

Washington State Species and Communities of Special Concern

information for family forest owners

As a good land steward, it is important to be aware of plant and animal species of special concern that may occur on your lands, and how forest management activities may affect these species. The Washington State Implementation Committee (WA SIC) for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is pleased to provide a series of factsheets on species of special concern that may occur on forested lands within Washington State. Each species factsheet includes a description of the species, habitat, range, and information on known threats to populations in Washington.



Photo of Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*)
www.fws.gov

Species: Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*)

Group: Mammal

Natural Heritage Rank: G5, S1

Legal Status: Federally Endangered, State Endangered

General Description

This is a population of caribou that lives in forests instead of tundra. Adults are up to 6 feet in length and weigh 200-300 pounds. Males are larger than females and both have antlers. These caribou are dark brown with a small white rump patch and a pale grayish neck. Mating occurs in the fall and calves are born in the spring. Adults and weaned young eat shrubs, herbs, and grasses in summer, and lichen in winter.

Habitat

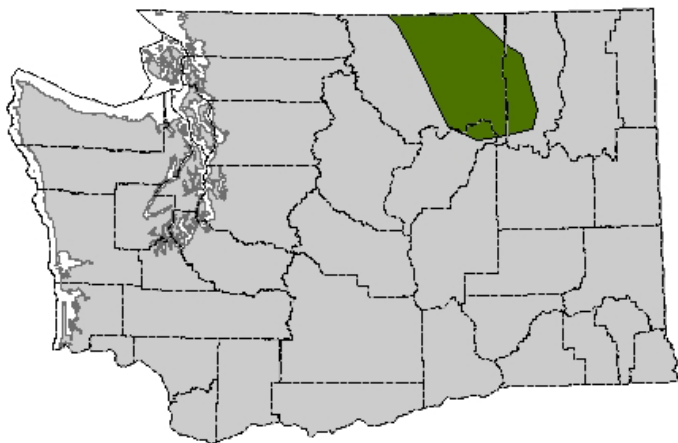
Woodland caribou live in dense forests in northeastern Washington. Forests that are sufficiently old enough to have abundant lichen growth are important for winter survival.

Range in Washington

This species occurs in northeastern Washington.

Threats

The primary threat to this population is loss of habitat, especially forests with abundant lichen. Other threats include predation and problems associated with small population size.



Map source is NatureServe with following reference:
Data provided by NatureServe in collaboration with Bruce Patterson, Wes Sechrest, Marcelo Tognelli, Gerardo Ceballos, The Nature Conservancy—Migratory Bird Program, Conservation International—CABS, World Wildlife Fund—US, and Environment Canada—WILDSPACE.
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The information provided in this sheet has been compiled by the Washington SFI Implementation Committee. This species is one example of many that depend on family forest owners in Washington State for protection. To view other accounts, visit www.wdfw.wa.org or www.dnr.wa.gov/nhp, or www.natureserve.org.

