

Status of Woodland Caribou in Washington



Steve Forrest, Wikimedia Commons



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Periodic Status Review Process and Timeline

Listing Process Guided by WAC 220-610-110

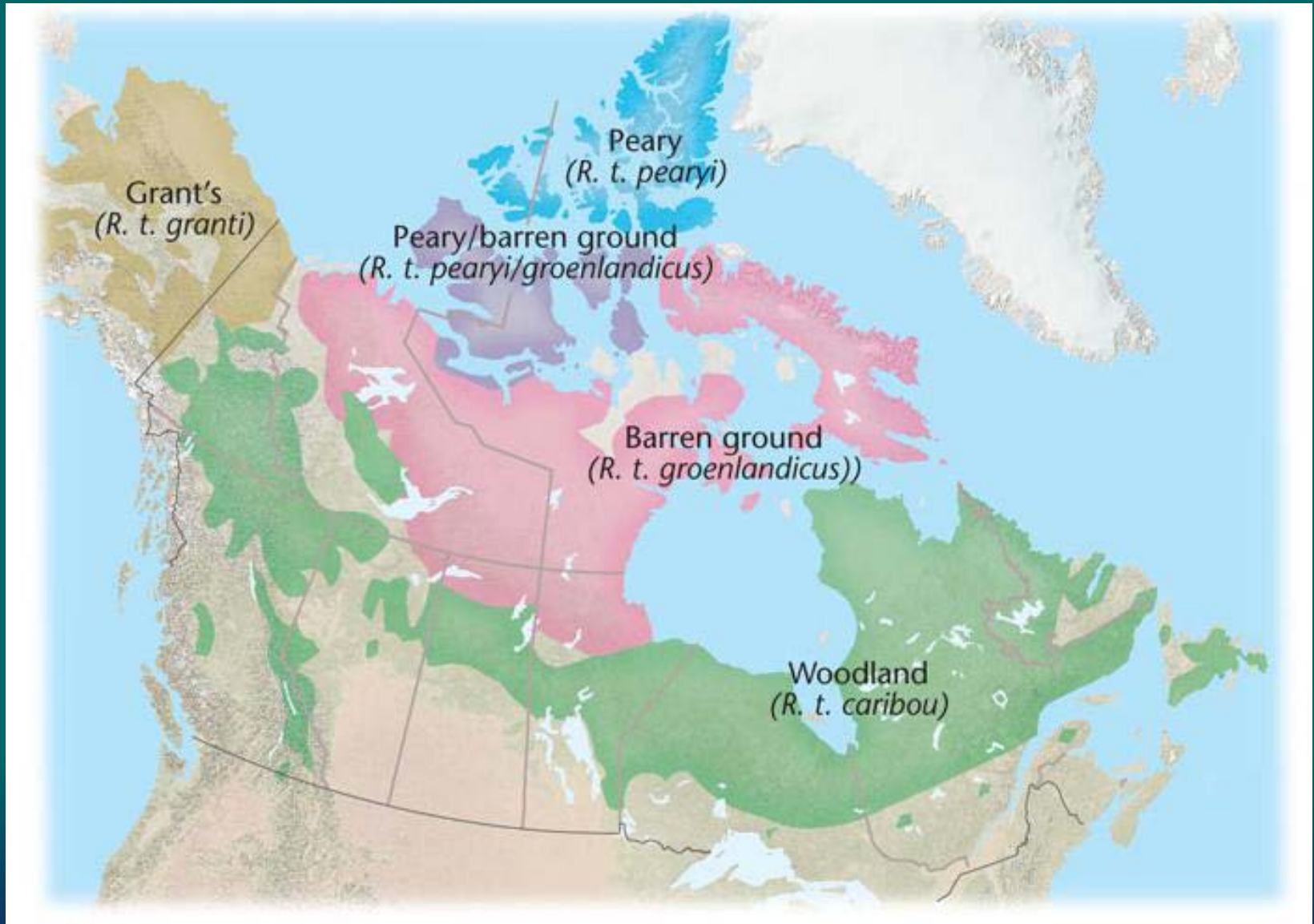
- Periodic review of status every 5 years – last Caribou PSR 2017
- February 2020 - solicit data and information from the public
- May 2022 - 90 public comment period on draft
- Listing "...solely on the basis of the biological status of the species being considered, based on the preponderance of scientific data available."
- Endangered species are "... seriously threatened with extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the state"

Listing Status

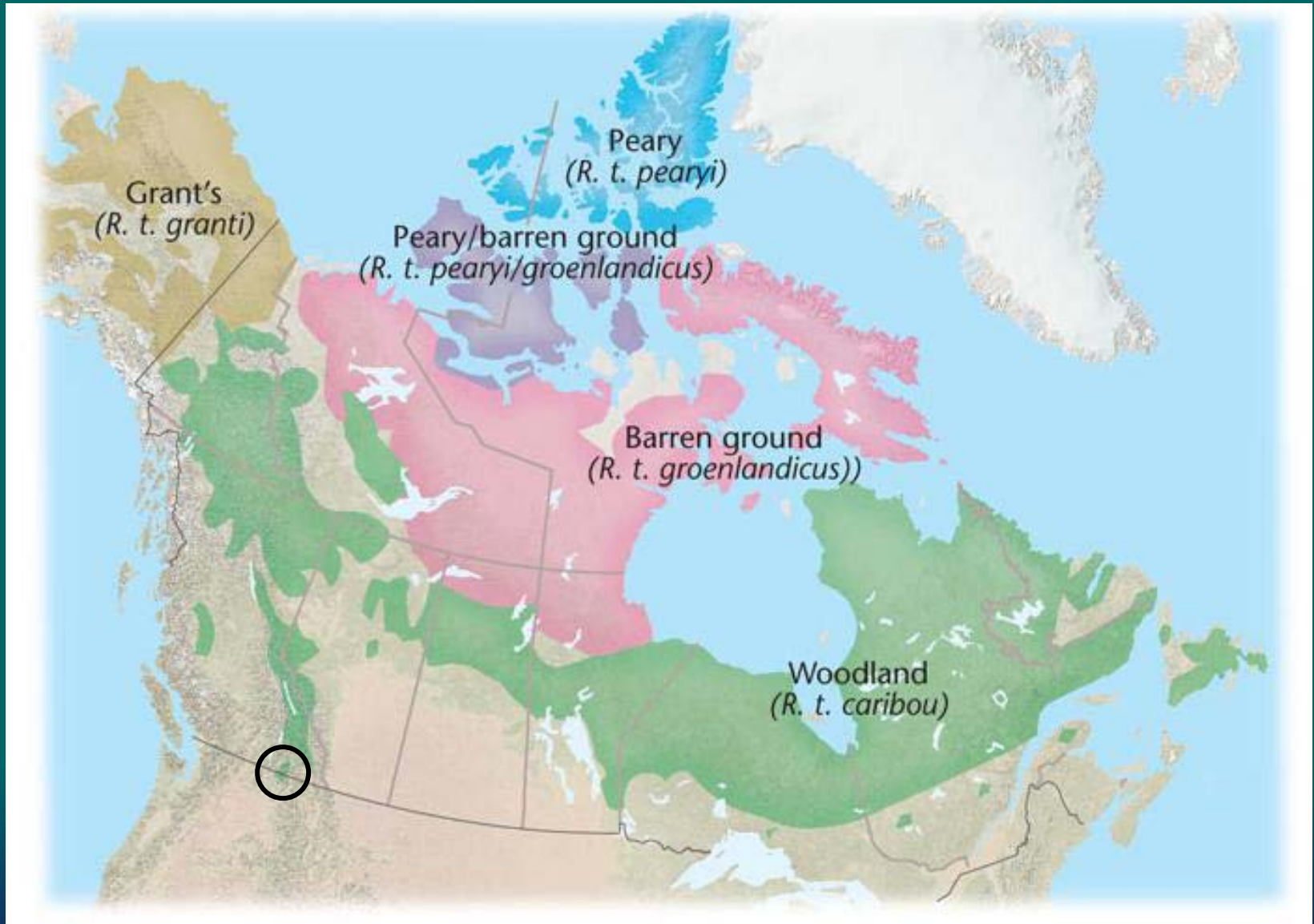
- Washington: Endangered, 1982
- U.S. federal: Endangered, 1984; revised 2012
- Canada federal: Endangered, 2014
- B.C.: Red-listed
(species at risk of being lost or endangered)



Caribou subspecies in North America



Caribou subspecies in North America



Natural History (‘deep snow eco-type’)

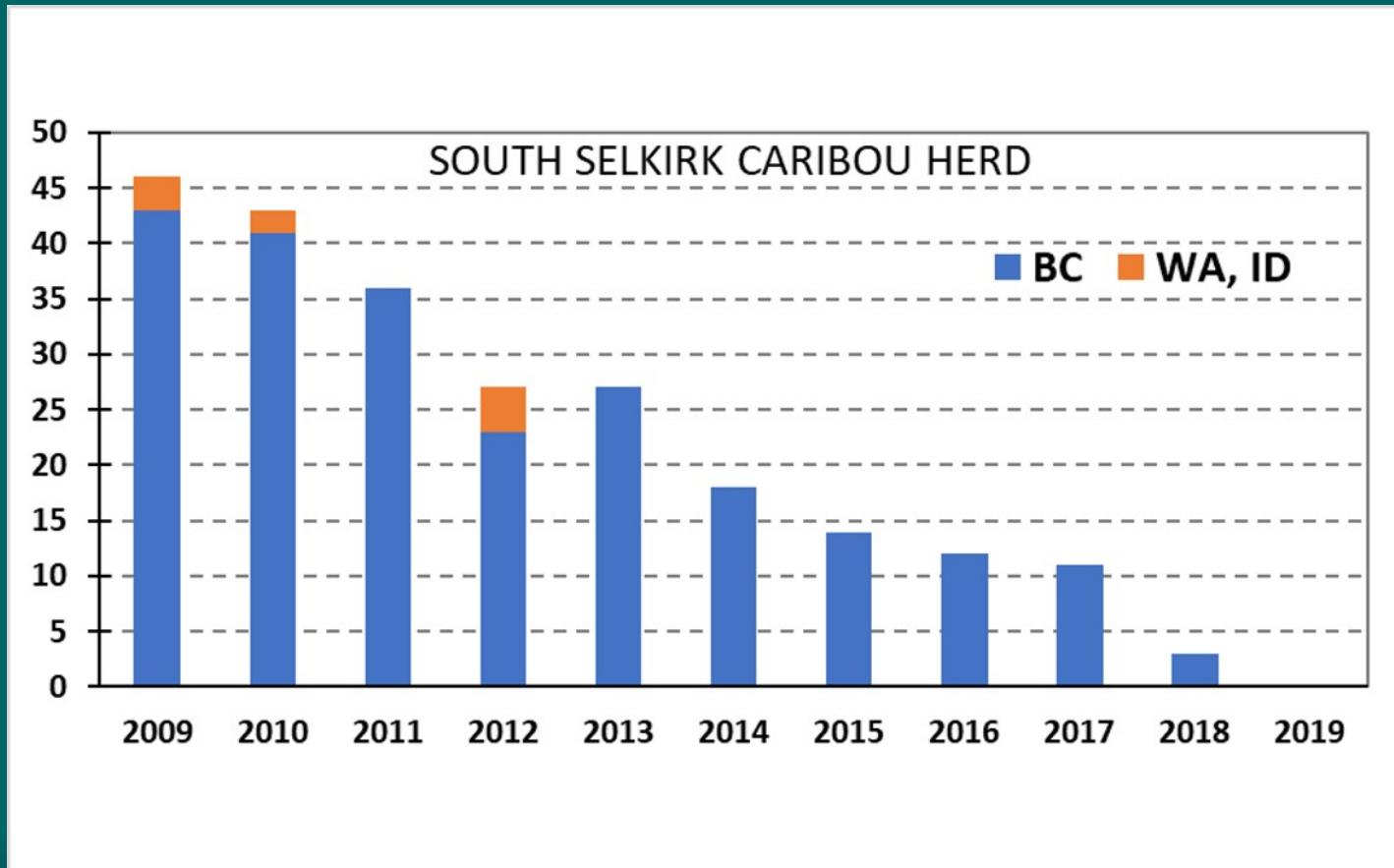
- Old-growth forests
- Seasonal migration between elevations
- Group size: 1-25 animals
- Diet: arboreal lichens, green vegetation
- Single calves, females usually breed at 2.5 yr



*M. Borysewicz,
US Forest Service*



Status of the South Selkirk Herd



What led to extirpation?

- Reduced and inconsistent snowpack
- Largescale wildfire, beetle kill, logging altered the habitat and increases in abundance of deer, elk, moose
 - Increases in ungulates and roads = increase in caribou incidentally taken by predators
- Recreational disturbance=habitat loss
- *Accidents* (e.g. Hwy 3; avalanches)



Conservation Actions

- Federal recovery planning
 - Selkirk Caribou International Technical Working Group (SCITWG)
- Habitat protections
- Recreation management
- Predator management
- Translocations



The Last of South Selkirk Herd, 2019



Recommendation: retain Woodland Caribou as state Endangered



Public comments: 1—expressed lament for the extirpation

Questions?



Alamy