

# Wild Impact

YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

JULY 2020



## Illegal mining claims in parks

As dedicated supporters, you likely know our work getting mining and logging out of Manitoba provincial parks means being on the ground at the right time. Because of you, we can provide evidence when the government's environmental licensing process fails to regulate industry and its impact on protected areas and species at risk.

In May, a routine monitoring of the Manitoba government's website showed **13 illegal mining claims overlapped with areas specifically protected from resource development.**

The first was in Nopiming Provincial Park. Thanks to your support, we were on the ground to document and confirm the claim with photos and videos. We immediately produced a news release to inform the media and Manitobans. The day after we broke this story, the provincial government sheepishly moved the boundaries of the claim outside of the protected area. **Thanks for saving Nopiming from yet another threat!**

We didn't stop there. We put our research and mapping skills to work and found that an additional 12 mining claims overlapped protected areas across the province! No sooner had we planned our trip to the next illegal mining claim than the provincial government adjusted the boundaries of that claim to preserve this protected wilderness.



## From COVID-19 to recovery

Your environmental watchdog's been kept busy during the pandemic as economic reopening has been used by governments to attack environmental regulations.

Almost 500 of you joined us to write letters urging the federal government not to bail out polluting oil and gas companies and invest in a green recovery instead. Your efforts worked. Together we made a major bailout during COVID-19 too politically toxic. **So far bailouts have been focused on getting people back to work — not enriching oil and gas companies.**

In Ontario you wrote letters to the editor when the government suspended part of the Environmental Bill of Rights and it was restored. In Manitoba we raised the alarm over an increase in provincial park access fees rolled out during the pandemic. You helped broadcast the conversation about this new barrier and the need right now for more nature, more parks and free park access.

**A typical strategy of industry is to take advantage of a crisis,** but you stayed alert and spoke up to ensure economic recovery strikes a balance between healthy ecosystems and dignified livelihoods.



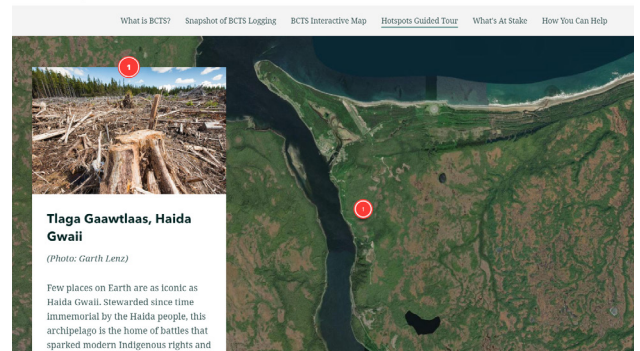
## Online trivia a hit!

What's a beaked animal weighing roughly 90 lbs that lives in the waters of Puget Sound? If you said "great Pacific octopus" maybe you were part of a team at one of our virtual trivia events!

**When COVID-19 hit, we took our sold-out, in-person Vancouver event virtual — and national!** Each event (two, so far) had over 30 teams with 100+ people playing. You and many others joined together to learn and connect over the incredible biodiversity in the world at a time when interconnectedness is so needed.

This is one way during the pandemic we're reaching out to keep you up to date on campaigns to protect and defend wilderness, wildlife and the climate. You may also have heard about our weekly Coffee Talk (Thursdays at 10 a.m. on Facebook Live)!

Community, knowledge and appreciation of wildlife and wilderness are essential building blocks to curbing the extinction trend, and **your support will continue to empower people to stand up for at-risk species and their homes.**



## B.C. Timber Sales StoryMap

At the end of June, your support allowed us to produce our very first StoryMap project using ArcGIS (a cloud-based mapping, analysis and data storage system) to shed light on the B.C. government's own logging agency and their destructive old-growth logging practices and plans. **The StoryMap, titled B.C. Timber Sales: A government agency out of control**, combines digital mapping technology, photos and other media with storytelling based on research and field expeditions.

**This tool is a comprehensive look at how much damage the government-owned agency B.C. Timber Sales does to old-growth rainforests in the province and is an excellent illustration of what we're able to build because of your support.** It's the perfect addition to our tools for nature defence: this StoryMap combines our grassroots, on-the-ground work, in house storytelling and mapping expertise.

Our goal is to expand this interactive map with your help and that of local communities and First Nations. Together we will grow public understanding and awareness of some of the most destructive logging taking place under B.C.'s very-own government.

Your commitment to protect nature and ensure a wild Canada drives each of our campaigns. Since the Wilderness Committee is funded almost entirely by individual donors like you, your gifts have a huge impact.

*Thank you*



Please consider honouring your passion for wilderness and wildlife by transferring a gift of securities or by including the Wilderness Committee in your will or estate plans. To learn more contact Michelle Johnson, donor relations manager at 778-708-9179 or [michelle@wildernesscommittee.org](mailto:michelle@wildernesscommittee.org)

*Wild Impact* is a quarterly update about the Wilderness Committee and our work you make possible. For more information on any of our campaigns please visit [WildernessCommittee.org](http://WildernessCommittee.org)