

# Re: The Neolithic/Mesolithic Boundary(4) Climatic Instability Gives way to Stability

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- *From:* [floyd@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:floyd@xxxxxxxxxx) (Floyd L. Davidson)
  - *Date:* Fri, 08 Sep 2006 10:45:56 -0800
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prd <X\_header@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

[floyd@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:floyd@xxxxxxxxxx) (Floyd L. Davidson) wrote:

"Peter Alaca" <P.Alaca@xxxxxx> wrote:

Floyd L. Davidson wrote:

"Peter Alaca" <P.Alaca@xxxxxx> wrote:

but perhaps you learned  
something about  
"prd" (and reindeer) after  
you wrote this.

I've yet to see anything indicating any  
knowledge of  
carioub/reindeer from either the people who  
claimed to know all  
about them. Maybe you do, but that isn't yet  
evident.

Okay then, taxonomically speaking there is only one  
(circumplolair) species, so it doesn't really matter how  
it is commonly known.

But what else was there to say to a prd's evasive reply  
to my question to him than 'yes'?

Whatever, you seem to have confused before  
and after.

I don't understand what you mean.

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You stated that I learned something "after".

But, I finally did! \*You\* actually do know the difference between a caribou and a reindeer, which is only in how the words are spelled.

There is some ambiguity to what a Reindeer is, I am not altogether familiar with free roaming reindeer herds

There is a lot of ambiguity to what 'prd' is. A brat for sure, but somewhat slow it appears too.

Here we are... and he \*finally\* went and looked it up somewhere; and now wants to claim he actually knew something in the first place (i.e., when he claimed he did).

Given a total lack of perspective on what he states, it appears 'prd' had not previously heard of the information he posts, and still hasn't got a clue as to what it means.

in eurasia, but at least some authors treat Reindeer as the domesticated version of Caribou. And since we

I certainly hope some of them do!

were talking about the Mesolithic/Neolithic boundary then the proper name would be Caribou, or conversely carbio = wild reindeer. That is like calling a wolf a wild dog or Arouch, wild cattle. I call this sloppy nomenclature.

But what do /you/ know about it?

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Taxonomy/Browser/wwwtax.cgi?mode=Undef&id=9881&lvl=3&lin=f&keep=1>

Rangifer  
Rangifer tarandus (reindeer)  
Rangifer tarandus caribou  
Rangifer tarandus dawsoni  
Rangifer tarandus fennicus  
Rangifer tarandus granti  
Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus  
Rangifer tarandus pearyi

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Rangifer tarandus platyrhincus  
Rangifer tarandus tarandus

I consider reindeer to be closer to elk than deer.

\*You\* consider? You don't know diddly squat shit about them, so what difference does it make what you think it all means.

But taxonomical the cervids are treated as deer, which makes it somewhat difficult to explain moose but . . .

The old Norse word is "hreidyri" which means [reindeer] it was shortened and deer was added as a suffix.

None of which has an iota of significance.

We could be real sophisticated and use the old Norse if anyone liketh it.

You could have been a lot more sophisticated, and \*not\* claimed to know anything about them. That would be called "honest".

Lets now see you do some research on caribou, and use that to connect with this thread in relation to development of human technologies/cultures following the last Ice Age.

There \*are\* some obvious relationships that exist at least here in Alaska. I am not familiar with archaeology in Siberia or Europe, and hence do not know what influences existed there.

A bit of suggested reading for you would be the specifics of caribou migration patterns and timing. Ken Whitten, Brad Griffith, and Ray Cameron et al have reported extensively over the past 30 years on those topics. Here is a fairly detailed review of their work,

<http://www.absc.usgs.gov/1002/index.htm>

The known connections between caribou and Paleo archaeology that I am aware of are mostly centered on work done at the Mesa site, by Kunz et al. They suggest that after the end of the last Ice Age there were few caribou on the North Slope, and a climate change resulted in loss of both megafauna and human habitat for perhaps 3000 years. Humans and caribou repopulated the area at the same time. It appears that virtually all human habitation on the coastal plain of the Brooks Range (the "North Slope") was

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Dependant upon caribou for several thousand years, until development of Thule Technology by Eskimos made a fully marine mammal dependent culture possible.

Here are two quickie overviews that put it into perspective.

<http://www.gi.alaska.edu/ScienceForum/ASF15/1533.html>

[http://www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/Cg/fd\\_vol8\\_num1/planet.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/Cg/fd_vol8_num1/planet.htm)

For specific details, do a web search for this document:

M. Kunz, Bever. M., Adkins C. 2003. The Mesa Site: Paleoindians above the Arctic Circle. U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage Alaska.

Kunz gives his perception (which is not universally agreed to by others, but certainly is accurate enough for our purposes) of the history of human occupation of the North Slope of Alaska, beginning on page 21 and continuing for several pages because he speculates on various relationships, including between caribou and various human cultures that occupied the area from 11,000 years before present up to modern times.

When you digest all of that, and at least have a meager background, \*then\* lets talk about how caribou and humans interacted over the past 10,000 years.

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