



**Date:** June 28, 2016

**Location:** Plateau Mountain Ecological Reserve

**Time:** 0900 – 1400

**Distance of Trip:** Drove main road past gates, 8.7km walk on north road, drove to the two main well sites

**Attendees (# and/or names):** 3 AWA staff, 2 AWA volunteers, 2 Centrica employees, 1 AEP Conservation Officer (CO)

**Reason for visit to this area:** Stewardship Day

**Total Hours:** 5 hrs x 8 = 40 hrs

AWA Stewardship Day, to follow up on work done October and November 2015. Centrica employees documented debris that the company needs to remove. KCountry CO provided access to the area not accessible by road to the public so that debris could be removed on this trip. Debris identified on previous stewardship visits, clean up and observations of the conditions of the Ecological Reserve were the prime objective of this s trip and just enjoying the natural beauty of Plateau Mountain.

**Weather:** Gorgeous summer day, temp 18 C, little wind, some heavy cloud building up as the day progressed and rain started to fall with some wind picking up as we left the top of the mountain around 1400.

**Observations of the local plants and animals:**



Bighorn sheep: herd of ~40 close to the ridge, rams and ewes in two separate groups

Grizzly bear: 20-30 sites of older grizzly digging found parallel to north road, fresh grizzly droppings spotted near road

Abundant wildflowers and shrubs

Successional stages of vegetation re-growth on north road as it reclaims naturally

**Other Observations:**

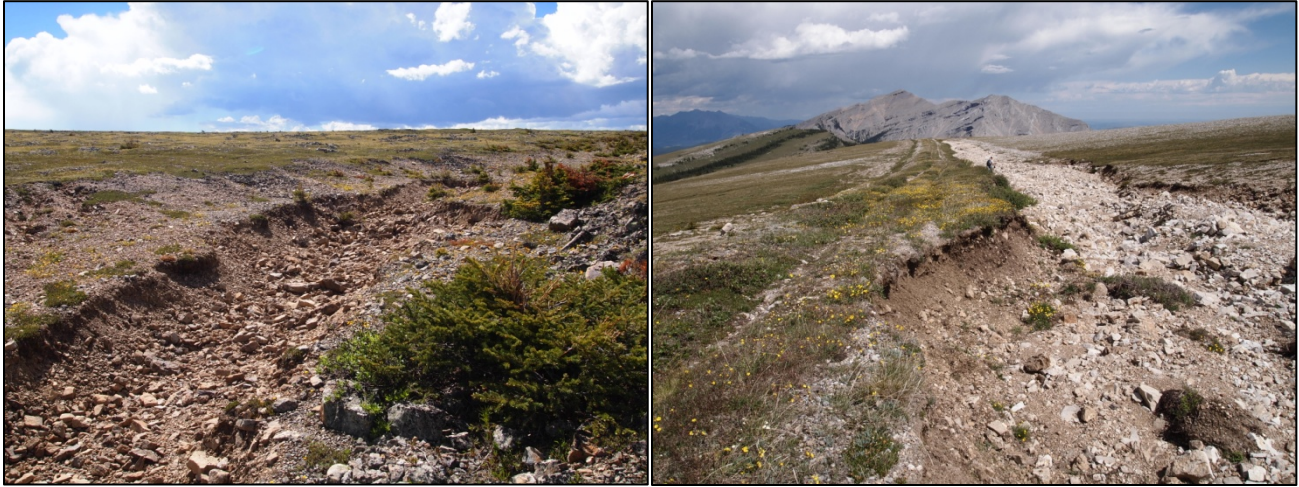
Erosion: some erosion on main road marked with flagging tape, will need repair at some point and on top along the north road along the sides erosion from heavy rainfalls noted where there were no culverts

Evidence of truck/OHV trail likely from years ago still shows where a shortcut across from one point on the road to the next was made remains obvious as the road takes a longer switchback near the top.





The abandoned north road is evidence and a great example of the impacts of roads, as compaction of soil alters adjacent soil and moisture, and therefore alters the vegetation that grows there.



North road erosion. (A. Johancsik)

**Stewardship work completed:**

All sites where debris was unable to be removed on this trip were marked with GPS and Centrica will follow through with KCountry CO's to work on removal. All other debris was carried to the main road and loaded on the CO truck for disposal.

**Recommendations and Action Items for Stewardship Work:**

- Signs required at front gate describing Plateau Mountain Ecological Reserve and activities that are restricted including hunting etc. KCountry conservation staff needs to follow through with this.
- Reclamation and decommissioning of well sites in due course; these wells are currently shut in.



Some of the abundant wildflowers in full bloom

