

From: Alberta Wilderness Association [Alberta_Wilderness_Association@mail.vresp.com]
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2009 12:00 PM
To: awa.nd@shaw.ca
Subject: AWA Wilderness & Wildlife Defenders - National Parks



Alberta Wilderness Association

December 4, 2009



Dear Nigel,

Through AWA's Wilderness and Wildlife Defenders program, we work to keep you up to date with opportunities to have a say in the decisions that are made directly affecting wilderness in the province.

Last week we sent you a note about the opportunity to comment on a draft management plan for Banff National Park. Thank you to the many folks who took the time to write! The comment period for Banff has now been extended to December 15, and now comment is also being sought for two other National Parks: Waterton and Jasper (December 11 and January 9 respectively).

These plans show a significant shift in management priorities for the parks, so we urge anybody with an interest in the National Parks to take this opportunity to make their opinions known. Thanks for your help.

– Nigel Douglas, Conservation Specialist.

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THREE NEW NATIONAL
PARK MANAGEMENT
PLANS

AWA
www.AlbertaWilderness.ca
[1-866-313-0713](tel:1-866-313-0713)

THREE NEW NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLANS

THE ISSUE

Alberta's three mountain National Parks – Banff, Jasper and Waterton - are precious to Albertans and indeed all Canadians. Through a series of draft Management Plans, Parks Canada is asking for public comment on the future management of the parks. AWA has considerable reservations about how the draft plans reflect a shift away from managing the parks to maintain their ecological integrity in favour of "maximizing the visitor experience."

BACKGROUND

Although Parks Canada is apparently asking for comments on the three draft Management Plans, none of them are available online, and indeed the Parks Canada websites give little information to concerned members of the public. To remedy this situation, AWA has posted all three reports on its [website](#)

Last dates for comments on the three draft plans are:

- Waterton – December 11, 2009

- Banff – December 15, 2009 (extended from original November 30 deadline)
- Jasper – January 9, 2010

[Click here](#) to see AWA's recommendations for the draft Banff plan. AWA is in the process of reviewing the Waterton and Jasper plans, and these will be posted online shortly.

AWA concerns about the plans include:

Poor Public Process

If public opinion is being sought on the draft plans, then why is it so hard for the public to find them? None of the draft plans are available on Parks Canada's website.

Ecological Integrity

According to the 2001 Canada National Parks Act, "maintenance or restoration of ecological integrity, through the protection of natural resources and natural processes, shall be the first priority of the Minister when considering all aspects of the management of parks." Yet the draft plans refers only in passing to the Parks' primary priority of ecological integrity.

Visitor numbers

All three plans propose to increase visitor numbers, without putting such an increase in any ecological perspective. For example there is no reason to believe that a 22% increase in visitors to Banff over ten years can be achieved without compromising the park's integrity.

Wilderness Areas

Recommendations leave the door open in a vague and ill-defined manner to future development within the Wilderness Areas of the parks.

Help us – TAKE ACTION NOW

Last dates for comments on the three draft plans are:

- Waterton – December 11, 2009
- Banff – December 15, 2009
- Jasper – January 9, 2010

Please send your comments to:

For Banff:

- The Hon. Jim Prentice, Minister of Environment - prentj@parl.gc.ca
- Your own federal Member of Parliament - <http://www.albertawilderness.ca/help-us>
- Kevin Van Tighem, Superintendent of Banff Field Unit, Parks Canada – Kevin.vantighem@pc.gc.ca
- Mike Murtha, Planner, Banff Field Unit, Parks Canada - mike.murtha@pc.gc.ca

For Waterton:

- The Hon. Jim Prentice, Minister of Environment - prentj@parl.gc.ca
- Your own federal Member of Parliament - <http://www.albertawilderness.ca/help-us>
- Janice Smith, Communications Officer - janice.smith@pc.gc.ca
- Dave McDonough, Waterton Lakes Field Unit Superintendent – dave.mcdonough@pc.gc.ca

For Jasper:

- The Hon. Jim Prentice, Minister of Environment - prentj@parl.gc.ca
- Your own federal Member of Parliament - <http://www.albertawilderness.ca/help-us>
- Greg Fenton, Superintendent, Jasper National Park - greg.fenton@pc.gc.ca