

Forestry in Nova Scotia – time to tell the truth

Westfor Management Inc. was established in 2016 by the provincial government to manage forest on Crown Land. Westfor has recently undertaken a publicity campaign aimed at convincing the public and politicians that it manages the Crown Lands forest in ways that are ecologically sound.

The truth is that over 60 percent of harvests by Westfor and its contractors on Crown Land are ecologically destructive clearcuts, and clearcuts account for 90 percent of harvests on private land (as documented by Dr. William Lahey, 2018).

The truth is that Westfor and its contractors use methods that destroy the forest and degrade forest soils and habitats that our biodiversity (including the endangered Mainland Moose and other endangered species) depends on.

The truth is that the Department of Lands and Forestry allows and encourages these practices and has been called out twice in the past 12 months by the Courts of Nova Scotia (including by the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia) for not implementing its own Endangered Species Act.

The truth is that it is past time for the Department of Lands and Forestry and for Westfor to tell the truth

The pictures show typical practices employed by Westfor and its contractors across Nova Scotia: in this case, clearcuts extending over thousands of hectares on Crown Lands in southwest Nova Scotia that are within the UNESCO Southwest Nova World Biosphere Reserve (SNWBR)...clearcuts that make a mockery of the ecological principles of the UNESCO World Biosphere program of which the SNWBR forms a part, and which destroy the forest and the habitat it used to provide for wildlife and other biodiversity.



Actual forestry harvest on Crown Land between Tobeatic and Silver Lake Wilderness Areas, Southwest Nova Scotia in the UNESCO World Heritage Site: January 2021



Forest harvesting machine between Tobeatic and Silver Lake Wilderness Areas, Southwest Nova Scotia in the UNESCO World Heritage Site: November 2020



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