

Boreal Forest



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Global demand for timber, minerals, energy and water resources threaten the future of Canada's boreal forest, a vast ecosystem that is a global treasure.

SAVING CANADA'S BOREAL FOREST

Logging and industrial development have consumed 80 percent of the world's original old-growth forests. Just three places account for much of what remains: the Amazon rainforest, the Russian taiga and the Canadian boreal forest.

Canada's boreal forest is home to 1.4 billion intact acres, the most anywhere. It teems with wildlife that is rare or endangered elsewhere, including millions of caribou. It provides critical nesting grounds for almost half of all North American migratory songbirds and waterfowl. Its rich soils and permafrost store twice as much carbon per acre as tropical rainforests and are critical in the fight against global warming.

The opportunity to protect this important part of Earth's remaining wilderness will not last forever. Global demand for timber, minerals, energy and water resources threaten the future of Canada's boreal forest. Logging already consumes more than 4,000 acres per day, totaling an area larger than the state of Delaware every year. Booms in mining, oil and gas threaten even more. Unless it is protected, most of Canada's boreal wilderness could be gone in a generation.

Beginning in 2000, the Pew Environment Group launched an international campaign to protect Canada's boreal forest from destructive development. More than 1,500 scientists from around the world, dozens of

major companies, 25 Canadian First Nations and many Canadian and international environmental groups are working with us.

To date, we have played a critical role in securing protection of more than 185 million acres of Canada's boreal forest—an area twice as large as the United States National Park System. We also have secured new sustainable development rules covering an additional 145 million acres.

By 2013, we hope to secure protective measures covering most of the remainder of this billion-acre forest, making it by far the world's largest forest conservation area. Canada's boreal forest is a global treasure. Conserving it is a global responsibility.