

A photograph of a caribou running through a forest. The caribou is in profile, facing right, with its body and legs blurred to indicate motion. The background is a dense forest of green trees, also blurred to create a sense of speed. The caribou has dark brown fur with a white patch on its chest and a white tail. Its antlers are large and reddish-brown.

**When the Caribou are in Danger, We are too!**

**Saving Caribou from Extinction will Curb Climate Change**

Photo: Wayne Sawchuk

 **CPAWS**  
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
MANITOBA CHAPTER



## Woodland caribou

are threatened with extinction as half of their Boreal Forest range has disappeared in the last 50 years largely due to industrial developments.



# Caribou and Climate: The Connection

**By Protecting the Caribou's Shrinking Boreal Home, We Will Keep Tonnes of Carbon Out of Our Atmosphere**

The Boreal is Earth's largest land-based storehouse of carbon. Our Boreal stores more than 186 billion tons of carbon — 27 years' worth of global carbon emissions from the burning of fossil fuels!

But when the Boreal is developed or logged, its ability

to absorb and store carbon is lost or reduced, which degrades its ability to help moderate our climate.

Protect caribou habitat -- take our foot off the global warming accelerator.



# Manitoba's caribou on the edge

Immediate protection of critical caribou habitats needed

A 2009 scientific report from Environment Canada delineates 11 caribou ranges in Manitoba. Two are classified as not self-sustaining and require habitat restoration, 5 may not be self-sustaining if further degradation occurs, and 4 are deemed self-sustaining and could possibly endure more disturbance.

CPAWS is calling for an immediate halt to logging, logging road construction, and other industrial developments in intact caribou habitat until the government can demonstrate that adequate measures have been put in place to ensure long-term caribou persistence.

To read the federal report on boreal woodland caribou - <http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/>

**You can knock, but no one's home**  
Caribou can't live here anymore

Photo: Ron Thies



# Boreal Wildlife

wildlife need wilderness



Photos: Ron Thiessen, Peter Blahut (Polar Bears), Anna Yu (Wolverine)





## The Boreal Region

### Canada's Vast Northern Wilderness



Map: MB Eco-Network GIS/Mapping Centre

The Boreal Region drapes over the northern shoulders of the globe like a green veil. Canada's Boreal is the largest continuous expanse of wildlands left on Earth and it houses 25 per cent of the world's remaining original forests.

The woodland caribou's Boreal Forest home stretches across northern Canada from coast to coast. Manitoba's north is in the heart of the world's largest section of intact Boreal Forest.

It shields us from the dangerous impacts of climate change. It is also

the Earth's largest source of fresh water.

The Boreal is a spectacular mosaic of forests, wetlands, lakes, rivers, and bogs. It supports a diversity of tree species such as pine, spruce, poplar, and birch, and teems with wildlife such as lynx, black bear, moose, fox, owls, eagles, and a variety of ducks and songbirds - and we all know about the eminent polar bear. Many of Manitoba's polar bears spend the summer in the Boreal Region.

The Boreal is a special place where many of us go to relax or hike, canoe, hunt, or fish. It is home to many Aboriginal communities. Many Canadians rely on the Boreal for food, supplies, medicines and employment. We all rely on the Boreal for its ecosystem services. It cleans our air, provides us with fresh water, stabilizes our soils and does much, much more.

For a fragile ecosystem like the Boreal to remain working well, every thread within its fabric must remain strong. Conservation science tells us that we must protect more than half of it to maintain its integral role in Earth's life support systems.

## A Request from Carrie Caribou—Please Help!

### Alarm Bells are Ringing



My woodland caribou family and friends are threatened with extinction because our Boreal Forest home is rapidly being lost due to industrial developments. We are in trouble across Canada and we've already disappeared from 3 provinces - PEI, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

My woodland caribou comrades and I are a measure of the overall health of the Boreal Forest ecosystem. Where we thrive, the ecosystem does well; where we have disappeared, the forest's ecosystem is severely damaged and compromised. This puts us all at risk, including you.

As we no longer inhabit half our historical range in Canada, it's no

wonder the alarm bells are ringing about the Boreal Forest's imperiled state. In a letter sent to all Canadian governments in 2007, 1,500 highly respected scientists from more than 50 countries recommended preserving a minimum of half of Canada's Boreal from industrial development.

They also recommended allowing only carefully managed development on the rest. Half of the Boreal is the absolute minimum protection required to ensure it remains fully functioning as an ecosystem and helps us all fight climate change.

With only about 6% of Canada's Boreal permanently safeguarded from industrial developments, we need you to act fast to protect it. A critical next step is to require the Manitoba government to put an immediate halt to logging, logging road construction, and other industrial developments in intact caribou habitats until it can demonstrate that adequate measures have been put in place to ensure my survival.

To ensure that we all have a healthy Boreal in the future, it's paramount to change the status quo so that conservation and community planning is complete before any further industrial expansion.

Please help me! Ask the Manitoba government to take the lead in designing a conservation model for the world by permanently protecting more than half of our wild Boreal Region.

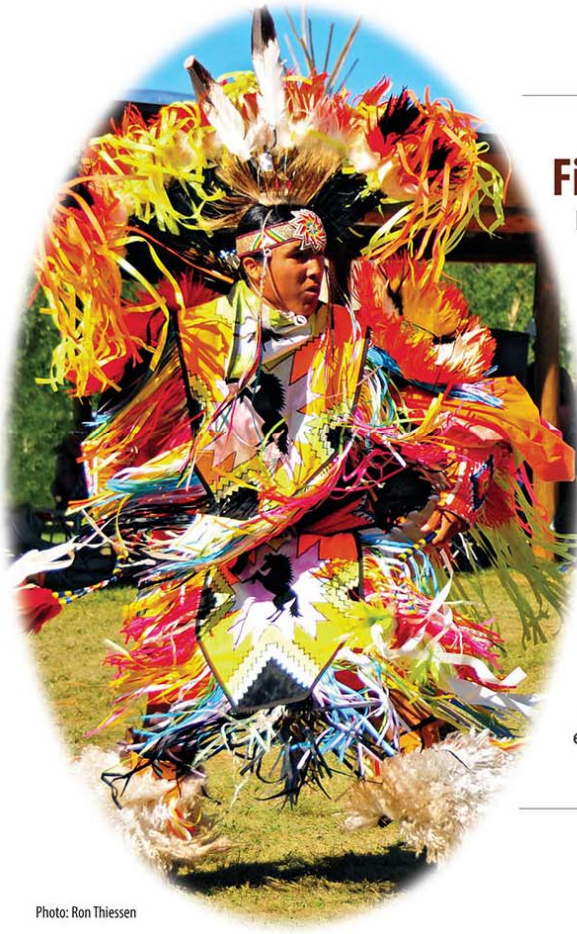


Photo: Ron Thiessen

## First Nations

### Healthy communities, sustainable economies

Canada's Boreal is home to over 600 First Nation communities. The Boreal offers tremendous potential for local communities to develop sustainable economies based on maintaining the well-being of the Boreal with opportunities such as eco and cultural tourism – the Manitoba government has acknowledged these as two of the fastest growing markets in the world.

Vigorously promoted, people from all over the world would visit Manitoba's Boreal Region to stay at a Tipi village, participate in a community celebration, go hiking and camping, or partake in guided wildlife watching and canoeing expeditions.

It's legally required and appropriate that all Aboriginal rights and traditional activities are upheld within the entire Boreal landscape. Keeping the Boreal intact will serve to maintain subsistence activities such as hunting, fishing, and gathering.

It's highly important to note that the "on-the-ground" design to achieve protection of more than 50% of Manitoba's Boreal from industrial activities must be done with in-depth consultation and full support of Boreal First Nation communities.

To read stories about Aboriginal leaders protecting the Boreal, go to [www.abcleaders.org](http://www.abcleaders.org)

**CPAWS is a signatory of the Boreal Forest Conservation Framework.** The goal of the Framework is to preserve at least half of the Boreal Forest in a network of large interconnected protected areas and support sustainable communities, world-leading ecosystem-based resource management practices and state-of-the-art stewardship practices in the remaining landscape. The Framework is already endorsed by Canadian conservation groups, 25 Canadian First Nations, and more than 75 major businesses with annual sales of \$30 billion.

To read the Full Framework Document:  
<http://www.borealcanada.ca/framework-e.php>

### CPAWS – Manitoba Chapter

3rd floor – 303 Portage Ave. Winnipeg, MB, R3B 2B4

phone: (204) 949-0782

[www.cpaawsmb.org](http://www.cpaawsmb.org)

 **CPAWS**  
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
MANITOBA CHAPTER



# Your Moment to Act!



Photo: Ron Thiessen

## Time is Running Out

As industrial operations and new development proposals rapidly encroach on the Boreal region, the window to keep it healthy and well is quickly narrowing. It's paramount that our provincial government announces a plan to protect more than half of Manitoba's Boreal Region from industrial developments.

This is the minimum that scientists say we need to protect to maintain fully-functioning ecosystems and help shield us from the dangerous impacts of climate change.

We need to do this for all our children and our grandchildren.

## Your Moment to Act! Creating a Healthy Future for All

### Immediate Action Required!

You can help make sure Manitoba has healthy Boreal ecosystems and healthy communities by letting our provincial government know what you think.

Please cut out the form directly below and mail to:

**Premier**  
**450 Broadway**  
**Winnipeg, MB, R3C 0V8**

Alternatively, you can go to [www.cpawsemb.org](http://www.cpawsemb.org) to conveniently send the Manitoba government a letter.

Join...



efforts to protect caribou and Manitoba's Boreal Region

Please accept my tax-deductible contribution.

Enclosed is:  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250 Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Fed. Reg. charity no. #10686-5272-RR

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to CPAWS, call to give by credit card or become a monthly donor. Please return with your gift to:

**CPAWS – Manitoba Chapter**  
3rd floor – 303 Portage Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB, R3B 2B4  
phone: (204) 949-0782

CPAWS — Protecting Canada's Wilderness since 1963.

Dear Premier,

Please announce a plan to protect more than half of Manitoba's Boreal Region from industrial developments and an immediate halt to logging in intact caribou habitats.

This necessary action will help protect caribou from extinction and aid in shielding us from the impacts of climate change.

Sincerely,  
Full Name

Full Address

Postal Code

**Credits:**

Research and Writing: Ron Thiessen  
Editing: Anna Baggio, Chanda Hunnie  
Design and Layout: Jim Hounslow, Ron Thiessen  
CPAWS Manitoba. 2009.

**CPAWS – Manitoba Chapter**  
3rd floor – 303 Portage Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB, R3B 2B4  
www.cpawsmb.org

For free distribution. Posted in Winnipeg.

Printed in Canada on Envirographic 100 paper – 60lb text, 100% Post Consumer Waste, 100% Processed Chlorine-Free and Acid-Free. Vegetable-based inks.

Press run: 12,000. ©CPAWS 2009. All rights reserved. Written material may be used when credit is given.

We gratefully acknowledge Mountain Equipment Co-op and Photocentral for making this publication possible.



www.Mec.ca/sustainability



www.photocentral.ca



www.cpawsmb.org

IVEY foundation

www.ivey.org