



c/o Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History  
1747 Summer Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3A6  
naturens.ca

January 2, 2022

The Honorable Tory Rushton,

Re: Harvest plan near Beals' Brook

Dear Mr. Rushton

I am writing to request a status report regarding harvest plan AP068499, a 24 hectare forest near Beal's Brook in Annapolis County.

The forest in question is a vital wildlife corridor in an area of wetlands surrounded by clear-cuts. Three endangered species have been observed in the area: Mainland moose, pine marten and wood turtle.

WestFor's plan to log this stand of 80 year old trees must be positioned in the context of the nearby clear-cut landscape of Annapolis County.

Stop this plan in the interest of leaving a bit of ecologically-healthy forest as a seed source for future forests, for next generations and wildlife.

In your interview with the CBC radio on December 8<sup>th</sup>, you committed then to reviewing all unexecuted harvest plans on the books to ensure they adhere to Lahey's guidelines. You noted, "There could be plans that do have to be amended. I'm not hiding that fact as the minister."

Harvest plan AP068499 should be amended. No harvest should take place in this forest. Instead, it should be placed under consideration for protection due to its high value to wildlife and the displacement of wildlife by clear-cutting in the surrounding landscape.

The protected leg of the triad is set to expand substantially. Your mandate letter requires you to work with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia by 2030.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Board

[Bob Bancroft]  
[President, Nature Nova Scotia]

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Member organizations (representing more than 10,000 Nova Scotians):

Annapolis Royal & Area Environment and Ecology Group • Blomidon Naturalists Society • Cape Breton Naturalists Society • Eastern Shore Forest Watch • Friends of Nature • Friends of the Pugwash Estuary • Halifax Field Naturalists • Margaree Environmental Association • Nova Scotia Bird Society • Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society • Save Caribou • Stop Clearcutting Unama'ki • Stop Spraying & Clear-Cutting Nova Scotia • Tuskent River Environmental Protection Society • Young Naturalists Club of Nova Scotia