



What's in Store for 2024?

Janet Sumner

Welcome to the Clear Cut.

[Music]

Janet Sumner

Hi, I'm Janet Sumner, Executive Director at Wildlands League.

Kaya Adleman

And I'm Kaya Adleman, Carbon Manager at Wildlands League.

Janet Sumner

Wildlands League is a Canadian conservation organization, working on protecting the natural world.

Kaya Adleman

[The Clear Cut](#) is bringing to you the much-needed conversation on Canadian Forest Management, and how we can better protect one of Canada's most important ecosystems as our forests are reaching a tipping point.

Janet Sumner

So, Happy New Year, Kaya. Welcome back.

Kaya Adleman

Welcome back, Janet. Happy New Year.



Janet Sumner

Where have you been on your holidays?

Kaya Adleman

I went home to visit my family in New Jersey, which was nice, for the holidays. And then I actually got to spend New Year's Eve in St. John's Newfoundland, which was very fun.

Janet Sumner

Wow, fantastic. Did you get out into the forest by any chance?

Kaya Adleman

I did not. We didn't get to go out into the woods much but we did hike the Signal Hill trail walk, which was nice. Did a few other hikes that were more on the coastline. But there were trees. I wouldn't say that they count as full forest. But very lovely nonetheless. How are your holidays?

Janet Sumner

My holidays were pretty good. And like you, I didn't spend any time out in the woods. We were in London with family and then here and Scarborough down on the water more than I was in any treed area. But yeah. And lamenting the lack of snow here. Was the snow out west or sorry, out east in Newfoundland?

Kaya Adleman

Yeah, there was no snow originally when I flew in, but then it actually snowed quite a bit over the course the time that I was there.

Janet Sumner



Well, one of the reasons I wanted to ask about where you were, because of course, I had some inkling as to the to the answer was, because I would actually like to, in the new year, talk a bit about forests across some of the regions that we haven't visited to share in our *Clear Cut* podcast. And one of those would be an interview that I'd like to do with folks working on caribou, in Newfoundland. Caribou conservation planning, but also forest management planning with the First Nations, their MFCFN. And also with Chris Miller, who's been working on their caribou plan for some time. And I'd like to hear more about that and what's going on there, and understanding the forest and the boreal that is actually on Newfoundland, on the island. So that would be one of the places that I want to go this year.

Kaya Adleman

Yeah, that would be awesome. And we did actually, before the close of last year, have some more ideas for topics and things that we wanted to explore on the podcast in 2024. And so here's a bit of that.

[Music]

Janet Sumner

What are we going to talk about in the new year, Kaya?

Kaya Adleman

One thing I think I would like to explore this forest degradation topic a little bit more. There's some things that I'm interested in. Procurement policies, ways to adjust trade policy to make the marketplace favor fiber products that aren't associated with things like deforestation or forest degradation. Maybe we could have some of our coalition members speak to that a little bit. That would be interesting. And then to base off of that, I'd like to dig into our [Logging Scars](#) report a little bit more, talk a little bit more about what's in that. Then there's also some really important stories around biomass and whether or not burning wood pellets for fuel is a green renewable source of energy or not, because that's definitely a thing that that is happening and is something that I think our podcast should bring greater awareness to. And I'd really like to dive more into [this cumulative impacts case](#) in Ontario, where a group of indigenous communities are suing the Ontario government in a cumulative impacts case.

Janet Sumner

THE CLEAR CUT

You know, we did promise that we were going to. When we interviewed Anastasia, and she gave us so much background on the legal and policy frameworks in Ontario, and how, how that was sort of setting the stage of the context for all land uses, including what indigenous people were faced with, et cetera. We'd actually had more than what we featured on that as a small portion of an episode. And so we'd like to actually play the rest of that, and invite somebody to talk about the cumulative impacts case, because it does very much talk about what's the framework and what's the jurisdiction, et cetera, et cetera. So that I think is definitely going to be on the docket for the new year. We also had a request in from, one of our listeners to talk about caribou. And it was interesting, because the request came in to say, well, let's talk about what does the science say in terms of what caribou need. And that is that 35/65, that more than 65% of the caribou habitat has to be protected for them to have a 60% probability of survival. And that's according to the Federal science. And then the question was, well, you know, there's a lot of other folks out there working, and I would say, a lot of industry out there working on trying to say, well, they don't need that much, or whatever. And so caribou have become a real flashpoint across the country, in terms of what that looks like. We know that caribou ranges are declining, the populations are declining, and the well actually, maybe we don't know, because there's not enough monitoring being done. But we know that, according to the latest science, and what we do have is that those ranges as populations are in decline. So we need to look at that, there might be some other species-specific things we need to look at. One of the things that intrigues me that I'd love it, if we could get out and actually do some in person interviews. We do in person, you know, by getting on the phone, or on a zoom call with people, but one of the in person ones that I want to do is actually, I did have the opportunity to go out east and, and hear about some great stories about private woodlot owners, and how they're thinking about their woodlots. And planning for them. And thinking about the forestry that happens there. But also looking at complementary products and strategies. I had the great good fortune to sample some cider that came from a woodlot owner who is harvesting wild apples across a region of the Acadian forest. And I'd love to actually, you know, sort of walk a mile in his shoes and take a look at his woodlot and be out there with Kaya and sort of see for myself, what's happening.

Kaya Adleman

How was the cider?

Janet Sumner

Oh, I it was amazing. It was amazing. And Kaya and I have both had some time that we've been fortunate enough to spend in Germany. And in my younger years, I actually worked in a beer brewery in Germany. And so the reason I mentioned that is because the cider owner is German and his attention to detail -you could feel it in every step of that cider. So yeah, it was quite incredible. But then there's another person who's not harvesting at all on his woodlot. But he's doing some blueberry picking etc.



So, I think there's some innovations. And then we've talked a little bit about offsets, but there's also private woodlot owners that are looking at improvements on ESGs, which is ecosystem services. And those can be things like improvements for wetlands or bird habitat or various other things that could be important on a watershed scale, for example, in a province like Prince Edward Island where you need to have better watershed management. So I think that the woodlot owners is an area that I would love to have that conversation just to talk about some of the great things that are happening. I agree. I'd love to talk about biomass. But I think in terms of the regeneration, there's some great programs out there, 10tree there's a few others, Mycorrhizae planting¹ I think is something I'd be interested in. And I'd love to get out to the West Coast and also even maybe in Alberta where people don't know as much about the forestry out there, and haven't thought about it because oil and gas is the largest footprint. But I had a great seven years of working on forestry and collaborating with forestry companies in Alberta. And so I'd love to have a conversation with some of them about maybe some of the things that they're doing. And yeah, I would very interested in having some of those conversations, again, really getting into what are people doing. What's working? How could we be doing some things differently? And where are your pinch points somewhere, maybe as a company, you'd like to be doing more, but you're getting blocked. Either because the policy doesn't work or it doesn't allow, or maybe the regulators are preventing it. So I'd like to have all of those conversations, and obviously, maybe talk a little bit more about climate change, and how all of that integration needs to happen.

[Music]

Kaya Adleman

So Janet and I did have clearly a lot of ideas for things that we wanted to talk about this year. But there are some things that came up over the holidays that we were just talking about that we want to actually include in this kind of extensive list of ideas and episode content for you.

Janet Sumner

You know, one of those was a new [report](#) that came out from Simon Fraser University. It's actually a report on a dialogue that they had on strategic and collaborative approaches to mitigating wildfire. And it's called the 'What We Heard' report, and came out and actually in October, but I didn't see it until well, just a couple of days ago. And so I think that there's a conversation that we need to be having across Canada, but also in specific provinces that are being really hit hard by wildfires. And this would be

¹ This is in reference to Mikro-Tek, a bio-tech company based in Timmins that has [partnered](#) with David Flood's organization, [Wahkohtowin Development](#)



one of the places that I want to go and have that conversation, and Kaya you were telling me something that UBC did as well, right?

Kaya Adleman

Yeah, speaking of the West Coast, right? I actually over the holidays, was flooded with Instagram ads from UBC forestry, they were announcing a new center, it's called the [Center for Wildfire Coexistence](#), which I think is pretty interesting. And you and I were talking about how we're kind of hoping that this will lead to more work and discussion on creating more wildfire resistant forests. And how do we do that? How do we orient our forest management planning to better protect communities from wildfires, and also make sure that they don't keep getting worse? And maybe even having our forests becoming more resilient to wildfires in the future, because we've been seeing a lot of that kind of ramping up over the past year and a half or so.

Janet Sumner

And certainly out East, we've felt the force of wildfires as far south as Washington DC. So I'd really like to you know, the skies were black this this summer with the smoke from wildfires across the Northeast and went from it was Ontario, it was called back and it was all the way down south to as I said Washington. And so I know a number of people were kind of just completely perplexed and well, to use a good old fashioned British, gobsmacked at the fact that we had this, we were being inundated with this smoke filled skies. So we would like to both on the West Coast and on the East Coast, and I think also it was occurring in Alberta and Manitoba, etc. So I think it is a Canada wide conversation to be talking about how to create more fire resistant or resilient ecosystems, right? And one of my cautions, or one of my concerns is that we not just approach it from how do we make communities ie the human communities more resilient, although that needs to be definitely a focal point for the conversation. But we need to be talking about how the ecosystems become weakened, and can be managed to become more resilient. And one of the reasons for that is because if you focus too much, or you focus exclusively on human community resiliency, then often you will miss the fact that the ecosystem itself is getting degraded and could actually be setting you up for worse wildfires in the future.

Kaya Adleman

That's something that we talked about quite a bit on the podcast.

Janet Sumner



Yeah, it is. So I'd like to make sure that we dive in on those levels. But these two, these two initiatives, both by British Columbia, university institutions, are worth the conversation. So we're gonna try and get folks on the on the pod for that conversation.

Kaya Adleman

Then just kind of an anecdote from the American side of things. I remember this past summer, when the wildfire smoke was hitting the East Coast, United States. There are people in where my parents live, the community Facebook group saying, Where's all this smoke coming from? And I think I think I read in the news that it's coming from Canada. Just a little bit of Americans are self absorbed humor for you there.

Janet Sumner

It's interesting, because I think living in Southern Ontario, we're quite used to, certainly with coal emissions. When we when we shut down the coal plants in Ontario, we knew that we had shut down the coal emissions and the smog coming from the US. And so we still experienced some of that. So there's often been a conversation about what about the smoke filled skies, or the smoke filled skies from the US and in southern Ontario and things seem to have reversed, which is not good either way. But yeah, thanks for that.

Kaya Adleman

Yeah, I've I have an endless assortment of anecdotes and stuff like that. But moving on, kind of in line with this. We definitely have a lot of ideas for new content for the upcoming year. But we also want to take this opportunity to invite you, our listeners to also have some input. We've had some input from listeners in the past, and we're looking forward to exploring those ideas for sure. But if you are listening to the podcast, and you have questions, or you want to learn more about something, or there's something that you feel like we haven't covered yet, please, please, please, you know, email me my email is on [The Clear Cut](#) website. We're currently working on having a more accessible way to contact us and engage with the podcast. But for the time being, any questions, concerns, ideas, don't hesitate to reach out. I can't speak for Janet, but I don't bite.

Janet Sumner

Yeah, I'm not going to comment. But yeah, reach out to Kaya, and we'll try to try to get your questions and your episode suggestions addressed, we did have one listener who was suggesting that we actually take a look at the history of activism, and where things are today. And I think we've we're reaching out



to try and get a broader conversation on the cumulative impacts case, it's got ongoing in Ontario, that's being driven very much by the First Nations its cumulative impacts case by First Nations. And so, to my mind, there's almost like a trajectory there to talk about the history of some activism, and then also talk about what's happening today. And we've seen activism also on the West Coast be very centered around First Nations rights and indigenous rights. So I think that makes a nice conversation to be had. So expect something on that in the in the new year. I will say that one of the things that Kaya and I are working on right now is content. So you may not hear us for the next couple of weeks as we delve into that content, we're just lining up two or three interviews and, and hopefully we can get back to you by the third week of January, it might be a little bit sooner, but that's where we are right now. So Kaya and I will be busy working on the podcast, but you won't hear from us for a couple of weeks. Feel free to delve into other episodes. We know that many of you have not listened to every single episode. And they're really worth a listen. There's some very rich content in there and make sure you catch up before we go into the new year. We haven't forgotten about the caribou episode. We know we need to do maybe more than one. So and we're waiting to hear back on from a couple of folks on a new degradation episode as well. So those are all the things that we have in the hopper. And that we're at that we're pursuing right now.

Kaya Adleman

Yeah, I'm looking forward to it.

Janet Sumner

Oh, we forgot. We forgot to mention we have swag. We're not wearing our shirts today. But we both have new swag. We have *Clear Cut* sweatshirts. We have mugs, we have a variety of things there on the Wildlands League [website](#). And maybe Kaya, you could include a link for that in this.

Kaya Adleman

Yeah, definitely.

Janet Sumner

Yeah, that would be good. So if you're a fan of *The Clear Cut*, you want to tell people about it, just go out and wear some of our swag. So I want to say a Happy New Year to everybody. Please stay with us. And if you have any ideas for the podcast, feel free to email Kaya, she'll make sure they hit the top of my inbox and that we can get to those issues. We are going to be working on a number of pieces going forward.



And we're very excited to bring the new information on the podcast. And I'm really excited to get out and start talking to people again. So yeah, thanks for very much for supporting us. And please, please, please share the podcast with as many people as you can so that we can get out and do the good work that we know needs to be done.

Kaya Adleman

And also make sure to leave us a review if you haven't done so already. And yeah, I'm really excited for the new year. So thanks, Janet. And thank you to our listeners for sticking with us.

[Music]

Janet Sumner

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Kaya Adleman

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See you next time!!