



ALBERTA
SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Grande Prairie - Smoky*

RECEIVED
SEP 15 2011

AR28298

August 30, 2011

Ms. Christyann Olson
Executive Director
Alberta Wilderness Association
Box 6398, Station D
Calgary, AB T2P 2E1

Dear Ms. Olson:

Premier Ed Stelmach forwarded your August 12, 2011 email requesting the closure of portions of the Upper Clearwater/Ram Forest Land Use Zone. The Premier has reviewed your concerns and asked that I respond on behalf of the Alberta government.

Sustainable Resource Development has identified issues with the condition of motorized and non-motorized trails in several areas, including the Hummingbird area. Unusually wet weather has affected trail conditions this year, which are similar to conditions observed by the department and your organization in August 2010.

Department staff recently assessed trail conditions in the Hummingbird area and identified areas of the trail system that require repair. At this time trail closures are not planned for this area and the department will work with volunteer groups to prioritize the areas of concern and schedule trail repair work accordingly.

The Canary Creek Trail Condition report you provided contains valuable information that will be presented for discussion at the fall 2011 meeting of the Bighorn standing and steering committees. Department staff advise that the status of the Bighorn five-year review and report was discussed during the department's November 2010 meeting with the Alberta Wilderness Association. The anticipated date of completion for this report is fall 2011.

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Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mel R. Knight', written in a cursive style.

Mel R. Knight
Minister

cc: Honourable Ed Stelmach, Premier