



Wild Lands Advocate, June 2008, Vol. 16, No. 3**Provincial Park Boundaries May Change after Hunter Outcry**

By Chris Wearmouth

The provincial government is considering changing the boundaries of the recently created Rock Lake Provincial Park northwest of Hinton. In 2006, Alberta Tourism, Parks, and Recreation (TPR) expanded the Rock Lake Provincial Recreation Area and redesignated it as a provincial park after problems with poaching inside the recreation area and the discharging of firearms within campgrounds.

The government did not consult the public prior to the redesignation, as the Parks Division felt they were merely changing the administration of a portion of land within the encompassing Rock Lake–Solomon Creek Wildland. Since 2006, many locals have voiced their opinions about the expanded park, focusing primarily on the elimination of hunting from areas where it was previously allowed under Wildland classification.

In April, TPR held two open houses, one in Hinton and one in Edmonton, to answer questions and hear comments from the public. Comments filed with TPR before May 30 will provide direction for the possible boundary change. AWA has made a submission outlining our priorities for the area and expressing our concern with the lack of public consultation in the initial decision. The Government of Alberta expects to make a final decision regarding the boundary later this year.

