



## ALBERTA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

### **Join In And Take Action Today**

Citizen pressure is needed to protect lands within all six of Alberta's ecological regions. Send the attached postcard (or write, E-mail, phone, fax) as a message to the Premier on how important protected areas are to Albertans. Designation of large, interconnected spaces, capable of maintaining ecosystem diversity and integrity, are critical to a sustainable future.

Write:

Premier Ralph Klein,  
Office of the Premier  
307 Legislature Bldg, 10800 - 97 Ave,  
Edmonton, AB, T5K 2B7  
E-mail: <http://www.gov.ab.ca/comments.cfm>  
Phone: Premier's Office at 780-427-2251  
Fax: Premier's Office at 780-427-1349

### **The Alberta Wilderness Association**

Box 6398, Station D,  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2E1  
Calgary Phone: (403) 283-2025 | Fax: (403) 270-2743  
Edmonton Phone: (780) 988-5487 | Fax: (780) 988-5487

The Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) is dedicated to a protected system of ecologically representative wilderness landscapes throughout Alberta. AWA is a federally registered charity and functions through member and donor support. Tax-deductible donations may be made to the association at Box 6398 Station D, Calgary, AB T2P 2E1.

For more information or to volunteer view our website  
[www.AlbertaWilderness.ca](http://www.AlbertaWilderness.ca)

Cover picture: Caribou by Garry Hackler 1998



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## Save Alberta's Northern Wilderness

*"Our quality of life, our health, and a healthy economy are totally dependent on Earth's biological diversity. We cannot replicate natural ecosystems. Protected areas are internationally recognized as the most efficient way to maintain biological diversity. Protected areas are sites that are legislated for protection in perpetuity and on-going management of these sites ensures maintenance of ecological diversity."*

*Richard Thomas,  
Renowned Ornithologist and Naturalist  
Former AWA Director*



AWA

Premier Ralph Klein,  
Office of the Premier  
307 Legislature Bldg, 10800 - 97 Ave,  
Edmonton, AB, T5K 2B7



Dear Premier Klein,

*As a citizen of Alberta I would like to express my support for the creation of protected areas in northern Alberta. Our quality of life, our health and the economy are totally dependent on Earth's biological diversity. Please legislate the protection of critically important sites for the conservation of the environment and for the future of Albertans. The designation, of large scientifically based and interconnected sites that are capable of maintaining ecosystem integrity, is vital for our own health and well-being and for the health and well-being of all dependent species. The Northern Wilderness areas that are of special concern to me include the Caribou Mountains, Chinchaga, Birch-Wabasca and Wolverine.*

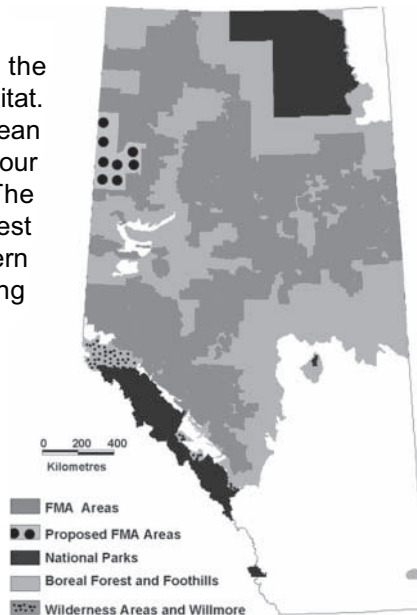
Sincerely,

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

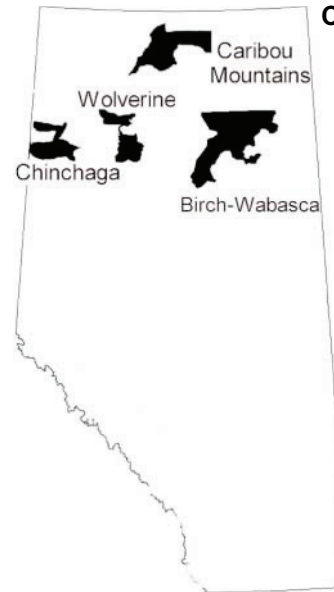
### Why protect wilderness areas?

Protecting wilderness areas ensures the health and maintenance of wildlife habitat. Our forests of Northern Alberta provide clean air and water as well as opportunities for our spiritual renewal and recreation. The adjacent map shows Alberta's Boreal Forest and Northern Foothills regions. Northern Alberta has lost wilderness to logging through 20 year Forest Management Agreements (FMA's) and other disturbances such as oil and gas leases, mining and urban/recreational development. A balance is needed between industry and legislatively protected areas in northern Alberta.



### What wilderness areas should be protected?

There are four northern wilderness sites that need protection.



#### Caribou Mountains

- Old growth forest mostly free from industrial development
- Important habitat for caribou

#### Wolverine

- Sand dune wetland complexes and stands of old growth forest
- Prime moose and important wolverine habitat

#### Birch-Wabasca

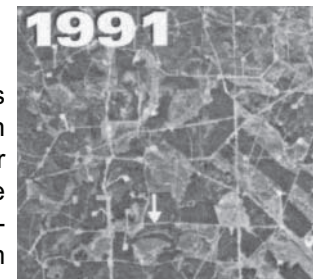
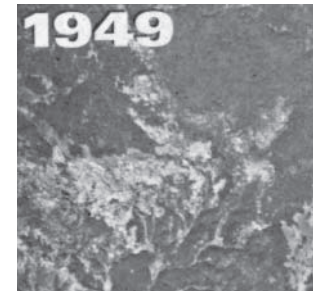
- Extensive peatlands, giant glacial flutings, old growth forest
- Key Woodland Caribou habitat

#### Chinchaga

- Trumpeter Swan nesting sites, Grizzly Bear and Woodland Caribou habitat
- Highly disturbed by industrial development
- Only 12% is designated as protected

### What happens when lands are not protected?

Aerial photo portions of Swan Hills, north of Whitecourt, show that in the absence of legal protection, oil and gas development and logging have fragmented the landscape. Albertans are left with an ecological tragedy that includes loss of habitat for the Swan Hills Grizzly. There is still time to prevent loss from other northern sites that have been recommended for protection.



### What has Alberta done?

Chinchaga Wildland Park is typical of protected areas designations in Alberta. It is a small non representative area lacking connection to other protected habitats. Tragically these areas become genetic islands surrounded by industrial and human-based developments. In time, ecosystem conservation is corrupted and biological systems collapse.