



Alberta Wilderness Association

ALBERTA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

"Defending Wild Alberta through Awareness and Action"

November 28, 2017

RE: Caribou Recovery in Alberta

Dear MLA,

Alberta's caribou are at great risk and we hope that we can count on your support in recovering this iconic species so they will thrive on Alberta's landscape.

For 40 years, government after government has failed to act, creating today's caribou crisis. In 2012 the Canadian government released a national recovery strategy which tasked the provinces and territories to produce a range management plan for each herd within five years. In June 2016, Alberta declared its leadership in permanent protection of woodland caribou ranges, announcing new protected areas in northwest Alberta, comprising an additional 1.8 million hectares as well as restoration plans for The Little Smoky and A- La Peche ranges. The proposed protected areas have not been acted on and the deadline to produce Range management plans passed in October 2017. Alberta's long anticipated action has been delayed and is in danger of being watered down to good intentions.

It is clear that caribou populations are declining. Saving Alberta's caribou does not need to come at the cost of jobs and livelihoods. In fact, without healthy, sustainable forests both will be lost. The situation demands a cooperative effort and government has the tools and responsibility to make that happen.

Habitat loss continues to worsen and significant portions of range are not sufficiently being protected. Let's not let this iconic species disappear. The science has been clear for decades; the problem is only getting worse. Action today will keep the habitat deficit from growing larger and requiring more extreme action in the future.

Please ask Honorable Ministers Phillips (Environment and Parks), Carlier (Agriculture and Forestry) and McCuaig-Boyd (Energy) when Alberta's caribou plans will be presented to the legislature and the public, and when protective measures will be undertaken.

Please encourage stakeholders to work together for the future of thriving caribou, healthy forests and prosperous communities. Let's not be the generation that let caribou go extinct in Alberta; let's be the ones who laid the groundwork for their recovery and persistence. We hope you will add your voice to the growing number of Albertans wanting strong range plans that will protect caribou for future generations by sending Premier Notley the enclosed post card.

Sincerely yours,

Carolyn Campbell,
AWA Conservation Specialist