

PROJECT SUMMARY – ONE PLANET GRASSLANDS - CARIBOU

Filming of calving caribou is proposed for an upcoming BBC TV wildlife series, One Planet, the sequel to Planet Earth. From Jun 9th to 18th 2015 a 6 person crew will be based at the established Perry River Goose Camp (N67 41.600 W102 11.000), a safe distance from both the Beverly Herd calving ground and any nesting bird activity. Each day they will fly to the caribou calving grounds by helicopter to film caribou from the air, at all times remaining at least 3,000ft from the caribou, or 3,5000ft from any nesting bird colony or 1.5km horizontal distance.

On some occasions a ground cameraman will be dropped off at a safe distance out of sight from caribou. He will set up a hide in discrete locations and, exercising zero disturbance to wildlife, film caribou from the ground. All caribou calving filming locations are expected to be a long distance from the nearest nesting bird colonies and will be confined within a 4-sided territory marked by 4 corner points (coordinates (A-D) A: 67° 45' 0" N, 104°0'0" W, B: 67°45'0" N, 100°30'0" W, C: 66°45'0"N, 100°30'00" W, D: 66°45'0" N, 104°0'0" W). However, if these are expected to overlap with any known bird concentrations we can of course adjust the coordinates accordingly. This is our best current projection of filming coordinates, but please let me know if you need any finer tuned location details.

All supplies and fuel will be air-lifted into and out of Perry River camp via twin otter to Cambridge Bay, or via twin otter to Qamanirjuaq camp location from Rankin Inlet. No ground-based vehicles will be used.

We will provide CWS with a complete log of flight paths from the helicopter's GPS navigation unit.

All supplies and fuel will be air-lifted into and out of Perry River Goose camp via twin otter from Cambridge Bay (again, or from Rankin depending on the herd/ location). No ground based vehicles will be used. We are working closely with Environment Canada staff members including Jim Leafloor who oversees Perry River to ensure we follow all environmental protocols.

We are consulting DOE scientists throughout this process to ensure all aspects of our plans incorporate the least disturbance to the species (and all other resident species including nesting snow geese) as possible. We are also involving local HTOs in the planning process wherever possible.

We will be flying a helicopter daily from Perry River Camp and expect some disturbance due to aircraft noise along the flight paths. All flying altitudes will be above 3,500ft with the exception of some potential landing locations which will be at least 1.5km from the nearest wildlife.

At the end of filming all traces of supplies and waste and empty fuel containers will be removed from Perry River camp under the supervision of Environment Canada experts.

Filming will be conducted by:

1. On ground behind the cover of blinds; and
2. From the air by helicopter respecting official CWS recommended minimum altitude of 3,500ft or ground distances of 1.5km from any nesting birds, distances as determined by GN (& CWS).

While filming caribou only (or when dropping off a ground cameraman) we request permission to fly at an altitude of 1,500ft from the ground. At all times we will aim for maintain zero disturbance to wildlife.

Beverly herd: both aerial and ground-based filming is proposed.
Qamanirjuaq herd: solely ground-based filming is proposed.

The team has extensive experience filming Caribou using both of these methods in the North American Tundra. The BBC National History Unit is proud to uphold a reputation in capturing unique behaviour through plenty of patience, superb fieldcraft, local advice and guidance, stealth and camouflage. The priority is to capture natural behaviour exhibited by animals that are not disturbed and are comfortable in their natural habitat. Further details of our filming methods can be provided upon request.