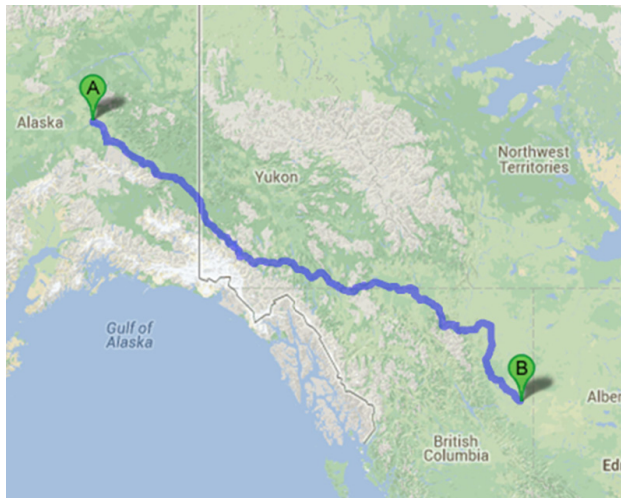


NCASI Caribou Nutrition Research Project **Import of Caribou to Canada from Alaska**

Having raised a tame herd of captive caribou over the past four years at the Robert G. White Large Animal Research Station (LARS) at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, in mid-April 2013 the herd was imported to Canada to begin field work across a series of hundreds of field plots over the next five years. The caribou were transported in a large semi via the Alaska Highway (2,275 km / 1,414 miles) from Fairbanks, Alaska to Fort St. John, British Columbia.



Disease testing required by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency was undertaken (and cleared) before importing live animals. Prior to export from the US and import to Canada, permits were also required from the State of Alaska, the government of the United States, the Yukon Territory, and the province of British Columbia. In addition, the BC permit required support from the local Treaty 8 First Nations in northeastern BC.

Loading for transport began at roughly 5:30am Alaska time on Wednesday, April 17th, after which the convoy of semi and NCASI truck proceeded non-stop for roughly 28 hours (except for gas and border crossing) through until about 2:00pm BC time on Thursday, April 18th.

The caribou are now housed at NCASI's "base camp" that was constructed in northeastern BC during the summer of 2012, and all have passed CFIA's final disease testing. Of the 15 caribou that were imported, a dozen have recently given birth to healthy calves. Drs. John and Rachel Cook of NCASI are currently living on site and are preparing the caribou for field research that will begin in the summer of 2013.



The crew accompanying the semi for the journey, to enable import to Canada, included Kirsten Vice (NCASI), Dr. Owen Slater (veterinarian with University of Calgary), and Dr. John Cook (NCASI).

