

*Rangifer tarandus caribou*



Photo: Jim Lawrence

# The Great Caribou Rainforest Conservation Area

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**Williams Lake**  
FIRST NATION



**Canim Lake Band**  
The Tsq'escenemc  
"The People of Broken Rock"



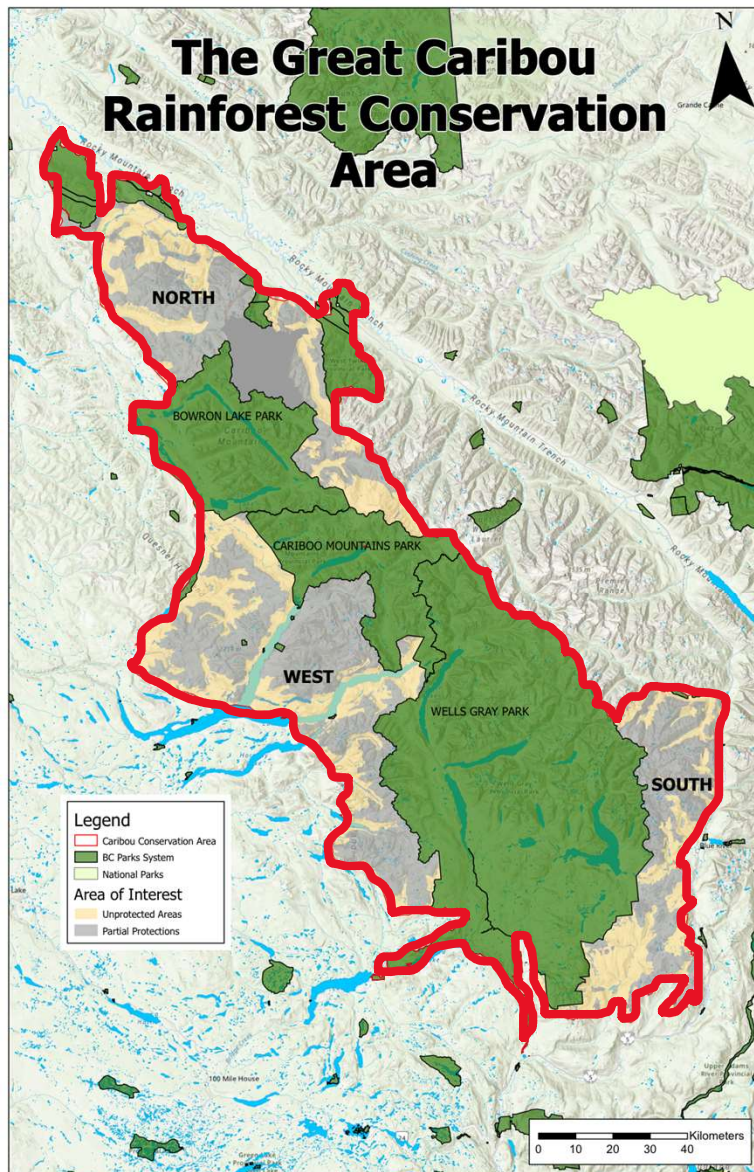
**Harmony**  
FOUNDATION



**Simpw First Nation**  
People of the Rivers

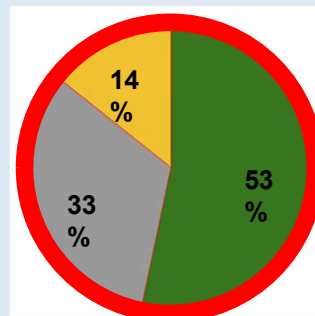
**The Great Caribou Rainforest Alliance** November 2022

# The Great Caribou Rainforest Conservation Area



## 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



- Sufficient Protection (BC Parks System)
- Partial Protection (WHA, UWR, OGMA)
- Unprotected







Photo David Moskwitz

## Why Here?

- **Unique Inland Temperate Rainforest (ITR) Eco-system**
  - 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
  - Hundreds of endangered species (grizzly bear, wolverine, great horned owls, salmon...)
- **Endangered Southern Mountain Caribou Threatened with Extinction**
  - Less than 1400 remain
  - 3 herds with less than 10 individuals
  - 5 herds with 100+ 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**



Photo: Jim Lawrence

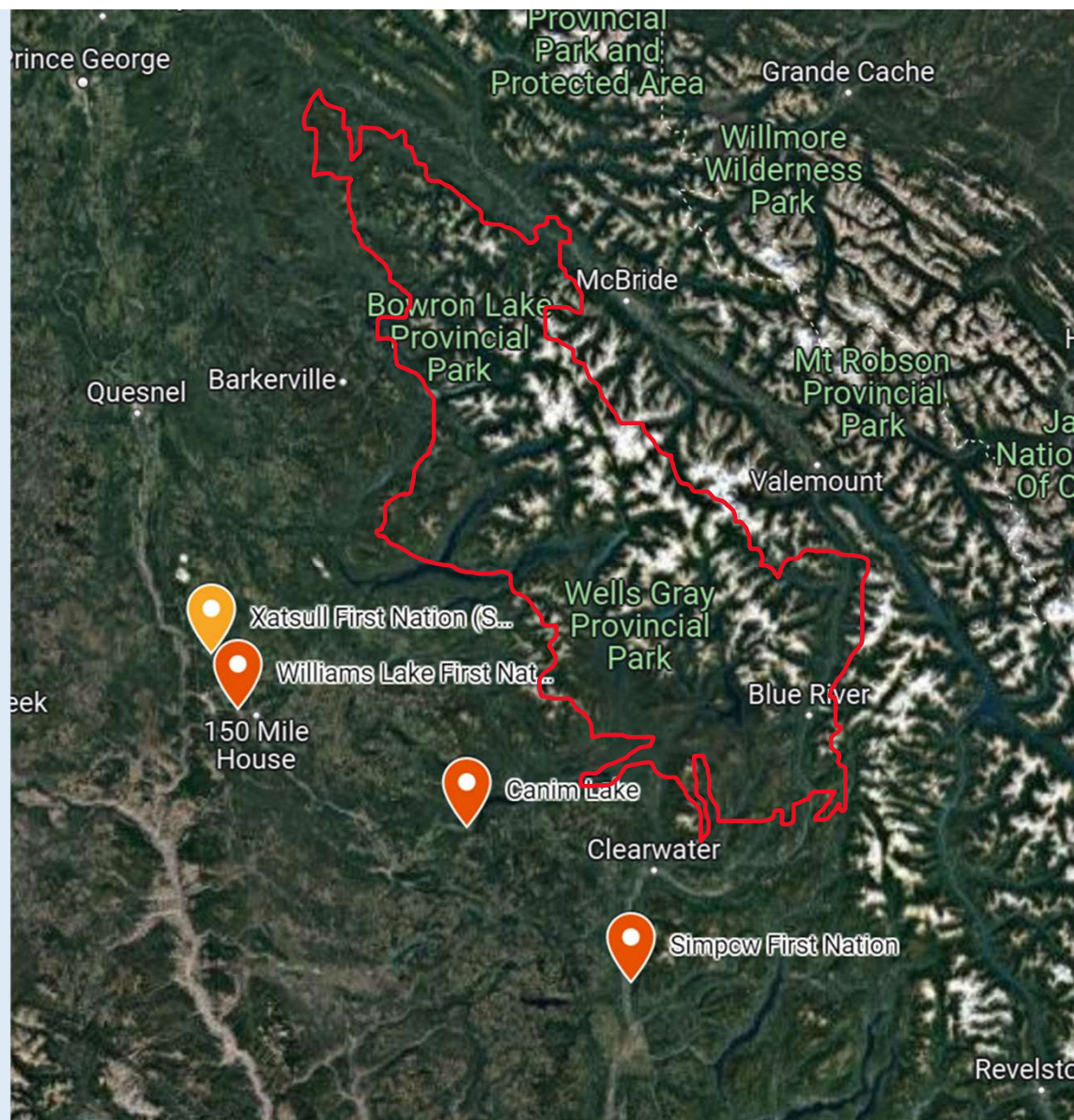


## Participating First Nations

- Williams Lake First Nation
- Canim Lake Band
- Simpcw First Nation
- Xat'sull 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**

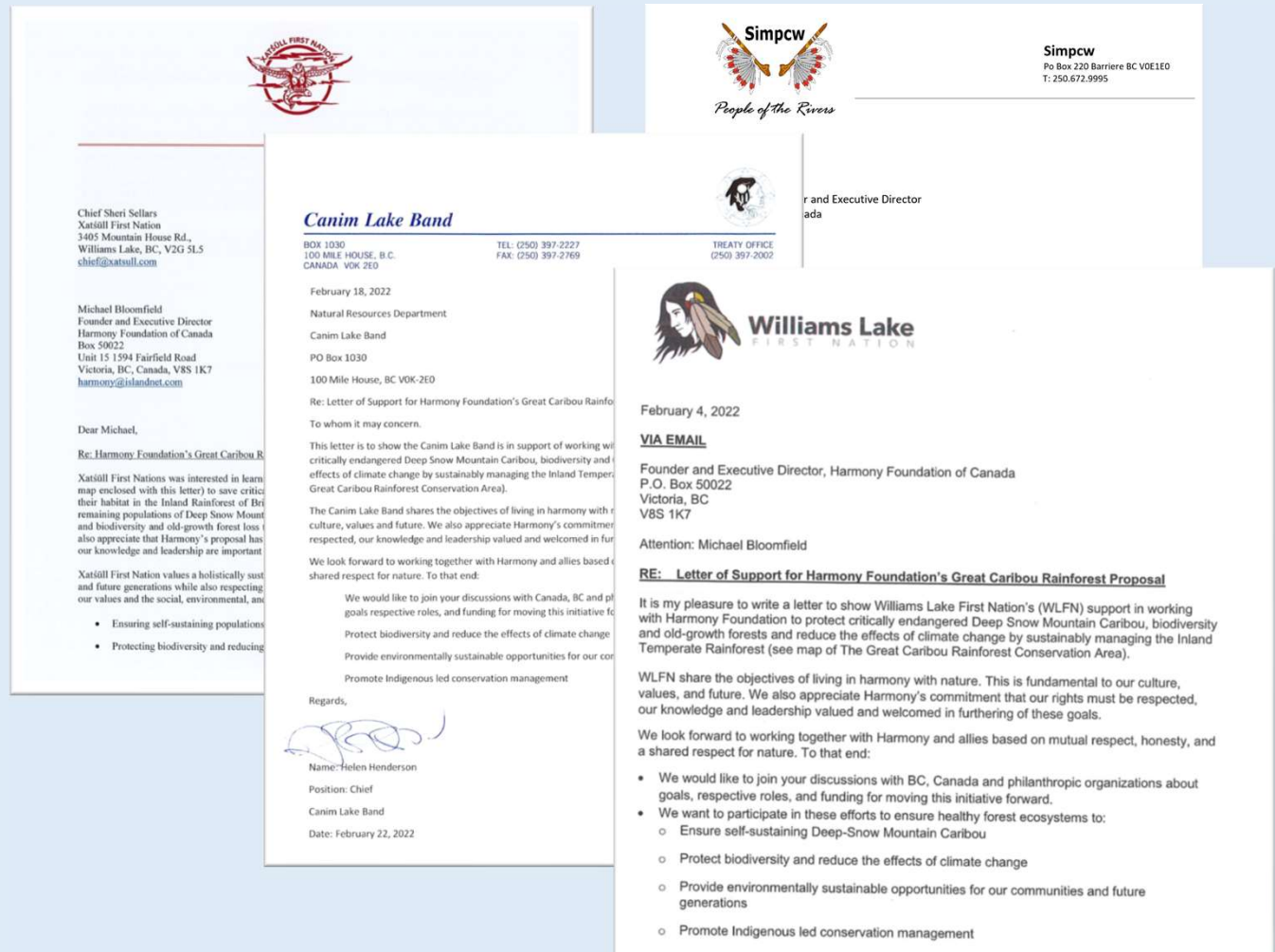
# Letters of Support Received To Date

## 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



# 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

THE GREAT CARIBOU RAINFOREST  
CONSERVATION AREA



A HARMONY FOUNDATION PUBLICATION AND PROPOSAL

Harmony  
FOUNDATION  
CANADA

# Thank you!

## The Great Caribou Rainforest Alliance



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