

About this Management Plan

The 2013-2022 management plan for the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds explains how the BQCMB will work with governments, communities and others to protect the caribou herds and address caribou conservation issues. Like the three earlier BQCMB management plans, this plan describes guiding principles that are to be followed when developing recommendations for caribou conservation and outlines management goals and objectives. The plan also provides key recommendations developed recently by the Board with help from caribou range communities on ways that governments, agencies, communities, hunters and others can help the caribou herds.

The overall goal of the plan is to make sure caribou herds are healthy and available for the people who share the herd's annual range. The BQCMB recognizes the use of caribou for food as the most important use that must not be threatened.

A detailed management plan and plain language summary provide information about the caribou herds and factors that need to be considered by anyone whose actions or decisions may affect the caribou herds, their habitat and caribou harvesters.

Photo courtesy of Alicia Kelly.

Challenges Facing the Caribou Herds

Two of the main concerns for the BQCMB and communities are caribou wastage and the effects of commercial land use activities on caribou and habitat, especially on caribou calving and post-calving areas. There are other threats to the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou related to roads, increasing harvest, wildfires, pollution, weather, disease, parasites, predators, and the effects of climate change. Over time, the combined effects of all of these threats add up, leading to "cumulative effects" on caribou which are not easy to understand and manage, and which pose a potential threat to the future of the herds.

The Value of Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou

Inuit, Dene, Cree and Métis people from about 20 communities depend on the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou for food, clothing and handicrafts. Although it has been estimated that the dollar value of the annual harvest from these two herds is about \$20 million, the true value of caribou for Aboriginal peoples is reflected in the strong traditional, cultural and spiritual relationship that exists between the people and these animals. This relationship is an essential part of the traditional harvester's identity which has been passed down through many generations and continues to play a huge role in maintaining Aboriginal cultures for current and future generations.

Produced by the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board
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The detailed management plan and plain language summary are available from:

www.arctic-caribou.com

or

BQCMB Secretariat

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Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Plan 2013-2022

Overview

About the Caribou Herds

The Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds are two major groups of migratory barren-ground caribou in northern Canada. Named after the lakes where they gave birth to their calves, the historic ranges of these herds include portions of two territories and three provinces. The combined historic ranges of the two herds cover an area almost as large as the Northwest Territories and two times the size of Saskatchewan.

The Government of Nunavut estimated that there were about 124,000 Beverly caribou in 2011, which is the smallest herd size known since the 1980s and less than half the size estimated in 1994. In 2008 the Qamanirjuaq herd size was about 349,000, which is about 30 per cent lower than the last estimate in 1994.

More information is needed about the caribou herds, their habitat, harvest levels, and environmental factors that influence caribou numbers, movements and herd health.

Cover photo courtesy of Lynne Rollin



Photo courtesy of Alicia Kelly

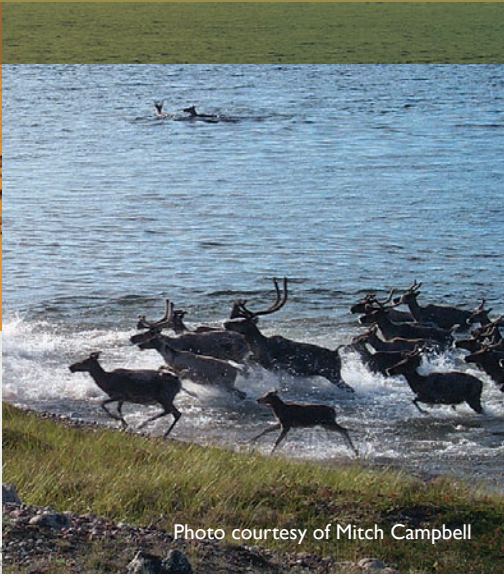


Photo courtesy of Mitch Campbell

About the Caribou Board

The Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB) is a co-management advisory board established in 1982 to help take care of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds across their ranges. It brings together people from several territories and provinces to discuss options for dealing with issues that may affect the caribou, their habitat and caribou harvesters. The Board's 13 members all live and work in northern Canada and represent communities, Aboriginal organizations and governments.

The strength of the BQCMB comes from a long-term agreement among these groups to work together with a common purpose – to help conserve the caribou herds for present and future generations.



Photo courtesy of Sayisi Dene First Nation

Monitoring and Vulnerability Assessment

The BQCMB has developed this plan using a new approach based on regular assessments of the vulnerability of the caribou herds. This is needed because when a caribou herd is “vulnerable”, the herd as a whole is more likely to be negatively affected by things that would have less impact under better conditions.

The Board will assess the vulnerability level of each herd by using traditional and local knowledge held by caribou harvesters, and scientific knowledge held by biologists and wildlife managers.

Monitoring results will be very important for evaluating each herd's vulnerability. The BQCMB will work with governments, communities and others to develop plans for long-term monitoring of both herds.

BQCMB Recommendations

The BQCMB will advise governments, communities and others about what is needed for conservation and management of each herd based on its vulnerability level. Recommendations will be made about activities such as:

- types and frequency of monitoring.
- harvest management options.
- ways to manage commercial land use activities to protect caribou and important habitats.
- communication and conservation education activities.

The detailed management plan and the BQCMB website located at www.arctic-caribou.com provide numerous maps showing information about the caribou ranges, land use activities occurring there, and seasonal range use by the herds.