



AWA Updates



Dear AWA Supporter,

We hope this finds you, your loved ones and your communities well and in good health.

At this time, we are mostly working from home with one of us in the office on a rotating basis. While the pace of life has slowed for many, changes in conservation seem to have kept their usual pace. Here are a few updates on what's currently happening in Alberta.

Sale of public lands in Taber

AWA was alerted last fall about the potential sale of public lands near Taber and we have been working with AEP Department staff to understand the rationale for this sale ever since. With the current rate of loss of native prairie in Alberta, public land, like this parcel, should not be sold. Native grasslands contribute significantly to carbon sequestration and drought resiliency, in

addition to housing almost 75% of Alberta's species at risk. We have asked the provincial government to withdraw this offer to sell public land.

[Read AWA's full letter here](#)



The provincial budget has passed

Yesterday, [the provincial government took measures to pass the 2020-23 Budget](#). At this time, we are uncertain of what this decision means for the [proposed parks closures](#). We will keep our membership updated as information becomes available.

Woodland caribou

AWA is working hard on habitat conservation opportunities for Alberta's threatened woodland caribou. We're part of all three multi-stakeholder task forces launched by the Alberta government in November 2019: Cold Lake in the northeast,

Bistcho in the northwest, and Upper Smoky in west central.



Chaired by local MLAs, the task forces will develop recommendations to support both a working landscape and caribou recovery. Their advice will guide the government's drafting of sub-regional plans; those draft plans will then go out for public and indigenous consultation. As announced in November, the Cold Lake task force is scheduled to wrap up within the month, Bistcho by summer 2020, Upper Smoky by fall 2020.

Adventures for Wilderness

Our new and exciting Adventures for Wilderness program is continuing to evolve and we hope you will check out the website - there is a [growing photo gallery](#) that will make you smile!



Visit our new A4W website!

Your AWA Team,

Christyann, Grace, Joanna, Carolyn, Nissa, Ian, Sean and Diane



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