



News Release – Thursday May 17, 2007

Wilderness Committee launches Welcome to Clearcut Provincial Park direct action campaign

Beginning on the May long weekend, the Wilderness Committee Manitoba will be ramping up the campaign to stop logging in Manitoba's cherished provincial parks. Through the rest of the summer at entrances to provincial parks, the Wilderness Committee will have information booths set up, explaining the devastation being allowed in our provincial parks, and what the citizens of Manitoba can do to end the destruction.

"Developing nations protect parks better than Manitoba does," said Eric Reder, head of the Wilderness Committee in Manitoba. "This is Manitoba's shame, that we allow such destruction in areas we call parks."

The government of Manitoba is continuing to support clearcut logging of our provincial parks. The Duck Mountain Provincial Park Management Plan, released this spring by the Manitoba government, calls for a continuation of logging and other industrial activities. Louisiana-Pacific, a U.S.-based corporation, has the rights to clearcut over 60% of Duck Mountain Provincial Park.

Tembec, the multinational logging corporation which has rights to clearcut log 62% of Nopiming Provincial Park, just applied to the government to continue clearcutting massive sections of old-growth forest in and around Nopiming Provincial Park for another year. The government is expected to approve the plan by May 31.

After several months of communications and requests, the Manitoba government offices have yet to supply the Wilderness Committee with any maps showing just how much of Whiteshell Provincial Park is being logged. Nearly half of Whiteshell is available to be clearcut.

"Thousands of people have contacted government and said 'Stop Logging Our Parks!', yet the government shows no sign of listening," said Reder. "The Manitoba government is continuing to show outrageous contempt for the wishes of the voting public."

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