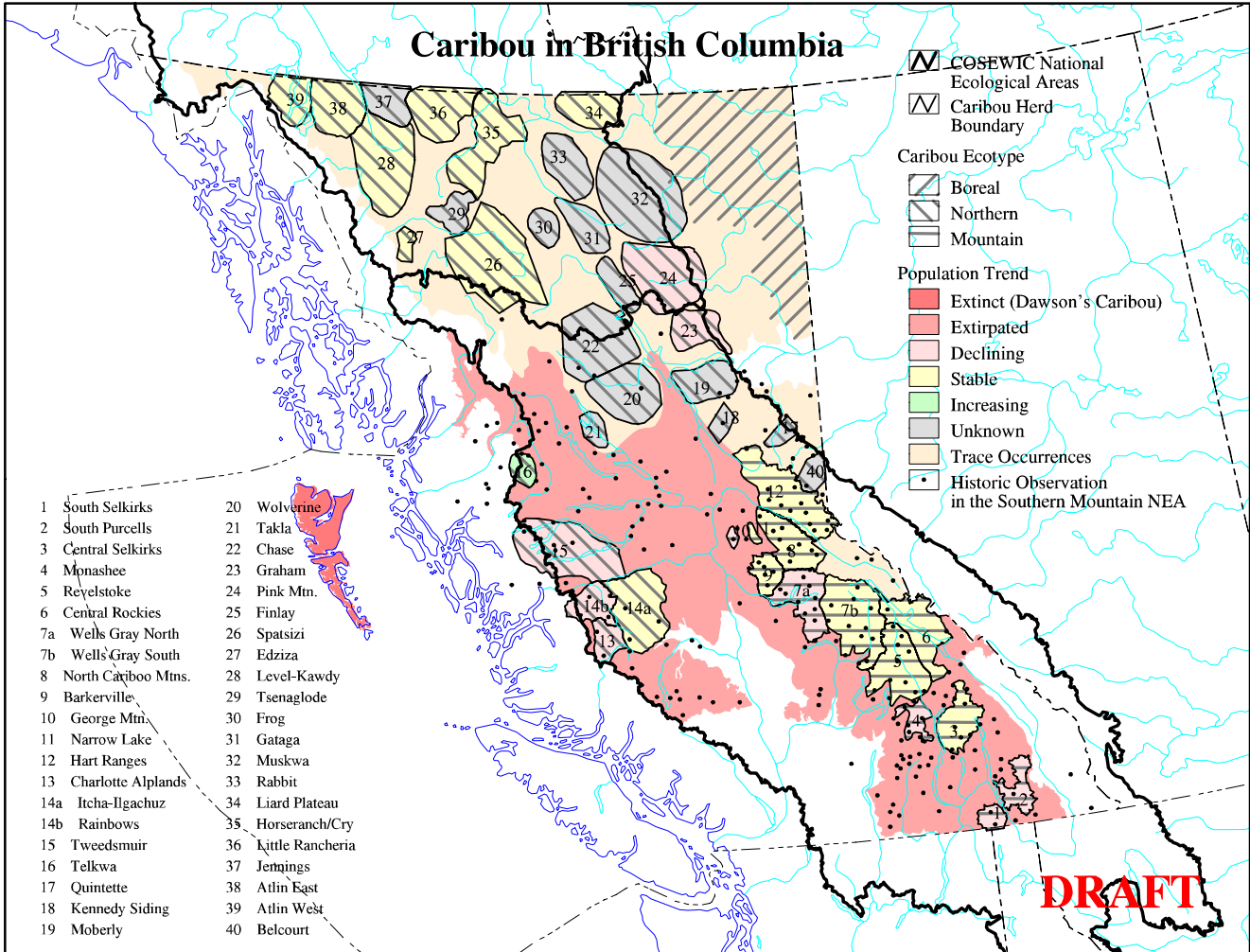


Woodland Caribou in British Columbia

Distribution of Woodland Caribou in B.C.



WLAP 2004

Summary of population size and trend

Woodland Caribou rely on large contiguous patches of old forest to provide security and foraging habitat.

In British Columbia, Woodland Caribou are categorized into three ecotypes by the Conservation Data Centre. Population estimates in 2006 by ecotype are about 1900 in the Mountain ecotype (arboreal lichen feeders), 16,235 animals in the Northern ecotype (terrestrial lichen feeders), and 725 in the Boreal ecotype. Virtually all of the range of the Mountain ecotype is within B.C., over half of the range of the Northern ecotype is in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, and most of the range of the Boreal ecotype is outside B.C., reaching across Canada to Newfoundland.

COSEWIC refers to three populations, and uses different borders: Southern Mountain population (including the Mountain ecotype and southern parts of the Northern ecotype), Northern Mountain population (most of the range of the Northern ecotype) and the Boreal population (same as the Boreal ecotype).

Population trends are variable. The Mountain ecotype is red-listed and most at risk, with 18 subpopulations (herds), some of which are contiguous and others seem to be isolated. Since 1987, two subpopulations have become extirpated, 13 have declined, two are stable and one has increased (Hart Ranges; due mainly to improved survey methods and some population growth). The Northern ecotype has 29 herds, with 5 decreasing, 9 stable, 4 increasing and 11 unknown. The trend for the Boreal ecotype is unknown. The Dawson Caribou, a subspecies once found on the Queen Charlotte Islands, is extinct.

For more information on Woodland Caribou in British Columbia:

- B.C. Species and Ecosystems Explorer:
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/toolintro.html>
- B.C. Ministry of Environment:
http://env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/caribou_fs.pdf
- Identified Wildlife Management Strategy:
http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frpa/iwms/documents/Mammals/m_caribou.pdf
- Environment Canada Species At Risk:
http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca/search/speciesResults_e.cfm?searchForm=1&qLang=e&common=caribou
- Multidisciplinary Approaches to Recovering Mountain Caribou in Mountain Ecosystems. 2006. Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology, Revelstoke, British Columbia. (conference proceedings):
http://www.cmiae.org/pdf/Caribou_2006_conf_summary.pdf

Criteria for selection of Woodland Caribou for this indicator:

- A species selected by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) as a national indicator species;
- A species designated as Identified Wildlife under *the Forest and Range Practices Act*;
- A species at risk where timber management is a known major threat;
- A species of ecological significance; *and*
- A species of social/cultural significance.