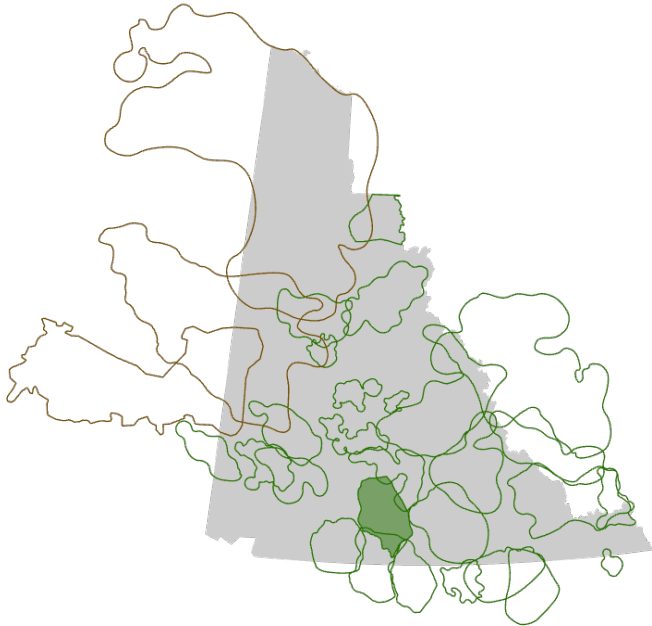




# Laberge Herd 2019 Southern Lakes Caribou Population Survey



Caribou herds of Yukon (Laberge Highlighted)

A mark-resight survey of three Southern Lakes caribou herds (including Laberge) was conducted in the fall of 2019 to estimate the total population size of these herds and determine their composition. This method uses GPS-collared caribou as ‘marks’ in the population and uses the proportion of collared animals sighted and not sighted during the survey to calculate an estimate of the total population size. Each herd range was surveyed three times to improve the accuracy of the results. GPS collars were deployed during the winter of 2018/19, followed by survey flights in the fall of 2019. Composition surveys were also conducted following the population estimate (2020, 2021 and 2023) to further inform herd trend (See Yukon.ca).

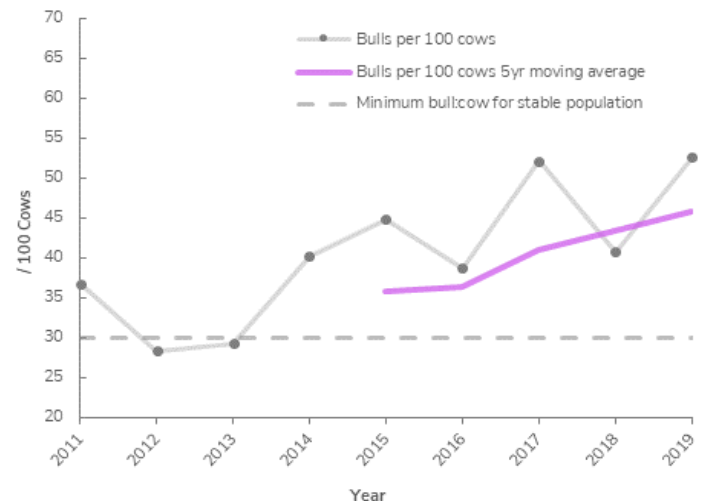
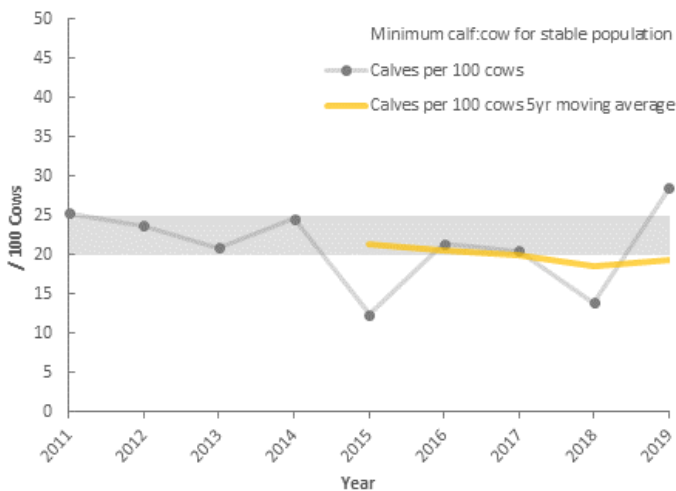
## Summary of Results – 2019

**Dates:** October 3-20, 2019      **Hours Flown:** 29

**Population Estimate:** 746 (95% CI: 594-938)

**Calf:Cow ratio:** 28:100      **Bull:Cow ratio:** 53:100

**Population Trend:** *Stable*. The Laberge herd was previously estimated at 100-300 animals in 2003. Although changes in survey methodology and herd range delineation between population estimates means these estimates are not directly comparable, the 2019 results suggest that this herd has remained stable.





**Maps:** Flight paths during October 2019 mark-resight surveys for the Laberge herd.

### Mark-Resight Summary

	Resight Survey		
	1	2	3
Survey Time (hrs)	9	10	10
Distance Flown (km)	1283	1444	1332
Caribou Observed	289	433	547
No. of Collars Observed	10	7	13
Resight Rate	56%	39%	72%

### Composition Summary

Total Counted	547
Number of Groups	52
Cows	302
Calves	86
Immature Bulls	68
Mature Bulls	91
Unclassified	0
Calves / 100 Cows	28
Bulls / 100 Cows	53

### Management

The Southern Lakes Caribou Recovery Program began in 1993 and was a cooperative effort to recover the Carcross, Ibex, and Atlin caribou herds from historic declines. Although the Laberge herd was not included in the original Recovery Program, GPS collars have highlighted their overlap and interaction with caribou in the Laberge range. This led to herd ranges for Laberge and Carcross caribou being refined to incorporate the new information. The Southern Lakes Caribou Steering Committee is currently developing a Relationship Plan for Southern Lakes caribou (draft released for public review in June 2024). For more information about the Laberge herd, visit [yukon.ca/en/woodland-caribou](http://yukon.ca/en/woodland-caribou) or [southernlakescaribou.com](http://southernlakescaribou.com).

Laberge herd range
  Survey blocks
  Flight Lines

