

Sarah

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DEAR FELLOW NATURALISTS, ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND SCIENTISTS:

WE STILL HAVE A FIGHT AHEAD OF US. YOU HAVE HEARD OF THE CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICES CUTS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT. YOU MAY HAVE WRITTEN A LETTER TO PROTEST. MOST OF US FELT RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTER, MADAME BLAIS-GRENIER, HAD REINSTATED SOME OF THE CANCELLED PROGRAMMES.

IT SEEMS CLEAR NOW THAT WE WERE PREMATURE IN OUR RELIEF. NOT ONLY WERE FEW OF THE PROGRAMMES REINSTATED, BUT NOW WE HAVE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE REINSTATEMENTS WERE CARRIED OUT AS MINDLESSLY AS THE ORIGINAL CANCELLATIONS.

IN THE HERRING GULL CONTAMINANTS MONITORING PROGRAMME, FOR EXAMPLE, ONLY ONE OF THE SIX PEOPLE ON IT WAS REINSTATED. YET IT TAKES TWO PEOPLE JUST TO COLLECT THE HERRING GULL EGGS. FURTHER WORK ON THE EGGS WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, WITHOUT MORE STAFF. HOW THEN DID MME. BLAIS-GRENIER EXPECT THE PROGRAMME TO FUNCTION? THE ANSWER IS THAT SHE PROBABLY DIDN'T GIVE IT TOO MUCH THOUGHT. SHE DIDN'T DO HER HOMEWORK ANY BETTER THIS TIME THAN WHEN SHE MADE THE ORIGINAL CUTS.

SIMILARLY, IN THE TWO OTHER REINSTATED PROGRAMMES (THE PORCUPINE-CARIBOU HERD STUDY AND THE EFFECTS OF SPRUCE BUDWORM SPRAY ON FOREST BIRDS), ALTHOUGH FOUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN REHIRED, FOUR OTHERS WILL BE FIRED TO COMPENSATE!

THE MINISTER PROMISED THAT NO PROGRAMMES INVOLVING ENDANGERED SPECIES WOULD BE CUT. YET SHE HAS CANCELLED (AND REFUSES TO REINSTATE) PROGRAMMES DEALING WITH THE PEREGRINE FALCON, THE PIPING PLOVER, THE SWIFT FOX, THE BLACK-FOOTED FERRET, THE GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN AND THE PINE MARTEN, ALL ENDANGERED SPECIES. WHY WERE THEY NOT REINSTATED ACCORDING TO PROMISE?

PLEASE - WRITE YOUR MP, THE PRIME MINISTER, AND MME. BLAIS-GRENIER. USE THE ENCLOSED UPDATED INFORMATION SHEET. ASK FOR EXPLANATIONS. COMPLAIN ABOUT THE CUTS YOU FEEL ARE UNFAIR (YOU MAY FEEL THAT ALL OF THEM ARE). PERHAPS IT IS EVEN TIME TO ASK THE PRIME MINISTER TO REMOVE MME. BLAIS-GRENIER FROM THAT PARTICULAR CABINET POST. SHE APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN LITTLE INTEREST IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES THAT CONCERN MOST CANADIANS.

MME. BLAIS-GRENIER HAS ALREADY HAD TO RETREAT SOMEWHAT BECAUSE OF PUBLIC OPINION. A LETTER FROM EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US NOW COULD FORCE HER TO MAKE SOME REAL CONCESSIONS THIS TIME. PLEASE WRITE.

YOURS SINCERELY,

Mary Ellen Foley
SECRETARY
PENINSULA FIELD NATURALISTS

**IMPACT OF PLANNED REDUCTION IN CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE (CWS)
STAFF ON CWS PROGRAMS AND ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
IN CANADA**

The announced reduction of CWS by 84 person years and \$3.8 million will eliminate most of the Wildlife Research and Interpretation Branch, one of the three branches in CWS. To be discontinued will be the operation of five Interpretation centres and most of a series of projects grouped together in a program called "Wildlife Research". The staff of the Wildlife Research group is composed of scientists trained in a variety of biological specialties: wildlife ecology, ornithology, mammalogy, toxicology, veterinary medicine, parasitology, freshwater ecology and fisheries biology. The projects they undertake are strongly problem-oriented and are aimed at providing information and advice to a wide range of clients, including other federal agencies, provincial and territorial governments, industry, university scientists, inter-governmental wildlife management boards, citizen's groups and environmental assessment panels.

The proposed staff reduction will almost completely eliminate the Federal Government activities and commitments conducted under the Canada Wildlife Act. The Act authorizes the purchase of lands, cooperative agreements with other parties, research on species other than migratory birds including endangered species, and interpretation.

The major projects that will disappear because of the budget reduction are described below. Many of these projects are directed at migratory birds or endangered species or both; migratory bird projects are marked with one asterisk (*) and endangered species projects with two (**). Migratory birds are protected under Federal legislation in Canada, the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

A. WILDLIFE TOXICOLOGY PROJECTS

1. **Identifying and monitoring the occurrence and effects of toxic substances in**
* **Herring Gulls and other fish-eating birds on the Great Lakes.** Determines trends in the levels of major organochlorine contaminants (DDT, PCB) in wildlife of the Great Lakes basin since 1972 and discovered new contaminants (e.g., mirex, dioxin). Part of Canada's obligation under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement with the USA. Under agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CWS collects Herring Gull eggs on both sides of the Great Lakes and analyses them to fulfill joint obligation under the GLWQA.

Also determines how birds are affected by toxic substances that accumulate in their bodies. The results show why contaminants cause harm.

2. **Monitoring effects of forestry insecticides on migratory birds in New Brunswick.**
* Determines impact of insecticides widely used to combat spruce budworm on forest bird life, and tests the effects of new chemicals. Monitors long term effects and develops techniques to measure ecological impact of chemical sprays on the forest environment.
3. **Monitoring effects of agricultural insecticides and herbicides on the Prairies.**
* Determines the effects of insecticides on the invertebrates on which migratory waterfowl depend for food and the effects of herbicides on the wetland habitats essential for waterfowl breeding.

4. **Monitoring of contaminants in birds on the St. Lawrence River and its Estuary (Quebec).** Surveys of levels of industrial and agricultural contaminants found in migratory birds which feed, reside and winter in large numbers on the St. Lawrence and its Estuary, areas where these chemicals are concentrated and discharged.

-NOTE:

These studies were first undertaken by CWS at the request of the Provinces as the problems transcended provincial borders and it made no economic sense to have each province duplicate the work of others in this field. The studies are not attractive to university researchers because of long time periods, routine monitoring and expense required.

B. PROJECTS TO REHABILITATE ENDANGERED SPECIES

1. **Reintroduction of Peregrine Falcons in Eastern Canada (Quebec, New Brunswick).**
** Part of the national program to re-establish the peregrine. Approximately 24 birds are released to the wild each summer.
2. **Reintroduction of Pine Marten to Newfoundland.** Determines appropriate habitat
** for release and follows the movements of marten released to verify habitat use and survival.
3. **Reintroduction of Swift Fox, Black-footed Ferret, and Greater Prairie Chicken to Prairie Provinces.** Project to continue but staff member with expertise declared surplus.
4. **Veterinary and Pathology Services.** Established to control or prevent disease outbreaks in wildlife. Veterinary supervision of capture, handling, transport and
** release of animals used in reintroductions of endangered species. Inspects and certifies zoos and other holding facilities for species imported to Canada under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Provides sole wildlife expertise to Canada Council on Animal Care.
5. **Bioelectronics Services.** Provides miniature radio transmitters and receivers for
* released animals to permit location to confirm survival and determine habitat use.
** Designs special electronic devices not available commercially for field use (time recorders, trap triggers, weather recorders, etc.). Also supplies services to universities and provincial and territorial governments on a cost-recovery basis.

C. CONSERVATION OF INTERNATIONAL AND TRANSBOUNDARY WILDLIFE

1. **Porcupine Caribou.** Determination of range requirements of the international Porcupine Caribou Herd in Yukon Territory in cooperation with State of Alaska, USFWS, and Government of Yukon. Data required for management of herd under proposed international agreement, and for implementation of the land claim agreement with the Inuvialuit.
2. **George River Caribou.** Provides advice and research on this transboundary (Quebec - Newfoundland) caribou herd under the Canada - Newfoundland Wildlife Agreement.

3. Interprovincial/Territorial agreement. CWS membership on Beverly-Kaminuriak Caribou Management Board has been useful in providing scientific advice and in creating cooperation between biologists and native peoples.

4. Ecology of Shorebirds on the Fraser River Delta, B. C. Identify and monitor diet and behaviour of shorebirds on the Delta, an area where large numbers of shorebirds breed and overwinter, and where contaminants from industry and agriculture concentrate.

D. SUPPORT TO OTHER FEDERAL SERVICES

• Forestry: Projects in Maritimes, Ontario, Alberta and B.C. aimed at assessing the long-term environmental impact of forestry practices on wildlife, and at developing ways to reduce damage to young forests from wildlife pests, e.g. rodents.

These studies foster integrated resource management with benefits to both forest industry and wildlife users such as native trappers.

National Parks and other federal lands: The federal government has the responsibility to provide sound conservation and management of all wildlife on federal lands. Specific projects include prediction of impacts of development on wildlife (bears, caribou), minimizing contacts between bears and people and protecting against outbreaks of disease in park wildlife (bison).

E. WILDLIFE INTERPRETATION

Canada's wildlife heritage, particularly migratory birds, is interpreted to over 240,000 visitors annually at five interpretation centres. These include centres concentrating on the world famous gannet colony on Bonaventure Island, and the snow geese of Cap Tourmente. The other centres interpret the wildlife of the Great Lakes, the Prairies, and the Mountains. Three of the five centres operate under agreements with provincial agencies and associations of private citizens.

F. HABITAT ACQUISITION

The National Wildlife Area program began in 1966 with the acceptance of Canada's National Wildlife Policy by Parliament. The mandate was later confirmed by the Canada Wildlife Act. Under the program, lands of exceptional importance to migratory birds and other wildlife have been acquired and managed. The federal government has been able to multiply the effects of the very limited funds available by entering into cooperative agreements with provinces, non-government organizations and other agencies. The Habitat Acquisition Fund was eliminated, along with the positions of the two coordinators of the national programs.

N.B. Project Numbers A1, A2, and C1 have been reinstated, but not necessarily at previous levels nor under Canadian Wildlife Service jurisdiction.

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