



West Fraser

working to protect the caribou: a West Fraser commitment

West Fraser is committed to working with the BC and Alberta governments to protect caribou herds in our operating areas.

That's why West Fraser habitat experts, like wildlife biologist Dr. Rick Bonar, spend their time studying caribou populations, assessing impacts and investigating ways to conserve caribou habitat.

Here's what we're doing to protect caribou herds in our operating areas in British Columbia and Alberta.

Hinton, Alberta

In February 2007, West Fraser voluntarily deferred harvesting on 50,000 hectares (123,500 acres) of caribou range on our Hinton Forest Management Area (FMA). This deferral more than doubles the size of a previous voluntary deferral for woodland caribou habitat that we made in 1994.

This recent deferral signals our commitment to sustainable forest management and we have voluntarily stopped harvesting in all of the caribou range on our Hinton FMA while government-led caribou recovery plans continue to be developed.

At Hinton, we are now focusing our operations on areas outside the caribou range that are at high risk of Mountain Pine Beetle attack.

Additional Alberta Tenures

Portions of the ranges of the Slave Lake caribou herd and the Red Earth caribou herd overlap with the operating areas of West Fraser's Slave Lake Pulp division and Alberta Plywood division. The Slave Lake caribou herd is ranked as "immediate risk of extirpation."



Dr. Rick Bonar is West Fraser's caribou expert. With 33 years of experience as a professional biologist in BC and Alberta, the Hinton, Alberta-based Dr. Bonar conducts and reviews research on caribou and caribou habitat, and works with caribou recovery planning processes to identify the best approaches to recover caribou populations.

Most of the caribou habitat within the Slave Lake FMA burned in a forest fire several years ago and West Fraser is not operating in the caribou area. However, we have provided funding for a recent government-led research and monitoring program to learn more about the Slave Lake caribou herd as part of the recovery planning process.

A portion of the Red Earth caribou herd overlaps with areas where we have harvest tenures but are not the primary forest manager. The Red Earth caribou herd is ranked as "declining". West Fraser is not currently harvesting in the range of the Red Earth caribou herd.

Research and long-term caribou conservation planning is currently underway in these areas. This process will culminate in an Alberta government conservation plan.

