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Abstract

Winter distribution and abundance of mountain caribou in relation to habitat management zones in the Robson Valley: Project report

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The purpose of this project was to determine the winter distribution and abundance of mountain caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in the Robson Valley Forest District in relation to management zones established to protect their habitat. A caribou census was undertaken by aerial surveys in March of 2000, 2001, and 2002. In each of the three years, 24 caribou were counted; however, the number of caribou using different parts of the District varied among years. The Robson Valley was not a core area for mountain caribou, but appeared to provide peripheral habitat that was used in some winters by caribou from herds that were more abundant outside the District boundary. This project report provides recommendations to refine the boundaries of some caribou habitat management zones and highlights the need to delineate a new zone in the Camp Creek area.

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