

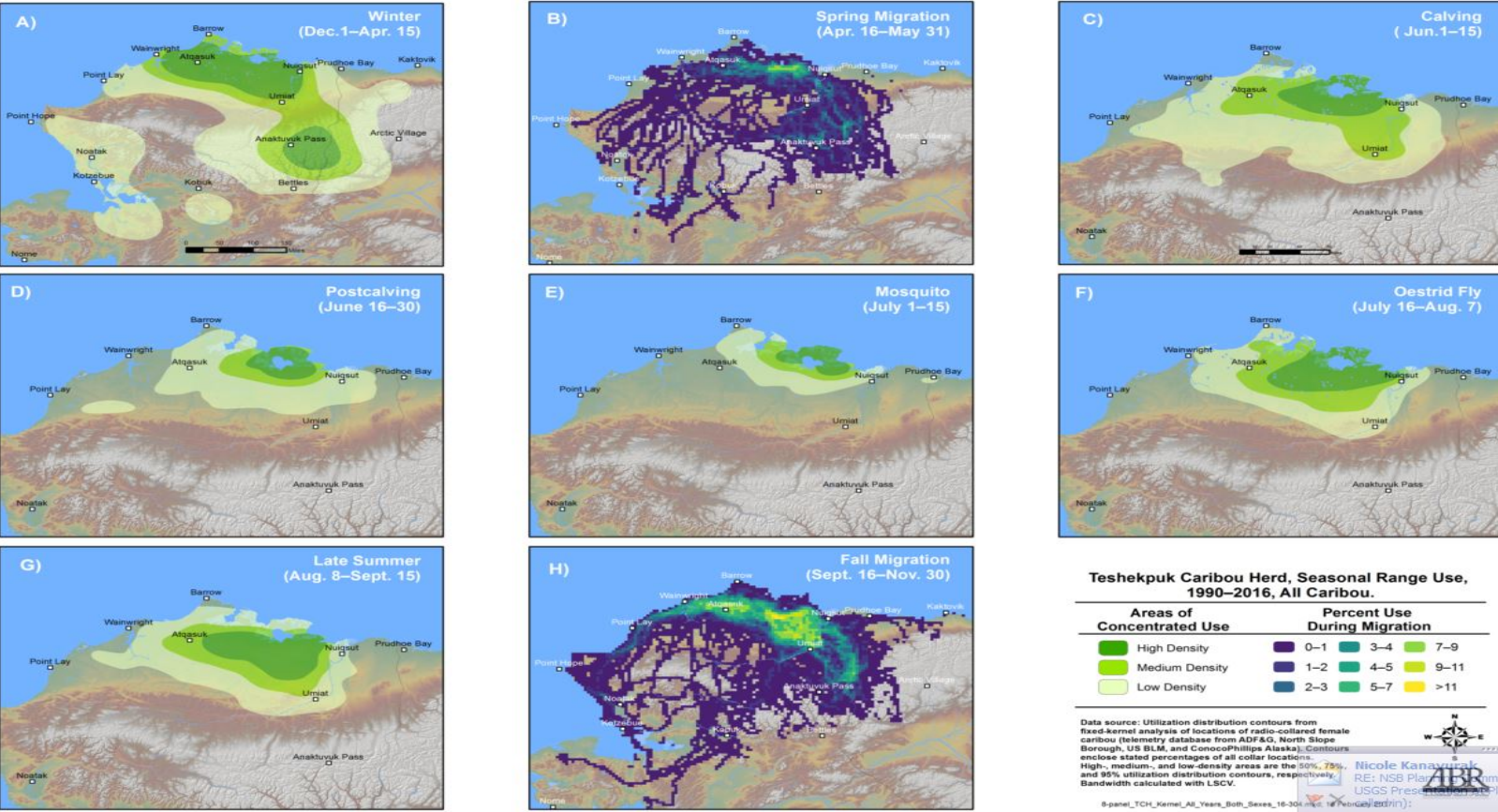


# Monitoring Teshekpuk Caribou Distribution and Movements

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**Why:** We are documenting the seasonal ranges used by Teshekpuk caribou to identify important habitats and key migratory routes used by the herd as a way to make informed decisions about land use on the Arctic coastal plain.

**HOW:** We live capture caribou using a net-gun fired from a helicopter, restrain the caribou, and attach a Global Positioning System (GPS) collar on male and female caribou. These collars are programmed to transmit locations to satellites which relay the coordinates to a central processing facility. Collared caribou are then recaptured 2-3 years later, depending on collar battery life, and the collar is removed and the caribou is potentially refitted with a new collar.



Seasonal ranges used by Teshekpuk Caribou between 1990 and 2016.

## DISCUSSION

- Prior to 1990 we had no understanding of seasonal ranges utilized by Teshekpuk caribou.
- Teshekpuk caribou are unique compared to the 3 other herds that calve along the North Slope in that roughly 40% of the herd remains on the North Slope in the winter.
- We identified that roughly 50% of the herd moves through narrow corridors to the east, and 40% to the west, of Teshekpuk Lake between June and July. This suggests that we should attempt to mitigate impacts from infrastructure in this area.
- Rates of travel by caribou provide baseline data to compare to potential impacts from industrial activity and changes in climate.



Lincoln Parrett (ADF&G) putting a GPS collar on a cow caribou while her calf inspects his work.

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