



Migratory Birds Regulations Raise Concerns

Canadian Forest Owners and a group of like-minded natural resources organizations, (Forest Products Association of Canada, Electricity Canada, WaterPower Canada, Canadian Cattle Association, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, etc.) have been working together to raise concerns about the inclusion of Pileated Woodpeckers in Schedule 1 of the Migratory Birds Regulations.

Its inclusion now requires the identification, protection and monitoring of Pileated Woodpecker nesting holes for three years on public and private lands. Permitting systems have been developed for damage and danger, however there is no recognition of Incidental Takes in the case where some trees could inadvertently be harvested even if all due diligence has been taken.

In November, Canadian Forest Owners provided input to the Canadian Wildlife Service consultation on proposed amendments to eligibility for damage and danger permits, supporting the amendments but emphasizing that real change is needed for Incidental Takes. We also pointed out to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) that these regulations fall under the North American Convention which requires realistic implementation and alignment with the federal government of the United States.

ECCC has committed to the following timelines:

- Approval of Damage & Danger Permits amendments by March 2023
- Emergency Management amendments (i.e. fire, wildlife welfare, public safety, etc.) completed in 2024
- Incidental Takes pre-consultation with stakeholders in 2023 followed by opened consultation and final amendments by 2026

Canadian Forest Owners, along with the coalition members, will continue to work with the Ministry to create a more expedient timeline that supports the realistic implementation of Incidental Takes.