

Old Growth Forests.

Old growth forests are vital habitat for marten & wolverine in B.C.; along with many other wildlife species. ~~is~~ Blowdown from old mature trees are habitat for red back voles and other prey species for marten. This blowdown also provides areas of travel when snow gets deep, so that marten can hunt successfully under the snow.

Over harvesting of old growth forests & extremely large clear cuts over my trapline, has dropped the marten harvest on my traplines from app. 600 marten a year to 100 marten a year.

Clear cutting old growth up to tree line on George mountain on my trapline has completely wiped out the caribou from this area.

At the present time Canfor is back in the Bowron clear cut area and are taking huge clearcuts right up to the caribou boundary and will not leave corridors for caribou and moose to move through. (see attach map.)

I have owned my original traplines in this area for 56 years, and the logging practices of the last ~~20~~ 25 years is totally irresponsible for wildlife and furbear populations.

Marten production in B.C. peaked in the 1980's with a 45,000 harvest, it has been dropping steadily since then where it is now at around 13,000 a season. Most of this decline is due to habitat loss from logging.

The ministry of forests is supposed to be looking after our forests to protect fish & wildlife not just for the big timber companies. They have failed completely at doing this, meanwhile there is very little old growth forest left in B.C.