



Boreal Forest Conservation Framework Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Annual Action Plan 2007

The Annual Action Plan is a high level summary of actions that signatories to the Boreal Forest Conservation Framework commit to undertake in support of fulfilling the shared vision to sustain the ecological and cultural integrity of the Canadian Boreal region, in perpetuity. It is meant to help identify strategic milestones along the way to the vision.

The Action Plan outlines how a signatory to the Boreal Forest Conservation Framework commits to show leadership to support the Framework through a range of both individual and collaborative actions for the next year. To underline the integrated nature of the Framework vision, Action Plans should include a range of initiatives including:

- scientific and traditional ecological knowledge research;
- land use planning;
- protected areas designations;
- innovative policy development supporting Framework principles; and,
- promotion of economic and cultural sustainability in the boreal region.

Actions should be linked to the Framework organizational baseline report (as identified in the signatory process), and reference collaborations and key partnerships that are being formed or need to be formed to achieve the actions as described. Identifying actions in all areas, while not required, is encouraged.

Proposed Action Plan Sections

1) Link between actions and core organizational/business strategies

Briefly describe how the planned Framework-related actions are connected to your organization's overall strategy and development. The purpose of this section is to gain insight into how a commitment to the Boreal Forest Conservation Framework will create value for the organization in its mission and purpose.

CPAWS is a Canada-wide conservation organization committed to undertaking conservation in areas where public lands can be protected and conserved on a large scale. Accordingly CPAWS has recently approved a ten-year conservation vision and plan that outlines four areas of geographical and organizational focus. The Boreal Program is the most developed national conservation program. The Boreal Framework forms the goals and objectives of our Boreal Program and is included specifically in our ten-year conservation plan.

2) Short term plans nested within long term actions.

Briefly describe how the short term, annual action plans presented here fit within the long term planned actions of the company/organization. (*e.g. land use planning and designation of protected areas with provincial government to take place this year, long term plans in all provinces to be completed in 3 years.*)

All of our regional programmatic efforts are designed to achieve land-based conservation outcomes (both protected areas and sustainable management on the surrounding landscape). One-year actions may in some cases lead to outcomes within that time period but more often are part of a multi-year effort tailored to each jurisdiction.

3) Scientific and traditional ecological knowledge research

What research actions are you planning that will inform better conservation planning? (*e.g. Participation in the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Program*)

- Investigate and build the linkages between carbon, forests protection, climate change policy, forestry and other industrial use carbon footprint in the boreal and peat lands. Use this to advance progressive business models for emissions trading and climate change policy
- Work with FSC Canada and NGO and industry partners to develop a credible approach to caribou habitat conservation in FSC certification
- Advance progressive endangered species legislation which supports progressive forestry companies and ensures assurances to the market demand companies for sustainably harvested fibre
- Participate in discussions with scientists concerning the development of indicators and thresholds for critical habitat for woodland caribou
- Participate in the development of woodland caribou recovery strategies and action plans
- Participate in the development of the Boreal Information Centre
- Participate in the NWT Ecological Working Group to deliver a component of the 5-year PAS Action Plan
- Ongoing protected areas design work with AI-PAC
- Release the results of an investigation into wood supply modeling for several forest management units in Ontario
- Release a peer review of the North Central land use plan in Saskatchewan
- Provide economic and conservation research support to the Kaska Dena as they develop resource management plans
- Research the potential health impacts of the Prairie Creek mine in the Nahanni watershed

4) Land use planning

What actions are being undertaken to improve land-use planning and the designation of areas for sustainable development and preservation? (*e.g. Undertake assessments of High Conservation Value Forests concurrent with FSC certification on company forest licenses.*)

- Continue to support the Dehcho draft land use plan because of the size and values of the area proposed for protection and for the indicator and thresholds approach proposed for controlling development on other lands.

- Engage in the draft Sahtu Land Use Plan development through the consultation process
- Advocate for conservation-focused community land use planning before development in Ontario's northern boreal region
- Engage with Moose Cree's land use planning process in Ontario
- Support the Athabasca land use planning process
- Build support for a Land Use Framework in Alberta
- Work with the Kaska Dena to establish conservation zones (including a new national park in region seven) in northern BC and southern Yukon.
- Participate in the establishment of new protected areas through the QPAS process in Quebec
- Support request for interim protection of Puingassi and Little Grand Rapids traditional territory while land use planning is undertaken in Manitoba

5) Protected areas designations

What actions will you undertake to identify deferrals and protected areas? (*e.g. Establish areas of protection or benchmark areas through special designations through legislation or other programs.*)

CPAWS promotes:

- Interim protection and engagement in national park expansion public consultations for the South Nahanni Watershed and karstlands in the Northwest Territories (35,000 km²)
- Protected areas and conservation area establishment through land use planning in the Dehcho and Sahtu regions of the Northwest Territories.
- Work with the community of Deline to achieve full protection for Sahoyue Edacho National Historic Site in the Northwest Territories (5,536 km²)
- New protected areas in the Kaska traditional territory in British Columbia and the Yukon
- Expansion of Clearwater, Athabasca Rapids Wildlands and Caribou Mountain protected areas in Alberta- Athabasca Heartland Conservation Project – (approximately 6,300 km²)
- Interim protection of the McClelland wetland complex in Alberta from energy development (200 km²)
- Expansion of the boundary of Fisher Bay for permanent protection in Manitoba.
- Establishment of Little Limestone Lake provincial park in Manitoba
- Permanent protection for Poplar River in Manitoba
- Public consultations on the establishment of Manitoba Lowlands National Park
- Interim protection for Puingassi and Little Grand Rapids First Nations in Manitoba
- Protection of the Dumoine Watershed, Pascagama and Vallee des Montagnes Blanche in Quebec (4,400, 7,400 and 8,900 km²)
- Protected areas for the entire Three Rivers watersheds (Wind, Snake, Bonnet Plume) and the Hart River in the Yukon (30,000 km²)
- Protection of the Churchill River in Saskatchewan

CPAWS works to:

- Move company FSC-identified protected areas deferrals into regulated status in Ontario and Alberta.

- To identify with forest companies, candidate protected areas and deferrals for caribou and other high conservation values through FSC certification
- Create the business and political case to protect critical habitat for woodland caribou
- Advance the regulation of the final 17 protected areas (out of 378) designated under Ontario's Living Legacy
- Support the moratorium calls by 9 First Nations in Ontario as a requirement for successful land use planning
- Address the ongoing pressures in Ontario as a result of industrial development that is occurring prior to land use planning - like diamond mining

6) Innovative policy development supporting Framework principles

Provincial and federal policy development that supports the vision of the Framework signatories is critical to the long-term success of the Boreal initiative. What policy and regulatory actions have been undertaken to advance Framework goals? (*e.g. Advocacy to provincial officials for land use planning on unallocated lands.*)

- Support of Conservation First paradigm in LUP processes across Canada (especially Ontario, Manitoba, NWT).
- Advocate for woodland caribou recovery strategies that include habitat protection to federal and provincial governments
- Work in coalition with other NGOs to reform Ontario's Endangered Species Act
- Advocate for a land use framework in Alberta that includes the establishment of benchmarks/protected areas and consideration of cumulative impacts of industrial activities
- Alter policy impediments to FSC certification in Quebec and Ontario through joint work with Domtar, Tembec, WWF and CBI.
- Advocate for the consideration of logging impacts and all significant industrial activities on carbon storage and the value of intact forests and peat lands for adaptation in climate change strategies
- Promote policy development to protect biodiversity when using woody biomass as an alternative energy source
- Advocate for climate change policies that support forests protection sustainable economic opportunity

7) Promotion of economic and cultural sustainability in the boreal region

What actions will you undertake to support sustainable economic benefits to boreal communities? (*e.g. Supporting sustainable community development opportunities, or creating market demand for Boreal products*)

- Engage the implementation of the Coulombe Commission report in Quebec with an emphasis on influencing policy change to support conservation.
- Advocate for a comprehensive land use planning framework and Aboriginal community engagement in northern Ontario.
- Work with forest-based communities in Saskatchewan that are interested in implementing ecosystem-based management

- Examine wood allocation process following mill closures and identify opportunities for local community involvement in resource decisions.
- Produce a national report on wood supply determination and recommend policy changes to promote a sustainable supply of forest resources.
- Advocate for a more sustainable business model for forestry in Ontario based on a real assessment of wood allocation and growing market potential for ecologically harvested fibre.
- Work with forest industry partners to expand FSC certified land base.
- Explore potential for economic benefits of carbon sequestration for Boreal communities, First Nations and logging companies.
- Develop the tools and rationale for a new forest economy in various provinces to address forest industry downturn

8) Recognition of aboriginal rights

Will any actions affect aboriginal lands or involve an issue of aboriginal rights? Please describe how your actions will address/support aboriginal rights and what types of collaboration are planned. (e.g. *Support for full consultation with affected groups and incorporation of local and traditional knowledge prior to resource allocation or permitting*)

- Support the call for a moratorium on resource allocation until land use planning is completed by First Nations communities in northern Ontario
- Engage with Moose Cree to provide information on conservation values for their land use plan.
- Support the KI legal challenges on Platinex and potentially more broadly vis a vis the Mining Act
- Provide technical assistance to Grassy Narrows.
- Establish partnership with Grand Rapids First Nations to identify economic and ecological opportunities of the creation of Manitoba Lowlands National Park.
- Support request of Poplar River for permanent protection and Puingassi and Little Grand Rapids for interim protection of traditional territories in Manitoba
- Work with the Dehcho to expand Nahanni National Park Reserve to include the entire South Nahanni Watershed and karstlands
- Support the implementation of the Dehcho LUP.
- Engage in the development of the Sahtu Land Use Plan.
- Provide ecological and technical support to the Kaska Dena during the development of their land use and resource management plans.
- Support the Prince Albert Grand Council's land use planning efforts for the Athabasca region

9) Actual or potential impediments and problem solving

Briefly summarize areas of concern where other signatories may be of assistance in addressing. (e.g. *Need collaboration across of group of signatories and non-signatories to advocate for provincial policy change on protected area designation.*)

- Facilitating FSC certification by removing provincial policy impediments (QC, ON)

- Need for habitat protection for endangered caribou herds in Alberta
- Failure of governments to implement First Nations' led land use plans (eg. Dehcho, Poplar River)
- Forestry company support for ESA legislation implementation in Ontario
- Mining support for moratorium calls by First Nations
- Industrial support for carbon footprinting of the boreal forests and peat lands and the subsequent progressive climate change policy frameworks

10) Planned communications around Boreal issues

If actions are planned around communicating results or progress please broadly describe them. Please include any anticipated support being sought from other Framework Partners. *(e.g. Once mapping of HCVPs is completed, planning a press conference and desire assistance of CBI and other partners to be there in support.)*

National Level

- Three Rivers Tour. Multi-city show highlighting the values of this ecosystem and promoting the book on the same issue (March – May 2007)
- Raising awareness of the Boreal with a focus on the link between climate and forests and woodland caribou. Multiple engagement points with media and decision makers planned for 2007.
- Nahanni National Park expansion: mobilize 20,000 Canadians to support the expansion during Parks Canada's public consultation; will collaborate with the Dehcho (spring 2007)

Jurisdiction-specific

- All of our chapter conservation programs have communications components focused on the appropriate media and decision-maker targets.