

July 7, 2025

Honourable Ravi Parmar

Minister of Forests
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Email: FOR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: B.C. government's logging permits threaten caribou recovery

Dear Minister Parmar,

There are few sounds as haunting—and as rare—as the soft clicks of a southern mountain caribou moving through an ancient old-growth forest. Once an iconic part of British Columbia's wild alpine landscapes, these majestic creatures now stand on the edge of extinction.

BC Nature, a federation of over 60 naturalist clubs and nearly 7,000 members across the province, writes today with deep concern for the future of southern mountain caribou and the integrity of the forests they call home. Their continued survival is not just a matter of biodiversity—it's a test of our collective will to protect what is sacred and irreplaceable.

The southern mountain caribou are listed as endangered under the Species at Risk Act. Their critical habitat continues to be logged and fragmented by roadbuilding, making them more vulnerable to predation and human disturbance. Despite the government's recent policy promises—including the *Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework* and *A New Future for Old Forests*—on-the-ground actions have not matched these words.

BC Nature has long raised concerns about this disconnect. Our late caribou expert and tireless advocate, Joan Snyder, dedicated much of her life to speaking on behalf of these endangered herds, authoring numerous letters to government over the years. It is disheartening to see that, despite promising new policy directions, actions on the ground still reflect a “business as usual” approach.

We are not calling for the end of forestry. We know the forestry sector is vital to British Columbia's economy and identity, and we recognize that many communities rely on it. But continuing to log caribou habitat—especially irreplaceable old-growth and primary forest—is not sustainable. If we lose the caribou, we lose something essential: a living thread in the fabric of our ecosystems and a symbol of the wild beauty that defines this province.

There is a path forward that supports both ecological integrity and economic resilience. To that end, BC Nature strongly urges the government to:

- Immediately halt logging within the nearly 6,000 hectares of old-growth and primary forest identified as critical habitat for southern mountain caribou, including both approved and pending cut blocks.
- Cease road construction into these sensitive ranges, which fragments habitat and opens corridors to predators and recreational pressure.
- Invest in transition plans for forestry operations that shift harvesting away from critical habitat zones toward second growth and less ecologically sensitive areas.
- Honor your obligations under the Species at Risk Act and uphold the spirit of UNDRIP by working in genuine partnership with Indigenous Nations to co-develop and implement caribou recovery strategies.

We urge you to act now—not only to fulfill legal obligations, but because the moral responsibility is clear. The southern mountain caribou are running out of places to go. We must be the generation that chooses to listen, to adapt, and to lead.

The future of the caribou and the ecosystems they represent is still within our hands. But we must move beyond words. We must protect what cannot be replaced.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss practical, science-based solutions that support both caribou recovery and a sustainable forestry sector. Together, we can chart a path that honours our shared responsibility to future generations and the natural heritage of British Columbia.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Flood".

Nancy Flood
President, BC Nature

cc: lucero@wildernesscommittee.org