



## Northern Seward Peninsula Caribou Study

The National Park Service and Alaska Department of Fish & Game began year 1 of a 3-year caribou study in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and the northern Seward Peninsula.

Minimal information is known about seasonal habitat use and movement patterns of caribou in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve (BELA). The Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council (SPRAC) requested that Federal and state entities study WAH remnant caribou on the northern Seward Peninsula and in BELA.

### Objectives of the study:

- Component 1
  - Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Understand where and how caribou are utilizing Bering Land Bridge habitat seasonally.
    - A separate handout is available for this component.
- Component 2
  - Understand where and how caribou are utilizing BELA habitat seasonally.
  - Begin to learn about movement of caribou in BELA and the northern Seward Peninsula.
  - Develop a minimum count of the number of caribou present on the northern Seward Peninsula during the summer months.

### Details of the capture:

- Consultation with the tribal governments of Shishmaref, Deering, and Brevig Mission were completed.
- Capture work occurred April 4-5, 2025 on the northern Seward Peninsula.
- Capture occurred away from permitted reindeer grazing areas.
- 25 adult cow caribou were captured by netgun aerial methods and fitted with a GPS collar.
  - Captures were done by ADF&G Western Arctic Caribou biologist Alex Hansen and a NPS biologist.
- Approximate ages of cows ranged between 4 and 10 years.
- As of August 6, 2025, all 25 cows are alive.

### Contact

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April 2025 Cow caribou with new GPS collar.  
Photo by NPS Matt Cameron



June 8 2025 GPS collared cow with cows and calves  
Photo by NPS Letty Hughes