



**Dear {FIRST\_NAME|Wilderness Defender},**

Recently, a mountain goat was inadvertently killed in Jasper National Park—a casualty of ongoing research being conducted in association with Parks Canada to inform the Marmot Basin Ski Area expansion.

If you share our concern that the current direction of Parks Canada may be compromising the ecological integrity of protected areas, please consider writing federal Environment Minister, Peter Kent.

-Madeline Wilson, AWA Conservation Specialist

#### **In This Issue:**

Questionable Research in  
Jasper National Park

AWA

[www.AlbertaWilderness.ca](http://www.AlbertaWilderness.ca)

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## **Mountain Goat Killed in Jasper National Park**

### **The Issue**

Last month, an adult male mountain goat was killed within Jasper National Park by a misfired tranquilizer dart. Though unintentional, the mountain goat was a casualty of research being conducted in association with Parks Canada to inform the commercial expansion of the Marmot Basin Ski Area.

### **Background**

AWA's comments include:

- AWA supports long term research projects that will ultimately benefit the species or ecosystem itself, seek to develop scientific thought, inform decision-makers, and educate the public. In contrast to this, the current research taking place within Jasper National Park is being conducted to inform expanded commercial development of Marmot Basin Ski Area.
- The wilderness area in question is known mountain goat habitat. Mountain goats are particularly sensitive to human disturbance (such as helicopters), and do not easily habituate to human activities.

Helicopters are being used to collect aerial survey data to inform regional population estimates. The presence of helicopters in goat habitat has likely increased stress levels among the study population.

- The Parks Canada website states that: "Research activities are encouraged and managed to ensure that commemorative and ecological integrity are maintained". The study in question simply does not serve these purposes.
- AWA believes Parks Canada must act to reassure Canadians that preservation of ecological integrity is still the priority in Jasper National Park. It is not Parks Canada's role to compromise this integrity in an attempt to boost the economic viability of companies operating within the National Park.

To see AWA's letter to federal Environment Minister Peter Kent:

<http://albertawilderness.ca/issues/wildlands/national-parks/archive/2011-08-23-wilderness-wildlife-defenders-mountain-goat-killed-in-jasper-national-park/view>

### **Take Action!**

Send your comments to:

The Honourable Peter Kent,  
Minister of the Environment  
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière  
10 Wellington Street, 28<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3  
Email: [Minister@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Minister@ec.gc.ca)

Alan Latourelle, Chief Executive Officer, Parks Canada Agency  
Email: [Alan.Latourelle@pc.gc.ca](mailto:Alan.Latourelle@pc.gc.ca)

And please send a copy of your letter to [awa.mw@shaw.ca](mailto:awa.mw@shaw.ca)

Thank you for your support!

***Defending Wild Alberta through Awareness and Action***

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