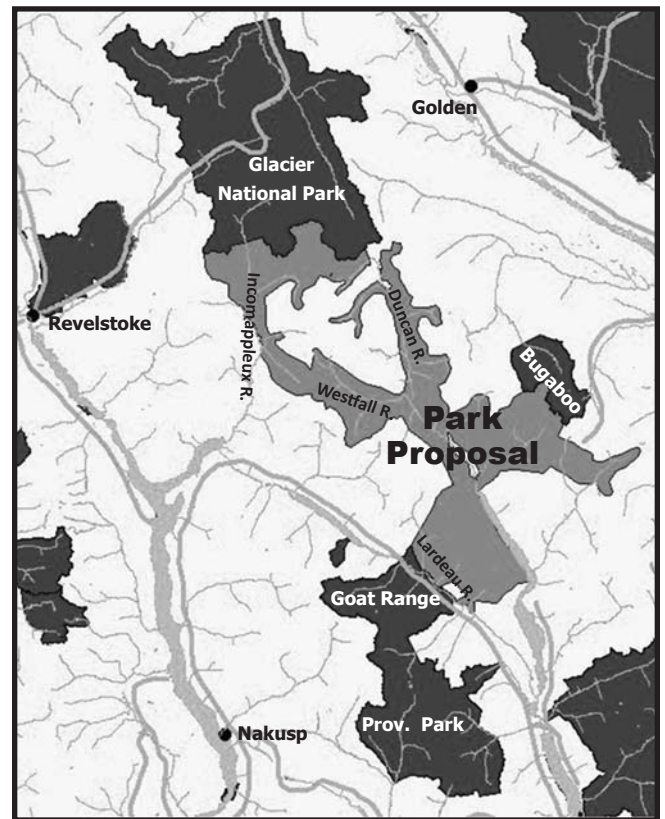




Please help Stop The Destruction Of Biodiversity and  
Critical Habitat For Our Wildlife. Support the

## SELKIRK MOUNTAIN CARIBOU PARK PROPOSAL

- ★ Rare primeval Inland Temperate Rainforest with trees up to four metres across and 2,000 years old, abounding with rare lichens, mushrooms, plants and many other forms of biodiversity.
- ★ Habitat for the largest mountain caribou herd in the southern Interior Wetbelt.
- ★ Ice-blue rivers fed by glaciers — spawning grounds for the blue-listed bull trout of Kootenay Lake and Arrow Lakes Reservoir.
- ★ Grizzly bears fishing for kokanee salmon.
- ★ 27,364 hectares of untracked wilderness contiguous to Glacier National Park River, plus several intact tributaries to the Duncan River.
- ★ Dense, humid, high-biomass old-growth forests critical for carbon absorption to reduce climate change.
- ★ Old-growth areas in this park proposal remain intact after 50 years of clearcutting mostly because they have been too remote, or steep, or had other issues making it unprofitable to log. Scattered within the park proposal there are 3,000 hectares of clearcuts. But what's left is magnificent, and the protection of many species at risk depends on preserving it.



### Why Do We Need More Parks?

- The current level of protection in BC — 14% — has put many species on the road to extinction.
- The BC Conservation Data Centre lists 810 BC species as “red-listed” (most endangered) and 718 species as “blue-listed” (species of concern).
- A survey of 3,808 species by Biodiversity BC showed that over 43% were of provincial conservation concern.
- For 86% of BC’s species at risk, the greatest threat is habitat loss.
- In a 2010 report BC’s Auditor General said that our current park system does not adequately protect biodiversity because many parks are too small and lack connectivity.

### Valhalla Wilderness Society

Box 329, New Denver, British Columbia, Canada V0G 1S0  
Phone: (250) 358-2333, Fax: (250) 358-2323, E-mail: [vws@vws.org](mailto:vws@vws.org), Web: <http://www.vws.org>

## What Is Inland Temperate Rainforest?

- Inland Temperate Rainforest occurs nowhere else in the world but in British Columbia's Interior Wetbelt.
- Inland Temperate Rainforest is the wettest kind of Interior Cedar-Hemlock (ICH) forest. Only 15% of the forest of the Interior Wetbelt is Inland Rainforest.
- These wet ICH forests support hundreds of species of lichens — 283 lichen species have been identified in the Incomappleux Valley alone. Over the last 10 years lichen experts have found species new to science in these rainforests, and expect to find many more. Rare mushrooms and plants are also being found.

## Mountain Caribou

- BC has 98% of all the mountain caribou in the world.
- There are only about 1,850 mountain caribou left. (By comparison, China has 1,600 Giant Pandas. There are 4,180 black rhinoceroses, and 4,000-6,000 snow leopards.)

## The Park Proposal

- Size: 156,461-hectares.
- Includes the rainforest of the upper Incomappleux Valley, which scientists say may have been growing uninterrupted since the last Ice Age. It has numerous trees 500-2,000 years old. Only about 1,500 hectares is operable forest, but it has 5 approved cutblocks in it. A person can hike in this forest all day and not come to the end of it.
- Provides habitat for 89-92 Central Selkirk mountain caribou.
- About one-half of the park proposal has already been designated "no logging" Ungulate Winter Range for mountain caribou.
- Under the Mountain Caribou Recovery Program, the Un-



Craig Pettitt

*Rare antique Inland Temperate Rainforest in the upper Incomappleux Valley.*

gulate Winter Range can still have some logging, as well as mining, power projects and tourism development such as lodges and glading for heli-skiing. The protection is weak and not permanent. It could disappear if the caribou fail to survive; but what about the many other species at risk that depend on old-growth forest?

### **Only you can get the park protected.**

#### **Here's what you can do.**

- Sign the petition and get others to sign it.
- Please write a letter to the government right away at:

Honourable Terry Lake  
Minister of Environment  
PO Box 9047 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2  
Fax: 250 387-1356  
E-mail: env.minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Norm MacDonald  
MLA Columbia R.-Revelstoke  
104-806 9th Street N  
PO Box 2052  
Fax: 250-344-4815  
www.normmacdonald.ca

- For more information you can download a 37-page report chock full of photographs and maps of the park proposal at [www.vws.org](http://www.vws.org), on our Home Page near the top, under Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park Proposal.
- Join the Valhalla Wilderness Society and make a donation.

Remember, all the parks we enjoy today are there because many thousands of British Columbians before you took the time to sign petitions, write letters, get informed, pass the word, and make a donation. Large or small, your donations count.



Jim Lawrence

**At risk of disappearing forever: mountain caribou**