

Date: Mon, 30 Jun 2014 13:06:37 +0000
From: "Alberta Wilderness Association"
<Alberta_Wilderness_Association@mail.vresp.com>
To:
Subject: AWA Wilderness & Wildlife Defenders: Developing Lakeland's Backcountry



Dear Wilderness Defender,

The Alberta government is proposing fixed roof camping cabins in Alberta's only backcountry canoe circuit in Lakeland Provincial Park. In AWA's view, the cabins will increase mechanized access pressures and be a step towards urbanizing this important, relatively non-mechanized regional wilderness area. They are completely unnecessary given numerous nearby alternatives for fixed roof RV camping and rental cabins in rustic lakeside settings. Please take a moment to write or comment online to Alberta Parks by July 7 during the public consultation period.

- Carolyn Campbell, AWA Conservation Specialist

In This Issue:

Developing Lakeland's
Backcountry

AWA

www.AlbertaWilderness.ca
[1-866-313-0713](tel:1-866-313-0713)

The Issue

The proposal is for five camping cabins sleeping up to 30 people to be placed in a current campground on a narrow strip of land between Jackson and Kinnaird Lakes, within the backcountry canoe circuit. In AWA's view, pressures to generate high usage and to service these cabins will lead to more mechanized access to them, harming the backcountry wilderness character of Lakeland Provincial Park. From an access viewpoint, they are completely unnecessary given the numerous nearby opportunities for fixed roof camping in RVs and rental cabins in rustic lakeside settings. Parks' mandate to upgrade facilities should be applied to better maintain the long-neglected

docks, portage trails and other trails in Lakeland Provincial Park rather than to urbanize it.

Background

Lakeland Provincial Park, created in northeast Alberta in 1992, is an important, relatively wild area in the southern part of Alberta's large boreal central mixedwood natural subregion. With its diverse topography, water bodies and wetlands, it is unusually rich in biodiversity. It is an important wildlife refuge in comparison to the surrounding industrializing Green Zone and the mechanized recreation emphasized in the large, adjacent Lakeland Provincial Recreation Area (PRA).

For those seeking fixed-roof camping, there are 200 RV-accessible sites now operated by Alberta Parks in lakeside campgrounds throughout the adjacent Lakeland Provincial Recreation Area. There are also numerous privately operated rental cabins in rustic settings in the region.

Motor boats are allowed in Lakeland Provincial Park, despite AWA's objections that this was inappropriate in a provincial park. There are snowmobile access areas, and an ATV trail for transporting boats to Jackson Lake. The proposal is for the camping cabins to be accessible by boat, canoe or self-propelled land access, and possibly snowmobile access, but not ATVs. In Parks' pursuit of higher usage numbers, we are concerned that pressures for more mechanized access will prevail. This will be a great setback for what will soon be the only relatively unmechanized area in the entire Lakeland region outside parts of the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range.

Click [here](#) to read AWA's letter to Alberta Parks on the camping cabins proposal.

Take Action

Please write to ParkNews@gov.ab.ca and to Graham Statt, Assistant Deputy Minister, Alberta Parks at Graham.Statt@gov.ab.ca. And please copy AWA at ccampbell@abwild.ca.

Please ask that Parks:

- not proceed with the proposed camping cabins in

Lakeland Provincial Park because it will harm the wilderness character of Alberta's only backcountry canoe circuit, by increasing motorized access pressures for cabin usage

- not proceed because there are numerous alternatives for fixed roof RV camping and rental cabins in rustic lakeside settings nearby, so it is completely unnecessary for Parks to provide this access
- fulfill their goal to 'upgrade facilities' by upgrading and maintaining Lakeland Provincial Park's long-neglected trails, portage trails and canoe docks.

If you prefer, you can simply fill out Parks' Consultation Comment form online [here](#).

Thank you for taking action for this important area of Alberta's boreal forest!

Defending Wild Alberta through Awareness and Action