

For Immediate Release  
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### **EXPLORING THE NORTHERN BOREAL MUSKEG**

Fort St. John, BC – Wildland Resources of Fort St. John, with the support of the Royal BC Museum's *Living Landscapes: Peace River-Northern Rockies* initiative is developing a photographic journey that will explore the beauty and wonder of northern boreal muskeg.

The vast expanse of black spruce muskeg epitomizes the character of the northern boreal forest yet few people know much about this awe inspiring and complex wetland ecosystem. "We would like to create an informative yet entertaining visual tour to provide both the out-of-region traveller and the local person with a fascinating glimpse into a world of sphagnum moss, carnivorous plants, boreal caribou and much more", says Claudia Houwers, Director of Wildland Resources.

Muskeg is a "northern" term used to refer to a complex of black spruce wetland ecosystems that are found extensively throughout the northern boreal region of Canada including much of the northeast corner of British Columbia. The natural diversity of northern muskeg is phenomenal, and it provides a source of water food and protective cover to a wide range of bird and wildlife species as well as resting and breeding grounds for migratory birds of many different species, both large and small.

"Wetland ecosystems are vulnerable worldwide," said Royal BC Museum CEO Pauline Rafferty. " We are pleased to support Wildland Resources in this initiative which will help foster appreciation and respect for the natural environment of the north".

*Living Landscapes: Peace River-Northern Rockies* is a research and public education project focusing on increasing the information about the diverse human and natural history stories of north-eastern British Columbia.

Research and educational material obtained through this project will also become available on the Royal BC Museum's *Living Landscapes* website, and will provide regional perspectives for the new BC Gallery, now being developed at the Royal BC Museum.

The museum's *Living Landscapes* program is entering its ninth year, with earlier work having occurred in the Thompson Okanagan, Columbia River Basin, and Upper Fraser Basin regions.

The Royal BC Museum, recently awarded Crown Corporation status, is a cultural, educational and historic institution that was founded in 1886. It is responsible for

collecting, displaying and researching the province's human and natural history. The *Living Landscapes: Peace River-Northern Rockies* initiative is being generously supported by the Vancouver Foundation.

For more information on the Royal BC Museum's *Living Landscapes* initiative please visit <http://livinglandscapes.bc.ca> or call Brian Apland, *Living Landscapes* manager at 250-387-2469, or Kathleen O'Neill, *Living Landscapes Regional* Coordinator at 250-787-1203.

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