



Wolf Awareness
Research • Education • Conservation

Alberta's draft caribou protection plan makes for "*Dirty Oil*".

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED . . . NOW!

Ask yourself: Does it make sense to destroy an entire ecosystem in the name of single species recovery? A recently proposed experimental plan put forward by the Alberta government would have us think so. While we fully endorse protecting caribou, killing programs and fenced enclosures do not fit with the purpose of conservation.

Will you help spread the word that Alberta's newly released draft plan for fencing off caribou suggests **killing wolves for up to the next 50 years**? Other species will be killed under the guise of caribou recovery as well.

This is NOT nature...this is a game farm. A **caribou zoo**!

On June 8th 2016, the Alberta government announced a new draft plan for caribou recovery in North and Central Alberta. According to the federal *Species At Risk Act* and its 2012 *Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou), Boreal population, in Canada*, Alberta's official plan for caribou recovery is due by 2017.

The plan being proposed by Alberta suggests creating a bloodbath so that industry can continue. The province is proposing to **fence off large areas for caribou** and then **kill wolves, deer, elk, and moose**...while continuing to **convert habitat through industry** into land that supports the very animals targeted for killing. This is basically **DIRTY OIL** and the world needs to know about it!

This plan is yet another case of politics and industry trumping ecology and ethics. Note that **AB has killed more than one thousand wolves** in this area over **the past 11 years** with **no significant increase in caribou numbers**! Wolves were killed in strangling snares, gunned down from helicopters and poisoned using elk and moose killed and laced with strychnine. Being indiscriminate weapons, snares killed 676 other animals, *including 2 caribou*.

Numerous scientists and conservation organizations vehemently oppose the idea of predator kill programs, yet their expertise and input continues to go ignored. **YOUR voice is needed now more than ever**! According to *SARA's 2012 Recovery Strategy for Caribou*, the Little Smokey caribou herd already has had 95% of its habitat disturbed by oil and gas infrastructure.

Congratulations is certainly due to the province on its announcement to place future efforts on restoration and protection of habitat. This is an essential step in helping to recover and maintain caribou as a self-sustaining species. However, **if caribou are indeed the priority, WHY is industry allowed to continue within essential habitat?**

Misguided media coverage has provided a notion that fencing off caribou will help the Alberta government wean itself off of killing wolves and using poison. These are some sweet-sounding promises and suggestions, but let's not kid ourselves...predator killing is slated to continue for the next 5 decades according to the draft plan. **Stopping the use** of the wide-reaching and **horrific poisons Strychnine and Compound 1080** is something that should have happened decades ago, although this is a welcome announcement that **needs to be carried out throughout the province**.



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What type of legacy are we choosing to leave behind? Is our wildlife to become "captive life"; doomed to enclosures? In all of this well-deserved alarm and controversy, the public have only been given 60 days mid-summer to provide feedback on this proposal.

More **TIME** is needed to allow for adequate public feedback, which will be accepted **until August 5th**. Consider **REQUESTING** an extension to the comment period.

*****PARTICIPATE** in the on-line survey at <https://extranet.gov.ab.ca/opinio6/s?s=30855> and

*****CONTRIBUTE YOUR THOUGHTS** to esrd.planning@gov.ab.ca.

AND CC:

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*"The real responsibility resides
with those who remain silent;
they are allowing others to prevail".*

-Martin Luther King

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Contacting your local MLA and asking them to raise the issue at the provincial level is one of the best ways to provoke change.

Consider including your local editor and/or other newspapers too.

