



An introduction to

western boreal conservation initiative



Gouvernement
du Canada

Government
of Canada

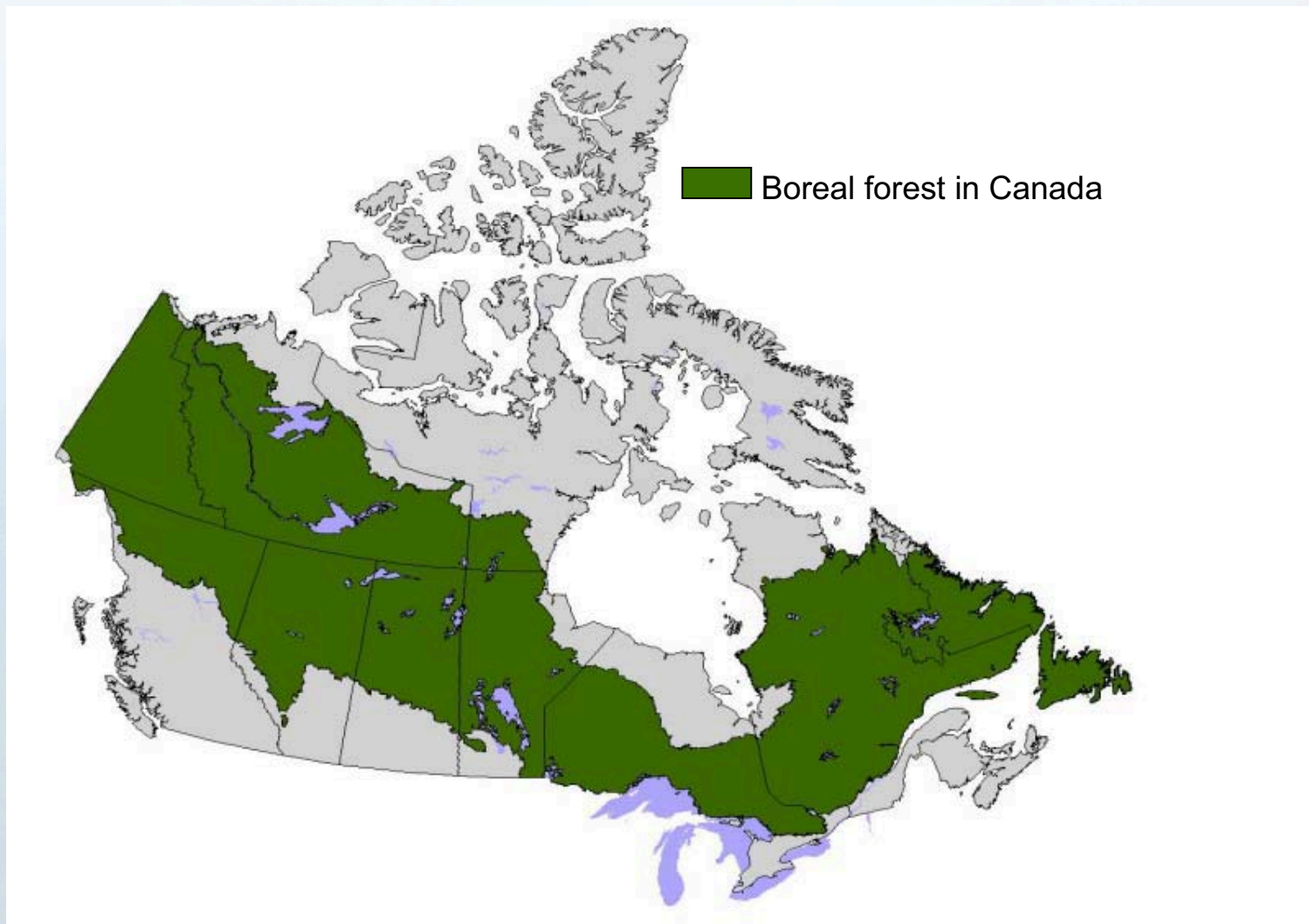
Canada

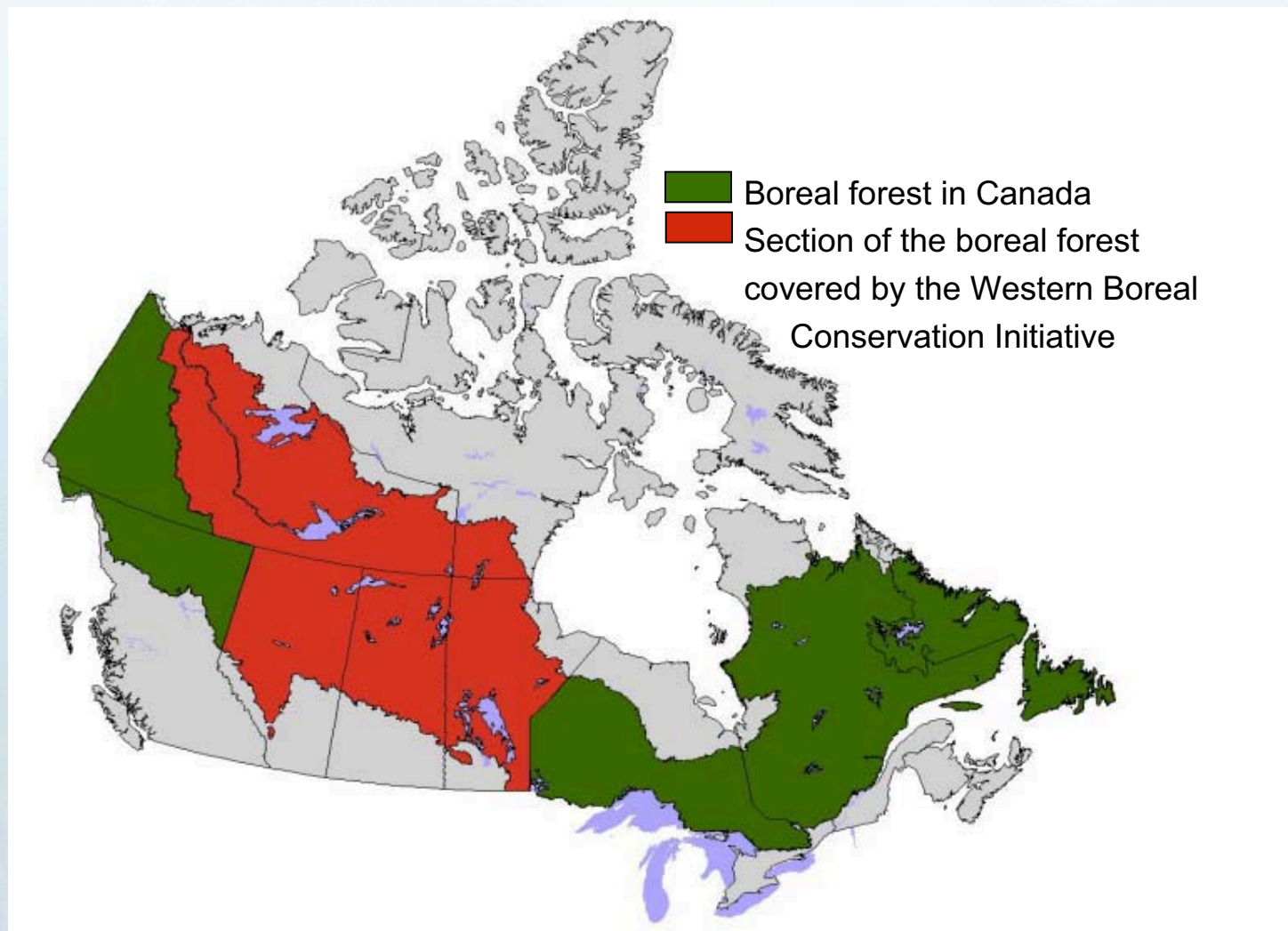
Ecosystem Initiatives

- Environment Canada's Ecosystem Initiatives are partnerships among governments, communities and individuals to achieve sustainable development in specific, targeted areas of Canada through conservation and protection of ecosystems.
- The initiatives focus on the unique challenges of a specific region in Canada and address any relevant environmental, social and economic concerns.
- There are currently seven major ecosystem initiatives in operation throughout Canada.

The Western Boreal Conservation Initiative

- The Western Boreal Conservation Initiative is a new multi-partnership effort to facilitate conservation and protection of western boreal forest ecosystems and their biodiversity, to support sustainable development of natural resources, and to provide a foundation for a future national initiative.
- Approved in March 2003, this five-year, \$2 million-initiative is Environment Canada's latest addition to its Ecosystem Initiatives program.





The Boreal Forest: A surprising source of biodiversity



Dendroica virens



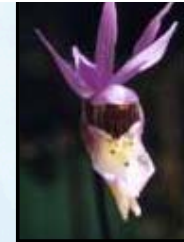
Rangifer tarandus caribou



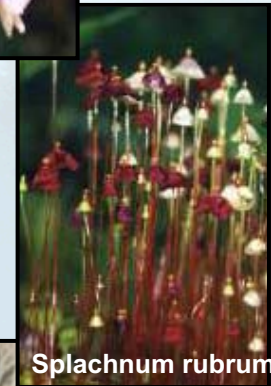
Papilio canadensis



Glaucomys sabrinus



Calypso bulbosa



Splachnum rubrum



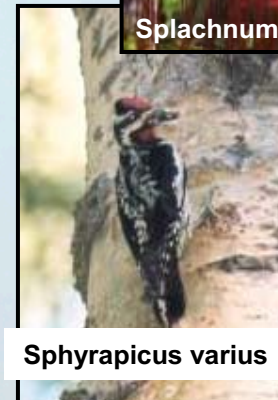
Castilleja miniata



Accipiter gentilis



Ursus americanus



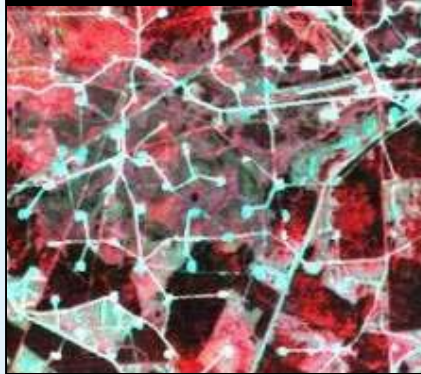
Sphyrapicus varius

Pressures on the western boreal forest

Agricultural conversion



Cumulative effects



Logging



Hydroelectric development



Infrastructure



Peat mining



Oil & gas exploration



Oilsands extraction



Threats to the Western Boreal Forest

- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Species decline, including boreal birds
- Species at Risk (e.g. Woodland caribou)
- Global climate change
- Loss of sustainable livelihoods
- Failure to address the need for natural resource management across multiple agencies and resource demands

Areas of Strategic Focus

The Western Boreal Conservation Initiative will address priority areas through science, policy and advice, conservation action and partnerships.

- Science: Research and Monitoring
Address knowledge deficiencies in boreal forests related to biodiversity conservation and Environment Canada mandates.
- Policy and Advice
Implement improved policy, legislative instruments and practices through provision of science-based advice.

Areas of Strategic Focus

- Conservation action
Identification and protection of important habitats; enhanced social capital of communities; implementation of recovery plans for Species at Risk; and engagement in, and technical support for, multi-stakeholder conservation planning processes.
- Partnerships
Collaboration with university, industry, governmental and non-governmental agencies, Aboriginal groups and communities

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