



BELA - Northern Seward Peninsula Caribou Project Update

The National Park Service and Alaska Department of Fish & Game caribou project in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve & northern Seward Peninsula is now in its second year of the study.

Prior to the project, minimal information beyond historical oral hunter interviews has been gathered on the seasonal movement patterns of remnant WAH caribou that are thought to use the historical winter range year round in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve (BELA). The Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council requested Federal and state entities study WAH remnant caribou on the northern Seward Peninsula and in BELA.

Year 2

- **Traditional Ecological Knowledge**

Understand where and how caribou are utilizing Bering Land Bridge habitat seasonally.

- Transcription of 2025 traditional knowledge interviews complete
- Shishmaref, Deering, and Brevig will be visited in 2026 for community review and feedback

- **2026 Calving Survey**

- Completed between May 15 and May 27, 2026 by NPS and ADF&G. All 25 collared cows were observed as either maternal or non-maternal
- 2026 estimated calving rate is between 84% and 88%
- Plans are underway for another survey in spring 2027

- **2026 Minimum Count Survey**

- Completed on June 23, 2026 with fixed-wing aircraft C206 (BLM) and PA-12 Super Cub (ADF&G)
- All 25 collared cows were alive
- Estimated minimum count of caribou 7500-8000 in a localized area of the northern Seward Peninsula
- Plans to develop another survey for 2027

Contact For More Information

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