

pine beetle

Using pine beetle as an excuse to log?



The eastern slopes are at risk, and we intend to manage that risk in a responsible manner. Hansard April 2, 2007



Pine trees in Kananaskis Country are too small to be threatened by mountain pine beetles. The beetles only successfully attack large-diameter pines and without them no epidemic can spread. <http://www.savekananaskis.ca/backpack/scienceideas.htm> Ralph Cartar Entomologist, University of Calgary

Shock doctrine in action!



Clear cut Kananaskis

Could pine beetle be worse than this?



Shock Doctrine: Use a disaster (real or imagined) to get people afraid, and then push forward with actions no one in their right mind would agree to. Naomi Klein

Morton misleading the public about pine beetle control?

Fact:

The University of BC Faculty of Forestry reports research indicates that the attempts to control the pine beetle outbreak in B.C. neither slowed its spread nor had any positive outcome with respect to the amount of live pine left on the landscape when the outbreak subsided.

<http://www.policy.forestry.ubc.ca/issuebriefs/Controlling%20the%20Spread.html>



"We're receiving ongoing advice from the leading pine beetle experts across the country and also our counterparts in British Columbia."
Ted Morton in the Legislature, Hansard March 8, 2007

"We believe that responsible logging, responsible forestry is the answer." Ted Morton in the Legislature, Hansard April 2, 2007



He wouldn't want science to get in the way of an excuse to log!



Morton keeps the forest industry very happy—wildlife.....not so much!



I am pretty worried about our watersheds with Morton in charge.

kananaskis logging

Morton allows destruction of Kananaskis

"We believe that responsible logging, responsible forestry is the answer."

Morton in the legislature, Hansard April 2, 2007



The clearcut below overlooks Barrier Lake in Kananaskis



Doesn't seem responsible to me.



Saving the hunters but not the wildlife

Improving Albertans' quality of life. Province announces first provincial hunting day September 13, 2007, government press release



"We're losing the next generation of hunters to television, computers and shopping malls. We hope that Provincial Hunting Day will give young Albertans the opportunity to experience the outdoors and build greater respect for wildlife."



This guy has strange priorities!

When is Provincial Grizzly Bear Day Mommy?



Uh, well there isn't one.

Would it help if we got lost in malls?

Does Mr. Morton know we're losing caribou too?



Mistakes in the legislature

Morton misleads the legislature

BC Forest Practices Board Press Release March 19, 2007:

<http://www.fpb.gov.bc.ca/news/releases/2007/03.16.07.htm>

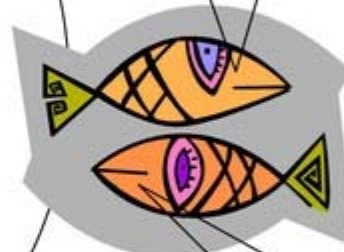
The model indicates the **MPB epidemic will increase stream flow by 60 per cent; clearcut salvage logging of beetle-infested trees could result in as much as a 92 per cent increase in stream flow**, depending on the extent of the cut. According to the model projections, flood events that used to occur at 20-year intervals (after logging) are now likely to take place every three to five years.



Morton's interpretation:

"What it found was that in a pine beetle infested area the threat for flooding, the damage to the watershed, and the resulting threat to flooding were greater from trees being killed (by pine beetle) than from logging." Ted Morton in the Legislature, Hansard March 21, 2007

That's exactly the opposite of what the study found! Our watersheds are in real trouble now.



Yeah, this guy is dangerous.



Maybe Morton can understand this:

The common sense explanation. Trees modify stream flow by intercepting snow in the canopy and returning it to the atmosphere, thus reducing the amount of snow reaching the ground. In the spring, forest shade reduces snow melt rates. Beetle-killed trees are less effective in providing shade and interception, while **clearcut salvage logging removes this effect completely.**

<http://www.fpb.gov.bc.ca/news/releases/2007/03.16.07.htm> Of course logging before or after a pine beetle infestation will have a similar effect on watersheds.

grizzly bear

Grizzly bear inaction

Alberta Government Grizzly Bear recovery plan 2004-2009.
Top recommendations:

Reduce human-cause grizzly bear mortality by suspending hunting and controlling access development and use, and other human activities in grizzly bear range.

Create Grizzly Bear Conservation Areas in each population unit to protect high quality habitat and reduce risk from humans.



"This government has a long-standing policy of putting the long-term well-being of the grizzly bear at the top of our priorities." Ted Morton in the legislature, Hansard Nov. 8, 2007



If our well-being is a top priority, why do they still let industry mess up our best habitat?

Hmm. Millions of dollars for the 'war on pine beetle', not much for grizzly bear recovery.

I guess war on pine beetle is more fun than habitat protection for grizzly bear.



Morton proud of Grizzly bear inaction

"This government is proud of our record on looking after the long-term well-being of the grizzly bear in Alberta." Ted Morton in the Legislature, Hansard Nov. 8, 2007



Record Check

www.grizzlybearalliance.org/

2002 Government's Endangered Species Conservation Committee recommended listing the grizzly bear as a threatened species. Government refuses.



2003 Oops! Grizzly bear population had been overestimated. Population estimate for provincial lands now **500**.

2005 Oops! A very accurate **DNA estimate shows about 1/2 the number of bears** previously estimated for area between highway 11 and 16.

2006 Province announces three year suspension of grizzly bear hunt.



2007 Oops! DNA studies completed to date suggest previous provincial estimates of the grizzly bear population were drastically overestimated.



2008 Grizzly bear still not listed as a threatened species, no habitat protected from motorized or industrial use.

This record is not something I would be proud of.



Maybe he just doesn't have much to be proud of.

Does Morton not understand forests in Alberta?

Well Known Fact:

The boreal forest is constantly being changed through natural disturbances forces such as fire, insects and disease. Disturbances have been shaping the boreal for nearly 10,000 years and are an integral process that contribute to the overall health and integrity of this dynamic ecosystem.

<http://www.yourforest.org/boreal/default.aspx>



"There's nothing worse for the environment, nothing worse for the forests than forest fires." Ted Morton in the Legislature Hansard April 18, 2007



Oh dear! He's wrong again! Fire in Alberta forests is natural and useful to maintain diversity and therefore biodiversity.



Is this guy competent to lead Sustainable Resource Development?

Does Morton not understand forestry in Alberta?

Well Known Fact:

Clear-cuts are the main method of logging in Alberta, for all species of trees, and have been for several decades.

Alberta SRD website 2008: <http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/forests/researcheducation/arcsscqa.aspx>



"I'd like to remind all members of the Assembly that clear-cutting hasn't been allowed in this province for several decades."

Ted Morton in the Legislature, Hansard April 2, 2007

How did this guy become the minister of forestry?



I'd like to remind Mr. Morton to educate himself before trying to educate others.



caribou management

Killing wolves and not conserving habitat

Alberta Caribou Recovery Plan recommendations:

Ultimately, habitat conservation and management is the fundamental tool to reduce undue predation on caribou.

For caribou herds in immediate risk of extirpation, implement a **moratorium** on further mineral and timber resource allocation (sales) until a range plan is completed, evaluated, and implemented.



To save Alberta's caribou:

- No moratorium
- Don't stop industrial development.
- Don't stop selling new and expired oil and gas leases in caribou range.
- Don't stop road building.
- Don't stop logging.
- Don't protect any caribou habitat.
- **Kill the wolves!!**

Clearly Morton is not not a good listener.



Aarghhhh! Wolves and caribou have co-existed for thousands of years.....I am not the main problem.

No habitat protection for Little Smoky herd

Caribou Recovery Team Recommendation:

For caribou herds in immediate risk of extirpation, implement a moratorium on further mineral and timber resource allocation (sales) until a range plan is completed, evaluated, and implemented. It is anticipated that this process will take **a maximum of one year** from the date of range team formation.

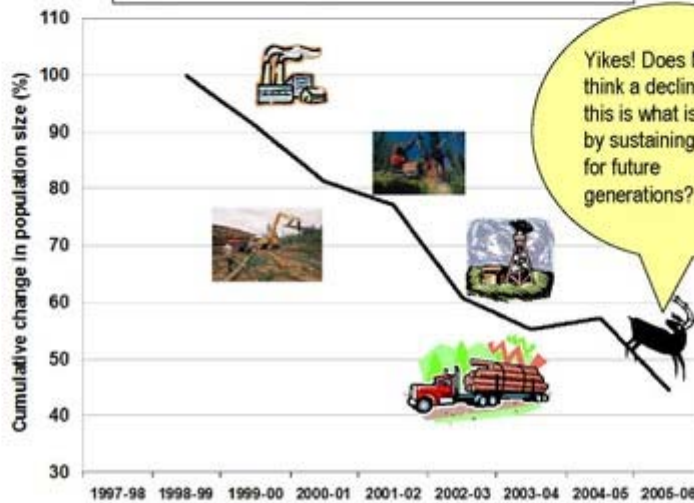


We will promote balanced and responsible use of Alberta's land, forests, fish and wildlife to sustain them for future generations.
SRD Business Plan 2007-10

Under Morton's leadership it's been almost **2 years** since range team formation and Morton is still permitting industrial use on the Little Smoky range.



Graph of Little Smoky caribou decline. From SRD



Yikes! Does Morton think a decline like this is what is meant by sustaining wildlife for future generations?