



Hello Adventurers,

AWA staff, Grace and Joanna, here! This week, we're heading off for a two-day backpacking trip to raise awareness and support for the [Castle Wilderness](#).

For a little extra motivation, we've organized a handful of fun sponsorship rewards to help your donation go the extra mile (or 1.61 km...)

- **Off the Grid \$25 and up:** Receive a postcard in the mail of our adventure
- **Backpacker \$50 and up:** We'll pin your name on our backpacks during our walk and recognize you in our blog!
- **Tree Hugger \$100 and up (max 10):** You can make a silly request or challenge for us to complete on our hike!
- **Granola Cruncher \$200 and up (max 10):** Get homemade trail snacks
- **Hippycrite \$500 and up (max 5):** We'll send you some swag!
- **Greenie \$1000 and up (max 2):** We'll wear a custom t-shirt with your face or your favourite quote on it during our hike (must donate by July 17)

In keeping with the core tenets of AWA's *Adventures for Wilderness* program to not only coordinate fun, healthy outdoor Adventures, but also to raise the profile of Alberta's incredible wild spaces, **we also wanted to take this opportunity**

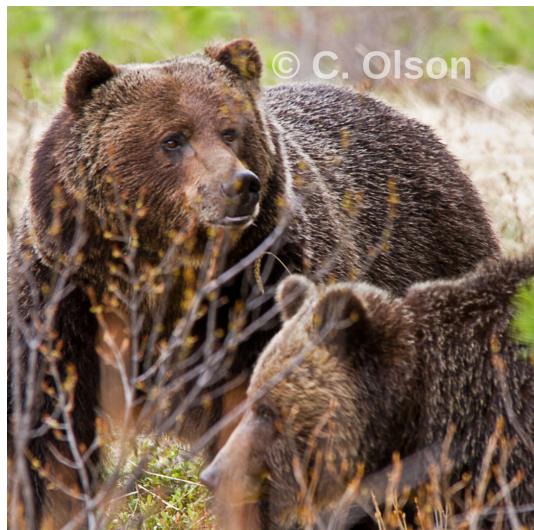
to tell you about what makes the Castle so special and why it's important to speak up for this wilderness area.

Thank you for joining us on the Adventure!

-Your AWA Team Members, Grace Wark and Joanna Skrajny

Sponsor Weekend for Wilderness!

An essential piece of the Alberta's ecological puzzle, the Castle wilderness provides important headwaters protection and crucial connectivity within the Crown of the Continent. The area boasts high biodiversity, in part due to the funneling of gale-force Chinook winds down the Front Range Canyons making for unique ecosystem conditions.



The Castle is home to numerous at-risk species, including pure-strain populations of threatened westslope cutthroat trout, and beautiful, gnarling limber pines.

Other iconic mountain species wander the Castle's slopes and valleys, including grizzly bears, wolverines, cougars, bighorn sheep and grey wolves.

The future of the Castle Parks is currently in jeopardy as the Government of Alberta reconsiders the continued use of motorized trails in the area.

AWA had previously considered the decision to phase-out motorized recreation from the Castle Parks finalized under the 2018 *Castle Parks Management Plan*, however the Government of Alberta placed a pause on this phase-out in July of 2019. There is ample scientific evidence that motorized trails are incompatible

with the wilderness values of the Castle, including recovery of threatened populations of westslope cutthroat trout.

To read more on the current status of the Castle Parks and how you can get involved, see AWA's Action Alert (November 2019): <https://mailchi.mp/abwild.ca/nov-update-cas-parks-trails>

What is Adventures for Wilderness?

Adventures for Wilderness is AWA's annual program to engage Albertans in wilderness conservation. We believe an Adventure can be anything from climbing a mountain, to walking by the river, to enjoying the beauty of nature in your own backyard. Visit our website to learn about the Adventures this season and how you can support Alberta Wilderness Association.



[Visit the website](#)



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