



Dear {FIRST_NAME|Wilderness Defender},

Wild prairie grasslands or gas wells and pipelines?

For four years, we've been keeping you up-to-date on Suffield National Wildlife Area (SNWA) and this very question - what will it be, wild prairie grasslands or 1,275 new Cenovus gas wells and 220 kilometres of new pipelines.

We still don't know and we hope that with help from you, letters to federal Minister of the Environment Peter Kent will help remind him just how important this area is to native biodiversity and the protection of this significant region in Alberta.

Yesterday, our coalition colleagues at Nature Canada sent out a national newsletter like this one asking Canadians to weigh in on protecting the SNWA. Please join the hopeful and write or call Minister Kent today to remind him how much we want a decision in favour of protecting Suffield National Wildlife Area.

In the next few weeks as we reflect on 2012 and AWA's conservation priorities and progress, we will be giving you updates on Alberta's wild spaces. I look forward to hearing from you.

- Christyann Olson, Executive Director

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Write or call Minister Kent

AWA

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SNWA - your help will make a difference!

In a nutshell, here is the concern and a reminder of why we believe protection and no more development within the National Wildlife Area is critical.

EnCana Corporation (now Cenovus) applied to drill an additional 1,275 shallow gas wells and build 220 kilometres of pipeline in the Suffield National Wildlife Area (NWA).

Supporting more than 1,100 species of plants and animals, the NWA is a haven for 94 species of concern, 18 of which are federally listed species at risk like the Ord's Kangaroo Rat,

Sprague's Pipit and Tiny Cryptanthe.



Ord's Kangaroo Rat

This nationally protected area also contains numerous historical sites such as medicine wheels, bison kill sites, and stone cairns.

In addition to the increased vehicle traffic, construction of roads, pipelines, and other infrastructure necessary for EnCana's (now Cenovus's) proposed development, the project would increase the well density to 16 wells per square mile.

A joint federal-provincial hearing into EnCana's application took place from October 6 to 31, 2008. AWA led a Suffield Coalition of seven local, provincial and national environmental organizations opposing the proposed development. Coalition experts presented strong evidence against the project. The Joint Review Panel's report, including 27 recommendations, was released on January 27, 2009. The JRP noted that the negative impacts on habitat – and the wildlife for which it is critical – will be significant.

The final decision is in the hands of the Environment Minister, now Peter Kent, and a decision could be made before the end of this year.

For more details about SNWA - see AWA's website: [Suffield and Middle Sand Hills](#)

Email or phone:

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Phone: (819) 997-1441
Fax: (819) 953-0279
Email: Minister@ec.gc.ca

Please send us a copy of your letter for our files.
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Defending Wild Alberta through Awareness and Action

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