



TRAPPERS EAGER TO SNARE TRAPLINE ABUSERS

By Andy Marshall



Andy Marshall

Alberta trappers want to put a leghold on people abusing trapline licenses to build upscale cabins as private getaways and to bring in non-trappers on off-highway vehicles to wilderness areas they wouldn't otherwise have legitimate access to.

At the same time, though, they have asked the province to allow trapping experience programs for cash-starved trappers so they can take visitors onto their lines in a form of eco-tourism that some conservationists worry could open the door to more abuse.

"It's certainly not our intention under the trapping concept to have a bunch of people use it as a recreational activity," says Alberta Trappers Association education co-ordinator Fred Neumann.

Nevertheless, he notes, "under the guise of trapping, they've been able to get in there to build these cabins, and they are far more elaborate than they need to be . . . we don't like to see those big lodges out there."

The problem is more pronounced in the foothills and in areas where recreational opportunities are most desirable. The answer, Neumann says, is stricter enforcement of provincial trapping policies that limit the size of a primary cabin on a trapline to 24 feet x 24 feet. The policies allow other outpost cabins of up to 16 feet x 12 feet on lines.

Bruce Treichel, a spokesman with the fish and wildlife division of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, which administers trapping in the province, says the department continues to work with the association "to review situations where the guidelines are not being followed."

He adds: "What people are supposed to be doing is trapping, not quading, skidooing and hunting or whatever out at those cabins."

Alberta Wilderness Association director Vivian Pharis, whose father once maintained lines in the proud tradition of Canadian trapping, points to growing evidence of fairly luxurious cabins, particularly in the Bighorn wilderness area, in central-west Alberta. "It looks like people have set up cabins for the exclusive use of a smart set of people who have cottoned onto this idea of using Crown land not usually available to the public for cabin building," says Pharis.

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A trapper's cabin in the Bighorn, Summer 2002

V. Pharis



A hiker provided a first-hand description of a cabin he came across in the Willmore area with green metal-clad exterior, window louvres, built-in-sink, curtains, throw rugs, and, most telling of all, a guest book for comments.

Steven Haupt, who runs a line on 109 square miles west of Rocky Mountain House, says his brother has stayed at a trapper-built lodge west of Ram Falls with power and running water. "It was quite a bit beyond what a trapper's cabin is supposed to be."

The \$50,000 estimated value of a trapper's cabin that burned down north of Nordegg offers a further sign of the elaborateness of some cabins.

Brian Bildson, with a 350-square-mile line running from Grande Cache to the British Columbia border in northwest Alberta, believes the concern over fancy cabins "sounds like a localized problem in the south. What you consider luxurious, I might look at as being very functional because I live out there in the wintertime."

Another measure the trappers' association hopes will limit abuses is the introduction of licensing for so-called junior partners, whom licence holders can hire to help them with their lines. Currently junior partners do not require a trapping licence, and there is no limit to the number of junior partners a trapper may bring onto a line.

"We have a resolution from the association for this so we would know exactly the number of people involved. It would be documented," says Neumann. Treichel confirms that the department is studying the possibility of re-instating junior licences.

Despite unconfirmed reports of up to 50 junior partners on a line, Neumann and other trappers say they have never heard of more than 15, and the vast majority of trappers with multiple partners have no more than three.

"The number is based on the management of the trapline," says Neumann. "We don't want 15 people using it as a recreation area."

But Pharis worries the no-upper-restriction policy still results in people driving off-highway-vehicles to areas that are otherwise off-limits to these machines. "I don't want to go after legitimate trappers," she says. "I just don't want to see abuses happen."

Regarding the off-highway-vehicle concerns, Treichel points out that trapping and vehicle use is prohibited in fully protected areas such as the White Goat Wilderness Area. In protected areas, where trapping is permitted, the use of vehicles is restricted by permit to specified periods (i.e., the trapping season) or for specified purposes (i.e., routine maintenance of trapper cabins located inside the park or protected area), he explains.

Pharis is also wary of the association proposal to the government for trapping experience programs to visitors. "It certainly sounds like it could be exploited."

An account in the most recent *Alberta Trapper* magazine says contact was made with a tour operator, representing 190 travel agencies, to determine the potential demand for the trapping experience. "Their interest was very keen and (they) believe, once organized as an allowable activity, a strong response from clients will occur," according to the report.

Neumann's response is that the association would be surprised if more than 100 trappers pursued the idea. "It needs to be structured," he says. "I imagine it would be limited to about two people per trapper," he adds, noting the notion of upper limits has not been discussed with the province. "Trappers want to maintain a focus on catching animals for fur, not for other purposes . . . for recreation."

Treichel says, "The department supports this concept in principle, but a final decision has not been made." On the question of upper limits, he adds, "That's something that has to be worked out."

Meanwhile, Pharis wonders whether minimum trapping activities should be spelled out to determine legitimate trappers. Bildson, who has trapped since he was 17, agrees "there should be some evidence the line is being worked on."

Despite a long and rich history stretching back in Aboriginal culture and, more recently, to the early settlement of the Europeans in Canada, trapping faces challenging times today.

Trappers in Alberta either hold registered licences for fur management areas, varying in size from 36 square miles to 720 square miles and mostly on Crown land, or they work as resident trappers on private land. Alberta has about 1,600 registered trappers and almost 700 resident trappers. (The statistics do not include all Metis or Aboriginal trappers.)

The total value of furs produced in 2001-2002 was \$2.2 million, an average of well less than \$1,000 per licence and confirming a declining trend during the 1990s. But some trappers still longingly recall better times, going back to as recently as 1979-1980 when fur production hit a whopping \$15.6 million.

The fur industry goes in cycles, explains Neumann, and still hopes for a comeback. The introduction in the past 10 years of international standards for more humane trapping devices has sought to counteract the heartless image of trapping across the world and the growing disinclination of consumers to buy or wear fur products.

Trappers have also tried to promote their image as conservationists whose interests are very much tied to helping maintain healthy populations of the animals they catch. "We are another set of eyes out in the bush," says Neumann. Although figures are kept on all animals trapped, some trappers worry; however, the province has very little data on overall animal populations.

The season for trapping animals lasts for varying periods



Inside the green and purple trapper's cabin

V. Pharis

beginning in the fall to late spring, depending on when the fur is at its best. Beaver and coyotes have traditionally been the biggest money-makers.

A blow to Alberta trappers was the closure of the Edmonton Fur Auction almost a decade ago. Today furs are sold through three Canadian auction houses, the largest being the North American Fur Auctions in Toronto. The largest markets for furs are in the U.S., Europe — particularly Mediterranean countries — China and Korea, says Neumann.

Another sore point for trappers is the constant disruption from the logging and energy industries. Although the trappers' association is working hard to establish a fair compensation program for affected trappers, anger prevails.



A trapper's cabin in the Bighorn painted green and purple, Summer 2002

The oil and gas industry fragments the habitat, says Bildson. Then the logging companies move in and harvest. "We don't just lose our lines for a year, but we may lose them for the rest of our career," warns Bildson who became so frustrated with "the onslaught of industry" in a licensed area he had in the Kakwa area, he gave up his licence there altogether.

"The industry has minimalized the rights of the trapper," he says.

Haupt, meanwhile, with his Bighorn licence, is "tired of going out every winter having to move my traps because of loggers. They wiped everything out, in every direction."

Once the industry moves in with seismic lines and logging roads, a mass of all-terrain-vehicle (ATV) users is not far behind.

Despite the frustrations, most trappers still treasure the positive experiences.

"The ability to be outdoors and see Mother Nature at its best . . . it's eye-opening and humbling," says Debbie Schroderus from Leslieville, near Rocky Mountain House, and the holder of a resident trapping licence. "Mother Nature can be gentle and then, in the next breath, deadly."

Describing herself as a former city slicker from Saskatchewan who married a trapper, Schroderus now is pleased to be able to take her 22-year-old daughter out on the line.

But, echoing the abuses of access to wilderness areas cited earlier, she adds: "There's a lot of people sneaking in there who have no business being there." ❧

ALBERTA 2001-2002 FUR PRODUCTION

Species	Number of Pelts	Mean price per Pelt	Total \$ Value	
Badger	133	30.83	4,100.30	Number of Registered Trappers 1,591
Beaver	19,513	24.94	486,654.20	Number of Resident Trappers 662
Black Bear	64	136.45	8,732.8	Number of Matis and Indian Licences
Bobcat	11	239.03	2,629.30	(Settlements and Reserves only) 78
Coyote	21,321	39.84	849,428.60	Total Licensed Trappers 2,331
Fisher	1,535	45.00	69,075.00	
Fox - Silver	8	28.85	230.80	
- Cross	47	42.48	1,996.50	
- Red	1,674	39.73	66,508.00	
Lynx	1,667	126.76	211,308.90	
Marten	4,549	56.4	256,563.60	
Mink	600	19.07	11,442.00	
Muskrat	8,021	2.73	21,897.30	
Otter	226	155.16	35,066.10	
Raccoon	39	18.77	732.00	
Skunk	25	6.99	174.70	
Squirrel	39,059	2.15	83,976.80	
Weasel (Ermine)	1,505	5.31	7,991.50	
Wolf	246	113.51	27,923.40	
Wolverine	19	255.85	4,861.10	
Total			2,151,292.90	

Source: Fish and Wildlife Division



FIDDLING WHILE ALBERTA BURNS

by Don H. Meredith

We live in peculiar times. Despite the fact we are in a so-called “information age” and have access to more knowledge than any other generation in history, many of us refuse to acknowledge, let alone investigate, information that is freely available to help us make crucial decisions. Indeed, there appears to be a movement afoot to discredit the value of science and scientists whose job it is to provide us with reliable information on which to base decisions.

A good example is our own provincial government refusing to accept the reality of global warming, despite the overwhelming evidence of its occurrence. Just look around you at all the massive changes to our climate and weather that have occurred over the last few years and try to convince yourself otherwise. The unprecedented number of destructive forest fires and storms, and record-breaking droughts are just some of the local phenomena we observe, let alone what’s going on around the world. The scientific evidence that our ever increasing use of fossil fuels is at least playing a significant role in these changes is very persuasive.

Yet, our government chooses to “cherry pick” its information, only believing those who hold to its own archaic ideology about the relationship of the economy to the environment. They choose to ignore the significant evidence presented by mainstream scientists, who have actually studied the phenomenon and had their results and conclusions reviewed by their peers from around the world.

But I digress. The decisions of the Alberta government with regard to world climate change will have the effect of a small drop in a very large bucket. Most governments around the globe realize the importance of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change and are seeking to ratify it. By not striving for an agreement with our federal government on how the accord might be accomplished, Alberta will once again be marginalized as part of the problem and not the solution, and many opportunities for economic diversification will be lost.

What’s more important is that this reaction to the information on climate change is but one example of this government’s dislike and distrust of science, especially science that doesn’t fit its view of the world. Another example is the Minister of Sustainable Resource Development ignoring scientific studies regarding the use of barbless hooks and the collapsed state of the walleye fishery in Calling Lake. His decisions to ban barbed hooks by 2004 and allow the harvesting of walleye from a collapsed population were political and based on no science whatsoever. Indeed, ample scientific studies in both cases clearly indicated that opposite decisions should have been made. In the case of the Calling Lake walleye, the political interference may set a precedent that threatens the very existence of many fisheries across the province.

Ultimately, all policy decisions are political, and in a democracy it is indeed the right of an elected Minister and his government to make them. But shouldn’t they do so with the best information available? Our government doesn’t think so. It appears to believe decisions should only be made with whatever information supports what they believe will get them elected, however suspect that information might be. That’s unfortunate because it indicates a real lack of political leadership in this province.

Not since Lougheed have we seen any real leadership that includes an actual vision of where this province should be going in the real world. Our current premier’s biggest claim to fame is the

balancing of the budget and the reduction of the debt. Those were laudable goals, especially when Klein first took office, and he and his government have accomplished a lot in meeting them. But aren’t they the bare minimum any government should accomplish?


All Klein and his government can say about a “vision” is that a balanced budget and reduced debt will keep taxes low, entice industry to the province and provide jobs for a growing population. Agreed, but what kind of Alberta does that population want for itself and its children and grandchildren? Is it one with clean air, water and food, and ample opportunity to escape our ever increasing urban sprawl and enjoy some wild places with wild plants and animals? Apparently not! This government seems willing to sacrifice those long-term values for its more expedient short-term goals.

Don’t believe me? Look at what has happened to the Fish and Wildlife Division over the years since Klein took office as Premier. Under Lougheed and Getty, the division played a key role in ensuring that new development was done with reference to fish and wildlife conservation so that the long term values of Alberta’s heritage would be conserved while the economy was developed. With each new budget under Klein, the division’s funding was systematically reduced, which included the reduction of staff in the field to do the necessary work. As well, the government privatized the trust fund set aside to conserve fish and wildlife, and reduced its impact by requiring the fund’s administration be paid out of fishing and hunting licence fees.

In other words, the Klein government effectively emasculated the work of the division and its supporters, getting it out of the way of a fast rising economy. Now, the Fish and Wildlife Division is a mere shell of what it once was. Ministers can easily ignore what little work is being done, and dismiss the overworked and too-few-and-far-between experts in the field. Now, Albertans must lean more and more on the federal government through its Fisheries and Endangered Species acts to do what the provincial government fails to do to protect our Alberta heritage. Now that’s irony.

I guess we really can’t blame Ralph Klein for this leadership vacuum. He was elected by us to do just what he’s doing. But what I can’t understand is how Klein and his gang see how history will treat their administration. Will he be known as the premier that oversaw the development of his province while protecting the health of the population and its environment and natural heritage?

Hardly. If he steps down tomorrow, he will be just another “also ran” in the history books — hardly a footnote, except to chronicle the opportunities lost. Anyone can balance a budget and reduce debt in a booming economy. There’s no rocket science there.

A real leader would have taken the opportunity provided to develop the province with regard to its future — a future that includes clean air, water and food, and ample wild spaces in which people can re-create themselves and come to understand that life doesn’t just revolve around balanced budgets. Life revolves around our necessary relationships with the natural world. If we ignore the science that explains those relationships and how they might be preserved, we risk the long-term prosperity this province is so capable of providing. 

(This article was republished with permission of the author. It was first published in the July/August 2002 Alberta Outdoorsmen.)



ALBERTA WILDERNESS WATCH

BIGHORN PLANS RELEASED BY SRD

By Tamaini Snaith, AWA Conservation Biologist



The Alberta government has released its plans for the Bighorn. The area is now officially called the “Bighorn Backcountry” (Map 1) and extends beyond the Bighorn Wildland (Map 2) to the edges of the Forest Management Agreements (the government has to stop there because the forestry companies are responsible for managing the area under their FMAs).

Essentially, the government has created a series of Forest Land Use Zones (FLUZ) that cover the entire area. A FLUZ is a flexible legislative tool that can be used to regulate access. In the past, FLUZs have been applied to allow regulated access for motorized recreation (as in the Castle) or to prohibit motorized recreation (as in the four pre-existing FLUZs in the Bighorn).

Previously, the area was covered by the Eastern Slopes Policy, and fell into Prime Protection, Critical Wildlife and Multiple Use Zones. According to the policy, motorized recreation is prohibited in the Prime Protection Zone and allowed in Critical Wildlife and Multiple Use. There were also four FLUZs that prohibited motorized recreation. Effectively, the combination of these rules gave the area known as the Bighorn Wildland protection from ATVs and snowmobiles, and protected most of the Wildland from industrial development (Map 3).

Under the current plans, there are now six FLUZs, which in many cases override both the Eastern Slopes Policy and the previous FLUZ legislation (Map 1). Starting at the southern end of the Bighorn, the new Dormer Sheep FLUZ falls within Prime Protection Zone, and thus there should be no access for motorized recreation. However, the new regulations have created numerous all-season designated trails for ATVs and snowmobiles.

The Panther Corners FLUZ also falls within Prime Protection Zone and a pre-existing FLUZ. There have been no changes to the regulations in this popular equestrian destination. Motorized recreation is prohibited.

The Upper Clearwater/Ram FLUZ covers the previous Upper Clearwater FLUZ north to Abraham Lake. This area also falls under Prime Protection Zone. The new FLUZ has created a series of trails for motorized recreation, along with three random sledding areas, where there are no trail restrictions. These trails not only contravene the Eastern Slopes Policy, but also the previous FLUZ legislation, which did not designate trails in this area.

The Scalp Creek trail crosses important elk and sheep wintering range, two of the random sledding areas are on the boundary of Banff National Park, and the other is in critical year-round habitat for bighorn sheep. These designations will likely have a negative effect on the wildlife populations in the area. In addition, the Scalp Creek trail was not presented as an option to the public and was not discussed by the advisory group.

The Job/Cline FLUZ subsumes the previous Job Lake FLUZ and covers the area north of Abraham Lake. Again, there

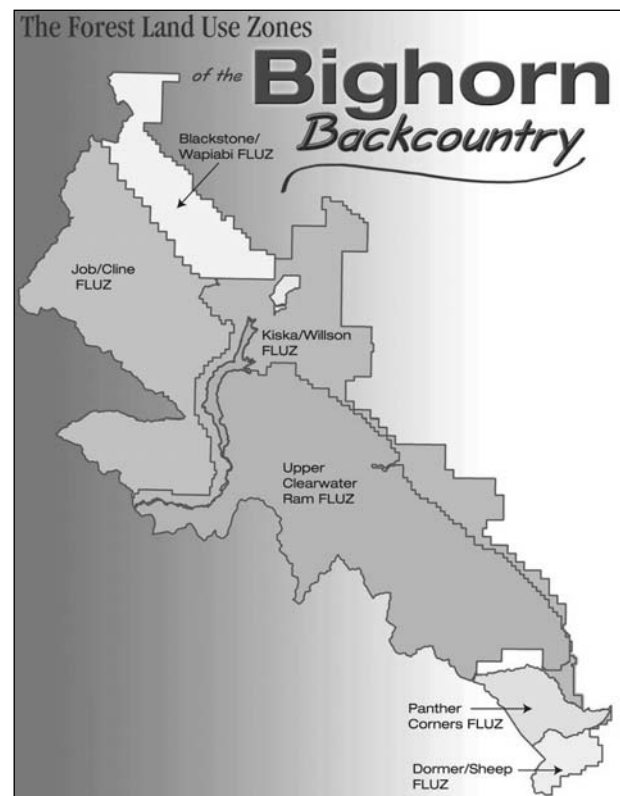
are designated trails and random sledding areas inside what was formerly protected as Prime Protection Zone, and cross areas of habitat critical to mountain goat, a species under continual stress from habitat reduction.

The Blackstone-Wapiabi FLUZ remains as it was and prohibits motorized recreation. Industrial development, however, is allowed in this FLUZ, and subsurface leases have already been sold. There is little in the plan regarding operating restrictions for industry in this area. The AWA will continue to work toward a solution that will prevent any surface disturbance in this area.

The Kiska-Wilson FLUZ extends along the eastern edge of the area and falls within the Multiple Use Zone of the Eastern Slopes Policy. Motorized recreation is allowed in the Multiple Use Zone. The AWA supports the creation of designated trails in this area.

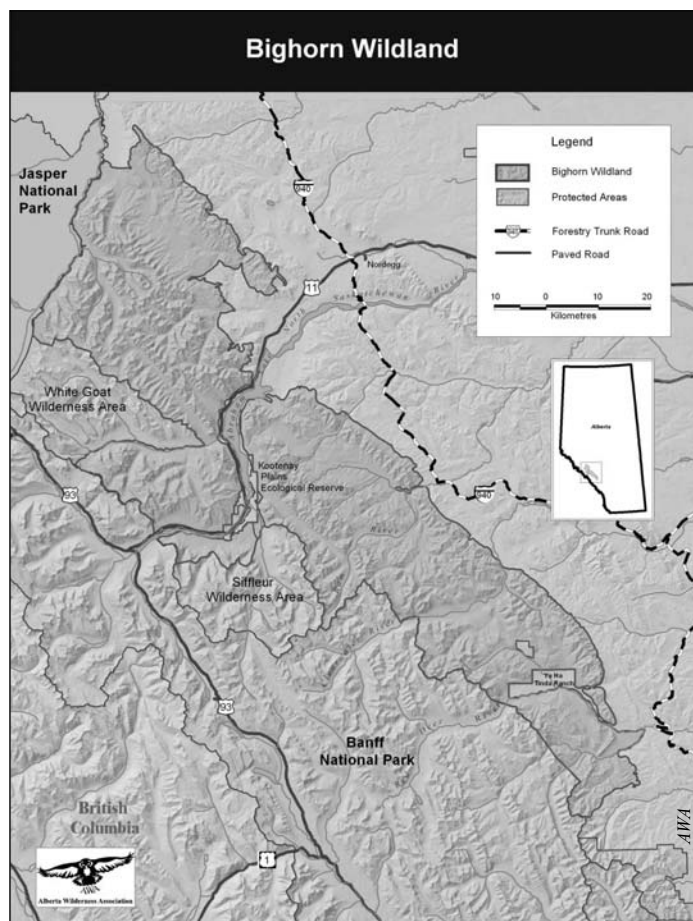
With all these complicated trail designations and seasonal restrictions, it is hard to imagine how the “rules” will be enforced. The plan indicates that signage, education and field enforcement will be part of the plan, but provides little detail regarding how this will be accomplished.

The government is insisting that the new plan is consistent with the Eastern Slopes Policy and Integrated Resource Plans. In our opinion and interpretation of these documents, this is not true. The intent of the Prime Protection Zone is clearly being

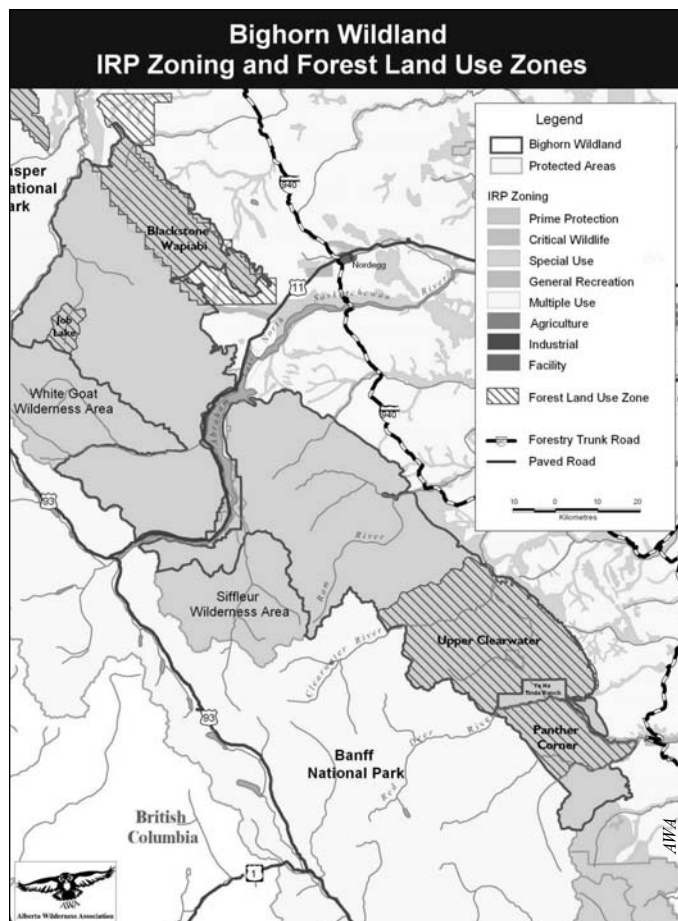


Map 1: The Forest Land Use Zones of the Bighorn Backcountry, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development





Map 2: Bighorn Wildland topographic map



Map 3: Bighorn Wildland IRP Zoning and Forest Land Use Zones

violated and superseded by these new plans, and the values of watershed, wildlife and aesthetic resources that the Policy was created to protect are being put at risk.

The government is also insisting that this plan is “balanced” and is based on seven months of public consultation. This is false and deliberately misleading. It is not balanced. The original policy was supposed to be balanced. The Prime Protection Zone was the conservation “piece of pie,” and all users and stakeholders got their own pieces. The nature of conservation is that our piece of pie will last forever. But now that the other pieces are gone, they think it would be balanced to go ahead and take some of ours.

As for seven months of public consultation, there was an advisory group that had five or six meetings over a period of seven months. The meetings were a sham and loaded with gov-

ernment bureaucrats and industry representatives. Discussion was neither open nor transparent. There was one day of public consultation and a very confusing and biased survey that yielded un-interpretable results.

Where do we go from here? We continue to demand effective protection for the area. We write to our MLAs and Ralph Klein and ask for the immediate designation of the Bighorn Wildland as promised in 1986. Yes, there are now trails for quads in the area, but we want the Wildland designation anyway. We want a complete management plan that includes accountability for monitoring recreational use and closing trails if they are damaging wilderness values. We want the Bighorn Wildland intact, forever.

(For maps of the new plan see www.bighorn.gov.ab.ca)

Correction:

In the last issue of the *Wild Lands Advocate* on page 2 in the article on public consultation it was stated that “...with the government expected to reverse its Eastern Slopes protection policies and allow drilling by Murphy Oil in the critical wildlife habitat zone of Blackstone-Wapiabi...” In fact, under the Eastern Slopes Policy, oil and gas drilling is allowed in Critical Wildlife Areas. However, AWA is opposed to any industrial activity in this area due to the high ecological values of this unfragmented valley, and because the area falls within the Bighorn Wildland Recreation Area that was promised legislation in 1986 by the Alberta government.



NO PARK, OR ELK, IS AN ISLAND

By Mark Hebblewhite



The hastily scribbled notes in my field notebook on May 20 said, “the elk seem to be getting a little more restless, I hope they’ll migrate soon.” Little did I anticipate just how rapidly things would change for me in the next few weeks as I scrambled to follow them from their traditional winter range at the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch just outside Banff National Park (BNP) through the front and main ranges deep into the park.

I had been studying elk on their winter range at the Ya Ha Tinda ranch as part of my PhD research on elk at the University of Alberta. After seven years of studying wolves, my interest in wolves had drawn me down the food chain to elk. After all, wolves have it easy — all they have to do is find elk, while elk have to find their own food AND avoid wolves. My desire to find out what made elk tick had led me to Ya Ha Tinda, and in the past winter, I had radiocollared 40 adult female elk.

During the previous winter, they had revealed their love of rare rough fescue grasslands, straying little from the 20 km² of grasslands on the Ranch. After studying wolves, the fact that they moved so little during winter and that these grasslands could sustain 1,200 elk astounded me! In few other places in Alberta can such herds still be seen, and the Ya Ha Tinda is one of the most pristine rough fescue grasslands left in Alberta.

May had been a long, drawn-out, and miserable extension of an already harsh winter for these elk. By the third late season

After years of navel gazing at the problems eating away at BNP from the inside, the Ecological Integrity Panel report had shaken things, urging park managers to look outwards for problems and solutions. Furthermore, provincial biologists documented declines in elk since the mid-1990s at the Ranch. As one of the province’s most important elk hunting areas, which provides a strong economic, and largely sustainable, backbone to the region’s economy, provincial biologists were concerned.

Taking this perspective, it is easy to see why Ya Ha Tinda is critically important to both BNP and to the province. With reduced elk populations in the Bow Valley, migratory elk from the Ya Ha Tinda may now constitute approximately 70 per cent of the elk in BNP. Elk provide the prey base for a wide and diverse array of rare carnivores, including wolves and grizzly bears, in BNP, and for the human hunters who love elk in the fall. Research by colleague Dr. Carolyn Callaghan revealed that the Ya Ha Tinda area held the key to maintaining viable populations of wolves in the Central Rockies Ecosystem. However, since the 1930s, when the Ya Ha Tinda was excised from BNP, park managers had waved goodbye to the elk every fall as they migrated back to the provincial lands, hoping they’d come back.

By the late 1990s park managers realized that less and less elk seemed to be returning to the Park each year, and provincial biologists noted increased grazing pressure on the ranch by fewer elk because it seemed more and more elk were not migrating into BNP each year. However, I was starting to doubt the elk would ever leave. In six months, not one elk had even



Elk on winter range at Ya Ha Tinda Ranch

dump of over a foot of snow, the elk herds resembled the walking dead, shuffling listlessly through the dismal surroundings, cratering half-heartedly at the snow to get at what meager grass remained. I noticed a few of the elk looking westwards toward Banff with longing in their eyes, perhaps dreaming of sweet tall alpine grasses, but in the wintry May, I had no idea of what would happen, and how quickly.

Dr. Luigi Mortantini’s research in the late seventies at the Ya Ha Tinda had revealed that elk migrated as far west as Lake Louise. However, few people in Banff seemed aware of elk migrating from the Ranch. After seeing *Cervus elaphus lawnornamenti* in Banff, it seemed far-fetched to imagine such elk migration. Furthermore, few ever saw elk in the Lake Louise backcountry, and this left some park biologists betting that the migrations were a thing of the past.

Indeed, it was this concern that had prompted my research.

crossed the park boundary, content to stay on the ranch all winter. So it was with a sense of hope that I detected those first wistful looks by elk towards the Park in May. After the first few warm days, the doors opened like a flood. Suddenly, the predictable elk were moving all over the place! On May 27, a herd of 400 elk bee-lined 12 km overnight to the Park boundary and had come half way back, apparently disillusioned by all the snow. However, by May 29 we observed 100 elk roll into the pasture of the first warden cabin 12 km inside the park just after dinnertime, with several collared elk in tow! Migration was officially happening!

Getting up early the next morning, I was puzzled; our telemetry receiver drew a blank — no signals from elk anywhere. Spending the day hiking in search of the elk revealed no signals, only tracks westward bound. Frantic that I was missing something big, I would spend the next three weeks in a frenzy



trying to keep up with these elk on foot, on horseback, and by plane.

What I found on those first few flights was elk frustration!! Frustration because they would not stand still! One day here, the next day 20 km away, and many elk seemed just as likely to be back at the Ranch the next day as further west, apparently disappointed by the deep blanket of snow awaiting them. Searches east of the deep snow continued to draw a blank. Following a hunch, I turned the plane west near the end of a telemetry flight in late June.

As I rounded the still snow-clad slopes of Mt. Hector above the Icefields Parkway, I heard that telltale beeping from the receiver — Elk 102! If I hadn't been buckled in for safety, I would have jumped for joy! After two weeks I had found them, and within the hour I had located nine collared elk and seen 100 uncollared elk high in alpine basins, bowls, and avalanche paths pushing the snowline, following that rich flush of new spring growth.

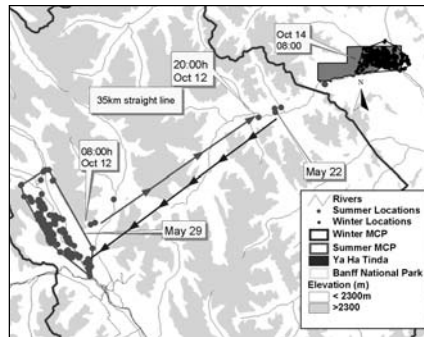
For the next three months these elk would establish home ranges behind the Lake Louise ski hill, on the Lake O'Hara fire road in British Columbia, at Hector Lake, and even at Bow Summit, an average 65 km straight-line distance from the Ranch. Speaking with locals in Lake Louise, some were incredulous: "There's no elk up there!" "Really! All the way from the Ranch?" some had asked. Fieldwork showed that this was no recent phenomenon. On July 15, I prepared for what I imagined would be a heinous bushwhack to reach some vegetation plots near the elk on the west end of Hector Lake.

Instead, I was astounded to find elk game trails, highways in fact, running the whole way to lush avalanche paths — the trails were so worn that you could almost ride a horse down them. These elk were following the same traditional paths they had followed during Luigi's research two decades earlier, and from even earlier times. Somehow they had quietly escaped attention by the thousands of tourists and park staff alike on the nearby busy Icefields Parkway.

By the end of September, I was wondering when the elk would return to the ranch. Would some of them stay for the winter in the Bow Valley? How long would it take them to return? Luckily, I had deployed a few GPS collars on elk. Storing the locations on board, the collar collects GPS locations itself, and then I retrieve the collar when the elk returns to the ranch. Elk 193 had been the only one of three GPS collars that had migrated to the Bow Valley; one GPS elk stayed at the Ranch all summer, and another elk, migrating west, got jumped by a grizzly just inside BNP and was killed. Incidentally, this would be one of two collared elk killed by grizzlies this summer, highlighting the diversity of mortality causes for elk besides the usual suspect, wolves.

These grizzly kills also showed the importance of elk migration to take elk-sized meat packages west to the grizzlies. When Elk 193 showed up at the Ranch after heavy snowfalls in October, I was anxious to find out how long she took to get there. From ground telemetry I knew she was still on her summer range on Oct 1. Had it taken her two weeks to migrate back?

After downloading the data from the collar, I was astounded! She had taken less than two days to cover the straight-line



Seasonal home range and movement of GPS collared Elk 193 in and near Banff National Park, March 2002 to November 2002

distance of 65 km back to the Ranch, covering the bulk of it, 35 km straight-line, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on October 12. When they decide to move, they really set their minds to it.


Now that all the elk have returned to the Ranch for the winter, I've settled back to a more sedentary life myself, pouring over data and asking myself, what does all this mean? Clearly, these elk are not Park elk, or provincial elk — to call them one or the other draws the same artificial distinctions we do when we draw lines on a map and call one side a park. Therefore, elk

management should be cooperative and harmonized across park boundaries.

Furthermore, human activities as far away as the Icefields Parkway affect hunters' experiences at the Ya Ha Tinda in the fall — the connections between them flow through the paths of the migrating elk, and thus, hunters and tourists packed in buses alike are linked together. Similarly, for natural predators such as wolves and grizzlies, conservation of elk is critical for their long-term viability. The paths of the elk had shown me that these connections between Park and province were vital to conserve and understand.

What might threaten these connections is one of the underlying questions driving my research. If more and more elk forego migration, this could have dire consequences for these traditional flows of elk-energy westwards into the Park. Moreover, more elk staying on the Ranch during the summer might lead to overgrazing and a decrease in the overall carrying capacity of the Ranch during winters. Paradoxically, by remaining at the Ranch, the overall numbers of elk at the Ranch may decrease. Thus, it is in the interest of both hunters and elk enthusiasts at the Ranch, and those 70 km away in BNP, to maintain this migratory behaviour.

Recent land use changes in Alberta's foothills and mountain regions are not news to anyone. Increased forestry, oil and gas exploration, and recreation all have the potential to affect the migratory elk at Ya Ha Tinda and, through these migratory connections, all of BNP. Recent fires complicate the picture, with extensive prescribed burning in the Park in the last decade recently complemented by the large Dogrib fire that burned from just south of the Ranch across the Ranch road for approximately 15,000 ha in October 2001.

How will these burns and subsequent salvage logging affect elk? Will they improve elk habitat? Change the distribution of elk? Finally, the Bighorn access management plan has actually reduced motorized vehicle access around Ya Ha Tinda substantially in the summer, yet allowed new snowmobiling around the ranch. How will snow compaction by snowmobiles and disturbance affect elk and wolves? As I enter the second year of research at the Ya Ha Tinda, I will be focusing my research on such questions, with the aim of providing management agencies with the information they require to maintain these incredible migratory populations of elk, and to help insure that no elk is an island! 

Acknowledgements: The Ya Ha Tinda Elk and Wolf project is a cooperative research project funded by Parks Canada, AB-Sustainable Resource Development, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Foothills Model Forest, the University of Alberta, the Canon-National Parks Science Scholars Program, and Patagonia, Inc.



KANANASKIS NEEDS YOUR HELP:

NEW DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED FOR EVAN THOMAS

By Tamaini Snaith and Shirley Bray

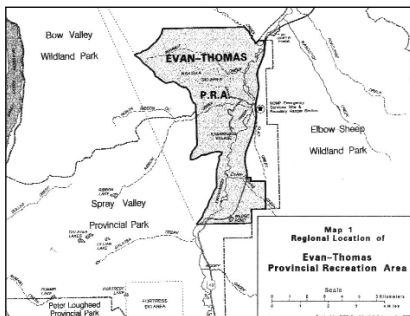
Alberta Community Development has released the draft management plan for the Evan-Thomas Provincial Recreation Area in Kananaskis Country. What is being proposed goes against what Albertans have been telling the government for years: NO to more development in Kananaskis.

In 1997, Alberta Environmental Protection contracted a review process to find out what people wanted for Kananaskis. The survey found that "the preference is for activities to be compatible with the wilderness experience and the "escape to solitude". Albertans ... want to promote the wilderness aspect over all others. This should take priority over recreation development. Albertans do not favour a blanket elimination of recreation development, but do not want any more large-scale facilities such as new four season resorts, downhill ski areas, housing development, or golf courses."

In May 1999, Premier Klein announced in a news release that, "Albertans want to escape to a Kananaskis country that retains its natural environment and wilderness character, and think that Kananaskis County is approaching the limits for many kinds of development. We've clearly listened to that message. New proposals for major facilities will simply not be considered; they will be directed to communities or public land outside Kananaskis Country."

The draft management plan suggests that some expansion of existing tourist facilities in the area, including the Kananaskis Village area and the Nakiska Ski Resort, would be allowed. The ski resort could be expanded to add new runs and lifts, summer activities, and accommodation units at the base of the hill.

The plan states that "large scale" development proposals will not be considered and that development would only be allowed if environmental impacts are demonstrated to be acceptable. However, there is no indication of what types of impacts are acceptable or of how impacts will be assessed. For example, the



Regional Location of Evan-Thomas Provincial Recreation Area (ASRD, Res. Info. Unit, Calgary, April 2002)

impacts of summer use of the ski hills will likely result in a negative impact on wildlife because the runs have become important summer range for grizzlies.

The draft report was prepared by the provincial management team with input from an advisory committee made up of business interests, recreational users, conservation groups and government departments. Many thought the committee was stacked in favour of business interests. However, as we have seen with the Bighorn Advisory Committee, recommendations by such committees may never even be considered.

Please add your voice to the discussion of the future of Kananaskis. Write to Premier Klein and tell him that you do not want any more development in Kananaskis. Comments on the draft management plan for the Evan-Thomas will be accepted until February 14, 2003. The plan is available for comment at http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/enjoying_alberta/parks/featured/kananaskis/management.asp.

VOTE WITH YOUR WALLET FOR BETTER FORESTRY PRACTICES IN ALBERTA

By Phil Clement, AWA Conservation Biologist



Market pressures are becoming an ever more important and necessary tool for driving the forest industry toward better practices. As Andy Marshall highlighted in our article on public consultation in our last issue of the *Wild Lands Advocate*, the government has little regard for conservationist input. Further, research shows that even the government has shied away from its leadership role in

Integrated Resource Management. What are conservation groups left to do? Educate consumers and get them to think about their power as consumers.

"If the marketplace says 'we demand certifiable forest products,' we will have to deliver or go out of business," says Bob Demulder of the Alberta Forest Products Association. To create such a demand, the AWA will focus energy on a marketplace strategy that encourages consumers to pressure the forest industry to abandon unsound operating practices — a strategy that has proven effective in other cases.

Home Depot, Lowe's, and IKEA, among others, have made commitments to stop buying wood from endangered forests. And most recently, after being the target of a two-year campaign by eco-groups, the office-supply chain Staples Inc. said it intends to phase out paper made from endangered forests and increase recycled content in the papers it sells to 30 per cent, a move that environmentalists say will affect logging in Canada's northern forests. The eco-groups "heightened our awareness" of environmental issues, said Staples vice-chairman Joseph Vassalluzzo in announcing that Staples intends to reduce its demand for virgin fibre.

"This is going to be increasingly the way of the future. While environmental protections are daily being dismantled in Washington, D.C., environmentalists have found a new way to protect forests," said Todd Paglia, a U.S. ForestEthics representative. I think we need to say the same for the situation in Alberta.

The Alberta Wilderness Association encourages readers to vote with your wallets for better forestry practices in Alberta. Next time you're picking up some wood for a deck, or paper for the office, ask if there is recycled content in the product or if it is Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified (see Helene Walsh's update in this issue). Only after sufficient market pressure will business realize there is a market for FSC certified and recycled products. And their profits will probably increase too!



Lumber yard in Calgary

C. Olson



Forest Stewardship Council Setting up Boreal Standards

By Helene Walsh

Setting Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Boreal Standards is well underway. The FSC Alberta regional group submitted their input to FSC Canada in September, as did many other groups and individuals. Canadian environmental groups also provided a combined input document on our vision for the Boreal Standards. All inputs can be viewed on the FSC Canada website.

Based on all these inputs, draft one of the Canadian Boreal Standards will be released in mid-December. Again, anyone is welcome to provide input to this document for a 60-day period.

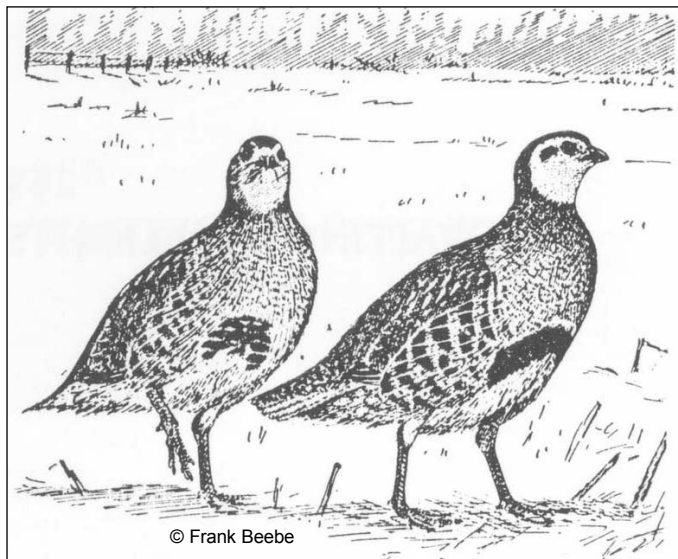
The regional Alberta Steering Committee has also accepted the challenge of proposing how to satisfactorily resolve the issue of overlapping tenure with the petroleum industry. With FSC, it is the forest that is certified, not the forest company, and in many cases the impacts of the petroleum industry on the forest is significant. Therefore, resolving this will be a difficult but necessary task.

Active on the FSC Alberta Steering Committee are a balance of environmental, social, economic, and aboriginal groups, specifically Little Red River Cree Nation, Metis Nations, Metis Settlements, Alberta Pacific Forest Industries (Al-Pac), Canadian Forest Products (Canfor), Trappers and Ecotourism, Alberta Federation of Labour, Mennonite Central Committee, Federation of Alberta Naturalists, Albertans for a Wild Chinchaga, and Alberta Wilderness Association. As might be expected, we often do not all agree on the details of what the boreal standard should be. When that happens, we record the differences and submit all points of view.

A recent announcement by Mitsubishi regarding FSC is very encouraging: Mitsubishi Corporation (MC) Chairman Minoru Makihara has announced MC's policy of endorsing third party certification for all of its forest product operations. Supporting the FSC's principles, Makihara stated that it would seek FSC certification of such MC operations wherever practical.

"This is more than a simple statement of principle," Makihara said. "We are proceeding to seek FSC certification of the operations of Alberta Pacific Forest Industries, Inc."

Alberta environmental groups hope to work with Al-Pac to enable their FSC certification, and we appreciate their commitment. ✂



Forest Products Association Told to Put Up or Shut Up on Old Growth Strategy

The following letter was sent to Mr. Wayne Thorp, President, Alberta Forest Products Association on September 16, 2002. The AWA also put out a news release.

Dear Mr. Thorp:

RE: Old Growth Strategy

The Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA) wrote a letter to the National Geographic about a June 2002 article that presented a slamming indictment of Alberta's management of its boreal forests. The AFPA complained that the National Geographic article failed to give readers a balanced reflection of the Alberta forest industry's commitment to the province's boreal forests.

In their letter to National Geographic the AFPA stated that there was "an old growth retention strategy in place." Conservation groups asked the AFPA to explain what that retention strategy is. In July the AFPA indicated it would respond in writing to Albertans for a Wild Chinchaga. Now it seems that you are refusing.

We sincerely ask the AFPA to either put up or shut up on this matter. You can't complain about unfair coverage, citing a document that you refuse to release. We strongly feel that you are taking an ethically bankrupt approach and that the story in the woods is no better.

The only old-growth policy known to us is stated in the Alberta government's Operating Ground Rules. That policy specifies that old-growth be logged first. The provincial operating ground rules do allow for ten per cent of all management units to be retained in mature or overmature forest; however, this may be achieved using "unmerchantable stands, watercourse protection buffers, and other areas not scheduled for harvest." The data shows that this is not enough to meet the needs of all wildlife, especially species like caribou need larger intact areas of old-growth forest if they are to survive, not just the narrow buffers on lakes and streams, or older unmerchantable stands that the forest industry cannot log anyway.

A recent Alberta Forest Watch survey of the Forest Management Plans of the Alberta forest industry (2001) found that no FMA holders in Alberta have old-growth targets of ten per cent for the species they harvest, and that most companies have no defined targets for merchantable old-growth.

Of all the age classes of forest, old-growth has the highest overall diversity of species, with representation of many rare species such as bay-breasted, Cape May, and black-throated green warblers; winter wren; brown creeper; woodland caribou; and northern flying squirrel. If the biodiversity of our province is to be maintained, substantial areas of old-growth must be maintained.

Conservation groups challenge the AFPA and the Alberta government to explain in writing to the National Geographic and the Alberta public what exactly the old-growth retention strategy is in Alberta.

Yours truly,

Cliff Wallis, AWA President For CPAWS, FAN, AWC, AWA

(Ed. Note: Mr. Gord Lehn of Spray Lake Sawmills is now president of the Forest Products Association.)

THE WHALEBACK PROTECTED AREA: SERIOUS COMMITMENTS OR JUST SO MANY EMPTY WORDS?

By James Tweedie



The Whaleback

N. Douglas

Over the course of this year the Whaleback area has been the subject of three articles in the *Wild Lands Advocate* that have documented the looming threat of oil and gas activity to the newly designated Bob Creek Wildland and Black Creek Heritage Rangeland that provide nominal protection for this outstanding montane wildland, located north of the Oldman River just two hours south of Calgary.

The two-bit joint venture company, Polaris Resources Ltd., that is attempting to insinuate the oil and gas industry into this nationally significant landscape has finally proceeded with its application to the Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) to drill a Critical Sour Gas Well across the fence from the formally designated protected area. To proceed with that application, the company has also had to make an application for a Compulsory Pooling and Special Well Spacing Order that would either exempt them from the requirement that they hold a full section of subsurface mineral rights, or would have the EUB order the holder of the adjacent half section to share in the exploration of these subsurface mineral rights.

Those rights, as Crown mineral leases, are currently held by the Nature Conservancy of Canada, to whom they were donated by Amoco Canada in order to facilitate the creation of the Wildland protected area. According to the terms of that donation, those leases will be returned to the Crown in 2004, at which time they will not be re-offered for sale, according to Premier Klein at the time the announcement was made on May 11, 1999.

Now seems the right time to remind the major players in this imbroglio, and especially the regulators at the EUB, of the commitments that were made for the protection of this landscape. And it is the "landscape" that is particularly referred to by all parties, not just particular half-sections of land.

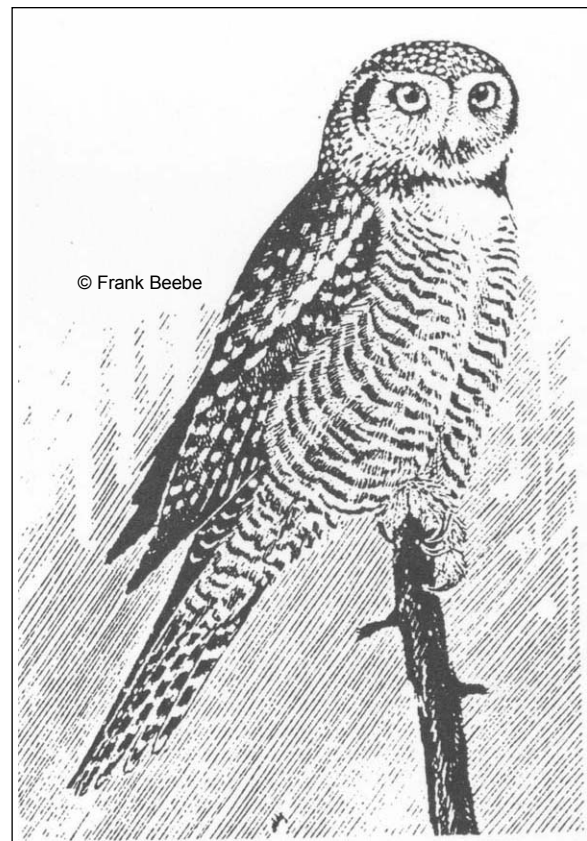
Here is a selection from the press releases at the time:

"This government has fulfilled its promise to protect the exceptional landscape of Alberta's Whaleback region. The Bob Creek Wildland Park and Black Creek Heritage Rangeland protect the largest undisturbed montane landscape in Alberta's Rocky Mountain Region." — **Premier Ralph Klein**

"We fully appreciate the national significance of this area. We are extremely proud to have played a role in ensuring that a living legacy, the Whaleback Area, will forever benefit future generations. Creating this environmental legacy is the right thing to do. Our partnership with the Nature Conservancy ensures that oil and gas activity will never occur in the Whaleback protected area." — **Joseph H. Bryant**, President of Amoco Canada Petroleum (now merged with BP)

"This visionary gift by Amoco Canada is key for protecting the Whaleback area in Alberta. The donation of mineral interests by Amoco Canada coupled with the designation of the Whaleback area by the Province of Alberta is a major landmark for conservation. All Canadians should be proud of this conservation achievement." — **John Lounds**, Executive Director of the Nature Conservancy of Canada

Please support Friends of the Whaleback, the Alberta Wilderness Association and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society in their opposition to these current applications to the EUB by Polaris Resources that have the potential for making these lofty statements just so many empty words. Please voice your continuing objections to the EUB, c/o Paul Forbes at the Applications Division: <Paul.Forbes@gov.ab.ca> or fax 403-297-7336 ☞



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LITTLE RESPIRE SEEN IN STRUGGLE TO DEFEND PRIZED RANGELAND

By Andy Marshall



The decision by Vermilion Resources to withdraw its gas well drilling application on virtually unspoiled rangeland south of Calgary is like finding brief shelter by a small tree from the icy blasts of winter for a group of landowners trying to protect their prized native grasslands.

The respite will likely be temporary. Some of the landowners expect Vermilion or other major companies to reapply in the future. A host of other development pressures are forming a chilling front over the area in question called the Foothills Parkland Natural Region, running from the Highwood south to the Oldman River.

"It feels like we won a battle, but we still have a war to

abandoned more than 20 years ago. It is nine km south of Longview, three km north of the Bar U Historic Ranch and about 4.5 km west of Highway 22.


With disturbance to the native grasslands still visible from the original well, the Pekisko group was worried about the impact on what has been described as one of the most extensive uninterrupted regions of natural grassland in North America.

A 119-page analysis, compiled by four scientists specializing in this kind of terrain, had been filed with the EUB as evidence for hearings that had earlier been rescheduled for 2003. A Vermilion spokesperson says a company re-organization and a possible review of priorities prompted the application withdrawal.

For Ken Stiles, a leading member of the Pekisko landowners' group representing about 50 families in the region, the

biggest issue is the linear disturbance that follows the building of road allowances and pipelines for oil and gas development. Formerly a senior official with Courage Energy and Bow Valley Energy, Stiles is the head of Winter Range Inc., owning about 400 acres near the site and holder of a surfacegrazing lease of almost 3,000 acres where the initial drilling was supposed to occur.

Road and pipeline easement building bring "invader" plant species that can overrun the native fescue dominant there for so long. "Once they break it up, no one can restore it," he says. Along the old 4.5-kilometre road allowance into the original well, there is a 100-metre swath where the fescue has been taken over by invaders such as crested wheat, Russian wild rye, smoothed brome and other species. The disturbance is also easy to see at the well site, measuring 15,000 square metres.

Once drilling occurs, other well sites, road allowances and pipelines are inevitable, says Stiles. "The point I make is there's been very little linear disturbance until now." 

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Porcupine Hills

fight. It doesn't feel like a victory," says Cameron Gardner, a fourth generation rancher living about 20 minutes southwest of Longview and a member of the Pekisko Landowners Association, which has been leading the campaign against the Vermilion application. Longview is about 75 kilometres south of Calgary.

"It's nice we don't have to worry about this particular well. But I fully expect Vermilion to be back," he adds.

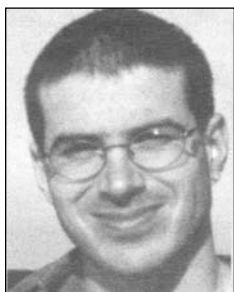
In his capacity as a councillor for the Municipal District of Ranchland, south of the proposed Vermilion gas well site, Gardner is keenly aware of other interests anxious to build homes on the dramatic, rolling plains he compares for their ecological value to Australia's coral reef or the South American rainforest. "It looks like a tidal wave to us," he says. "Everyone wants to live there, it's so beautiful."

Vermilion's original application to the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) was to drill a sweet gas well next to a site



A NIMBY AND PROUD OF IT

By Paolo Bacigalupi



Paolo Bacigalupi

At a recent hearing on natural gas drilling in my county, a rancher stood before our planning commission and said, "I support President Bush's policies to make America energy independent, and I don't want to be a NIMBY, but..." He then went on to outline the catastrophic impacts gas drilling could have on Delta County's outfitting and big-game hunting economies.

His dilemma is a real one. Whether it's gas drilling in western Colorado, or nuclear waste storage in Yucca Mountain, Nev., or a South Carolina governor threatening to lie down on the train tracks to stop nuclear waste from entering his state, Not-In-My-Backyardism is everywhere. Yet no one wants to be a NIMBY.

The people who say that they don't want to bear the burden of our nation's energy development or radioactive-waste disposal are called unpatriotic or hypocritical. In my county, the pointed attack against NIMBYism goes, "How do you heat your home?" and we are forced to admit that we do indeed warm our homes, light our stoves, and heat our water, often with natural gas.

But is this the end of the debate? After all, NIMBYs often say no because they have legitimate concerns. Should they sit meek and silent while their livelihoods, property values, water, and communities are destroyed by the gas drilling industry? Should we say to them, "Too bad, you live in the wrong spot. Suck it up, sacrifice for the nation and suffer"?

NIMBY tells us something important. The cowboy standing up in a public meeting to enumerate economic and wildlife impacts to his county is telling us that every time we turn on a gas stove and experience the warm glow of cheap, readily available fuel, we are taking pleasure while he or someone like him suffers the real cost.


NIMBY is the warning sign that tells us our system is broken. It tells us that some energy companies choose to ignore their impacts, either because they believe the impacts are too expensive to remedy, or because impacts are "externalities," unconnected to profits. NIMBY tells us that our government bureaucrats haven't been paying attention to the public welfare.

A friend of mine has a son growing up in the Bronx. One in two children in his neighbourhood have respiratory problems. Not coincidentally, a solid-waste incinerator sits nearby. The neighbourhood couldn't muster the political clout to force the incinerator elsewhere. If there'd been a few more NIMBYs in this part of New York, my friend's son would be breathing a lot easier today. Instead, he sits and breathes medicine through a mask. He's five years old.

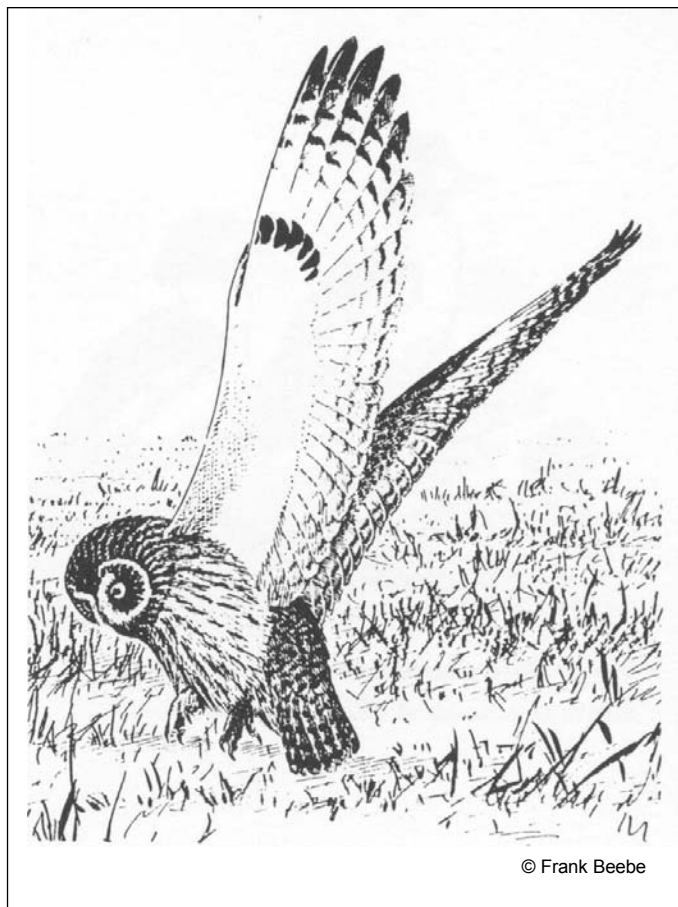
NIMBY tells us about morality. NIMBY tells us that some of our industries and wastes not only shouldn't be in my back yard, it's possible they shouldn't be in anyone's back yard. If gas companies and nuclear industries and trash incinerators can't or won't care for the damage they inflict on their neigh-

bours, then we as a nation need 1) to pay more so that these companies can afford to be responsible neighbours, or 2) change the way we consume so that our actions don't make other people suffer.

Knowing how the gas industry behaves in Colorado, I feel differently about turning on my gas stove. I use it consciously and sparingly, knowing that someone far away may have suffered when this gas was extracted.

As for the NIMBYs in my own county, I'm joining them. We're going to fight the gas drillers until they agree to respect our water, our wildlife and our communities, and we're going to fight the Colorado Oil and Gas Commission until it starts behaving like a responsible regulatory agency. We're going to fight until our county is safe from an industry that has run amok. Until things improve, I'm a NIMBY, and I won't apologize. If I don't protect my back yard, who will? 

(Paolo Bacigalupi writes from Sunshine Mesa near Paonia, Colorado. This article was reprinted with permission from Writers on the Range (www.hcn.org/wotr), a syndicated column of High Country News (www.hcn.org), Sept. 2, 2002.)

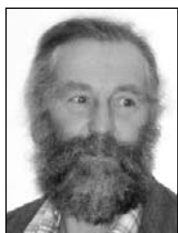


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JUDICIAL REVIEW DEMANDED FOR CASTLE SKI RESORT

By James Tweedie



The Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition has initiated proceedings for a Judicial Review of the decision by the Minister of the Environment not to require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Castle Mountain Inc. (CMR) ski resort development that is now occurring in the Westcastle Valley, in the southwest corner of the province.

The Alberta Environment Protection and Enhancement Act sets out provisions for the requirement for an EIA: to support the goals of environmental protection and sustainable development; to integrate environmental protection and economic decisions at the earliest stages of planning an activity; to predict environmental, social, economic and cultural consequences of the proposed activity and to assess plans to mitigate any adverse impacts; and to provide for the involvement of the public, proponents, the government, and government agencies in the review of proposed activities.

It was to fulfill those provisions that the government ordered an EIA for the ski resort expansions proposed by Vacation Alberta Corporation in 1990. The findings of that EIA and the subsequent public hearing held by the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) in 1992 left no doubt in anyone's mind about the environmental and ecological significance of the Westcastle Valley.

On the basis of the evidence, the Board exacted stringent conditions upon any development in the area and, in order to protect the environmental values that were already recognized as being at risk, proposed that the Waterton-Castle Wildland Recreation Area be designated "whether or not" the Vacation Alberta project went ahead.

"The Board is aware that the project may not proceed for a number of reasons beyond its control. The Board would recommend that in any event the area the Board has described as the proposed WCWRA should be protected and land uses should be established for it as described by the Board, whether or not the project proceeds. Regional management on an ecosystem basis is necessary." (pp. 12-13)

In making that judgment they were acting consistently with previous Alberta government agency reports that had identified the significance of the area and designated the South and West Castle valleys with a notation for a potential provincial park.

Since that conditional approval was overturned in 1995 as a result of a barrage of lobbying to the government orchestrated by Shell Canada and local forestry interests, the Westcastle Valley has seen massive residential and infrastructure developments proceeding on a piecemeal basis with no mitigation plans in place, nor even any clearly articulated planning regulations in place. Only in 2001 did the present developer, CMR, finally pro-

vide the Municipality of Pincher Creek, now the responsible planning agency, with their Area Structure Plan for the resort.

This Plan is similar in most respects to the development proposed by Vacation Alberta Corp. in 1990. What is significantly different, apart from the absence of any proposed golf courses, which the previous NRCB Report had already ruled as being inappropriate for the location (since common sense had failed to tell the company that), is that CMR is proposing to continue

developing its residential townsite, from the 88 housing units that it has already managed to construct in the valley to 225 units — a scenario at total odds with the earlier decision by the NRCB to restrict all private housing development and only allow hotel accommodation.

The NRCB clearly recognized the devastating effects that year-round private residences would have for the area and particularly for wildlife.

Some quotes from the Decision Report illustrate this concern:

"The Board noted that it was the existing intensity of land use and associated environmental impacts and cumulative effects that was a cause for concern" ... "The general prognosis by some participants was that if the existing intensity of land use continued important ecological features could be lost." (pp. 10-16)

"The Board believes that the existing land use zones would not achieve a sufficient level of land use control that would appropriately mitigate the potentially significant adverse environmental impacts of the resort on the public lands surrounding it." (pp. 10-17)

That the NRCB was correct in this assessment was borne out in 2000 when the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board released their Screwdriver Creek Decision Report (AEUB 2000-17) in March 2000, in relation to an application by Shell Canada and Canadian 88 to drill for gas at the eastern edge of the Castle Wilderness: *"both the public and the industry participants took the common view that the biological thresholds for at least some key species identified as important in the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) may now have been exceeded."*

Further, the Board endorsed the need for either an updated IRP (current document is dated 1985) or *"alternatively, work needs to be initiated in a timely fashion to create strategies to address cumulative effects of human activities, including energy development, in the Castle Crown region."*

The previous EIA prepared for Vacation Alberta identified the serious impacts on most local wildlife species that would follow from expanded development in the valley. In summary, that evaluation posited that *"the scope and magnitude of the impacts tend to be local and regional; the duration of impacts are expected to be long-term or permanent and the direction of the impacts are overwhelmingly negative."*

With particular reference to the regional grizzly bear popu-



Castle Mountain Ski Resort

L. Brodersen



lation, the EIA noted that *"the cumulative effects of habitat loss and direct mortality will likely cause a significant and permanent decline in the size and distribution of the regional grizzly bear population"* and that *"no significant mitigation of impacts is possible."*

As Peter Lamb, Superintendent of Waterton Lakes National Park, pointed out to the Council of the Municipal District of Pincher Creek, that regional population includes animals that also range in Waterton Lakes National Park as well as into British Columbia and the United States. He recognized that the Municipal Council, who were tasked with reviewing and approving CMR's Area Structure Plan, had no management jurisdiction for mitigating the effects of the development, but his letter cautions Council to heed the NRCB Report:

"Your decision will have a direct impact on our interests and those of other jurisdictions in the region. We believe the conclusions of the NRCB report in 1993 to be the most current and relevant impact assessment pertaining to the Area Structure Plan. We encourage the Council to ensure that the decision reflects the larger regional issues, given that the impacts will be permanent and irreversible."

Given this backdrop of concern by the provincial regulators and Parks Canada, the decision by the Director of the Regulatory

Assurance Division and the Minister of the Environment not to order an EIA seems patently flawed and unreasonable. Either the government should endorse the conditions set out as a result of the previous EIA and NRCB decision in 1992 or it should require the present developers to provide an updated EIA. ✍



Castle Mountain Ski Resort

L. Brodersen

LOCAL CITIZENS DEFEND THE KAKWA AND WIN

By Brian Bildson



Brian Bildson

Once again I've learned a valuable life lesson from the wilderness. This time it had nothing to do with bush survival skills but rather the power of the ordinary citizen. Recently I and some other like minded folks put that power to work.

The Kakwa region has provided recreational opportunities for Peace Country residents for many generations. A diverse group, including campers, hikers, fisherman, equestrians, ATV users, and hunters, has enjoyed this jewel over the years. It is not easily accessible, with 100+ kilometers of rough road between the Kakwa and the nearest city, Grande Prairie. This is part of its charm and fits within the vision most local residents have for the area. In fact, in a recent survey conducted by Parks, local citizens overwhelmingly expressed the view that the Kakwa should remain as is with no improved campsites or facilities, the thought being "if it's not broke, why fix it."

However, the Kakwa is not standing in isolation from the rest of the province, and there is a crisis that demands attention. The industrial onslaught is in high gear and is steadily encroaching on this precious east slopes habitat. We are only seeing the beginning of this process, and there is still time to make positive impact. Local citizens were galvanized into action two years ago when an application was made for a commercial operation consisting of rental cabins. The site chosen at Lick Creek has always been heavily used by locals, and the thought of having to pay a private operator for access offended many.

A public meeting was called and hundreds of folks turned out. Once again a large majority of citizens spoke out against the idea. The local government agencies, including Forestry,

Parks, and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, advised against the development partly in light of environmental concerns over mountain caribou and bull trout habitat and in response to the public wishes. It seemed that our message got through, as the developer's application was denied. While this crisis appeared to be solved, many folks called for the formation of a citizens group that would monitor all future development plans for the Kakwa. Greater Kakwa was formed that day, and we developed a strategy to keep abreast of issues affecting the Kakwa region.

Late in the summer of 2001 Greater Kakwa received information that the applicants for the cabins had chosen to appeal the decision, as is their right. We immediately sprang into action and contacted the appeal board, offering our research on the site chosen by the developer. By this time we had researched and identified traditional campgrounds, future industrial sites, and limiting factors due to the topography in the area.

We were informed that our concerns were well known and that there was no need for the submission of further information. This was not acceptable to us, so we forwarded on the information anyways and contacted our MLA for a meeting. We also expressed our concerns to the appropriate government departments and ministers. All parties assured us that the process would be transparent and fair and we would be kept abreast of developments. We then received a letter from Mr. M. L. Anderson, head of land use management for Sustainable Resource Development, thanking us for our information and maps.

Months went by and there was no communication from any government sources. In December of 2001 we again contacted the appeal board requesting an update. Once again we heard from Mr. Anderson, who wrote: "I have delayed responding to determine if there was anything further, but no, the matter has



not been concluded.” As the months passed by, no further information was forthcoming. The cynics in our group jokingly commented that the government was probably just waiting for the furor to die down before approving the development.

Before you know it, it's September 2002 and thoughts of bugling elk are running through my head. I was preparing to leave for my annual elk hunt when I received an urgent email from a Greater Kakwa member asking if I had seen the notice posted by the M.D. of Greenview. The notice was for the issuance of a development permit for the construction of the cabins. Obviously the developer had been successful in his appeal, and we had not been informed. I immediately contacted the M.D. of Greenview and registered an appeal of the development permit on behalf of Greater Kakwa.

When I returned from hunting, I had a notification form the M.D. informing me that a public hearing was being held on the matter on October 8th. When I reviewed the accompanying documents, I was surprised to discover that the government appeal board had actually rendered a decision in favour of the cabin developer in November of 2001. My first thought was, so much for being kept in the information loop as promised, but my next emotion was outrage. What type of arrogance or stupidity would cause a civil servant to lie to us in writing and claim “the matter has not been concluded” a full month after a decision had been made. And to add insult to injury, they still hadn't informed us of the decision by September of 2002!

Realizing that the upcoming public hearing was a priority, we first focused on our presentation to the M.D. of Greenview rather than the abuse of process. We took it upon ourselves to publicize the upcoming public hearing, as the mandatory notification requirement for the M.D. was easy to miss. On the night of the public hearing it was evident our advertising program had been effective. When the doors opened, the chairs began to fill, and it was soon evident it would be a standing room only presentation with over 300 citizens present.

As Greater Kakwa had filed the appealed, we opened the hearing by presenting our position. Our concerns were the removal of one of the few large natural camping spots from public use and more importantly the lack of integrated planning that had gone into this development. We were able to demonstrate to the M.D. that we had been working with the public, the government, and industry in an effort to facilitate some integrated land use down in this region. We explained the danger of dealing with this or any other application in isolation from the big picture. This leads to a piecemeal development approval approach that can end up with disastrous consequences.

While we would like to believe our research and presentation carried the day, the truth is that the emotional outpouring that followed our presentation from members of the public is

what probably swayed the M.D. panel. It was heartwarming to hear local citizens explaining what an influence this region had on their lives. We had everyone from youngsters to senior citizens relating tales of times in the wilderness and how important

it was to them to preserve this area for future generations. Members of our local aboriginal community were also present and told of their long history in the region and the continued importance of the Kakwa to them. This went on for over two hours.

The M.D. ran a good hearing and allowed all interested parties to speak. Once again, almost all of the speakers called for the preservation of the Kakwa and asked that the development approval be denied. I left the meeting feeling we had been

afforded a fair opportunity to speak but unsure as to the outcome. I was pleasantly surprised to receive a phone call two days later from the M.D.'s development officer informing me that our appeal had been upheld and the development permit would not be issued. Their rationale for denying the application was that it was not in the public's best interest. It was refreshing to be treated fairly by one level of government, but we were still fuming over our treatment by another.

After the euphoria of success comes the work. This is just one small fire put out in the middle of a raging firestorm. Our nearly impossible goal is to preserve some part of this habitat from the ongoing industrial onslaught. We face the same problems all citizen groups do. How do you keep volunteers enthused about contributing to the betterment of society when their own government treats them with such disdain?

Further, why should citizen groups have to do the work of government? I don't have the answer to these questions but there is still hope. History has shown that citizens will only put up with so much abuse before demanding change. Are we close to that point yet? All I know is that I and many others who wouldn't fit the typical profile of an environmentalist passed that point long ago. We can't allow this dysfunctional government to win by apathy. Greater Kakwa is demanding answers as to where this process went wrong, and we will not back down until we arrive at the truth. Stay tuned —this could get even more interesting. *B*

(Brian Bildson is a trapper and a real estate agent in Grande Prairie. He is a member of the Greater Kakwa group, www.greaterkakwa.com.)



Kakwa

B. Bildson



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EUB SACRIFICES MCCLELLAND FEN IN THE "PUBLIC INTEREST"

By Shirley Bray, WLA Editor



Shirley Bray

It was no surprise that the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board decided that the destruction of at least half of McClelland Fen to accommodate the TrueNorth Oil Sands Project would be "in the public interest." The Board had 15 conditions and recommendations to reduce environmental and social impacts, largely having to do with containment of waste products. The Board did reject TrueNorth's request to pump salty water into a usable freshwater aquifer. An operating permit and various approvals are still required from Alberta Environment and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, but it is highly unlikely that these will be denied.

Everyone seemed to agree that mining half of the fen would have significantly negative consequences on the unmined portion of the fen and the lake. The disagreement was over what could and would be accomplished with a mitigation plan. AWA, Dr. Diana Horton, and other interveners did not think mitigation would be meaningful. No matter what mitigation measures are put in place, at least half the fen will be destroyed permanently by oil sands mining. What would replace the fen is anyone's guess, but it won't be another fen. Furthermore, there will have to be some significant alterations in the wetland to prevent contamination of the rest of the area.

However, the Board believes that TrueNorth's Sustainability Plan, which will convene a committee to determine the feasibility of mitigation, has promise. It is less sure about TrueNorth's ability to pay for reclamation and is demanding insurance. Alberta Environment is requiring TrueNorth to demonstrate its Plan before any disturbance is allowed in the wetland complex. But given the Alberta government's disdain for science and the preservation of ecological values, this experiment on McClelland Lake Wetland Complex (MLWC) is unlikely to have a satisfactory outcome.

Is this the future that we want for MLWC? We believe MLWC is a priceless natural heritage that belongs to all Albertans and to all Canadians and would like to see it protected. Its destruction for a relatively small amount of bitumen is not defensible.

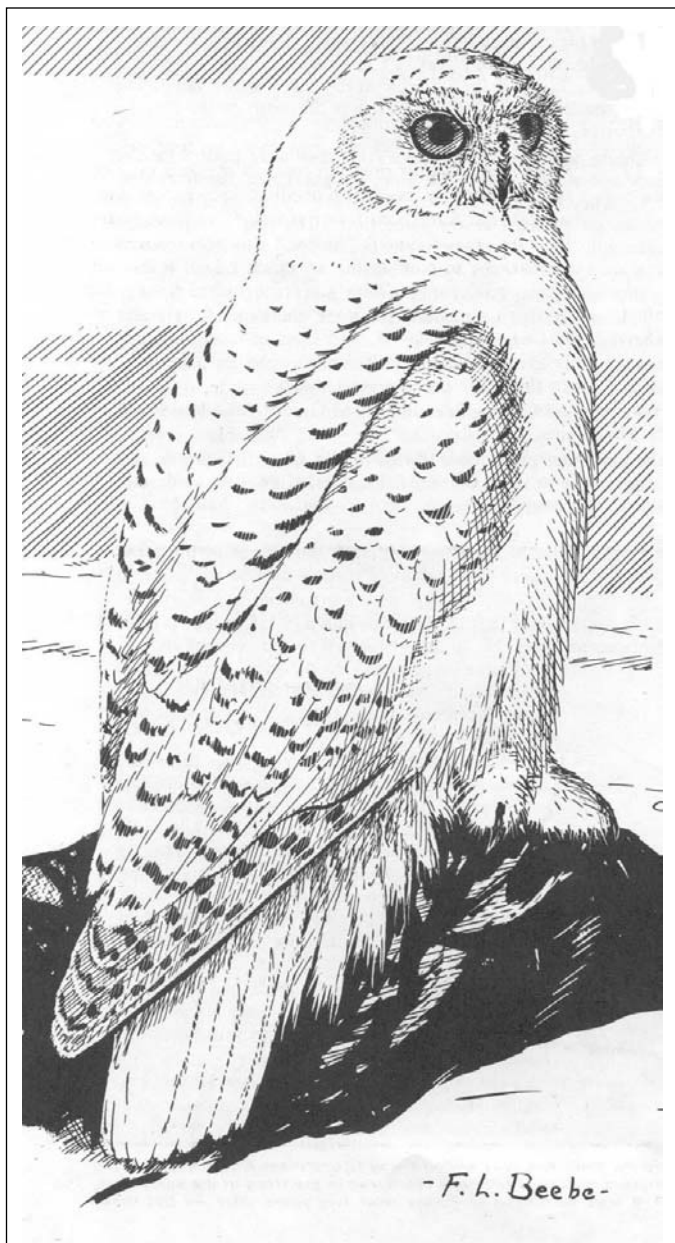
The main hope is that the project will be too expensive for TrueNorth to proceed. Already capital spending has been cut by 75 per cent in the fourth quarter. TrueNorth, owned by the American company Koch Industries Inc., owns 78 per cent of the project and is looking for a third partner to reduce its financial risk to 25 to 50 per cent in the oil sands venture. UTS Energy Corp. of Calgary owns the other 22 per cent.

For more information on MLWC and the AEUB decision, see our Fort Hills page under Issues. Write to Ralph Klein and tell him what you think about losing one of our most wonderful places. Go to our Actionkit under Resources for Government contact information. We also feature a series of aerial photos donated by Dr. Diana Horton.



McClelland Fen

D. Horton



Recreation Corridors Legislative Review Update

By Phil Clement, AWA Conservation Biologist


Alberta Community Development is conducting a legislative review concerning recreation corridors in Alberta. The intent of the review is to address the needs, issues, and concerns related to the 15,000 km of existing trails and future recreation corridors in Alberta, and to ensure that there are clear and consistent regulations across the province.

The Recreation Corridors Legislative Review public consultation concluded with a provincial forum, held on Tuesday, October 15, 2002 in Nisku. Over 70 representatives of provincial stakeholder organizations — from adjacent landowners to agricultural interests and forestry companies, trail operators to motorized and non-motorized trail users — took part in the forum. Discussions focused on liability; safety and policing; operation, maintenance and accountability; privacy and access; and environmental stewardship.

The purpose of the forum was to 1) provide participants with an overview of the Recreation Corridors Legislative Review and 2) to focus on those areas that are still of concern or interest to seek participants' advice and clarification on solutions. After a welcome and some background on the review was given, the large group was subdivided into small groups.

During the small group discussion, questions were asked which raised serious concerns over the legitimacy of the process and credibility of the forum: does the Ministry of Community Development even have the authority to undertake this legislative review? Why isn't the land manager (Ministry of Sustainable Resource Development) of the green zone present today? How many trails are in Alberta...is 15,000 kms (amount given in workbook) correct?

Further, it seemed that the participants (including me) did not have adequate knowledge about the issue at hand. This was indicated by the questions asked: have motorized and non-motorized forums of recreation been distinguished? Have they distinguished between differing land use issues in the green zone and the white zone? A map would have helped considerably.

The MLA Committee is now sorting through all the input they received through the consultation and will present recommendations in a report to the Minister of Community Development early next year. As one participant mentioned, "the quality of consultation depends on the quality of questions...these were bad questions." 

Update on the Cheviot Mine


By Phil Clement, AWA Conservation Biologist

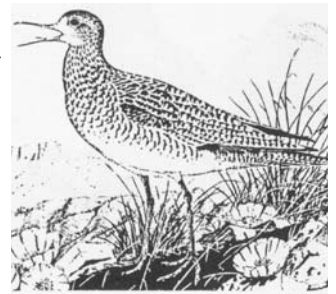
Cardinal River Coals is keeping us updated on the progress of their application for a new private haulroad. Their newsletter explains that they submitted an application for an amendment to the Cheviot Mine permit and the environmental approval for the Luscar mine to seek regulatory approval to construct a 10 km private haulroad to link the two mine sites. Instead of building a processing plant at the Cheviot Mine site, the haulroad would be used to haul raw coal from the Cheviot to the Luscar mine site where it would be processed and shipped.

The Alberta government is currently reviewing the application, which will be followed by a public notification process, to

be completed early in the new year. The company is soliciting feedback on the project and more information can be obtained by contacting Fred Munn, Project Manager, (780) 692-5184, fred_munn@luscar.com. AWA has already written to the company to express our concerns and restate our objection to the Cheviot Mine.

On October 22, 2002, nine local, provincial, and national organizations wrote federal Environment Minister David Anderson, asking that he require an environmental impact assessment and hold public hearings on the new proposal for development of the Cheviot Mine. The organizations were the Jasper Environmental Protection Association, the Alberta Wilderness Association, Environmental Resource Centre of Alberta, Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development, Toxics Watch Society, Sierra Club-Prairie Chapter, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Canadian Nature Federation, and Mining Watch Canada.

The organizations also sent a formal "statement of concern" to Alberta Environment Minister Lorne Taylor and to the Alberta Energy & Utilities Board (AEUB) asking that the current applications for development of Cheviot and a larger mine permit be turned down. They likewise asked that an environmental impact assessment be required and public hearings held before proceeding with a decision on the applications. 




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New Case of CWD Found in Alberta White-Tailed Deer

By Shirley Bray, WLA Editor

The first case of Chronic Wasting Disease in farmed white-tailed deer in Canada was found on a game farm north of Edmonton. This is the second confirmed case of CWD on game farms in Alberta. Following this discovery in early November, a two-week moratorium was placed on the movement of farmed deer in the province. Game farmers have few opportunities to market their products, given low prices for meat, the defeat of the penned hunting initiative, and the fact that the U.S. and Saskatchewan have refused imports until herds test CWD-free for at least three years. Problems facing game farmers today were predicted 15 years ago when the legalization of game farming in Alberta was being considered. AWA recently joined with other concerned groups in supporting compensation for game farmers on the condition that the industry be completely dismantled.

A group of game farmers in Alberta and Saskatchewan is going ahead with a class action lawsuit against the federal government. AWA is not involved with this claim. The Alberta Elk Association, which is supposed to be supporting game farmers, is very much against the lawsuit. Their October newsletter states that "producers who have been approached about this initiative should know they may be placing themselves at risk... Those who are part of that claim are therefore personally liable for those statements." Lawyers for the game farmers making the claim demanded and will receive an apology and retraction of these false statements in the next issue of the Alberta Elk Association newsletter. 

FRANK L. BEEBE: THE MAN BEHIND THE LEGEND

By Bob Herrick

Francis Lyman Beebe was born on May 25, 1914 at Lacombe, Alberta, the second youngest of seven children. At the time, his father was off fighting the "Great War" and did not return until Frank was about three years old. After returning from the war, Frank's father was entitled to a farm provided by the Canadian government under the Soldier Settlement Act. He sold the farm and machinery at auction in the spring of 1923 when Frank was nine years old.

From Lacombe, Frank and his family moved to Penticton. While on the train traveling to the Okanagan, he recalled reading two stories about peregrines, both of which sparked his interest in raptors. Peregrines occupied nearly all of the high cliffs along the Okanagan Valley at this time.

In the fall of 1923, the family moved to Edmonton, much to Frank's disappointment. He loved the flora and fauna of the Okanagan Valley, his first real introduction to the wonders of nature. As the family arrived in Edmonton, winter was setting in. Frank found the town dark and dingy.

In the spring of 1924, Frank's father was granted a homestead in the McLeod Valley, west of Edmonton, where Frank spent his "growing-up years." The great boreal forest surrounds the Valley. Frank spent countless hours exploring this fascinating world and it set the stage for the rest of his life. It was here that Frank's artistic ability first became apparent. Much of his free time was spent hunting small animals. He used these "study skins" to learn how to draw the animals in his world. To this day he uses mental images from a lifetime of study rather than photographs when he draws or paints.

Frank left home and school before finishing his final year of high school, never to return to formal education. Instead, he used his inquisitive nature to further his knowledge about the natural world. He hopped on a freight train and headed west towards British Columbia with \$5.00 in his pocket and the clothes on his back. Many unemployed men were heading west, and Frank felt safe in their makeshift camps. When he arrived at Spence's Bridge, the "Bulls" kicked everyone off of the train and Frank had to walk 30 miles south to the next train to Vancouver.

He made it to the ferry crossing to Vancouver Island with exactly enough money left for the fare. When he arrived at Nanaimo, he found sunny warm days and fascinating wildlife. His first job was for the McDonald family in the Cowichan Lake area, doing odd jobs on their ranch. This allowed him to be exposed to the natural wonder and splendor of the region.

When he tired of working for the McDonalds, he moved on to the relief camps. He worked on the road to Port Renfrew for 20 cents per day. His afternoons were free to work on his painting. He collected many of the native life forms and sketched them in painstaking detail for his reference collection.

Frank's artistic talent landed him a job with the Young Men's Forestry Training Plan, painting pictures of the major forest trees of the province. He also illustrated insects for the Dominion Insect Laboratory. In his free time, he sold his bird paintings through the local art galleries. Perhaps one of his more important early art assignments was a commission by G. Clifford Carl, the manager of the Cowichan Fish Hatchery, to paint pictures of the native fishes.

Frank's contacts at the Insect Laboratory put him in touch with G. Allen Mail, who was in charge of the Insect and Range Laboratory in Kamloops. Mail offered Frank a job working on the B.C. sector of the

bubonic plague surveys taking place along the entire West Coast of North America during World War II. There was good reason to fear that the Japanese would attempt to introduce the disease somewhere into Western North America via the use of jet-stream balloons.

Frank was part of a mobile team that moved throughout the region, surveying fleas found on squirrels and marmots in the interior, and rats along the coast waterfront. He stayed on this project during the war years, producing illustrations of insects and fleas for the laboratory as well as collecting specimens.

During the first year of this project he met Vera Hynes, an attractive young lady whom he married on September 10, 1939. They spent 60 wonderful years together and had four children. Sadly, Vera lost her battle with cancer in January 2000.


While working on the plague project, Frank collected and prepared specimens of bird skins and small mammals for the Provincial Museum and sent them to its new director, G. Clifford Carl. At the end of the war, Carl offered Frank a job at the Museum as an illustrator. Frank loved the work but found the salary insufficient to provide for his new family. After two years at the Museum, he decided to find a better paying job.

He ended up as the Stanley Park Zoo zookeeper, a position he held for seven years. During this time he continued to paint, and even started to write professionally. While at the zoo Frank had the opportunity to join a Provincial Museum sponsored expeditions to Triangle Island and Langara Island, where he encountered Peales peregrines. This would later become the source of his first falconry birds.

In 1953, Frank rejoined the Museum, this time as chief illustrator and diorama background artist. He stayed on until his retirement at the age of 60 in 1974. During his tenure at the Museum, Frank illustrated numerous Museum booklets covering the flora and fauna of the region. Some of his dioramas still remain at the Museum today. For his final project, the director permitted him to write and illustrate *The Falconiformes of British Columbia* (1974). This scholarly treatise on the Peales peregrine and other regional raptors was the definitive work at the time, and is still often referred to today by raptor biologists.

After he retired, Frank and Vera moved back to Vancouver Island just a little north of Victoria, where Frank still lives today.

When he retired, Frank put all of his efforts into painting, carving, writing and falconry. He sold his art in commercial galleries across western Canada. He expanded his work briefly into stone carving. His carvings were in high demand and made him a handsome profit, but the dust from the carving gave him a severe case of pneumonia in 1976, from which he almost died. After his recovery he vowed to never carve another stone again. He found a new way to express his love of carving in woodcarving and soft sculptures; he has become the master of creating lifelike effigies of raptors out of foam and latex.

The last few years, Frank has been honing his soft sculpture skills on the creation of falconry lures. He is currently working on a casting technique with a new lightweight and durable foam rubber. His ideas and innovations inspired many of the design styles and techniques you see in the lures sold by Northwoods today. 

(This article is an abridged version and has been reprinted with permission from the 2001 edition of the *North American Falconers Association Journal*.)



Frank Beebe



Montana Prof Shoots Down Economic “Myths” about Resource Extraction

By Andy Marshall

Montana economist and environmental advocate Dr. Tom Power rode into town recently on a familiar hobby-horse, directing his fire at the big guns of all-out resource extraction, including the mighty energy industry, and offering solid comfort to those bucking the prevailing forces to save our natural wild lands.

The author of *Post-Cowboy Economics: Pay and Prosperity in the New American West* (Island Press, 2001) and other books, articles, and papers on the subject, the affable University of Montana economics professor wrestled down some enduring myths about the significance of resource extraction industries to local economies with a clear message about the benefits of preserving our surroundings.

“Real local economies have little to do with the natural resources we extract,” Power told about 60 enthusiastic listeners in the Alberta Wilderness Association building on Nov. 1. “In a developed, sophisticated economy, environmental quality makes up a significant part of the real economic base.”

The 63-year-old former rock climber, who still likes to ski three times a week during the winter and who once faced a threat from the Montana logging industry of having some of his books burned in public, was the guest speaker at the second annual Alberta Wilderness and Wildlife Trust lecture series, organized to challenge and inform Albertans about defending natural areas. The trust is an endowment fund established by AWA with The Calgary Foundation to support its long-term survival. The fund was initiated in 1986 as a memorial tribute to the former Orval Pall, killed in an airplane crash while studying bighorn sheep.

With his impish demeanour and displaying frequent irony and self-deprecating wit, Power successfully bridged the gulch between the dry potential of his academic specialty and the more passionate pull of environmental preservation.

Using figures gathered from across the United States and across the world, he dispelled what he called the cowboy economic “myths” regarding resource extraction that dominate conventional thinking in his home state of Montana, as well as in Alberta and elsewhere, and that “corrupt policy discussions, especially as they relate to the environment.”

With statistics gathered through his more than three-decades-long academic career — he’s been on the faculty of the University of Montana, Missoula, economics department since 1968 and chair since 1978 — he put the boots to the notion that limiting resource extraction would impoverish the overall economy. In fact, Power showed clearly that, in the U.S. and globally, specialization in natural resource industries — from mining to logging, oil and gas to agriculture — has left local economies worse off than those much less dependent on these industries. The disadvantages range from lower earnings and per capita income to higher unemployment rates.

The benefits of natural resource development are often significantly misrepresented, he said, a statement that resonated well with his Alberta audience. Furthermore, the costs are significantly understated and proper environmental regulation is crucial to minimize the damage done.

But those who advocate better environmental laws are branded eco-terrorists, wreaking havoc on people’s livelihoods. The doomsday scenarios from the naysayers on the decline of extraction industries

have not been borne out, Power explained. In Montana and other parts of the American Mountain West, for every natural resources job lost, 40 other jobs were gained, particularly in the service sector, including the high-paid service industries like medical and computer services.

“There is life after natural resources addiction,” he said.

As a result, these regions enjoyed a net in-migration, helping them lead the U.S. in economic growth. However, studies also showed Montana being the state with the lowest average income, a situation Power said would have occurred whatever the choice of jobs.

If the highest paid states were giving up population, as the studies suggested, why were the lowest paid, like Montana, experiencing such population growth? Lower costs in housing and other basic services were one reason, Power explained.

Another crucial point lies in the value of social and natural amenities. “Some people, at least, are willing to sacrifice income to escape from congestion, crime, and pollution associated with large urban areas,” he said. “Some weird people are interested in open space, outdoor recreation, opportunities for scenic beauty . . . and are willing to sacrifice something in the pursuit of that.”

“This helps us understand the economic power of environmental quality,” added Power, who is a prime example of someone who feels well compensated for a lower income by the unique characteristics of where he lives.

With an undergraduate degree in physics from Lehigh University, and a masters and a doctorate from Princeton, Power had a choice of many better known universities in which to hang his academic hat. He made a conscious decision to settle in Montana, despite the relatively low pay, and has absolutely no regrets about it, he said in an interview.

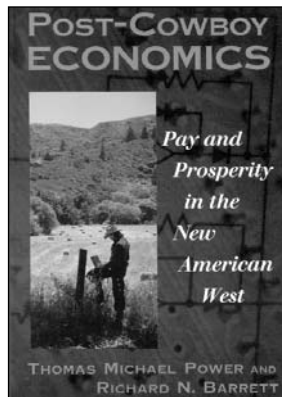
“We’re incredibly more healthy because we’re feeding our kids on the scenery,” said the father of an adult son and daughter.

In response to questions, Power drew parallels for the application of his economic theories in Alberta. Firstly, he noted, the impact of the energy industry here is grossly exaggerated. Directly, it provides just five per cent of the jobs in the province, he said.

Furthermore, the intense efforts to take out the oil and gas, no matter where they’re found, will not last forever. Because supplies of conventional oil and gas are temporary, “it’s important for Albertans to say there have to be limits on what they’re willing to sacrifice to get the energy out of the ground . . . the damage to natural systems can be near-permanent.”

He sees the push for oil-sands development as a particularly pernicious form of cowboy economics that even the U.S. has abandoned. “Do Albertans really want to take their wealth and invest it in economically irrational projects that wouldn’t fly on their own (without government subsidies)?” Government incentives to the pulp and paper industry to harvest the province’s northern boreal forest offer another example of false economics.

The perception we still have of plenty of unspoiled wilderness in Alberta beguiles politicians and others to keep pushing industrial development no matter what the environmental cost. “What’s coloured green on the map is not necessarily protected,” he warned. “If you don’t act, you will lose it. Look at the more developed states and provinces. You can see where you’ll end up, and then it’s going to be too late.”



ALBERTA WILDERNESS AND WILDLIFE TRUST: ANNUAL LECTURE AND AWARDS

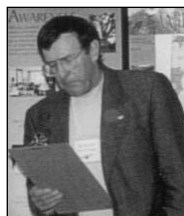


This year's Annual Lecture and Awards was an incredible success. The evening featured a thought-provoking talk by Dr. Thomas Power, chair and professor of the Dept. of Economics at the University of Montana. He presented ideas from his latest book *Post Cowboy Economics: Pay and Prosperity in the New American West*. He started by suggesting that the organizers were either very courageous or very foolish to have an economics talk in the evening after everyone had filled themselves with wine and hors d'oeuvres. However, his wit and humour kept everyone on their toes. The annual lecture is an opportunity to present the ideas of researchers in a field related to conservation of wilderness. The lecture is meant to challenge us as well as to inform.

The lecture was preceded by this year's Alberta

Wilderness Defenders Awards. These awards are dedicated to individuals who have inspired us with their love of Alberta's wild lands, wild rivers and wildlife, and their efforts and achievements for conservation. The three recipients were all founding members of the Alberta Wilderness Association, from Bill Michalsky, the first interim president, Floyd Stromstedt, the first president, and Steve Dixon, who christened AWA with its name. Floyd and Steve were present to receive their awards and Mike Michalsky accepted the award on his late father's behalf. During the past year, biographies on each recipient have been published in *Wild Lands Advocate*. Each recipient shared their thoughts and memories after they unveiled their plaques.

The Hillhurst Room of AWA's Calgary office, where we hold this event, has a wall that will feature plaques of all award winners, with their pictures and a short biographical paragraph. An electronic version of this wall is on our website under Events.



Peter Sherrington, host

"These awards will ensure that [your] achievements will continue to inspire and encourage those to whom the challenge of wilderness preservation has been passed."

Mike Michalsky

I am honored to accept this award on my father's behalf. I am sure he would have been proud. It is nice to know that he inspired others with his love of the wilderness. A concern for the seemingly unstoppable destruction of our wildlands by the relentless hunger of the resource extraction industries gave my father motivation for his actions. He was highly critical of the government's mismanagement of our public lands and natural resources. He was ever alert to the schemes hatched by those who would destroy precious habitat in an effort to make a fast dollar. He spent countless hours drafting letters and organizing and attending meetings in opposition to those schemes. And he stressed the need to teach others to view our untouched wildlands as a priceless heritage, not as a resource for our super consumption. My family and I truly appreciate your (AWA) recognition of my father's efforts to save our wild spaces.



Steve Dixon

The picture of me on the plaque was taken by Mike Dougherty, High River. On one of our backpacking trips up on the upper Highwood mountains several years ago we found ourselves surrounded by swarms of hummingbirds. A beautiful experience as were so many of our trips. As a young man I convinced Mike to accompany me on some of my trips. He soon got the habit. We later used horses. Mike and I are still getting in some trips. It makes life worth living.



Floyd Stromstedt

Floyd gave credit to Bill Michalsky for getting him interested and involved in wilderness conservation and AWA. Before he left he told us a story about a hunting trip he took with Bill. Bill's daughter Sue accompanied them; she was 5 or 6 years old at the time. On that trip after Bill shot a deer, Sue looked up at her father and asked, "Did it have to die?" Her father replied stoically, "Without death, there is no life." Confronted with this timeless truth, all Sue could say was, "Oh."

ASSOCIATION NEWS

AWA WILDERNESS CELEBRATION: MUCH MORE THAN JUST A FUNDRAISER

By John Geary



Plentiful good food and fine wine entice guests

Every October business people, artists, community leaders, donors, and many others from across the province join Alberta Wilderness Association members, staff, and volunteers at AWA's Annual Wilderness Celebration. Although they come from many different backgrounds, they all share one thing: a love of and belief in the inherent value of wilderness.

While the event serves as a fundraiser, the celebration's social aspect is just as important. The people-nature connection is very important, but so, too, is the people-people connection.

"I think one of the things the AWA does very well is forge that personal connection with people," says Christyann Olson, the Association's executive director. "Whether at these events or just on a day-to-day basis with members and supporters, we



Choosing items to bid on was a challenging choice

try to personalize who we are and what we're doing."

That human connection is a key reason why the event becomes bigger and better each year.

Marilyn Unger had been to the dinner as a guest twice before, but this year decided to volunteer for the first time.

"It always seemed to be such a prestigious event that ran like clockwork, so we assumed everyone involved in running it were professionals," she says. "I was really surprised and delighted when I was asked if I would consider helping.

It was very rewarding."

While she does not help organize the event these days, former volunteer Rhonda Gallelli likes to stay involved in other ways.

"I've gotten to know a lot of people at the AWA through the years, and it's nice to see them at the event," she says. "I'll continue to go every year."

"Because we're able have a good mix of new volunteers

with volunteers who have been with us for a good length of time, we can maintain that level of success with new ideas to increase interest in the event. One of the really difficult things with these kinds of events is to maintain interest.

Deanne Ivany echoes that sentiment. A long-time volunteer organizer who now attends as a guest, she says it's for a great cause and it's a great way to catch up with old friends.

"The group of us that gets together are old volunteer organizers who've kept in touch throughout the years. If we don't see one another at any other time, there's always the dinner."

"We have a wonderful, steady group of people — volunteers, donors, people who attend the event — who support it and look forward to it every year."

Kathryn Manry has been involved for five years. Originally the event's artwork attracted her attention, but she became a regular volunteer because of the fun she has at the event.

"It's a real feel-good evening," she says. "So many things to do with wilderness and environmental concerns can be such downers, it's nice to have an event that's more of a celebration."

Joann Wyvill, who has participated for four years, agrees. "It's a nice evening with pleasant company, and it's all for such a good cause," she says.

Patrick Cox participated in his first dinner this past October. He says it exceeded his expectations.

"Not having been to one, I was not sure what to expect. It was quite a gala night."

He says he looks forward to attending the event again.



KC the Bear always shows up - impressive as ever!



David Galvin encourages bidding in the live auction



Judy Aldous - our fabulous emcee

Candid Comments Overheard at the Celebration

With such a diverse group attending the dinner, reasons for attending — aside from love of wilderness — can vary widely. Listening to the comments people make during the event can be very interesting and entertaining ... like the following comments, in quotations, overheard at the event:

*"The roast beef was great!"
(For some, the plate's the thing ...)*

*"How could you let my husband buy that?"
(Will this become another object relegated to the garage?)*

*"I've never been on a dance floor in my life!"
(In the dance of life, not all of us are destined to be ballerinas ... some of us have to be content to be wallflowers.)*

*"I sure hope I win the day with Ian Tyson ..."
(If wishes were horses ... Ian would have a pretty big herd, and he'd be pretty busy ...)*

*"What incredible displays!"
(K.C. the Bear continues to impress!)*

*"This is the best ever!"
(High praise indeed, especially when you consider volunteers had only half the usual time in which to set up for the event.)*



Partygoers were swinging to the music of the Dino Martinis late into the night



March 8, 2003

Auction viewing

6:30

Entertainment

begins 7:00

Royal Glenora Club,
Edmonton

Tickets \$75.00

You are invited to a spring celebration of Wild Alberta

Join us for an evening of fine drink, good food and exciting entertainment

Swing to great music



Compete in exciting auctions and unique raffles

Presentation by Ben Gadd, Jasper author and naturalist

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THE ALBERTA WILDERNESS
ASSOCIATION PRESENTS



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VOLUNTEERS — MAKING A LIFE BY WHAT THEY GIVE

Christyann Olson, Executive Director



Alysha deBruyn

Each year the Alberta Wilderness Association is honoured by the dedication and immeasurable support of many volunteers from every corner of the province. During the month of December, we take time to reflect on the many elements of our work that simply could not occur without the assistance of our volunteers. Every aspect of our day-to-day activities as an association depends in some way on volunteers. From our dedicated Board of Directors, to our critics and defenders, to our community liaisons and our colleagues who share their expertise and skills day-to-day, we are dependent on you and we thank you!

“You make a living by what you do, and you make a life by what you give” is what volunteerism means to me. The staff of AWA give to the vision and values of this association and recognize what volunteers give us. During this past year volunteers have contributed more than 10,000 hours that we have counted and countless others that we have not kept



Rod, Dan, Vivian

track of. What a wonderful legacy!

When asked why they volunteer, the responses are as varied as the individuals who make the commitment to share their time with AWA. The role of the volunteer in AWA is increasingly important as we grow and strengthen our ability to “Defend Wild Alberta” — we cannot succeed without volunteers.



Heather Sloan



Mel, Deanne

We have had a full year with many new and exciting opportunities. We are especially encouraged by the environmental citizenship and sincere interest of many Albertans in issues related to defending Wild Alberta. There are many examples of success for AWA this past year that we attribute to the support of volunteers. The completion of our Wild Alberta map was a significant accomplishment, and late in November, the map won third place in a cartography competition held at Calgary’s City Hall in conjunction with GIS days. The map would not have been possible without volunteers! ✨



Joanne Wyville



Profile: Rob Ronconi

Hello. I’m happy to be joining the Alberta Wilderness Association in Calgary where I will be working part-time with AWA to help develop a plan for monitoring recreation and human use in Alberta’s beautiful Bighorn Wildland Recreation Area. It’s great to be back in Alberta after a two-year absence since I graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in environmental sciences. Between then and now I’ve been back and forth from Ontario (my home) to New Brunswick.

New Brunswick has been my home away from home for the past seven years where I return every summer to Grand Manan Island. On Grand Manan I’ve worked my way up the ranks from research assistant to senior staff with the Grand Manan Whale and Seabird Research Station. We study harbour porpoises and help local fishermen to release porpoises that become trapped in fishing gear.

My recent passion, however, has been the seabirds. For the past three years I have been working on independent seabird research on Grand Manan and I plan to pursue graduate studies relating to seabird research next year. Until I can return to the sea I’m happy to be back in Alberta and working with AWA on this project. If anybody has any info or input on OHV or snowmobile use in our wildlands I would love to hear from you. Write rronconi@yahoo.com.



Profile: Ann Marie Barnhill

Hello! My name is Ann Marie Barnhill and I am happy to be the event manager for the 12th annual *Climb for Wilderness* (Saturday, April 19, 2003 — mark your calendar now!). So far I have been busy putting together a big plan, requesting sponsorship, structuring media plans, and working on promotional materials.

My background is quite varied. I have been lucky to be involved in many exciting nature projects including the Sunalta Wildflower Garden, Sunalta Schoolyard Naturalization Project, and Breaking Ground Conference 2002. I also have worked as the National Program Manager at AT&T Canada and in many roles over 13 years in the Information Services department at the Canadian Pacific Railway (which explains the computer science degree).

I love working at AWA...the people are great and the issues are important. I look forward to seeing you all at the Calgary Tower!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The spiritual home for many Albertans lies in their wild lands, waters, and species. In my 25 years of association with the AWA, I have never seen so much uncertainty about the future of Alberta's wilderness, despite the fact that we are enjoying great public support. The AWA is where it always has been, on the front lines, working tirelessly for wilderness and wildlife protection.

Despite the gloomy mood, there have been significant victories for wilderness and wildlife. We have made headway by:

- raising the alarm about the impending invasion of off-highway vehicles into the Prime Protection Zone at the Bighorn and the implications this has for all of the Eastern Slopes
- protecting the South Saskatchewan River Canyon by successfully defeating the proposed Meridian Dam and inching closer to the establishment of the Suffield National Wildlife Area
- helping to set the bar by which forest companies will be certified and continuing to build alliances in the marketplace to protect Alberta's wild foothills and boreal forests like the Little Smoky, Lakeland, and Liege
- being at the forefront of an initiative to protect and restore large blocks of native grassland and associated wildlife in SE Alberta
- educating Albertans on wild land issues through the *Wild Lands Advocate*, outreach programs, and field tours
- mapping our areas of concern
- refining a definition of wilderness for government planning processes
- maintaining Alberta's premier resource centre for wild land issues

The AWA is a special group of people who have an amazing history. I can think of no other conservation organization that has done more to protect wildlands and wildlife in Alberta. In addition to our traditional work along the Eastern Slopes in the Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative, we defend wild grasslands and parklands of southern Alberta as well as the boreal forest and foothills through central and northern portions of the province. We have a talented and dedicated staff and hundreds of volunteers who work on everything from our conservation programs to keeping an eye on our finances and staging events. This work is as tough as it gets, and it takes a long time to see results. The support we receive from our individual members and from environmentally-conscious businesses is a big boost morally and financially.

The AWA has a constantly growing support base, and we have increased the level of media attention to wilderness and wildlife issues. Our association with wildcanada.net in environmental citizenship is just one of many ways we are freshening our approach to wildland protection.

There is indeed much to celebrate. We have been instrumental in protecting wildlands in every corner of Alberta. Our presence means that future generations will continue to enjoy the many benefits from wildlife and wilderness. But it is not enough to rest on our laurels and enjoy what we have protected. We must continue to both confront and work side by side with industry, ranchers, and government to secure more protection. The AWA is your voice for the wilderness. We will continue to pursue many creative ways of defending Alberta's wildlands so that we may be worthy of your continued support.



Cliff Wallis
President



LEAVING A WILDERNESS LEGACY

Christyann Olson, Executive Director

Alberta has some of the most pristine wilderness and alluring natural areas in the world. The preservation of our wilderness cannot be taken for granted; we must take an active role. For some of us, it means day-to-day vigilance and an unending quest for greater education and awareness by the public and decision makers; for others it is a commitment of time or a gift of money to support the leadership of others. The Alberta Wilderness Association is dedicated to protecting wilderness for our future and leaving a wilderness legacy.

Planning for a wilderness legacy depends on individuals like you and me who care about our environment and our wilderness. It seems to me that as time passes, we all recognize and develop a greater understanding of the need for wilderness. I invite all those interested in leaving a wilderness legacy to be part of the Alberta Wilderness Association Planned Giving Program, and be a part of making the dream of wilderness for tomorrow come true.

Our Planned Giving Program includes Gifts in Memoriam, Bequests, Gifts of Property, Life Insurance, and the Alberta Wilderness and Wildlife Trust endowment fund.

Gifts in Memoriam — Through the years a number of families have requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Alberta Wilderness Association. All donors receive charitable tax receipts and are recognized for their gifts. The family is notified of the friends who have supported their request for gifts in memoriam to AWA. A gift in remembrance and celebration of a life that has touched our own is a meaningful tribute. AWA has developed memorial plaques that list those who have been remembered in this way. The plaques hang on the wall of the Hillhurst Room in the provincial offices in Calgary.


Bequests — A carefully drafted will gives each of us the power to make choices that truly represent our own life circumstances and values. A bequest to the Alberta Wilderness Association by naming the Association as a beneficiary of your will can be a very meaningful gift for you and your family. Some feel this is the easiest way to leave a lasting impact and build a wilderness legacy.

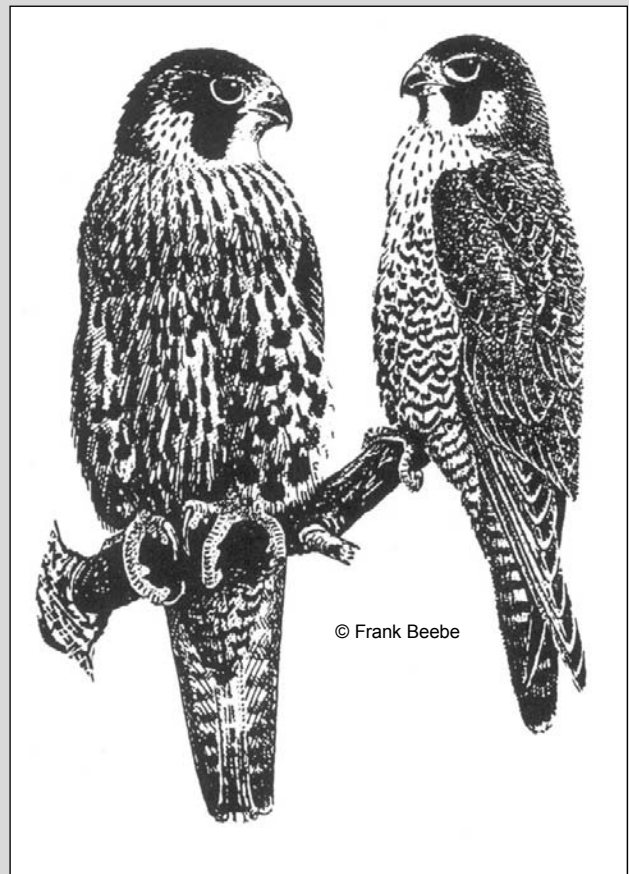
Gifts of Property — The donation of property, including art or collectibles, may be considered for a charitable in-kind tax receipt, in accordance with Canada Customs and Revenue Agency rules.

Gifts of Life Insurance — A gift of a life insurance policy is a means to make a significant contribution from a relatively small investment.

Alberta Wilderness and Wildlife Trust Endowment —

The Alberta Wilderness and Wildlife Trust is an endowment fund established by the Alberta Wilderness Association with the Calgary Foundation to support the long-term sustainability of AWA. The fund was initiated in 1986 as a memorial tribute to Orval Pall. Throughout the years, benefits and contributions to the fund by family and friends have allowed the fund to grow. Other families seeking to remember their own loved ones found solace and strength in devoting resources to the endowment fund established to support the protection of wilderness in Alberta. In 2000 on the 15th anniversary of the fund, AWA established the Alberta Wilderness and Wildlife Trust as part of AWA's planned giving program. The Alberta Wilderness and Wildlife Trust supports wilderness programs and research that contribute to the protection, understanding, and appreciation of wilderness, wild rivers, and wildlife.

The continued success of AWA programs and services depends on the generous gifts and contributions of many individual citizens, corporations, and others. We would be pleased to discuss the programs and endowment fund options that we have available. Please call me at the AWA office (403) 283-2025 or visit our website at AlbertaWilderness.ca. 



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OPEN HOUSE TALKS PROGRAM — FALL 2002

CALGARY

Location: The Hillhurst Room,
AWA, 455 12th St NW
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Cost: \$5.00 per person
Contact: 403-283-2025 for reservations

Tuesday January 14, 2003

When do you let the animals out? A fun look at wildlife watching in the Rockies

with Michael Kerr

Michael Kerr is a naturalist, international conference speaker and the former communications manager for Banff National Park. His wildlife stories and insights were recently featured on a nine-part CBC radio series. He is the author of *The Canadian Rockies Guide to Wildlife Watching* and *When Do You Let the Animals Out? A Field Guide to Rocky Mountain Humour*. Over the years he has had the honour of imitating a pika on the Discovery Channel, an elk on CBC radio and a moose on CNN.

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Alberta's Wilderness Past and Present: An Evening with AWA Founder Steve Dixon

Steve Dixon has been described as one of the spark plugs in the early formation of the Alberta Wilderness Association in the 1960s. His concerns about human overpopulation and the loss of wildlife and natural areas prompted an enthusiastic and vociferous advocacy for preserving wilderness values. An avid hunter, he applied his conservationist principles to his farming operation east of High River. Steve will be looking back at the changes that have taken place in wilderness protection in Alberta since the 1960s.

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Bear Stories: Three Generations of Bow Valley Grizzlies

With Colleen Campbell

Colleen Campbell has been tracking grizzly bears for 10 years. She has worked as a field researcher for the Eastern Slopes Grizzly Bear Project and the Central Rockies Wolf Project. A talented wildlife artist and educator, Colleen has a life passion to teach people about bears so that through increased knowledge, bears will be protected into the future.

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

NatureScaping — Creating and Caring for Wildlife Habitat at Home

With Myrna Pearman

Myrna Pearman has worked as a biologist at the Ellis Bird Farm near Lacombe since 1987. She is currently working to establish the Bird Farm as a demonstration backyard wildlife habitat site, using many of the principles laid out in her *NatureScape* book. Myrna received the 1991 Loran L. Goulden Memorial Award from the Federation of Alberta Naturalists and a Nature Educator of the year award from the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History in 1992.

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Bumblebees in Alberta

With Dr. Robin Owen

Robin Owen is a dedicated and enthusiastic biologist, a full-time member of the Department of Chemical, Biological & Environmental sciences at Mount Royal College in Calgary, and a professor of biological sciences at the University of Calgary. He has had a long-term interest in bumblebees and their biology and ecology, and has also “dabbled” with leafcutter bees and sweat bees.

Alberta Wilderness Action Committee

By Tamaini Snaith

AWA is pleased to announce our new initiative, the *ALBERTA WILDERNESS ACTION COMMITTEE*. This committee is designed to provide meaningful opportunities for enthusiastic volunteers throughout the province. We have a number of projects waiting for your input and assistance.

One of the exciting opportunities for Committee members will be to take part in *ALBERTA WILDERNESS WATCH*. We introduced you to *ALBERTA WILDERNESS WATCH* in the June 2002 issue of the *Advocate*. We're just starting to get our stewardship and monitoring programs off the ground. We have hired Rob Ronconi to help us develop our initial plan for monitoring wilderness.

The objective is to monitor the status of wilderness in Alberta, document negative effects of human use, and find practical and creative solutions to protect wilderness from degradation through inappropriate use.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining the *ALBERTA WILDERNESS ACTION COMMITTEE*.

For all the
latest news,
check our
website:

www.AlbertaWilderness.ca



Corrections for the June 2002 issue:

page 3: Canadian Mountain Holidays head office is in Banff, not Canmore.

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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.



"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 and Wildlife 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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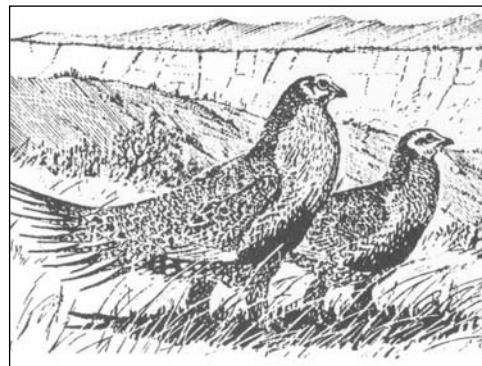
☐ **I wish to join the Monthly Donor Programme!**

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>

Wild Lands Advocate – The Leading Edge

Wild Lands Advocate has produced original leading edge stories that have been picked up by other media. For example, our story on the Northern Plains Conservation Network by Andy Marshall in the August 2002 issue led to a story in the *Calgary Herald* (although their reporter missed the point of the Network by featuring it as an ecotourism project). Our story on public consultation by Andy Marshall in the October 2002 issue led to a request for a similar story by Andy in *Business Edge* (Nov 21-27, 2002). One of the things we strive to do is bring you stories that can be found nowhere else and represent the voices of Albertans. The editorial board would like to thank all our contributors who have made the *Wild Lands Advocate* such a success this past year.



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The Alberta Wilderness Association

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