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For immediate release:

Forest industry supports government programs to rejuvenate targeted Mountain Caribou herds

Victoria: The Council of Forest Industries has joined with BC Agricultural and Lands Minister Pat Bell and other stakeholders to announce an implementation plan that is aimed at returning targeted Mountain Caribou herds to sustainable numbers.

"We congratulate the government on the progress to date and look forward to working together to not only provide further protection for Caribou but to also maintaining the many community benefits of a vibrant forest sector," stated COFI President and CEO John Allan.

The plan is based on recommendations made by the independent Mountain Caribou Science Team and consultations with stakeholders including the Council of Forest Industries and individual impacted companies.

Five key elements have been identified as necessary and all five must be employed if the goal is to be met. The individual elements are:

- Habitat protection
- Predator control
- Alternate prey management
- Back country recreation management
- Population transition

The government has committed to conducting further cost benefit analysis to provide a clear understanding of the impacts on commercial natural resource use of the Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan.

"We firmly believe that together we can protect values such as Mountain Caribou while ensuring the economic stability of the forest sector and the many families and communities that depend upon it," concluded John Allan.

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