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What Will Be The Future of Kananaskis Forests?

By Mark Lowey



Photo Credit: D.L. Pachal

Logging in the headwaters of Cataract Creek, Kananaskis Country

The Alberta government and Spray Lake Sawmills (1980) Ltd. of Cochrane are in final-stage negotiations on a 20-year Forest Management Agreement. The FMA would give the company, for the first time, long-term management control of about 400,000 hectares of public forests within a couple of hour's drive from Calgary.

The FMA is being negotiated without public input and it will privatize the Kananaskis, Ghost-Waiparous and Burnt Timber forests, say the Alberta Wilderness Association and the Kananaskis Coalition.

"Under an FMA, the forest company would now own the trees," says Dianne Pachal, coalition chairperson and AWA southern conservation co-ordinator. "The priority is set as logging, not other uses."

The FMA would encompass the Highwood watershed west of Longview and, with the exception of the Bow/Canmore corridor, would extend north to the Red Deer River, west of Sundre. Exempt from the FMA would be the Ghost River Wilderness Area established in 1971, and the Sheep River Special place and parks in Kananaskis Country.

The three forests affected are all within the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve, established in 1911 so the area would remain under public management and provide benefits that include the forest ecology, timber, watershed protection, wildlife scenery and outdoor recreation. The FMA "is entirely against the principles that were laid down in 1911 when the forest reserve was set up," Pachal says.

Ed Kulscar, planning forester for Spray Lake, says the FMA wouldn't give the company exclusive control or final authority over the forests. "It puts more responsibility on us for some of the long-term planning," he says.

Long-term management of the forests is now the government's responsibility, under the area's timber quota and license system. Quotas are based on the volume of timber estimated to be available for logging, and the actual area to be logged is allocated through a license.

Spray Lake would be required to do more public consultation under the FMA than under the timber quota/license system, Kulscar says. "We have a very good track record of public consultation, even as a quota holder."

But Pachal notes that under an FMA, the parameters for consulting the public are solely up to the company. A company's long-range plans for timber harvesting can override the public's desire to see more land protected for uses other than logging, she says.

Companies with FMAs are required to establish public advisory committees. However, the company decides the makeup of the committee, the nature of its recommendations and even whether the minutes from meetings will be made public, Pachal says. "Where the public consultation should be occurring is with the government, because it's the government we elect. That's the line of accountability."

Mark Erdman, communications director for Alberta Resource Development, says that under an FMA, the Resource Development minister will retain ultimate control of the timber leases and the entire land base, including approving all stages of the FMA. "It's not like they (Spray Lake) can just come in and close the gate and do whatever they want, and not have any sort of accountability to anybody," he says.

The FMA puts the onus on the company to manage the entire forest, as opposed to looking only at a timber-harvesting quota, Erdman says. Companies with an FMA "are obligated to obtain public input during the development of their forest management plans."

"The whole point is all that mature forest, from Kananaskis to the Red Deer River, if it's not in a park, is going to be logged."

- D.L. Pachal

Kulscar says that even with an FMA, Spray Lake would be able to harvest timber only on land allocated for this purpose in the area's integrated resource plan, which was developed through extensive public consultation. "An FMA holder cannot restrict anybody from accessing that land base for other uses." The Resource Development minister always retains the right to remove an area scheduled for timber harvesting, Kulscar notes.

But Pachal points out that the integrated resource plan (IRP) for the area, done in 1986, is many years out of date and doesn't use current scientific information about forest ecology. Timber quotas were first established in 1966. They didn't consider the need to protect the forest for purposes other than logging, including watershed protection, she says.

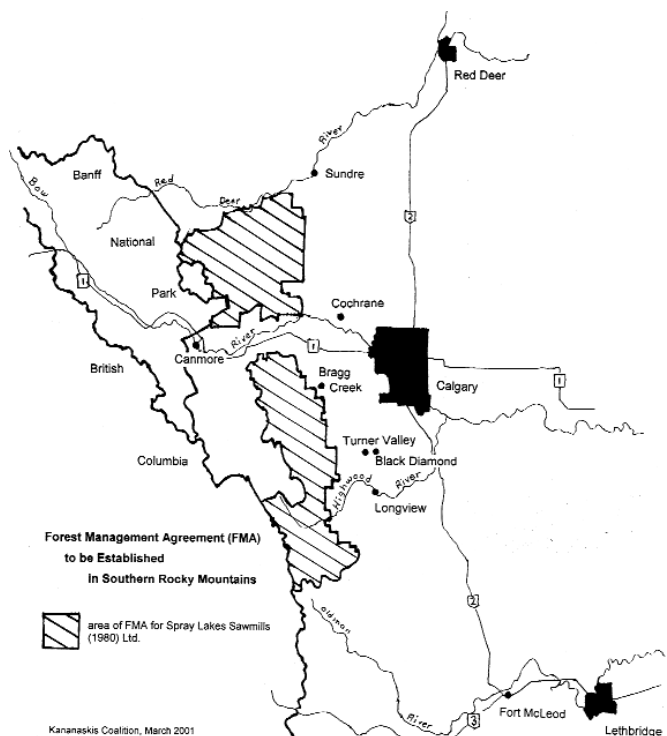
The Resource Development minister does retain the right to remove an area scheduled for timber harvesting, Pachal acknowledges. But based on the history of existing FMAs in the province, the public would have to compensate Spray Lake if more than three to five per cent of the forest land base is removed from logging, she says.

Pachal points to the Chinchaga Wildland Park, about 200 km north of Grande Prairie, and which was created under the Special Places program, as an example of how FMAs limit the ability to protect ecologically significant land. The Wildland Park is 600 square kilometres in size, when it should be 5,000 sq km to sufficiently protect the biodiversity and wildlife, she says. But pulp producer Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd., whose Alberta operations are based in Peace River, has an FMA that covers the

area. "If more (than the 600 sq km) is removed, the public has to compensate the company," Pachal says.

The AWA has for several years lobbied for protected wildland park status for the South Ghost and Burnt Timber areas. In 1975, an Environment Conservation Authority report on the future of the Eastern Slopes recommended keeping vast tracts of land in a natural or wilderness state. "A conservative estimate is that a minimum of 70 per cent of the Eastern Slopes region will be maintained in present natural or wilderness areas," the report said.

In 1977, the government established Kananaskis Country. However, 57 per cent of K-Country has no type of park protection, the AWA says. The province's 1986 integrated resource management plan for the area said the objective was "to preserve the environmental and aesthetic quality of Kananaskis Country and create recreational development that is expressive of the unique natural quality."



In 1990, the report of the Expert Review Panel on Forest Management in Alberta recommended that the selection process for new park, wilderness areas and natural area designation be formalized immediately, to ensure significant ecosystems are protected and represented. The panel also recommended that government develop a policy that included a conservation and preservation strategy for old growth forest ecosystems.

"The government has not followed through on those recommendations," Pachal notes. "They've gone forward on logging everything still."

In 1996, an Alberta government report, Parks and Protected Areas: Their Contribution to the Alberta Economy, found that the economic contribution of provincial parks and other legally protected areas is comparable to that of other resource-based sectors, particularly agriculture and forestry.

In 1999, a Senate subcommittee report on Canada's boreal forests recommended setting aside 20 per cent as designated pro-

Shaking Up Environmental Protection in Alberta

By Andy Marshall

Alberta's new Environment Minister is urging environmental leaders to give him a chance before judging too harshly. "Don't be criticizing me until you have talked with me. You could be surprised," is the olive-branch message from Cypress Hills-Medicine Hat MLA Lorne Taylor as he embarks on his new portfolio.

Known for his clashes with environmental advocates like Alberta Wilderness Association president Cliff Wallis, Taylor is keen to project the image he's ready to fully discuss the tough issues ahead, if not reach agreement. "Cliff and I have a bit of a history," said Taylor, who formerly served as the province's first minister of innovation and science and who now helps operate the family's cattle and grain marketing business near Medicine Hat. But, "I think we can find some common ground on a lot of the issues."

Unless he's undergone a major transformation, Wallis and other environmentalists hold out less optimism Taylor will be easy to work with. He is seen as one of the most outspoken of the

provincial Tories' pro-development and pro-business ministers. "He shoots from the hip," is Wallis' assessment.

While his appointment after the March 12 election was poorly received in some quarters, other major changes within the environment department have, for now, diverted from Taylor the attention of those supporting protection and preservation of Alberta's wilderness areas. For at least the third time since 1993, the department faces a drastic shake-up.

This time, Premier Ralph Klein has split up responsibilities, formerly held in that portfolio, among three separate ministries. It's a move that even Taylor admits has left staff "a little shell-shocked." Parks and Protected Areas (PPA) will now be handled by Community Development, headed up by Edmonton MLA Gene Zwozdesky. At the same time, public lands, along with lands and forest services, fisheries and wildlife management and the Natural Resources Conservation Board will fall within Sustainable Resource Development under Athabasca-Wabasca MLA Mike Cardinal.

Continued on page 4...

Continued from page 2

tected areas such as parks and wilderness areas. The subcommittee said another 20 per cent should be intensively managed for timber production, while the remaining 60 per cent should be managed for a variety of values - with biodiversity preservation as the primary objective.

"We do not have 20 per cent of that whole foothills area protected," Pachal says. "And that was set as the minimum for maintaining all the public services that come from a forest, including (protecting) watersheds."

Kulscar insists that even with an FMA, the areas designated for timber harvesting in the 1986 integrated resource plan will determine where Spray Lake can log. "We're still talking the exact same area of land."

"They're taking public forest land, and turning ownership of the trees over to private companies with a vested interest and no line of accountability back to the public." - D.L. Pachal

If the company gets the FMA, long-range planning will include using an updated government forest inventory of the area, coupled with a detailed look at where timber can be harvested, Kulscar says. The annual allowable cut for the area is likely to change, he acknowledges. "Depending what's gone on in the past, the cut can either be higher or lower."

The Kananaskis Coalition and the AWA predict that more trees, not less, will be logged. Spray Lake recently returned to the headwaters of Cataract Creek to log, after calculating that logging in the 1970s didn't harvest fully half of the mature forest stands, Pachal says.

Timber harvesting in Alberta is still done on a "two-pass" system, she says. That means half of the mature forest is logged over several years and then, after 20 years, the other half is logged. Some places that would be covered by Spray Lake's FMA are now approaching 20 years since the first cut, Pachal says. "The whole point is all that mature forest, from Kananaskis to the Red Deer River, if it's not in a park, is going to be logged."

Resource Development's Erdman argues that Spray Lake, which has been logging in the area for 40 years, now harvests only an average of about 0.1 per cent a year of the overall forest in Kananaskis. "It's not like the entire area will be clearcut."

Pachal says the 0.1 per cent figure is misleading because it encompasses the entire land base, including areas that are inaccessible or can't be logged for other reasons. Areas where mature forests grew 20 years ago are now clearcuts with very sparse regeneration, she says.

The AWA is opposed in principle to FMAs because they all have the same fundamental problem, Pachal adds. "They're taking public forest land, and turning ownership of the trees over to private companies with a vested interest and no line of accountability back to the public."

The AWA and the Kananaskis Coalition will argue their case in a meeting scheduled May 16 with Sustainable Resource Development Minister Mike Cardinal, whose portfolio now includes Lands and Forest Services. But Pachal warns that ratification by a standing policy committee for cabinet - the final step of putting the FMA into place - could occur any day. ^Y

(Mark Lowey is a 20-year professional journalist and freelance writer in Calgary who specializes in reporting on science, environment and technology issues.)

**For more information and to contact your MLA see:
AlbertaWilderness.ca/News/Alerts/Alerts2001.htm**

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In short, Taylor explained, Alberta Environment will deal primarily with water and air issues, while the other two departments will cover land and wildlife matters.

"Although I can't tell you the thinking behind it because I didn't make the decision, it makes sense," he said. "It was too monolithic a department before." He noted that climate change and water supply issues "are huge" by themselves, and that his department will still run the environmental approval process, as well as retain responsibility for integrating resource management.

Long-time environmental activist Martha Kostuch said Taylor's appointment to the critical portfolio and the potential for three different departments to push three conflicting positions have created "a total state of chaos," particularly among government staff. Disruption is nothing new to the department, said the Rocky Mountain House veterinarian. Whether it was creating the super-ministry eight years ago or implementing regionalization and revising the department's focus in 1997, "it prevents staff from doing work they're supposed to do."

But, like other environmentalists, Kostuch sees a silver lining. "In some cases, it helps to have a weak minister to reduce (the government's) destructive capacity," she said, referring to Cardinal. And, with Taylor's alleged anti-environment bias, the less influence he has, the better, goes the argument.

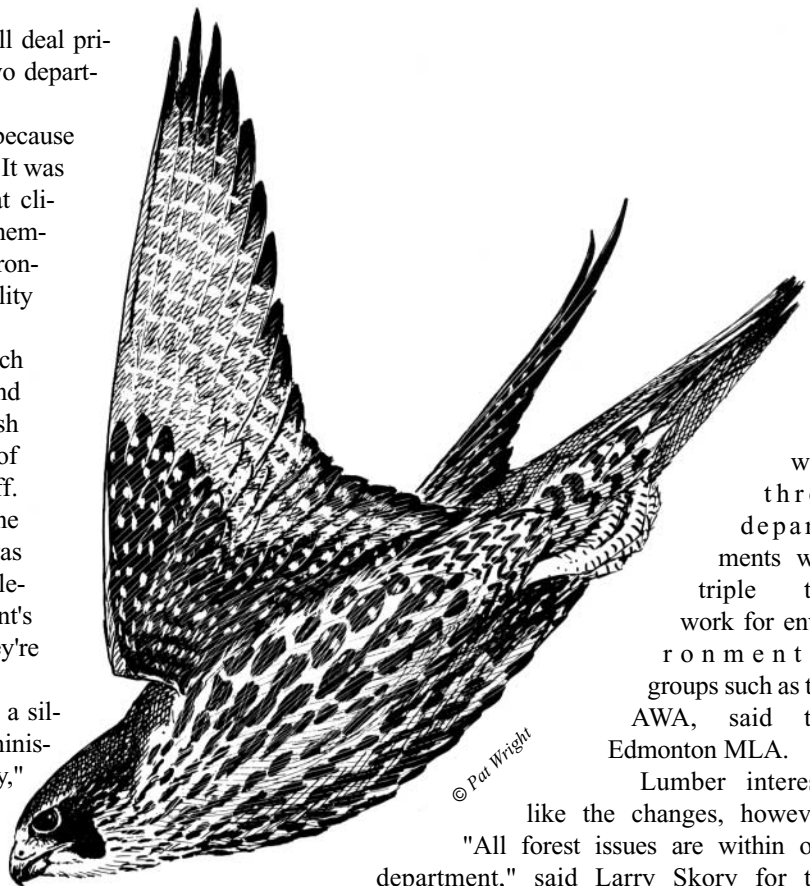
Wallis also believes both Cardinal and Zwozdesky are more likely to be sympathetic to endangered wilderness areas. "Sometimes the turmoil is good for us." Ideally, the government would accept the virtue of an integrated department "that would actually protect the environment and do a good job," Wallis said. Still, he also took solace in the removal of public lands from Alberta Agriculture where ranching interests had predominated.

The government's eye is mostly on
"development. No ecosystems have a
protection focus any more."

- Cliff Wallis, president, AWA

The Pembina Institute fears the latest upheaval is counter-productive. "They're not only losing staff, but highly qualified staff," warned Mary Griffiths, a policy analyst with the Alberta environmental think-tank. With many potentially contentious projects on the horizon - including massive oilsands growth, oil and gas exploration and more logging in wilderness areas, the building of additional coal-fired electrical generators, plus water diversion plans -- the province must have "good staff to review assessments and comment adequately," said Griffiths. "We can't understand why they did this except for political reasons to create more cabinet seats."

The shuffling reflects the government's lack of interest in protection, said Liberal environment critic Debby Carlson. Placing Parks and Protected Areas in Zwozdesky's department will lead to heightened emphasis on development. And, dealing



with
three
depart-
ments will
triple the
work for envi-
ronmental
groups such as the
AWA, said the
Edmonton MLA.

Lumber interests
like the changes, however.
"All forest issues are within one
department," said Larry Skory for the

Alberta Forest Products Association. "The one-window approach . . . may make the approval process easier for the industry." They also like having Cardinal in charge. "He has a background in the forest sector. He knows the issues," said Skory. The industry would be even happier, he added, if Parks and Protected Areas were moved from Community Development to Cardinal's department. "It would seem logical."

Initially, environmental advocates wondered about the same thing. But, with a more sanguine view of Zwozdesky as an environmental sympathizer, they have not pursued the matter. "Community Development senior staff responsible for budgets and the political clout of PPA would be more receptive to the economic value of protected areas argument than the forestry types," advised Sam Gunsch of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society in a recent email exchange.

Whoever is in charge, AWA's Wallis sees two of the biggest issues ahead as the push by the province to build the Meridian Dam on the South Saskatchewan River in southeast Alberta and the focus by the lumber and energy industries to expand their activities in protected areas. The government's eye is mostly on "development," he said. "No ecosystems have a protection focus any more."

Taylor confirmed he supports the dam proposal and other plans that would see flowing water wells in southern Alberta capped if they aren't being utilized. They're part of a consistent push for help for water-starved southern Alberta. But, he added, "before the dam goes forward, we have to make sure it is economically and environmentally viable." He has no desire to run roughshod over conservation interest, said the PhD minister who once worked as a university professor in Australia, Newfoundland and Saskatchewan.

"I don't want to destroy the environment," Taylor said of charges he is viewed as unsympathetic to conservationists. "I have grandchildren and I want them to live in a healthy environment." But, in the next breath, he raises a potential red flag. In order to support the continued expansion of communities and industry, "we need to develop a water strategy," he said. He speaks often of a concept of stewardship that will promote both environmental and business interests. He acknowledges that "land sterilization" may not fit into those plans. Then he promises to promote a higher understanding of environmental issues.

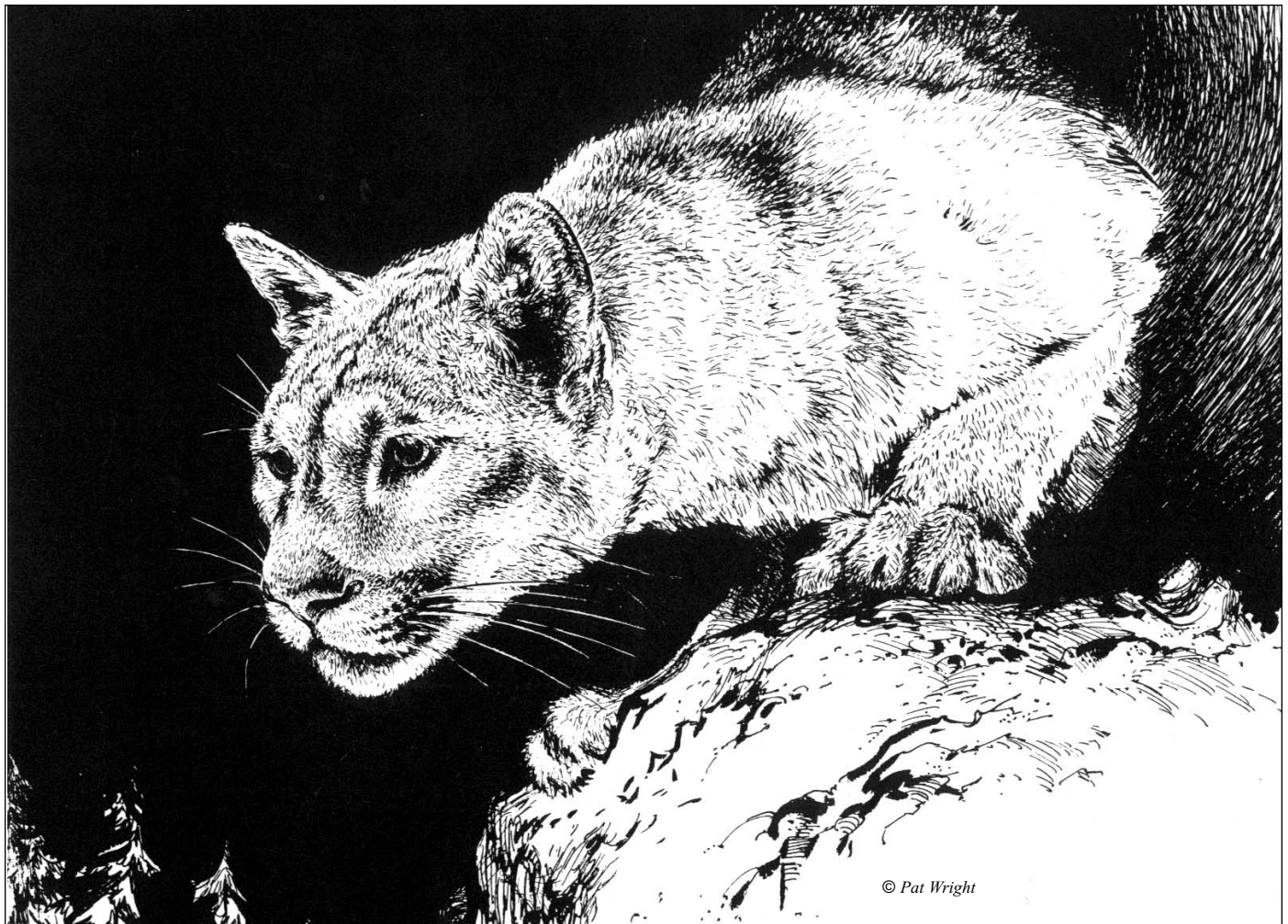
"I'm a great believer in the chaos theory . . .
it's causing quite a few ripples
in the department."

- Lorne Taylor, Environment Minister

In the meantime, Taylor will work closely with Cardinal's department, even ensuring the deputy ministers of both portfolios are in the same building, near each other. Once more, he reveals a side to his character that some regard as refreshing, others as dangerous. "I work differently than other people," he said of his plans to deal with all levels within his department, not just the top bureaucrats. "I'm a great believer in the chaos theory . . . it's causing quite a few ripples in the department." Y

THE CHANGES AT A GLANCE:

Ministry:	Environment
Minister:	Lorne Taylor
Major Responsibilities:	Environment, except for the areas noted below.
Ministry:	Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Minister:	Mike Cardinal
Major Responsibilities:	Public Lands (from Agriculture, Food and Rural Development), Land and Forest Service, Fisheries and Wildlife Management, Natural Resources Conservation Board (from Environment).
Ministry:	Alberta Community Development
Minister:	Gene Zwozdesky
Major Responsibilities:	Parks and Protected Areas (from Environment), Community Development (except Seniors), and some areas from Health and Wellness.



Progress? on Hay-Zama Lakes Wildland: Following the Footprints - By Cliff Wallis

I am finally starting to see the benefits of more than five years of negotiations in which the AWA has played a major role. A March inspection tour by the AWA of the Hay-Zama Lakes Wildland confirmed the first abandonment and dismantling of oil wells in extreme risk open water areas of Zama Lake, three years ahead of schedule. Under a previous agreement, these wells were slated to be abandoned in 2004.

I received further good news in that the principal operator, Ventus Energy of Calgary, wishes to shut down the central processing facility in the middle of the complex, a proposal that the AWA has endorsed. There has been only one objection from another operator and we are confident that the regulators will rule in favor of the abandonment.

The Hay-Zama Lakes Complex is situated in the northwest corner of Alberta, about 50 km northeast of Rainbow Lake. It is a diverse area encompassing hundreds of square kilometres of marshes, open water, willow swamps, floodplain woodlands and wet meadows. It has been designated an internationally important wetland under the RAMSAR Convention and in 1999 was designated a Wildland Park under the Provincial Parks Act. The Complex provides habitat for a wide array of nesting and migrating waterfowl, shorebirds and marsh birds. During migration, up to 30,000 geese and 100,000 ducks use the area. Hay-Zama Lakes is an important traditional fishing and hunting area for the Dene Tha First Nation at Chateh.

Oil and gas exploration and development has been allowed in the lakes in the past. The Hay-Zama Committee was established to address issues related to oil and gas activity in the area. The committee includes representatives from the Dene Tha First Nation, Alberta Energy and Utilities Board, Governments of Canada and Alberta, Ducks Unlimited, Alberta Wilderness Association and the energy industry. It is committed to an orderly winding down of oil and gas activities and protection of the complex.

In 1999, following extensive consultation with the public, government, industry and Dene Tha First Nation, Ventus Energy Ltd. and the Hay/Zama Lakes Committee entered into a "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU) for oil and gas activities within the Hay/Zama Lakes Complex. The objective of the MOU was to reduce the time frame that oil and gas operations are conducted on the Complex and to significantly reduce the risk of spills by modernizing all facilities. The MOU recognizes the environmentally sensitive nature of the wetland by committing to a rapid phase out period in extreme risk areas and an accelerated but longer phase out period in less sensitive areas.

This last fall, AWA agreed to an addendum to the 1999 MOU. It further accelerates the removal of high risk oil wells in the open water areas. The AWA was faced with a very difficult choice and some very tough negotiations. In order to get this accelerated removal of extreme risk oil wells, the AWA reluctantly agreed to an unprecedented trade off that will allow new industrial footprints in a Wildland Park. These footprints (new pads) are being used to develop low risk natural gas wells in a

less sensitive corner of the complex and to accelerate abandonment of the field.

While I am uncomfortable with the AWA's decision, I am pleased that there will soon be no extreme risk oil activity in any open water area of Zama Lake. Ventus has moved up the dates, originally slated for 2004 to 2009, to 2001 to 2006 for abandonment of oil wells in the extreme risk zone and from 2017 to 2012 for oil wells in the less sensitive area. 95% of the complex is now free of industrial activity. No new high risk (oil) well pads will be allowed. Ventus was likewise uncomfortable with giving up millions of dollars of potential revenue but did so in the interests of pursuing their key economic objective in the less sensitive zone and in the spirit of cooperation with the Hay-Zama Committee.

As per previous agreements and directives from the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board, new gas and oil wells are being drilled from existing well pads in this less sensitive area. Further discussions are underway to achieve an even more rapid phase out of all oil activities.

What do you think? Did the AWA pay too high a price to get rid of these wells? Does this set a bad precedent for other wildlands? I look forward to your comments.

(Cliff Wallis is president of the AWA)



Well in South Zama Lake, 1995

Photo Credit: Cliff Wallis



Well in South Zama Lake, 2001, with well rigging removed; will be totally cleaned up in 2001 - 2002

Photo Credit: Cliff Wallis

Hay-Zama: Smart Move or Capitulation??

- By Peter Lee

Why did the Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that allows new industrial development in the Hay-Zama Wildland Park in northwestern Alberta?

A couple of days before Christmas 2000 I received in the mail a copy of the 3 inch thick report "Hay-Zama Complex Development Plan 2000/2001: Public Consultation Process Report" prepared by Ventus Energy Ltd. In that report is a MOU signed by six people, including Cliff Wallis of the Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA). The MOU allows for industrial intrusions within the internationally significant Hay-Zama Wildland Park in northwestern Alberta.

The MOU's agreed-to-industrial-activities consist of 6 new gas wells, 1 gas well from an existing well pad, 4 oil wells from existing pads, 1 re-entry oil well, and all the associated facilities and pipelines to place the wells into production - all within the protected area.

I knew the background: the protracted and challenging negotiations, the diverse players, the recent establishment of the site as a Wildland Park under Alberta's Provincial Parks Act, the recognition the area had received as a RAMSAR site, meaning it has global significance as a bird area, and the long history of oil and gas activity in the site and surrounding region.

And I knew the achievements - a time limit set on petroleum and natural gas activities, which includes continuing with some historical developments and allowing new intrusions, all staged for removal by 2012.

Knowing all this did not answer my question: Why did the AWA sign a MOU that allows new industrial development in the Hay-Zama Wildland Park in northwestern Alberta? The AWA has been a beacon of 'sticking to it-ness' when it comes to taking the high ground on advocating for protection of Alberta's declining wilderness. And a 'beacon' to me is one who provides guidance, light and encouragement. The AWA historically seemed to agree with the late David Brower, who said: "Let the people we pay to compromise - the legislature - do the compromising ... Every time I compromise, I lose." Was the Hay-Zama MOU a winning or losing compromise?

Don't we have enough examples of failed negotiations with government and industry in trying to protect Alberta's wilderness? What did we learn from Special Places, Forest Conservation Strategy, Integrated Resources Planning and on and on... except that such processes have consistently led, for environmental groups, to insulting and dramatic failures?

Or am I mistaken and is the MOU a stunning success? Did the phase-out timeline justify allowing new developments? Is the agreement enforceable on the company? What happens if Ventus sells out to another company after developing their wells and making a tidy profit? What is the precedent that is set for all other protected areas in Alberta? In other words, was AWA's complicity in this agreement worth it?

Are Environmental Organizations Still Relevant in Alberta?

Have Alberta environmental organizations become increasingly irrelevant during the reign of the Klein Regime? I remember the breathless hope and anticipation a decade ago, when Klein was Minister of Alberta Environment, that we finally had someone who cared. Are we still stuck in that phase?

During the 1990s, when environmental initiatives were eviscerated (Forest Conservation Strategy, Environment Council of Alberta, Eastern Slopes Policy, Special Places) and when rapidly declining environmental conditions and political circumstances called for tougher, more confrontational tactics, what has been the response of most Alberta environmentalists? Has it been to politely pursue a misguided course of gentility, indiscriminate compromise, accommodation and capitulation?

Are Alberta environmentalists reduced to participating in any negotiations under any conditions and accept any compromise providing everybody "gets along" and remains friendly?



Do we have so little political power? Has Klein so successfully neutralized Alberta's environmental movement that we have simply become a mosquito on the hindquarters of the industrial elephant?

The Alberta's political insiders I know view Alberta's environmental organizations as having virtually no impact, being composed of fractured, small groups, with no allies in industry or in rural constituencies and with low memberships, no media-savvy and oblivious to how the political game is played. I don't agree entirely with that view, it's just the view that seems to be held by the Alberta government and by Alberta industry.

And it is not that Alberta environmentalists have completely failed. In fact, we have triumphed here and there on a few issues, such as Whaleback and Kananaskis Country, Supreme Court challenges and raising alarm over this and that issue. But in achieving small triumphs, have we been able to produce one significant improvement in the protection of Alberta's environment? Things are in better shape than they would have been if the environmentalists had never existed in Alberta, but would they be in far better condition had environmentalists been bolder, more diverse, less compromising, and less polite?

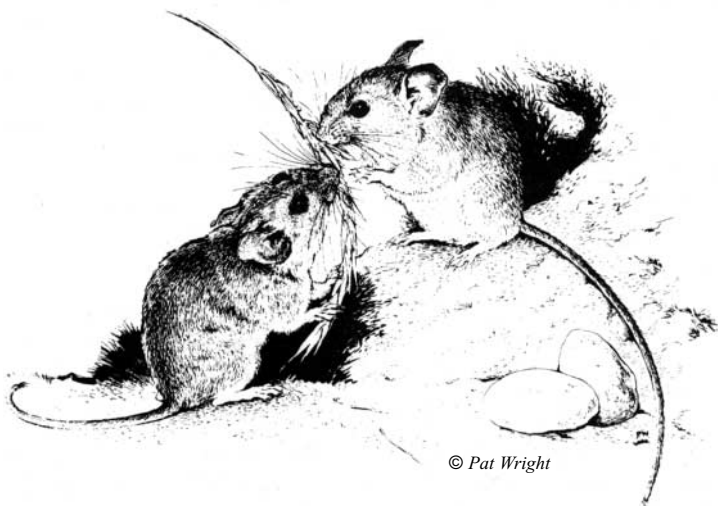
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If we have failed to date, given the adjacent facts, is the single largest failure of the Alberta environmental movement been our reliance on the good faith of the Klein regime and industry, which is what the Hay-Zama MOU seems to depend on? Is such good faith a big lie? Is it only real in the wishful thinking of environmentalists?

Where is belly fire? Where is the willingness to be audacious, confrontational, unpopular and un-photogenic? Where is the confrontational irreverence?

Have we been sold, hook, line and sinker, the mythical triad of Incrementalism, Balance and Win-win Solutions? Or am I making too much of the Hay-Zama Wildland Park MOU that allows new industrial intrusions into an internationally significant ecological area and that the AWA signed? ^Y

(Peter Lee is Executive Director of Global Forest Watch)



Look at the staggering facts:

- There are presently an estimated 1.5-1.8 million km (about 4 times the distance from Earth to the Moon) of seismic lines in Alberta and this will significantly increase until conventional reserves are depleted by 2040. This fragmentation will escalate in coming decades through seismic activities and the 10,000-15,000 new wellsites, with associated infrastructure, being added to the existing 220,00 wellsites already in place. The industry's aging infrastructure is experiencing expensive pollution problems that Albertans will have to pay for, one way or another.
- Petroleum activities are increasingly focused in NE Alberta where there are estimates of 1.7 trillion barrels of bitumen, a non-conventional resource, that will be extracted by a dense network of steam injection wells with water supplied by the region's aquifers.
- According to the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, "Petroleum producers must soon be allowed access to areas that are restricted because of environmental, land claim and regulatory issues if demand for natural gas is to be met..." (Globe and Mail, Dec. 6, 2000).
- Agriculture, although contributing only about 3% to Alberta's GDP, has an enormous effect on Alberta's landscapes, with 32% of the province in improved and unimproved farmland, concentrated in SE Alberta and the Peace River region. 95-98% of Alberta's Aspen Parkland region has been converted to agricultural use.
- Farmland and livestock densities and practices have a negative impact on water quality, riparian areas and wetlands. There are huge projected increases in populations of hogs and cattle over the coming decades.
- About one third of the province is leased to the forest industry. The rate of logging continues a decades-long exponential rise. Logging pressure is focused on old-growth forests. Between 1918 and 1997, a minimum of 15,000 km² of Alberta has been logged. This will escalate in coming decades.
- Over the next 20 - 30 years, at least another 30,000-40,000 km² will be cut under present forestry agreements. Recent studies indicate a severe wood supply problem due to cumulative impacts of multiple land uses. Other forest values, such as wildlife and wilderness, will likely not be able to be accommodated.

Chinchaga

Lee Morin, a trapper in northwestern Alberta, dropped the follow-up appeal to the EUB regarding the pipeline and oil and gas applications that were proposed through his trapline. The EUB had referred him to the Trappers Compensation Board for compensation. Morin felt that he could not accept the risk of larger costs falling on him if the appeal failed. By not following through with the appeal Morin lost the opportunity to establish his rights as an affected party. The consensus was that this would set a bad precedent. - **J. Tamblyn**

Rumsey Ecological Reserve: Planning for the Future

By Dorothy Dickson

When we started the planning process for this Reserve back in 1992, it was made clear to everyone that the Usher Family's lease, at the north end of the Rumsey Block, had been chosen as the representative Ecological Reserve for the Central Aspen parkland Region because it was in better ecological health than those further south.

The main management practice difference that seemed to account for this was that the Usher's were the only leaseholders who were using the fescue grasslands in the manner in which they had evolved, that is, with winter grazing. Due to the illness of Tom Usher, who ran the ranch and took great interest and pride in its abundant nature, the lease changed hands in 1999.

Unfortunately, the Management Committee (on which I represent the AWA and the Red Deer River Naturalists) was not informed and no meetings were held that year. It was not until the AWA field trip in June 2000 that I learned, with some disquiet, that the new leaseholders (sons of a family that farms elsewhere on the block) were using the Reserve only for summer grazing.

My first reaction was to take a closer look at the Agricultural Lease transfer process. I wanted to find out where the responsibility lay in allowing the transfer of a lease on an Ecological Reserve to a lessee who had no intention of continuing the management practices that had contributed to it becoming a Protected Area.

I was already aware of the ludicrous situation that allows a leaseholder to "sell" a publicly owned lease to another lessee. I also knew that the Lease Review Committee did try to remedy this anomaly in their draft report, but had to back away from doing so because leaseholders use the publicly owned land they lease as collateral for bank loans, as if it were their private real estate! However, I was not aware that the "seller" and prospective "buyer" have no obligation to inform anyone of their intentions.

Assignment of a lease is a purely administrative process, with the only criteria being whether either party owes the Government money or there are any "reservations" against the land. Designation as a Protected Area does not count as a "reservation". There is no required consultation with the Public Lands manager who looks after the lease as to the suitability of the proposed buyer's operation for that land. Indeed, Public Lands staff may not even know there is a change until the deal is completed and the new owner established.

Even when the lease is in a protected area, there is no requirement for consultation with, or even notification of, the

Protected Areas or Fish and Wildlife divisions. No one has to inform the Management Committee. It is left up to the outgoing leaseholder to ensure that the new one knows and understands the implications of a protected designation and any other condition attached to the lease, including those in a Management Plan. But no one has the duty of checking that this has been done.

I wrote to the Agriculture and Environment Assistant Deputy Ministers complaining of the inadequacy of the transfer process to ensure the conservation of ecological values on Protected Areas. I used the problems and extra work we now faced in Rumsey because of this unsatisfactory process as an example. Their reply was the usual "comfort letter" assuring me all was well in the "important site" because the process had been correctly followed!

The reply also pointed out that, as the use of winter grazing was not stipulated in the Management Plan, no one had to be consulted about a change to summer grazing. However, in this case,



Photo Credit: V. Pharis

Rumsey Ecological Reserve

before closing the deal, the buyer had asked Public Lands if winter grazing was mandatory and was correctly told it was not.

A cautionary tale for future planning teams! In the plan, we had outlined the Ushers' management practices, including winter grazing, noting that they had been a major factor in maintaining the very good ecological condition of the lease. I think we were lulled by the fact that the Ushers had had the lease for about 90 years and we never considered the likelihood of their successful sustainable methods being significantly changed. We should have at least stipulated that any major changes would be subject to a rigorous review by the Management Committee.

Public Lands staff assured me that well-managed summer grazing could preserve the good condition and biodiversity of the Reserve. But many others to whom I spoke were somewhat less sanguine.

With the help of Cheryl Bradley, I set about getting better educated on the subject. In addition to information that Cheryl provided, we obtained the latest (1994) range assessments for the

whole block. These showed us that the percentage in "excellent condition" in the Reserve was indeed considerably higher than on the other leases. Further data that might show the reasons for this were not readily available.

I felt that because we were managing an Ecological Reserve, we should be more proactive with a definite plan and a system for monitoring results, rather than just waiting to see how things turned out. Cheryl and I, with suggestions by Margaret Coutts, prepared a paper that summarized the results of the 1994 inventories and listed the information that needed to be collected or added for better management planning.

These included baseline information from up-to-date assessments using the latest criteria forms, which measure the ecological health of a lease, rather than just the grazing range conditions. As the lease would be up for renewal in less than 5 years, we wanted to get enough information on the feasibility of summer grazing before the lessees had to decide whether this lease would be able to fulfill their operational requirements. We stated that a strict monitoring program should be in place. We suggested that, as the rest of the Block, now just a Natural Area, was to become a Heritage Rangeland, it would make sense, and provide good comparative data, to assess the whole block at once. Finally, we stated that the lack of communication was preventing us (AWA and RDRN) from carrying our responsibilities for protection of the Reserve.

On February 23, Margaret and I gave this paper to the Public Lands staff responsible for the Rumsey area. We added a written request for a meeting to discuss our concerns and a list of the people we would like to attend, including a specialist on fescue grassland ecology and management and a regional Protected Areas planner.

The meeting took place on April 9 in Big Valley. The specialist and planner were not included. Cheryl, Margaret and I were uncertain how the Committee and the new leaseholders, whom we had not met, would receive our efforts. We found that, like the weather that morning, the mists lifted and the sun was ready to shine on our meeting as well as outside!

At the meeting I explained why we had requested the meeting and that we had prepared our paper as a basis for discussion. Cheryl stated our concerns and the need for the actions to address them to be based on the best science available. She was strongly supported by the Fish and Wildlife biologist on the Committee, who added some suggestions of his own. He eloquently reminded us that we were responsible for one of the most important

pieces of land in Alberta. An energetic discussion ensued - and it was about what action to take, not just whether action was needed.

The three members of the lessee family who were present looked somewhat bemused at times by the controversy and passion their actions had unintentionally aroused. However, it was also clear that they really care about Rumsey and are already taking some steps, such as the use of movable water tanks and electric fences, to protect the Reserve grasslands.

There was unanimous agreement to get replies to our questions and follow up on our recommendations, starting with an on-site workshop on June 18 with a group of specialists on fescue grasslands and grazing management. With their advice, we shall try to devise a grazing regime and monitoring system with the major intent of meeting the management goals as stated in the Management Plan. These goals are "to sustain the remaining ecological and genetic diversity of the ecosystem" and to maintain all its components "in excellent condition capable of providing habitat to the full range of the remaining species." We also agreed that we would continue to seek outside advice as needed.

I am sure there is much work ahead and, doubtless, some pitfalls too. But it is in a much more optimistic frame of mind that I shall now look forward to taking AWA members on the Rumsey field trip scheduled for June 16.



Pipeline Requirements Downsized

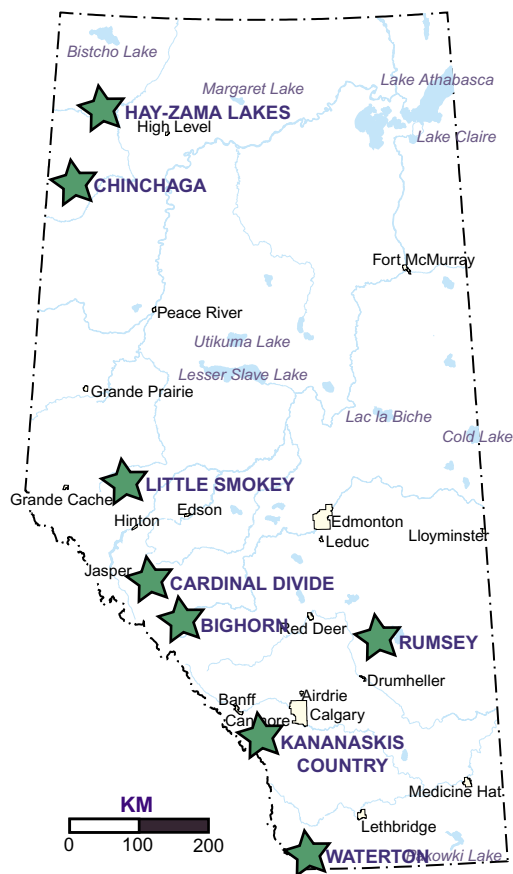
Currently, Alberta Environment requires an applicant to file a Conservation and Reclamation Plan for all major pipelines, known as Class 1 pipelines. This requirement also includes public notice of the proposed development. A Conservation and Reclamation Plan is not an environmental impact assessment, and does not include a cumulative effects assessment. However, it does provide more information than a simple Field Report, which is all that the Department plans on requiring in the future.

Environment Field Reports are simple forms filled out by the local forestry officer, often with no referral to other government agencies (e.g. Fish & Wildlife, Parks and Protected Areas) and no public notice. This change may not apply to the Eastern Slopes, but will affect all of northern Alberta, including the Chinchaga. This has come about because there are too few staff in the Department to review the Conservation and Reclamation Plans submitted by the applicants. - **D.L. Pachal**

Evan Thomas, Kananaskis Country

A local advisory committee is formulating recommendations on the area's management and whether or not the Evan Thomas area of Kananaskis Country will become a provincial park.

Originally to have been completed by the end of March, the committee now plans on forwarding their recommendations at the end of April. The Kananaskis Country Coalition, including the AWA, is not represented by the lone environment/naturalists seat on the committee. Instead, the Coalition has prepared a position statement and is circulating it for signatures by environmental groups. It will be presented to the Mike Cardinal, Minister of Community Development, in May. - **D.L. Pachal**



Little Smokey/Solomon Valley

The Solomon Valley is an old travel corridor used by natives, outfitters and other recreationists, which lies along the front range of the Rockies. It is a 15-mile journey, with access by road at each end. At the south end is the little hamlet of Brule. To the north is the Wildhay River and Rock Lake road. The Solomon Valley trail is already being promoted on the internet as the Mountain Shadows Trail, an ideal trail for horseback riding, hiking, dog sledding, mountain biking and also motorized travel (quads, ski-dos), the latter now considered "traditional" and likely to stay.

The Hinton group working on the Solomon issue are a loosely formed group of concerned individuals, most of them eco-tourism operators, a couple of them AWA members. As well, most of us are members of the West Athabasca Bioregional

Society. Central to our concerns is to secure a land base for eco-tourism in the area. Now that Special Places 2000 has been completed and we know where the boundaries will be for the Rock Lake /Solomon Valley Wildland Park, we are moving ahead with trying to secure protection for the Solomon Valley/Wildhay River corridor which was left out of the new Park.

On March 27 our group met with local representatives from forestry and Fish and Wildlife, as well as the co-chair for the Northern East Slopes (NES) Strategy. We had a very good meeting and are optimistic that something can be accomplished. It was suggested to us that we ask for a meeting with the NES steering committee. This will likely happen in June.

Meanwhile we are producing a map with more exact information on what we want protected. What we would like to see in the end is some sort of recreational designation with restrictions just below that of the Wildland Park. Our aim is to keep industry (oil and gas and forestry) out of the core area so that its wilderness character can be retained. - **Rocky Notnes**

(Rocky Notnes is our correspondent from Hinton.)

Talisman Gets EUB Approval in Bighorn

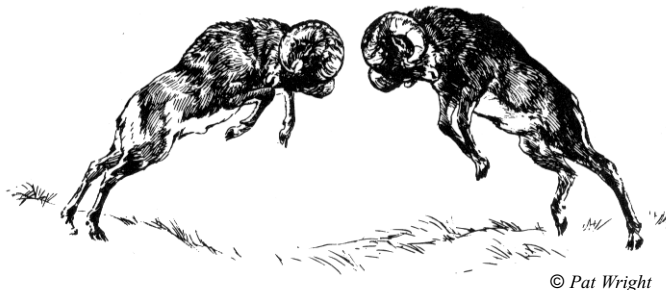
On March 13, 2001, the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) turned down the formal objections to Talisman's gas gathering system application and issued an approval, citing that none of those filing objections, including the AWA and an area eco-tourism operator, own or hold any leases on the land that would be directly affected by the development.

Construction of Talisman's sour gas (poisonous gas) pipeline and associated facilities will occur in the relatively pristine northern part of the proposed Bighorn Wildland Park, but construction may not begin until this winter.

Those filing objections noted that if Talisman's plans were approved, then more roads and drilling would follow. Petro Canada has now applied to build a road and drill a well in the same area. Shell Canada is undertaking a large and intensive seismic program in the southern part of the proposed Park. This means new seismic lines are being cleared through the Panther Corners portion up to the boundary of Banff National Park. This area is not only in the Bighorn Wildland Recreation Area announced by the government in 1986, but is also zoned as Prime Protection where, by policy, but not law, resource development is not supposed to happen.

The AWA has a "zero tolerance" policy for any new industrial activity proposed within Bighorn Country. Zero tolerance includes publicly and formally challenging any such applications. Alberta Environment, the EUB and applicant companies have been informed of this through meetings and correspondence.

- **D.L. Pachal**

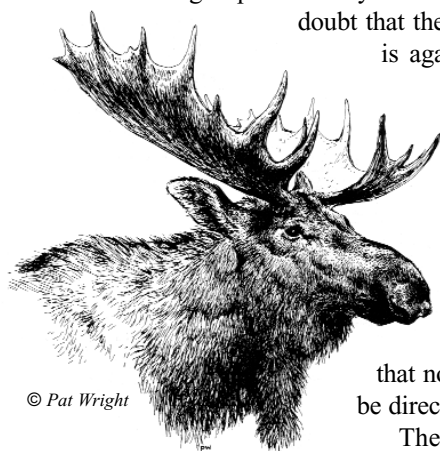


© Pat Wright

Waterton Gate Affair

Subdivision on the Boundary of Waterton Lakes National Park

On March 12, 2001 Cardston County Council approved third reading of a bylaw, which rezones 100 acres of ranchland on the boundary of Waterton Lakes National Park from agriculture to



grouped country residential. There is little doubt that the bulk of public opinion

is against rezoning. No official reasons for the deci-

sion have been documented by Cardston County Council.

The decision appears to conflict with the County's Municipal Development Plan (1998) which states

that non-agricultural uses will be directed to existing hamlets.

There is opportunity for legal appeal under the Municipal

Government Act. The M.D. of Pincher Creek could have appealed the decision on the basis of merit within 30 days of third reading, but chose not to. Waterton Lakes National Park does not have the same status as a municipality and could not appeal on merit. There is the potential for County ratepayers and parties who participated in the public hearing to appeal the decision based on error in process within 60 days of third reading (by May 11). If an appeal were successful, the County would have to hold another public hearing regarding the application for rezoning.

If there is not a legal appeal of the rezoning, Mr. Garner can apply to Cardston County for subdivision approval based on a detailed area structure plan. The Provincial Government has jurisdiction over some matters considered in a subdivision approval including road planning, water, sewage disposal, historical resources assessment, and effect on critical wildlife zone or environmental reserve along rivers. Subdivision is seldom denied once a parcel is zoned for grouped country residential development, since dwellings and accessory buildings are permitted uses.

The most positive development is the coming together of a group of residents within Cardston County to actively work on issues related to subdivision of ranchland. Their focus is on economic and social implications of rural subdivision, which are of greater concern to County residents than environmental issues. The group currently is investigating an appeal of the Garner decision and working toward improving County planning and decision-making with respect to rural subdivision.

Those of us living outside of the County concerned about subdivision on the boundary of the national park can be most effective at this point by keeping the issues foremost in the minds of our elected representatives (provincial and federal) and the general public (letters to the editor). There are measures which the federal and provincial governments can take to indefinitely delay or even stop the Garner subdivision if they choose to - but are more likely to meddle in affairs which are considered municipal if there is public pressure. - **Cheryl Bradley**

For more information contact Cheryl Bradley (SAEG) by phone (403)328-1245 or cbradley@telusplanet.net.

Profile: Pat Wright: Wildlife Artist

The drawings of Pat Wright that we feature in this issue were discovered in a stack of old *Wildlife Review* magazines left to the Resource Centre by Tom O'Keefe. The search for this elusive artist took several days and many phone calls to complete strangers on Saltspring Island, all of whom did their best to be helpful. At last, I was directed to Marg Threlfall of the Painters Guild who provided me with an address. Although I could not contact Pat directly, she granted us permission to use her wonderful drawings in the Advocate. We are pleased to present them for the enjoyment of our readers and to tell you a little bit about this interesting artist.

Patricia Wright was born in Weybridge, Surrey, England, daughter of Antarctic explorer and scientist, Sir Charles Wright, and Lady Edith Wright. She is the sister of playwright and composer Joan Raeside. Her nephew, Adrian Raeside, is an internationally known cartoonist who has been editorial cartoonist for the Victoria Times Colonist for over 20 years and is one of the most widely syndicated cartoonists in Canada.

In her early years, she attended Hall School, Weybridge, and later, Mickleham Hall, Surrey and Cheltenham College in Gloucester. Before the Second World War she also attended the Guildford and Epsom schools of art. During the war she served with the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) from 1941 to 1946. After discharge, she enrolled at the Heatherly School of Art in London and the Frobisher School of Painting in Herts.



In 1948 she came to British Columbia, Canada. She was employed as an artist by the Victoria Public Library, the B.C. Provincial Library and the Department of Education. She also worked with the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in California and with the Joint Services Commission in Washington, D.C.

Pat traveled to Africa in the late 1950's where she spent months painting African wildlife. Her experiences in Africa led to her illustrating a number of books on Africa. Among them were *Africa's Wild Glory*, by Phillip Keller and 4 books by H. Vernon Jackson entitled *West African Folk Tales*. She also illustrated *Hyak Inlet* and *Rattlesnake Range* by A.H. Pearce and *Moose Magic* by Miles Smeeton.

She worked as an artist-photographer for E.P. Walker at the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. Many of her illustrations and photographs were included in that author's massive three-volume work, *Mammals of the World*. Among her watercolours is a series of paintings about the history of the Northwest Mounted Police.

One of her sketches, a pronghorn antelope, was selected for inclusion in the two-year national exhibition tour of the Canada Arts '73 show. Displays of her work have also been held in local centres, the Provincial Museum in Victoria and the Emily Carr Centre.

From 1961 to 1975 her sketches graced the covers and pages of *Wildlife Review*, a magazine published by the B.C. government. They were a popular feature enjoyed by thousands of readers. According to *Wildlife Review*, "on the occasions when we did NOT use a Pat Wright sketch as a cover, readers were quick to announce their displeasure and to point out the error of our ways."

What is it about these sketches that catches and holds the attention? All her animals have character and seem totally alive. "She does beautiful eyes," remarked Adrian Raeside. A *Wildlife Review* writer also remarked on the quality of the eyes and "the honesty of detail, together with the sheer enjoyment of animals that the artist is somehow able to share with anyone seeing her sketches."

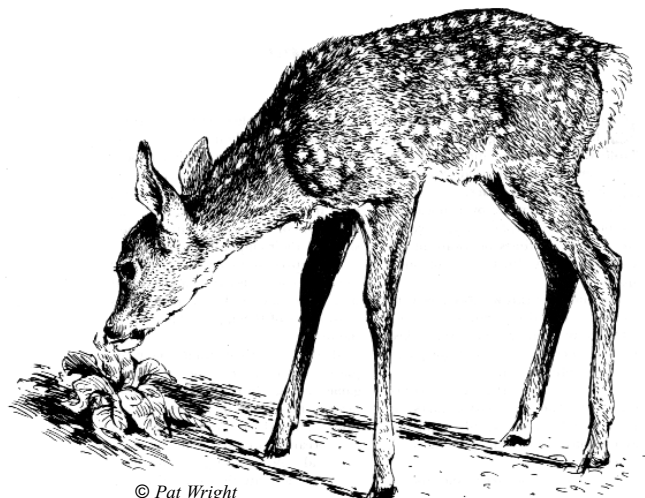
After 1975, Pat lived with her father in the Wright home, named *Landfall*, at the northern tip of Saltspring Island. There, in proximity to the wind and sea and sky, she planned to indulge her passion for sketching and painting animals in quiet seclusion. However, Pat stopped painting around 1980. Instead, she opened the Fieldmouse Wildlife Gallery on Saltspring Island. The Fieldmouse Gallery featured a number of Canadian wildlife artists and Pat tirelessly promoted new and talented artists struggling to make a name for themselves.

Pat closed the gallery in 1997 and now lives quietly on Saltspring Island.

While on service with the WRNS during the Second World War, she saw the ravages of conflict first hand, leaving her with a deep aversion for war and for all violent death. "I'm interested in life," she said, "and if there is any-

thing in my work that turns people to a fuller appreciation of life and living things, then I count myself lucky and well rewarded." Y

(I would like to thank Adrian Raeside for his help and his contribution to this biography. Some of the material was gleaned from a biography in *Wildlife Review*, Summer 1975).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Open House Program in Calgary

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm
 Location: The Hillhurst Room, 455 - 12 St. NW
 Cost: \$4.00 per person, children free
 Contact: 283-2025 for reservations

May 8, 2001

The Wild Life of Gardening

Join host Ken Girard, well-known Calgary horticulturalist, for a discussion on: gardening in Calgary's challenging climate, growing native plants, and attracting wildlife to your garden

May 29, 2001

Hiking Canada's Great Divide Trail

Join host Dustin Lynx, author of the newly released guidebook, *Hiking Canada's Great Divide Trail*, as he takes us on a trek along Canada's rigorous Great Divide Trail. Come and share his wealth of knowledge and experience in long-distance hiking and the challenges of this unique backcountry trail.

Summer Field Trips

Cost: \$15.00 per person
 Contact: 283-2025 to pre-register and get directions
 See our website:

AlbertaWilderness.ca/News/Events/Events2001.htm

June 16, 2001

Rumsey Natural Area: a guided hike with Dorothy Dickson

June 23, 2001

Walking the Porcupine Hills: a guided hike with Vivian Pharis

July 7, 2001

Big Sagebrush Natural Area: a guided hike with Dave Sheppard and Reg Ernst

August 25, 2001

The Whaleback: a guided hike with Bob Blaxley

Open House Program in Edmonton

May 10, 2001

Hiking Canada's Great Divide Trail with Dustin Lynx *(see above for details)*

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm
 Location: Strathcona Community League
 10139 - 87 Ave., Edmonton
 Cost: \$4.00 per person, children free
 Contact: 988-5487

Events by other Organizations:

Horse-Assisted Hiking in the Castle Wilderness: sponsored by the Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition.

Date: August 1-5

Cost: \$400 per person, including meals.

Registration deadline: June 1 (a \$200 deposit is required).

Contact: Mike Judd, Diamond Hitch Outfitters,
 Box 2316, Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0,
 403-627-2949, elkchild@telusplanet.net
 or Dave Sheppard, CCWC, 403-627-4914,
shepjd@telusplanet.net

For a schedule of CCWC hikes and trips, contact Dave.

Publications:

The Alberta Recreational Canoe Association promotes recreational canoeing and kayaking. Clayton Roth has produced the following guides and maps:

*A Paddler's Guide to the Middle Red Deer River:
 Dickson to Drumheller*

*A Paddler's Guide to the Milk River: Whiskey Gap to Deer
 Creek Lower Red Deer River Map*

You can obtain these through ARCA at 1-877-388-2722;
info@abcanoekayak.org

Association News

Alberta Wilderness Resource Centre

We would like to thank Chris Bruun for the donation of photos and books, Herb Kariel for the donation of books and articles, and Mike Bracko for clipping articles from the Edmonton Journal and other papers.

Wild Lands Advocate

We would like to thank Deirdre Griffiths, Garry Hackler, Charles Lacy, Jack Grundle and Pat Wright for permission to use their drawings in the Advocate.

Employment Opportunity: Summer Outreach Projects Staff

We are looking for a dynamic, well-organized, enthusiastic individual for an exciting summer project. The individual will be responsible for organizing outreach and awareness events throughout many of the natural regions in Alberta.

Employment Period: May 28th, 2001 - August 24th

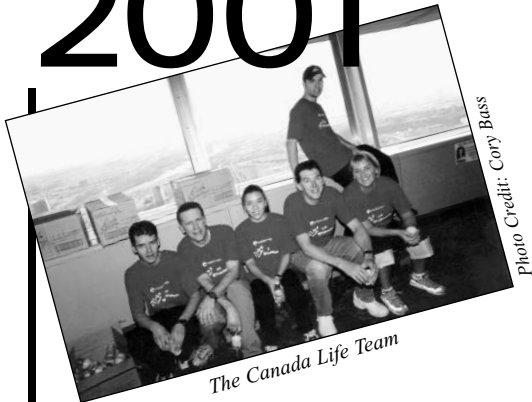
Salary: \$7.00/hour

Deadline for Applications: May 18th, 2001

See our website for details

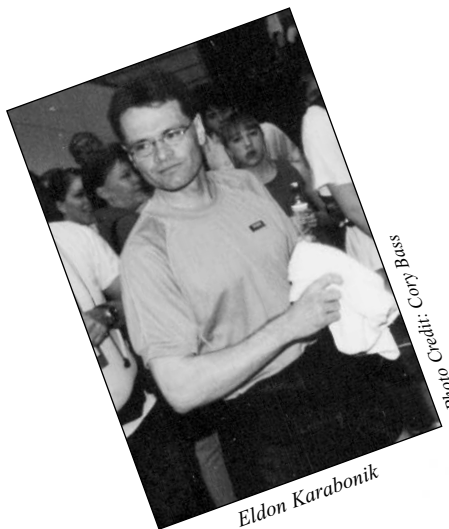
Editorial Board: Shirley Bray
 Peter Sherrington
 Andy Marshall
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 Please direct questions and comments to Shirley Bray
 Phone: 270-2736 • Fax: 270-2743 • awa.wrc@home.com
www.AlbertaWilderness.ca

TOWER CLIMB 2001



The Canada Life Team

Photo Credit: Cory Bass



Eldon Karabonik

Photo Credit: Cory Bass



Musicians entertaining the climbers at the top of the tower. They were great!



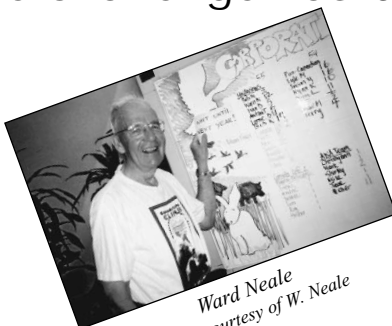
Rt. Hon. Joe Clark with our clown (not an MP)

Photo Credit: Cory Bass

The atmosphere was festive as climbers valiantly climbed all 802 stairs up the Calgary Tower. Many climbers climbed multiple times. There was a definite competitive spirit as teams challenged each other. Many individual climbers broke their personal records. Phyllis Hart, our oldest climber at 86, climbed 5 times this year, compared to twice last year. Ward Neale broke his record of 10 to climb 12 times this year. Eldon Karabonik from Edmonton broke the record for most climbs in one day (28) by climbing 30 times - and he didn't even look tired at the end of the day.

The planning for this event takes months of dedication and many volunteer hours. The AWA would like to thank all volunteers, climbers and sponsors for their participation this year. As well, we were very pleased to have the Rt. Hon. Joe Clark join in the festivities and present at the awards ceremony.

The challenge has been made see you at next year's climb April 20th, 2002.

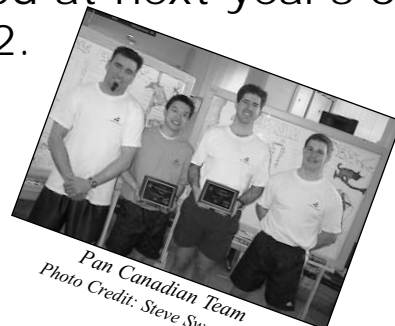


Ward Neale
Photo courtesy of W. Neale



Unitarian Team

Photo courtesy of W. Neale



Pan Canadian Team
Photo Credit: Steve Swettenham

SUPPORT ALBERTA 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" - **Richard Thomas**

The Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) is dedicated to protecting wildlands, wildlife and wild waters throughout Alberta. Your valued contribution will assist with all areas of the AWA's work. We offer the following categories for your donation. The Provincial Office of the AWA hosts wall plaques recognizing donors in the "Defender" or greater category. Please support Alberta's wilderness by supporting the conservation work of the AWA.

Alberta Wilderness Association	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$25
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<input type="checkbox"/> Associate	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropist	\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness Circle	\$2500 - \$5000

Alberta Wilderness Resource Centre	
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Partner	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron - greater than \$1000	



Wild Lands Advocate Journal

☐ Research and Investigative Reporting, Publication and Distribution \$ _____

Alberta Wilderness Trust - an endowment fund established with The Calgary Foundation to support the long-term sustainability of the Alberta Wilderness Association. For further details, please contact our Calgary office (403) 283-2025.

The 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. Telephone (403) 283-2025 Fax (403) 270-2743
E-mail a.w.a@home.com Website <http://www.AlbertaWilderness.ca>*

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Open House Program

The Wild Life of Gardening
May 8 (Calgary)

**Hiking Canada's
Great Divide Trail**
May 10 (Edmonton)
May 29 (Calgary)

Summer Field Trips

June 16 - Rumsey
June 23 - Porcupine Hills
July 7 - Big Sagebrush
August 26 - Whaleback

See page 14 for more details



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The Alberta Wilderness Association
Box 6398, Station D
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2E1

