



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) 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



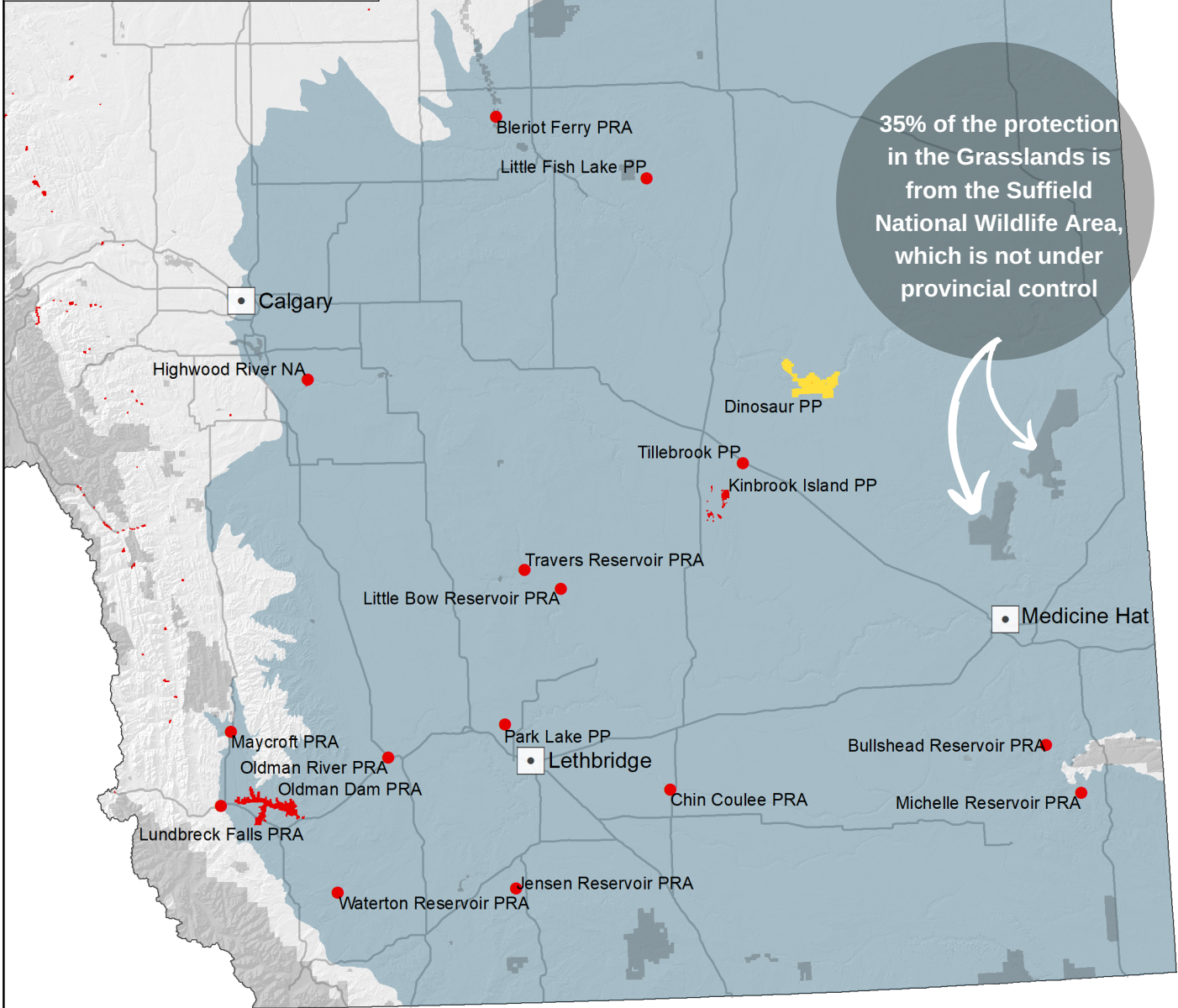
Legend

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

The Grasslands will lose
~5%
of its protection

19 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.



Alberta Wilderness Association

Delisted Parks Sites by Electoral Division

Drumheller-Stettler

Little Fish Lake Provincial Park
Bleriot Ferry PRA
Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park

MLA Nate Horner
587.774.0306 (Constituency office)
780.643.2993 (Legislature office)
Drumheller.Stettler@assembly.ab.ca

Brooks-Medicine Hat

Tillebrook Provincial Park
Kinbrook Island Provincial Park

MLA Michaela Glasgo
587.270.5110 (Constituency office)
780.638.3022 (Legislature office)
Brooks.MedicineHat@assembly.ab.ca

Cypress-Medicine Hat

Bullshead Reservoir PRA
Michelle Reservoir PRA

MLA Drew Barnes
403.528.2191 (Constituency office)
780.427.6662 (Legislature office)
Cypress.MedicineHat@assembly.ab.ca

Taber-Warner

Chin Coulee PRA

MLA Grant Hunter
403.223.0001 (Constituency office)
780.427.0240 (Legislature office)
Taber.Warner@assembly.ab.ca

Cardston-Siksika

Travers Reservoir PRA
Little Bow Reservoir PRA
Park Lake Provincial Park
Jenson Reservoir PRA

MLA Joseph Schow
403.653.5070 (Constituency office)
780.638.1158 (Legislature office)
Cardston.Siksika@assembly.ab.ca

Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

Bleriot Ferry PRA

MLA Nathan Cooper
403.556.3132 (Constituency office)
780.427.2464 (Legislature office)
OldsDidsbury.ThreeHills@assembly.ab.ca

Livingstone-Macleod

Maycroft PRA
Lundbreck Falls PRA
Waterton Reservoir PRA
Oldman River PRA
Oldman Dam PRA

MLA Roger Reid
825.212.2000 (Constituency office)
780.638.1241 (Legislature office)
Livingstone.Macleod@assembly.ab.ca

Highwood

Highwood PRA

MLA R.J. Sigurdson
403.995.5488
780.638.3156
Highwood@assembly.ab.ca

If your call to your MLA is long distance, dial 310.0000 then the area code and the phone number you would like to reach in order to receive toll free access.