring healthy habitat and implementing the Taking Care of Caribou Plan. This plan was developed by co-management boards in 2014 and includes the Bluenose-East herd along with the Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst herds.

Key actions to date include:

- **Reducing harvest.** Between 2010 and 2014, harvest was estimated at 2,500 to 3,000 caribou per year. Since 2016, harvest was reduced based on recommendations by the Sahtú and Wek'èezhì Renewable Resource Boards to 150 (mostly bulls) and 750 bulls, respectively. Harvest in Nunavut was also limited to 340 (no sex ratio) caribou by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in 2016.

- **Reducing predation.** Wolf harvesting incentives were initiated in 2010, and subsequently increased in 2015 in an effort to reduce wolf predation of caribou.
- **Research and monitoring.** Scientific monitoring of the Bluenose-East caribou herd, including aerial surveys and satellite collar tracking, is conducted with support from Indigenous governments and communities. Traditional and local knowledge about the herd is also reviewed annually by co-management boards with authority for managing barren-ground caribou herds.
- **Overall management.** The *Taking Care of Caribou* management plan was developed in 2014 by co-management boards, which meet annually to review the status of each herd. Management actions are guided by herd status, with more intensive management for herds at low numbers.



In the Sahtú region, the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board recommends harvest levels for the Bluenose-East herd. In the Tłı̄chǫ region, the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board determines harvest levels.

Shared Responsibility

We have a shared responsibility to support our caribou herds through this current low, towards recovery. There are no easy answers. It is up to all of us to take care of caribou and ensure we have the best information – including scientific, traditional and local knowledge – to make good decisions about sustainably managing wildlife, the environment and development.

