



Interesting Facts About Alberta's Woodland Caribou

- Both the Mountain and Boreal Woodland Caribou are **provincially endangered species** and nationally threatened species, which means they are likely to disappear in Alberta if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction.
- Among North American ungulates, the woodland caribou appears to be least able to adapt to the magnitude of environmental changes associated with agricultural, urban, and industrial development over the past 100 years.
- Much of the Mountain Woodland Caribou habitat in Alberta is in the Foothills Natural Region.
- Caribou need protected areas with a representative amount of each of their seasonal ranges, including older lichen rich forests, if they are to survive in Alberta.
- The winter range of 6 or more Caribou Herds will be safe from development IF the province protects the Foothills Candidate Areas submitted by the AWA and other conservation groups.
- In 1986, Alberta Fish and Wildlife recommended five critical winter habitat areas to be protected from logging, oil and gas developments and motorized recreation for Woodland Caribou. This recommendation remains unfulfilled after more than twenty years.
- It takes 80-150 years for a forest community to grow enough lichen to support caribou through the winter. Lichens constitute 60% to 70% of the winter diet of a Caribou.
- Appropriate winter habitat of dense forests is also important for Caribou as they use it for cover to conceal themselves from predators.
- The increase in linear disturbances such as Off Road Vehicle trails, seismic lines, pipelines and logging roads dramatically increases the chances of predation on Caribou by wolves.
- Research in Alberta has shown that both the overall herd size and the mean individual winter range size decreased significantly after logging. Caribou also have avoided using the total area fragmented by logging.
- Caribou population numbers and survival of young past one year are decreasing.
- The present provincial population estimates are 3600 to 6700 Caribou.

Woodland Caribou Distribution in Alberta

