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# CANADIAN BOREAL FOREST AGREEMENT



Photo credit: Ted Simonett

THE CANADIAN BOREAL FOREST AGREEMENT CHANGES THE GAME IN THE WORLD'S LARGEST INTACT AND ENDANGERED FOREST. It turns conflicting interests into a cooperative vision for protecting Canada's Boreal Forest and building new markets for the forestry companies that work in the region.

Finalized and announced on May 18th, 2010, The Agreement is signed by leading environmental organizations working to protect Canada's Boreal Forest, and the Forest Product Association of Canada, which represents all of the largest companies harvesting in Canada's Boreal. It is a commitment from all parties to work together to protect the most important carbon storehouse on earth, and the home of the endangered boreal woodland caribou. It is also a blueprint for the creation of new and expanding product markets based on the environmental performance of the forestry companies.

The Agreement applies to nearly 70 million hectares of forest – an area larger than the entire country of France. The Agreement represents all of the lands tenured to the forest company signatories. Nearly all of the prime caribou habitat in this area -- approximately 30 million hectares -- will be off limits to road building, logging and other forestry operations.

In return Canopy, Greenpeace and ForestEthics will suspend all of our divestment and "do not buy" campaigns designed to convince large purchasers to stop buying from suppliers who harvest in Canada's Boreal Forest, and to deter investments in forestry operations in the region.

Canopy is the only environmental organization dedicated exclusively to working with big paper buyers to protect Canada's Boreal Forest. And we will continue to insist the 650 book, magazine and newspaper publishers and printers who work with us demand ecologically sustainable paper products. Under The Agreement, we will also encourage them to support the efforts of those forest companies who have fully implemented The Agreement by purchasing these products from them over the years to come.

Working together to improve environmental performance in the forest we will meet our shared goals to protect Canada's Boreal Forest and secure prosperity for the participating forest companies by opening new – green – markets.

## TIME FOR SOLUTIONS

### BIODIVERSITY: PROTECTING PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Canada's Boreal Forest is a vast, intact wilderness – a delicate ecosystem representing 25% of the world's remaining ancient forests and home to more than two thirds of Canada's plant and animal species, including the endangered Boreal woodland caribou, threatened grizzly bears, the elusive wolverine, lynx and millions of migratory songbirds. It is also unprotected, and under constant threat from forestry practices and increased development in sensitive areas.

But there is a solution. A network of parks and management zones can be legislated to allow for the complementary use of the forest by all – humans and wildlife.

This frontier offers a unique opportunity to "get it right", by determining what to leave before deciding what to take. And The Agreement meets that challenge. It recognizes the need for more government-legislated protected areas in Canada's Boreal Forest, and commits all parties to undertake comprehensive protected areas planning within 3 years.

Identifying new protected areas will require the following:

- ✿ A methodology capable of identifying areas large enough for wide-ranging animals such as caribou and grizzly bears, and resilient enough to withstand natural disasters such as forest fires.
- ✿ The development and implementation of Caribou Action Plans to ensure all 57 identified herds of woodland caribou across the country are protected.
- ✿ Mapping of existing protected areas indicating where the gaps are, and where new areas are required to protect all ecosystems in Canada's Boreal Forest.
- ✿ Protection of old growth forests, sacred cultural sites and other species at risk, in addition to the Boreal woodland caribou, such as the Peregrine Falcon, grizzly bear and wolverine.

### FOREST PRACTICES:

#### BEYOND PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS

Putting protected areas in place is the first step towards safeguarding the treasures of Canada's Boreal Forest. But it will remain critical for forestry companies to harvest in an environmentally responsible way throughout the remaining landscape.

That's why The Agreement calls for the development and implementation of world-leading sustainable management practices by companies harvesting trees for paper and wood products, and those involved in the new trend toward cutting and burning Canada's Boreal Forest for energy. These management practices will be founded on the principles of Ecosystem-based Management with a focus on maintaining ecosystem integrity. In order to encourage forestry companies to comply with these practices The Agreement also calls for a certification system based on the Forest Stewardship Council Certification (FSC) system, and drawing elements from a variety of other certification systems. This system will be administered by an independent certifier, and will be an effective way for customers to ensure the products they buy from Canada's Boreal Forest were harvested there sustainably.

But The Agreement gives customers even more to consider when using their purchase power to protect Canada's Boreal Forest – as well as our global climate and biodiversity. It commits all parties to joint research on the life cycles of a variety of comparable products including cement, recycled plastic, and those harvested from Canada's Boreal Forest under the terms of The Agreement.

In other words, The Agreement not only helps Canopy's marketplace partners ensure the paper they buy from Canada's Boreal Forest is ecologically sustainable, it helps them make sure they're buying the paper products that do the most to protect the global environment

## GREENING THE MARKETPLACE

This Agreement is just the beginning. It is an acknowledgement by Forest Products Association of Canada members and Canada's leading environmental organizations that we share a vision and a commitment to roll our sleeves up and map out a new future for Canada's Boreal Forest together. It is also a testament to Canopy's success in shifting demand amongst big paper buyers towards more ecologically sustainable paper products. And our work in this area is far from over.

Under The Agreement Canopy is committed to continue meeting with paper purchasers, presenting at conferences, speaking to the media, and more, all in order to ensure our marketplace partners support the action forest companies are taking to protect Canada's Boreal Forest. With the leadership of conscientious paper buyers we will improve environmental performance and achieve our common goals by building new – greener – markets to secure prosperity for the Canadian forest sector and protect Canada's Boreal Forest.

## MEASURING SUCCESS

After six months a third party independent auditor will assess progress on the initiatives outlined in the Agreement according to established milestones and timelines. The auditor will then reassess annually for 5 years. These audits will be made publicly available, therefore building in an accountability mechanism to ensure that customers and others have a credible and factual account of how implementation is proceeding.

## THE AGREEMENT SIGNATORIES

Canopy joins leading environmental organizations and key foundations in signing the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement. These include: Canadian Boreal Initiative, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), David Suzuki Foundation, ForestEthics, Greenpeace, Hewlett Foundation, Ivey Foundation, The Nature Conservancy International and Pew Charitable Trusts International Boreal Conservation Campaign (IBCC).

These environmental organizations forged The Agreement with the Forest Products Association of Canada and its members, including: AbitibiBowater, Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries, AV Nackawic, Canfor Corporation, Canfor Pulp, Cariboo Pulp & Paper, Cascades, F. F. Soucy, Daishowa- Marubeni, Howe Sound Pulp and Paper, Kruger, Louisiana Pacific Canada, Mercer International, Mill & Timber Products, NewPage, Papier Masson, SFK Pâte, Tembec, Tolko Industries, West Fraser Timber, and Weyerhaeuser.

In addition to working together, all parties to the Agreement agree on the need to work with others to build lasting solutions for the Boreal forest. We are all committed to a course of action that respects the rights and aspirations of Canada's Aboriginal peoples. The Forest Products Association of Canada members and environmental organizations represented by this Agreement have begun to meet with First Nations and local communities across the country, as well as the Federal government and relevant provincial governments, to seek their support and involvement.

## WHAT IS FSC?

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is the only forest certification system broadly endorsed by environmental and social organizations internationally, including Canopy. FSC is an independent, third party certification scheme that audits on-the-ground logging operations according to ten international principles and criteria to ensure sustainable logging operations.

Canopy sees FSC as part of the solution for forest conservation globally and to ensuring a secure supply of environmentally improved papers.

The Environmental Paper Policy policies developed by the companies we work with call on paper mills to produce papers with maximized post consumer and de-inked recycled fibre and maximized agricultural residue fibre. Where virgin tree fibre is required there is a stated preference for FSC certified forest fibre, ideally from second growth forests or tree farms.

