



Boreal Business Forum

By email  
Nov. 25, 2013

Dear Members,

Keepers of the Athabasca would like to thank all companies for participating in the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (CBFA) to try to ensure purchased wood products are coming from forest companies that are being responsible and not harming forests of high conservation value in Canada.

Unfortunately, the forest industry in Alberta is not being responsible and is harming high conservation value forests, including critical caribou habitat. We were hopeful that would change after the signing of the CBFA, but over 3 years later all companies within that agreement in Alberta are still logging in critical caribou habitat. In Alberta all herds are not sustainable already as indicated by the colour red in the Federal map below. As a result almost all Alberta herds are in serious decline and many are expected to go extinct within decades due to industrial use of their ranges, including logging.

Many Alberta companies have been able to get Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certifications in spite of contravening the Canadian Boreal Standard with respect to species at risk and other important aspects. Complaints have been sent to certifiers and FSC International, but so far this has not stopped these companies from logging in critical caribou habitat and other high conservation value forests.

Neither FSC nor the CBFA are benefiting Alberta caribou. Therefore, we respectfully ask you to take one more step for forest conservation and avoid purchasing Alberta wood products until caribou critical habitat in Alberta receives the protection it needs to ensure caribou survival.

If you have any questions, please email me at [helene\\_w@telus.net](mailto:helene_w@telus.net).

Thank you.

Yours truly,

*Helene Walsh*

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