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EFFECTS OF A ROAD SYSTEM ON CARIBOU DISTRIBUTION DURING CALVING. J. P. Dau and R. D. Cameron, Alaska Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701 and Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

In winter 1981-82, a 29-km road system was constructed in a high-density caribou calving area on the arctic coastal plain near Milne Point, Alaska. Caribou distribution before and after road construction was determined using strip-transect surveys conducted by helicopter in June 1980-84. The 41,440-ha study area was divided into 40 quadrats (3.2 km x 3.2 km), and the distribution of caribou among quadrats was described for each year. Before construction (1980-81), 3 of the 7 central quadrats encompassing the present road system were occupied preferentially, but only 1 was preferred after construction (1982-84). Overall, 18% of all caribou and 17% of all calves were observed within the 7 quadrats in 1980-81, compared with 5% and 6%, respectively, in 1982-84. Caribou are apparently avoiding the road system, despite low levels of vehicular traffic and human activity.

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS AND POSTERS

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