

MONITORING PROGRAM FOR FOREST-DWELLING CARIBOU POPULATIONS IN QUÉBEC

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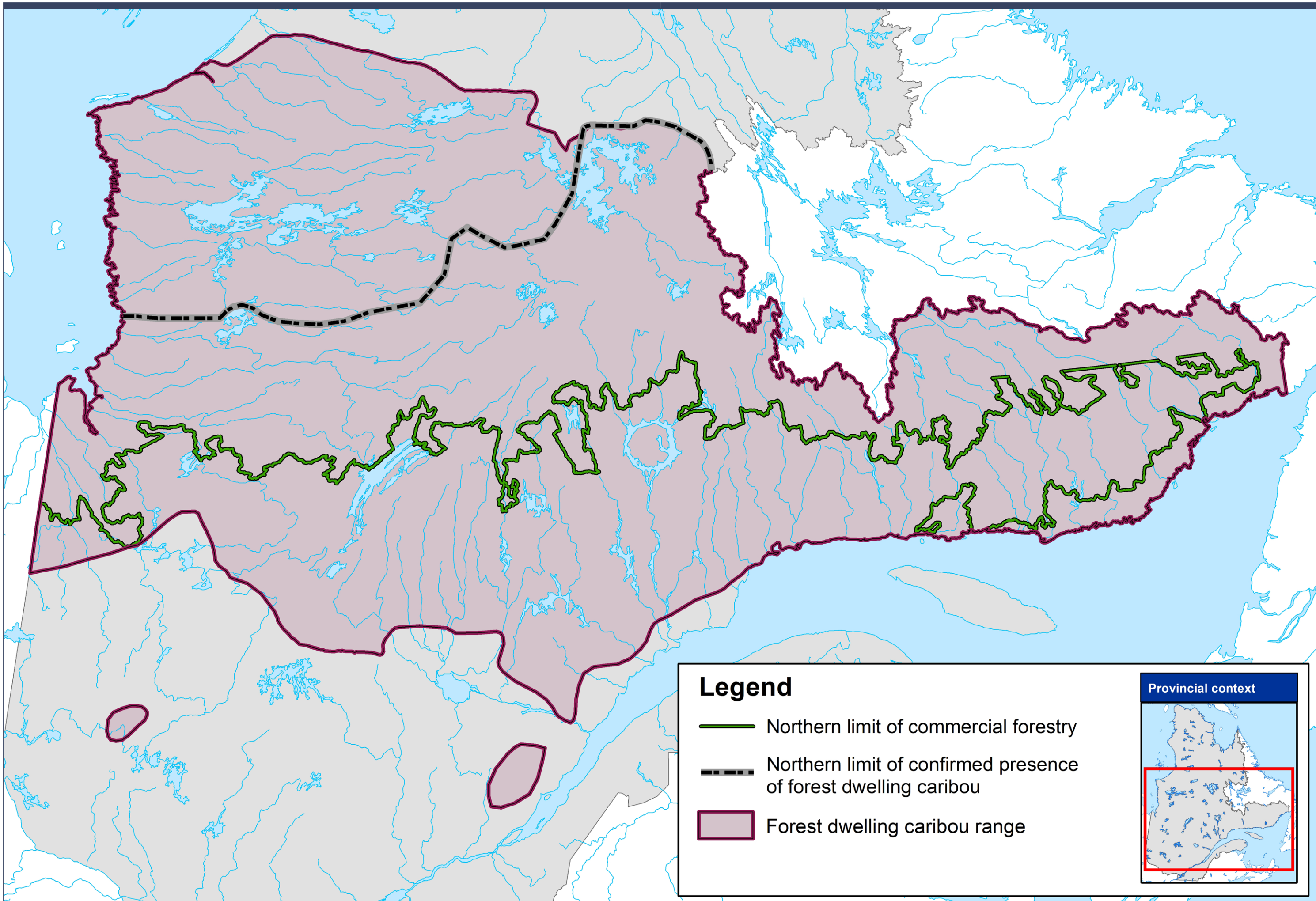
Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs

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Knowledge of caribou population dynamics in Quebec has improved considerably over the last 20 years. To build on this knowledge, the Quebec Government is investing in a structured caribou monitoring program. A total of 155 caribou (75 % female – 25 % male) were radio-collared during the winter of 2018. Three major goals were identified for the program:



GOAL 1. UPDATE DEMOGRAPHIC PARAMETER ESTIMATES

Parameters	Methods
Current spatial distribution	Telemetry Aerial surveys
Current population abundance	
Multiple-year population trends	



GOAL 2. IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE OF FOREST-DWELLING CARIBOU POPULATION DYNAMICS

Parameters	Methods
Population productivity	Fecal pellet analysis Aerial surveys
Population health and body condition	Samples, measurements during manipulation
Presence and prevalence of parasites	
Mortality causes	Mortality site visits
Population management units	Telemetry Genetic analysis
Genetic difference between forest-dwelling and migratory caribou	Genetic analysis
Habitat selection	Telemetry



GOAL 3. ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CARIBOU HABITAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Strategy Elements	Methods
Caribou distribution and abundance north vs south of the commercial forest boundary	Telemetry Aerial surveys
Contribution of protected areas	
Novel approaches to maintaining caribou in areas where they are currently present	
Access management, forest road closures and linear feature restoration	
Improvement of forest management approaches to encourage caribou population persistence	

