

# DID YOU KNOW?

## SECTION 11: SPECIES AT RISK ACT, THE CURRENT DRAFT AGREEMENT, AND YOU.

Woodland Caribou are listed as “threatened” both nationally and provincially. Being “threatened” requires provincial and federal action.

Once a species is listed as “threatened” the federal and provincial governments must develop plans to stop the decline of caribou and ensure the sustainability of the herds.

Albertans can have caribou and forestry in the same forests. Contrary to what you might be hearing, caribou ranges can be disturbed and caribou will still thrive. Caribou conservation and resource development are not mutually exclusive.

The threshold set by the federal government is 65% undistributed forest. It is unattainable, ever. The federal threshold isn’t scientifically defensible nor can it ensure that caribou will survive. It is largely a theory or a concept - untested or tried.

Science dictates that we look at the forest ecosystem in its totality. This means proper sustainable forest management, and consideration of multiple species. Not a single species plan.

There are many other important indicators of forest health and sustainability that must be factored in; pine beetle, forest age, fires, predators and disease to name a few.

As residents of Whitecourt, the implications of a restrictive caribou plan will mean the loss of thousands of forestry and energy industry jobs, depreciated home prices, increased residential taxation and reduced demand on retail goods and services.

These same economic impacts will likely be felt throughout 50% of Alberta.

**We CANNOT afford to sit back and watch.**

**Before October 6<sup>th</sup>, use the link to tell our government we need a balanced Section 11: Species At Risk Act Agreement.**

**[www.whitecourtchamber.com/section11](http://www.whitecourtchamber.com/section11)**