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Clearwater-Christina Rivers Designated as Canadian Heritage Rivers

The Clearwater-Christina Rivers in northeastern Alberta are the first Alberta rivers to be recognized under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS). The CHRS is a national river conservation program through which federal, provincial, and territorial governments, and numerous other stakeholders, co-operate to recognize, protect, and manage Canadian rivers of outstanding natural and/or cultural values and recreational opportunities.

Alberta joined the CHRS in 1994, the last province to do so, based upon the recommendations of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System Advisory Committee established in 1991 by then Environment Minister Ralph Klein. The CHRS designation does not restrict economic or recreational activity in or along the river as long as those activities are in accordance with the management objectives to conserve outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

The Clearwater-Christina Rivers were nominated for designation in 1996 and the Clearwater River Committee – comprised of stakeholders in recreation, industry, and environment, with local river interests – was formed. According to the CHRS website, “The management plan for the Clearwater/Christina Corridor is a written commitment of all users to share leadership as stewards of the river and to cooperate, educate, understand, and respect each other and the river environment.”

For more information see the Alberta government news release for April 19, 2004.

