Alberta Wilderness Association

November 30, 2011



Dear {FIRST_NAME|Wilderness Defender},

Once again we are calling on the provincial government to take action to save Alberta's grizzlies. Too many roads in grizzly habitat leads to grizzly deaths- but our government has thus far avoided tackling the root of the problem!

-Madeline Wilson, AWA Conservation Specialist

The Issue

This past September, Alberta Wilderness Association, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y), and the Sierra Club urged the Alberta Government to end new road construction in bear habitat until the amount of roads are at or below the amount identified in the provincial Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan. These actions are recommended in the Plan, yet more than three years after the government adopted the plan, none of these actions have been taken, and the plight of bears on the ground has grown worse.

The vast network of industrial roads and trails on Alberta's public lands bring far too many such people into contact with grizzlies. Bears die when hunters or others with guns accidentally or purposefully kill them, and research continues to link increased bear mortality with increased linear disturbance density in bear habitat.

Background

- Alberta's grizzly bears are listed as a Threatened species; there are fewer than 700 left.
- Most grizzly deaths occur because there are too many people in their habitat - too many roads and trails criss-cross lands that grizzly bears need to survive.
- The Alberta government is not adhering to its own commitments to reduce the number of roads and access trails that should be allowed in provincial grizzly habitat. In fact, the number of roads and other access trails in grizzly habitat is up to 4 times greater than recommended in Alberta's Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan.

To read our news release, calling for a moratorium on road construction in grizzly habitat, follow this <u>link</u>.

In This Issue:

Too many roads mean too many grizzly deaths – You can help Alberta's bears!

AWA www.AlbertaWilderness.ca 1-866-313-0713

Take Action!

Please consider writing a letter to the new Minister of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Frank Oberle, letting him know the importance of implementing the provincial Recovery Plan's recommendations. Feel free to use the listed facts as support points.

Thank you for protecting Alberta's grizzlies!

Honourable Frank Oberle Minister of Sustainable Resource Development #404 Legislature Building 10800 97 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6 Email: <u>peace.river@assembly.ab.ca</u>

And please send a copy of your letter to, awa.mw@shaw.ca

Defending Wild Alberta through Awareness and Action

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