

# Did you know...


Cows are very important to caribou herds. A very small change in cow survival rates could make the difference between a herd slowly declining or slowly increasing.

For the Porcupine Caribou Herd, if one hunter shot one bull instead of one cow each year, it would mean 23 more caribou in the herd in 10 years. If 100 hunters did this, there would be 2,300 more caribou. If 1,000 hunters did this, there would be 23,000 more caribou.

The Porcupine Caribou Management Board encourages all hunters to select for bull caribou when hunting. Taking more bulls than cows means that we maximize the number of caribou that hunters can take to feed their families while allowing the cows to continue to produce calves.

What we all do matters. We can all contribute to allow the best opportunity for the caribou herd to thrive.


**If you shoot 1 bull instead of 1 cow each year for 10 years it will mean...**




23 more caribou  
In 10 years




## Can you tell the difference?




1




2




3



4



6



5

1. Two cows
2. Cow
3. Bull
4. Bull
5. Cow and calf
6. Cow



Bullets are  
for Bulls

Know the difference

The PCMB wishes all  
harvesters a safe and  
successful hunt



## Caribou identification can be tricky

It's important for hunters to know what to look for so they don't mistakenly shoot a cow instead of a bull. It's usually easy to tell the big mature bulls by their large antlers and body size, but cows and young bulls can look very similar.

Take your time to identify the sex of caribou before you shoot. Mature bulls have well-developed antlers but the antlers on younger bulls are less developed with small brow tines and can look very similar to cows. Antlers are not a good way to identify caribou sex.

The best way to identify bulls is the presence of a penis sheath which is usually easily seen from the side. On young bulls (less than three years old) the penis sheath is less apparent. The best way to identify cows is the presence of a black vulva patch when seen from the back. The tail can sometimes obscure the vulva patch so look carefully.

Do not use the presence of testicles to tell males from females because the milk bag on a cow who is nursing a calf can look like testicles.

If you see a caribou urinate, note the direction. Cow urine goes out back behind the animal, while bull urine goes forward underneath the animal.



## Early to late fall

Young bulls often hang out with cow and calf groups in fall and winter so you need to be careful.

In the fall, both male and female caribou can have antlers. A caribou with large antlers relative to body size is probably a bull, but small bulls and cows can look alike.



## Mid to late winter

Mature bulls usually lose antlers after the rut. Young bulls and cows often keep their antlers all winter. Bald (antlerless) caribou in late winter are probably bulls, but some cows will have no antlers at all, ever.

