

## Lumber boycott urged to protest clearcutting

Caroline Zentner Wednesday, 27 April 2011

Conservation groups are asking lumber retailers and customers to avoid selling and buying lumber from the Crowsnest Forest.

The market action was launched to protest clear-cut logging in the Crowsnest forest, located between Kananaskis Country and Waterton Lakes National Park.

Groups like Sierra Club Canada, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, the Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition and the Alberta Wilderness Association have contacted 87 retailers from southwest Alberta asking them to decline selling wood from Spray Lake Sawmills, the only sawmill logging in the Crowsnest Forest.

Citizens are being asked to check their local retailer to see if wood from the Crowsnest Forest is being sold. If it is, the groups suggest asking the retailer to sell FSC-certified wood and to email the Alberta Foothills Network. FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) is an international certification and labeling system for wood products jointly recognized by industry, First Nations and social and environmental organizations. Certified forests must meet environmental and social standards and harvested wood and fibre is tracked from the forest to the consumer.

"Southern Alberta isn't short of fence posts or lumber. It's short of the three big Ws: water, wildlife habitat and wildlands, including for outdoor recreation and tourism," said Dianne Pachal of Sierra Club Canada in a news release.

Conservation groups want the market action to continue until the Castle Special Place is off the chopping block. They also want Alberta Sustainable Resources and Spray Lake Sawmills to reform forest management through an FSC certification process.