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**NEWS RELEASE  
WEST FRASER TIMBER CO. LTD.**

**For immediate release:**

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Attention: Environment and Forestry Editors

**West Fraser to Extend Caribou Habitat Protection  
and Reduce Impact of Mountain Pine Beetle in the Hinton FMA**

West Fraser announced today that its Hinton Wood Products operation will implement an enhanced forest management planning process for its Hinton Forest Management Area (FMA). This process will form part of a new Forest Management Plan to be submitted to the Alberta government for approval within the next two years.

This measure will extend habitat protection for threatened woodland caribou and prepare for the expected impact of the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB).

“Building on a proud 50 year history of managing all forest values on our Hinton FMA, these new steps will allow us to address emerging caribou and Mountain Pine Beetle issues,” says Wayne Clogg, West Fraser’s Vice President, Woodlands. “We are asking all of our stakeholders and partners to join us to develop solutions to these needs.”

Pending the outcome of the enhanced planning process and in support of the developing Alberta Caribou Recovery Plan, West Fraser will, effective immediately, voluntarily defer harvesting in all of the caribou range on its FMA at Hinton, Alberta. The 50,000 hectare deferral more than doubles the area of a previous deferral which was established in 1994.

The Company will focus harvesting activities on pine stands south of the caribou range to slow the anticipated spread of Mountain Pine Beetle into the Hinton FMA from beetle outbreaks to the north and west. Any potential beetle control in the deferred area will be in accordance with Government policy and the upcoming Alberta Caribou Recovery Plan.

As part of the enhanced planning process, West Fraser will:

- Assemble and collate resource value information through a new project coordinated by NatureServe, a non-profit conservation organization that provides the scientific information and tools needed to help guide effective conservation action.

- Use the latest forest management information and tools developed by the Foothills Model Forest, a non-profit partnership dedicated to providing solutions for stewardship and sustainability on Alberta forest lands. West Fraser is a founding member and sponsor of the Foothills Model Forest.
- In addition to the existing stakeholders, such as our Forest Resources Advisory Group, and the Aboriginal communities the Company commonly consults with, offer an invitation to Alberta environmental groups, and the energy sector to participate in the forest management planning process.

West Fraser's objective is to devise a method of protecting caribou while addressing the growing threat of MPB infestation through the use of the best available science and a multi-stakeholder consultation process.

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