

4.8% (216,199 km²) decrease in Canada's large intact forest landscapes between 2000 and 2013

Ottawa, July 5, 2016

Global Forest Watch Canada has just released its newest iteration of Canada's intact forest landscape layer, noting a significant decrease in IFLs, especially in the more southern intact forest landscape and in specific geographic areas and jurisdictions. GFWC has also released a bulletin, *Canada's Intact Forest Landscapes Updated to 2013*, outlining the methods and results.

Overall, GFWC's results show Canada still had 4.2 million km² of intact forest landscapes as of 2013. Approximately 4.8% (216,199 km²) of large (i.e., at least 500 km²) intact forest landscapes were degraded between 2000 and 2013. Three provinces - Quebec, Alberta, and Ontario - accounted for 60% of all intact forest landscape degradation.

Wynet Smith, lead author and Executive Director of Global Forest Watch Canada, stated: "we produced an update to our intact forest landscape layer to help monitor the extent and impact of human activity within Canada's forest ecosystems. Intact forest landscapes are becoming increasingly rare at the global level and they are important as reference points for understanding managed forest landscapes and designing management schemes that preserve or restore significant aspects of the natural forest landscape."

For the first time, GFWC has also made its intact forest landscapes layers available in an interactive mapping format on its website. According to Dr. Smith, "open data has always been a core principle of Global Forest Watch Canada and we have always made our datasets and reports available for free to everyone. However, interactive mapping enables any citizen with a computer or mobile device to explore Canada and the world in much more participatory ways. We are very excited to help democratize data in Canada by making our maps available in more accessible formats to the general public. However, we will continue to publish our digital datasets as well, for use by those with more specialized tools and software."

Key Findings of the Study Include:

- 5% of Canada's intact forest landscapes were degraded between 2000 and 2013.
- As of 2013, 17.5% (750,851 km²) of intact forest landscapes were located within interim and permanent protected areas. By contrast, just over 500,000 km² (or 11.7%) of intact forest landscapes were located within forestry tenures as of 2013, and these intact areas accounted for 25.5% of the total area covered by forestry tenures.

- 129,487 km², or 60%, of the intact forest landscape reduction between 2000 and 2013 occurred within the forest tenures allocated to companies for logging activities. 13,344 km², or 6.2%, of the reduction occurred within petroleum and natural gas tenures.
- 92% of intact forest landscape degradation between 2000 and 2013 intersected the known presence of species at risk and more than 14% coincided with the presence of at least 6 species at risk.
- Intact forest landscape degradation has affected the ranges of boreal woodland caribou, a threatened species in Canada. Alberta and British Columbia had 43% and 68% of their IFLs within boreal woodland caribou ranges degraded between 2000 and 2013, while Quebec had 7% of its IFLs within caribou ranges degraded.
- Intact forest landscape degradation also affects areas of high bird diversity: as of 2013, 6% (202,174 km²) of the *circa* 2000 IFL that overlapped areas with bird diversity of more than 100 species had been degraded by industrial activity and were no longer considered intact.

**To view the interactive map, and download the bulletin or datasets, visit:
www.globalforestwatch.ca**

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