



## The Alberta Fish & Game Association

6924 – 104 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6H 2L7

Phone: (780) 437-2342 Fax: (780) 438-6872  
email: [office@afga.org](mailto:office@afga.org) Website: [www.afga.org](http://www.afga.org)

---

---

### **Caribou, Shmaribou!!!**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(Edmonton May 27, 2014)... “The Government of Alberta is committed to achieving naturally sustaining woodland caribou populations” so begins the Woodland Caribou Policy for Alberta penned in June 2011 by the Government of Alberta.

Given the recent rash of oil and gas lease sales held by the Government, that statement is completely false.

Gord Poirier, President of Alberta’s largest conservation group, the Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA) said, “Our organization is dismayed by the continued reckless sell-off of prime habitat that is vital for the recovery of the woodland caribou. There is no way that the government with their projected return of a balanced budget needs the funds these leases will bring.”

“There seems to be a move by government to divest itself of critical habitat before their own land use frame work plans are implemented. We don’t know who asked for this sell-off but we do know who has to sign off on it and we will remind him of this, the next time we meet,” he continued.

In October 2012, Environment Canada’s recovery strategy for the woodland caribou determined each herd required at least 65 per cent of its range intact and industry-free if the animals are to survive. Yet the provincial government continually approved new industry leases within the Little Smoky range to the point where, according to various reports, 95% of the Little Smoky herd has been affected.

The AFGA asks that the Government of Alberta stops contradicting itself and actually does what it promises.

The Alberta Fish and Game Association is a not-for-profit volunteer organization proud to serve Albertans in the promotion of the wise use of our fish and wildlife resources and the conservation of their habitats. The AFGA has been active since 1908 in working towards these goals and has a province-wide membership of more than 24,000 individuals spread among 90+ Clubs.

-30-

**CONTACT: Gordon Poirier, President, (780) 573-6874  
Martin Sharren, Executive Vice President, (780) 437-2342**