



Natural Resource Report-Fall 2024

Caribou Traditional Ecological Knowledge Project: Where Caribou Reside in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

Nicole Braem NPS BELA Cultural Anthropologist

Project Objectives

This project seeks to deepen our understanding of caribou present on the Seward Peninsula through collection of precise geospatial information and local and traditional knowledge. The objectives of this project are to 1) understand and document existing local knowledge of remnant WAH caribou on the peninsula,

Methods

Local knowledge gathered from hunters in Shishmaref, Brevig Mission, and Deering. A review of historical information taken from past Seward Peninsula RAC and Tribal Consultation meetings on late winter caribou locations will also be a priority.

Research will be guided by principles considered standard in working with human subjects and specifically with indigenous peoples of the North, as set forth in the

Alaska Federation of Natives Guidelines for Research, the National Science Foundation, Office of Polar Programs in its Principles for the Conduct of Research in the Arctic, the Ethical Principles for the Conduct of Research in the North (Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies 2003), and regional protocols. Mapping traditional knowledge activities will follow methods and considerations described in Living Proof, The Essential Data-Collection Guide for Indigenous Use-and-Occupancy Map Surveys (Ecotrust Canada 2009).

These principles stress community involvement in multiple aspects of research to the degree they desire such as but not limited to: design, implementation, interpretation and distribution of results, data archiving, co-authorship, community review, the provision of study findings and work products to communities upon completion of the project. Individual participation in the case of data collection will be predicated on informed consent, anonymity or confidentiality of study participant as they desire, voluntary participation, fair compensation for time and knowledge shared.