



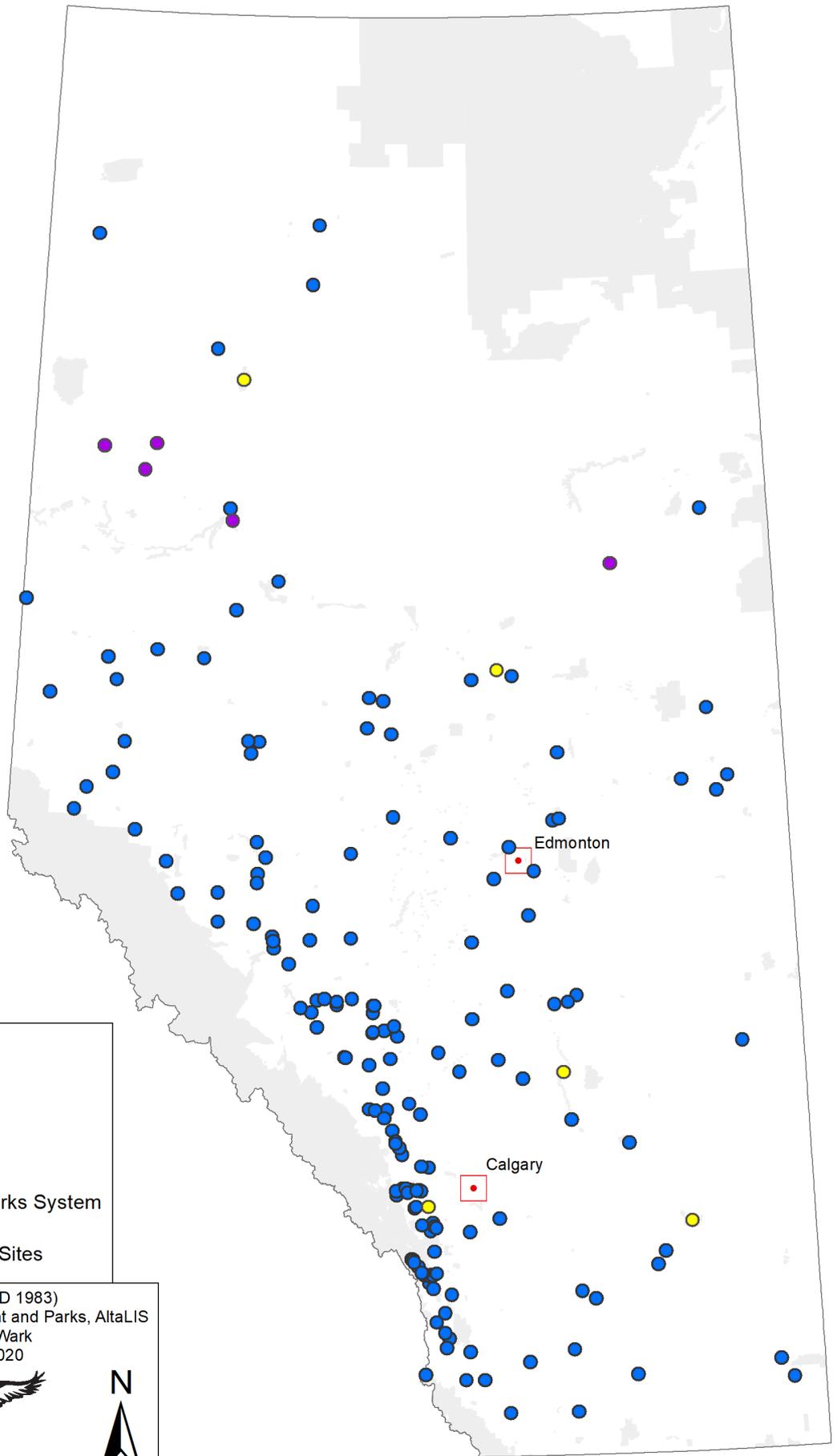
# Alberta Wilderness Association Protecting Alberta's Parks

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](mailto:aep.minister@gov.ab.ca)) and let them know why Alberta's Parks and Recreation Areas are important to you.**



**Legend**

- Full Closure
- Partial Closure
- Removed from Parks System
- Unaffected Parks Sites

Projection: 10TM (NAD 1983)  
Data sources: Alberta Environment and Parks, AltaLIS  
Cartographer: G. Wark  
Date: June 17, 2020



Alberta Wilderness Association





Marbled Godwit observed at Little Fish Lake Provincial Park

## Alberta Wilderness Association Protecting Alberta's Parks & Grasslands

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 ecological and recreation values these areas provide; **this decision will almost certainly mean the protected status of Alberta's grasslands will be threatened.**

- The Alberta Government currently treats Alberta's parks 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 and our landscapes.**
- 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" is unsupported. It ignores the fact that **many of these sites are popular and well-loved.**
- Removing these sites from the Parks system **eliminates the obligation to protect local ecology.**

### What does this mean for the Alberta's Grasslands?

- Even before this decision, the Grasslands were already one of the least protected Natural Regions in Alberta. Only 1.25% of this Natural Region is protected. **This decision will eliminate nearly 5% of the existing protection.**
- **Five of the 11 Provincial Parks** slated for removal from the Parks system are located within the Grasslands.
- The Grasslands house **over 75% of Alberta's species at risk**. Large or small, protected areas offer important habitat, stopovers, and connectivity for wildlife in Canadian prairies. For example, Little Fish Lake Provincial Park contains important nesting habitat for endangered Piping Plover.
- These sites provide **a gateway into Alberta's beautiful grassland country**. Michelle and Bullshead Reservoir PRAs are on the edge of one of the largest, relatively intact blocks of native prairie habitat in the Glaciated Plains.

Please contact your MLA and Minister Jason Nixon ([aep.minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:aep.minister@gov.ab.ca)) to let them know why protected areas in the Grasslands are important to you.

Projection: 10TM (NAD 1983)  
Data sources: Alberta Environment and Parks, AltaLIS  
Cartographer: G. Wark  
Date: July 22, 2020



Alberta Wilderness Association



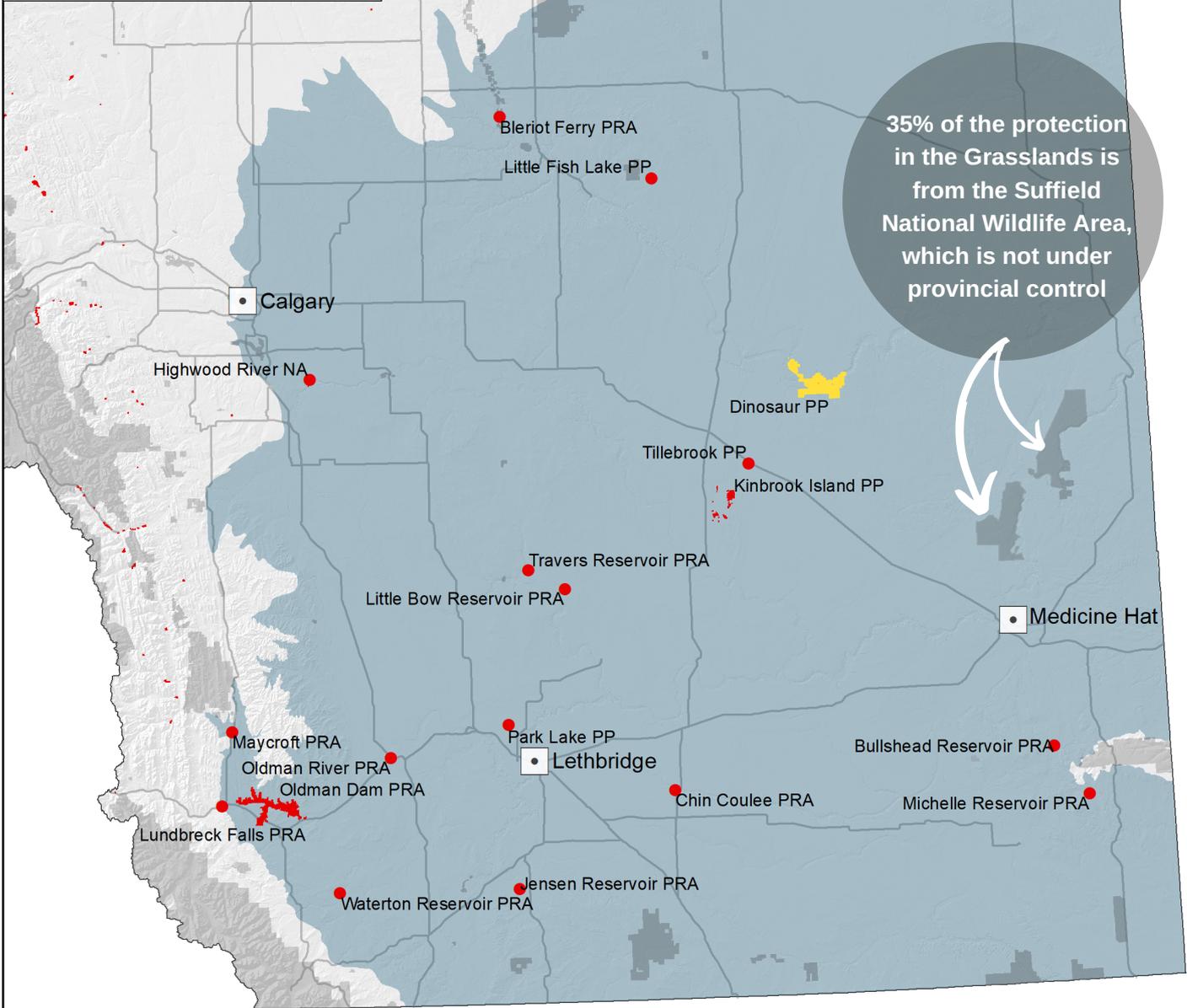
### Legend

- Current Protected Areas
- Partial Closure
- Removed from Parks System
- Grasslands Natural Region
- Major highways

The Grasslands will lose  
**~5%**  
of its protection

18 sites will be removed including  
5 Provincial Parks  
+ 1 Natural Area

35% of the protection in the Grasslands is from the Suffield National Wildlife Area, which is not under provincial control



\*Only sites proposed for removal or closure are labeled.