

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**CARIBOU
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NO. W-33-8

PROJECT NO. 3.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010

PROJECT LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT TITLE: Caribou S&I

The Status of Caribou and Factors Influencing Their Populations

Region II:

Region-wide Activities:

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare biennial caribou management reports.

The next biennial caribou management report is due to DWC HQ on 1 May 2011.

ACTIVITY 2: Conduct fall sex and age population composition surveys to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality of caribou.

	Bulls (%)	Cows (%)	Calves (%)	Calves/ 100 Cows	Bulls/ 100 Cows
<i>Northern Alaska Peninsula</i>				16/100	19/100
<i>Southern AK Peninsula</i>				43/100	21/100
<i>Mulchatna</i>	(12)	(67)	(21)	31/100	19/100
<i>Nushagak Peninsula</i>	(22)	(58)	(20)	35/100	37/100
<i>Nelchina</i>	(25)	(58)	(17)	29/100	42/100

Mulchatna Herd: No post-calving photo-census of the Mulchatna Herd was conducted during summer 2009 due to poor weather.

Kodiak Herd: Two surveys were conducted in August and September of 2009. We estimate the herd size to be between 250-300 caribou and the population stable.

ACTIVITY 3: Monitor the caribou harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

Mulchatna Herd: Preliminary results from caribou harvest cards indicate total of 304 Mulchatna caribou were reported harvested.

Nelchina Herd: Preliminary results from caribou harvest reports indicate 701 hunters took a total of 402 bulls and 3 cows.

Kenai Lowland and Mountain Herds: There was not an open hunting season for Kenai Lowlands caribou herd during the reporting period. Eighteen caribou (13 males and 5 females) were taken in the Kenai Mountain Herd during the reporting period.

Killey River and Fox River Herds: Six bulls were taken in the Killey River Herd during the reporting period. There was not an open hunting season for Fox River Herd during the reporting period.

Kodiak Herd: Hunters harvested 18 caribou (13 bulls, 5 cows), up from the 2008/09 harvest of 8 caribou, and below the 5-year average of 19.2 caribou.

Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd, Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd and Unimak Herd: No harvest of these herds was allowed during the reporting period because there was no harvestable surplus available.

Project Activities by Herd:

Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd:

Activity: Conduct an aerial post-calving photocensus to estimate population size in cooperation with the USFWS. Conduct periodic radio-tracking surveys to determine distribution, movement and areas of preferred use.

An attempt was made to conduct a post-calving photocensus, but caribou were widely distributed and were not aggregated sufficiently to obtain an estimate of population size. An age and sex composition survey was conducted on 22-23 October, 2009, estimated the bull ratio to include 19 bulls per 100 cows and 16 calves per hundred cows.

Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd:

Activity: Conduct an aerial post-calving census of the herd to estimate population size and a sex and age composition survey.

A post-calving photocensus was conducted on 6-19 July, 2009, which estimated the population size to include 800 caribou. An age and sex composition survey conducted on 24 October, 2009, estimated the bull ratio to include 21 bulls per 100 cows and 43 calves per hundred cows.

Unimak Herd:

Activity: Conduct an aerial post-calving census of the herd to estimate population size and a sex and age composition survey.

No attempt was made to conduct a post-calving photocensus during this fiscal year. An age and sex composition survey conducted on 25 October, 2009, estimated the bull ratio to include 5 bulls per 100 cows and 3 calves per hundred cows.

Kenai Lowland and Mountain Herd:

Activity: Conduct a post-calving aerial sex and age composition survey.

A composition count conducted on the Kenai Lowlands caribou herd in June 2010 tallied 102 total caribou with 23% calves. A composition count conducted on the Kenai Mountains herd in November, 2009 tallied 264 total caribou with an unknown percentage of calves.

Activity: Capture up to 15 caribou and replace expiring radio collars.

No calves were captured due to budgetary constraints.

Killey River and Fox River Herds:

Activity: In cooperation with the USFWS, conduct a post-calving aerial sex and age composition survey.

No surveys were conducted during the reporting period on the Fox River herd or the Killey River herd.

Nelchina Herd:

Activity: Conduct a post-calving census and sex and age composition survey.

No post-calving sex and age composition surveys were conducted during this reporting period due to weather constraints.

Preliminary census flights were conducted at the end of June 2010, although no census was conducted during this reporting period.

Activity: Monitor caribou seasonal distribution through relocation of radio-collared caribou.

Caribou locations were monitored via fixed-wing flights in December 2009, March 2010, and May 2010.

Activity: Capture up to 15 caribou and replace expiring radio collars.

In October 2009, 13 caribou calves (4-month old) were captured, 11 were fitted with radio collars.

Mulchatna Herd:

Activity: Monitor caribou distribution through relocation of radio-collared caribou.

Radio-tracking flights conducted throughout the year. Seasonal distribution determined.

Activity: Conduct an aerial post-calving photo-census to estimate population size.

No post-calving photo-census of the Mulchatna Herd was conducted during summer of 2009 due to poor weather conditions.

Activity: Capture up to 20 caribou and replace expiring radio collars.

A total of 49 radio-collars were deployed on Mulchatna caribou.

Nushagak Peninsula Herd:

Activity 1: In cooperation with the USFWS, conduct a census and radio-tracking surveys to determine distribution, movements, and areas of preferred use.

No late-winter census was conducted due to poor weather conditions, however a census conducted summer 2009 estimated a minimum population of 679 caribou. Radio-tracking flights conducted by state and federal staff throughout this fiscal year to note distribution and movements.

Region II: GMU 17

Region-wide Activities:

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare biennial caribou management reports.

The next biennial caribou management report is due to DWC HQ on 1 May 2011.

ACTIVITY 2: Conduct fall sex and age population composition surveys to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality of caribou.

	Bulls (%)	Cows (%)	Calves (%)	Calves/ 100 Cows	Bulls/ 100 Cows
<i>Nushagak Peninsula</i>	(22)	(58)	(20)	35/100	37/100
<i>Mulchatna</i>	(12)	(67)	(21)	31/100	19/100

Mulchatna Herd: No post-calving photo-census of the Mulchatna Herd was conducted during summer 2009 due to poor weather.

ACTIVITY 3: Monitor the caribou harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

Mulchatna Herd: Preliminary results from caribou harvest cards indicate total of 304 Mulchatna caribou were reported harvested.

Project Activities by Herd:

Mulchatna Herd

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor caribou distribution through relocation of radio-collared caribou.

Radio-tracking flights conducted throughout the year. Seasonal distribution determined.

ACTIVITY 2: Conduct an aerial post-calving photo-census to estimate population size.

No post-calving photo-census of the Mulchatna Herd was conducted during summer of 2009 due to poor weather conditions.

ACTIVITY 3: Capture up to 20 caribou and replace expiring radio collars.

A total of 49 radio-collars were deployed on Mulchatna caribou.

Nushagak Peninsula Herd:

ACTIVITY 1: In cooperation with the USFWS, conduct a census and radio-tracking surveys to determine distribution, movements, and areas of preferred use.

No late-winter census was conducted due to poor weather conditions, however a census conducted summer 2009 estimated a minimum population of 679 caribou. Radio-tracking flights conducted by state and federal staff throughout this fiscal year to note distribution and movements.

Submitted by: Mark Burch

Date: September 8, 2010

Region III:

Regionwide Activities:

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor harvest and analyze harvest data.

Monitored preliminary harvest of 2,158 caribou and analyzed harvest data.

ACTIVITY 2: Capture approximately 40 caribou to deploy radiocollars and maintain an adequate sample size of collared animals for surveys.

Deployed 56 radio collars in various herds to maintain adequate sample of radioed animals to conduct surveys, with 1 mortality due to collaring.

ACTIVITY 3: Provide caribou management information to State and Federal regulatory processes.

Provided information to 15 State fish and game advisory committees, State Board of Game and 3 Federal regional councils.

Activities by Unit [and/or herd]:

Units 12 and 20D (portions) Macomb Caribou Herd:

ACTIVITY 1: Estimate status, trends, and productivity from aerial surveys.

Conducted aerial surveys to determine herd distribution and productivity.

ACTIVITY 2: Conduct a photocensus of the herd to determine population size.

Conducted a photo census to determine herd size of 838.

ACTIVITY 3: Conduct a prehunt aerial distribution survey to assist with managing the hunt by EO.

Conducted a prehunt aerial distribution survey to determine most caribou were located in the Macomb Plateau Controlled Use Area.

Units 19A, 19B, 19C, 19D, 21A and 21E Beaver Mountains, Big River-Farewell, Rainy Pass, Sunshine Mountain and Tonzona Caribou Herds:

ACTIVITY 1: Estimate status, trends and distribution of the herds from aerial surveys.

Conducted surveys in conjunction with sheep surveys in June 2010 within the range of the Tonzona, Big River-Farewell, and Rainy Pass caribou herds and found 16 caribou within these areas.

Unit 20A Delta Herd:

ACTIVITY 1: Estimate productivity and bull:cow ratios from fall sex and age composition counts.

Conducted fall composition survey (52 bulls and 16 calves per 100 cows).

ACTIVITY 2: Conduct a photocensus of the herd to determine population size.

Conducted photocensus summer 2010 (results pending).

Chisana Caribou Herd:

ACTIVITY 1: Participate in Chisana management planning process.

Worked cooperatively with Yukon Department of Environment, Yukon First Nations, Tetlin Wildlife Refuge and US Park Service to develop a draft management plan for the Chisana Herd.

ACTIVITY 2: Estimate productivity and bull:cow ratios from fall sex and age composition counts.

Completed fall composition count in cooperation with NPS and Yukon Wildlife staff. Observed ratios of 15 calves:100 cows and 48 bulls:100 cows.

Units 20B, 20C, 20D, 20E, 25C (and adjacent Yukon, Canada) Fortymile Caribou Herd:

ACTIVITY 1: Estimate status, trends and recruitment from aerial surveys.

Conducted a fall sex and age composition survey (calf and bull/100 cow ratios were 34 and 59/100; 8% of the herd sampled).

ACTIVITY 2: Conduct a photocensus to determine herd size.

Completed photocensus on July 5th, 2009 (46,509 caribou counted) and again on June 25, 2010 (photos not yet counted).

ACTIVITY 3: Conduct aerial distribution surveys before and during the hunting seasons and conduct hunter check stations to assist with managing harvest.

Conducted aerial distribution surveys before and during the fall and winter hunts; and no hunter checkstations conducted.

ACTIVITY 4: Work with land agencies, landowners, and developers to mitigate developments detrimental to Fortymile caribou.

Worked with the BLM, through the habitat division, on proposed BLM/Doyon land conveyance and development of the BLM's new Eastern Interior Land Management Plan; and provided comments related to impacts on game populations and habitat in the area.

Units 20F, 21C, 21D, 24, and 25A Galena Mountain, Ray Mountains, and Wolf Mountain Caribou Herds:

ACTIVITY 1: Estimate status, trend and productivity of the herds from photocensus and aerial surveys.

In cooperation with BLM, conducted aerial surveys of Ray Mtn. Herd and counted 953 caribou on 09/29/09; in cooperation with BLM, conducted aerial surveys of Hodzana Hills Herd and counted 775 caribou on 09/28/09 and 246 on 03/31/10; in cooperation with USFWS, conducted aerial surveys of Galena Mtn. Herd and counted 30 caribou on 08/26/09, 46 on 03/10/10, 30 on 05/25/10, and 69 on 06/22/10; and in cooperation with USFWS, conducted aerial surveys of Wolf Mtn. Herd and counted 165 caribou on 3/13/10 and 368 on 06/22/10.

Units 20B, 20F and 25C White Mountains Caribou Herd:

Activity 1: Conduct fall sex and age composition survey.

Conducted a sex and age composition survey in October (15 calves:100 cows, 42 bulls:100 cows).

ACTIVITY 2: Conduct radiotelemetry flights to monitor herd demographics.

Conducted radiotelemetry flights in May, June, July, and October to monitor herd demographics.

Units 25A, 24B, 25D, and 26C (and adjacent Yukon, Canada) Porcupine Caribou Herd:

ACTIVITY 1: Estimate parturition rates and calf:cow ratios in June by radio-tracking collared females.

Preliminary estimated parturition rate of 85% for radiocollared cows ≥ 4 years of age ($n = 41$), 3 week calf survival of 87% for calves observed in early June, and late June calf:cow ratio for radiocollared cows ≥ 4 years of age of 65 calves:100 cows.

ACTIVITY 2: Conduct a photocensus to determine herd size.

From mid-June through end of June 2010, radiotracked movements and aggregations to determine photocensus feasibility; and conducted a photocensus during July 2–4, 2010 (results pending).

Units 26B and 26C Central Arctic Caribou Herd:

ACTIVITY 1: Conduct fall sex and age composition survey and determine distribution.

Conducted a photocensus in July 2008, with 66,772 caribou (including 11,037 calves) counted from photographs.

ACTIVITY 2: Estimate parturition rates and calf:cow ratios in June by radio-tracking collared females.

Preliminarily estimated parturition rate among radiocollared females of 93% for females ≥ 3 year olds ($n=42$); and late June calf:cow ratios among radiocollared females of 78% for females ≥ 3 years old ($n=42$).

ACTIVITY 3: Work with the oil industry and other agencies to minimize disturbance to caribou from resource development.

Worked with oil industry via phone and email to minimize disturbance to caribou.

Submitted by: Roy A. Nowlin, Management Coordinator

Region V:

Regionwide Activities:

ACTIVITY 1: Provide information to State and Federal regulatory processes on caribou management.

Area management staff reviewed State and Federal regulatory proposals, attended regulatory process meetings, and presented brown bear information to the State Board of Game, State Fish and Game Advisory Committees, Federal Subsistence Board, and Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils.

Activities by Herd or Unit:

Unit 18:

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor herd dynamics using radiocollars deployed on caribou in Unit 18 and other units as seasonal ranges of the Mulchatna and Western Arctic herds expand into Unit 18.

We conducted radiotelemetry flights in July 2009 to assist with the photocensus of the Mulchatna herd. We also flew radio tracking flights in October 2009 to support caribou composition surveys.

ACTIVITY 2: Monitor caribou movements north of the Yukon River.

Caribou from the Western Arctic herd occasionally use the portion of Unit 18 north of the Yukon River; however, none were observed or reported in this area during this reporting period.

ACTIVITY 3: Conduct fall aerial sex and age composition counts.

We assisted with fall sex and age composition count in October 2009 by radiotracking caribou for a R-44 helicopter from Dillingham used to classify Mulchatna herd caribou. The results from those flights are listed in the GMU 17 section.

ACTIVITY 4: Conduct spring aerial or ground based surveys of caribou in Unit 18 to assess recruitment and distribution.

We radiotracked pre-calving caribou in May 2010. Also we did not document any caribou with calves during flights in May of 2009 while looking for calving moose.

ACTIVITY 5: Participate in photocensuses of caribou herds that use Unit 18.

Poor weather prevented the Mulchatna caribou herd from being photographed in July 2009.

ACTIVITY 6: Participate in radiocollar deployments and sample collections from caribou from herds that use Unit 18. (These captures are associated with Mulchatna Herd and totals are reported in Region II AWP.).

Caribou were poorly distributed in Unit 18; therefore, department staff did not complete radiocollar deployments during the reporting period.

ACTIVITY 7: Monitor hunting and other mortality factors through harvest reporting, public contacts and field observations.

We supported the use of harvest reports/tickets through the license vendors and interviewed hunters when the opportunity presented itself.

ACTIVITY 8: Continue to improve communication with the public.

We discussed caribou issues with advisory committees, other agencies, and the public.

ACTIVITY 9: Develop updated population objectives in cooperation with the public and other agencies.

We participated in a technical meeting in Dillingham with other area and regional offices and agency biologists to address common needs related to the Mulchatna caribou herd, including population objectives.

Teshkepuk Herd (Unit 26A):

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor distribution and movements using satellite collar data, radiotelemetry data and aerial survey observations.

We looked at distribution maps generated by the Nome office throughout the year to monitor movements of satellite collared bulls and cows. Satellite collars and VHF radiotracking data revealed that most of the herd wintered in northwestern Unit 26A with a small proportion, particularly bulls, wintering in the central Brooks Range. Calving was distinctly different than previous years, with a large number of caribou calving well outside historical calving areas.

ACTIVITY 2: Monitor hunting and other mortality factors through harvest reporting, public contacts and field observations.

Field observations and public reports indicated that the mortality rate in the herd during the past year was normal with no significant die-offs reported. The mortality rate of collared females was 15.4% (n=65), slightly higher than the long term average of 14%. This mortality rate includes a higher number of yearlings than usual, and may be slightly inflated as a result.

ACTIVITY 3: Collect harvest information through the North Slope Borough and the ADF&G Subsistence Division.

Results from recent harvest surveys are not available at this time. Utilizing per-capita harvest estimates from previous years, current human population estimates, and revised estimates of harvest-by-herd for some villages, we estimate that harvest from the TCH was approximately 5546 caribou.

ACTIVITY 4: Develop updated population objectives in cooperation with the public and other agencies.

We were unable to specifically discuss population objectives in any public forum.

ACTIVITY 5: Attend meetings with management agencies, oil companies, and caribou users with the intent of minimizing conflicts between the herd and major development projects.

We attended 3 meetings related to the TCH and development concerns. We continue to work cooperatively with BLM, oil companies, and consultants to address management and mitigation concerns.

ACTIVITY 6: Capture or recapture up to 45 adult caribou to attach satellite, GPS, and conventional radiocollars. Pathfinder continuous track and photographic technology may be added to some of the GPS collars.

Using an R-44 helicopter and hand-held net gun, we captured 26 TCH cows and 4 bulls. We attached 10 VHF collars, 4 PTT collars and 14 GPS collars. We replaced 10 collars (VHF and GPS) that were nearing their end of their battery life. We used blindfolds and hobbling equipment to restrain caribou. No drugs were used. There were 2 capture mortalities. The current number of radiocollared caribou is 71, including 13 PTT, 29 GPS, and 29 VHF transmitters.

ACTIVITY 7: Weigh, measure and collect blood, fecal and hair samples from all captured adult caribou to gain information about the prevalence of diseases, parasites, contaminants and condition of the animals.

We collected blood, fecal, hair, and morphometric samples from the 30 caribou that were captured (Activity 6). The blood, fecal and hair samples are being analyzed as part of cooperative projects with the North Slope Borough and University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

ACTIVITY 8: Capture and euthanize up to 10 adult caribou for thorough health assessment, including disease and parasite prevalence, body condition, and contaminant and trace mineral levels.

This activity was not pursued during this period due to extensive sampling (n=20) that occurred in 2008-2009.

ACTIVITY 9: Capture up to 50 calf caribou that will be weighed and measured.

We did not capture neonates during this reporting period.

ACTIVITY 10: Determine fall composition (bulls, cows, calves) using helicopter surveys during October.

Fall composition surveys were flown on 19 and 20 October 2009. A total of 6576 caribou were classified in the vicinity of radiocollared caribou and we found 716 calves (11 % or 18 calves:100 cows), and 1848 bulls (28% or 46 bulls:100 cows).

ACTIVITY 11: Conduct aerial surveys during April and May to assess short yearling recruitment.

Short yearling surveys were flown on 7-9 April 2010. We located 45 radiocollared cows. A total of 3693 caribou were classified in the vicinity of radiocollared caribou and we found 555 short yearlings (13.1 % or 15 short yearlings:100 adults). This is slightly lower than the 10-year average of 17 short yearlings:100 adults.

ACTIVITY 12: Use telemetry and ground observations to carefully monitor summer movements of Teshekpuk Herd caribou.

We monitored the distribution of TCH caribou on and near their insect relief areas using a combination of satellite telemetry and radio tracking flights. Most TCH animals were south and west of Teshekpuk Lake from mid-June until late June, then used the coast between Barrow and Harrison Bay extensively during July, and were widely distributed between Wainwright and the Colville River by mid-August.

ACTIVITY 13: Conduct calving location and productivity aerial surveys in June.

Calving surveys were conducted on 6-12 June 2010. We located 47 adult cows. The parturition rate was 74%, 25 cows were seen with calves (53 %). Of the cows that did not have calves, 10 had no antlers and no udder and 2 had soft antlers. Calving was concentrated well to the west of areas typically used in the past 20 years, with the highest concentration of calves near the lower Ikipikuk River.

ACTIVITY 14: Use satellite collar information and conduct VHF radiocollar telemetry surveys to determine the relative abundance of North Slope caribou herds in hunting areas during the time of the year when people do most of their hunting.

Satellite collar information was examined to determine the relative numbers of caribou from the TCH, Central Arctic herd (CAH) and the Western Arctic herd (WAH) in hunting areas when people are hunting. Analyses comparing relative caribou density to spatially explicit harvest locations were performed to estimate the proportional harvest from different caribou herds. These analyses indicate that the majority of caribou taken in Atqasuk, Barrow and Nuiqsut are likely from the TCH (98%, 97% and 86%, respectively).

ACTIVITY 15: Involve students in the capture operations, work with students to track satellite collared caribou movements and lecture to school classes about caribou biology.

Several lectures were delivered to students from North Slope schools on population dynamics, genetics, and morphology of caribou.

Western Arctic Herd (Units 22, 23 and 26A):

ACTIVITY 1: Conduct a photocensus to estimate population size of the herd.

The results of the July 2009 photocensus were finalized during this reporting period. The herd size is 401,000. We will next attempt to census the WAH in July 2011.

ACTIVITY 1: Conduct periodic radiotracking flights to monitor herd distribution.

The WAH was radiotracked throughout the reporting period by staff located in Barrow, Nome, Kotzebue and Fairbanks.

ACTIVITY 2: Deploy approximately 30 radiocollars to maintain a year-end sample size of at least 100 operational radiocollars on living caribou.

49 radio collars (39 GPS and 10 satellite) were deployed in the WAH during September 2009; 9 collars were deployed on bulls and 40 on cows. There was 1 possible capture mortality following collar deployment.

ACTIVITY 3: Conduct aerial surveys during April and May to assess short yearling recruitment.

We classified 11,369 caribou (9,890 adults and 1,479 calves) during spring 2010 and observed 15 calves:100 adults. The lowest ratio previously recorded was 12 calves:100 adults in 2002.

ACTIVITY 4: Conduct aerial surveys during June to monitor initial calf production and the distribution of calving areas.

We visually located 80 radiocollared female caribou and observed a ratio of 73 neonates:100 cows in June 2010.

ACTIVITY 5: Conduct aerial surveys during October to assess herd composition and retrieve radiocollars.

We did not conduct fall composition surveys during 2009 because of conflict with regional Board of Game meeting. The next fall composition survey is planned for October 2010.

ACTIVITY 6: Collect blood samples from approximately 100 captured caribou to monitor the incidence of selected diseases and pathogens.

We collected a blood sample from 84 caribou during September 2009. Haptoglobin results are not available at this time. Four of 83 caribou (5%) tested positive for exposure to *Brucella suis*.

ACTIVITY 7: Monitor hunting and other mortality factors through harvest reporting, collection of biological specimens and public contacts.

No biological specimens were collected from hunters during the reporting period. Harvest levels based on community-based assessments were comparable to previous years. As in the past, most visiting hunters hunted in Unit 23 during the 2009-2010 regulatory year.

ACTIVITY 8: Use public education programs and/or increased communication with the public to improve understanding of hunting regulations and the value of conserving caribou populations, and to obtain better harvest data through increased harvest reporting.

We spoke to hunters about hunting regulations and harvest reporting requirements.

ACTIVITY 9: Make a presentation at the annual Reindeer Herders Association meeting and work with the reindeer herders to minimize caribou/reindeer conflicts that may be detrimental to caribou.

We presented maps showing movements and distribution of caribou to the Reindeer Herders Association during their annual meeting in March 2010.

ACTIVITY 10: Involve students in the Onion Portage collaring project to improve public relations and support wildlife education.

Students from Buckland and Deering High Schools participated in the Onion Portage collaring project during September 2009.

ACTIVITY 11: Analyze harvest data collected from selected communities within the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

Community harvest data indicates the harvest of WAH caribou by people residing within the range of this herd has been ~14,000-15,000 caribou annually. It appears that overall 'local' harvest levels have been relatively stable from the late 1990s through this reporting period.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES DURING REPORTING PERIOD:

ACTIVITY 12: Collect fall total body weight for calves.

We weighed 36 calves (20 males and 16 females) during the Onion Portage collaring project in 2009. Mean weight for all calves was 92 lbs (90 lbs for females and 93 lbs for males). Mean weight for calves with cows in below average, average and above average body condition was 94 lbs, 90 lbs and 93 lbs, respectively.

ACTIVITY 13: Conduct a comprehensive health assessment on 10-20 WAH caribou every 1-2 years.

A health assessment for the WAH was not conducted during 2009 because we had done so during September 2007. The next health assessment is scheduled for September 2010.

Submitted by: Peter Bente, Survey and Inventory Coordinator, Region V