



Date: June 25, 2016
Location: Porcupine Hills (Road 520 west Hwy 22)
Time: 0900 - 1400
Distance of Trip: 5km
Weather: Sun

Hike Leader: Cliff Wallis (sub for Vivian Pharis)
Attendees (# and/or names):
10 total. Staff: Cliff, Steve Weber, and Andrea
Johancsik
Total Volunteer Hours: N/A

Use of the area: (check all that apply to the area)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Off-highway Vehicles | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-Country Skiing | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/Backpacking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foraging | <input type="checkbox"/> Biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Horse Riding |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bird-Watching | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cattle Grazing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Camping/Random Camping | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting/Fishing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other |

Details: (evidence and location; include GPS if available)

- During the hike, cattle grazing was evident from cattle fences and feces - our route followed a cattle trail.
- OHV and random camping were evident in the Trout Creek area ("Site 1") and Beaver Creek staging area ("Site 2") (see map last page), by trails, camping sites, vehicles, and noise.

Your observations of the local plants and animals: (Write and/or sketch what you saw (tracks, plants etc.))

- 13 pelicans at Chain Lakes Provincial Park (where we met)
- Bald eagle
- Numerous native plants as identified by Cliff
- Some non-native plants (more where disturbance was higher, such as cattle trail)
- Evidence of deer along trail (fresh tracks)





Stewardship work done: (i.e., sign damaged, ~300m west of trailhead, installed new sign)

Feature	Location (Include as much detail as possible, GPS if available)	Action Taken
N/A	N/A	N/A





Recommended Actions for Further Stewardship Work: (check all that apply to the area)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signs | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Planting | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise Reduction |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cleanup | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Removal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Re-vegetation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invasive Plant Control | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Comments

After the hike, AWA staff drove along the Skyline Road to the abandoned well-site (first well site south of Road 520, see map).

Site 1) Well site is not in operation, but has not been fully decommissioned. At this site, there is a popular random camping area, with approximately a dozen tents and some off-highway vehicle use (evident from trails and vehicles beside camp sites). In addition, Spray Lakes Sawmill has a logging camp where active logging is occurring - includes some temporary camp tents and about 10 porta-potties.

Site 2) AWA staff continued along the Skyline Trail, an old logging road that requires a 4x4 from the North (however, people can access the Porcupine Hills from the south without 4x4, resulting in a high amount of recreational access). In the 'Beaver Creek' area, where the densest trails occur (see map), we encountered many campsites, 5th wheelers, trucks and trailers, and could hear noise from off-highway vehicle use and numerous trailheads. One family was washing their ATV in the creek.

Recommendations include: replacing bullet-pocked signs, restoration of undesignated trails, and control of invasive plants by restricting access to designated trails only.

Additional comments: (what else did you see, learn, or do today that you found interesting or important)

Hikers were interested in being able to clearly see the Whaleback from our vantage point, and were interested to learn in the processes of land-use planning in the Porcupine and Livingstone. Members were also very interested in learning about plant and bird names, and fire processes in the hills.





Photographs: (attach a physical or electronic copy or send to awa@abwild.ca)



Spray Lakes Sawmill camp A. Johancsik



Recent use of an undesignated trail ignoring the bullet-marked stewardship sign A. Johancsik



Erosion in creek bed near 'staging area'. A. Johancsik



Abandoned well site. A. Johancsik





OHV tracks just inside the south boundary of PH A. Johancsik



Spray Lakes Sawmill camp. S. Weber



Spray Lakes Sawmill camp in right of photo. A. Johancsik



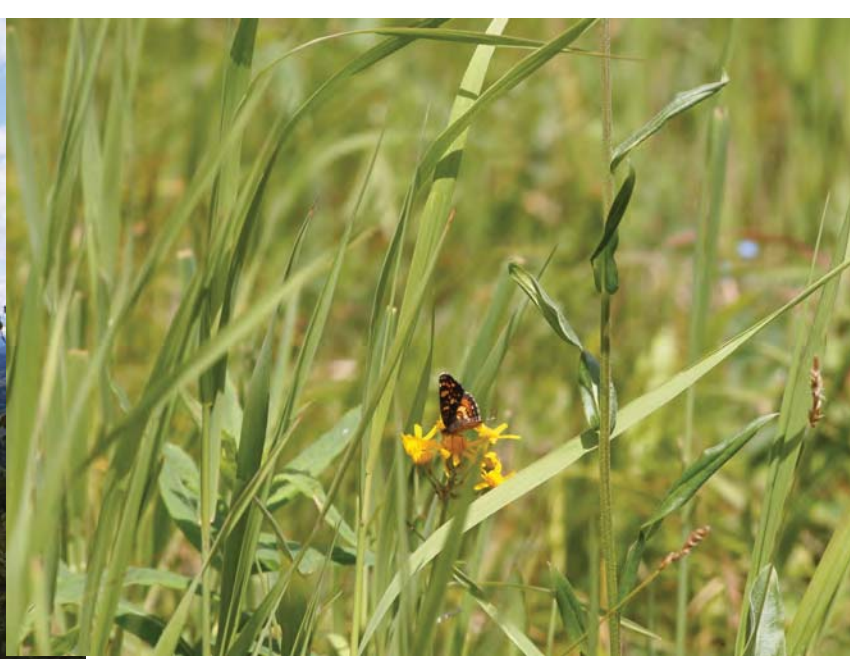
Members before the hike S. Weber



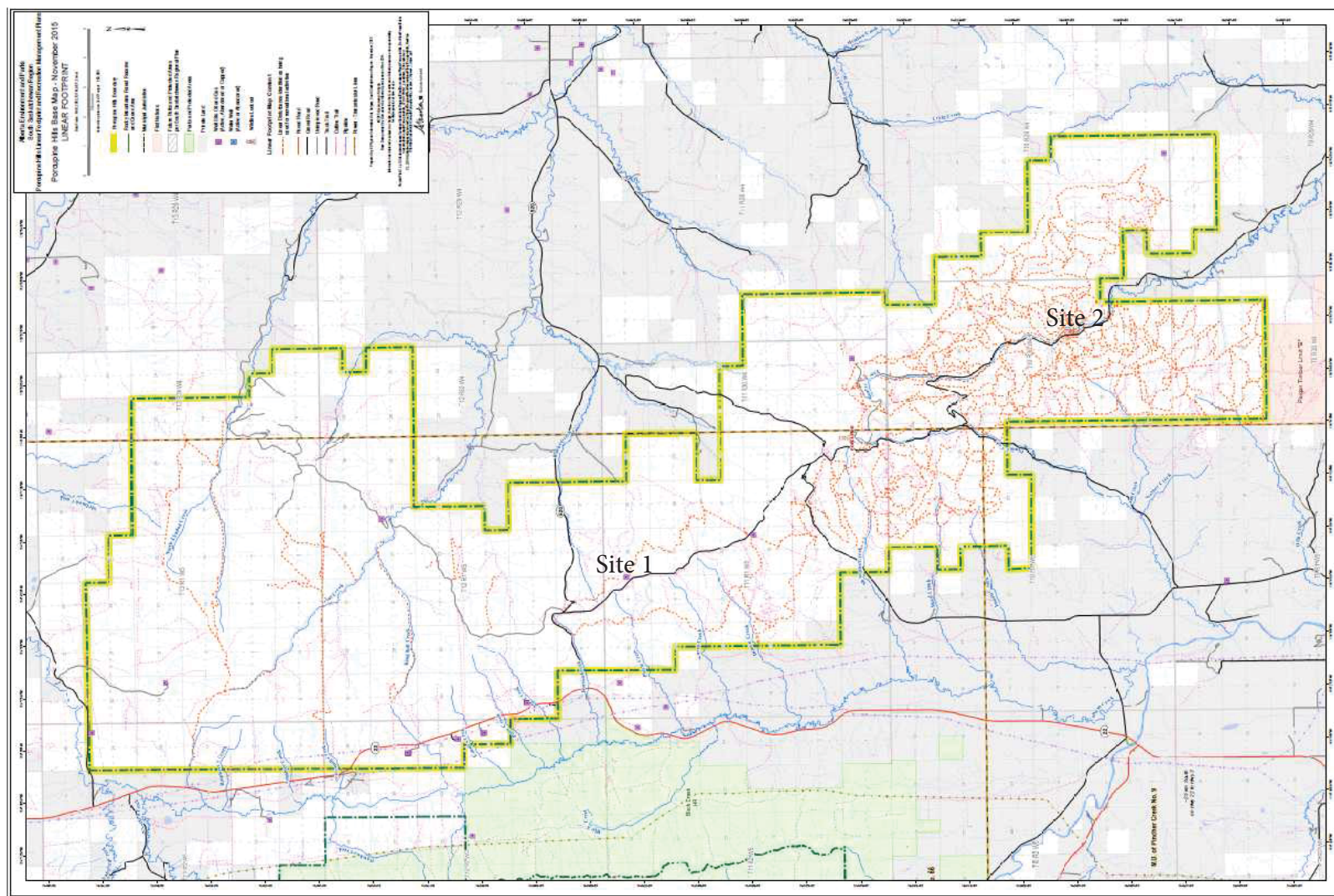
Enjoying the view and wildlife. Whaleback to the left. S. Weber



The view. A. Johancsik



A. Johancsik



Government of Alberta map 2015, showing linear disturbance used for recreation as red dashed lines.