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Some questions before your trip, Mr. Suzuki

By [freelancer](#) on July 29, 2011 at 3:28 pm

Ed. note: this is an open letter to scientist David Suzuki.

I see a large ad in our local newspapers regarding you speaking for a fund-raiser on behalf of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) and the Yukon Conservation Society (YCS) to protect the Peel.

I have a few issues to bring to your attention and would like some clear answers from you:

- As you are likely being paid for your presentation and are certainly being promoted as a headliner for the CPAWS and the YCS, you will be downgrading the mining sector and promoting the eco-tourism and outfitting sectors, as is their mantra.

Do you not think that if this area is to be protected that all sectors should be treated equally?

Should eco-tours and big game outfitters have this area as their sole playground to make money off those privileged few who have the finances to pay for such luxury?

Should they be allowed to fly in helicopters or float planes into this pristine territory for their base starting point and the pickup point?

Should motorized boats be allowed in this zone?

Should a fleet of canoes, back-to-back, be allowed day after day to even float down these rivers?

Do you not believe that this impacts the wildlife of this area?

If you want to go into this area, should you not pack in your canoe and gear?

Which way do we have it: protect the area completely from all sectors or do not discriminate on who can use it?

- The large ad goes on to say that you and your family will paddle the Peel after your promotional talk for protection of this watershed.

How many members of your family, CPAWS and YCS personnel will accompany you free of charge to their pocket books?

How will you get to Mayo?

How will you get to the start of your canoe trip on the Peel watershed?

How will you and all the gear be picked up at the end of the trip?

Where will you camp and sleep along this trip?

How did you get to Whitehorse?

Do you not symbolize that all of these leave a carbon footprint?

Is this not a bit hypocritical on your behalf, as well as those you will represent?

I will leave you by stating that I am in favour of saving the legacy of the Peel watershed for our future generations.

Accordingly, I submit that neither you nor any of your pundits be allowed to take this trip unless you are willing to pack in your canoes and supplies and walk into this pristine wilderness.

Roger Rondeau

Whitehorse

P.S. I respectfully request a response to this letter while you are in our territory.