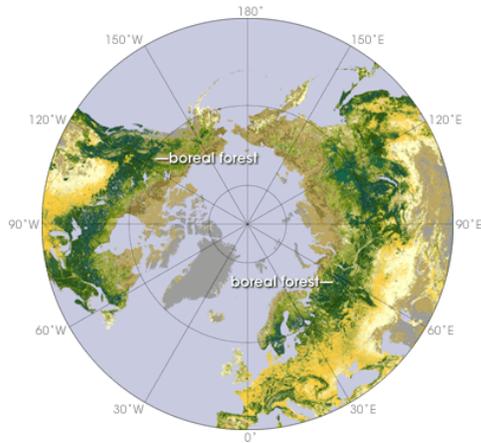


# The Boreal Forest



- The Boreal Forest (which means north or northern forest) wraps around the northern hemisphere. This very large ecosystem is easily seen from space and is often called “Earth’s Green Halo”.
- The Boreal Forest is found in Russia, Canada, Alaska, and Scandinavia.
- The Boreal Forest is 12,000 km long and it is the biggest ecosystem on Earth.
- Boreal Forests can be easily damaged. This is because their soils are cold, not very deep. Also, the growing season is short so the trees are fairly small and slow growing.
- Boreal Forests also have to deal with things like fire, ice, insects and diseases.
- Human activities such as cutting trees down, mining, and manufacturing can cause the Boreal Forest stress and troubles.
- The kind of trees that grow in the Boreal Forest are hardwood trees like birch, trembling aspen. But there are also coniferous trees such as spruce, fir, and pine.
- All people on the earth need the Boreal Forest.
  - it keeps the water clean
  - it keeps our air clean
  - helps keep our climate regular
  - it keeps a lot of living things alive including humans
  - on a regular day it---filters (cleans) tens of millions of litres of water
    - rebuilds soil
    - gives soil new energy
    - stores carbon and produces oxygen
    - holds back floodwaters

---releases needed water into rivers and streams  
---helps soil from not being washed away  
---gives us food and water

- Many, many animals live in the Boreal Forest. They include the wood bison, snowshoe hare, marten, whooping crane, great gray owl, lynx, many kinds of songbirds. As well some animals such as the woodland caribou and wolverine who are at risk live there too.
- The Common Loon nests and has babies in the Boreal Forest. As well, nearly one –half of all the birds in North America use this forest too.
- In Canada, the Boreal Forest gives people jobs. Hundreds of Aboriginal communities in Canada still depend on the forest for food, medicines and way to make a living.

Facts were taken from:

[http://www.cpaws-sask.org/boreal\\_forest/about\\_forests\\_facts.html](http://www.cpaws-sask.org/boreal_forest/about_forests_facts.html)