

If BC's Deep-snow Mountain Caribou can be saved, it will require a massive outcry and letter-writing campaign by every possible person interested in saving BC's biodiversity.

Key Points

1. The 2007 recovery plan for the endangered Deep-snow Caribou has been a failure. In ten years the plan lost over 600 of these caribou.
2. Forests Minister Doug Donaldson has said there will be no further habitat protection for the Deep-snow Caribou. This will allow ongoing logging, roading and disturbance in the habitat of caribou herds that have already lost too much. This is a sure path to extinction.
3. Environment Canada has said that the Deep-snow caribou are under imminent threat of recovery and the need for additional habitat protection is urgent.
4. BC's own biologists have said that Deep-snow Caribou are being displaced from high-quality winter habitat to marginal habitat, which can have fatal consequences. The government should expand snowmobile closures to restore some of the best habitat.
5. To avoid additional habitat protection, the government is planning to expand the helicopter slaughter of wolves over a huge area of BC, including the habitat of the Hart Ranges, Itcha-Ilgachuz, Tweedsmuir-Entiako and Central Selkirk herds. These slaughters will go on year after year, causing serious ecological damage.
6. Wolf kills include killing of their primary food, moose, elk, deer and wild horses. The wild horses of the Chilcotin, since 1750, are a precious part of BC's natural heritage.
7. Habitat loss and winter recreation that packs down snow trails from the valley-bottoms to the alpine are causing increased predation on caribou. Habitat protection and winter recreation closures help to protect caribou from predators.
8. Deep-snow Mountain Caribou inhabit old-growth Inland Temperate Rainforest with huge trees that scientists say are crucial to mitigating climate change. These forests represent huge carbon sequestration and storage capacity. By saving caribou forest we can help to save ourselves.
9. Preserving old-growth forest is non-lethal predator reduction.

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