



*Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Wildlands League
Press Release
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Conservation group welcomes new federal science report on caribou Calls for halt to logging and road building in remaining intact habitat

Toronto - Today Wildlands League, a chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) 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. It also confirms the findings of the Ontario Woodland Caribou Science Review Panel that threats to woodland caribou need to be managed at the range-level and significant parts of those ranges need to be protected.

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 groups says.

“Woodland caribou is one of Canada’s most treasured mammals, and this new report shows that immediate action is needed in Ontario 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 Ontario government to revise its ‘clearcutting for caribou’ approach in intact forests,” says Trevor Hesselink of CPAWS Wildlands League. “It’s absurd that the province is proposing to add more known threats to this threatened species.”

“An immediate pause in logging, road-building and other developments is needed in critical intact caribou habitat while Ontario finalizes its plan for woodland caribou,” Hesselink states. For over two years now, CPAWS Wildlands League has been campaigning to protect the threatened caribou and calling for a halt to logging and road building within known caribou range.

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.

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