Caribou Distribution and Migration in Relation to the Road to Umiat

Lincoln Parrett
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
### WAH-Summer

- **June 15-Aug.**
- 188 satellite-collared caribou
- 356 caribou-years
- 2,308 locations
WAH - Spring

April 1-June 5
178 satellite-collared caribou
375 caribou-years
5,240 locations
WAH- Fall

Aug. 2-Dec.
183 satellite-collared caribou
344 caribou-years
10,213 locations
CAH fall & winter
Teshekpuk Herd Fall Migration 1990-2010
What happens when a caribou encounters a road?

Many case studies, few quantitative assessments.

-WAH and the Red Dog Road  
  -anecdotally, appears that caribou cross the road with minor deflections; not quantified

-TCH and the Dalton Highway  
  -The first time satellite collared caribou encountered the road there were some striking observations  
  -Some caribou appeared to take > 1 week to cross the road  
  -Caribou had difficulty on both fall and spring migration

-PCH and the Dempster Highway  
  - Heavily used for hunting in Canada; not much information on how caribou deal with the road there

-CAH and Kuparuk-Deadhorse Infrastructure  
  -caribou avoid infrastructure during calving  
  -caribou can usually cross road/pipeline combinations  
  -how GPS collared caribou interact with infrastructure is a very active area of research

-We hope to be able to use a combination of all of these data to come up with more quantitative answers to this question in the future