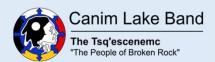


# The Great Caribou Rainforest Conservation Area



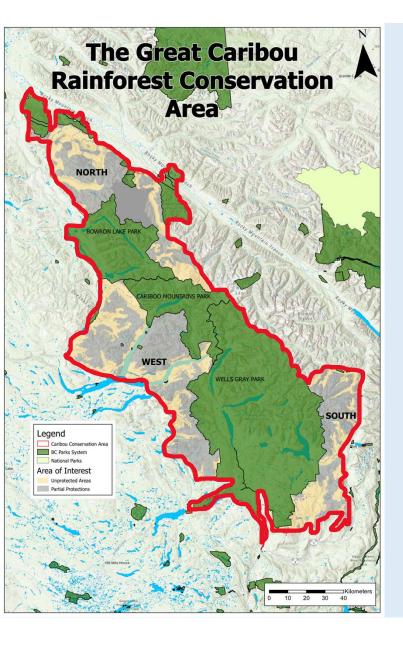






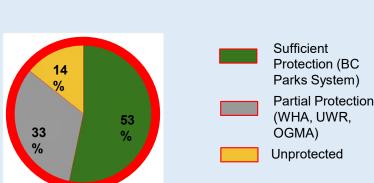


The Great Caribou Rainforest Alliance November 2022



## Where?

- **☑** BC's **Inland Temperate Rainforest**
- ☑ 3 anchor provincial parks: Bowron Lake, Cariboo Mountains, Wells Gray
- ✓ 53% of proposed area in parks
- ☑ 33% of proposed area under partial protection







# Why Here?

- Unique Inland Temperate Rainforest (ITR) Eco-system
  - o Only one in N.A; One of three in the world
  - high capacity for carbon capture
  - May collapse in 9-18 years if not protected
  - O Hundreds of endangered species (grizzly bear, wolverine, great horned owls, salmon...)
- Endangered Southern Mountain Caribou Threatened with Extinction
  - LACITICCION
  - Less than 1400 remain
  - o 3 herds with less than 10 individuals
  - 5 herds with 100<sup>+</sup> individuals; 3 of them located here
- Contribute to Canada's 30% by 2030 commitment

Protect the Unique ITR Eco-system for Nature & People

The Great Caribou Conservation Area

# **Objectives & Benefits**

Conservation, Reconciliation & Economy

- Protect the unique Inland Temperate Forest
- Save Mountain Caribou and other species at risk
- Progress on biodiversity & climate change
- Promote Indigenous-led stewardship
- Advance Indigenous rights & title
- Diversify & transition to a low-carbon economy

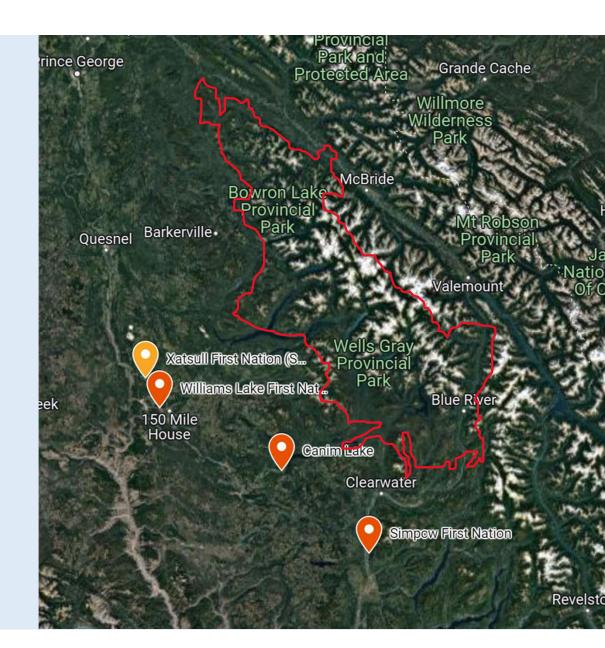


### **Participating First Nations**

- Williams Lake First Nation
- Canim Lake Band
- Simpcw First Nation
- Xatśūll First Nation

### **Opportunities for First Nations**

- Strengthen territorial rights
- Assert Indigenous leadership
- Apply Indigenous knowledge
- Diversify economic opportunities
- Indigenous Protected & Conserved Area
- Guardian Programs



# Feedback on our Proposal



- ✓ Great timing: government commitments on deforestation, climate, biodiversity
- ✓ Holistic & collaborative approach
- ✓ Innovative, positive & achievable, well-chosen location
- ✓ A great example of ecosystem-based forest management
- ✓ Tremendous alignment with federal & provincial commitments
  (Species at Risk, Carbon Emission Reduction, Habitat Protection, and UNDRIP)
- ✓ First Nations values, knowledge and leadership integral

Serious discussions ongoing with B.C. & Canada

### **Letters of Support Received To Date**

### **First Nations & Organizations**

- Williams Lake First Nation
- Canim Lake Band
- Xatśūll First Nation
- Simpcw First Nation
- BC Parks Foundation
- David Suzuki Foundation
- RAVEN
   (Respecting Aboriginal Values & Environmental Needs)
- WildAid Canada Society

### **Individuals**

- Hon. Steven Guilbeault
- Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson
- Hon. Joyce Murray
- Robert Bateman
- Jane Goodall
- Bob Peart
- Bristol Foster
- Leonard Schein





Simpcw

Po Box 220 Barriere BC V0E1E0 T: 250.672 9995

Chief Sheri Sellars Xatśūll First Nation 3405 Mountain House Rd., Williams Lake, BC, V2G 5L5 chief@xatsull.com

Michael Bloomfield Founder and Executive Director Harmony Foundation of Canada Box 50022 Unit 15 1594 Fairfield Road Victoria, BC, Canada, V8S 1K7

harmony@islandnet.com

Dear Michael,

Re: Harmony Foundation's Great Caribou R

Xatsull First Nations was interested in learn map enclosed with this letter) to save critic their habitat in the Inland Rainforest of Brig remaining populations of Deep Snow Mount and biodiversity and old-growth forest loss t also appreciate that Harmony's proposal has our knowledge and leadership are important

Xatśüll First Nation values a holistically sust and future generations while also respecting our values and the social, environmental, an

- Ensuring self-sustaining population
- Protecting biodiversity and reducing

#### Canim Lake Band

BOX 1030 100 MILE HOUSE, B.C. CANADA VOK 2E0

February 18, 2022

Natural Resources Department

Canim Lake Band PO Box 1030

100 Mile House BC VOV-3E0

Re: Letter of Support for Harmony Foundation's Great Caribou Rainfo

To whom it may concern.

This letter is to show the Canim Lake Band is in support of working wi critically endangered Deep Snow Mountain Caribou, biodiversity and effects of climate change by sustainably managing the Inland Temper. Great Caribou Rainforest Conservation Area).

The Canim Lake Band shares the objectives of living in harmony with a culture, values and future. We also appreciate Harmony's commitmen respected, our knowledge and leadership valued and welcomed in fur

We look forward to working together with Harmony and allies based shared respect for nature. To that end:

We would like to join your discussions with Canada, BC and pl goals respective roles, and funding for moving this initiative fo Protect biodiversity and reduce the effects of climate change

Provide environmentally sustainable opportunities for our cor

Promote Indigenous led conservation management

Regards,

(RD)

Canim Lake Band

Date: February 22, 2022



February 4, 2022

#### VIA EMAIL

Founder and Executive Director, Harmony Foundation of Canada P.O. Box 50022 Victoria, BC V85 1K7

and Executive Director

Attention: Michael Bloomfield

#### RE: Letter of Support for Harmony Foundation's Great Caribou Rainforest Proposal

It is my pleasure to write a letter to show Williams Lake First Nation's (WLFN) support in working with Harmony Foundation to protect critically endangered Deep Snow Mountain Caribou, biodiversity and old-growth forests and reduce the effects of climate change by sustainably managing the Inland Temperate Rainforest (see map of The Great Caribou Rainforest Conservation Area).

WLFN share the objectives of living in harmony with nature. This is fundamental to our culture, values, and future. We also appreciate Harmony's commitment that our rights must be respected, our knowledge and leadership valued and welcomed in furthering of these goals.

We look forward to working together with Harmony and allies based on mutual respect, honesty, and a shared respect for nature. To that end:

- We would like to join your discussions with BC, Canada and philanthropic organizations about goals, respective roles, and funding for moving this initiative forward.
- We want to participate in these efforts to ensure healthy forest ecosystems to:
- o Ensure self-sustaining Deep-Snow Mountain Caribou
- Protect biodiversity and reduce the effects of climate change
- Provide environmentally sustainable opportunities for our communities and future generations
- Promote Indigenous led conservation management

# **The Opportunities**

### **Indigenous Leadership & Involvement**

- Indigenous–led conservation initiative
- Guardian Programs preserving lands, culture, and ecosystems.
- Education & Training opportunities for youth
- Indigenous cultural and traditional knowledge

### **Protect Rights & Title**

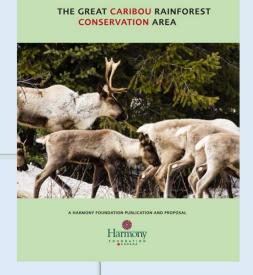
- Join the discussion with governments from the beginning
- Reconciliation through conservation
- First Nation's Guardianship

### **Economic Alternatives**

- Value-added Natural Resource products
- Indigenous & Eco- tourism
- Habitat restoration
- Education, research & training

# Prepare for the Long Term (2022-2024)

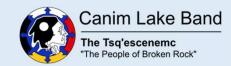
2022 2023 2024



- Establish Great Caribou Rainforest Alliance
- Arrange funding for the next two years
- Nations hire a coordinator (research, community engagement, land use review...)
- Engage and Discuss with BC & Canada at the highest levels
- First Nations, BC & Canada to develop a framework agreement
- Secure funding from Canada, BC & philanthropic donors for long-term
- Investigate IPCA & Guardian Programs establish Nations leadership

# Thank you!

The Great Caribou Rainforest Alliance













greatcaribourainforest@gmail.com

