



Dear {FIRST_NAME|Wilderness Defender},

At this very moment, logging machinery is beginning to move into the Castle, in preparation for the clearcutting of 120 hectares of forest. But there is still a chance for a last minute reprieve.

Opinion polls have made it clear that Albertans are strongly opposed to the clearcut logging plans, and want to see the Castle protected. Thousands of letters and phonecalls have been made to the Premier. Please consider making a call to the Premier's office in support of the Castle. It is a game of numbers, and the more people that call, the better the chance of a positive outcome.

- Nigel Douglas, AWA Conservation Specialist

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AWA

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The Castle Needs Defenders!

The Issue

Despite continued and loud opposition from Albertans, the government is pressing ahead with plans for a clearcut logging program in the Castle. The "matchstick" trees which are scheduled for felling are of marginal timber value (the area is a 500 km round-trip from the mill in Cochrane). But they are critically important for their watershed, wildlife and aesthetic values. Albertans have spoken out loud and clear in opposition to the logging plans.

Thousands of Albertans have instead called for the Castle to be protected as a Wildland Park, to recognize its unique wilderness values. Whether or not logging goes ahead this year, the Castle urgently needs protection.

Background

As the essential piece of an ecological puzzle, the Castle connects those Canadian and US National Parks to the south and the Flathead Basin to the west with those habitats and populations in the mountains and foothills to the north. With numerous overlapping ecosystems in one relatively small area, the Castle Wilderness contains one of the highest animal and plant species diversities in

Alberta.

AWA believes that the non-timber values of the Castle - its watershed value, its biodiversity and its recreational value - are far greater than the value of low-quality timber. And yet the Alberta government seems determined to ignore scientific and public opinion, in a stubborn push to impose an industrial forestry program on the area. This old-fashioned approach to logging will have to come to an end soon in Alberta's southwest forests, and hopefully this will happen before the Castle is forced to suffer any further.

Take Action

If you believe that the clearcut logging program in the Castle must be halted, and that the Castle should be protected, then please help.

- You can call the Premier's office **toll free**, by calling **310-000**. Ask to leave a message with the Premier's office (do not let them transfer you to the Connect line which is for general government feedback).
- You can also send an email to premier@gov.ab.ca . If you ask for a reply, then they are obliged to provide you with one.
- Please let us know if you were able to make a call or send an email

Nigel Douglas, AWA Conservation Specialist. awa.nd@shaw.ca

Defending Wild Alberta through Awareness and Action

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