



Release Date: April 26, 2004

Abraham Glacier Resort Called a Wilderness Eyesore

Plans for a resort to be built in the Eastern Slopes, along the David Thompson Highway (Hwy 11) near the Bighorn Wildland, has Environmental and Recreational Groups, First Nations, and some tourism operators, determined to defeat the proposal once and for all.

"The scale of this resort is inappropriate and will result in a permanent wilderness eyesore," says Lara Smandych, AWA Conservation Biologist.

The proponent of Abraham Glacier Wellness Resort has appealed the decision made by the County of Clearwater Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) to refuse the application for a development permit. If successful in the appeal, the proponent will begin building the 529-acre full service, self-contained health spa and resort. The Bighorn area is important to many Albertans for the lack of development and unique wilderness appeal.

The proposed resort is incompatible with wilderness and traditional land use values and is expected to reduce, rather than enhance the wilderness character of the region. A project of this scale will disturb and displace wildlife populations and diminish the value of the wilderness that the majority of people come to see and experience. The development would also place unacceptable pressure on surrounding Wilderness Areas and Ecological Reserves and severely impact the integrity of the region.

The groups are calling for immediate action to support the County and request they uphold their initial decision to decline a development permit for the resort. Please see www.albertawilderness.ca or www.county.clearwater.ab.ca/ for background information and to learn how you can participate in the hearing process.

For more information, please contact:

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