

Did you know? / Interesting Facts...

The boreal forests are named after Boreas, the Greek god of the North Wind.

The boreal forest forms a continuous belt 1000km in north-south width across North America, Europe and Asia.

The common loon is one of the most familiar and cherished birds of the region, and up to 70% of its population relies on the Boreal Forest to nest and breed each year.

The boreal forest is used by nearly half of the birds in North America each year.

The boreal forest contains wetlands that filter millions of litres of water each day.

Canada's Boreal Forest

Percent of land in Canada covered by boreal forest: 53%

Percent of the world's boreal forests that lie within Canada's borders: 25%

Litres of water absorbed and filtered in the boreal forest every day: several million

Percent of the world's unfrozen fresh water supply found in Canada's boreal forest: 80%

Number of indigenous communities living in the boreal region: more than 500

Number of lakes distributed throughout the boreal forest: 1.5 million

Boreal Birds

Total number of birds breeding in the boreal region: up to 5 billion

Number of bird species that breed in the boreal forest in Canada: approximately 200

Number of waterfowl species using the boreal forest: 35

Percent of Canada's bird population that can be found in the boreal regions: 60%

Percent of North America's migratory waterfowl using the boreal forest: 40%

Boreal Mammals

Animal species include: Caribou, Lynx, Wolverine, Black Bear, Moose, Coyote, Timber Wolf, Bison, among others

Habitat

Number of tree species in the boreal region: approximately 20

Number of species of fungi growing in boreal forests around the globe: more than 5,000
Age of the oldest lichen growing in the boreal forest: 100 years

Dominant tree species include: White and Black Spruce, Jack Pine, Tamarack, Balsam Fir, Balsam Poplar, White Birch, and Trembling Aspen

Water bodies include: bogs, fens, marshes, shallow lakes, rivers, and wetlands

Conservation

Percent of Canada's boreal forest publicly owned: 94%

Percent of boreal forest that has been allocated to industry: more than 30%

Percent of boreal region within a kilometer of a road: 30%

<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/magazine/jf04/indepth/justthefacts.asp>