

2ND INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC UNGULATE CONFERENCE

The 2nd International Arctic Ungulate Conference was held 13-17 August 1995 on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus. The Institute of Arctic Biology and the Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit were responsible for organizing the conference with assistance from biologists with state and federal agencies and commercial organizations. David R. Klein was chair of the conference organizing committee. Over 200 people attended the conference, coming from 10 different countries. The United States, Canada, and Norway had the largest representation. The conference included invited lectures; panel discussions, and about 125 contributed papers. There were five technical sessions on Physiology and Body Condition; Habitat Relationships; Population Dynamics and Management; Behavior, Genetics and Evolution; and Reindeer and Muskox Husbandry. Three panel sessions discussed Comparative caribou management strategies; Management of introduced, reestablished, and expanding muskox populations; and Health risks in translocation of arctic ungulates. Invited lectures focused on the physiology and population dynamics of arctic ungulates; contaminants in food chains of arctic ungulates and lessons learned from the Chernobyl accident; and ecosystem level relationships of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

The Arctic Ungulate Conference incorporates the former International Reindeer/Caribou Symposium and the International Muskox Symposium. In 1972, the First International Reindeer/Caribou Symposium was held at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), organized by the Institute of Arctic Biology and the Alaska Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit. The Symposium was attended by biologists, managers, and administrators from the Circumpolar North who were involved in research and management of caribou and reindeer. Proceedings of the Symposium were published as a special issue of the Biological Papers of the University of Alaska. Following this successful symposium, subsequent Reindeer/Caribou Symposia were hosted in Norway (1979), Finland (1982), Canada (1985), and Sweden (1988). In 1983, the Institute of Arctic Biology and Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit organized the First International Muskox Symposium at UAF. A Second Muskox Symposium was organized in 1987 at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada. In 1991, the 1st International Arctic Ungulate Conference, incorporating the International Reindeer/Caribou Symposium and the International Muskox Symposium, was held in Nuuk, Greenland, organized by the Ministry for the Environment of Greenland and the Danish Polar Center. Thus, the 2nd International Arctic Ungulate Conference brought this scientific meeting back to Fairbanks 23 years after its initiation at UAF in 1972.