



## NWO CARIBOU CONCERNS NEED TO BE HEARD

The leaders of ten (10) First Nations and eight(8) Municipalities of Northwestern Ontario have banded together in solidarity to protect *Northerners* rights and way of life from the impacts of the proposed Caribou Recovery Strategy in our region.

**Who are Northerners?** The First Nation people and citizens of the municipalities of Northern Ontario. We hunt. We fish. We trap. And we make our living from the resources the land provides us.

### What is the problem?

Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) Boreal Population:

- Boreal Caribou is listed as a threatened species in both the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) and provincial Endangered Species Act (ESA). A threatened species under both acts is granted certain protections:
  - Cannot kill or harm species;
  - Cannot destroy habitat;
  - Must create recovery strategy for species and species habitat.
- Critical habitat of caribou includes: 200-4000 sq km. of undisturbed old growth black spruce and jack pine stands (+100yr).

Ontario Caribou Recovery Strategy:

- The provinces overall goal is to achieve a "self-sustaining caribou population". To achieve this goal, the province has created a number of policies and amended acts to achieve the objectives stated in the MNRF's Caribou Conservation Plan, 2009 (CPP).
- Policies include (but not limited to): Range Management Policy in Support of Woodland Caribou Conservation and Recovery, 2014, Cervid Ecological Framework, 2009, Forest Management Guide for Boreal Landscapes, 2014.

### Recovery Strategies:

- Forestry road decommissioning;
- Moose managed at low to moderate density population;
- Implementing a Dynamic Caribou Habitat Schedule (DCHS) a.k.a. Caribou Mosaic into Forest Management Planning.

### What does this mean for Northerners?

- **Restricted access to the bush affects right to:**
  - Hunt
  - Fish
  - Harvest
- Intentional decrease in moose,
- Threat to the sustainability of the forestry industry.







## Why is this wrong?

- No consultation
- Lack of transparency
- No inclusion of Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Disregard for socio-economic impacts to region
- Infringes on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights

## What is the Plan?

- Series of peaceful protests on Nipigon River Bridge
- Knowledge sharing over CFNO and social media
- Land occupancy

## What do we want?

- Both Minister Philips, MECP and Minister Yakabuski, MNRF meet with Northern Ontario leaders to initiate a formal, meaningful and transparent consultation process regarding the implementation of Caribou Conservation that does not infringe on the rights or way of life of Northerners.

## Quick facts:

- Ontario has invested **over \$11 million** in Caribou protection and restoration.
- Expected impacts is **loss of ~3000 jobs**, ~4 mill closures and a GDP **loss of \$271 million per year**;
- Boreal Caribou Ranges span across 7 provinces and 2 territories;
- Federal Recovery Strategy states that key requirement of recovery is 65% undisturbed habitat
- Canada Gazette Part I: Vol. 152, No. 49 Critical Habitat of the Woodland Caribou Order issued December 2018
- Canada and Ontario are pursuing discussions towards the negotiation of a draft conservation agreement under Sec. 11 of SARA for boreal caribou.
- Four First Nations are the owners of Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. which manages Lake Nipigon Forest.
- In 1967 Pukaskwa National Park was established to set aside ~1800km<sup>2</sup> for boreal caribou protection. As of 2011, boreal caribou is considered extirpated from Pukaskwa National Park.

Get informed. Spread the word. Join us in solidarity.

#UNITEDNORTH, #letsNorthernersbeNortherners, #NWOCaribouconcerns

