

# PARTNERING TO PROTECT OUR CARIBOU

Partnering to Protect Caribou is a collaboration of governments, Indigenous Nations, conservation organizations and stakeholders working in Manitoba and Saskatchewan to advance woodland caribou recovery, identify candidate protected areas, and help conserve other species at risk.



Working together we can protect our lands, our animals and the treasured lifestyles, cultures and sustainable economies which depend upon a healthy boreal forest.



# Why Caribou?

WOODLAND CARIBOU are a strong indicator species for the health of the broader boreal ecosystem: they're sensitive to disturbance, and thrive in intact forest. Here they can find enough food and spread out to avoid predators. They

More than half of woodland caribou habitat in Canada has disappeared in the last 50 years. The number of caribou in Canadian forests is expected to fall more than 30 percent by 2033.<sup>1</sup> Just 14 of Canada's 51 boreal caribou herds are self-sustaining, a federal analysis found.<sup>2</sup>

British Columbia and Alberta are spending millions trying to wrest mountain caribou herds back from the brink of extinction. If Manitoba and Saskatchewan act now, we can save more caribou at a far lower economic and social cost.

The work we do to protect caribou will also preserve our boreal and the many species—including humans—which rely upon this vast forest for clean air, clean water and a place to live.

Conserving and managing the large swaths of intact boreal forests that caribou need to survive will help slow the effects of climate change and preserve a cherished way of life for local residents, including Indigenous Nations.

1 COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Caribou Rangifer tarandus, Northern Mountain population, Central Mountain population and Southern Mountain population in Canada. 2015

2 Report on the Progress of Recovery Strategy Implementation for the Woodland Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou), Boreal population in Canada for the Period 2012 to 2017 Table 2

## Our Goals:

Conserve boreal caribou

Help Canada achieve its goal of protecting 17% of our land and fresh waters

Conserve other imperiled species

Honour and respect First Nations and local communities

Incorporate best science & traditional knowledge

Protect jobs





## Why We Are Doing This Now

UNLIKE MANY OTHER PLACES in the world, Manitoba and Saskatchewan still have the chance to secure a healthy future for our lands and wildlife. If we act now, we can achieve a balance of conservation and sustainable development before it's too late.

The federal government is supporting the participation of communities and stakeholders in accelerating the development of provincial caribou management plans.

Working together, we can ensure the province's management plans are effective for caribou and other boreal wildlife, and meet the needs of Indigenous Nations, local residents and regional economies.

## What We Will Do

WE AIM TO ENSURE healthy woodland caribou populations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan by supporting the development of effective provincial caribou range plans which have a broad base of support.

By working to expand protected areas, the partnership aims to help Canada meet its commitment to protect 17% of terrestrial areas and inland waters by 2020.

Efforts to protect caribou and their boreal habitat will deliver benefits for other species at risk. We will incorporate western scientific and Indigenous knowledge to ensure that the caribou management plans are optimized to capture a wide range of habitats that support a variety of other threatened species.



[www.ProtectOurCaribou.ca](http://www.ProtectOurCaribou.ca)



 **CPAWS**

CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY