

## Caribou Baseline Studies

Caribou are found across the Yukon and are important to many First Nations and Yukon communities. Casino hired Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI) to research caribou within the proposed Casino Project's Wildlife Study Area. The Wildlife Study Area was created by combining the range of the Klaza Caribou herd and the wildlife game management subzones (areas managed by the Yukon Government for big game animals) that overlap the proposed Casino Project.

EDI is collecting information for Project-specific caribou studies. These studies summarize information about caribou such as population, location, and habitat. These studies help Casino understand how caribou might interact with the proposed Casino Project.

Airborne surveys, animal collaring programs, habitat studies, and draft range management plans (plans discussing the management of caribou) have informed Project-specific caribou studies. The Yukon Government funded and staffed much of the field work which produced the information used by EDI for the proposed Casino Project. Casino has also funded Project-specific studies and when available Traditional Knowledge has also informed caribou studies.

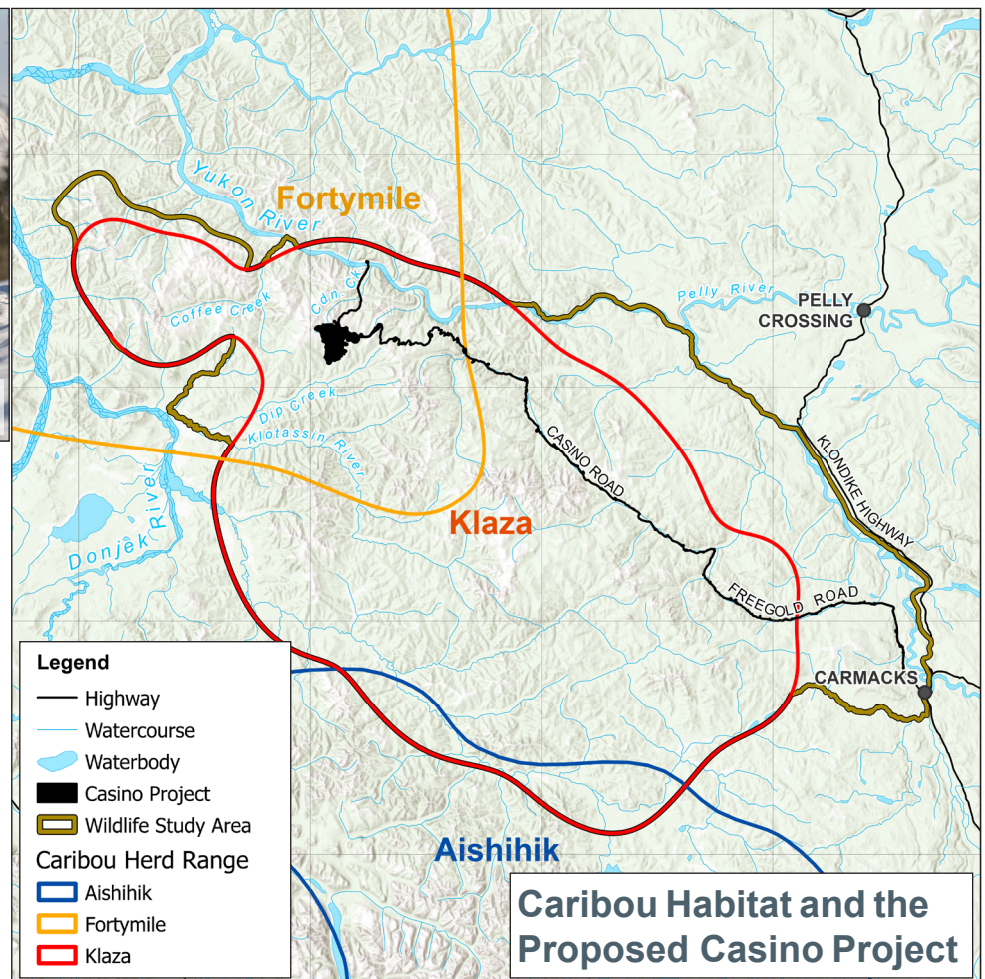


Caribou near the Alaska Highway

## Study Areas and Habitat

Three different caribou herds overlap with the Wildlife Study Area. However, the ranges of the three herds overlap the proposed Casino Project and its Wildlife Study Area differently:

- **Klaza herd:** Overlaps with the Wildlife Study Area and the proposed Casino Project
- **Fortymile herd:** Overlaps with some of the Wildlife Study Area and the proposed Casino Project
- **Aishihik herd:** Only overlaps with a southern portion of the Wildlife Study Area



## What's Next?

Casino is actively working and engaging with First Nations, residents, land users, and the Yukon Government to further Casino's studies, better write the future Environmental and Socio-Economic Effects Statement, and inform the proposed Casino Project. Further collar data, habitat modelling, Traditional Knowledge sharing, and engagement will continue to inform the proposed Casino Project.

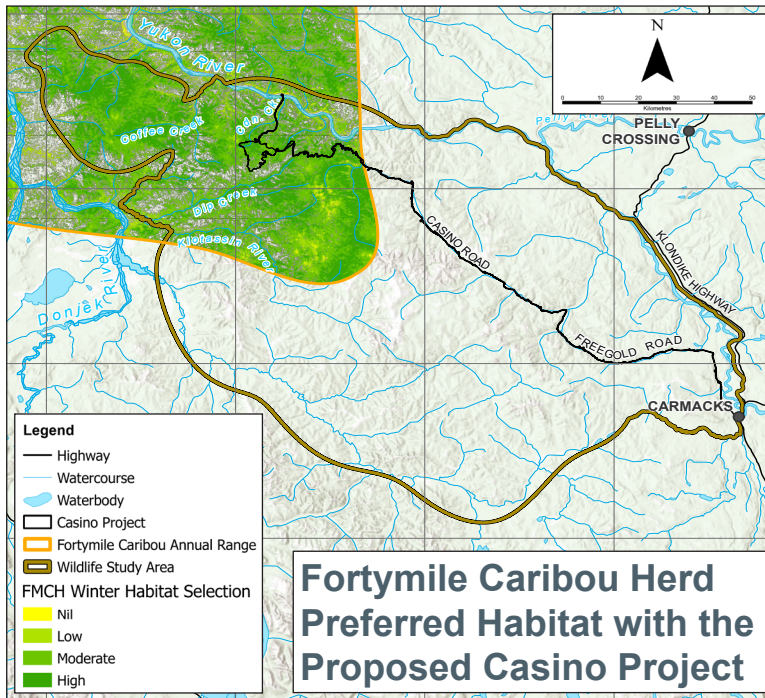
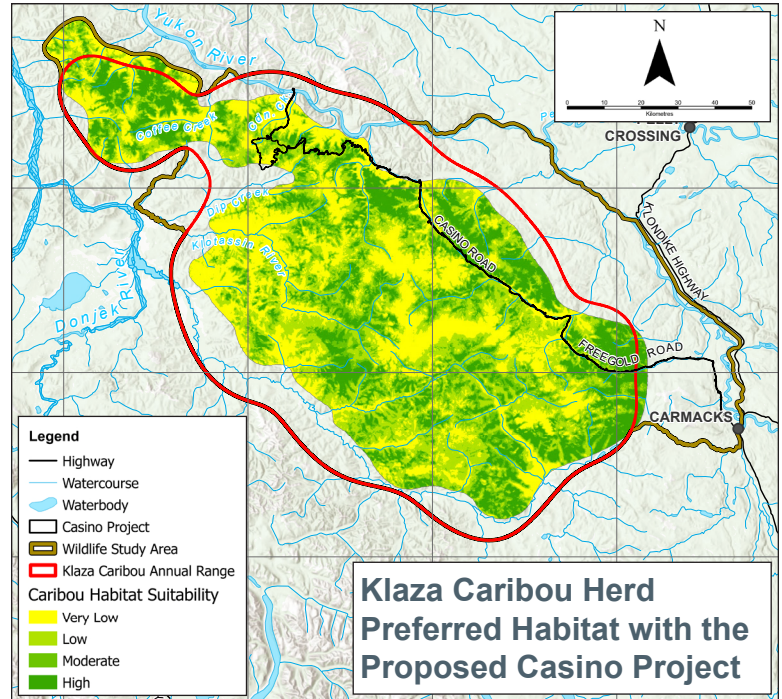


## Klaza Caribou Herd

The Klaza Caribou are listed as a species of special concern. This means the Klaza Caribou population is not, but may become, threatened or endangered. As shown in the Klaza Caribou Herd Preferred Habitat map, Klaza Caribou are found in multiple areas of the proposed Casino Project.

Casino has supported the Yukon Government's winter Klaza Caribou surveys from 2011 to 2014. In 2012, the herd was estimated to be about 1,200 animals. This survey will be updated in the winter of 2024. A 2023 – 2024 collaring program included collars on 36 caribou. The collaring program has provided Casino more detailed and up-to-date information on Klaza Caribou Herd movement and activities.

The Klaza Caribou Herd Preferred Habitat map, which will be updated with the new 2024 data, shows the Klaza Caribou Herd's preferred habitat (dark green) and non-preferred habitat (yellow) within the Wildlife Study Area, and how it overlaps with the proposed Casino Project.



## Fortymile Caribou Herd

The Fortymile Caribou are not considered a conservation concern in Canada or the Yukon. Historically, Fortymile Caribou was one of the largest caribou populations in North America. In 2017, the herd was estimated to be about 73,000 animals.

The herd calves (gives birth) in Alaska. Sometimes, after calving, the herd might migrate into part of their habitat that overlaps with the Wildlife Study Area. Further Project-specific studies are being performed to understand the movement and habitat use of the caribou herds and how the proposed Casino Project may affect caribou activities and habitat use.

The Fortymile Caribou Herd Preferred Habitat map, which will be updated with 2024 data, shows the Fortymile Caribou Herd's preferred habitat (dark green) and non-preferred winter habitat (yellow) within the Wildlife Study Area, and how it overlaps with the proposed Casino Project.

## Aishihik Caribou Herd

The Aishihik Caribou Herd has a small overlap with the southern end of the Wildlife Study Area and no overlap with the proposed Casino Project. There is no expected interaction, or contact, between any proposed Casino Project activities and the Aishihik Caribou Herd. Where there is no expected interaction, there are no anticipated effects on the Aishihik Caribou Herd.

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