
K-5a Lease Stipulation/Best Management Practice –Caribou Summer Habitat

Note: All lands within the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain are recognized as habitat of the Porcupine and Central Arctic caribou herds and shall be managed to ensure unhindered movement of caribou through the area.

Objective: Minimize disturbance and hindrance of caribou, or alteration of caribou movements through portions the Coastal Plain that are essential for summer use by caribou, including calving and rearing, insect-relief, and migration.

Requirement/Standard: The following standards will be applied to permitted activities:

- a. Lessees shall orient infrastructure when laying out oil and gas field developments to avoid impeding caribou migration and to avoid corralling effects.
 - b. Before authorization of construction of permanent facilities (limited as they may be by restricted surface occupancy areas established in other lease stipulations), the lessee shall design and implement and report a study of caribou movement unless an acceptable study(s) specific to the Porcupine and Central Arctic Caribou herds has been completed within the last 10 years.
 - c. Heavy equipment (e.g., sand/gravel extraction and transport, pipeline and pad construction, but not drilling from existing production pads) shall be suspended from no later than May 20 through no earlier than July 20, unless approved by the authorized officer in consultation with the appropriate federal, State, and North Slope Borough regulatory and resource agencies. The intent of this requirement and allowance for deviation is to restrict activities that will disturb caribou during calving and insect-relief periods, but allow for activity if caribou are unlikely to be disturbed in significant numbers. If caribou arrive on the calving grounds prior to May 20 or if they remain in the area in significant numbers (greater than approximately 10% of the estimated calving cow population or 1,000 during insect-relief periods) past July 20, major construction activities will be suspended. The lessee shall submit with the development proposal a “stop work” plan that considers this and any other mitigation related to caribou early arrival and/or late departure. The intent of this latter requirement is to provide flexibility to adapt to changing climate conditions that may occur during the life of fields in the region.
 - d. The following ground and air traffic restrictions shall apply in the areas and time periods indicated. Ground traffic restrictions apply to permanent oil and gas-related roads:
 1. From May 20 through July 20, traffic speed shall not exceed 15 miles per hour when caribou are within 0.5 mile of the road. Additional strategies may include limiting trips, using convoys, using different vehicle types, etc., to the extent practicable. The lessee shall submit with the development proposal a vehicle use plan that considers these and any other mitigation. The vehicle use plan shall also include a vehicle-use monitoring plan. Adjustments will be required by the authorized officer if resulting disturbance is determined to be unacceptable.
 2. The lessee or a contractor shall observe caribou movement from May 20 through July 20, or earlier if caribou are present prior to May 20. Based on these observations, traffic will be stopped:
 - a. Temporarily to allow a crossing by 10 or more caribou. Sections of road will be evacuated whenever an attempted crossing by a large number of caribou (group of approximately 100 or more) appears to be imminent. The lessee shall submit with the development proposal a vehicle use plan that considers these and any other mitigation.
 - b. by direction of the authorized officer throughout a defined area for up to four weeks to prevent displacement of calving caribou. The vehicle use plan shall also include a vehicle-use monitoring plan. Adjustments will be required by the authorized officer if resulting disturbance is determined to be unacceptable.
 3. Major equipment, materials, and supplies to be used at oil and gas work sites shall be stockpiled prior to or after the period of May 20 through July 20 to minimize road traffic during that period.
 4. Aircraft use shall be restricted in areas where caribou are present from May 20 through July 20 unless doing so endangers human life or violates safe flying practices. The lessee shall submit with the development proposal an aircraft use plan that considers these and other mitigation. The aircraft
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use plan shall also include an aircraft monitoring plan. Adjustments, including perhaps suspension of all aircraft use, will be required by the authorized officer if resulting disturbance is determined to be unacceptable. This lease stipulation is not intended to restrict flights necessary to survey wildlife to gain information necessary to meet the stated objective of the stipulations and best management practices. However, flights necessary to gain this information will be restricted to the minimum necessary to collect such data.

5. Aircraft shall maintain a minimum height of 1,000 feet above ground level (except for takeoffs and landings) from May 20 through July 20, unless doing so endangers human life or violates safe flying practices. This lease stipulation is not intended to restrict flights necessary to survey wildlife to gain information necessary to meet the stated objective of the stipulations and best management practices. However, flights necessary to gain this information will be restricted to the minimum necessary to collect such data.

K-5b Best Management Practice – Porcupine Caribou Herd Calving Area

Objective: Minimize disturbance and hindrance of caribou, or alteration of caribou movements in the south/southeast portion of the Coastal Plain that has been identified as important caribou habitat during calving, post-calving, and insect relief periods.

Requirement/Standard: The Porcupine Caribou primary calving area is defined as the area with higher-than-average density of parturient caribou cows during more than 40% of years. This area is not available for leasing and no surface occupancy is permitted. This area includes approximately 653,000 acres, consisting of the entire area of the following townships, excluding areas that are within the Mollie Beattie Wilderness Area:

T03N, Ranges 34E-38E

T04N, Ranges 31E-39E

T05N, Ranges 32E-40E

T06N, Ranges 32E-40E

Peripheral calving areas include townships that partly overlap the calving area defined above. Portions of these townships may be offered for lease but no surface occupancy will be permitted:

Southern one-half of T07N, Ranges 3E-35E and Ranges 37E-38E

K-5c Lease Stipulation – Porcupine Caribou Post-Calving Habitat Area (and Central Arctic Caribou Calving)

Objective: To protect high use habitat for caribou during calving, post-calving, and insect relief periods.

Requirement Standard: No Central Processing Facilities shall be allowed in the Porcupine Caribou Post-Calving Habitat area. Well pads, roads, airstrips and pipelines will be permitted in accordance with the Caribou **K-5a Lease Stipulation/Best Management Practice –Caribou Summer Habitat**. Infrastructure will be limited across the area to 10% of the entire area.

This area includes the following townships:

T05N, Ranges 27E-30E

T06N, Ranges 27E-31E

The southern one-half of T07, Ranges 27E-30E