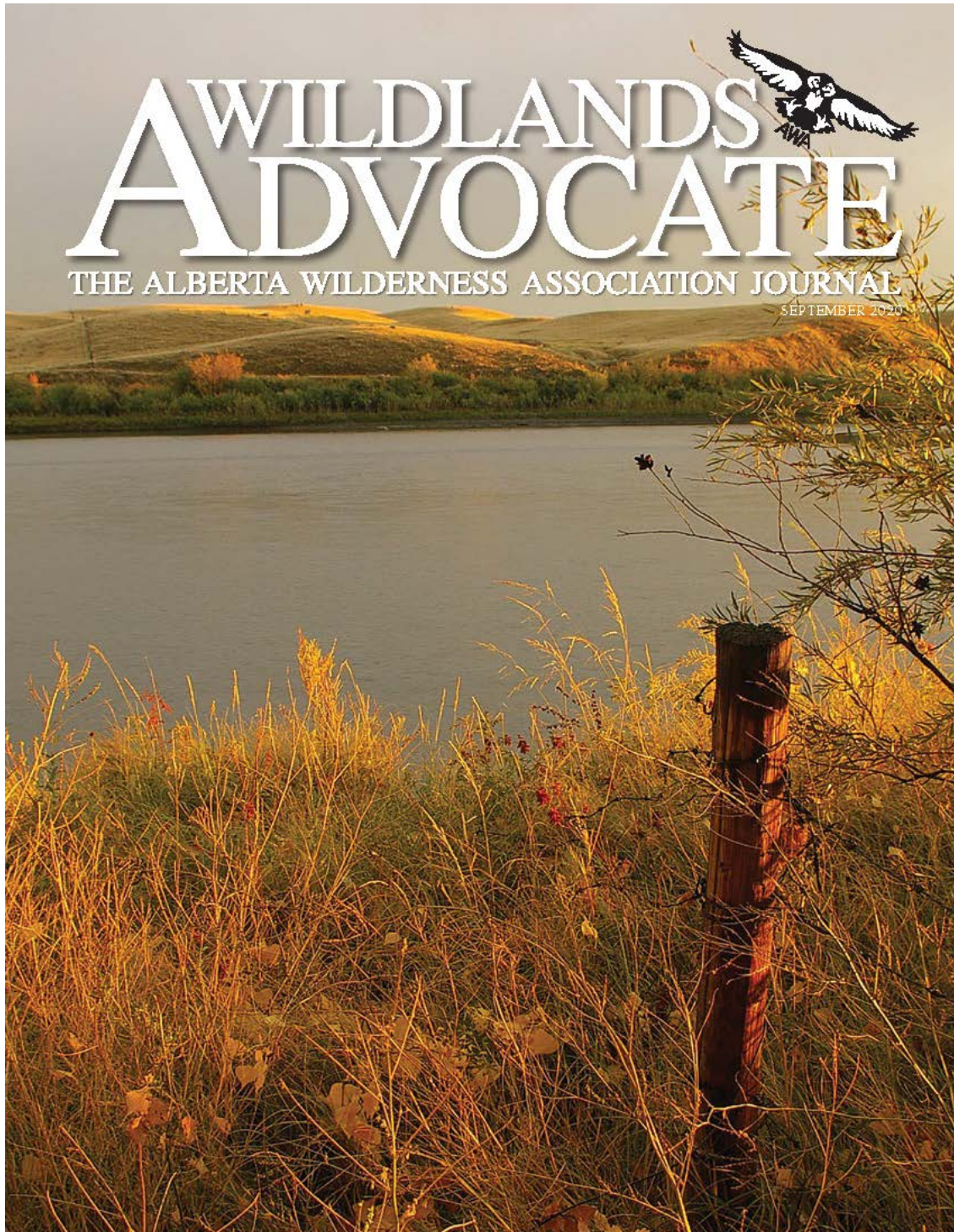


Wild Lands Advocate Now Online - It's No Turkey!

October 10, 2020



The September issue of *Wild Lands Advocate* is now online

at <https://albertawilderness.ca/publications/wild-lands-advocate/>.

Much of this issue is inspired by the issues of biodiversity and species-at-risk. The need to act on these files – globally, nationally, and locally – is pressing. We approach these challenges in the Alberta context from several angles in this issue of the *Advocate*.

With respect to the status of Alberta's species at risk, Carolyn Campbell, AWA's leading expert on caribou conservation, describes the crisis facing caribou in Jasper National Park. The Maligne herd has disappeared from the park; the Brazeau and Tonquin herds are hanging on by a thread. Parks Canada must take expeditious action to recover the remaining herds. She also keeps you up to date on the multi-party provincial deliberations regarding the establishment of range plans for the caribou on provincial lands. Events over the next few months may well be crucial to determining if the Jasper experience can be avoided on public lands in central and northern Alberta.

Grace Wark also considers species-at-risk status by focusing on greater sage grouse. Her article is an important reminder that measures such as *Species at Risk Act* emergency protection orders may be essential to species' recovery prospects. It also highlights, however, that securing critical habitat for sage grouse is vital to restoring this species to its historic status on Alberta's native grasslands.

Franco Alo's article offers a very different perspective on species at risk. There he takes you on a personal journey. He writes about how and why he became so committed to working in the area of caribou recovery and conservation.

For my part, I explore the controversy swirling around the issue of rehabilitating and then releasing threatened wildlife back into their native habitats. My focus is the debate about what should be done with respect to orphaned grizzly cubs. There I argue that the rehabilitation and release of orphaned grizzlies should be a conservation management option available to Alberta's wildlife managers.

In part, the controversy surrounding the rehabilitation/release of orphaned bears revolves around the issue of whether that option is preferable to sending animals to zoos to live out their lives. Colleen Campbell, in her reflection on the life of Skoki – one of two grizzlies at the Calgary zoo, outlines some important reasons for not dismissing out of hand the value of zoos.

This issue also contains the first of three segments we will devote to this year's three recipients of AWA's Wilderness Defenders Awards: Kevin Van Tighem, James Ahnassay, and Linda Duncan. Vivian Pharis first profiles Kevin Van Tighem and then I offer you my interpretation of Kevin's lecture "Telling Our Own Stories" – Kevin's contribution to the Martha Kostuch Annual Lecture series.

On a much sadder note, this issue notes the passing of Gus Yaki and Margaret Main – two dear friends and supporters of AWA and Alberta's natural treasures. Their larger than life auras will be missed at AWA events and on the province's landscapes.

My final words are aimed at AWA's youngest supporters. With this issue we are starting what I hope will become a regular feature of the *Advocate* – Cub Reporter Corner. Do you have an environmental story or issue you would like to write about? If so, tell me about your idea and we'll see if we can make it part of the magazine. Maybe the adults in our audience will be inspired and moved by your perspective. Let's hope so.

- *Ian Urquhart*
Editor



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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