

Klaza caribou herd population survey results

October 15–20, 2024

CALF : COW RATIO

Stable = 20-25 calves per 100 cows



2012	14	:	100
2013	21	:	100
2014	15	:	100
2015	22	:	100
2016	19	:	100
2023	25	:	100
2024	31	:	100

*5 yr average 2012-2016 = 18 : 100

*2 yr average 2023-2024 = 28 : 100

BULL : COW RATIO

Stable = 30 bulls per 100 cows



2012	27	:	100
2013	32	:	100
2014	24	:	100
2015	19	:	100
2016	33	:	100
2023	45	:	100
2024	38	:	100

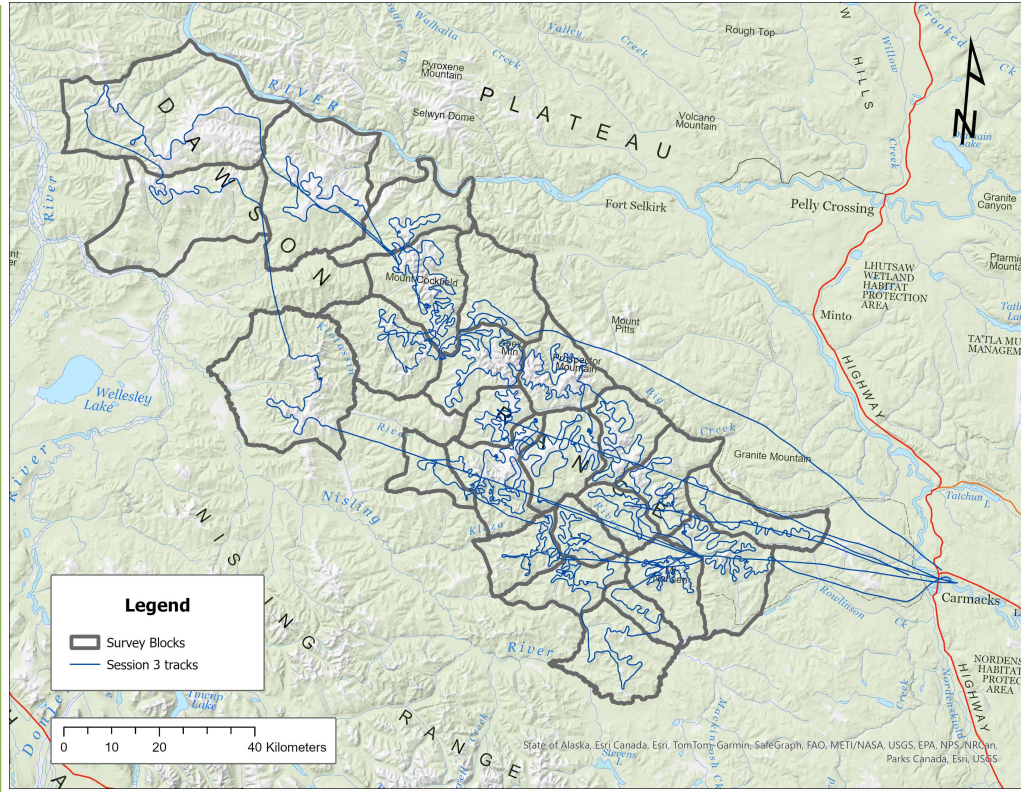
5 yr average 2012-2016 = 27:100

*2 yr average 2023-2024 = 41:100

2024 POPULATION ESTIMATE

913 

(95% Confidence Intervals 729–1,146)



Survey area from session 3 of the 2024 Klaza caribou population survey (Oct 2024).

The Klaza caribou herd is part of the Northern Mountain population of woodland caribou, listed as Special Concern under the federal Species at Risk Act. The herd's range west of Carmacks, Yukon overlaps with ongoing and increasing mineral exploration and development, posing risks to habitat quality, movement, and population stability.

In 2022, the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) issued decision documents for the Coffee Gold Mine and Charlotte Property projects that recommended enhanced monitoring to assess caribou population status, distribution, and cumulative impacts.

In response, the Government of Yukon deployed 36 GPS collars on female caribou during winter 2023/24 and conducted a mark–resight population survey in October 2024. The 2024 population estimate was **913 animals (95% CI: 729–1,146)**, lower than the 2012 estimate of 1,179 (95% CI: 952–1,461). The Government of Yukon is working with overlapping First Nations to better understand this decline. Composition surveys have been conducted intermittently since 1987, and a five-year program of annual composition surveys (2023–2027) is now underway.

Recent results indicate calf recruitment is generally near the recommended threshold of 20–25 calves per 100 cows, and bull-to-cow ratios typically meet or exceed the management target of 30 bulls per 100 cows. Together, preliminary composition data (2023–2024) and the 2024 population estimate suggest the herd may currently be stable, though additional data are needed to confirm this trend.

For more information, please contact:

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Yukon

