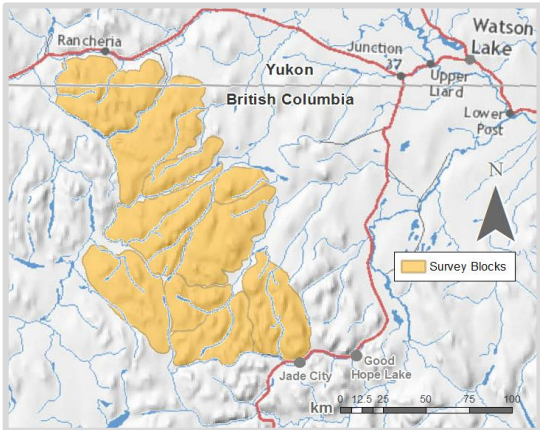


# Little Rancheria Caribou Population Estimate 2022



## Methods

44 GPS collars were deployed on female caribou from the Little Rancheria herd in November 2020 and March 2022. A mark-resight survey was flown in October 2022, which consisted of three survey rounds flown by unique crews. The proportion of collared animals sighted was used to calculate an estimate of the total population size. Herd composition (calf, cow, immature bull, and mature bull) was recorded during the third survey round.

## Results Summary

**Date:** October 3-14, 2022

**Hours Flown:** 69.6

**Bull:cow ratio:** 33:100

**Calf:cow ratio:** 6:100

**Estimated population size:** 742 (665-838, 90% CI)

**Population trend:** likely declining

The previous estimate for the Little Rancheria caribou herd, 1200 animals, was made in 1999 and based on a stratified random block survey of the Little Rancheria and Horseranch herds. Although results are not directly comparable, the population appears to be declining. This inference is corroborated by local and Indigenous knowledge. The calf:cow ratio is below the average threshold considered necessary for stable populations (25:100); however, calf ratios in northern mountain populations can vary greatly from one year to the next. More frequent inventories, and cow survival and calf recruitment surveys are required to quantify population trends.

## Acknowledgements

The survey was conducted on the traditional territories of the Kaska, Teslin Tlingit, and Tahltan. The survey was a collaboration between Daylu Dena, Teslin Tlingit Council, and BC Government. Funding came from the 3N-BC Collaborative Stewardship Forum and Caribou Recovery Program. Silvertip (Coeur Mining) provided in-kind accommodation for field crews. Helicopters were safely flown by Discovery Helicopters and Tundra Helicopters. The total cost of the survey was \$117,000.