



## The Alberta Fish & Game Association

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### **Caribou Lose Out Again at Hands of Alberta Government!**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(Edmonton March 9, 2015)... “The Government of Alberta is committed to achieving naturally sustaining woodland caribou populations” so begins the Woodland Caribou Policy for Alberta penned in June 2011 by the Government of Alberta.

Given the fact that the Government is taking bids on energy leases on approximately 21,000 hectares (almost 52,000 acres) in prime woodland caribou habitat, that is held by the Government, that statement is completely false.

Wayne Lowry, President of Alberta’s largest conservation group, the Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA) said, “Our organization is dismayed by the continued reckless sell-off of prime habitat that is vital for the recovery of the woodland caribou. This Government contradicts itself every step of the way, each and every day.”

“With the current low price for oil it makes you wonder what the thinking process is in government,” he continued.

In October 2012, Environment Canada’s recovery strategy for the woodland caribou determined each herd required at least 65 per cent of its range intact and industry-free if the animals are to survive. Yet the provincial government has continued to approve new industry leases within the Little Smoky range to the point where, according to various reports, 95% of the Little Smoky herd has been affected. This latest sell-off is home to the Redrock-Prairie Creek herd in northwestern Alberta.

The AFGA asks the Government of Alberta to stop contradicting itself and actually follow through with what they have promised. If the Woodland Caribou has any hope of survival within Alberta their habitat must remain undisturbed by industrial activity.

The Alberta Fish and Game Association is a not-for-profit volunteer organization proud to serve Albertans in the promotion of the wise use of our fish and wildlife resources and the conservation of their habitats. The AFGA has been active since 1908 in working towards these goals and has a province-wide membership of more than 24,000 individuals spread among 90+ Clubs.

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