

key facts

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Key Facts on the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement

18 May 2010 (Toronto and Montreal) – The Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (CBFA) is one of the biggest and most ambitious conservation agreements in the world. Forged by a coalition of nine leading environmental groups, including Greenpeace, and the Forest Products Association of Canada and its member companies, the long-term Agreement effectively ends the war in the woods across Canada's Boreal Forest.

As part of the Agreement, a three-year planning process begins immediately to determine how to take 72 million hectares of Boreal Forest wilderness, nearly 29 million of which is prime woodland caribou habitat, and transform it into vast protected areas and sustainable forestry sites that will lead to a greener, more robust forest products industry.

Highlights from the Agreement:

- Covers 72 million hectares of publically owned forests, an area larger than the province of Alberta and twice the size of Germany, licensed to FPAC member companies across Canada. These companies manage and log these forests. The total amount of carbon stored in this area is greater than 25 billion tonnes, equivalent to the annual emissions that would come from 12 billion passenger vehicles.
- A three-year moratorium on all logging, road building and other forestry development on nearly 29 million hectares of Boreal Forest, encompassing virtually the entire remaining habitat of threatened woodland caribou under FPAC member companies' management – an area the size of Italy, or four times the size of New Brunswick.
- With the long-term accord, a three-year conservation planning process begins immediately to identify joint proposals for protected areas to ensure the recovery of endangered species including woodland caribou.
- The signatories hope to work closely with First Nations and Aboriginal communities to develop fair and just solutions that support First Nations conservation proposals for their traditional territories.
- Joint maps of specific locations for new protected areas. As these are developed, the companies will do everything under their control to suspend logging and road building in these areas until governments legislate for their permanent protection.
- A joint roadmap to implement the Agreement with 60 milestones will be checked periodically by an independent auditor.
- Environment groups will suspend boycott or "do-not-buy" campaigns targeting companies who signed the Agreement.

The Agreement is designed to achieve the following six strategic goals:

1. World-leading "on-the-ground" sustainable management of forests based on the principle of ecosystem based management and third party verification;
2. The formation of a new large-scale network of protected areas that will help mitigate the impacts of climate change and preserve natural ecosystems;

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3. The recovery and protection of species at risk within the Boreal Forest including threatened woodland caribou;
4. The improved prosperity of the Canadian forest sector and the communities that depend upon it;
5. The establishment of climate-friendly practices that will help mitigate the impacts of climate change and preserve natural ecosystems; and
6. Recognition in the global marketplace for the leadership of FPAC member companies upon completion of the conservation elements of the Agreement.

Next steps:

The parties are working to gather support from provincial governments that are ultimately responsible for the creation of protected areas and regulations supporting sustainable management of forests.

The parties are beginning to conduct conservation planning in a select number of areas in Alberta, Ontario and Quebec. A deadline of six months has been set to complete planning in these select areas.

During the Agreement, an independent auditor will be checking and making public the status of 60 milestones of success established in the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement.

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Environmental Organizations Participating in the Agreement:

Canadian Boreal Initiative, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Canopy, the David Suzuki Foundation, ForestEthics, Greenpeace, the Ivey Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the Pew Environment Group's International Boreal Conservation Campaign. The Hewlett Foundation's support for boreal forest conservation has been critical to the collective efforts of these groups.

Forestry Companies Participating in the Agreement:

AbitibiBowater, Alberta Pacific Forest Industries, AV Group, Canfor, Cariboo Pulp & Paper Company, Cascades Inc., DMI, F.F. Soucy, Inc., Howe Sound Pulp and Paper, Kruger Inc., LP Canada, Mercer International, Mill & Timber Products Ltd, NewPage Port Hawkesbury Ltd, Paper Masson Ltee, SFK Pulp, Tembec Inc., Tolko Industries, West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd, Weyerhaeuser Company Limited - all represented by the Forest Products Association of Canada.

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Editors may also download photos themselves at www.greenpeace.ca/gallery

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