



Global Forest Watch Canada *Linking Forests and People*

Key Findings *Canada's Large Intact Forest Landscapes*

Key findings arising from our mapping of Canada's large, intact forest landscapes are:

- ?? **Canada retains extensive, globally significant areas of large, intact forest landscape.** More than half of Canada's forest area (and more than one third of the country's total land area) consists of large intact landscapes. More than one third of the area of these intact landscapes is naturally treeless, such as bogs and areas above the tree line in high elevation mountainous areas.
- ?? **Large, intact forest landscapes are unevenly distributed across the country, with most found in northern Canada and at higher elevations in western Canada.** The most biodiversity-rich and productive forests, which are located in southern Canada, have been the most extensively influenced by human activity.
- ?? **Northern boreal forest regions remain largely intact, but southern boreal regions have been broadly affected by modern land use.** More than half of the Boreal Shield, Canada's largest ecozone, is made up of large, intact forest landscapes. The northernmost boreal ecozones are least affected by human disturbance, with intact landscapes making up 89 percent or more of the study area in each of four northern boreal ecozones (Taiga Cordillera, Boreal Cordillera, Hudson Plains, Taiga Shield) and 61 percent in the Taiga Plains. The southernmost boreal regions have been considerably affected by industrial activity; for instance, the Boreal Plains ecozone retains less than one fifth (17 percent) of its area in large, intact forest landscapes.
- ?? **Less than one third of temperate forest areas remains as large, intact forest landscapes.** Over 90 percent of this area is located in British Columbia, with the remainder in Alberta. Of these intact landscapes, more than half are naturally treeless, including high-elevation alpine tundra, ice, and rock in the western mountains. No



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large, intact forest landscapes remain in the Mixedwood Plains and Atlantic Maritime ecozones.

- ?? **Quebec and the Northwest Territories together account for more than one third of Canada's large, intact forest landscapes; combined with Ontario and British Columbia, they account for nearly two thirds of these landscapes.** Three provinces? New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island? have no remaining large, intact forest landscapes.
- ?? **Only a small portion of Canada's large, intact forest landscape occurs in protected areas.** Although national parks make up one third of Canada's protected areas, only 2 percent of large, intact forest landscapes are located in national parks. Boreal regions account for most of the area in protected, large, intact forest landscapes? about 21 million hectares versus 8 million hectares in temperate zones. However, a greater percentage of large, intact temperate forest landscape is subject to protection? about 27 percent, versus less than 10 percent for boreal landscapes. The majority of these protected temperate forest landscapes are naturally treeless.
- ?? **First Nation historic treaty areas contain more than half (55 percent) of Canada's large, intact forest landscapes.** About one quarter of large, intact forest landscapes are contained in modern land claim settlements.

Global Forest Watch Canada is the independent national affiliate of the Global Forest Watch network, a project of the World Resources Institute. The Global Forest Watch network was formed to provide access to better information about the world's forests and the environmental impact of their development.

Canada's Large Intact Forest Landscapes, including maps and data, as well as media briefing materials are available at both www.globalforestwatch.org and www.globalforestwatch.ca