



Wild Lands Advocate 9(3): 10, June 2001

Little Smoky: Pipeline and Gas Well Development

(Excerpts from an AWA Letter to the EUB about our Concerns)

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Talisman is working as a mid stream operator to develop a pipeline in the Pinto portion of the Little Smoky candidate area. Anderson Exploration is developing a number of wells to tie into the pipeline. The application for the pipeline does not address the cumulative effects of the entire development.

The proposal for the pipeline is actually only a small portion of the plans Anderson Exploration Limited has for the Pinto area. The cumulative effects surrounding this pipeline include (but are not limited to) tying in five existing wells in the area, drilling five new wells this summer, "very likely" developing follow-up locations and installing a compressor. This pipeline application and CRR does not consider the cumulative effects of these developments or others such as forestry.

The ecological importance of the pipeline location serves to reinforce the need to protect the area from further development. The pipeline route passes through three Provincially Significant and Environmentally Significant Areas.

Alberta Environmental Protection determined this area was one of the 13 best candidate protected areas within the Foothills Natural Region. With two other ESA's, they formed The Little Smoky-Berland-Donald-Pinto Protected Area Complex. This complex "constitutes the most diverse, important and severely threatened, large candidate protected area in the Foothills Natural Region."

The pipeline also falls within the West Central Caribou Range (WCCR). Woodland caribou are classified as an endangered species pursuant to the Alberta Wildlife Act.

Donald Creek Drainage	One of the most diverse and extensive Upper Foothills wetland habitat complexes and a Critical Wildlife Zone. It is key winter range for woodland caribou and is habitat for bull trout and grizzly bears
Middle Berland River	One of the few Alberta rivers containing native Rainbow trout. It is habitat for bull trout, mountain whitefish and Arctic grayling
Little Smokey Caribou Range	The most southwesterly herd in the province and fastest declining herd in the province

