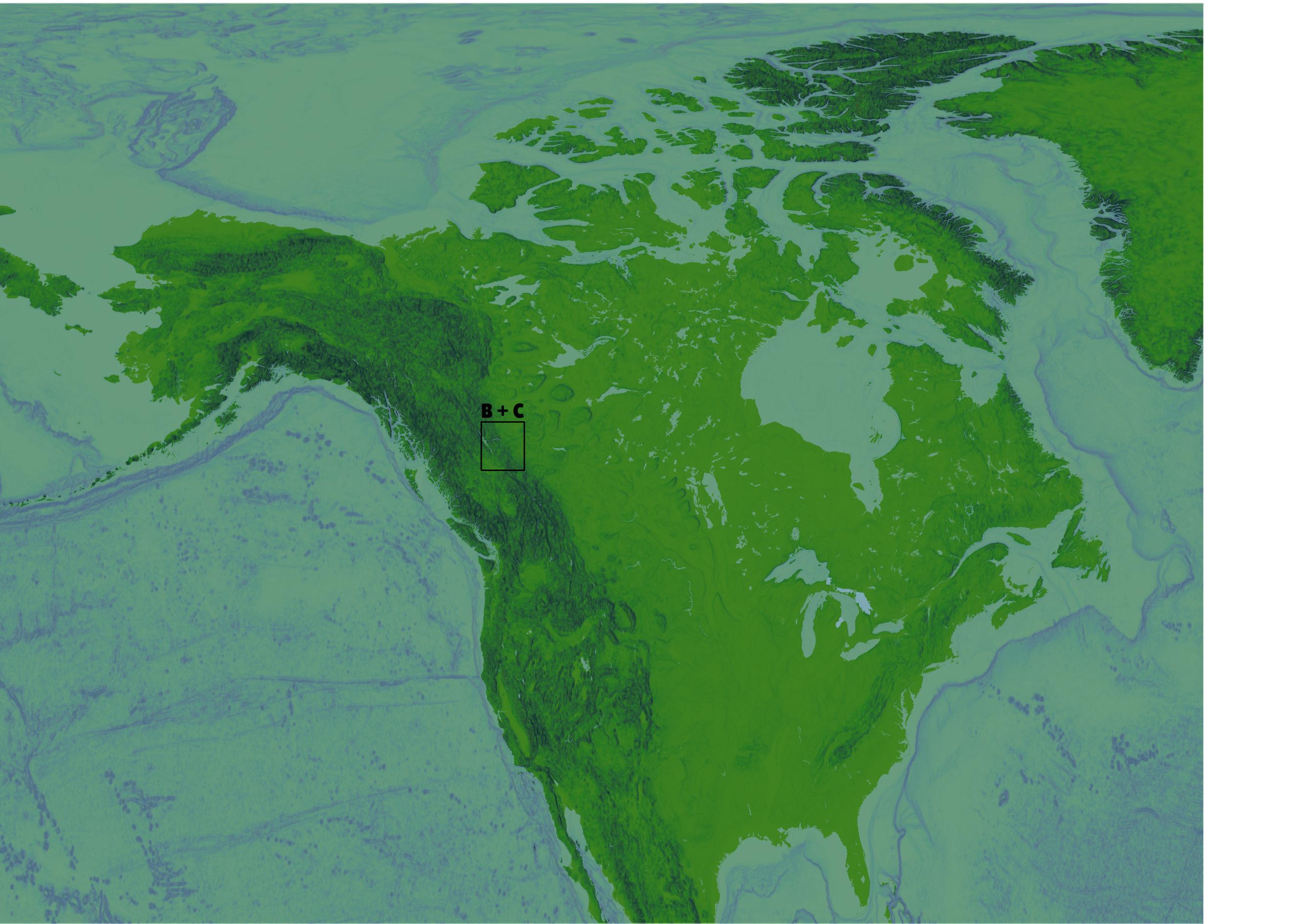
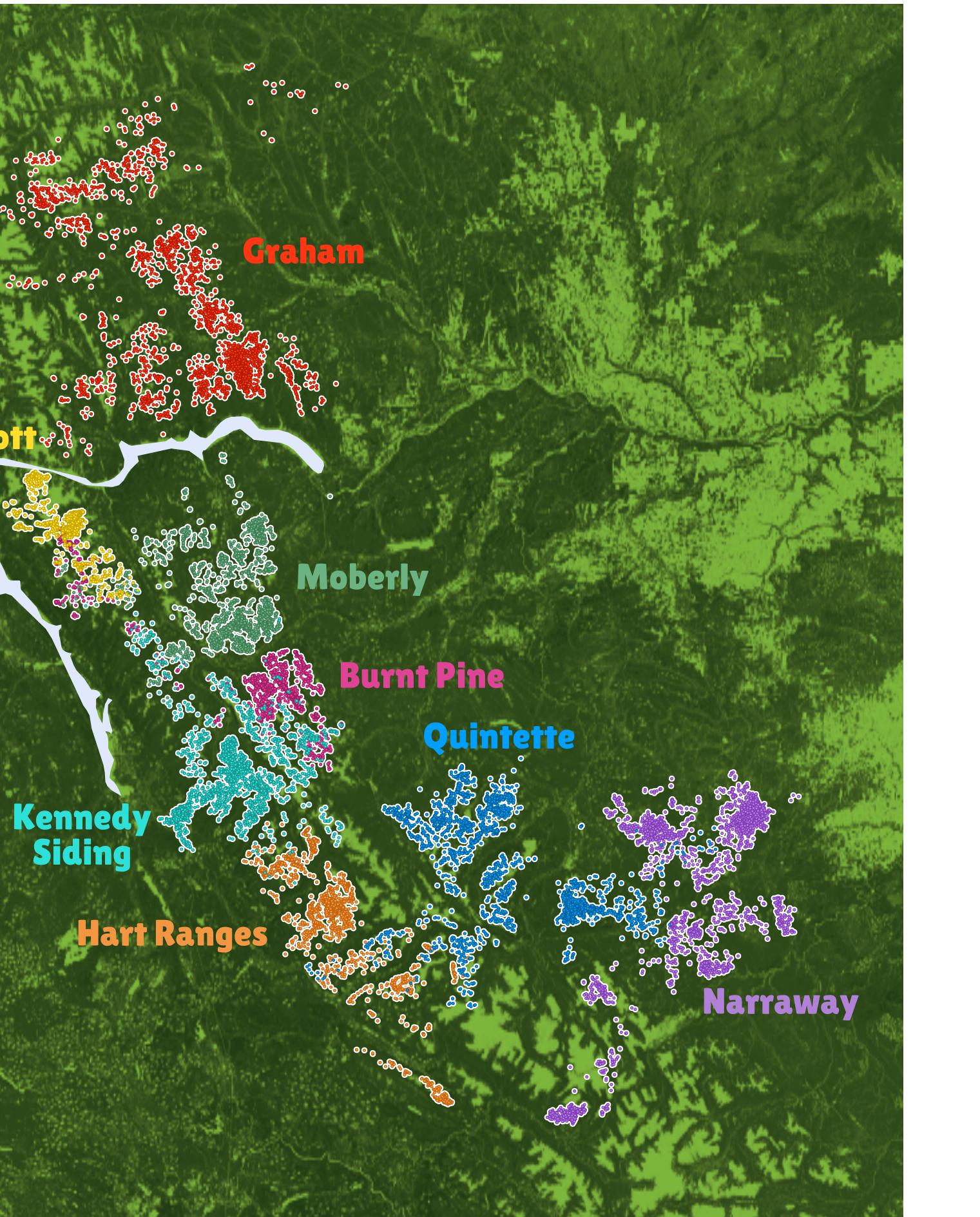


# Spatial patterns of South Peace Northern Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou* pop. 15) in British Columbia, Canada



A) The Woodland Caribou, *Rangifer tarandus*, primarily occurs in North America and extends from Alaska to the northern United States and across all jurisdictions in Canada except Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nunavut (Edmonds 1991, Thomas & Gray 2002). Individuals of the Northern Caribou, *Rangifer tarandus caribou*, have been equipped with tracking collars to monitor their spatial distribution and recovery in British Columbia, Canada. The subspecies occurs in the mountainous and low-land plateau areas of west-central and northern British Columbia and has distinct horizontal as well as vertical change in location when migrating (Heard & Vagt 1998).



B) Between 2001 and 2016, 219 Woodland Caribou have been tagged in 8 different populations. In total, 295,031 locations were successfully reported. Out of the 219 tracked individuals, 98% were female. The map shows a sample of 4,000 locations per study site of all 215 cows. The green color gradient indicates the forest tree cover in 2000 derived from Landsat images (Hansen et al. 2013).



C) Northern Caribous concentrate their core range in forest habitats to obtain forage and shelter. They feed primarily on lichens in winter that are found in high-elevation windswept ridges, subalpine and low-elevation forests used by caribou (Jones et al. 2004). In summer, a wide variety of shrubs, forbs, and grasses serve as food source. Shown are herd core areas, based on all cow locations. Green cells represent tree cover of 75% or more.