

Dear Member of Parliament,

December 5, 2017

We are writing to update you on the campaign to save woodland caribou from extinction and to ask for your support to turn the situation around.



The long neglected decline of caribou finally led to the Canadian government's national recovery strategy in 2012. The strategy tasked provinces and territories to produce range management plans for each herd by October 2017.

Unfortunately, that deadline passed and none of the provinces has yet complied. In addition, during those 5 years Environment Canada missed 10 updates on the steps to be taken to protect critical habitat under section 63 of the Species at Risk Act.

A growing coalition of environmental, indigenous, and community groups are working for positive outcomes across Canada to address this urgent situation. The science is clear, woodland caribou herds where more than 35% of their range is disturbed are on a path to extinction.

Solutions are within reach if government, industry, ENGOs and affected communities work together to implement plans that protect woodland caribou, jobs, and forest sustainability. Healthy, sustainable forests are essential for both jobs and caribou. We need mining, energy and forestry to respect the limits caribou need to survive. There are extensive jobs to be created from forest restoration and stewardship and eco-tourism. These actions will also benefit other species in the boreal forest and help Canada meet its international commitments.

The Canadian government has the tools and responsibility to ensure healthy caribou herds. It is clear populations are declining, habitat loss continues to worsen, and significant portions of their ranges are not being sufficiently protected.

We ask you to please encourage Minister McKenna's efforts to obtain comprehensive and collaborative plans from the provinces and territories. It's essential the plans identify where habitat has not been protected and the steps to achieve that protection. In those cases where plans to address caribou protection are insufficient for their survival the Minister must exercise her authority to apply protective measures.

If woodland caribou call your province or territory home, it would be very helpful for you to encourage your Premier to a) use existing tools to stop new disturbance in ranges that are highly disturbed, b) submit plans for limiting disturbance and recovering habitat in all caribou ranges c) identify how they will strengthen legal protection for caribou in their jurisdiction, where needed and d) share their plans with the public without further delay.

Thank you very much for your consideration and our best wishes to you, your staff and family for the holidays and New Year. Please, let's not let this iconic species disappear. I think you will find the overwhelming majority of Canadians are supportive of our constructive approach.

Bob Peart

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*Robert Bateman
Michael Bloomfield*

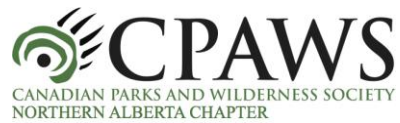
Robert Bateman and Michael Bloomfield



Art Jackson

Kecia Kerr

Kecia Kerr



Carolyn Campbell

Carolyn Campbell



Alberta Wilderness Association

Rachel Plotkin

Rachel Plotkin

