

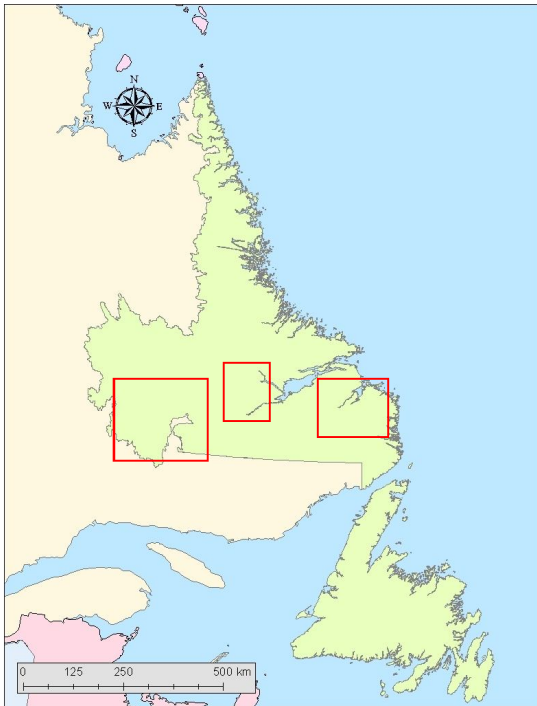
Woodland Caribou

(*Rangifer tarandus caribou*)

- The woodland caribou are members of the deer family.
- It has a large oblong muzzle, short wide ears, a small heavily furred tail, and antlers.
- Its compact body is covered with thick, long fur that is mostly brown in summer and greyer in winter.
- Woodland caribou have large, crescent-shaped cloven hooves.



Provincial Distribution



Habitat/ Range

Woodland caribou are distributed throughout the boreal forest of Labrador in open conifer-lichen forests containing numerous water bodies and tundra/low shrub vegetation at higher levels. Three local populations have been identified, each with an affinity to a particular location during calving.

Population Trends

The Red Wine Mountain population has declined from 700 caribou in the 1980s to <100 caribou currently. The Lac Joseph and Mealy Mountain populations declined in the 1970s/80s and have recently been estimated to contain 1400 and 2100 caribou, respectively.

Limiting Factors and Threats

While habitat loss is the most significant threat to woodland caribou in Canada, in Newfoundland and Labrador illegal hunting, disturbance, changing climatic conditions, and predation are limiting woodland caribou populations.

Special Significance

Caribou are an integral part of the culture of Labrador, including that of the aboriginal peoples.

* Caribou are distributed throughout the Province in discrete populations, of which only these three in Labrador have been assessed to be at risk.

You can help protect the woodland caribou:

- Support habitat protection for all our rare species.
- Learn something new about a species at risk in Newfoundland and Labrador and tell a friend!

Department of Environment & Conservation

Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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