



### **Canada Invests 34.1 Million to Protect Species at Risk**

Canadian Forest Owners recognize protecting species at risk and their habitat by working in collaboration with government, Indigenous peoples, and other partners, is critical to reverse the situation and recover Canada's biodiversity.

In November, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, announced up to \$34.1 million in funding as part of the Enhanced Nature Legacy initiative.

To date, federal, provincial, and territorial governments have identified six shared priority species: caribou boreal, southern mountain, peary caribou, barren-ground caribou, greater sage-grouse, and wood bison.

The federal government also released the Wild Species 2020: The General Status of Species in Canada report. The Report takes stock of 50,534 species, more than half of all those known in Canada. The results indicate that 20% of assessed species in Canada are at some level of risk of extinction, reinforcing the need for ongoing data, analysis, and action on species conservation.

The focus on species at risk highlights one of Canada's key priorities as it welcomed the world to Montréal for the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) in December.

Canadian Forest Owners has a representative on the Canadian Species at Risk Forest Sector Committee (one of two forest industry representatives). As we move into 2023, we will be heavily involved in the input and drafting of the Forest Sector Species at Risk Conservation Plan.