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AWA Joins Caribou Mountains Committee

By Joyce Hildebrand

After repeated requests for ENGO representation on the Caribou Mountains Wildland Park Management Plan Advisory Committee (PAC), AWA received an invitation from Alberta Community Development (CD) on June 27 to have an AWA representative on the Committee; we accepted the invitation and I have agreed to be the AWA representative.

The subsequent meeting took place on October 19, but CD advised us that they are not able to provide funding for transportation to the meetings, which take place in Fort Vermilion. Since travel costs are prohibitive, AWA requested participation by telephone. CD was unable to arrange teleconferencing for the October meeting but forwarded the minutes to us. CD has found a venue that will facilitate AWA's telephone participation for the next meeting.

A partial Draft Management Plan has been prepared, but CD is revising it and several sections are still to come. CD plans to have the entire draft plan completed before the next meeting, planned for February 2007. We will examine the draft and submit comments to CD before February.

Last spring, the PAC requested that the park status for Caribou Mountains be revoked and CD Minister Ducharme denied the request. The PAC is also pushing for increased OHV use, increased bison hunting, and wildlife baiting, among other demands, all of which conflict with AWA's vision for the Park.

