



ALBERTA

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Drayton Valley-Devon*

AR 54404

August 28, 2013

Mr. Cliff Wallis, Vice President
Alberta Wilderness Association
Box 6398, Station D
Calgary, AB T2P 2E1
awa@abwild.ca

Dear Mr. Wallis:

Premier Alison Redford forwarded me a copy of your letter dated June 13, 2013, regarding the federal government's Onefour Research Substation near Manyberries, Alberta. Premier Redford has reviewed your comments and asked me to respond on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

I appreciate the Alberta Wilderness Association's concerns about the announcement of the closure of this research facility. The current federal lease for Onefour does not expire for some time, and we have not yet received formal notification from the federal government about its intentions for the lease. Until then, it would be premature to suggest specific management options for this land base.

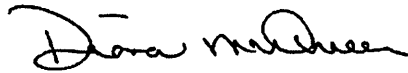
I can advise you that since the federal announcement of the closure of the Onefour Research Substation, numerous stakeholders from the grazing and research communities have approached Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development with an interest in this area. We expect that a number of ideas will be brought forward to manage the Onefour land base by members of various groups in Alberta, including the Alberta Wilderness Association and others in the conservation community.

Our department recognizes the significant biodiversity and conservation value of Onefour. This area encompasses key habitats for a number of species at risk, as well as rangeland resources, which are both key mandates of Environment and Sustainable Resources. We have a strong interest in the management of the land base in this area, and look forward to discussions about the future of Onefour with interested stakeholders and other government departments. Consultation on the draft south Saskatchewan regional plan, which is expected to be released shortly, may also help guide discussions on setting management priorities in this area.

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I assure you the Government of Alberta recognizes the ecological importance of Onefour. Once we know more about the federal government's plans, we can consider different proposals from interested stakeholders. Thank you for taking the time to express your interest in protecting this unique area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana McQueen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Diana" being more prominent than the last name "McQueen".

Diana McQueen
Minister

c: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC
Premier