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ALBERTA  
ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Lethbridge-West*

OCT 24 2017

Mr. Kirby Smith, Member  
Conservation Committee  
Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society  
Box 4990  
Edmonton AB T6E 5G8  
[kirbkate@gmail.com](mailto:kirbkate@gmail.com)

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for sharing your letter addressed to the Species at Risk Secretariat, Environment and Climate Change Canada, regarding the Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society's comments on the federal Action Plan for the Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population. Alberta is committed to stabilizing, recovering and ultimately achieving naturally self-sustaining caribou populations.

Caribou conservation is a shared government, public and private sector responsibility, and the Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society's insight is an essential component of this important work. We invited Albertans to provide their thoughts and ideas through an online survey that closed on July 27, 2017. Written feedback can continue to be submitted by mail at any time, or through the comment submission form at <https://talkaep.alberta.ca/caribou-range-planning>. In addition, the Government of Alberta will engage with stakeholders, Indigenous peoples and the public following the release of the draft provincial woodland caribou range plan. The feedback we receive will then be used to inform the development of our final range plan.

Alberta's range plan will seek to minimize the duration, extent and intensity of industrial disturbance on the landscape. Range-specific details will be tailored to meet federal requirements, but will evaluate options that support range-specific differences. These differences may include the state of and potential for industrial development, socio-economic considerations as well as current environmental conditions and broader objectives.

The distribution of caribou in Alberta has been greatly reduced over the last decades. The only way to stop the continued decline of caribou in the province is to conserve the caribou populations that we have left. By managing for caribou (which is considered an umbrella species), we are also managing for a number of other species and biodiversity values.

Thank you again for sharing the concerns you communicated to the Species at Risk Secretariat. With the support of groups like yours, I am confident that we can make smart decisions that are focused on the long-term well-being of Alberta's families, communities, public lands, forests, fish and wildlife.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "S".

Shannon Phillips  
Minister