



**Climate and Health E-News (No. 186) December 19, 2013**  
*Climate Change and Public Health in the Circumpolar North*

**Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Map** – View our December map for new observations about unusually warm weather and the absence of snow in Quinhagak and Port Heiden. [ANTHC](#) Visit our [archives](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#)

**Climate Events in the Circumpolar North** - View our December map to see media reports from the circumpolar north. From Alaska, restless bears in Juneau, record snow in Anchorage, wind storms in Fairbanks, and unseasonably warm weather in Nome. Wind storms also brought power outages from Scotland to Scandinavia. [ANTHC](#)

**Shrinking glaciers have implications for Anchorage water and power** December 15, 2013. Anchorage's primary source of water is Eklutna Lake downstream from the Eklutna Glacier. The reservoir, located about 30 miles northeast of Anchorage also provides hydroelectric power. But like most Alaska glaciers, Eklutna Glacier is shrinking. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

**Climate change threatens genetic diversity of caribou** December 16, 2013. Caribou in southern and eastern Canada may disappear from most of their current range in 60 years if climate change takes the toll on their habitat that scientists predict. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Northwest Territory adds caribou herds to "at risk" list** December 14, 2013. Four species have been added to the Northwest Territories "species at risk" list. The Boreal caribou, the Peary caribou, and a plant called the hairy braya are now considered "threatened" species. The polar bear is listed as a "species of special concern." [CBC](#)

**Alaska's Western Arctic caribou herd continues to decline.** December 13, 2013. The population of caribou in North America's largest herd is continuing to fall. The herd, which at last count in 2011 was around 325,000 animals, has been decreasing by about 4 to 6 percent each year. There are several possible explanations, said Kotzebue biologist Jim Dau, but most likely, it's a combination of several factors. [Arctic Sounder](#)

**With caribou near villages, predators follow** December 13, 2013. Less than two weeks ago, seven wolves loped through the village of Deering. "They're hungry and they're looking for something to eat," said mayor Ron Moto. The caribou had moved to a snowless area, and were able to outrun the wolves. Moto said wolves are plucking dogs off chains for a quick meal and a few wolves have been shot. [Arctic Sounder](#)

**Video of the Week – Lake Baikal's Wonderful Ice Drummers** This ethnic drumming and percussion group from Russia makes amazing music with the ice from Lake Baikal. Enjoy! [Alaska Dispatch](#)

Climate and Health E-News is read by people who are interested in climate change and public health in the circumpolar north. For back issues click [here](#). To subscribe or unsubscribe, click [here](#).

*Regards – Mike*

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*Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities*