

Acknowledgements

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The organizing committee included:

Kent Brown, Debbie Cichowski, Janet Edmonds, Lois Gray, Doug Heard, Chris Ritchie, Dale Seip, Susan Stevenson, Don Thomas, Glen Watts, and Mari Wood.

Preface

The Sixth North American Caribou workshop was attended by over 200 people from across North America, as well as four special guests from Russia. The first day of the workshop featured a session on the population ecology of North American caribou. Caribou in North America naturally occur at densities ranging from several animals/km², to less than one caribou/100 km². The presentations on population ecology addressed the reasons for these major, naturally occurring differences. The second day of the workshop concentrated on caribou and forest management. Logging and forest products are the primary industries in the Prince George area and the impacts of forestry practices on caribou are an important resource management issue in the area. Consequently, many local habitat biologists and forest industry representatives were especially interested in the presentations on different approaches to integrating forestry and caribou habitat protection across Canada. The third day included a general session with presentations on caribou genetics, physiology, diseases, population parameters, foraging behavior, and management. In addition to the presentations, there were also many excellent poster presentations and some of the papers in these proceedings were presented as posters. On the final day of the workshop, about 50 participants went on a field trip which involved being shuttled by helicopter onto the mountain-tops east of Prince George to see mountain caribou. Participants who were accustomed to seeing caribou living in arctic tundra or boreal forests were very surprised to see and hear about caribou living in large cedar forests and on mountain-tops where snow depths exceeded several meters, and the only available forage was the lichens growing on trees.

We believe that the workshop was a major success with many excellent presentations and posters, as well as opportunities for the participants to meet and discuss caribou research, ecology, and management with their counterparts from across North America. These proceedings include a wide range of excellent papers that provide a permanent record of the workshop. The editors thank the authors and reviewers for their efforts to produce and review these papers.