

WESTERN CANADA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE - EDMONTON
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Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC), 20 Water Street,
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Edmonton, AB T5H 3V2 Phone (403) 429-3659 FAX (403) 425 5767

YOU MUST HELP US STOP THE CLEARCUT DESTRUCTION OF WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK



SAVE WOOD BUFFALO PARK ... FOR THE WOOD BUFFALO



"Over the last fifty years, the federal government has allocated the rights to log significant areas of timber on our traditional lands without concern for wildlife habitat, or impact on trapping, or other traditional uses. THIS AREA LOOKS LIKE A WAR ZONE. OUR FORESTS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED." --Chief Sewepagaham, Little Red River Cree Tribe

*"It doesn't take a rocket
logging is an activity
national*

NO EXCUSE FOR PARK LOGGING

The 49,700 hectare area that is currently held as a "timber berth" inside Wood Buffalo National Park is dubbed the "Carmanah of the North" because of the enormous size of some of the trees in the area. There are white spruce that are several hundred years old, more than 4 feet in diameter and over 125 feet tall; true giants of the north.

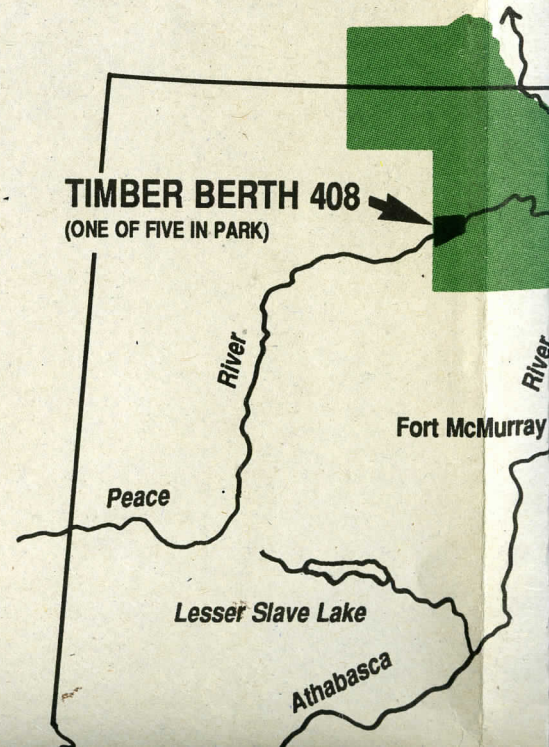
With rights to 98 percent of the harvestable timber in the park, Daishowa and its contractors have already cut down more than 60 percent of it. Only 400 hectares of "class 5," the largest and most spectacular white spruce, remain standing in the park.

*"If Wood Buffalo
Park is not protected
what will happen to
other national parks?"*

sides, wildlife habitat and recreation areas are protected.

There is no excuse for the current government in Ottawa to allow logging in Wood Buffalo National Park to continue. If Wood Buffalo Park is not protected what will happen to other national parks? Most National Parks, like Wood Buffalo, were created for the conservation of wildlife habitat and to provide recreation before the age of ecology and environmentalism. Now with our understanding of how important they are in preserving biodiversity, the need to protect parks is more crucial than ever. Please help us convince our federal government to save our international treasure-- Wood Buffalo National Park and to respect the rights of the Little Red River Cree Tribe who presently use, and whose ancestors used for generations, the park region sustainably.

NATIONAL PARKS WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PA



other national parks?

"They are basically liquidating the forest up there as far as I can tell," said Con Dermott, of timber management for the Alberta Forest Service. The federal government has permitted Daishowa to take up to 98 percent of the harvestable timber in the National Park, while the province allows about 40 percent in a cut block to ensure that lakes, stream

"They're basically liquidating the forest up there as far as I can tell."

Con Dermott, Director Timber Management, Alberta Forest Service

"We may well be the most endangered protected area in Canada."

Doug Stewart, Wood Buffalo National Park Superintendent

CHRONOLOGY

1922 - Wood Buffalo National Park is established to protect a herd of 500 wood bison. Encompassing an area larger than Switzerland, it is the largest park in the world at the time.

1925-8 - Over 6,000 plains bison are transferred to Wood Buffalo Park from Wainwright Alberta. Scientists warn Ottawa of the threat of introducing brucellosis which was introduced to Wainwright herd through cross-breeding experiments with domestic cattle.

1934 - Buffalo population in Park estimated to have increased to 11,000 animals. Interbreeding of two herds noted.

1951 - First logging rights--a "timber berth"--granted in park to U.S.Army. Wood used for building barracks in Fort Smith.

1959 - To reduce herd size, park officials approve first buffalo hunt inside the park.

1962 - Last and largest of five timber berths granted by the federal government. Swanson Lumber Company, the recipient, is the first company to make an economic success of logging in Wood Buffalo National Park.

1963 - B.C. completes massive Bennett Dam which reduces spring run-off of the Peace River into the Park's

Peace-Athabaska delta. Consequently, delta begins to dry up and prime buffalo grazing habitat shrinks.

1971 - Edmonton Journal, in an editorial, is among the first to condemn logging in the park.

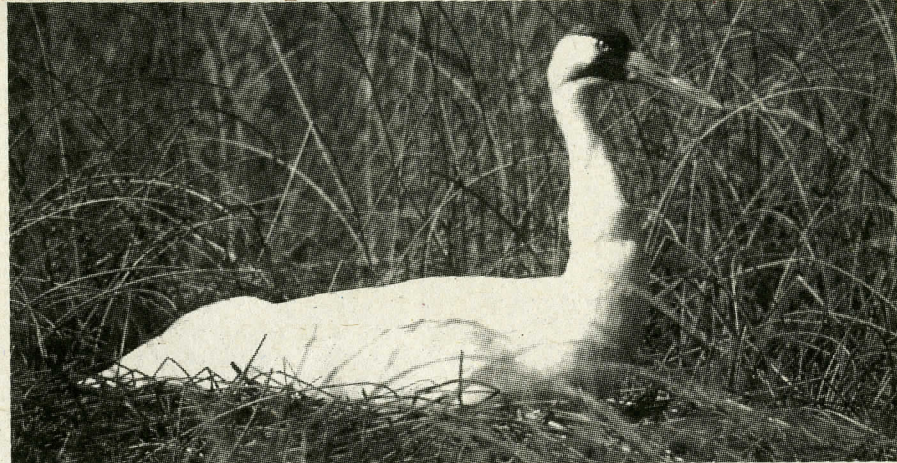
1972 - Government committee appointed to assess impact of Bennett Dam on park. Over next few years some weirs are constructed on the Peace in an attempt to restore water flows to the delta.

1981-2 - Federal Government renews timber berths in the park. This allows clearcutting to continue to the year 2002 with no replanting required. Soon afterwards, Swanson sells logging rights to CanFor.

1983 - United Nations declares Wood Buffalo National Park a World Heritage Site.

1990 - Agriculture Canada tables plan to slaughter nearly all of the Buffalo in the park to get rid of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis and replace them with disease-free bison.

- Federal Environment Minister Robert de Cotret says government wants to buy out the logging rights in the park.



Whooping crane on nest in Wood Buffalo Park

- Daishowa, a Japanese owned multinational, purchases CanFor's Alberta operations, increasing the rate of logging and initiating massive clearcutting in the park.

1991 - Report by the Canadian Environmental Council tabled in House of Commons states that "Areas with the park (Wood Buffalo) have been systematically violated by logging activities and the park is now one of our most threatened protected areas."

1992 - Alberta provincial government tells federal government that all the forests in Alberta are already committed to industry and that it has no forests available to trade for the logging leases in the Park. The Federal Minister of Environment says that the federal government has no money available to buy out the timber leases! Logging continues despite growing national and international pressure to halt it.

- WCWC Edmonton launches Alberta boreal forest preservation campaign.

- Daishowa voluntarily suspends park logging due to increasing public pressure.

*scientist to realize that
that has no place in a
park!"*

Louis Landry, Advisor to the Federal Minister of the Environment

IN ALBERTA

ARK



Lake Athabasca



WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK

--- An ecological treasure

- * World's largest free-roaming bison herd
- * Last large breeding ground for the endangered whooping crane
- * World's largest fresh water boreal delta - Peace River Delta

ELK ISLAND
NATIONAL PARK



CALGARY

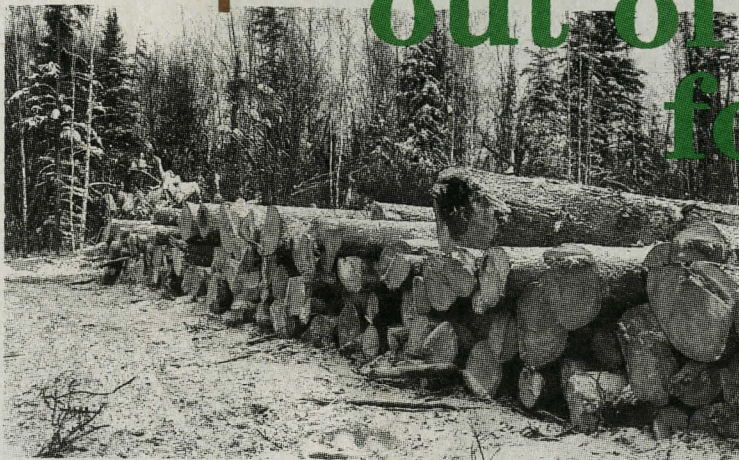
WATERTON LAKES
NATIONAL PARK

0 100 200 300 KM



SCALE

Keep multinationals out of our boreal forests



Decked white spruce logs from Timber Berth 408

"I would like to know what ignorant and stupid bureaucrat had the authority to sign the lease in Wood Buffalo Park. Can nothing be done about this horrendous pillage?"

--Camille Morin, St. Albert



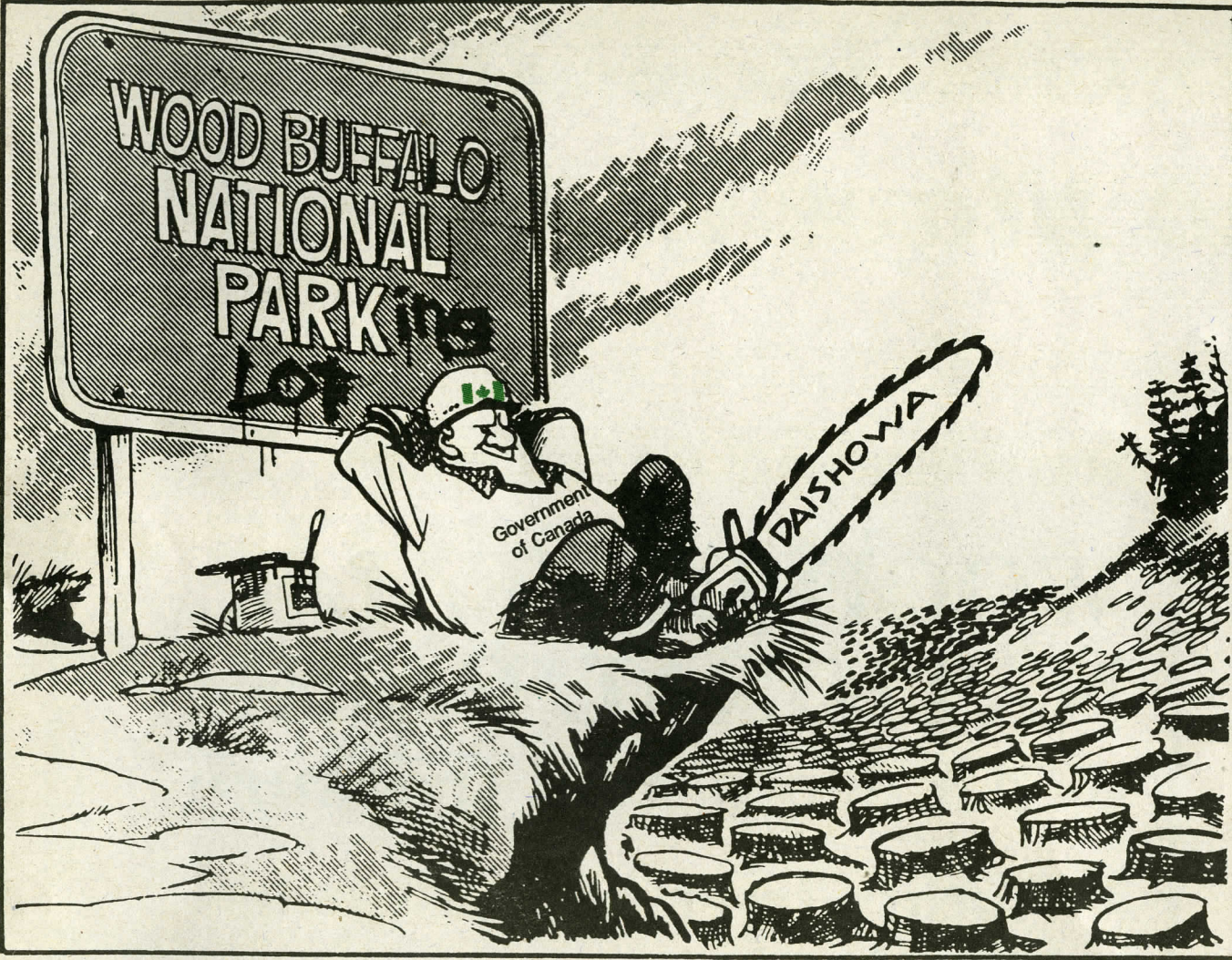
Most natural ecosystems and life support systems on planet Earth are under human attack. Included are the ozone layer of the outer atmosphere, the tropical and temperate rainforests and the band of forest that encircles the globe--the vast taiga or boreal forest. Averaging about 1000 kilometres in width, the area of earth covered by this kind of forest is many times greater than the tropical rainforests whose conservation is so popular today. In fact, boreal forests comprise more than 25 percent of the world's remaining forest and are the most important terrestrial carbon sink for slowing the global warming process.

While the more accessible, higher volume forests were being cut, the boreal forest, with its low volumes per hectare and slow growing rates, was relatively safe. Now the pressure is on. Large multinational corporations are applying a tremendous amount of resource extraction technology to "harvest" this fragile forest over the next few decades. The consequences of such liquidation could be catastrophic.

The pattern is the same everywhere. The large multinationals pay off governments who sell the cutting rights without regard to the native people, other local people living in the area or the long term consequences to future generations. The multinationals then roll through the country destroying large tracts of forest, reducing biodiversity and leaving resource exhaustion behind.

It is time for people, both native and non-native to get together and establish locally controlled, sustainably developed resource management in their bioregions. It is possible for people to have more jobs in the forest industry without devastating the land. It is desirable to keep profits in the local economy, rather than exporting them to a foreign country, like Japan, as is the case with the logging of Wood Buffalo National Park by Daishowa.

No one has the right to destroy a national park and a United Nation World Heritage Site. Wood Buffalo is a sacred area, entrusted to this generation for the next. We implore the Canadian government to assume its moral and legal duty to protect this park. Present government policies are dishonouring future generations and abrogating responsibility for those living beings who will never speak out: the Wood Buffalo, the endangered woodland caribou, the wolf, the Cape May Warbler (a migratory bird that winters in the Amazon), the ancient white spruce trees and all the other creatures that make Wood Buffalo Park their home.



"Already 60% of the park's old growth has been logged. There remains only 400 hectares of prime white spruce, one of the rarest, most distinctive and awe inspiring forest ecosystems in Alberta." - Gray Jones, WCWC boreal forest campaigner

Your letter is worth a thousand petition signatures!

Because you care -
Write to:

Premier Don Getty
307 Legislative Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B7

He has the power to find timber outside the park and provide it at no charge to the federal government for trade to Daishowa for the timber berths in the park.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

He can institute an immediate moratorium on logging, expropriate the timber berths in the park and seek arbitration to establish a fair compensation package for the logging company.

SOMETHING TO CHERISH AND PRESERVE FOREVER

A national park is not a "sea of stems" to be logged and pulped by industry. It is a complex web of intertwined naturally run ecosystems that must be preserved--not only for our children and our children's children to cherish and enjoy but also for wild animals to live for generation upon generation--forever.

Western Canada Wilderness Committee Edmonton needs your support. Please join with us in preserving Alberta's natural heritage. Together we can end forever a national disgrace and an environmental disaster--the clearcutting of Wood Buffalo National Park. Already 60% of the park's old growth has been logged. There remains

only 400 hectares of prime white spruce one of the rarest, most distinctive and awe inspiring forest ecosystems in the province.

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee is a ten year old registered educational/environmental society with a decentralized organizational structure. The Wilderness Committee was awarded the Federal Government's top Environmental Achievement Award in 1991 for its outstanding work. Membership is only \$30 per year. If you are willing to help on our boreal forest campaign--we are working on job creating alternatives to clearcut logging in Alberta's northern forests--contact Gray Jones, Boreal Forest Campaigner at the Edmonton office, 9523 Jasper Avenue or Phone 429-3659.

YES I believe Canadian National Parks are for preservation
 not for resource extraction like logging.

YES I will help support the campaign to save WOOD BUFFALO
 NATIONAL PARK and to stop the impending clear-cut
destruction of Alberta's boreal forests.

Here is my tax deductible donation of _____ .
(Every donation helps - no matter how small!)

YES I want to join WCWC. Here is my \$30 annual membership fee.
 Please keep me informed about the progress of your campaigns
especially the ones to save Wood Buffalo park and the boreal
forests of Canada. (Membership fees include a 1993 calendar and
therefore are not tax-deductible.)

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
(please print)

CITY _____

PROVINCE _____ POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE _____

Please make cheque payable to WCWC - Boreal Campaign and send to:
Western Canada Wilderness Committee - Edmonton, 9523 Jasper Avenue,
Edmonton, AB T5H 3V2. Thank you for caring!



Credits and Thanks

This paper is the product of the efforts of the WCWC Edmonton staff: Darell Wharton, Claire Ashton, Karen Baltgallis, David Boroditsky and Gray Jones. Map: Randy Stoltmann
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