**Impacts of altered landscapes and future climate on the distribution of woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in Ontario**

**Sara Masood**, **Jonathan Ruppert**, **Arthur Rodgers**, and **Sapna Sharma**

Habitat alteration and climate change are two important environmental stressors posing increasing threats to the threatened forest-dwelling woodland caribou, *Rangifer tarandus caribou*, in Ontario. The first objective of this study was to identify important linear features, climatic variables, and habitat characteristics that influenced the distribution of woodland caribou in Ontario between 1980 and 2012. The second objective of this study was to predict how climate change will affect woodland caribou distribution in Ontario in the mid-century (2050) and late-century (2070). Caribou occurrence, linear features, and habitat data were obtained from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and historical climate data (1950-2000) was obtained from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Projected climate data was used from 2 greenhouse gas scenarios (RCP 2.6 and RCP 8.5) of Canadian General Circulation Model for 2050 (2041-2060) and 2070 (2061-2080), obtained from IPCC. Logistic regression model indicated that linear features, climatic variables, and habitat characteristics were all significant predictors of current woodland caribou distribution. Moreover, it was found that woodland caribou avoid roads and extreme weather, and prefer coniferous forests. Future climate projections indicated a reduction along the edges of woodland caribou distribution by 2050 and 2070. These results highlight the negative consequences of altered landscapes and climate change and can be integrated in management decisions to avoid woodland caribou extirpation in Ontario.