



*Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Northern Alberta  
Press Release  
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## **Conservation group welcomes new federal science report on caribou Calls for halt to new industrial activity in remaining habitat**

Edmonton - Today the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) Northern Alberta welcomes the release of a groundbreaking scientific report from Environment Canada on Boreal caribou. The report underscores the importance of protecting large areas of habitat from human-caused threats in the Boreal Forest.

The Environment Canada report, titled Scientific Review for the Identification of Critical Habitat for Woodland Caribou, shows that woodland caribou are in worse trouble than what was previously thought, the group says.

“Woodland caribou are one of Canada’s most treasured mammals, and this new report shows that immediate action is needed in Alberta and right across the country,” says Aran O’ Carroll, Manager of legal affairs and policy for the group. CPAWS, a national conservation organization, launched a campaign last year to protect the habitat of Boreal woodland caribou. It has resulted in wide spread public concern for the species and thousands of letters being sent to the federal environment minister.

“On the heels of this new federal report, we call on the Alberta government to stop new logging and petroleum development in caribou range until range plans are in place that will ensure restoration of caribou populations without needing to resort to killing wolves,” says Helene Walsh of CPAWS northern Alberta “ Many caribou plans have come and gone in Alberta and still the habitat of almost all herds continues to be degraded by industrial development under the blessing of the Alberta government.”

The findings of the federal report are in keeping with the Alberta Woodland Caribou Recovery Plan 2004 and its focus on the need for suitable habitat to ensure caribou population recovery.

The critical habitat report from Environment Canada was commissioned under the federal Species at Risk Act which requires the federal government to identify the habitat needs of species that are considered at risk of extinction.

**For more information:**

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**Also available at [www.caribouandyou.ca](http://www.caribouandyou.ca)**

Alberta Backgrounder

National Release and Backgrounder

Video and B-Roll

Photos