



Alberta Wilderness Association Protecting Alberta's Parks

Twin Lakes Provincial Recreation Area

In February, the Government of Alberta announced a plan to **remove 164 of 473 sites from the Alberta Parks system**, which includes 11 Provincial Parks, 10 Natural Areas and 143 Provincial Recreation Areas (PRAs). AWA has serious concerns with the removal of sites from the parks system due to the important recreational and ecological values these areas provide; **this decision will almost certainly mean the protected area status will be threatened.**

- The Alberta Government is currently treating Alberta's Parks system as a financially struggling system. **Parks and protected areas are not an enterprise, they are an investment in the health and well-being of Albertans.**
- There was **no public consultation** leading up to this major decision.
- At a time when the Government of Alberta has committed to protecting **17% of the province by 2021**, AWA believes it is irresponsible to be removing parks and protected areas from our network.
- The claim that the 164 sites are "mainly underutilized provincial recreation areas" ignores the fact that **many of these sites are popular and well-loved.**
- While PRAs are generally small, they provide **important camping opportunities**, reduce impacts to public lands, and play an important role in **ecological connectivity.**
- Removing these sites from the Parks system **eliminates the obligation to protect ecological integrity.**

Please write to your MLA and Minister Jason Nixon (aep.minister@gov.ab.ca) and let them know why Alberta's Parks and Recreation Areas are important to you.

