



NEWS—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—JUNE 15, 2007

Map of logging clearcuts and forest cover in Whiteshell Provincial Park released

Winnipeg, MB – After months of requests to government, the Wilderness Committee in Manitoba finally received some maps detailing recent logging clearcuts in Whiteshell Provincial Park. With this information the Wilderness Committee compiled a map showing the logging clearcuts and the remaining forests in the park. The new map shows exactly how few old-growth forests remain in Whiteshell, and how many old-growth forests have been fragmented by clearcuts.

“This map shows the shameful mistreatment of our forests in provincial parks,” said Eric Reder, Manitoba Director of the Wilderness Committee. “There are only a handful of old-growth forest sections which haven’t been scarred by clearcuts. Our parks should be protected for the use of Manitobans, and for the essential benefits intact boreal forests provide us.”

Maps of the clearcutting activities in northern Quebec, similar in nature to this map, were released last year, and the citizens of that province were duly outraged at the widespread destruction that was brought to light by the maps.

In January the Wilderness Committee produced a map showing the devastating effect Tembec’s logging activities were having on the remaining old-growth intact forests in Nopiming Provincial Park. Subsequently Tembec has removed some of the old-growth forests in Nopiming from logging in their 2007-2008 Operating Plan.

Provincial park forests face many stresses. Floods, forest fires, wind storms, disease, insect infestations and now climate change all have impacts. Human impact from traveling through the park, cottaging and camping also stresses the forests to some degree, however Manitobans expect and deserve the ability to visit parks and enjoy them. The stress provincial park forests are under from industrial clearcut logging is something that can and must be changed. The Wilderness Committee encourages everyone to contact their elected official or the premier of the province, and voice their opinion of logging in Manitoba’s provincial parks.

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A print-resolution copy of the map is available under the Media & Press Releases section of the Wilderness Committee Manitoba website at:
www.wildernesscommittee.mb.ca/media.htm

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