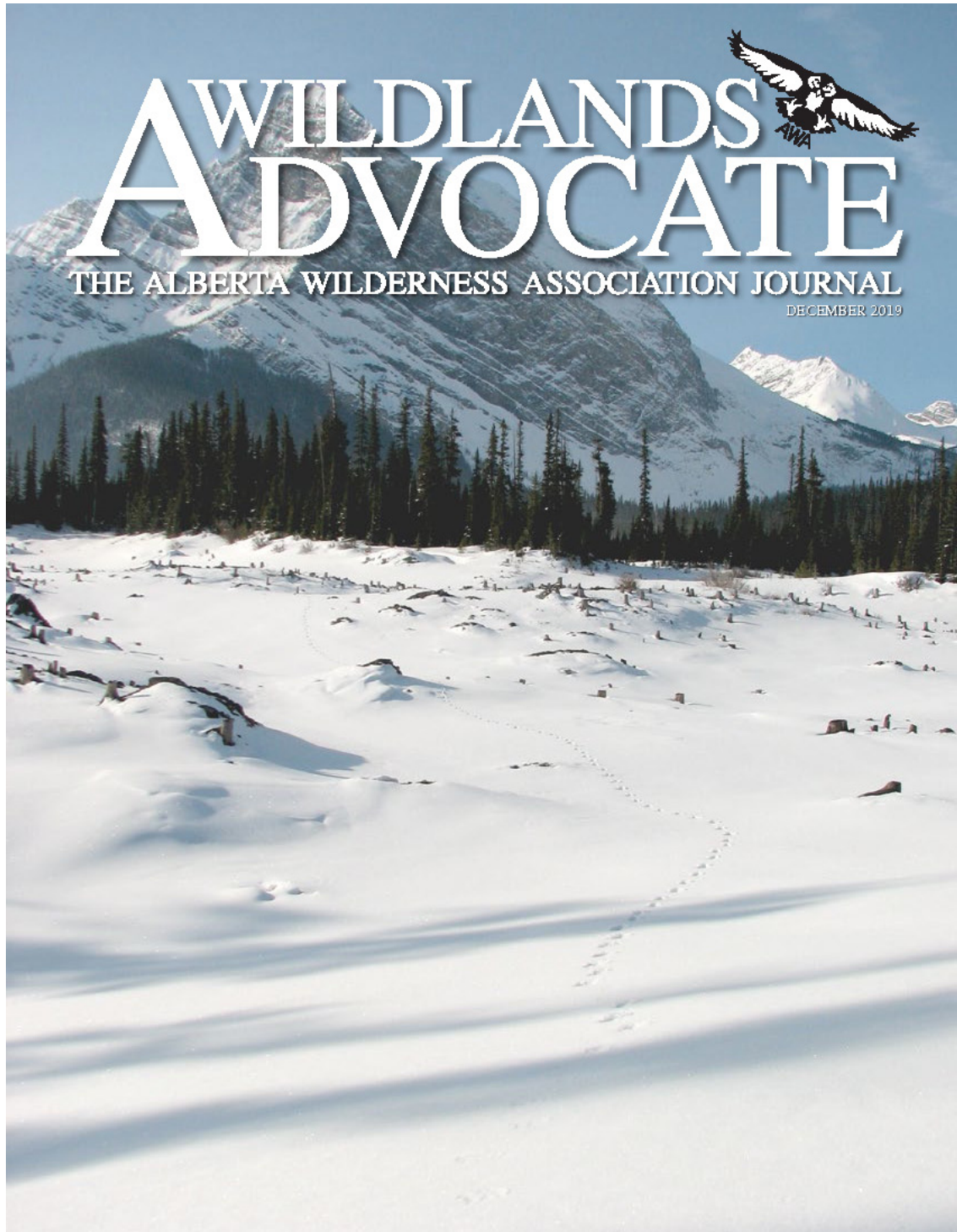


December Wild Lands Advocate Now Online

December 23, 2019



The December issue of *Wild Lands Advocate* is now [online](#). Before

previewing the issue, I want to make a sales pitch to you. It's about the *Advocate*. Please consider gifting a print subscription of the *Advocate* to someone who cares about our environment and wants good information about conservation in Alberta. I think dedicated coverage of wild lands and wildlife conservation has been one of the casualties of media mergers and downsizing. The *Wild Lands Advocate* stands out as one of the few magazines dedicated to informing the public about today's conservation challenges and the ongoing efforts to brighten the natural legacy we will leave future generations. So please consider giving this \$30 gift of conservation to friends and family. With that subscription they will join the nearly 2,200 people and organizations already receiving our conservation journal in the mail. The subscription details are found [here](#).

We celebrate Christmas in our home. One of my favourite treats of the Christmas season is the potpourri that is simmering on our stove as I type this message. The scent from that mixture of rosemary, orange, cranberries, nutmeg, cloves, and cinnamon is delightful. Like our potpourri, this issue combines a variety of different ingredients, and I hope you will find them to be a rewarding concoction.

Joanna Skrajny begins our Features section with her account of the long journey that finally resulted in species-at-risk listings for bull trout and Athabasca rainbow trout. Brighter future prospects for these native Alberta fish hinge crucially on expeditious actions by federal and provincial agencies.

Grace Wark reflects on this year's annual general meeting of the Great Divide Trail Association. This year was the 45th anniversary of the Great Divide Trail Project and Grace gives you a taste for the dedication a handful of young university students showed in helping to establish this internationally-known long-distance trail.

Mai-Linh Huynh, one of AWA's many generous volunteers, writes about feral pigs –an invasive species whose shadow grows larger and larger on the Alberta and Canadian landscapes. Dr. Ryan Brook of the University of Saskatchewan warns they will soon occupy 1,000,000 square kilometres, with serious consequences for nature and agriculture alike.

Nissa Petterson examines wildlife-vehicle collisions. How much of a threat do the legions of vehicles that travel in the Bow Valley pose for species such as grizzly bears? What measures have governments taken to reduce bear casualties on roads and railways? What measures should be taken in the future?

The Association News section features my interview with Dr. Mark Boyce, the world-renowned ecologist, who received a Wilderness Defender Award in November. The section also acknowledges the long list of AWA

members and supporters who have supported your organization through different types of gifts and bequests over the past year. Gus Yaki figures twice in this section. First, AWA received a donation in Gus's name to recognize him for his outstanding devotion to conservation. Second, as if to underline emphatically the appropriateness of that donation, you can read about the two major awards Gus received in 2019. The most heart-warming discovery you'll make in this section likely is our acknowledgement of the youth who support AWA. Their smiles and stories are bound to bring a smile to you.

Updates on the provincial budget, the provincial caribou task forces, the commercialization of Kananaskis water, and grazing lease legislation await your consideration in the Wilderness Watch section.

Artistically, we offer you more of the caribou flags people made to support our caribou conservation efforts. And, you'll also have the chance in the Louise Guy Poetry Corner to read two poems by Henry David Thoreau, the noted environmental philosopher.

Finally, back to the subject of last-minute gifts...We offer you book reviews of *Bert Riggall's Greater Waterton: A Conservation Legacy*, edited by Beth Towe, and Richard Schneider's *Biodiversity Conservation in Canada: From Theory to Practice*. Check them out...I'm sure Santa could make room in his sleigh for one or both of them.

May this holiday season nourish you and yours gastronomically, intellectually, and spiritually. Wishing you the very best for a wonderful 2020, I remain,

- Ian Urquhart
Your Advocate Editor

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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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