

A COMPARISON OF THE REACTION TO AIRCRAFT OF CARIBOU FROM TWO HERDS IN ALASKA

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Aircraft overflights cause Western Arctic Herd caribou to run longer and more frequently than Delta Herd caribou. The most likely hypothesis explaining this difference in reaction is that caribou may not differentiate between snowmobiles and low - flying aircraft and, if they perceive a threat from either, they are likely to react similarly to both. Further, caribou may become habituated to aircraft if they are not harassed by other motor vehicles. Recent changes in hunting regulations may enable us to test this hypothesis in future years.



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ABSTRACTS