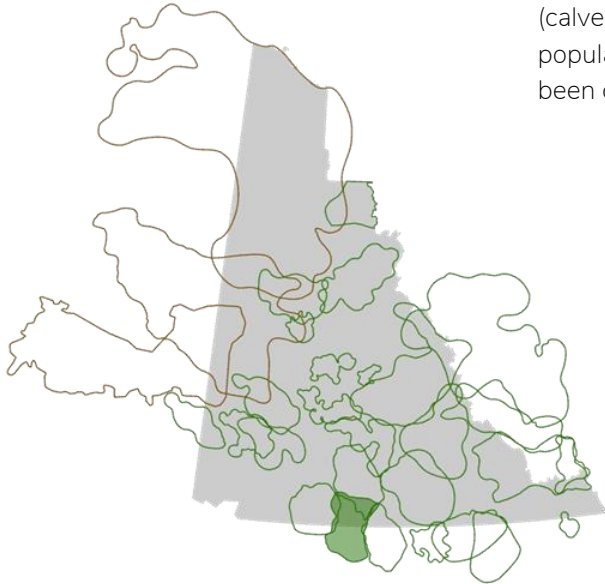




Carcross Caribou 2023 Fall Composition Survey

Fall composition surveys are one of the primary monitoring tools for caribou management in the Yukon. From these surveys we get an index of fall recruitment (calves per 100 cows) and sex ratios (bulls per 100 cows), which are indicators of population trend when monitored over time. Except for 2022, these surveys have been conducted for the Carcross herd annually since 1992.



Caribou herds of Yukon (Carcross Highlighted)

Summary of 2023 Results

Date: 13–14 October 2023

Hours Flown: 5.2

No. of Caribou Observed: 164

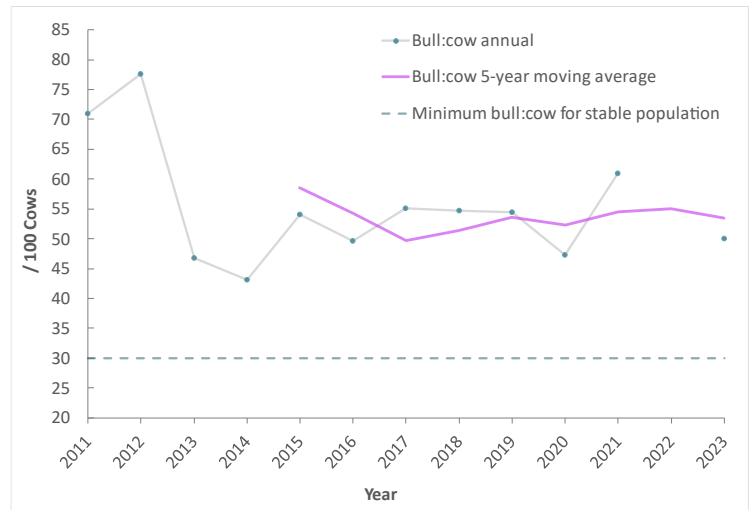
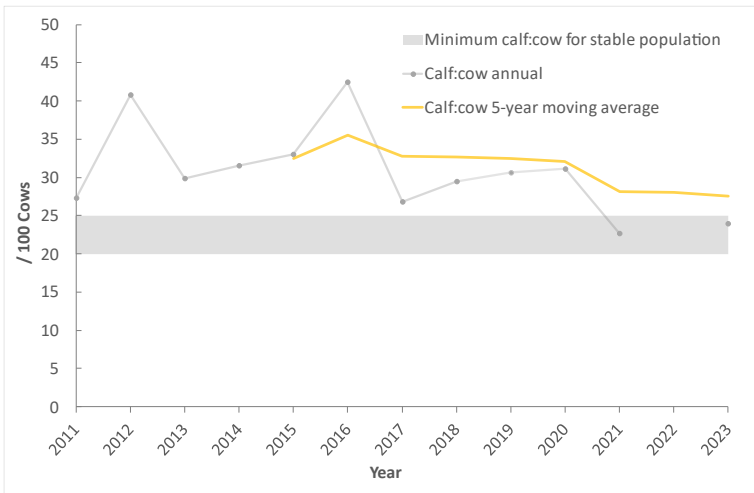
Calf:Cow ratio: 24:100

Bull:Cow ratio: 54:100

Population Trend: Stable (2019)

In 2019, composition survey results, anecdotal observations, and the 2019 population survey indicated that the herd was stable. In 2023, we classified 164 caribou in 18 groups, which is lower than typical for these surveys, therefore we have lower confidence in the sex and recruitment estimates derived from these observations.

Note: 164 caribou observed is a minimum count of the herd, not an estimate of the total population. The low number of observations is indicative of poor survey conditions and timing, rather than a population decline.



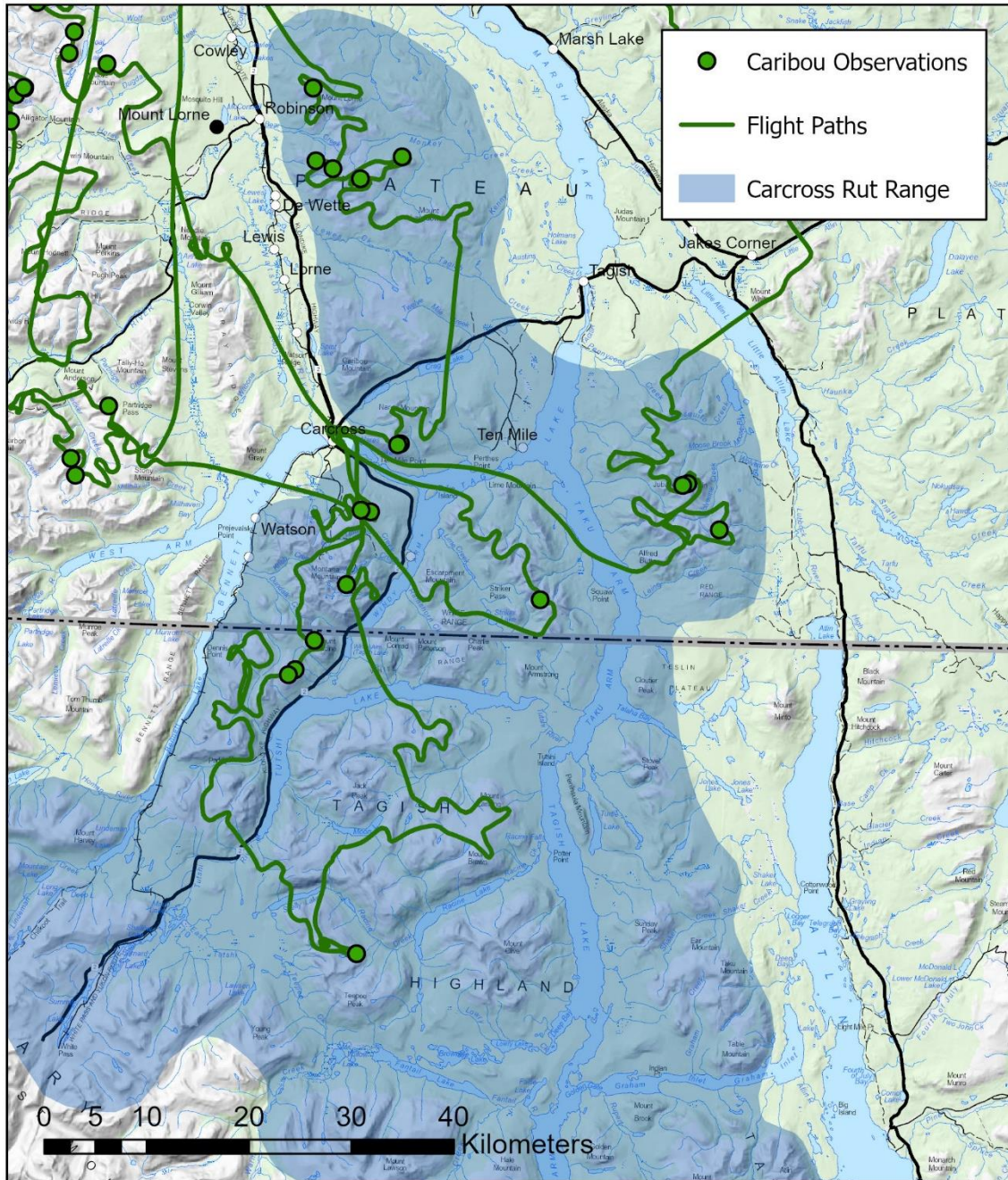
Management

The Southern Lakes Caribou Recovery Program began in 1993 as a cooperative effort to recover the Carcross, Ibex, Laberge and Atlin caribou herds from historic declines. The Southern Lakes Caribou Steering Committee is currently developing a Relationship Plan for Southern Lakes Caribou (expected completion in 2024). For more information about the Carcross herd, visit yukon.ca/en/woodland-caribou or www.southernlakescaribou.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Map 1. Flight paths and caribou observations from the 2023 South Carcross composition survey in Yukon and British Columbia.

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