



PROVINCE OPENS FLOODGATES ON WATER DEBATE

By Andy Marshall



Guarded support to outright skepticism have greeted the Alberta government's urgent-sounding "water for life" initiative which has just concluded a province-wide consultation process and is supposed to lead to an action plan by the late fall.

Some see it as an important step to ensure safe and secure water supplies well into the future and to better educate Albertans on critical water issues. Others call it at best a public relations gesture that has excluded basic concerns. A few are convinced it is merely a ploy for Alberta Environment Minister Lorne Taylor to fulfil a long-held obsession to push for bulk water transfers from northern Alberta to the drought-plagued south.

The government says the intent of the new strategy is to hear the views of all Albertans, from conservationists to industry leaders.

"We're asking Albertans to drive this process. We're eager to see (from the consultation process) what we should include," says Alberta Environment spokeswoman Anne McInerney. The general principles for water policy, outlined by Taylor last year, embrace a call for reliable drinking water for all Albertans, dependable supplies for economic development, healthy rivers and lakes, as well as risk-management plans for drought and floods. McInerney denies the minister has already decided to revive water transfer schemes: "We have absolutely nothing (in the way of an agenda)."



Oldman River

C. Wallis

The consultation process included 13 public workshops – two in Calgary because so many showed up for the first one – to be followed by a ministerial forum in the spring involving what McInerney called 60 or so invited "experts." They will sift through the torrent of material from the workshops and prepare the framework for a provincial water strategy by the fall.

An initial objection to the relatively speedy process – one critic calls it "an unholy rush" – is its apparent circumvention of the work already well under way by the four southern Alberta river advisory committees and the revival of topics, such as the issuance of water licenses, already dealt with through the Water Act.

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Mark Bennett, executive director of the Bow River Basin Council, acknowledges some council members have expressed that criticism. "I've harboured a bit of concern myself," he adds. But, overall, "we welcome the opportunity to be involved in a province-wide initiative." Basin councils also operate for the Oldman, the Red Deer and the South Saskatchewan Rivers.



Lower Red Deer River

McInerney says "water for life doesn't preclude any of the other work we have ongoing . . . we're looking 25 years down the road."

Heinz Unger, the Alberta Wilderness Association representative on the Bow River council, doubts the effectiveness of Taylor's initiative. "The minister wants to be seen to be doing something," he says. Although intentions "aren't all evil, he wants public input about things already well under way."

Unger also criticizes what he sees as the omission in the government workbooks used in the consultation process of issues vital to water security and safety. Watershed protection from industrial and recreational activities, the use of vast amounts of groundwater by the energy industry in water-injection extraction processes, and the looming threat from proliferating pig and cattle feedlots are among the topics he fears are being neglected.

"These are serious gaps," says Unger. "I'm concerned the government's intention is to endorse a growth strategy and find ways for water to support it."

"If something's missing, please bring it to the table," counters McInerney.

So turned off is AWA president Cliff Wallis by the new initiative that he has refused to participate. "It's superseding the work done by the river basin councils with lets-ram-through-some-irrigation-infrastructure undertones," he says. The government workbook used in the consultation process and government energies are directed to "restart discussion on the transfer of all that water from the water-logged north to the drought-stricken south," he notes. "This government has a long history of trying to do things in a way that seems quite natural and that provides for public input. Then they turn around and use the information strictly for their advantage."

The government's priority, says Wallis, should be to follow what the Water Act already prescribes: The development of specific plans for each basin, with no large-scale transfer of water. "That was agreed to, it was legislated. Let's not go back on all that good work."

Priorities for southern rivers would relate to quantity issues. With pulp mill and other industrial effluence affecting northern

rivers, water quality would more likely be discussed there, Wallis says. Also, with many rural people dependent on groundwater, "I hope they will start to rail against industries polluting it and sucking it dry." He specifically refers to the energy and agriculture industries, adding, though, "you can't single out one industry."

Speculation about water transfers is certainly substantiated in conversations with southern Alberta's irrigation farmers, desperate for more water but aware that fragile, southern rivers are already fully allocated.

"As we move down the road to having less water available and more people to take care of, we need to have land that will produce the most amount of food per acre. As far as Alberta is concerned, that means irrigation," says Keith Francis, head of the Alberta Irrigation Projects Association, representing all 13 southern irrigation districts and about 6,000 farmers. "We have lots of water in Alberta, it's just in the wrong place."

He is keen for the water-for-life initiative to prompt active study of the economic and environmental feasibility of water transfers. While dams and river diversions may not be the order of the day, pipelines could have a place.

"They find ways to move natural gas and oil from Prudhoe Bay to California and Chicago," he says from his Taber home. "Surely, they can find a way to pipe some water from up there to down here in the south where it's so needed."

But, with the south outnumbered, he fears the impact from the naysayers: "People in the cities who don't understand irrigation try to set the rules and don't estimate the benefits." He suggests that all Albertans enjoy considerable economic spinoffs from a healthy agricultural industry in the south.

If farmers are to meet the burgeoning needs of a province that grew about 10 per cent a year in the most recent census period, they have no alternative but to use more efficiently the water they have and ship it from the north, Francis says. Since the 1990 cap on water licences, great strides have been made in efficiencies – moving water by pipeline within irrigation districts, rather than by open canals, for example – but both prospects are beyond the financial means of the farmers themselves, he notes.

"I think we can work out a strategy where water provides for the needs of our ecosystems and for the needs of irrigation and industry," he says.



Peace River



Water wastage in Calgary during last summer's drought

He is dismayed, though, by proposals of people like University of Calgary professor Dixon Thompson for a water pricing system. But Thompson says that if inter-basin transfers have a price associated with them, and such transfers pass business and environmental standards, "then that would allow us to identify transfers that make

sense." He acknowledges those kinds of criteria would impose heavy constraints, though.

Wallis, meanwhile, is adamant that bulk water transfers make no economic or ecological sense. Once the question of pipelines is on the table, "it opens up a can of worms about the size of transfers," he says. Not only are the northern rivers not particularly large, but transfers of any size risk transmitting aquatic organisms that may cause problems in southern waterway systems, he points out. "Any such idea would be a net drain on the rest of Alberta."

Once the northern water is flowing to the south, it would head right across the border, warns Bill Fuller, a retired zoology professor living in Athabasca who once was involved in the study of northern rivers' basins. Northern rivers already have enough concerns from chemicals released by industry, he adds.

Cheryl Bradley, a member of the Oldman River advisory committee, says even some irrigation farmers consider the bulk transfer concept "pie in the sky." The agriculture industry "have a lot of room for improvement in the ways they use water," says the AWA member. "We have to come to terms with the limits of our water supplies."

Alberta Environment's overall water-for-life initiative may have merit in raising public awareness about urgent water issues, but Bradley joins other participants in the process who worry the issues may be oversimplified.

Ken Trout, a participant in the Calgary workshop who is connected with the energy and agricultural industries, is critical of government policies of promoting further economic development in southern areas already suffering from water shortages. The aptly named Calgarian is particularly concerned about the impact on the Bow and the fish population of soaring industrial and residential development along the river.

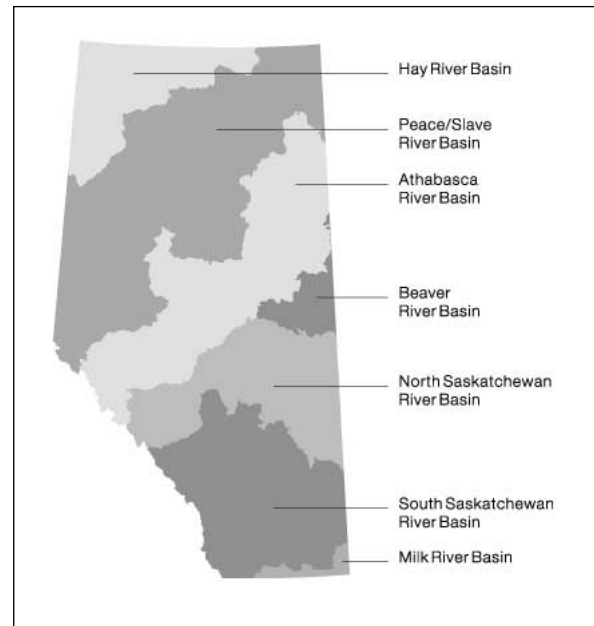
But, he's confident a reasonable balance can be found among the many interests drawing on the Bow and other river systems.

The Bow River council's Bennett believes the government's water-for-life process can lead to positive outcomes. But, like many participants, he questioned some of the wording in the water-for-life workbook.

For example, participants are invited to respond whether they agree, disagree or are unsure of such statements as: "Albertans will have to choose between the sustainability of aquatic ecosystems and economic growth."

"It suggests we have to choose between economic growth and ecological considerations," says Bennett. "We categorically don't believe that's a choice that has to be made . . . those factors need not be mutually exclusive." ✍

(Andy Marshall is a freelance writer living in Cochrane.)



Alberta River Basins
(Alberta Environment)

Related Links:

River Basins in Alberta:

<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/Basins/>

Alberta Environment website for Water:

<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water.html>

Water for Life (Alberta Environment's Water Strategy website):

<http://www.waterforlife.gov.ab.ca>

Watershed and Riverwatch Groups in Alberta:

<http://www.albertawatersheds.org/>

<http://www.riverwatch.ab.ca/>

Waterkeeper Website:

<http://www.waterkeeper.org/intro.html>



FRESH WATER OIL FLOODS: THE ULTIMATE BULK WATER EXPORT

By Dale L. Watson

Recent episodes of E. coli contamination of drinking water have focused national attention on the fundamental importance of access to clean drinking water. Perhaps widespread concern aroused by these troubling, sometimes deadly events signals a substantial shift in attitude about this essential element of life, which is based on a more realistic awareness of the preciousness and scarcity of fresh water both here and around the world.

In the past, Canadians have generally taken water for granted. Each day we use over 300 liters per household, almost twice as much as the average European. We live as if the supply of fresh water were endless. It is an illusion which those who lobby aggressively for bulk water exports try to keep alive by reminding us regularly that we are home to more fresh surface water than any other country (over 9% of the total world supply). Prime Minister Chretien, and others who should know better, reinforce the perception of over abundance by erroneously referring to water as one of our renewable resources. "Focus on Ground Water," a publication of Alberta Environment, states on page 3, "Water is Alberta's most important renewable natural resource."

Yet, as far as we know, the earth's supply of water has never changed. Water recycles constantly, but neither the earth nor humans are able to create more water. Also, in spite of appearances in parts of Canada, we do not have an over abundance of fresh water. Ninety seven percent of the earth's water is saline and less than one percent of fresh water is available for our use; the rest is frozen in glaciers and the polar ice caps. An even more sobering fact is that only 5% (some say 2%) of available fresh water is on the surface; the remaining 95% is underground.

This means that billions of organisms depend on only 5% of available fresh water for life. It also means that the importance of ground water cannot be overstated. Potable water is a scarce, nonrenewable, absolutely essential element of life. Yet we use it to flush and absorb enormous quantities of chemical and biological pollutants, and we waste it as if we had no care or responsibility for the quality or viability of life on this planet.

When we know that the supply of fresh water, especially clean fresh water, is finite and scarce, we are, or should be, appalled by government policies which allow oil producers to inject fresh water into oil wells to increase the recovery rate.

This is not a recently developed technique. Many companies have been using it here since the early 1960's. As the cost effectiveness of this method of pressuring up oil fields became apparent (water is cheap), the volume of water used for this purpose increased steadily. Producers took water from the closest accessible source: sloughs, lakes, streams, rivers or aquifers. When other large volume users of water complained about the quantity of surface water being used for oil floods, oil producers shifted their attention to that hidden, "under utilized" source of millions of cubic meters of water, deep fresh water aquifers.

Nevertheless, the controversy over the use of fresh water by oil companies, mostly unnoticed by the general public and

ignored by the media, continued. On March 27, 1990, The Honourable Ralph Klein, Minister of the Environment, publicly announced a ground water allocation policy for oil field injection. This policy was supposed to demonstrate "a commitment to the principles of conservation and multipurpose use of this valuable water resource,...substantially reduce the conflict over the use of potable ground water for oil field injection in agricultural areas and ... allow the province to allocate some potable ground water for oil field injection purposes."



Mr. Klein said further that this policy would prevent the overuse and waste of this vital resource. But it did not prevent the overuse and waste of water or reduce the conflict. It simply regularized and further accommodated what was already happening, easy access to huge quantities of fresh ground water by oil producers continued unabated.

Last year water diversion permits for oil floods totaled 45.4 billion gallons (17 billion gallons from aquifers), about five times the volume of Sylvan Lake, enough water to serve the city of Red Deer for 20 years. When water is injected into the earth to the depth of an oil well, it is removed from the water cycle forever. Even if it were recovered, it is completely contaminated. If 45.4 billion gallons of potable water has been rendered inaccessible and undrinkable in one year, how many billions of gallons have disappeared from the biosphere in the past 40 years? The government claims to know but is unwilling to disclose the numbers.

I became aware of fresh water oil floods 18 months ago during a public presentation/discussion on ground water sponsored by the Red Deer Chapter of the Council of Canadians. During the discussion members of the Butte Action Committee for the Environment told their stories of conflict with oil companies seeking ground water diversion permits. A resident of the Butte community sparked the formation of this organization when she became alarmed by a notice of application for a water diversion permit published in the Western Star.



The notice stated that Petro Canada intended to draw water from aquifers at depths of 0-500 meters for a large oil flood. Talking with neighboring farmers and ranchers uncovered wide concern about the potential depletion of aquifers in the area. When protest letters, petitions and talking with officials of Petro Canada and the Water Department of Alberta Environment failed to meet their objections to this gross waste of fresh water, they decided to organize.

A group of individuals and families from the farms and towns of west central Alberta gathered in Dec. of 1999 to establish an organization that would "monitor various threats to the ground water and ensure the availability of sufficient quantities of clean water for all domestic uses in the future." Since then this group of citizens (now about 180 members) has become a strong, clear voice: (1) objecting to the misuse and abuse of water by oil producers; (2) denouncing the government policy which gives them the right to do so; (3) calling officials of Alberta Environment to account for being more concerned for enabling the objectives of oil companies than for conserving water and protecting its quality; (4) identifying the flaws of the new Water Act (1999); and (5) arousing public awareness of the enormous volume of fresh water which has been and is being removed from the biosphere.

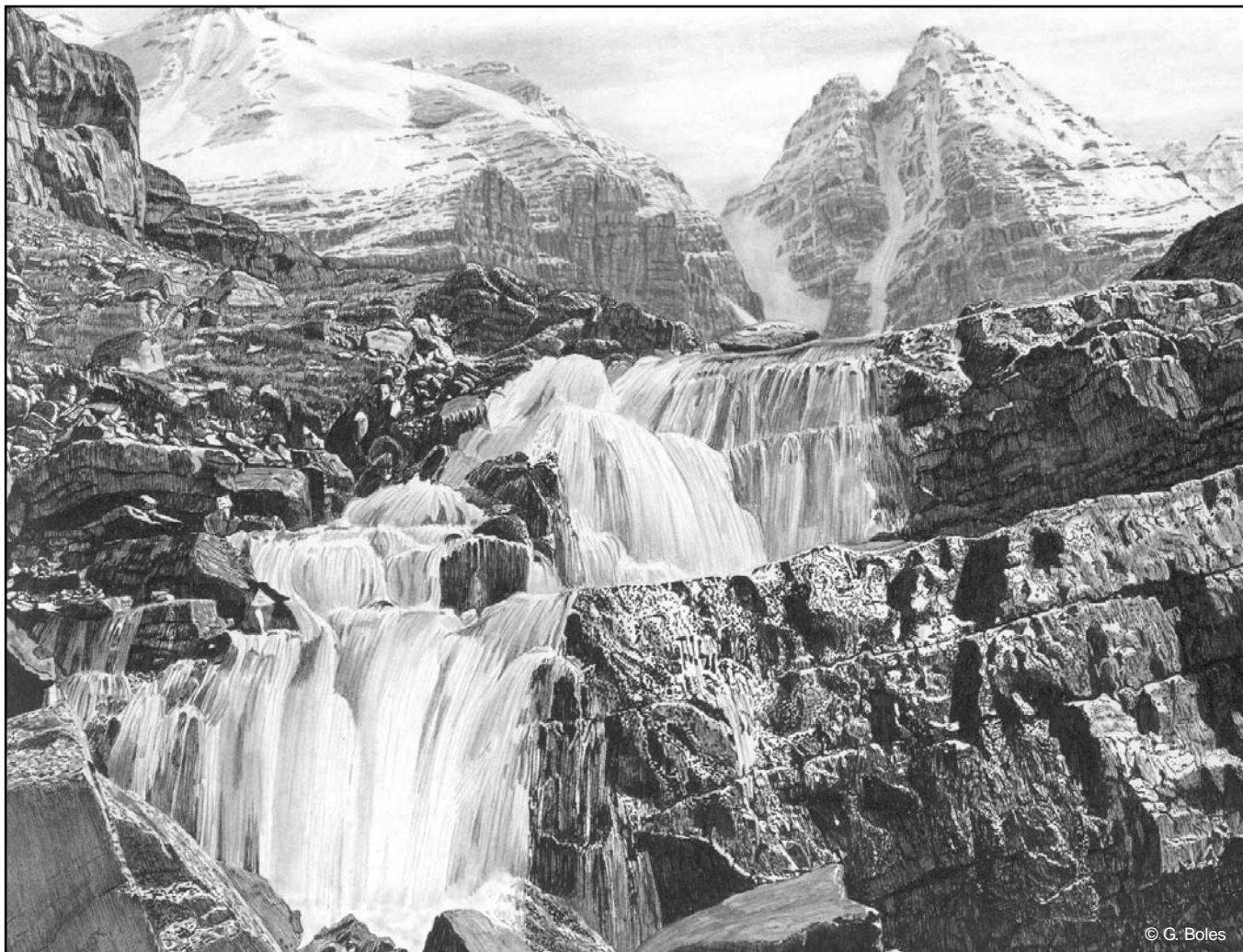
Although fresh water is a cheap medium for increasing the percentage of oil recovered from a field, others are available. Vast quantities of underground salt water could be used for oil

floods. Also water pumped to the surface with oil (i.e., produced water) could be re-injected for this purpose. In Saskatchewan, Pan Canadian Petroleum is injecting several million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year into a 46-year-old oil field. Oil producers have used natural gas in the same way in the Rainbow Lake/Zama region of the province.

The Alberta government's 1990 policy statement on the use of ground water for oil floods contained an "understanding" that an "appropriate level of investigation" of alternatives to fresh ground water would be conducted prior to the submission of a water diversion application, but it is difficult to find evidence that either Alberta Environment or oil producers have given this "understanding" more than lip service. Obviously, alternatives to "business as usual" will not happen unless a substantial number of aroused citizens persuades the government to change its policy on the use of fresh water for oil well injections.

It is ironic that the Klein government has had the good sense to enact legislation forbidding the bulk export of water beyond our borders, and at the same time, to allow oil producers to remove billions of gallons of water per year from the water cycle. I cannot imagine a more extreme form of bulk water export. ✍

(Dale Watson is a retired United Church minister and currently chairs the Water Committee of the Red Deer chapter of the Council of Canadians. This article also appeared in the Fall 2001 issue of the Parkland Post.)



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THE HUNT IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

By Kevin Van Tighem

Several years ago I was invited to give a talk to a public rally at Edmonton's Jubilee Auditorium. A number of conservation groups had gotten together to launch a campaign to get some of Alberta's wild country protected from industry before there were no places left without roads and noise. My talk was about places I had known and lost, and places that I loved that were now under threat.

After the talk a young couple tracked me down in the lobby and told me they had been moved by some of the things I'd said. In the course of our visit, I mentioned a patch of aspen parkland where I used to hunt deer and how it had felt to come back one fall in the fog and, after wandering for half an hour, realizing that I couldn't find it because it was gone: it had been cleared and planted to hay.

A couple weeks later I got a letter from the woman. She told me that she and her husband had been shocked and, later, upset to find that someone who professed to love nature could also kill animals. She asked me if there wasn't some hypocrisy in that. I hadn't caught their names when we spoke, but she signed her letter Tove Reece and told me she was the president of the Alberta chapter of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

When I told this tale to a group that gathered near Cranbrook BC a few years later to plan another campaign - this one to protect hunting from the many things lined up against it - several of the men in the group groaned aloud or made sarcastic comments when I said her name. They knew all they needed to know about her - she was one of "them". The anti-hunters that are out to do us in.

But Tove and her husband had hit a chord with me when we met. I liked them. They were sincere, idealistic people who shared my worry about the rate at which Alberta was slicing and dicing our once abundant wildlife habitat. So after a bit of soul searching, I wrote a rather long letter back. I said that I could understand her point of view, then went on to explain why I love hunting and how that love of hunting grew early in my life into a passion for conservation. I also told her about the kinds of hunting I no longer do because of my own ethical values, and how I was currently struggling with whether to continue hunting big game because I had failed to make clean kills on the last two animals I had shot, and was losing confidence that I could hunt without wounding things.

A month or so later I got another letter. She and her husband had spent a lot of time reading over my letter and trying to figure out how to respond. In a nutshell, she said they still disagreed with killing animals, but they could see where I was coming from

and that I had helped them see that hunters are not motivated primarily by blood lust. They didn't win me over, and I didn't win them over. But we changed the debate and we built a basis for, if not friendship, at least respect and the potential to work together for habitat and wildlife. Conservation, at the start of the 21st century, needs people who can respect each other and work together. So that encounter led to one of the things I've been able to look back at in my life as a hunter-conservationist and feel good about.

I don't feel good about some other things. None of my three kids currently hunt. I feel troubled by that. Places I once hunted are gone to the plough or to parks or to pavement. I feel bad about that. Especially, in some ways, about the parks - because although I strongly believe in the importance of parks and protected areas, I see them as a symptom of failure when they become the focus of conservation campaigns. How did we let things reach the point where so many people think you can only have nature and wildness if you put a park boundary around it?



Caribou

R. Burglin

In my lifetime I have seen high fences proliferate around the landscape, enclosing bored, placid elk and deer that were never meant to be captive. I feel terrible about that. And I've had to withdraw my membership from fish and game clubs and my subscriptions from hook and bullet magazines that, in my younger days, I was wildly excited about. Why? Because they no longer represent to me the things that make hunting great - they seem to stand increasingly for greed, selfishness, confrontation and ethical compromise. I feel really worried by that. It makes me wonder what kind of future there is for hunting.

Is there a future for hunting at all? There has to be. If we lose hunting, we lose something essential about being human, a unique part of our humanness that keeps us connected to the rest of nature. It was no accident that the great conservationists of the twentieth century were hunters. The twenty-first century will need even greater conservationists. I would argue that it needs hunting to produce them. So how do we give hunting a future?

I think that the first thing we all need to accept is that hunting is a minority activity. That means we are always working from political weakness, not strength. When you are weak you need friends; you need to forge alliances, not burn bridges. When you're strong you can (sometimes) get away with being offensive. But we hunters are not strong, so we need principled and sensitive spokesmen who will attract allies, not in-your-face loudmouths who alienate the neutral. In that sense, abrasive nags like Ted Nugent are not our friends. They are friends of the anti-



hunting movement. They help anti-hunters prove the point: "See, hunters are aggressive, hostile and self-serving. We nice people should shut 'em down."

Ted Nugent helps our critics win by neither acknowledging nor respecting their legitimate views. Because those who worry about animal rights, orphaned bear cubs, single-species management and so forth do have legitimate concerns. As a hunter I share many of those concerns - as do most of you. And as hunters I think we have more to gain if we acknowledge that than if we deny it. People can't criticize us for not caring if we clearly do.

Given that we are the minority - a minority that is closer to real life than the vast majority of Canadians who get their understanding of the world through television sets, computer screens and newspapers - we need always to consider what inadvertent messages we communicate to that majority. I remember watching all those television images of camouflage-clad natives and cops confronting one another at Oka a few years ago. It affected me like it did many Canadians - it created a profound sense of unease and lurking fear that this sort of standoff could happen in my peaceful nation.

That fall I was driving along a highway near Rocky Mountain House and saw four stocky men in head-to-toe camouflage, unloading a quad in the ditch, rifles slung on their shoulders. I knew they were going hunting, but I couldn't help getting this creepy feeling: I had seen those men on television, at Oka. So what did all the other people on that highway see, the ones who don't hunt but do watch television? And what did it tell them about hunters? Face it, we look different. To those who don't know any better, we look like operation Desert Storm. Guns and gear look scary. We need to be sensitive to that, and stay out of their faces.

Surveys show that very few people actually oppose hunting. It's usually less than ten percent. The vast majority of Canadians who do not hunt are relatively neutral on whether other people hunt - so long as it is done in a fair and principled way and does not cause suffering to individual animals or harm to wildlife populations. That's why those who attack hunting try to show that hunters are not fair or not principled, or that our activities hurt individual animals or put populations at risk.

Think of the bear baiting issue in Ontario: the image there is of orphaned, starving cubs: individual animals hurt by hunting. The campaign against the grizzly hunt in BC was based on the argument that hunting caused harm to some bear populations. Bear baiting, use of hounds, using snowmobiles to chase coyotes - all weaken the case for hunting's legitimacy because they make it easy for critics to argue that hunting is not based on fair chase or respect for our prey.

And you know what? We deserve the criticism. Too often, we have chosen to rationalize the irrational rather than make the hard, principled choices that would protect hunting from

legitimate criticism. We have not done well at protecting hunting from moral compromise. We must choose to be our own worst critics. We need to insist, whatever the cost, that hunting always be, and be seen to be, rooted in fair chase, conservation values, and respect for our prey.

Too many of those who want to legitimize questionable practices use the surround-the-wagons rhetoric that: "We need to stick together against the antis." Let's call that what it is: self-serving manipulative garbage. A recent Outdoor Canada interview with Andy Kowalczewski (Canadian Outdoor Heritage Alliance) showed how ludicrous this line is when taken to its extreme. He described what he saw as his greatest success: "The government was very close to banning enclosure hunting in Ontario and we managed to save that at this current time. There are some groups that would be against it, however, COHA's goal is to always protect anything that is legal at this particular time in Canada."

"Enclosure hunting." You know what that is? It's cold-bloodedly killing captive animals that have been raised behind high fences. It is not hunting - it is meat slaughter. This idea that if killing an animal in a certain way is legal, then it must be defended as part of our "hunting heritage" is morally bankrupt. Nothing will hasten the end of hunting's social legitimacy as fast as hunters defending unethical practices as being the same as real hunting.

The people who oppose hunting usually do so on ethical and aesthetic grounds. We fail to connect when we respond, as hunters usually do, with pragmatic arguments such as how much money we hunters contribute to conservation. We risk being seen as dodging the issue when we fail to use ethical and aesthetic counter-arguments. I know it's not Ted Nugent-style guy talk, but I consistently choose words like love, beauty and connection when talking about hunting because, after all, those are at the heart of what keep most of us hunting.

I also avoid the crocodile tears that turn up too often in some publications like **Bugle** or **Gray's Sporting Manual**. It doesn't bother me to kill animals and I won't ever pretend it does. That's what predators do if they want to eat. On the other hand, it rips my heart out when I wound one and if anything ever makes me hang up my guns, it will be one bad shot too many.

Ultimately, if we want to stay ahead of our adversaries, we need to set the terms of debate. Hunters need to be seen as people with a passion for nature and wildness, not merely for hunting. We can show through our actions that hunters value nature, wildness, freedom, health, and reconnection. Shift the focus to the things we all care about. Many people will never like the idea of hunting; but they can be shown that people who choose to hunt are good people and leaders in conservation.

But I also think we need to redefine hunting so that it is more clear not only to our opponents but to ourselves, what hunting is and what it is not. We need a vision for hunting that will take it



Elk on a game farm.



forward into the future rather than leave it in the past. Hunting isn't, as our critics argue, a war against nature. Nor is it, as we often argue, a kind of resource management, as in cropping a surplus. It isn't a sport; a duck is not a ball. It isn't rural economy. It isn't recreation, except perhaps in the sense of re-creation. Those all are old and flawed definitions.

I propose three perspectives on hunting at its best:

Hunting as a way of becoming truly human

Humans evolved many of their finest attributes by needing to find food in spite of our physical disadvantages. Our uniquely human characteristics of intelligence, memory, fitness, ethical restraint, group endeavour - all are attributes of humans that arose from our hunting heritage. Modern life - computer games, repetitive jobs, domesticated urban life - deprive us of what hunting restores: the chance to practice being real humans.

Hunting makes us rooted humans - it integrates us directly with our home places. The act of exploring landscape intimately, on foot, gives us direct, meaningful knowledge and bonds with the land. And when we eat our prey we become linked chemically to the land - we become one with it. You are what you eat; the more our food comes from the local ecosystem the more our chemical makeup becomes the same as that ecosystem.



There is something uniquely rich about eating meat produced by places we know well and love, rather than anonymous food from who-knows-where.

Yearling Mule Deer

If we see hunting fundamentally as something that makes us more human, and more rooted, then we have a basis for celebrating the hunt consciously as part of the family's and community's culture. In my home, each of our evening meals begins with a grace that traces the food back to the land and the system of conservation that produced it, so that we will be more mindful of the links from soil and climate through hunting to our family meals. Orion/The Hunters Institute takes this concept a step farther in its community-based Winsor dinners. Hunters share both their food and their love of place with the non-hunting community. Perhaps we need to do more of this to celebrate both hunting and human-ness which are, ultimately, the same thing.

Hunting as an ecological process

Ecological management means looking not just at what animals and plants are in a particular area, but what natural processes link them and keep them vital. Fire, flooding, periodic drought and insect outbreaks are among the ecological processes



Moose

that make nature work. Predation is also an ecological process - and one of which we are part. In nature, predation works to perfect both prey and predator. It selects for the best characteristics of both. Elk wouldn't be alert and wolves wouldn't be fast if it weren't for the process of predation that has connected them for centuries. The dozy elk and the slow wolves are always the first to die. And so it goes, with predators and their prey contributing to the continued perfecting of both.

In that sense, we should recognize other predators as our kindred, not our adversaries. They are part of what our prey need, just as we are. Wolves and coyotes, for example, are coursing predators. Ecologically, they are perfectly designed to keep diseases like TB, CWD etc. under control, and to select for behaviours that make their prey so desirable to us. Human hunters select for different characteristics and, given the chance, avoid the sick-looking animals. That's why our prey need more predators than just us.

Still, when we go hunting, we become predators. We enter into the ecosystem as participants in one of the vital ecological processes that make it work. But we humans don't have the stamina, teeth, speed or power of other predators. What we do have is highly sophisticated brains. Our brains' endless search for new "tricks" is part of our nature as an animal. It is the product of tens of thousands of years as predators. The problem is that knowledge and technology - products of human brains - have reached the point that we need to use another characteristic of the human predator - intelligent and principled restraint - if we want hunting to continue to work as predation should - to make both our prey and ourselves better.

As predation, good hunting forces us to become better humans; bad hunting exploits shortcuts that enable us to become less than fully human - to avoid thinking, physical effort, risk, uncertainty, the need to develop a personal understanding of habitat and prey. Hunting - as predation, an ecological process - demands that we avoid the shortcuts that cheat our prey, because in cheating our prey we also cheat ourselves.



Hunting as a celebration, and defense, of nature

Hunters were the founders of the Audubon Society, established the world's first national park, and founded the U.S. Wilderness Society and the Alberta Wilderness Association. Those visionary hunter-conservationists - Grinnell, Roosevelt, Marshall, Leopold, Michalsky - knew that wilderness was our natural and best habitat and that wilderness was a defining characteristic of the animals we pursue and of ourselves in the hunt. They saw threats to wilderness and they acted to defend it. In the opening years of the 21st Century, we face both new and familiar threats to wilderness. Hunters need to continue being leaders in protecting nature against them.

- Habitat artificialization - through intensified agriculture, genetic modification of plants, even through hunter-supported habitat programs that aim too low by planting monocultures or exotics for food or cover plants. An animal in a cage is barely an animal at all. An animal, or a hunter, in a watered-down habitat is not a whole lot better.
- Baiting and feedpiles violate the fundamental principle of fair chase and work against the ecology of predation. They select for the lowest, rather than the highest, attributes of both predator and prey. They also spread weeds and diseases. In Michigan, tuberculosis has become widespread in deer because of outfitter bait piles. Anti hunters have been able to advance their campaign to ban hunting in Ontario because hunting groups fought to defend, rather than taking the lead in eliminating, the practise of addicting bears to bait and then shooting them.
- Commercial farming of native animals continues to spread diseases like CWD and tuberculosis, take over wildlife habitat, and devalue the qualities of wilderness that make deer and elk what they are. Once people grow used to seeing placid ungulates behind fences, the result is bound to be diminished demand or support for conservation of wild herds. Recently some provinces have legalized the shooting of captive animals. Legitimate hunting is now associated in the public eye with the despicable practise of shooting pen-raised animals that cannot escape.
- Motors, scents, sensing technology and other gimmicks continue to compromise our relationship with our prey and its habitats. It becomes increasingly difficult to say that hunting connects us with nature when we rely upon the paraphernalia of war to overpower it.

The wilderness that is under threat today is not just the wilderness and naturalness of what is "out there." We ourselves -

the unique and meaningful attributes that give hunters and hunting pride and meaning - are under threat. It has never been so urgent for hunters to revitalize and recommit to our proud heritage as hunter-conservationists. We used to be out in front: now too often we are seen as being behind. Early Fish and Game groups fought idealistic battles for more game regulations, wilderness protection, and habitat conservation. Now, too often, people see us fighting self-serving campaigns over firearms control, motorized access, and deregulation. Habitat continues to vanish, hunting is losing public support - and who is speaking with depth and integrity for the kind of conservation that matters most? When hunters are no longer seen as leaders in conservation, then the public looks elsewhere and we become irrelevant - and dispensable.

In summary, then, if hunting and conservation are going to have a future, we need to rethink our agenda. That agenda, in my opinion, needs to include some key elements:

1. Respect our critics and, in fact, get out ahead of them. We need to embrace, not avoid the hard ethical questions, even if they threaten what we perceive as solidarity. We need to look at every aspect of hunting and wildlife management and ask if it brings out the best in humans, and the best in our prey. Does it sustain wilderness or erode it? Is it fair, or just convenient? Outfitters: are you selling a hunt, or just a kill? Just because it is legal, just because we might enjoy it, does not automatically make it right. We need to get hunting right even if it means cutting some folks out of the herd or giving up some favourite techniques.

2. We need to promote not hunting but the things that make hunting worthwhile: quality habitat, freedom, wilderness, companionship, craft. We need to show that hunters are more concerned about conservation and community values than about our own shallow interests. We need to have people see hunters as leaders in conservation, community, caring - not as rednecks ranting about our rights or trying to rationalize and defend questionable practices.

3. We need to fight every effort to commercialize or commoditize nature. Tell your MLA, your local newspaper, your neighbors, your Chamber of Commerce that there is no place in the 21st century for game farming, "preserve hunting", or selling easy kills over bait. Refuse to surrender the gains of 20th century conservation and never forget the hard lessons we learned over the past hundred years. Don't let the exploiters get away with calling themselves hunters. They aren't.

4. Most importantly, we need to get kids out there when they're young, and keep taking them back. Not just to hunt, but

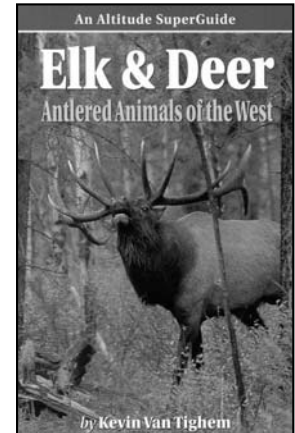
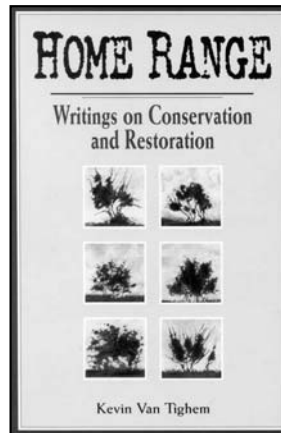


to fix habitat, put up bird boxes, hike, watch wildlife, and have adventures. Give tomorrow the conservationists it needs. It doesn't matter if they hunt, so long as a hunter helped them bond to the real world of nature. If we help them become hunters too, so much the better.

5. We must strive constantly to become the best we can be, because the future needs us. Real hunters must always be real humans and real conservationists. If we can give the future real hunters, then we will assure the survival of hunting, and the great conservation tradition to which it has given rise. ✍

(Kevin Van Tighem is a fourth generation Albertan, born in Calgary, author of nine books on wildlife and conservation, have worked in western Canada's parks and protected areas for 26 years, currently the manager of Jasper National Park's ecosystem secretariat. He lives with his wife Gail and three children in Jasper. He presented this speech at the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation Annual General Meeting, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, February 21, 2002. His latest books, Home

Range: Writings on Conservation and Restoration and Elk and Deer: Antlered Animals of the West, are published by Altitude Publishing, Canmore: altitude@telusplanet.net.)



ALBERTA WILDERNESS WATCH

BIGHORN ACCESS MANAGEMENT

By Tamaini Snaith,
AWA Conservation Specialist



Last November, the Department of Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) initiated an Access Management process for the Bighorn area (includes the Bighorn Wildland and surrounding areas). We are participating in this process to work with the government and a variety of user groups to manage access in the Bighorn.

We recognize that all users -from hikers to snowmobilers- have an impact on the environment. This seemed like an excellent opportunity to be involved in managing access to minimize the environmental impacts of all users. Some forms of recreation have a larger impact than others, and there need to be areas set aside which are protected from certain activities. We can't all do everything everywhere.

In 1977, the Eastern Slopes policy was designed to deal with conflicting land uses, and to solve these problems at a regional scale by setting up a zoning system.

- Up to 6.5% of Albertans participate in motorized recreation.
- They have access to more than 90% of provincial crown land.
- AWA wants continued protection for the approximately 8% of provincial crown land that is currently off-limits to motorized recreation.
- Outside of protected areas, motorized recreation must be properly managed to avoid sensitive areas and negative impacts.

Prime Protection Zone was established to protect watersheds, environmentally sensitive terrain, and aesthetic resources. Off-highway vehicles are, and always have been, prohibited in Prime Protection Zone.

We chose to participate in the government's Access Management process because we were assured from the beginning that existing policies would be upheld, and that we would be looking at proper management of currently allowed activities. This would mean that in Prime Protection Zone of the Bighorn Wildland we would be managing the non-motorized forms of recreation that are currently permitted. We expected that motorized recreation would be planned and managed appropriately in other zones in surrounding areas.

AWA is not opposed to motorized recreation in Alberta. We support the safe and responsible use of OHVs and snowmobiles on designated trails in appropriate areas. Prime Protection Zone was set up to conserve environmental values; motorized recreation is incompatible with this goal.

We have been very disappointed with this process so far. The government seems to be backsliding even further on conservation commitments in this area. Last year the "Bighorn Wildland Recreation Area" was removed from official maps. Now it looks like Prime Protection Zone will be downgraded: the government's preliminary plans for the area include designated trails for both summer and winter motorized sports right through the Prime Protection Zone.

This action will set a dangerous precedent. The conservation intent of the Eastern Slopes Policy will be deteriorated, and Prime Protection Zone throughout the province will be at risk. ✍



Thank you for Standing Up for the Bighorn!

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has taken action to protect the Bighorn. This is what we have achieved to date:

- **1195 individuals have sent 5402 faxes** to the government requesting that the Bighorn Wildland be legally protected.
- Premier Klein has received **1441 postcards** from Albertans asking that the Bighorn Wildland be given legal protection.
- **305 individuals** have signed on to a **position statement** requesting legislated protection of the Bighorn Wildland.
- AWA has received more than **120 copies of letters** written to Premier Klein or Debby Carlson, Liberal Party Environment Critic, requesting protection of the Bighorn Wildland.
- Copies of more than 50 letters written have been received by the AWA.
- More than **4340 individuals have signed petition** forms requesting protection for the Bighorn.
- Several newspapers throughout the province published **letters to the editor** from citizens of Alberta in support of legally designating the Bighorn Wildland.
- The Bighorn has been featured in a number of stories in **print, radio, and television news.**

Weekly Website Polls conducted in the past two months have shown

- **94%** of 1180 respondents support government policy to keep off highway vehicles out of Prime Protection Zones.
- **90%** of 413 respondents agree that watersheds must be protected.
- **70%** of 1274 respondents believe that the Bighorn Wildland should be protected immediately.

1174 individuals attended six public forums sponsored by the AWA. The forums were held in Sundre, Rocky Mountain House, Red Deer, Edmonton, Calgary and Nordegg. Attendees represented many user groups and ages as well as stakeholders from industry and government representatives. The forums provided opportunity for issues to be presented and discussed. Common ground was found. The following concerns were expressed at all meetings:

- greater enforcement of policy and legislation in backcountry wilderness,
- education and awareness regarding wilderness use and travel,
- protection and respect for prime protection and critical wildlife zones
- designated access for users, non-motorized as well as motorized,

- some areas need to be designated for traditional, non-motorized recreation use only,
- planning is needed to ensure tourism does not develop the David Thompson Corridor to become "Banff/Lake Louise" type developments.
- The Blackstone-Wapiabi needs to be protected from industrial development and any surface access.

AWA conservation staff have been busy meeting with government representatives and industry to raise awareness about issues in the Bighorn. So far, we have met with **The Minister of Energy, Minister of Revenue, Minister of Economic Development, Deputy Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, Assistant Deputy Minister of Community Development (Parks and Protected Areas), 7 MLAs, and 6 major oil and gas operators.** We have enjoyed all of these meetings and had the wonderful opportunity of talking about opportunities for wilderness conservation in the Bighorn Wildland. We have had great success finding common ground and are very encouraged by what we have heard.

What else can you do?

If you would like to take action to help protect the Bighorn Wildland, contact your MLA and ask for immediate protection for the Bighorn Wildland as promised in 1986. Ask that NO motorized recreation be allowed in Prime Protection Zone, and that NO industrial surface access is granted within the boundaries of the Bighorn Wildland Recreation Area.



Letter to the Editor:

Re: Bighorn Access Management Plan

I attended and made a presentation on public involvement day (March 13) for the Bighorn Access Management Planning Process. Following are some of my comments.

During my career as a geography professor at the University of Calgary, I taught and engaged in research on Alberta's foothills and mountains. I am an outdoor enthusiast, life member and past Vice President of the Alpine Club of Canada, and currently sit as a Board member for the Alberta Wilderness Association.

Over the years the areas where my friends and I can go to recreate, to get away from noise and stress has diminished. Very little big wilderness remains in Alberta. The Bighorn Wildland Recreation Area is one of the few large wild places we have left and it is one in which there is a low road density, an important ingredient for a truly wild area.

Recreation means to re-create or have recreation of the individual's mental and physical well-being in order to be productive again at home with the family, in business or at the work place i.e. as a whole human being. Such recreation requires an environment which is away from the stress of urban

society, which is untrammled, where the works of nature predominate over the works and activities of people.

Such suitable environment is shrinking not only with growth of urban areas, but also with increasing numbers of people, road densities, demands by industry, OHV users and snowmobilers, among others, all of which are clearly incompatible with recreation, as defined, and which also negatively impact the natural environment negatively through noise and air pollution. We need to have places that are set aside from motorized and mechanized recreation. There should be separate areas for them, away from those who pursue non-mechanized forms of recreation.

The policy of the Prime Protection Zone is important. The Eastern Slopes Policy and the Integrated Resource Plans did a satisfactory job allowing for all different uses, which included allocating areas for motorized recreation-in fact it was the most contentious issue at the time that the policy was formulated. The decisions were made, and the Prime Protection Zone was the place that was to be protected from high impact activities such as industry and motorized use.

I do not see any basis, whatsoever, for changing the policy now and introducing motorized recreation into the Prime Protection Zone, where it is clearly not permitted. Doing so would jeopardize the values this zone was intended to protect. According to the discussion papers, the government is now relying on the same policy to allow industry into the northern end of the Bighorn, but they are disregarding or throwing it out to introduce OHV trails in other parts of the Bighorn Wildland. This is something to which I object.

If OHVs are allowed here, it would be naive to believe it would not have repercussions in other elsewhere. It would spell, or lead to, the end of Prime Protection Zone in the whole province. Do we really want to do that? I certainly do not.

The government's Bighorn website says that the discussion papers represent the recommendations of the advisory group, but the majority of the advisory group wanted no summer OHV access into Prime Protection Zone. It therefore seems clear to me that the government is not open to the advice of the advisory group or the public and that its mind is already made up. The process, then, it seems to me, is meaningless, tokenism, rigged, or a sham!

~ Herbert G. Kariel



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"It's to the point now where not only should the Alberta government not be thinking about proceeding with the hunt farms but should also be looking at closing down game farms completely."

- Rod Dyck, Alberta Fish and Game Association President, in response to first case of chronic wasting disease in Alberta in March 2002.



HOUSE DIVIDED OVER PROTECTED FEN'S FUTURE

By Jillian Tamblyn,
AWA Conservation Specialist



Suppose a real estate developer had leased 3 adjacent properties. One of those properties had a heritage home on it that was protected under land zoning because of its cultural and historical value. The developer knew this, but he wanted to build a big open pit dump and felt that he would lose valuable area if he left the heritage home alone. To build the dump he was first going to rip down the buildings on all the properties, but leave half the heritage house.

Before he could get the project approved, he needed to get the zoning changed. The developer knew some people would be upset and concerned that he wanted to build a dump here, so he carefully developed his plan and proposal for city council and some public open houses.

His basic arguments for building the dump were (1) the dump will make more money for the government through taxes than the present buildings; (2) there are lots of other equally wonderful heritage homes around, you don't need this one; (3) we will research the effects of ripping down half of the house on the remaining half and gain some new scientific knowledge; (4) we are confident that the half a house will remain standing and, once the dump shuts down in 25 years, the half a house will be used again.

This analogy is meant to be ridiculous, but only because it points out how absurd the present process is and how important it is to get involved in the protection of the McClelland Fen.

True North Energy has proposed a new open pit oil sands project north of Fort McMurray which, if approved, would destroy half a patterned fen with unknown effects on the rest of the fen or associated lake. The area is presently protected by guidelines under a sub-regional Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which stipulates that oil sands are not allowed on this site due to its ecological significance.

True North's proposal has triggered a governmental review of these guidelines to see if they should be changed to allow oil

sands development. Strictly speaking, this IRP guideline review is not part of the approval process for True North Energy's mine. If the guidelines were changed, any company could potentially develop the site even if True North's project falls through.

The government has held two open houses, on short notice, to allow for public input. The open houses had the information from the public comment packages out as large displays, and Sustainable Resource Development as well as Environment staff available to answer questions. Unfortunately they also had True North Energy's displays presenting their proposal.

It was an inappropriate gesture to have the company there when this should have been a government only process. If the



McClelland Fen

government truly viewed the project approval process as being separate from the IRP guideline amendment process they would not have had the company there to present their biased perspective. The Government should have had an equal platform for those who felt the guidelines shouldn't be changed.

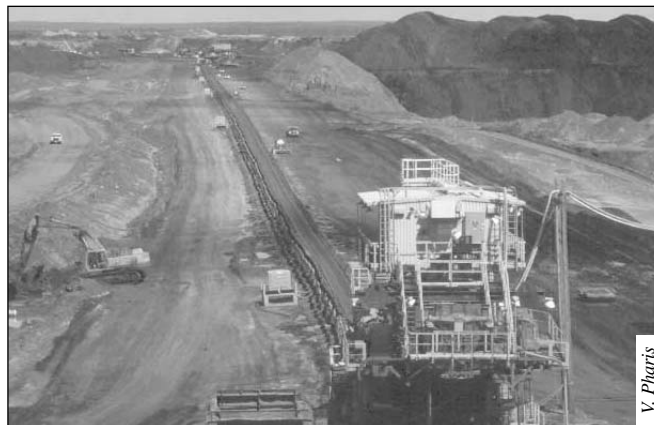
The government IRP amendment guidelines also outline a more in-depth and thorough public input process.

With less than a month to collect public comments, and two or three poorly advertised open houses, the review is lacking the opportunity for well-informed debate and public input.

The Public Response sheet also shoddily positions the issue as: protect the wetlands, lake and water quality OR create jobs and economic growth. In a region with vast oil reserves and few protected areas this is an irresponsible way for the government to couch this issue.

I think the above analogy would be a much more effective way for them to explain the proposed development! 🌿

Visit our web site at www.AlbertaWilderness.ca for comprehensive background information on this issue or call me in Edmonton at (780) 988-5487. Our website has a link to the Government's Public Response Sheet on the IRP Amendment Review. You can fill this out with your personal comments or send a letter to Premier Klein outlining your views.



An open pit and conveyor belt at Suncor's oil sands



Letter to the Editor

Re: McClelland Lake, Sinkholes and Fen

The Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process is arguably the most corrupt of all the bogus "land use management" processes involving token "public participation" in Alberta. IRP should be known by its real name: "Institutional Rape and Pillage"! The whole process is about "dividing-up the resource pie", with the "answers" required from the public already pre-decided. Environmental protection, if considered at all, receives scant recognition or support. Protection is an obstacle to exploitation; hence the phrase coined in the Department of Energy, and heard most frequently with respect to the tar sands: "sterilizing the land" (from an economic perspective). This is the Orwellian reverse of what protection actually does, while steam extraction does sterilize the hydrocarbon-bearing sediments.

The Fort McMurray IRP is/was one of the most anti-environmental protection documents it has ever been my misfortune to read. Remarkably, therefore, the temporary reprieve granted McClelland by the IRP is little short of miraculous.

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development is now rushing through an IRP review in a one-industry town. Everything is carefully designed to secure the "right answer" as defined and desired by industry. The fact that (a) McClelland belongs to ALL Albertans, and (b) is of provincial significance is irrelevant to the task at hand (i.e. opening it up for destruction by True North Energy)

McClelland Lake should be an Ecological Reserve. The peatlands began developing 8500 years ago and cannot be re-created by us once True North has destroyed it.

Do McMurray-ites want to live only in an industrial wasteland? McClelland offers fantastic educational and natural history interpretational opportunities.

It is extremely important in its own right (wetland complex, superb reticulate and ribbed fens, lake and sinkholes); as habitat for rare plants- particularly mosses; and as a migration stopover habitat for birds. We're talking about destroying a provincial and natural history 'treasure'.

~ Richard Thomas

Be kind to your friends in the swamp

By Ben Gadd

*Oh, be kind to your web-footed friends,
For a duck may be somebody's mother.
Oh, be kind to your friends in the swamp,
Where it's always cold and damp ...*

—Anonymous. Sung to the tune of
"Stars and Stripes Forever," by John Philip Sousa

"Be kind to your friends in the swamp"? No, no; you're supposed to say "wetland," not "swamp." Just as geologists have no use for the word "dirt" (try "soil"), people who study the world's wet places have no use for the word "swamp."

Reason: there are just too many kinds of swamps. Suppose you're standing beside some sort of squishy spot. Is it a fen? Is it a bog? Is it a rich fen? Is it a string bog? Is it a peat bog? Is it a muskeg? Etc., etc.

Ah, the language of science. Long words for short bones. Well, this article explains how to tell two kinds of swamps apart: **fens** and **bogs**.

In a bog, the water doesn't move. That is to say, water does not flow through a bog. Not much, anyway. It just collects there. So stuff collects in it. Some of this stuff is tannin, a type of acid found in plants, which is why bogs are acidic. The water is also tea-colored, from plant pigments.

In a fen, the water *does* move. A typical fen is a marshy place along a stream, or a beaver pond that's mostly filled in with vegetation.

Fen water is usually clearer than bog water, richer in dissolved oxygen and not nearly as acidic. This means that fens are biologically friendlier than bogs and thus home to many species of water plants, water insects and fish. The biological diversity underwater produces biological diversity on the surface, on the shore and in the air, too. You'll see ducks dabbling for snails, warblers nesting in the willows, weasels gobbling the mice that nibble the sedges, moose that wade out to eat water milfoil,



Is it a bog or a fen? Only its ecologist knows for sure.
(Jarvis Creek Marshes, Wm A. Switzer Provincial Park)

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Bogs, on the other hand, are t o u g h places in which to live. So

fewer species live there. Among these are acid-hardy species of mosses, which do just fine in bogs. Since bogs collect things, they collect mosses that have grown old and died. Layers of dead moss build up. These layers don't rot much in the acidic water—bacteria that would otherwise do the job can't thrive there—so the carbon in the moss accumulates to become peat. And there you have the origin of a peat bog.

Guess which kind of wetland is more common in the Canadian Rockies, bogs or fens? (Hint: in the mountains the land is mostly sloping, not flat.) Got your answer? Yes! Fens! Where I live in Jasper National Park there are lots of fens. Here are two terrific ones that are easy to get to: **Cottonwood Slough**, near Jasper along the road to Pyramid Lake, and the wetlands at the far end of **Talbot Lake**, east of Jasper along Highway 16. If you're going to Banff, go for a slog in the huge, World-Heritage-Site-sized fen they call **Vermilion Lakes**. If you're lucky, Diane and Mike McIvor will go with you.

Finally, there's that silly song about web-footed friends. (Remember to sing "damp" the way the British do, so it rhymes properly with "swamp.") The last two lines of the song are:

*Oh, you may think that this is the end.
Well, it is.*



Old-Growth Logging in Lakeland Impacts Migratory Birds

By Richard Thomas

This fall, Alberta Pacific (Al-Pac), the world's largest, single line kraft pulp mill, wants to log Townships 68 and 69 Range 10 in Lakeland south of the Touchwood Lake Road (Secondary Highway 663), up to the Park/PRA boundary.

Once touted by the Alberta Government as the "flagship" of Special Places 2000, Lakeland was officially established on January 17, 1992. To date it still does not have an officially approved formal management plan! The Lakeland Public Advisory Committee (PAC), constituted by the Alberta Government, deliberated for 18 months. However, its recommendations were deemed too pro-protection of Lakeland and hence, were shelved.

The PAC recognized the value and common sense in protecting this area that is now on the cutting block. On page 14 of the PAC's "Summary Report and Recommendations (August 1995) is the statement: "...most members felt that the Park and PRA should extend (north) to the Touchwood Lake Road, which was seen to form a reasonable boundary line." This strip of land (between the Touchwood Lake Road and the Park/PRA's northern boundaries) was proposed several times by Alberta Parks for inclusion in Lakeland. However, Alberta Forest Service, Alberta Energy and Alberta Fish and Wildlife conspired (and I use the word in the fullest sense) to ensure that this expansion did not occur.

The Lakeland region is part of Alberta's Central Mixedwood Natural Sub-region. Because of the presence and configuration of its many lakes, this region contains some fine examples of self-perpetuating, old-growth mixedwood forest. These forests are far older than the individual 120 plus year old trees comprising them, and the stands should be studied, not logged. They are very significant ecologically, both in terms of forest gap dynamics and from a biodiversity conservation perspective.

The whole area is also excellent habitat for Neotropical Migrant Birds. Furthermore, the Mile 12 Trail to Jackson Lake in Lakeland Provincial Park, which crosses the area that is proposed for logging, is the best trail in the region for Connecticut Warbler (a rare, declining, sought-after, Neotropical Migrant Songbird).

Around 1993 Al-Pac was assuring Parks it wouldn't be looking at this strip of land for 20-25 years. To put this in perspective, Al-Pac's Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area covers about 9.3 % of Alberta. Lakeland's total area is equivalent to <1% of Al-Pac's FMA. This contested strip of land is not a significant portion of the Al-Pac FMA, but in ecological terms it is a very important area that should become part of the Lakeland Park / PRA.

It appears that Al-Pac has two options on the book: (1) traditional two pass logging with modifications, or (2) Al-Pac's own logging program that attempts to mimic natural (i.e. fire-related) disturbance patterns, which would mean less access but larger cutblocks. In many forest tracts hereabouts, succession proceeds via gap dynamics, and clearcutting to emulate fire does not simulate this natural disturbance regime. Another concern is that the Alberta Forest Service believes Al-Pac's logging along Lakeland's boundary will "fire-proof" the Park/PRA: a ludicrous concept that flies in the face of modern ecosystem-based forest management.

Any further logging of this strip must be stopped, and the Lakeland Management Plan needs to be formalized and include the PAC recommendations for this northern boundary.

Al-Pac will be having an open house about their plans in Lac La Biche April 16, 2002 ✂



Old growth forest at Touchwood Lake, Lakeland

Softwood Lumber - What's going on?

By Jillian Tamblyn, AWA Conservation Specialist

The dead line for solving the Softwood Lumber Dispute has passed and hardly a peep out of Alberta. What's been going on? Well it appears that there is still a bit of time to strike a solution. The International Trade Commission's final decision on whether the U.S. lumber industry has been injured by imports from Canada is now scheduled to be finalized by May 16. If they find the U.S. industry has been injured then the duties will have to be paid.

In the mean time both sides seem to be taking some steps to get back to negotiating. Unfortunately, while the BC Coastal Industry is finally putting some dramatic and innovative cards on

the table to get a solution - like a 25% tenure take back - the Alberta Government just allocated a new Forest Management Agreement to Manning Diversified Forest Products in the Chinchaga region. With the status quo process of zero public input and public forest lock-up with big industry, Alberta doesn't appear to be getting much closer to a solution oriented stance.

Seems to me that we need to start calling our MLA's and asking THEM - What's going on? When are we going to start to see some solutions for Alberta's environment and economy? ✂

For more information on the AWA's position visit our forests archive on the web at

<http://www.albertawilderness.ca/Issues/FOR/Archive.htm>



The Ram Mountain Bighorn Sheep Study: The First 30 Years

By Marco Festa-Bianchet and Jon T. Jorgenson

In the late 1960's, the greatest threat to bighorn sheep conservation were pneumonia epizootics, about which very little was known. Bill Wishart, leader of the research section of Alberta Fish & Wildlife, thought that limited-entry ewe hunting seasons could lower the risk of pneumonia by keeping bighorn sheep herds at low density. With fewer sheep sharing the range, each sheep would have more food, be in good body condition and presumably more resistant to disease.

Little was known, however, about the consequences of shooting ewes on population dynamics. Therefore, a research project was started in 1971 at Ram Mountain, just southeast of Nordegg, to study the consequences of ewe removals on herd dynamics. A corral trap was built, sheep were caught and marked, and in September some ewes were removed and released elsewhere. In so doing, Bill initiated the longest-running ungulate study in North America based on monitoring marked individuals.

By 1976, all adult ewes in the herd were marked, and since then every sheep on Ram Mountain has been marked either as a lamb or as a yearling. Jon Jorgenson took over field logistic in 1978 and spent the following 10 summers trapping bighorns on the mountain. He has led the project for the past 24 years. After 1980 the population was allowed to grow, although ram hunting by Alberta resident continued, with 1-3 rams shot each year. In 1996, the minimum horn size of rams that could be legally harvested was increased from 4/5 curl to full curl.



Celine Berube (left) and Nathalie L'Heureux (right) measuring a young ram caught at Ram Mountain in 1992

Marco Festa-Bianchet joined the project in 1991, and has since supervised research by 10 graduate students and postdocs on this population. Over 1000 bighorns have been caught and marked. Collaborations with researchers in England, France and the USA have led to the development of new research on genetics, heritability and male reproductive success, the latter through DNA fingerprinting. The main focus, however, has remained population dynamics and the effects of alternative management strategies.

The lookout road was reclaimed in 1988. Reaching the Ram Mountain research camp now requires a 4-km quad ride and a 1-km walk. The rustic field facilities are used by a crew of 2 or 3 people in most years, that traps and observes bighorns from late May to early October.

We have learned a lot from the Ram Mountain sheep. Many aspects of bighorn management in Alberta and



Nancy McKenzie holding a lamb caught in 2001

elsewhere have been shaped by the results of this study. We now know that healthy, low-density sheep population can sustain harvests of over 10% of adult ewes when natural predation is low.

As density increased, the population showed many signs of increased competition for resources, including late age of primiparity, late births and increased lamb mortality. Ram body and horn growth were affected by population density much more than ewe growth. When resources are scarce, young ewes delay their first reproduction and concentrate on body growth, while rams don't have the same flexibility in allocating resources to either growth or reproduction. As a result, at high density sexual dimorphism is reduced, and many rams never reach "legal" horn size.

People have always assumed that large-horned rams were more successful breeders than small-horned ones. DNA fingerprinting of the Ram Mountain sheep has identified the fathers of most lambs born over the last few years. We found that horn size is correlated with reproductive success only for rams aged about 6 years and older. For younger rams, having large horns makes little difference to how many lambs they father, probably because they mate not by defending estrous ewes, but by using alternative, 'sneaky' mating tactics.

Because horn size is partly inheritable, these results suggest that a harvest policy based on a minimum horn curl may select for small-horned rams. A ram with fast-growing horns may reach 4/5-curl by 5 or even 4 years of age, and risk being shot before his horns could help him secure high reproductive success. A ram with slow-growing horns, on the other hand, may survive several rutting season with lowered competition as many of his potential competitors with larger horns will have been shot. Over the long term, this may select for small horns, exactly the opposite of the objectives of trophy hunting. Setting the minimum horn size at full curl rather than at 4/5-curl should partly remedy this problem.



Thanks to the continued support of those universities, government department and funding agencies that understand the value of long-term research for wildlife conservation, the study is set to continue. The Ram Mountain bighorn population is mostly isolated from other bighorns, but the study is not conducted in isolation: it is part of a network of study areas based on monitoring marked ungulates in Canada and Europe.

Two other study populations (bighorn sheep at Sheep River and mountain goats at Caw Ridge) are in Alberta, the others are in Italy and France and include studies of roe deer, ibex and chamois. As much as scientific discovery remains the main motivation for this work, as each season approaches one wonders who will be there: will 'Yellow checkers' have made it to 15 years, and will she have a lamb this year? We'll find out in late May. ✍

(Marco Festa-Bianchet: Département de biologie, Université de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Québec, J1K 2R1. Jon T. Jorgenson: Alberta Fish & Wildlife Division, Suite 201, 800 Railway Avenue, Canmore, Alberta T1P 1W1)

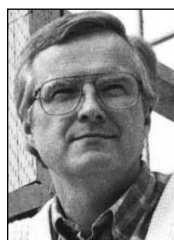
Talisman Brings Gas Wells to the North Porcupines

By Tamaini Snaith, AWA Conservation Specialist

Talisman has purchased the mineral rights to much of the Porcupine Hills in southwestern Alberta. They plan to drill two exploratory wells this spring. If they get a "hit" they may develop as many as 12 sweet gas wells. Pipelines, roads and assorted infrastructure will pop up across the landscape and jeopardize the natural values of the region.

The Porcupine Hills is among the AWA's longest-standing Areas of Concern. The area represents Alberta's Montane region, and provides critical habitat for a number of wildlife species.

We have been meeting with Talisman to discuss their plans for the area. We are waiting to see their Environmental Assessment before making our formal objection to the Energy and Utilities Board. ✍



Meridian Dam – It's Not Over Until the Wild River Sings

By Cliff Wallis

Once again we have stopped the Meridian Dam. Everyone should give themselves a hearty slap on the back. Congratulations are certainly due but don't pop the champagne corks yet. This was the easy work but the dam (sic) issue won't go away until we have legislated protection for the entire 100 km long stretch of the South Saskatchewan River Canyon from the Alberta-Saskatchewan border to the city of Medicine Hat. It is nationally significant, one of the deepest on the Canadian prairies, and a home for rare fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and plants. It is important for wintering deer, nesting birds of prey and overwintering snakes.

With this kind of impressive portfolio, it shouldn't be too hard to get protection—right? Wrong—the AWA has been working this issue for 25 years. There is hope—we are on the verge of getting a National Wildlife Area to protect most of the western side of the valley. The NWA has been delayed since designation has been hitched to the federal Species at Risk Act.

For the eastern side of the valley and the areas north and south of the Suffield Military Reserve, the AWA has proposed a "wild and scenic river" designation under the Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas (and soon, Heritage Rangelands) Act. Alberta has joined the Canadian Heritage Rivers Program.

In 1995, the Water Management Review Committee expressed its support: "The objectives of the Program are to recognize rivers having natural, cultural and/or recreational heritage values of national significance. The WMRC recommends that Alberta continue its commitment to this Program." Alberta's commitment has been weak, preferring to propose dams on nationally significant waterways rather than protect them.



South Saskatchewan Rapid Narrows

Instead of fighting every destructive scheme that Alberta proposes, the AWA has long advocated for protection. The lack of "wild river" legislation does not prevent us from getting one. There is a variety of protected areas legislation with enough flexibility to create regulations tailored to the protection of a wild and scenic river. There is one Ecological Reserve on the east side of the river. The new Heritage Rangelands category would likely find favor with local people who might otherwise be opposed to protection. It allows extensive use of the land, e.g. ranching, but regulations could protect the river from industrial use and the construction of instream structures such as dams and weirs.

Wild places like the South Saskatchewan Canyon are our "Crown Jewels". While residents of the big cities must play a big role, protection ultimately lies in the hands of a few local people. This is the hard work—the long, slow process of building trust in rural communities, something that the AWA has recently rededicated itself to. Fortunately, there is a small group of interested residents on both sides of the border. Working with them, I have no doubt that one day this wild river will sing with the joy that comes from the security of legal protection. ✍



Zero-Cow: Fundamentalism By Any Other Name

by Ernest Atencio

I am an environmentalist, there's no use denying it. Like a lot of us, I fit none of the worn-out stereotypes; I'm neither affluent nor urban, white nor from Back East. But I've got all the symptoms. Lately, though, I find myself hedging, making excuses, having to explain that I'm not one of "those" environmentalists.

It seems there's always a noisy handful of "those" environmentalists in the movement making the work harder for the rest of us. They frame complex environmental debates in terms of black-and-white, either-or, good-guy-versus-bad-guy choices. And then we all have to carry that baggage. They're good at perpetuating the tiresome politics of divisiveness, making enemies of those who might be allies, but they don't accomplish much else that I can see.



Eagle Lake, Strathmore, AB Area

A few years ago it was zero-cut. Then zero-immigration. Now it's zero-cow.

Anti-grazing activists got the issue onto a Sierra Club ballot mailed out last month. It asks 600,000-odd club members, "Shall the Sierra Club advocate ending all commercial livestock grazing on all federal publicly owned lands in the U.S.?"

This approach doesn't leave much room for dialogue. Zero-anything is an absolute, a no-compromise position, a declaration of war. Maybe I'm chronically naive, but I always believed environmentalism to be a progressive liberal movement – broad-minded, inclusive, socially conscious. But the dogmatic few, unwilling to consider any perspective but their own, are making it look like a good old-fashioned, conservative, fundamentalist movement.

I enjoy backpacking and mountaineering and recreating in the backcountry as much as anyone. I've been outraged, too, by some of the cow-burnt rangelands and ruined watersheds I've seen out there on public lands. There are plenty of good reasons Sierra Club members might vote yes to the current ballot question.

But simply throwing a one-size-fits-all blanket over the problem misses important distinctions between small-scale, sustainable, local ranching and the industrial, rapacious, corporate version. It ignores a lot of recent work showing that carefully managed grazing in the right places at the right times can help restore ailing ecosystems and biodiversity (honest). And it widens the unnecessary rift between rural, land-based communities and the environmental community.


The first question we should ask is, who is doing harm to the land? Is it that local guy who grazes a half-dozen cattle on the same piece of ground his ancestors have used for generations? Or is it the stockholder-owned megaranches with no accountability and no long-term stake in the health of the land?

And what do they mean by "commercial"? I agree we don't need to coddle those big corporate "Rolex" ranchers who are blatantly milking the system to pad already fat profits. But do "commercial" ranchers include some of my northern New Mexico neighbors who sell one or two beeves a year to help make ends meet, feed the family, pay their kids' college tuition?

Like all other wealth in our country, most of the cattle industry is controlled by a handful of rich individuals. According to the San Jose Mercury News, 10 percent of those holding grazing permits for BLM lands control 65 percent of the livestock on those lands. To the extent that public-lands ranching is subsidized, large corporations and millionaires, not small-scale local ranchers, benefit most. And it's the large operators who tend to do more damage to the land.

It is a common prejudice to believe that local people who make a living by grazing livestock or using other resources on public lands care less about those lands than environmentalists. I don't know a lot of ranchers, but most of those I do know have a wealth of ecological knowledge, a passionate connection to the land and some of the strongest environmental ethics around. But they are cast as the bad guys because they graze a few cattle on the national forest. It's unfair to keep those voices out of the dialogue, but it's also a loss to the diversity of the environmental community and a loss to the health of the land.

Of course, most ranchers I know cast environmentalists as the bad guys. Genuinely mystified, they wonder, "Who are those people and why would they want to make our lives harder?" And I hide my enviro bumper stickers. But it shouldn't be this way.

Healthy rural communities or healthy lands is not an either-or proposition. "You cannot save the land apart from the people or the people apart from the land," said Wendell Berry. "To save either, you must save both." But blind fundamentalism, of any stripe, won't help us save either. 

(Ernie Atencio is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a service of High Country News (www.hcn.org). He is the author of Of Land and Culture: Environmental Justice and Public Lands Ranching in Northern New Mexico, available from the Quivira Coalition in Santa Fe. He lives in Arroyo Hondo, New Mexico. This article is part of the High Country News, Writers on the Range Series, April 3, 2001.)



Golden Eagle Migration In The Rockies: The Big Picture Begins To Emerge

By Peter Sherrington

At 11:30 on March 20, 1993, in company with fellow AWA member Des Allen, I noted the first migratory Golden Eagle (although I didn't know it at the time) to be seen in the Mount Lorette area. At the end of the fall 2001 migration, 20 migration seasons, 1,515 field days and 14,448 days later we had recorded a staggering 69,677 migratory Golden Eagles out of a total of 84,280 migratory birds of prey.

These data have been gathered entirely by a small group of dedicated volunteers who in recent years have been spending an average of 11 hours a day at the Hay Meadow site by the Kananaskis River. We have endured temperatures ranging from -30 to +30C, wind gusts often exceeding 100 km/hour and every kind of precipitation imaginable. Why do we do this?

The Mount Lorette site conducts the only systematic daily count of migrant raptors in the whole of Western Canada and is one of only about ten such sites in western North America. It is also almost unique in the world in that we monitor the same migratory population in both spring and fall at the same location. As birds of prey, and especially eagles, are top predators in their ecosystems, studying their populations gives us information about changes in their habitats and threats to their (and ultimately to our) survival.

It is amazing now to think that before 1992 almost nothing was known about Golden Eagle migration in the mountains. Virtually all the existing data at this time supported the idea that birds moved through the foothills and the high plains between Calgary and the mountain front. It indicated that, perhaps, only a few hundred birds were involved, and that their migration period was short and involved mainly immature birds.

It was not generally recognized that the birds were undertaking true migrations, and it was believed that they were not moving great distances. An example of this is the Banff and Jasper Park Biophysical study of 1983 which records a maximum spring count of four birds and a fall count of nine. The reality is that at least 6,000 Golden Eagles pass twice a year through the two parks.

The first important thing our work has shown is how little we actually know about what exists in our wilderness areas. If we can miss something as spectacular as a flight of several thousand Golden Eagles, it is probable that we are missing a lot of other things as well.

The movement of eagles is a spectacular sight, but to me it is the patterns of the movement and what they tell me that keep me studying them. The birds use substantially the same route in the spring as they do in the fall, which is highly unusual for any population of migratory raptors anywhere in the world. We are also seeing a high percentage of the population (perhaps 50-70%) which means that observed changes in the population structure are highly significant.

We now know that migrating birds are passing the Mount Lorette site for up to seven months of the year. Spring migration starts in mid-February with the peak movement involving mainly adult birds occurring in the last three weeks of March. Movement continues to mid May (and sometimes almost to the end of May) involving a progressively higher percentage of immature birds.



Golden Eagle

In the fall, migration begins in late August or early September and continues well into December on most years. Peak movement is in October, and immature birds tend to move earlier than adults, although the separation is not as marked as it is in the spring. The median passage date for the species and for adult birds (the date on which 50% of the population has moved) in the spring averages 22 March.

The variance around this date is only 3.5 days on either side, which is remarkable considering the wide variety of weather conditions that have characterized the springs of the last nine years. The clear trend, however, is for the spring median to become earlier, and over a decade the birds appear to now be moving about three days earlier than they were in the early 1990's: yet another probable indicator of global warming.

To me the most satisfying and amazing part of the study is how closely the percentage of immature birds counted at Mount Lorette in the fall matches the fledging success of a population of about 80 pairs being studied by Carol McIntyre in Denali National Park, Alaska. This breeding population is about 3,000 kilometres to the northwest of Lorette and yet the correlation of the two data sets is almost perfect. This tells us a number of things.

Firstly, this is the first time that age statistics at a migration site has been correlated with a known breeding area so it demonstrates that such statistics mean something. Secondly it demonstrates the Denali population is absolutely typical of the total breeding area of the migratory population, which is probably the low Arctic high sub-arctic area between the Mackenzie River and the Bering Sea. It also shows that whatever is controlling breeding success is regional and must almost certainly involve food.

The trends of both data sets clearly show that breeding success steadily rose from 1993 to 1999. Oddly, during this



same period, the total numbers of migrants counted at Mount Lorette steadily declined, until the fall of 2000 when we counted a record passage of 4,753 birds. The pattern probably reflects the cyclicity of Golden Eagle prey species, mainly Snowshoe Hare and grouse/ptarmigan, and works something like this. As prey species increase they allow breeding birds to supplement staple food species such as Arctic Ground Squirrel, which means that more hatched birds fledge and survive to migrate. The increase also allows a slightly higher percentage of adult birds to winter and survive north of the Lorette site. When the prey diminishes, fledging success decreases and almost the entire population, both immatures and adults, has to move south to find winter food.

So where do the birds go in winter? Most of the adult population probably winters on the western Great Plains of the U.S. from southern Montana to northeastern Colorado. Most of the immature birds go further south, many wintering in northern Mexico and the Border States.

Carol has been conducting telemetry work on juvenile birds for several years now, and has demonstrated the full extent of the migration that I originally proposed in the early 1990's based on the dynamic of the movement at Mount Lorette. By comparing the ratios of immature and adult birds of south-bound migrants in the fall with the same birds returning the following spring, we can gauge how successful the birds have been in surviving the winter.

The data suggest that about 50% of juvenile birds do not survive their first winter, and that there appears to be an inverse

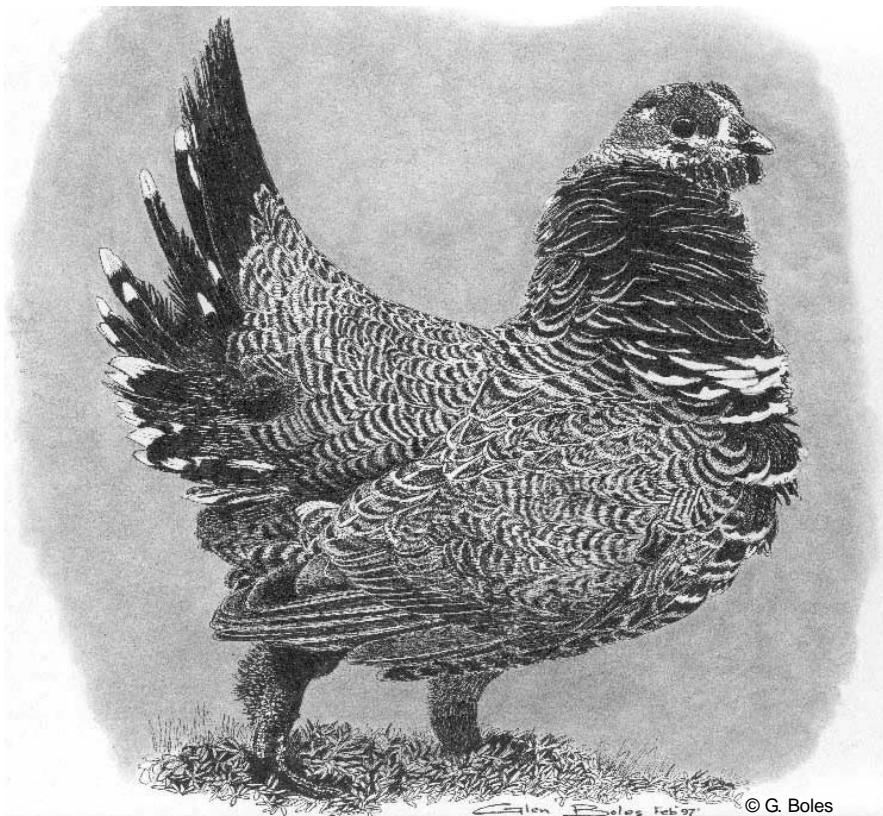
relationship between breeding success and wintering success. In other words it appears the more birds that are produced the fewer survive the winter. This tells us that there is a problem on the birds' winter range, which appears to be a stressed system. Whether this is because of hunting, pollution, habitat destruction or prey diminution we cannot tell. All we can do is to alert people to the existence of a likely problem.

What this does tell us is that by spending almost 200 days a year in a valley in southern Alberta, we can do accurate breeding analysis of the birds in the U.S and Canadian Arctic, and get insights into their winter survival ecology in northern Mexico and the southern States. It also, I hope, demonstrates the effectiveness and usefulness of long term studies.

I hope that people will be conducting complete raptor counts at the Mount Lorette site for many years to come, and the recent awarding of Federal charitable status to the Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation is a huge step towards making this a possibility. We are always looking for volunteers, both to assist at the counts and to work with fundraising or education programs. If you are interested please contact me through the AWA Calgary office.

The eagles have taught me a lot since I saw that first bird soaring over Mount Lorette in 1992. I hope that we will continue to learn from them. As long as they fly we have a future. ♀

(Peter Sherrington is President, Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation and Past President, AWA)



"I find it abhorrent. I find it inherently unfair to the animal. I just find it inhumane to have wild animals penned and people being allowed to shoot them."

*- Premier Ralph Klein,
in response to proposals for
penned hunting in Alberta,
April 2002.*



Profile: Artist Glen Boles

By Andy Marshall

Glen Boles approaches drawing and painting the same way he's reached the top of more than 510 peaks in the Canadian Rockies. Exquisite attention to detail, patience and a deep respect for the natural environment are the hallmarks of this 67-year-old man, still seeking to scale new heights in his art as well as in his mountain climbing.



Glen Boles

Whether the subject is a pen and ink drawing of a grizzly he's taken 70 hours to complete or his memories of an expedition up the steepest face of Mount Robson, he still speaks with simple awe and wonder.

"With all those wonderful things in nature, there has to be a greater power than us," he says in his Cochrane home, west of Calgary.

Short and wiry, with diffident smile, he invariably downplays his diverse achievements. "I've always been a little squirt. I've never been good at most things," he laughs. Later, more seriously, he says: "I've been blessed."

Chic Scott's 2000 book, *Pushing the Limits, The Story of Canadian Mountaineering*, calls him one of the most prolific climbers in the Canadian Rockies. "Glen is one of the most popular members of the climbing community," Scott writes. "A complete gentleman and unfailingly modest, he always has a smile and something positive to say."

Plaques commemorating his honorary memberships in the Calgary Mountain Club and the Alpine Club of Canada, plus several photography awards, crowd the walls of his study, along with a host of mountain and natural history books, including a handful of guiding books he's helped write and illustrate.

A mounted, full-size fire hydrant is a humorous reminder of his 35 years with the City of Calgary, more than half of them spent as a waterworks planner, designing water systems. When he

retired in 1991, he decided to devote more time to drawing, and, more recently, painting. This year's Cochrane Art Show, May 4 and 5, features two just-finished wildlife acrylics. He sells other work through stores in Cochrane, Canmore and Banff or through word-of-mouth, but "I'm not very good at marketing. I'd like to get into more stores."

With typical generosity, he's donated several works to groups including the Calgary Philharmonic, Trout Unlimited and Ski Friends. He's volunteered with the latter group for about 10 years, taking visitors on ski resort tours. An avid skier since coming to Alberta from his native New Brunswick in the early 1950s, he and his wife of 37 years, Liz, have also been very active volunteers in groups such as the Ski Patrol and the Premier Ski School, introducing inner-city kids to the joys of the winter sport.

"We used to climb and hike together and we still ski a lot," says the fit-looking Boles. As a further testimony to his and Liz's enduring harmony, they've sung together in the St. Andrew's, Cochrane, United Church choir for more than a decade.


In his younger days, the athletic Boles played a lot of hockey and soccer. One of his first trips out west was as a member of the N.B. championship curling team. He attributes his good fortune to his parents who both lived to age 92. As well as

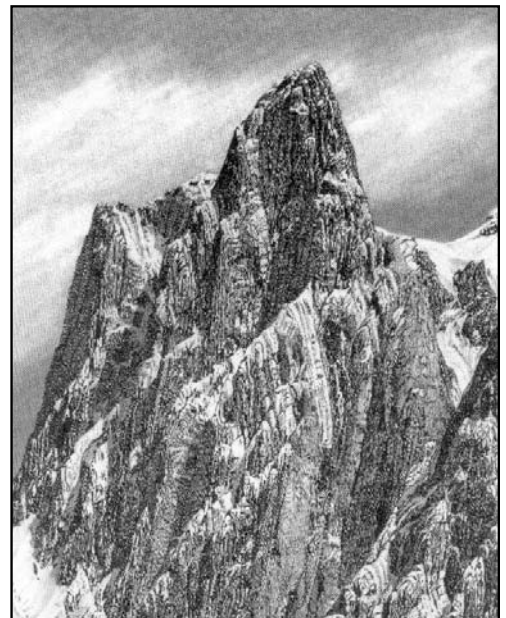
introducing him to hunting and fishing as a young child, his father was prominent in New Brunswick sports circles. Working as a dressmaker, his mother liked to paint.

Largely self-taught, Boles recalls drawing at an early age. After marrying Liz in 1965, he took up drawing again and "it kind of clicked. I really enjoyed it." His formal training was in surveying and drafting at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. But he has studied closely the work of artists like Robert Bateman. "I like something to look the way it is with lots of details," he explains of his numerous mountain and wildlife drawings.

His love for the visual and the outdoors has also sparked a prolific hobby in photography. Boles has a collection of more than 40,000 slides and 25,000 black and white negatives.

Despite growing concern about man's despoilment of the natural environment and the continuing loss of wildlife in Alberta through human encroachment, he still looks forward this summer to more climbing.

"I'm hooked on those mountains," he says. 



© G. Boles





SUMMER HIKES PROGRAM

All hikes are Day Hikes.
Cost: \$20:00 per hike
Pre-registration is required

Saturday June 8th 2002

The Whaleback

With Bob Blaxley

Saturday June 22nd 2002

Rumsey Natural Area

With Dorothy Dickson

Saturday June 29 2002

Porcupine Hills

With Vivian Pharis

Saturday, July 13 2002

Cypress Hills

With Hyland Armstrong

Saturday July 20 2002

Bighorn Wildland

With Doug Richie

Sunday July 28 2002

Plateau Mountain Ecological Reserve

With Dr. C.C.Chinnappa

Saturday August 17th 2002

Mount Lorette

With Peter Sherrington

Saturday August 31st 2002

The Beehive Natural Area

With Judy Huntley and James Tweedie

Saturday September 7th 2002

The Whaleback

With Bob Blaxley

Saturday September 21 2002

Galatea, Kananaskis

With Vivian Pharis

OPEN HOUSE PROGRAM

Edmonton:

Location: Strathcona Community League,
10139 87 Ave

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Cost: \$4.00 per person, children free

Note: **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Flight of the Golden Eagle:

The Big Picture Begins to Emerge

With Peter Sherrington

Wednesday, May 29th

Sour Gas and Clean Air

With Richard Secord

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FUN BINGO NIGHTS

Sunday June 30, 2002

Saturday September 14, 2002

Monday November 25, 2002

Contact Jillian Tamblyn (780) 988-5487, NAWA@qbiz.ca

Calgary:

Location: The Hillhurst Room,
AWA, 455 12th St NW

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

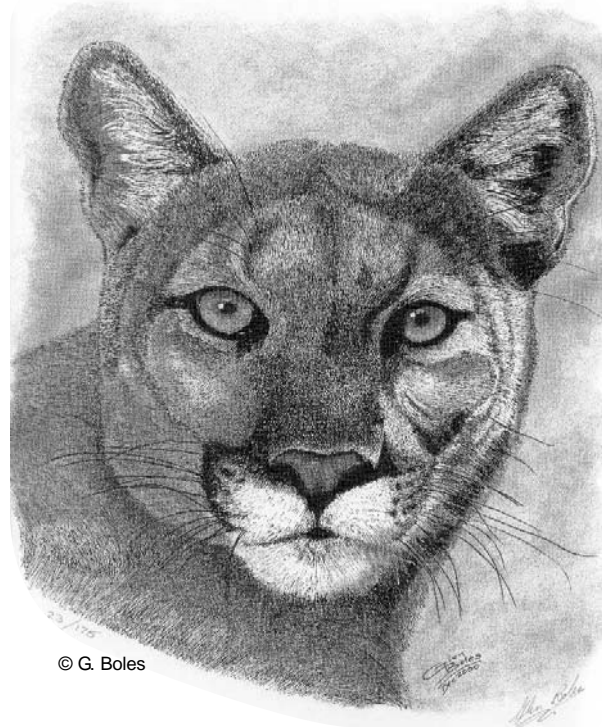
Cost: \$4:00 per person; children free

Contact: (403) 283-2025 for reservations

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Ranching and Wildlife: Can They Co-Exist?

With Hyland Armstrong



© G. Boles





ANNUAL SUMMER MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

*It's time to help us reach more Albertans!
AWA would like to increase our membership to expand our networks, raise awareness, and get more people involved in wilderness conservation in Alberta.*

WIN PRIZES!!!!

Any member who finds two new members will be entered into a draw.

Grand Prize: Weekend for two at Aurum Lodge*

Alberta's unique eco-tourism wilderness inn located in the Rocky Mountains adjacent to the Bighorn Wildland. Prizes will be drawn on July 20, 2002, Canada's Parks Day.

Have two of your friends become members
(make sure they mention your name when they sign up)
OR Purchase two gift memberships

Lifetime memberships cost \$25.00 (single) or \$30.00 (family).

*Thanks to Aurum Lodge for this very generous donation.
Prize includes two nights stay for two people in a standard room. Breakfast included. Subject to availability.

For all the latest news, check our website:



www.AlbertaWilderness.ca

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Editorial Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by the various authors in this publication are not necessarily those of the editors or the AWA. The editors reserve the right to edit, reject or withdraw articles submitted.

OTHER EVENTS:

Edmonton and Area:

Mountain Equipment Coop Presents

The 5th Annual Vancouver International Film Festival

Date: April 30, 2002
Location: Provincial Museum of Alberta, Edmonton
Time: Doors open at 6:30, Films start at 7:00 pm
Cost: \$10.00
Tickets available at MEC, 12328, 102 Ave., Edmonton

Films include:

- ❖ Slave to the River (Slave River Rapids)
- ❖ Dirt Divas (female mountain bikers)
- ❖ Do You Like Clam Chowder? (Skiing, climbing and kayaking in B.C.)



"Our quality of life, our health, and a healthy economy are totally dependent on Earth's biological diversity. We cannot replicate natural ecosystems. Protected areas are internationally recognized as the most efficient way to maintain biological diversity"

- Richard Thomas

The Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) is dedicated to protecting wildlands, wildlife and wild waters throughout Alberta. Your valued contribution will assist with all areas of the AWA's work. We offer the following categories for your donation. The Provincial Office of the AWA hosts wall plaques recognizing donors in the "Associate" or greater category. Please give generously to the conservation work of the AWA.

Alberta Wilderness Trust - an endowment fund established with The Calgary Foundation to support the long-term sustainability of the Alberta Wilderness Association. For further details, please contact our Calgary office (403) 283-2025.

Membership - Lifetime AWA Membership \$25 Single \$30 Family

Alberta Wilderness Association	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness Circle	\$2500 - \$5000
<input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropist	\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	_____

Alberta Wilderness Resource Centre	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> Partner	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	\$100



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I would like to donate \$ _____ monthly. Here is my credit card number OR my voided cheque for bank withdrawal. *I understand that monthly donations are processed on the 1st of the month (minimum of \$5 per month).*

The AWA respects the privacy of members. Lists are not sold or traded in any manner. The AWA is a federally registered charity and functions through member and donor support. Tax-deductible donations may be made to the Association at: Box 6398 Station D, Calgary, AB T2P 2E1. Telephone (403) 283-2025 Fax (403) 270-2743 E-mail a.w.a@shaw.ca Website http://www.AlbertaWilderness.ca



"Thrill of a Lifetime" Raffle

You and a friend will go riding on the range with singer/songwriter Ian Tyson in June 2003. Gourmet Lunch Included

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- Winner releases AWA and its agents and assumes all risks related to the prize

TICKETS: \$10.00 Each
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