



Countless Adventure Opportunities

World-class outdoor opportunities abound in the Boreal Forest. Enthusiasts can canoe hundreds of northern rivers; climb some of the world's most challenging peaks; fish for the world's largest lake trout, Arctic grayling, and pike in northern Canada's countless lakes; and view the world's largest caribou herds and hundreds of species of birds. Skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, ice fishing, and viewing the amazing Aurora Borealis round out the winter season opportunities.



World-class fishing on Great Bear Lake in Canada's Boreal Forest.

Canada Creates Vast, New National Parks

The Canadian government is on track to fulfill an extraordinary conservation vision put forth in large part by small, aboriginal communities in the Northwest Territories. **In all, 25 million acres are currently under consideration for protection, one of the biggest conservation achievements in North American history.**

Last October, **the government agreed to work towards an 8.3 million acre park, almost four times the size of Yellowstone Park.** This huge national park is on the eastern edge of the Great Slave Lake, a pristine area of the Northwest Territories prowled by grizzlies and grazed by caribou. The small native band living in the area seeks to call it Thaydene Nene National Park, which means **"land of the ancestors."**

More recently, in mid-March, **the government announced long-term funding for a 1.3 million acre protected area on Great Bear Lake, the ninth largest lake in the world.** The area includes two large peninsulas nominated by the remote Sahtu village of Deline on Great Bear Lake in the NWT. The lands contain cultural history for the entire Sahtu region. **"They're embedded in, and inseparable from, the mind and the spirit of my people,"** said Deline First Nation Chief Charlie Neyelle.

The Canadian government also promises to continue work on other pending protected areas in the NWT, **including a three-fold expansion of Nahanni National Park,** a World Heritage Site and global canoeing destination.



Paddling Western Brook Pond: On the coastal edge of Gros Morne National Park, this deep u-shaped fjord was cut off from the nearby sea when the land lifted after the glaciers' retreat.

"...one of the greatest conservation accomplishments in Canadian history."



Cirque of the Unclimbables: Climbers on the legendary 2,200 foot southeast face of Lotus Flower Tower. (Mackenzie Mountains, Northwest Territories)

Commenting on the recent park announcements, Harvey Locke, a senior adviser to the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, noted, "It would be a step toward what the Americans did in Alaska under President Jimmy Carter, which was the biggest single wilderness set-aside in the world. **To move on these sites would be one of the greatest conservation accomplishments in Canadian history.** This is a globally significant wilderness area."

Unusual Alliance Seeks to Protect Half of 1.4 Billion Acre Boreal Forest

At 1.4 billion acres, Canada's Boreal Forest is **one of the largest unspoiled forest ecosystems remaining on Earth.** But, at present, less than ten percent of Canada's Boreal Forest is strictly protected from development. Booming demand for oil and gas, timber, minerals, and other commodities needs to be offset by **visionary protection to retain the Boreal Forest as a large, functioning ecosystem.**

An expanding and unusual coalition of industry, First Nations, and conservation groups has joined together, signing the Boreal Conservation Framework. **The Framework calls for setting aside half of Canada's Boreal Forest in large protected areas while supporting world-leading sustainable development on the remaining landscape.** Corporate Framework supporters include many members of the outdoor industry as well as timber, paper, and oil companies. Conservation supporters include Ducks Unlimited, World Wildlife Fund, and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

Billions in Outdoor Tourism

The Boreal's natural wealth attracts millions of visitors. Over 1 million people visit Canada from the U.S. each year, spending nearly \$1 billion on outdoor activities. Twenty million Canadians participate in nature-related activities annually. One-third of these trips are within the Boreal region. **Canadian residents and U.S. tourists combined annually spend \$11.7 billion on nature-related activities in Canada.**



The Boreal Forest is comprised of 1.4 billion acres spanning the continent from interior Alaska to the Atlantic Ocean.

What is the Boreal Forest?

The Boreal Forest **accounts for 25% of the earth's remaining intact forests.** It is a mosaic of interconnected forest, rivers, lakes, wetlands, grasslands, tundra, and other habitats, supporting unparalleled fish, wildlife, wilderness, and cultural resources. Canada's Boreal is a global treasure boasting **some of the planet's largest populations of woodland caribou, wolves, moose, lynx and grizzly bears and fish.** Canada's Boreal Forest provides vital breeding grounds for billions of North America's birds. **Nearly 50% of North America's bird species depend on the Boreal for their survival.** The western Boreal is the winter breeding ground for many of the ducks hunted in the United States.

Get More Information

For media inquiries, contact Sue Libenson at **907.766.2841** or **sue@interboreal.org**. To find out more, contact the International Boreal Conservation Campaign at **206.956.9040**.



The proposed Thaydene Nene National Park protects a spectacular area – almost **four times the size of Yellowstone** – near Great Slave Lake, NWT. (Plummers Arctic Lodges)

"[These lands are] inseparable from the mind and the spirit of my people."



Stikine Canyon in Northwestern B.C. is just one example of world class kayaking that attracts visitors to the Boreal Forest.



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