



---

Wild Lands Advocate 11(5): 20, October 2003

## Conservation Groups Unite To Fight Milk River Dam Proposal

By Nigel Douglas, AWA Outreach Coordinator

Alberta Wilderness Association has joined forces with WildCanada.net and Earthwild International to oppose any dam construction on the Milk River in southern Alberta. A feasibility study on a Milk River dam is currently underway, and these groups are working together to help Canadians become more involved in helping to protect our river heritage and fight projects such as this. A new Endangered Rivers Web site has been launched to help people who want to voice their opposition to the dam proposals.

The Milk River runs through some of the least fragmented, most extensive and most diverse grassland landscapes in North America. The proposed Milk River Dam would severely damage the recently designated Twin Rivers Heritage Rangeland, providing water for low value irrigation projects while damaging a high value conservation area at significant cost to the Alberta taxpayer.

The Milk River Ridge is an internationally significant grassland, home to several species of rare or endangered fish, amphibians, birds, and plants; it is also important habitat for deer and provides nesting areas for several birds of prey and the sharp-tailed grouse. It is one of six large blocks of grasslands left in the glaciated plains of North America. Less than two per cent of Alberta's Grassland natural region is protected, and there is an urgent need for more protection of this spectacular habitat.

For more information on how you can add your name to the growing list of people opposing the dam, check out the Endangered Rivers Web site at [www.endangeredrivers.net](http://www.endangeredrivers.net).

