



*Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Saskatchewan*

*Press Release*

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## Groundbreaking report underscores urgent need to protect Saskatchewan's Boreal woodland caribou

Saskatoon - The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), Saskatchewan Chapter welcomes the release (TODAY) of a groundbreaking report from Environment Canada that underscores the importance of protecting large areas of Saskatchewan's Boreal forest that are home to Canada's nationally at-risk woodland caribou.

"The woodland caribou is one of Canada's most treasured mammals, and this new report shows that it is in worse trouble than we previously thought," says Aran O' Carroll of CPAWS, a national conservation organization which launched a campaign to protect the habitat of Boreal woodland caribou last year.

CPAWS-Saskatchewan welcomes the Environment Canada report, titled Scientific Review for the Identification of Critical Habitat for Woodland Caribou.

"Today we are calling on the Saskatchewan government to take the findings of this report seriously, starting with actually including Woodland Caribou on the Wild Species at Risk list under the Provincial Wildlife Act," says Gord Vaadeland of CPAWS Saskatchewan. "The caribou cannot wait – and neither should we. That's why CPAWS-Saskatchewan is calling for an immediate pause in logging, road-building and other developments in critical caribou habitat while the province finalizes a plan to protect woodland caribou habitat and guarantee the caribou's survival."

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. The critical habitat report confirms the findings of the Prince Albert Greater Ecosystem Woodland Caribou Research Team that the species needs to be managed at the range-level and that significant proportions of those ranges need to be protected from activities likely to be harmful to woodland caribou habitat. The critical habitat report found that human-caused disturbance was the main driver of caribou extirpation.

Woodland caribou are already under extreme pressure of extirpation in much of their historic range in Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan population is listed as threatened under the Federal Species at Risk Act.

The Saskatchewan government, federal government, industry: all need to protect habitat and save caribou.

"The critical habitat review is just the beginning of the serious work that is needed to ensure the survival of woodland caribou in Canada's boreal wilderness", Mr. O'Carroll says.

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

Saskatchewan Backgrounder

National Release and Backgrounder

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