



PLATEAU MOUNTAIN ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

NOVEMBER 7, 2015

AWA Stewardship Report – Wendy Ryan

Project: Put up boundary signs with AB Parks staff

Volunteers: Christyann & Dan Olson, Sean Nichols, Wendy Ryan, and David Mitchell

AB Park staff: Nathan Brown – Kananaskis Country

Met at the base of the mountain at 9:45 and car pooled to the locked gate. Proceeded on once the GATE was opened!

Signage locations were GPS'd and pounded into place in 8 locations – along the road and tree line. 3 more signs were placed on the east side of the mountain at the top basin by a well site = 11 in total

Trash pick up: along the road going to the top in the ecological reserve and along the top: an old tire, ½ a barrel, wooden railings, pipe, t post, metal and wood, estimating 300 pounds.

Tracks in the snow: grizzly bear, big horn sheep, moose, others that may include bob cat/lynx, coyote.

Wildlife: Two big horn ewes and their lambs at the base of the mountain by a compressor station and along the road. Birds - 1 bald eagle, ravens and a small flock of LBB at the top of the mountain. Weasel along the side of the gravel road heading north to Highwood Crossing.

Other stewardship work: took apart two fire rings along the road, below the locked gate within the ecological reserve along the road. Picked up close to 100 rifle shells and pieces of clay pigeons at one of the camp sites plus removed any signs of the site by removing fire wood.

Weather: Chinook wind (very strong), mild and sunny

NOTE:

- Sign at the bottom gate – Authorized Vehicles Only – but the gate remains unlocked.
- The group recognized many larch trees near the locked gate ½ way up the main road.

AB PARK C.O. –

ACTION: Nathan will return with more signs to put up depicting what is allowed and not allowed in the ecological reserve i.e.: No Hunting, No ORV, No Camping. Allowed: walking, cycling and horseback riding on main trails/road only.

ACTION: Perhaps Nathan can send photos of what signs he puts up informing the public of the ER to the AWA office and this can be posted on the web site or in the newsletter.

ACTION: Nathan will also find out what else can be removed from the plateau such as wooden enclosures and metal poles/stakes as related research studies may still be conducted.

Question: How will we remove the junk piles along the old road to the north if we are not allowed to drive out there? Perhaps a team of volunteers will have to walk out and carry each piece back to the main road. This would also include removing the little wooden structures out on the plateau with electrical wires coming out of them – same as to the south.





Question: To find out the status of the wells and their life. Then is it planned to remove all buildings from this location?

Mileage from Calgary $160 \times 2 = 320$ km

Mileage from Pincher Creek $145 \times 2 = 290$ km

Total volunteers hours:

3 people from Calgary $\times 10$ hrs = 30 hours

2 people from Pincher Creek $\times 8.5$ hr = 17 hrs

AB Park staff hours, full day + getting signs ready 10 hrs





Nathan confirmed Plateau Mountain Natural area does not actually exist - this is the sign at the main unlocked gate. Maybe this sign could be updated to reflect it is an Ecological Reserve.



Dan Olson and Nathan Brown secure sign post on east perimeter.





Sean Nichols, David Mitchell, Dan Olson, Wendy Ryan, Nathan Brown

