



Dear {FIRST_NAME|Wilderness Defender},

AWA and other environmental groups have been seeking protection of the Castle wilderness area for decades, but this fall has shown tremendous strides in provincial support for this designation and recent comments made in the provincial legislature show we are truly making progress. Now is the time to maintain this drive!

-Madeline Wilson, AWA Conservation Specialist

In This Issue:

Let's keep up the provincial momentum to protect the Castle Wildland!

AWA

www.AlbertaWilderness.ca

[1-866-313-0713](tel:1-866-313-0713)

Protect the Castle Wildland

Jack Hayden, Alberta Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation recently indicated that public opinion may push the government to finally protect the Castle wilderness area.



Issue

The following is an excerpt from the provincial legislature (November 22, 2011), in an exchange between liberal MLA Harry Chase and Alberta Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation Jack Hayden:

Mr. Chase: "Given that the vast majority of residents in southwest Alberta want reinforced special places protection for the Castle area, will the minister defend our natural heritage and proclaim the Andy Russell I'tai Sah Kòp wildland park?"

Mr. Hayden: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we will treat this advice that we're getting from Albertans as we always treat advice from Albertans. If it's what, in fact, they want, it's what I'm expecting they will get. We want to protect as much of Alberta's eastern slopes as we possibly can because it's such a treasure not just to Albertans but to the rest of the world."

It sounds like the Minister is asking Albertans to tell him we want the Castle protected!

Background

- The Castle wilderness area boasts exceptional ecological and tourism values: clean water production for southern Alberta and Saskatchewan, old growth forests, some of the highest diversity of plant and animal species in Alberta, and outstanding low-impact

recreation opportunities.

- On the other hand, the forests of the Castle wilderness area are of only marginal timber value: the high altitude, windswept trees have been coined “matchstick forests,” which must travel a 500 mile round trip to the closest pulp mill in Cochrane.

There is support mounting across the province and among political representatives, as more people begin to realize that preservation of the Castle wilderness area through legislated protection makes better sense both economically, and certainly ecologically, than clear-cut logging.

Take Action!

If you have written a letter in support of Castle protection before, please write again. If you have not, please consider adding your voice to this important campaign, by writing to:

The Honourable Alison Redford
Premier of Alberta
Room 307, Legislature Building
10800 – 97th Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
Email: Premier@gov.ab.ca

Honourable Jack Hayden
Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation
#229 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
Email: drumheller.stettler@assembly.ab.ca

Alberta Liberal Party Critic for Tourism, Parks and Recreation
Harry Chase
Legislative Branch
201 Legislature Annex
9718 - 107 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E4
Email: calgary.varsity@assembly.ab.ca

We have also been informed that all MLAs have been asked to log the volume of calls they receive regarding the Castle, so please call your local MLA!

To look up your MLA contact information, see our [website](#).

And please don't forget to let us know if you make a call, and send a copy of your letters to awa.mw@shaw.ca

Defending Wild Alberta through Awareness and Action

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