



## *Bighorn Country*



Dear AWA Supporter,

Yesterday, Environment Minister Jason Nixon confirmed that the provincial government will not be moving ahead with the Bighorn Country concept and will return to the North Saskatchewan Regional Planning process.

We plan to participate in any new processes and in the meantime we want to thank you for following the Bighorn and AWA's 50 year quest to have the Bighorn Wildland protected with legislation.

Your voice matters and as our newly elected officials begin their term, we hope you will take this as an opportunity to introduce yourself to [your MLA](#) and the Premier ([premier@gov.ab.ca](mailto:premier@gov.ab.ca)). Please let them know that you support protection of the Bighorn. Write a letter, schedule a meeting or just drop into your MLA's constituency office.

As always, we thank you for your support and would appreciate copies of your letters.

- Joanna Skrajny, AWA Conservation Specialist

**Here are a couple of questions you (or your MLA) may have as this process continues.**

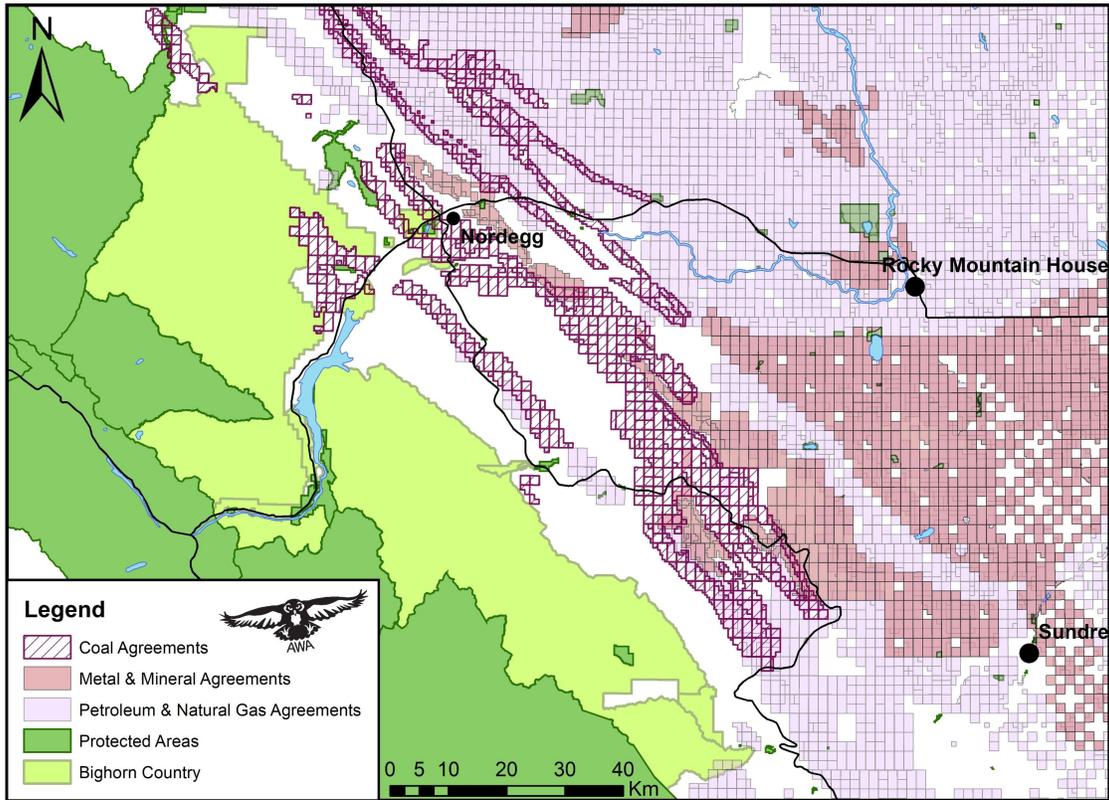
**What is the difference between the Bighorn Country proposal and the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan?**

In 2014, the North Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council (containing representatives from local ranching, farming, oil and gas, forestry and outfitting industries, the Reeves of Clearwater and Beaver County, and an Edmonton city Councillor) produced a [report](#) with a number of recommendations for the region, including consensus agreement on the conservation of the Bighorn.

The report aligns with the *Bighorn Country* proposal to protect much of the region west of the Forestry Trunk Road as a Wildland Provincial Park. However, the *Bighorn Country* proposal went further and proposed the establishment of a Public Land Use Zone (PLUZ) east of the Forestry Trunk Road in order to help manage the impacts of multiple uses on the landscape by designating trails for off-highway vehicles.

**What are the possible economic impacts of the Bighorn Country proposal?**

A Wildland Provincial Park in the Bighorn would not impact industry. Currently, there is little to no industrial activity within the proposed protected area thanks to the 1984 Eastern Slopes Policy and protective notations. Here is a map we produced earlier this year showing current leases within the Bighorn Wildland:



Author: Alberta Wilderness Association

Date: January 28, 2019

Sources: Alberta Environment and Parks, 2019

Alberta Energy, 2019

There are multiple potential economic benefits to be gained from protecting the Bighorn, including increased economic diversification and protecting the source of 90% of Edmonton's drinking water.

On public lands east of the Forestry Trunk Road, establishing a new Public Land Use Zone would allow industry to continue while providing more certainty for industry and recreational users. There would not be any new “regulatory hurdles” with a PLUZ designation.



Dedicated to the conservation of wilderness and completion of a protected areas network, AWA inspires communities to care for Alberta's wild spaces through awareness and action.

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