

AbitibiBowater and the Boreal Forest

AbitibiBowater is committed to protecting the boreal forest

The boreal is Canada's largest eco-region, accounting for 35% of the country's land area and 72% of its forests. For decades, AbitibiBowater has worked with governments, communities, Aboriginal peoples and other stakeholders to protect wildlife habitats, breeding grounds, and unique or culturally important eco-systems in the boreal forest.

Much of Canada's economy depends on the boreal region. While the boreal forest plays a key role in the preservation of biodiversity, it also is a renewable, sustainable resource that, with proper management, can meet the needs of society today, and for future generations.

A Leader in Protecting Boreal Biodiversity

AbitibiBowater actively protects biodiversity and species at risk in the boreal by:

- Identifying and maintaining a proportion of over-mature stands in the forests we manage.
- Participating in woodland caribou research and recovery plans.
- Ensuring forest health, including regeneration after harvest.
- Protecting watersheds, water resources, and the fish and wildlife that depend on them.
- Partnering in government and private sector research to improve forest management.

Protecting the Boreal in Ontario:

- AbitibiBowater partnered with the Ontario government and environmental groups to create new protected spaces through the 1999 Ontario Living Legacy initiative.
- Almost a million hectares of the Crown land managed by AbitibiBowater has been set aside as parks and protected areas, well above the Province's 12% target.
- AbitibiBowater contributed 452,000 hectares of licence area to create and expand the Wabikimi Provincial Park, the largest boreal forest reserve in the province.
- In 2004, AbitibiBowater committed to work with environmentalists and the Province of Ontario to create an additional 26,000 hectares of protected spaces.
- In 2007, AbitibiBowater voluntarily deferred all forestry activities in the St. Raphael Enhanced Management Area to 2018 to allow for the creation of a management plan.
- AbitibiBowater identifies a proportion of over-mature stands and plans operations to maintain them.
- Since the early 1990s, AbitibiBowater has partnered with the Ontario government and researchers on a variety of caribou research and policy initiatives (for more information, please see the *AbitibiBowater and Woodland Caribou* fact sheet).

Protecting the Boreal in Quebec:

- AbitibiBowater is part of the partnership which achieved the designation "biosphere reserve" for the Manicouagan-Uapishka area, now the largest UNESCO reserve in Canada.
- AbitibiBowater supports fish and wildlife research, including research on caribou in the boreal, through organizations such as the Northern Wildlife Fund of the *Fondation de la Faune du Québec*.

- AbitibiBowater is a partner in the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) / Université Laval industrial chair, for research on interactions between forestry practices and wildlife in the boreal forest.
- AbitibiBowater participates in the research consortium on the boreal forest at Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, which studies forest regeneration, forest evolution, and the impact of natural disturbances such as fire and insects.
- AbitibiBowater works with the Quebec government to protect water quality, protect aquatic habitats, and study the effects of harvesting and other commercial activities in watersheds.
- In 2004, AbitibiBowater was part of “*The Road to Biodiversity Initiative*,” promoting the linking of existing protected areas – like the Saguenay St. Lawrence Marine Park, and Monts Valin Park – with protected areas along the Saguenay and Sainte-Marguerite Rivers.

Protecting the Boreal in British Columbia:

- AbitibiBowater preserves biological diversity through representative ecosystems that maintain over-mature attributes and stand-level biodiversity, by managing seral and patch size distributions, and by ensuring connectivity between important habitats.
- In 2000, AbitibiBowater – with government, environmentalists, local communities and Aboriginal peoples – completed the Mackenzie Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), which added 667,782 hectares of new parks to the Mackenzie LRMP, more than quadrupling the area under protection.
- AbitibiBowater participates in integrated caribou/moose/wolf research to support caribou populations in the Mackenzie LRMP. There also is a separate grizzly bear strategy that manages biodiversity, habitat, soils, water, fish and forest resources.

Committed to the Responsible Management of the Boreal

All of the initiatives and actions undertaken by AbitibiBowater build from our core commitment to protect, manage and renew the forest through responsible management. This recognizes that it is possible to carefully harvest trees while maintaining biodiversity and protecting the forest values we all respect.

More Information

To learn more about AbitibiBowater’s commitment to the environment and sustainable forestry, please visit our web site at www.abitibibowater.com.

If you have questions, please contact your AbitibiBowater sales representative.

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