



April 26, 2007

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **West Fraser Corrects Misleading Statements**

ForestEthics released a video on YouTube on April 23 regarding caribou habitat. Much of the information in this video is misleading and taken out of context. West Fraser finds it disconcerting that organizations can use the internet and mediums such as YouTube to provide distorted information to support their own position, especially when the information would not survive the fact checking process with legitimate and credible news sources.

There are numerous statements in the video that are incorrect and some of the imagery identified in the video as West Fraser tenure is inaccurate. Three of the four highlighted areas are nowhere near caribou range, and one of them is even on the tenure of another forest company. The cut blocks bordering Quesnel Lake were harvested over a decade ago and have been regenerated to healthy young forests.

The misleading and inaccurate statements in the video include the following:

Assertion – West Fraser’s business model leads to the extinction of caribou.

Fact – Government has confirmed that in fact the caribou herds in West Fraser’s BC operating areas are stable and in Alberta, some herds in West Fraser’s operating areas are actually increasing in size.

Fact - Caribou are not at risk of extinction and West Fraser is cooperating closely with government led caribou conservation programs in both BC and Alberta.

Fact – As a responsible corporate citizen, West Fraser adheres to an Environment Policy which states the company is “committed to responsible stewardship of the environment.” The most compelling example of this policy in action is the Kitlope, which is now the largest untouched coastal temperate rainforest valley on Earth at over 317,000 hectares. West Fraser voluntarily gave up this area for protection by the BC government without compensation.

Assertion – Despite a clear public and scientific consensus on the importance of habitat preservation, West Fraser continues to log where it pleases.

Fact – West Fraser, like all other forest companies in western Canada, harvests under strict government controls based on the principles of sustainable forest management. The provincial governments dictate where harvesting on crown land takes place and years of environmental research and planning go into these decisions.

Fact – West Fraser works with government-led initiatives to use the best available science for caribou conservation. We look for consensus and don't claim it exists when it doesn't.

Assertion – Unlike other companies, West Fraser refuses to defer logging in sensitive areas.

Fact – West Fraser regularly uses harvest deferrals for environmental purposes and has done so for many years. Some examples include: the deferral of harvesting in caribou habitat on the Hinton FMA in 1994 and the expansion of this deferral in February 2007; Deferred harvesting operations at Quesnel Lake while the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan was being developed (including a deferral in caribou habitat); deferred harvesting operations on the North Coast of BC pending resolution of land use issues; and the permanent deferral of the Kitlope, which is the largest voluntary curtailment of harvesting rights in North America. In this case, West Fraser determined there was higher value in the preservation of this area.

Assertion – West Fraser has over 33,000 hectares of clearcuts planned in mountain caribou habitat.

Fact – West Fraser has never planned to harvest 33,000 hectares in mountain caribou habitat. Any harvesting that was initially planned by the company in mountain caribou habitat has been redirected to other areas to control mountain pine beetle and spruce beetle populations, and to salvage timber already impacted by the mountain pine beetle.

Fact - West Fraser anticipates that over the next five years, harvesting in mountain caribou habitat will remain restricted to small research trials in consultation with government agencies and to control/salvage beetle infested timber.

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