

GET TO KNOW...

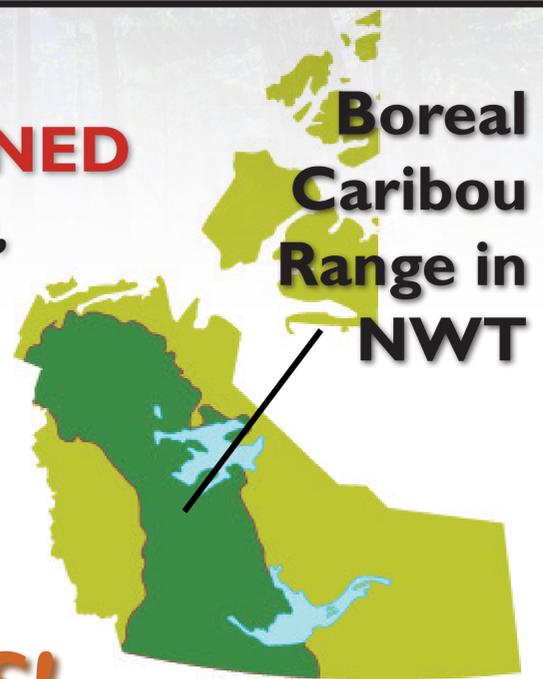
# Boreal Caribou

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## NWT's BOREAL CARIBOU:

### STATUS - **THREATENED**

One of Canada's remaining, intact populations of boreal caribou is threatened by habitat disturbance from human activities and wildfires.



Map: CPAWS



Photo: Ron Thiessen

### FAST FACTS!

Both males & females grow antlers

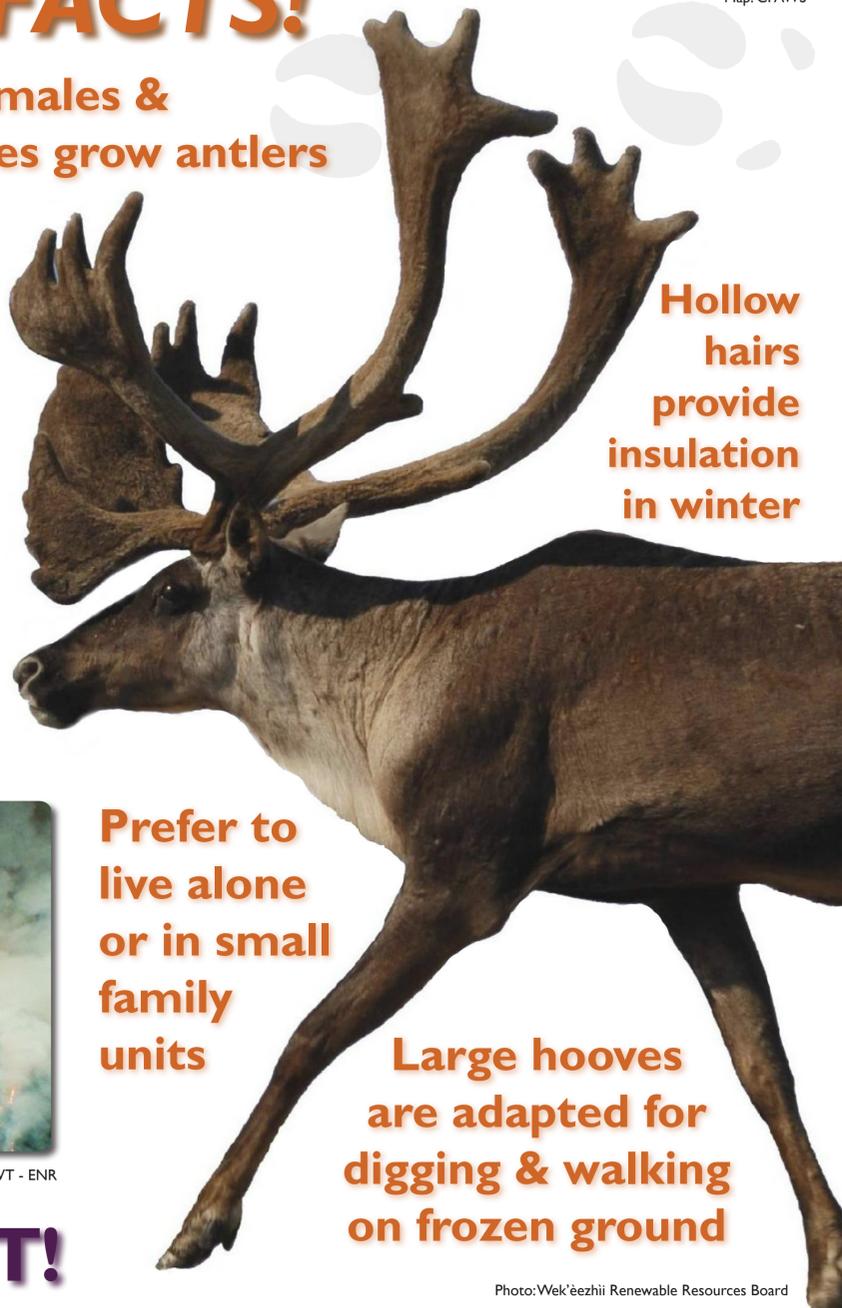
Hollow hairs provide insulation in winter

### DID YOU KNOW?

Caribou are the **only** animal that can live on a diet of lichens! Boreal caribou seek out their favourite lichens in mature boreal forest.



Photo: Wikimedia Commons



Prefer to live alone or in small family units

Large hooves are adapted for digging & walking on frozen ground

Photo: Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board

### THREATS

- **Human Threats:** resource development & exploration, cutting corridors through the boreal forest
- **Natural Threats:** forest fire, climate change, predators

As climate change creates hotter summers in the north, scientists have predicted more intense forest fire seasons, which will affect the habitat of NWT's boreal caribou.



Photo: GNWT - ENR



### HOOF IT!

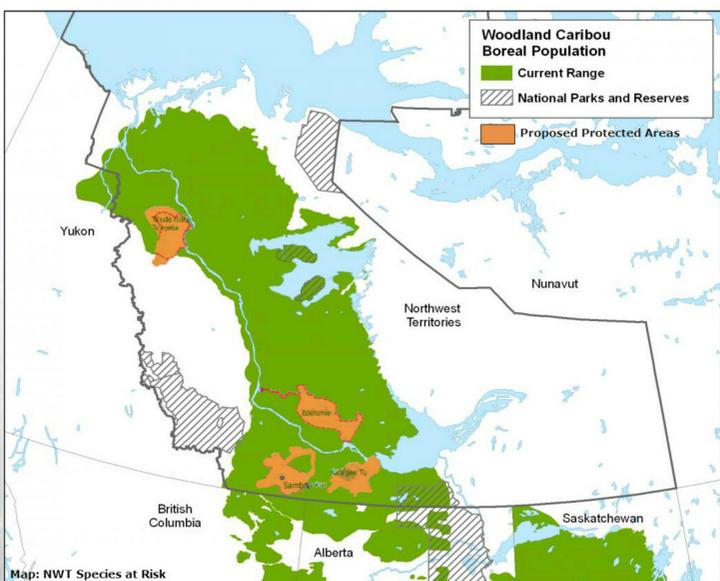
These hooves were made for walking - on snow! Caribou hooves spread open and act like snowshoes. Sharp edges help them get a grip on ice and rocks, and dig through frozen ground.

Hollow hooves are scoop-like for digging for tasty lichen. They make great paddles, too - caribou are good swimmers!

Dew claws also help caribou stay on top of snow.

Photo: Martin Lipman © Canadian Museum of Nature

## PROTECTING BOREAL CARIBOU



The boreal caribou is listed as "Threatened" on both the Canadian and NWT species at risk lists.

The government of the NWT is creating a recovery strategy which will plan for the protection of boreal caribou and their habitat. This is a great step toward protecting boreal caribou.

With our large, undisturbed tracts of boreal forest, the NWT has the chance to create protected areas that will provide important intact habitat for boreal caribou. CPAWS-NWT works to help ensure boreal caribou habitat is kept intact for current and future generations of boreal caribou.

**WANT TO LEARN MORE?**

