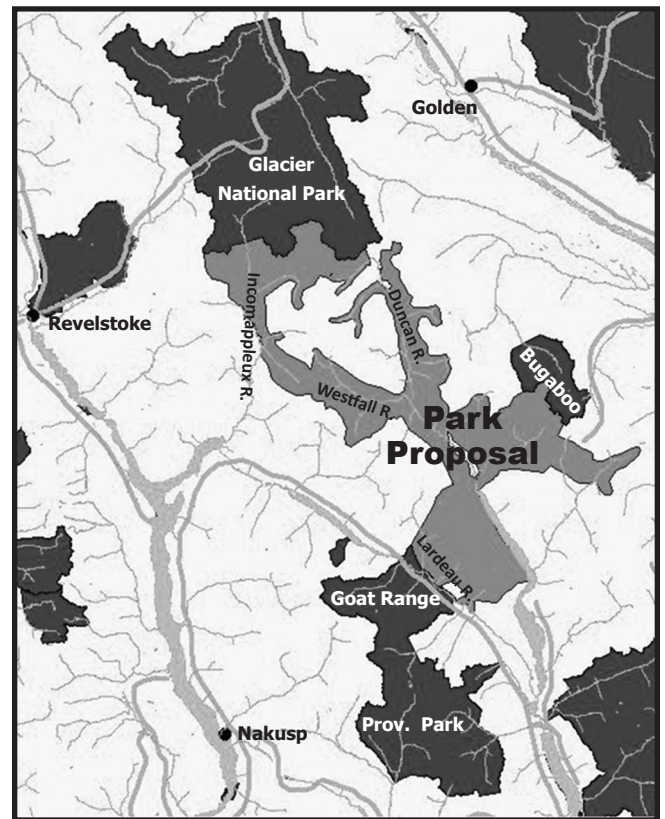




## Please Sign the Petition to Help Save the SELKIRK MOUNTAIN CARIBOU PARK PROPOSAL

### THE PARK WOULD PROTECT:

- ★ **THE INCOMAPPLEUX:** 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.
- ★ **MOUNTAIN CARIBOU HABITAT** — half the park proposal is already in a no-logging zone for mountain caribou. But the protection is only partial and weak. An upgrade to complete protection is needed.
- ★ **RIVERS:** Parts of four rivers - Although heavily logged, these rivers have remanant stands of huge old trees; they are spawning grounds for the blue-listed bull trout of Kootenay Lake and Arrow Lakes Reservoir. They have spawning runs of kokanee salmon and Gerrard rainbow.
- ★ **GRIZZLY BEARS** fishing for kokanee salmon.
- ★ 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.



### Why Do We Need More Parks?

- In a 2008 book, *Sustaining Life*, Harvard Medical School warned that the loss of biodiversity has reached crisis proportions and poses a threat to human health.
  - The BC Conservation Data Centre lists 810 BC species as “red-listed” (most endangered) and 718 species as “blue-listed” (species of 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 not connected enough.
- The Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park Proposal is designed to connect three parks so that wildlife can travel in between them. Without this, the parks will become “islands of extinction.” To do this, the park includes over 3,000 hectares of clearcuts.

## 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 are our highest biodiversity forests in the southern Interior: 283 lichen species have been identified in the Incomappleux Valley alone; rare mushrooms and plants are also being found.



Craig Pettitt

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



Jim Lawrence

## Why do the mountain caribou need help?

- BC has 98% of all the mountain caribou in the world.
- There 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 Central Selkirk herd has 89-92 animals. This is the largest, most stable herd in the southern Interior, but this is only half the population in 1999.
- The Mountain Caribou Recovery Program set aside forest in the Central Selkirks from logging, but it did not protect the habitat from mining, power projects and tourism development such as lodges and glading for heli-skiing. The protection is also weak, it can be changed or even revoked.

## What if the caribou fail to survive?

The government has said it might revoke the protection if the caribou fail to survive. But there are many species at risk in the park proposal area. The caribou recovery program did nothing to protect our oldest, rarest and highest

biodiversity rainforests. The park proposal includes permanent protection for all these species and ecosystems.

## **ONLY YOU CAN PROTECT A PARK**

Remember, all the parks we enjoy today are there because many thousands of British Columbians before you took the time to get informed, sign petitions, and write letters. Here's what you can do:

- Sign the petition and get others to sign it.
- Join the Valhalla Wilderness Society and make a donation.
- 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  
env.minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Steve Thomson  
Minister of Forests, Lands and  
Natural Resources  
PO Box 9049 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2  
Fax: 250-387-1040  
FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

**For more information you can download a 37-page report chock full of photographs and maps of the park proposal. Just go to**

**[www.vws.org](http://www.vws.org).**

**Look on the Home Page near the top, under Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park Proposal.**

## **Valhalla Wilderness Society**

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