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Marathon Palladium Mine

Parks Canada Technical Session Submission

Presented by Daniel Pouliot, Resource Conservation Manager, Pukaskwa National Park

March 22nd 2022



Parks Canada Mandate

On behalf of the people of Canada, we protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage, and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure the ecological and commemorative integrity of these places for present and future generations.



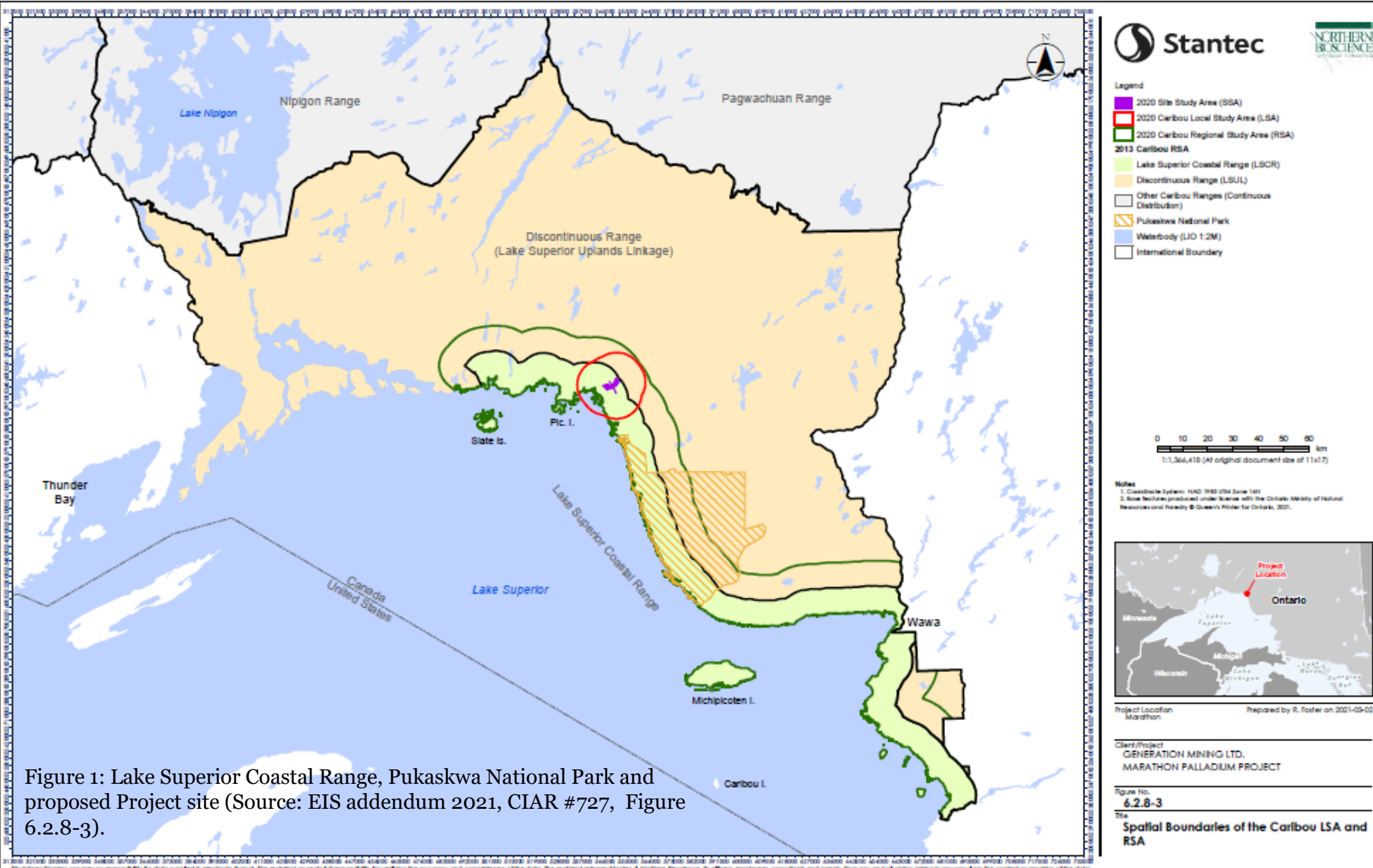
Roles and Responsibilities

- Pursuant to Section 20 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, of 2012*, Parks Canada participates as a federal authority when in possession of relevant specialist information or expertise related to potential impacts of a project on protected heritage areas or resources administered by Parks Canada.
- Parks Canada has a legislated role under the *Species at Risk Act* with respect to the protection and recovery of species at risk, including the boreal population of Woodland caribou, (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*; referred to as 'boreal caribou') on lands administered by Parks Canada.



Pukaskwa National Park

- Located approximately 20 km south of the proposed Marathon Palladium Project.
- Pukaskwa National Park is a vast, wild, natural park found on the edge of Lake Superior. It covers 1,878 km². It is a place where powerful waves collide with rugged, towering coastlines; a place of endless sunsets over sandy driftwood beaches. A place where everyone can catch a glimpse of the rich traditions, values and contemporary life of the Anishinaabe.
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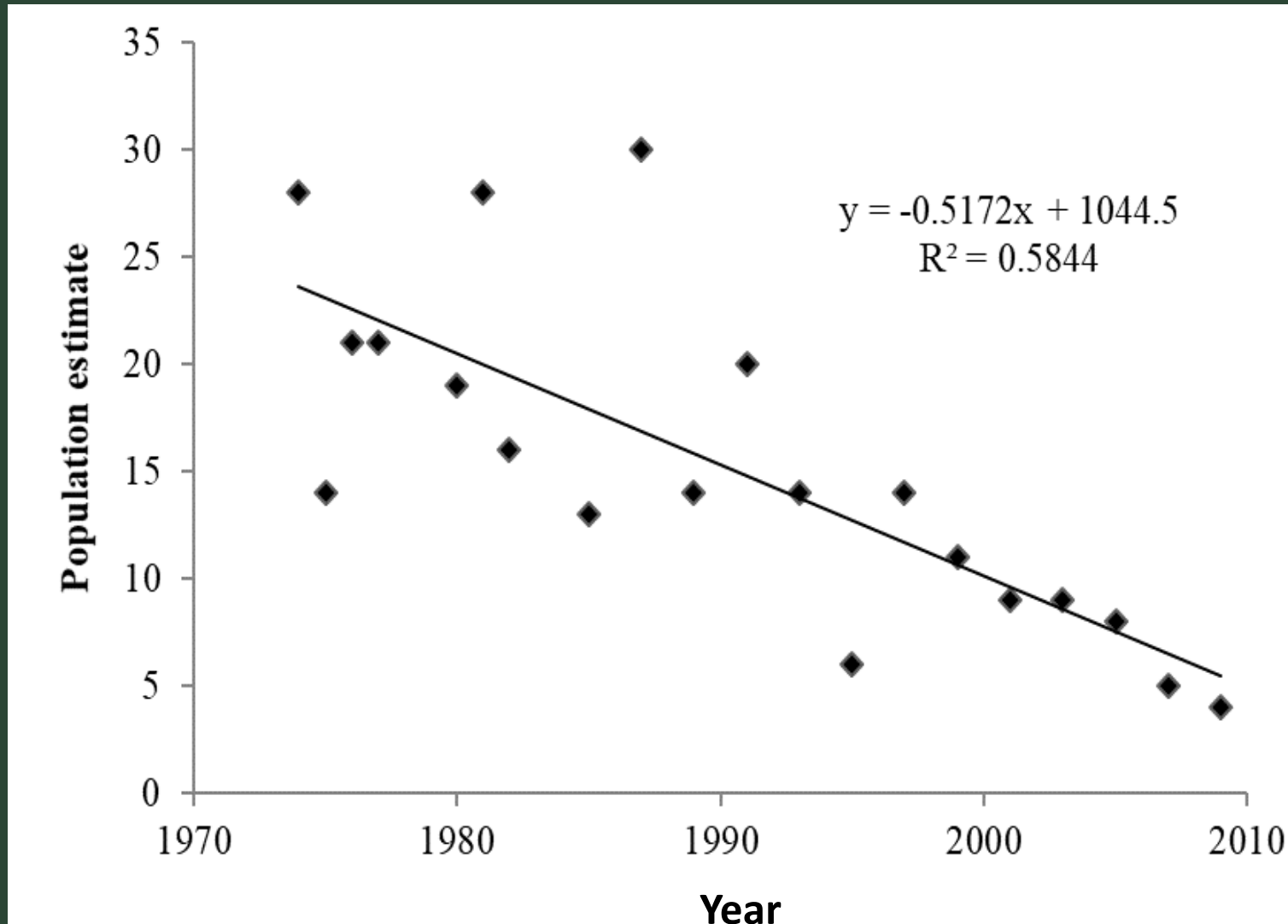


Boreal Caribou in Pukaskwa National Park

- Until the last decade, boreal caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) were regularly occurring within the boundaries of Pukaskwa National Park.
- Aerial surveys demonstrated a decline in numbers from 1974 to 2009 (Patterson *et al.* 2014).

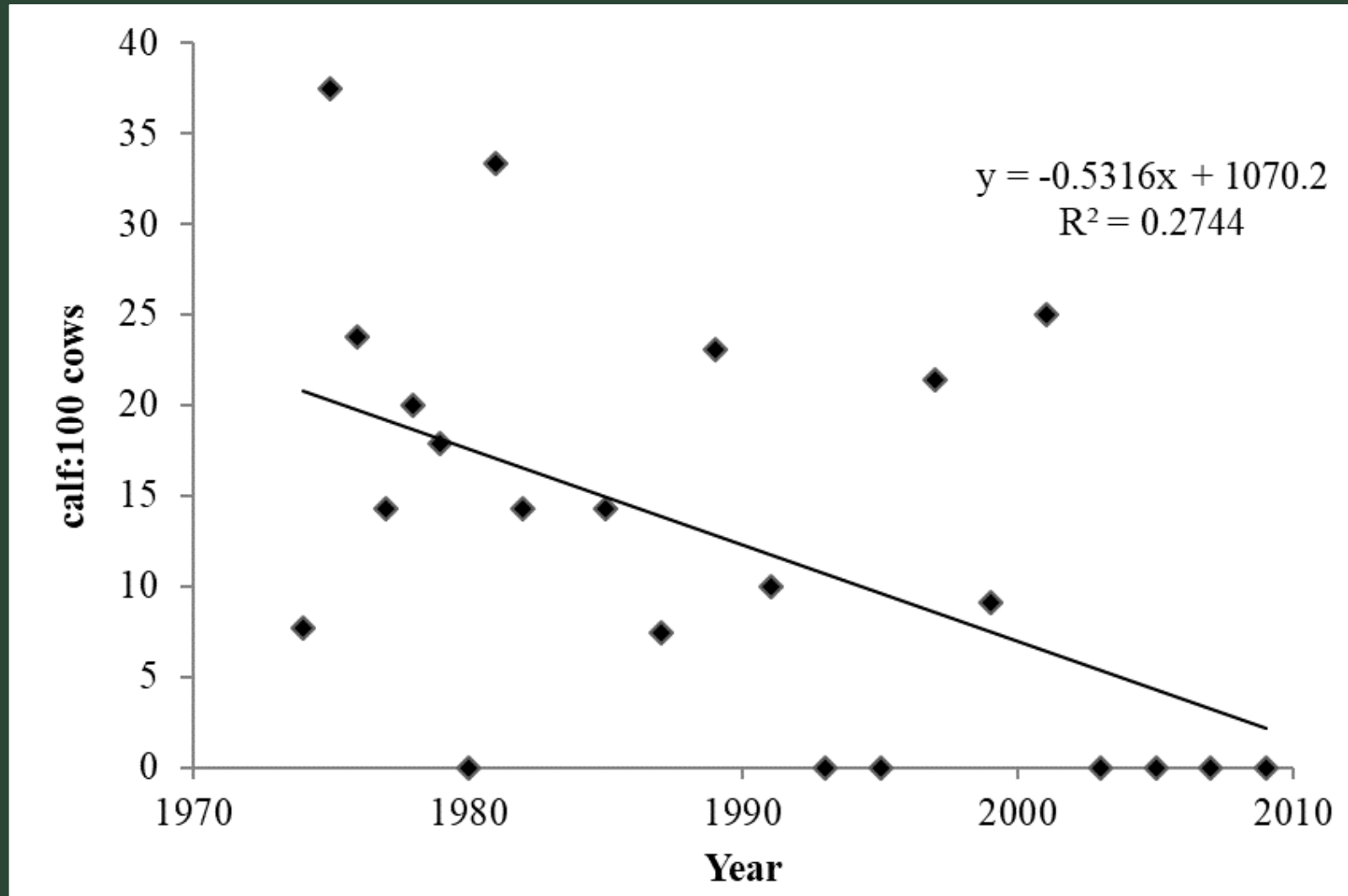


Boreal caribou in Pukaskwa National Park





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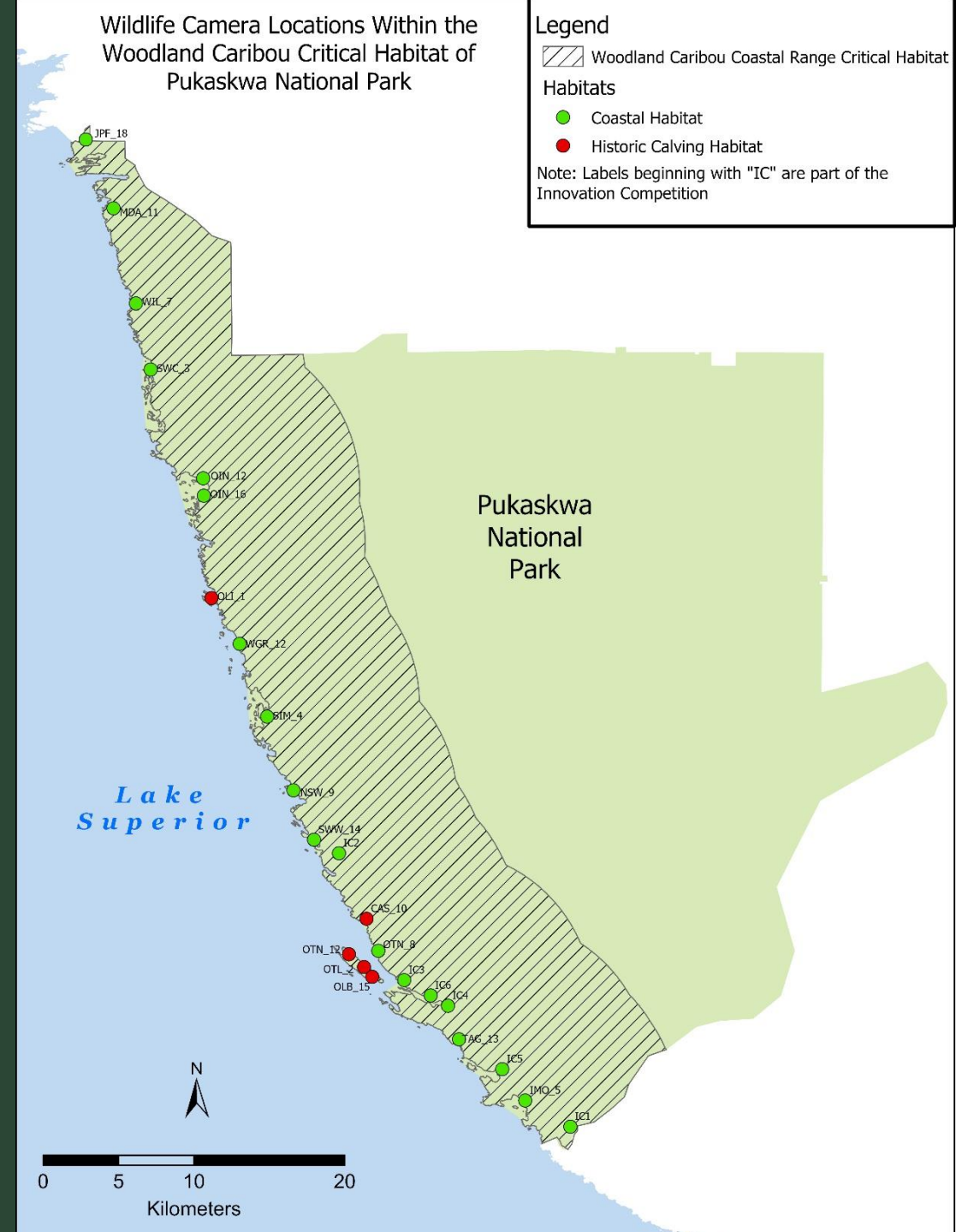
Pukaskwa NP Activities

- Since 2010, boreal caribou have been monitored on the coast through a network of trail cameras in critical habitat, including calving habitat (n=10-27 cameras).
- Protection of boreal caribou critical habitat when managing fire, including no prescribed fires and suppression or limiting spread of wildfires.
- Education of visitors and Canadians on boreal caribou conservation.





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Connectivity for a self-sustaining population at Pukaskwa NP

- Adequate functional habitat and connectivity within and between ranges is critical for the persistence of boreal caribou on the landscape (ECCC 2020).
- Boreal caribou home ranges often exceed the size of Pukaskwa NP.
- Recovery efforts at Pukaskwa NP are likely hampered by habitat conditions outside of park boundaries, as well as a lack of connectivity with more northern populations (Gonzales *et al.* 2015).



Summary

- Impacts to caribou habitat and connectivity beyond the borders of Pukaskwa National Park have implications for the conservation and recovery of boreal caribou within the park.
- Parks Canada plays a supporting role to ECCC as the Competent Department for species at risk under the *Species at Risk Act* on lands outside of those administered by Parks Canada.
- ECCC's hearing submission is directly relevant to conservation and recovery goals for boreal caribou within Pukaskwa National Park.



Summary

- Parks Canada supports ECCC's conclusions and recommendations for this Project as they relate to boreal caribou:
 - 1. Update the connectivity analysis, on-site rehabilitation and post-closure restoration plan and the offset plan before concluding the assessment process to support decision making and including requirements;*
 - 2. Update the assessment of Project impacts and connectivity analysis;*
 - 3. Implement mitigation measures in order to decrease sensory disturbance;*
 - 4. Update the off-site mitigation plan.*



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Thank you, Merci, Miigwech

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