

NRESi



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NRESi COLLOQUIUM

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Wildlife and Ecosystem Bioindicators Lab

UNBC



**Wednesday,
Feb 26, 2025
noon - 1:00 pm**

**Callahan Room
Mackenzie Rec-
reation Centre
and Online**

<http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/colloquium-webcasts>

The Effects of Supplemental Feeding on Physiology and Reproduction in an Endangered Caribou Herd

Most woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) populations in British Columbia are declining throughout their range. In north-eastern BC, the Kennedy Siding herd declined from 120 individuals in 2007 to 41 individuals in 2012. A supplemental feeding program was initiated in 2014 where high-quality food pellets are provided to free-ranging caribou within the herd each fall, with the goal of improving body condition to increase winter survival and improve reproductive outcomes. Feeding appears to have positive effect on caribou, with the herd growing by approximately 16% per year. However, the mechanisms by which improved nutrition is contributing to population growth is currently unclear. Our results suggest supplemental feeding contributes to population growth by allowing caribou to gain the body reserves needed to reproduce. Our work contributes to understanding the role health and nutrition plays in caribou conservation and provides guidance on the use of supplemental feeding in support of caribou recovery.

Registration to attend via Zoom is required for this special FWCP/NRESi colloquium.

We encourage pre-registration. Please use this link to register:

https://unbc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_swW2uzioQj6KtEmfmJg52A#/registration

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