

Guidance for Projects Overlapping with Northern Caribou Range

This guidance is for proposed activities which overlap with northern caribou range but have no overlaps with other caribou values such as High Elevation Winter Range, Ungulate Winter Range, Wildlife Habitat Areas, or Resource Review Areas. Ongoing monitoring by the Ministry of Environment indicates that northern caribou use habitat outside of these designated areas, within ranges. Northern caribou are of conservation concern both federally (listed as Threatened on Schedule 1 under the *Species at Risk Act*) and provincially (blue-listed and priority 2 on the Conservation Framework).

The effects of development on northern caribou depend in part upon the type of disturbance. Linear developments include, but are not limited to, access roads, pipelines, water lines, transmission and telecommunication lines, and seismic lines. The primary concern regarding effects of linear features on caribou is improved access for predators, resulting in increased predation rates on northern caribou. In contrast, other developments can affect caribou directly through habitat removal, and indirectly through sensory disturbance and alteration of predator-prey dynamics.

To minimize impacts of development on northern caribou in caribou range, Northeast Ecosystems recommends:

- Activities use existing disturbances (e.g., access routes, cutblocks) whenever possible.
- Activities minimize caribou visibility to predators by implementing line-of-sight management practices.
- Activities be planned and constructed in accordance with the *Peace Region Selected Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Least Risk Windows* available at: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content?id=1A3AF3AE6C2045E2A3E266F136445C89>
- Oil and gas companies be compliant with the regulatory requirements and policy of the BC Oil and Gas Commission.
- In the absence of guidance specific to northern caribou, all other non oil and gas industrial sectors consider, and implement as appropriate, the Ministry of Environment's *Interim Operating Practices for Oil and Gas Activities in Identified Boreal Caribou Habitat in British Columbia* (September 22, 2011), available at: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/speciesconservation/bc/index.html>
- The applicant consider the General Wildlife Measures for Ungulate Winter Ranges (http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frpa/uwr/approved_uwr.html) and Wildlife Habitat Areas (http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cgi-bin/apps/faw/wharesult.cgi?search=wlap_region&wlap=Peace), located within the same caribou range as the proposed activities, when planning the proposed project.
- The applicant review and apply, whenever feasible, the appropriate regional Best Management Practices (BMPs), available at: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content?id=1A3AF3AE6C2045E2A3E266F136445C89>, and provincial BMPs, available at: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/BMP/bmpintro.html>.
- Reclamation activities be undertaken as soon as operationally feasible. The *Peace Liard Revegetation Manual* provides guidance at: http://prrd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/NEIPC_Reveg_manual_PeaceLiard_April2010_002.pdf

Observations of northern caribou should be recorded and submitted to the Ministry of Environment's Wildlife Species Inventory database for incidental observations of wildlife:

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wildlife/wsi/incidental_obs.htm