



Dear Wilderness Supporter,

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.

Recently we sent you information about a public consultation process concerning draft Management Plans for Canada's Mountain National Parks. The comment period for the last of these plans - Jasper National Park - ends on Friday January 8, 2010. The draft plan shows a significant shift in management priority for the park, so we urge anybody with an interest in Jasper to take this opportunity to have a say. Thanks for your help! – Nigel Douglas, Conservation Specialist.

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JASPER NATIONAL PARK DRAFT PLAN

AWA

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JASPER NATIONAL PARK DRAFT PLAN

THE ISSUE

Jasper National Park is one of the wildest, most spectacular protected wildernesses in Alberta. It is a national treasure which we all have the opportunity to enjoy, but also the responsibility to help to protect. Following on from draft Management Plans for Banff and Waterton Parks, Parks Canada is asking for public comment on the future management of Jasper. AWA has reservations about how the draft plan reflects a shift away from managing the Park to maintain their ecological integrity in favour of maximizing the "visitor experience."

BACKGROUND

The consultation process for the Jasper plan is improved over the Banff and Waterton plans in that it is at least available online. [Click here](#) to see the draft Jasper Management Plan.

AWA concerns about the plans include:

Process

Publicity about the draft plan has been somewhat limited for those who live outside of Jasper. The plan itself is incomplete, with important sections such as *Monitoring and Reporting* and *Priority Actions* still "to be completed."

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 plan refers only in passing to the

Park's primary priority of ecological integrity, and does not acknowledge that it must be the first priority.

Visitor Numbers

The plan proposes to increase visitor numbers without putting such an increase in any ecological perspective. There is no reason to believe that a proposed 22% increase in visitors to Jasper over ten years can be achieved without compromising the park's integrity.

Wildlife

The plan is very vague in many places.

- For grizzly bears, it proposes to "Address sources of both direct and indirect mortality" without explaining how.
- For caribou, although the draft plan acknowledges that "The three sub-herds in South Jasper National Park all show a long-term declining trend," there is no explanation of how this will be remedied. Suggested actions are vague or even contradictory, including "Explore ways to enhance winter recreation opportunities and achieve actions to support caribou recovery."
- AWA calls for drastic measures to deal with a rapidly declining caribou population, including winter closure of the Maligne Lake road.

[Click here](#) to see AWA's recommendations for the draft Jasper Management Plan.

Help us – TAKE ACTION NOW

Last dates for comments on the draft Jasper plan is Friday January 8, 2010.

Please send your comments to:

- The Hon. Jim Prentice, Minister of Environment - prentj@parl.gc.ca
- Your own federal Member of Parliament - [Click here](#) to find your own MP
- Greg Fenton, Superintendent, Jasper National Park - greg.fenton@pc.gc.ca

And please send me a copy of your comments to awa.nd@shaw.ca

Defending Wild Alberta through Awareness and Action