

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday February 6, 2012

## Coalition forms to protect Wolf Lake old-growth forest

**Sudbury** – Today 17 conservation organizations and businesses launch the new **Wolf Lake Coalition** to save the world’s largest old-growth red pine forest. This exceptional place, located within Sudbury city limits, is in peril more than 13 years after Ontario promised to protect the 300 year-old pines. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is proposing to reduce protection in the heart of the Wolf Lake Old Growth Forest Reserve to encourage mineral exploration. The Wolf Lake Coalition is calling on the government of Ontario to honour its promise to fully protect Wolf Lake as part of the Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park.

The new Wolf Lake Coalition has an online home at [SaveWolfLake.org](http://SaveWolfLake.org).

“The Wolf Lake pine stand is a cultural jewel that connects today’s generation to the very resources that created Sudbury in the past,” said Franco Mariotti of the City of Greater Sudbury’s Green Space Advisory Panel. “To not protect the Wolf Lake old growth site is to deny future generations of this truly unique natural asset. It would be a denial of our historic past and a short -sighted vision of our future.”

The Green Space Advisory Panel, which is appointed by Sudbury City Council to provide advice on their Green Space Strategy, last week urged the city to afford Wolf Lake permanent protection as the city’s newest Ecological Reserve.

Red pine is one of Ontario’s most iconic tree species; a signature of our cherished northern landscape. Red pine forests once covered much of eastern North America, including what is now downtown Sudbury. These ancient forests remain on only 1.2% of their original extent,<sup>i</sup> making them a critically endangered ecosystem.<sup>ii</sup> The Wolf Lake stand is the largest remaining example of this ecosystem — more than triple the size of the next largest remnant.<sup>iii</sup> We know of nothing like it that exists anywhere else.

“If we don’t act now to fully protect Wolf Lake, then we lose the opportunity to enjoy the economic and ecological benefits of this unique forest,” said Bob Olajos of the Friends of Temagami. “What we have at Wolf Lake cannot be replicated elsewhere.”

### CONTACT

Franco Mariotti, Wolf Lake Coalition, 705-522-3701 ext. 244

Bob Olajos, Friends of Temagami, 705-499-0692

## **WOLF LAKE COALITION MEMBERS**

Ancient Forest Exploration and Research  
Association of Youth Camps on Temagami Lakes  
BAM North Productions  
Camp Keewaydin  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Ottawa Valley  
Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury  
The Council of Canadians  
Earthroots  
Friends of Temagami  
Friends of the LaVase Portages  
Lake Temagami Group  
Nipissing Environmental Watch  
Ontario Rivers Alliance  
Paddle Canada  
Rob Nelson Photography  
Temagami Lakes Association  
Wild Women Expeditions

## **REFERENCES**

<sup>i</sup> Quinby, P.A. (1996). Status of Old-Growth Red Pine Forests in Eastern North America: A Preliminary Assessment. <http://www.ancientforest.org/flb14.html>

<sup>ii</sup> Noss, R.F. (1995). **Endangered Ecosystems of the United States: A Preliminary Assessment of Loss and Degradation**. Moscow, Idaho: **University of Idaho ,Department of Fish and Wildlife**. <http://biology.usgs.gov/pubs/ecosys.htm>

<sup>iii</sup> Quinby, P.A. (1996). Status of Old-Growth Red Pine Forests in Eastern North America: A Preliminary Assessment. <http://www.ancientforest.org/flb14.html>