

JUNE
2014

**Work on
Range Plan
Started**

How was this Draft Plan developed?

Representatives from many organizations worked together to create a Draft Range Plan:

- Federal, territorial and Indigenous governments;
- Co-management organizations;
- Industry; and
- Environmental groups.

We also considered more than 400 public comments, which helped shape the Draft Plan. Check out the 'What We Heard' document on our website at www.enr.gov.nt.ca.



Jan-Mar
2017

**Two Public
Engagement
Periods**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We need your input to develop a final Bathurst Caribou Range Plan that balances the interests and priorities of all northerners across the range of the Bathurst herd.

In person:

Check with your local ENR office for the closest community meeting.

By mail:

Government of the Northwest Territories
c/o Karin Clark, Wildlife Biologist
Wildlife Division, ENR, GNWT
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT XLA 2L9

By email:

Bathurst_RangePlan@gov.nt.ca

Summer
2018

**Final
Range Plan**



We're on Facebook!

Send a message to our
ENR North Slave Region Facebook Page.

BATHURST CARIBOU RANGE PLAN



What is the Draft Bathurst Caribou Range Plan?

It is a guide for decision-makers, companies and communities to help manage activities on the land in a way that supports the recovery of the Bathurst herd.

Range Plan vs. Harvest Restrictions

A range plan does not set rules for harvesting – it is a way to reduce impacts of land activity and disturbances to caribou.

Why do we need a Range Plan?

- The Bathurst caribou herd has declined rapidly in recent years.
- Human activities have increased.
- The size and strength of wildfires may be growing.
- The relationship between people and caribou has fundamentally changed.

Over the last 30 years, the Bathurst herd has dropped from a high of nearly 500,000 caribou to a current low of about 20,000.

Guiding Principles

Four main principles guided development of the Draft Range Plan:

1. Respect Caribou
2. Bring Together Traditional, Local and Scientific Knowledge
3. Practice Guardianship, Stewardship and Management to Care for Caribou
4. Achieve Balance

We want to hear from you!

Submit your comments on the Draft Range Plan up until March 31, 2018.

Read the full Draft Range Plan and Plain Language Summary on our website: www.enr.gov.nt.ca

Photo credit: J. Boulanger



RANGE PLAN – MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ALL ABOUT THE LAND OF THE BATHURST CARIBOU

GUARDIANSHIP

Indigenous peoples are considered caretakers of the land. **The Draft Bathurst Caribou Range Plan calls for the establishment of guardian programs** that build on generations of careful observation and understanding of the land and the natural cycles of the caribou.



CONSERVATION

Caribou in the Bathurst herd travel thousands of kilometres every year, crossing the traditional territories of at least seven Indigenous groups.

The Draft Range Plan describes three kinds of areas that are important to caribou, and ways to manage those areas:

Core use area

As caribou numbers decline, the area they use has gotten smaller. The Draft Range Plan suggests land users operating in this core use area shut down non-essential activities when caribou are nearby.

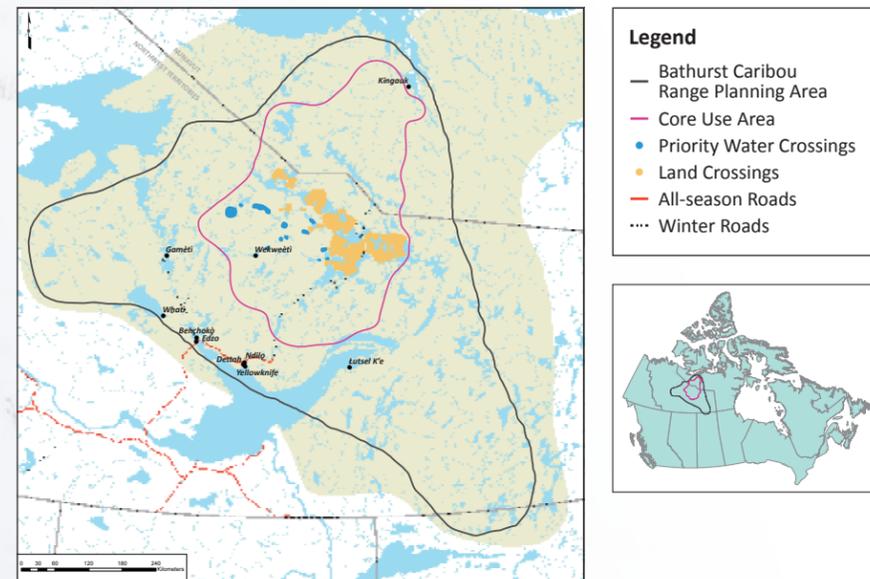
Water and land crossings

Water and land crossings allow caribou to travel from summer to fall and winter areas of the range. The Draft Range Plan maps out important crossings, and recommends protection be considered for these areas.

Calving and post-calving grounds

The areas where caribou choose to give birth are considered to be the most important part of the range, where caribou are at their most vulnerable to disturbance. The Draft Range Plan recommends protection be considered for Bathurst caribou calving grounds.

Bathurst Caribou Range



REDUCING IMPACTS TO CARIBOU

DISTURBANCE FRAMEWORK

One of the ways to make sure caribou have enough healthy habitat is by managing the total amount of human disturbance on the land.

The Draft Range Plan proposes a framework to reduce impacts to caribou that includes:

Road planning and management

Using best practices when planning and developing new roads.

Compensating for impacts (Offsetting)

Finding ways to improve habitat or compensate for impacts after all possible actions have been taken.

Wildfire management

Considering important caribou winter habitat when making decisions about how to respond to wildfire.

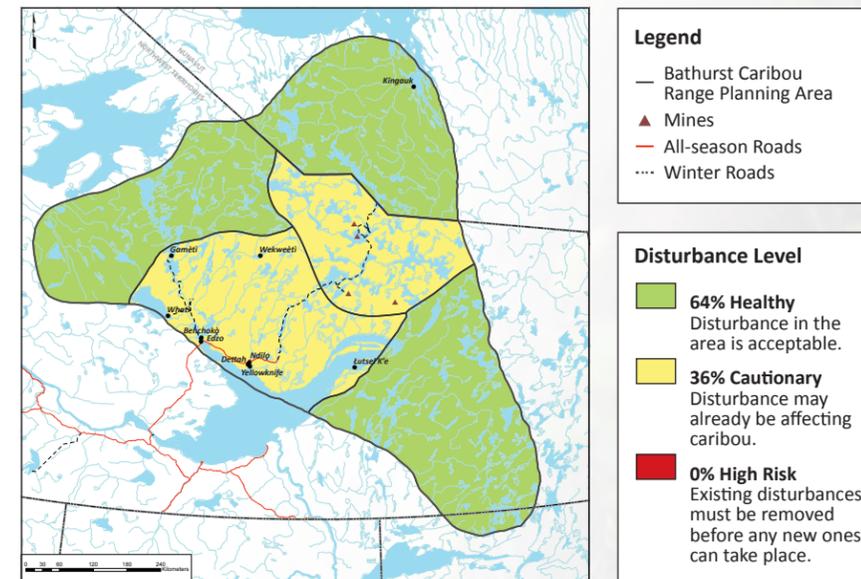
Online staking

Allowing people to stake mineral claims on computers, rather than using aircraft, to reduce disturbance to caribou.

In areas where there is more disturbance, the Draft Range Plan recommends stricter rules for new development.



Disturbance Levels



What do we mean when we talk about the “range” of a caribou herd?

The range describes the area where the caribou live throughout the year. For the Bathurst herd this extends from the forest to the tundra, across Nunavut and the eastern NWT, and down into northern Saskatchewan.