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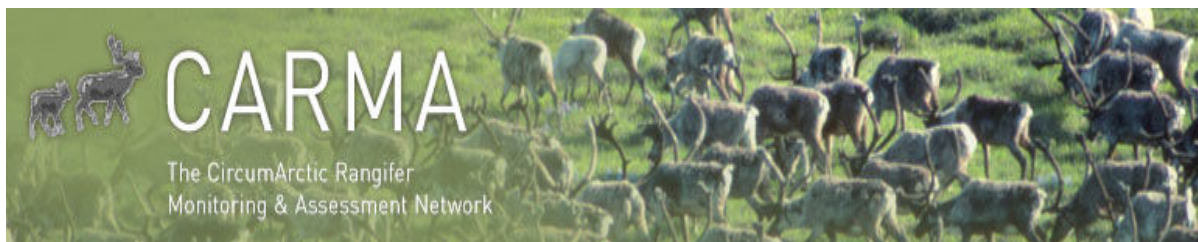
Carma Newsletter - May09

1 message

Don Russell <carmanewsletter@gmail.com>

Thu, May 14, 2009 at 11:24 AM

To: ken.sylvestre@gmail.com



Newsletter - May 2009

CARMA-6 is just 7 months away

The next CARMA meeting will take place in Vancouver **Dec. 4-6, 2009** at the Palisades Hotel. NOTE: the dates allow some members to attend the ArcticNet meetings in Victoria from December 8-10,2009.

CARMA will attempt to provide a newsletter on a monthly basis – if any have contributions that you wish to highlight in the Newsletter please send to carmanewsletter@gmail.com

Please provide a link to CARMA Network, through your organizations website – links help bring CARMA's website up quicker on Google search

Recent news

[CARMA funded project wins award](#). Congratulations to Archana Bali, graduate student of Dr Gary Kofinas, University of Alaska Fairbanks for winning the first place prize at the IPY film awards at the University of Alaska. (see story at <http://snras.blogspot.com/2009/04/phd-student-wins-film-award.html>

Archana submitted her Voices of Catribou People a film that was highlighted at the last CARMA meeting. For those who haven't seen the latest version go to <http://carmanetwork.com/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=1114238> Great work Archana!

The Alaskan coastal plain – the place to be if you are a caribou these days

Rangifer herds around the world appear to be mostly in decline. However two glaring exceptions are two adjacent herds on Alaska's North Slope. The Teshekpuk Lake and Central Arctic Herds were both counted in 2008 and the recently released results indicate they are still continuing to increase. The Teshekpuk Lake herd was estimated at 64000 animals up from 45000 in 2002. This translates into a 5.9% annual rate of increase during this period. As well the Central Arctic Herd is undergoing an even more dramatic growth rate, jumping to 67000 in 2008 up from 32000 in 2002. Efforts will be made to help explain these increases in light of declining herds elsewhere - stay tuned.

CARMA project joins Facebook

CARMA is partner in a *Rangifer* anatomy project (see project description at: [http://carmanetwork.com/display/public/Anatomical+Guide+\(Summary\)](http://carmanetwork.com/display/public/Anatomical+Guide+(Summary))). To keep interested people up to date and provide feedback, Dr. Ryan Brook, University of Calgary and lead on the project, has created a Facebook group that anyone can join. If you need help joining Ryan provides this note:

"Folks, For those having trouble finding the RAP (Rangifer Atlas Project) on Facebook, try this link. <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=72786721343> or add me as a friend and link in through my profile.

PS new story just out today on the project on the Arctic Institute of North America website

http://www.arctic.ucalgary.ca/index.php?page=focus_on_research

Caribou Calculator on the move

Craig Nicolson, University of Massachusetts, is working with CARMA and the U.S. National Science Foundation developing a population model (the "Caribou Calculator") that projects the implications of different harvesting strategies on large migratory herds. Originally developed for the Porcupine Caribou Herd, the model is being used to help the Porcupine Caribou Management Board develop a Harvest Management Strategy in response to a current population declines. In mid May, Craig will be attending a modeling meeting in Yellowknife to report on adapting the model for the Bluenose Caribou and Bathurst Caribou herds. This fall Craig is planning on attending Management Board meetings to discuss the possibilities of applying the model to the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Herds.

New CARMA Steering Committee members

Wendy Nixon formerly of Environment Canada has transferred to Environment Yukon to head up Yukon's Biodiversity program. Because of the demands of her new job, Wendy has indicated she will not have the time required to be on the CARMA Steering Committee. Many thanks to Wendy for her work on the Committee especially her role in coordinating the production of the body condition and health manual and protocols (<http://carmanetwork.com/display/public/Body+Condition+Assessment>).

In response, CARMA has added 2 new members on the Steering Committee. **Mike Gill** with Environment Canada in Yukon is also the Chair of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) and will provide valuable strategic advice to CARMA on how to remain a viable network after the IPY funding ends in March 2011. As well, we are pleased to welcome **Roy Ashenfelter** from Nome, Alaska on the Committee. Roy has been an active member of the Western Caribou Herd Working Group and will bring his knowledge of human/caribou systems in northern Alaskan. Welcome Mike and Roy.

Featured project – Greenland collection

CARMA was a partner with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources in gathering baseline health and condition of Greenland's 2 largest herds. Last year collections were made on the Akia-Maniitsoq herd [http://carmanetwork.com/display/public/Akia-Maniitsoq+Body+Condition+\(Summary\)](http://carmanetwork.com/display/public/Akia-Maniitsoq+Body+Condition+(Summary)) and this year field work moved to the Kangerlussuaq-Sisimiut caribou population.

In the spirit of providing opportunities for other researchers to gain experience in using the CARMA protocols, CARMA funded the travel for Ran Thorarinsdottir from the East Iceland Natural History Institute to work with the Greenlanders on the collection. Ran comments:

"The collection went very well and took three weeks. I stayed with Christine and her team for the whole period and was actively involved in almost every aspect of the collection. Christine is an excellent tutor and the trip was therefore very educational and exceeded my expectations and more than fulfilled its purpose. My next steps will be to plan a similar collection project in Iceland for 2010."

Greenland's Ungulate Biologist, Christine Cuyler, provides a brief account of the collection:

"The Kangerlussuaq-Sisimiut caribou population was examined in March 2009. 40 caribou cows and 10 calves-at-heel were collected. Most were generally skinny (CARMA evaluation). Among adult cows (age > 3 years) the pregnancy rate was 57%, and late winter calf recruitment was 57 calves-at-heel per 100 cows. Only three of the 40 cows collected were sub-adults, i.e., 2½ years old, and none were pregnant."



Christine Cuyler and Ran Thorarinsdottir dissection caribou from the Kangerlussuaq-Sisimiut caribou population

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