



Dear {FIRST_NAME|Wilderness Defender},

AWA recently learned that Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation (TPR) has delivered materials to build permanent cabins on Jackson and Kinnaird Lakes in northeast Alberta's Lakeland Provincial Park, without any public consultation. Please ask the Alberta government to keep the Lakeland canoe circuit as a premiere backcountry destination without fixed structures.

- Carolyn Campbell, AWA Conservation Specialist

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Fixed-roof cabins in
Lakeland Provincial Park

AWA

www.AlbertaWilderness.ca

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The Issue

Lakeland Provincial Park contains Alberta's only backcountry canoe circuit on a circle of beautiful lakes. The sudden delivery of materials by Jackson and Kinnaird lakes to build 5 fixed cabins broke Alberta Parks' own process to consult the public before adding to a Park footprint. AWA has contacted Alberta Parks and was told that materials will be re-helicoptered out, and they will not build the structures, if the public does not want them.

Aside from AWA's concerns about poor process, we believe that permanent cabins will lead to an influx of impacts and development in some of the very few lakes that retain a relative remoteness and mostly non-mechanized access ideal for canoe camping and diverse and sensitive wildlife.

Background

Lakeland Provincial Park is about 3 hours' drive northeast of Edmonton, just east of Lac La Biche. There is currently no management plan for the park, which was created in 1992. In the Lakeland region between Lac La Biche and Cold Lake, there are already many lakes with growing lakeside developments ranging from RV campgrounds to permanent subdivisions. Lakeland Provincial Recreation Area, a larger area right next to the Provincial Park, has an OHV trail system and several drive-in RV campgrounds beside the large lakes within its borders.

Lakeland is a biodiversity hotspot within Alberta's boreal forest. Its numerous wetlands, lakes, rivers and varied landforms are home to thousands of plant species, almost 200 bird species, 41 mammal species, one reptile species, and four amphibian species. AWA has long held that lands beyond the current Park and Recreation Area are deserving of long-term ecological protection and low impact recreation. With multiple forestry, oil sands, motorized recreation and residential pressures growing in the region, at least the lands

within the Provincial Park should be managed that way.

In spring 2007, Alberta Parks unilaterally installed two communications towers and cables in High Island Natural Area on Lac La Biche. After an outcry by local citizens and AWA over lack of consultation, Parks officials promised to consult on future capital developments where that development extends beyond the footprint of existing facilities.

Take Action

Please ask Alberta TPR to keep the Lakeland canoe circuit as a premiere backcountry destination without fixed structures. Let them know that cabins do not belong by these lakes that still retain a rugged wilderness setting, when there are numerous other more urbanized lakeshores for public access in the region. Please add that it is very inappropriate for materials to be placed on site for a project that has had no public consultation, especially given well-known public concerns with their 2007 unilateral actions in High Island Natural Area.

Letters/e-mails should be sent to Graham Statt, Assistant Deputy Minister for Parks at Alberta TPR, and copied to Norbert Raffael, Alberta TPR Operations Manager for the Lakeland area. Their contact info is below.

For your reference, please also see the [letter that AWA has sent to Norbert Raffael](#) on this matter.

We appreciate being copied at ccampbell@abwild.ca on any letters you send.

Contacts:

- Graham Statt
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Edmonton, AB T5K 2J6
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- Norbert Raffael
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Lac La Biche, AB T0A 2C0
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Thanks for taking action for Alberta's boreal lakes!

Defending Wild Alberta through Awareness and Action

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