







Caribou Habitat Kakwa Park



-  Mountain - High
(majority of Kakwa used between March and November)
-  Low
(Enriched value habitat mostly low elevation on SBS, primarily migratory use)
-  Nil - Very Low
(High elevation rock and snow or slopes over 50% gradient, more likely crossed during migration than any ongoing use)
-  Approximate south or western limits of range by Alberta Caribou
-  Kakwa Park
-  Road

Caribou

Kakwa is primarily inhabited by the mountain type of terrestrial Achen eating caribou. Only the Jarvis-McGregor - lower Bastille is likely used by the mountain arboreal Achen caribou and then primarily during movements. The mountain type of terrestrial Achen feeding caribou winter in Alberta and move into the Kakwa in late March and April. Some are known to pass through the Kakwa to summer south and southwest of Kakwa and others go to the McCulloch Creek-Dezako area. By the time of the rut in October the Alberta caribou are east/north of the dashed red line. By late November or December - depending on snow build up - they have largely moved northeast to low elevation winter ranges outside of Kakwa.

This use and movement pattern creates problems for classifying habitat values. Generally high elevations dominated by ice and rock are scarcely used. Nor are slopes over 50% gradient. The caribou will migrate through forest at all elevations but from late June to late September will mostly be in the alpine meadows and upper parts of the ESSF forest.

Because the Kakwa is not core winter range (the more important annual habitat), the bulk of the habitat is rated as medium to high. If calving areas could be identified, these would be high. Ridge tops that typically are wind blown and are used in early winter should also be designated high.



Projector: Albers
Datum: NAD83
Scale: 1:50000
Created for SBS Murtha
Sector 201
BC Parks
Prince George District
Location: 3 Kakwa