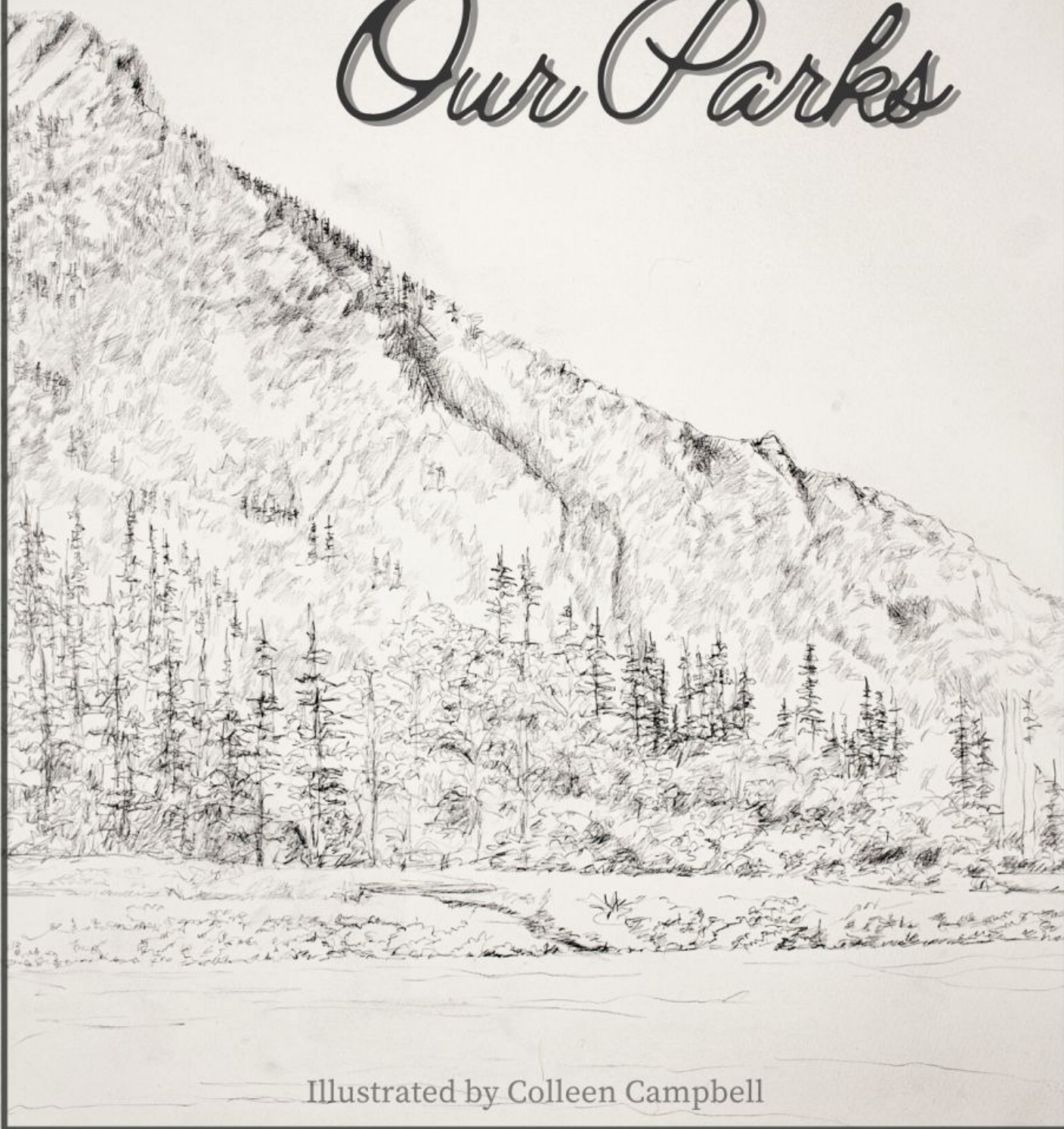


Protecting Our Parks



Illustrated by Colleen Campbell



Alberta Wilderness Association

We love our parks, there's no question about it.

These are places we **gather with friends and family** to create new memories and adventures.

They give us **access to nature** so we can stay well and escape from our busy lives.

They **support local communities** and the transition towards more **sustainable, nature-based economies**.

They provide important **ecosystem goods and services**, including clean air and water.

They **protect biodiversity** and **store carbon** in their wetlands, native grasslands and old growth forests.

These are among the many reasons we love our parks, but how do they accomplish these tasks?

Is the fact they're **parks** an important part of achieving these goals?



How do we manage our local ecosystems?

In Alberta, there are two important Acts in place to achieve this.

The
Provincial Parks Act
serves to:

- ~ Conserve our wild flora and fauna
- ~ Protect the areas and features that are culturally, historically or ecologically significant
- ~ Allow for the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural spaces
- ~ Manage various levels of protection, so we can enjoy our natural spaces, while protecting what matters most.

The **Parks Act**
has more focus on
**conservation and
outdoor access.**

The
Public Land Act
manages:

Which activities can
take place? Where
and for how long?



*Industrial
dispositions
(forestry, oil and gas,
agriculture, minerals)*

Where can I
access public land?



*Recreational
access*

The **Public Lands Act**
is in place to address
and manage **multiple
land uses.**



Large or small, parks offer important refuge for migrating wildlife, improve habitat connectivity, and prevent conversion of native prairie and foothills landscapes.

Many parks in Alberta provide temporary refuge for **migratory birds** as they journey across the continent.

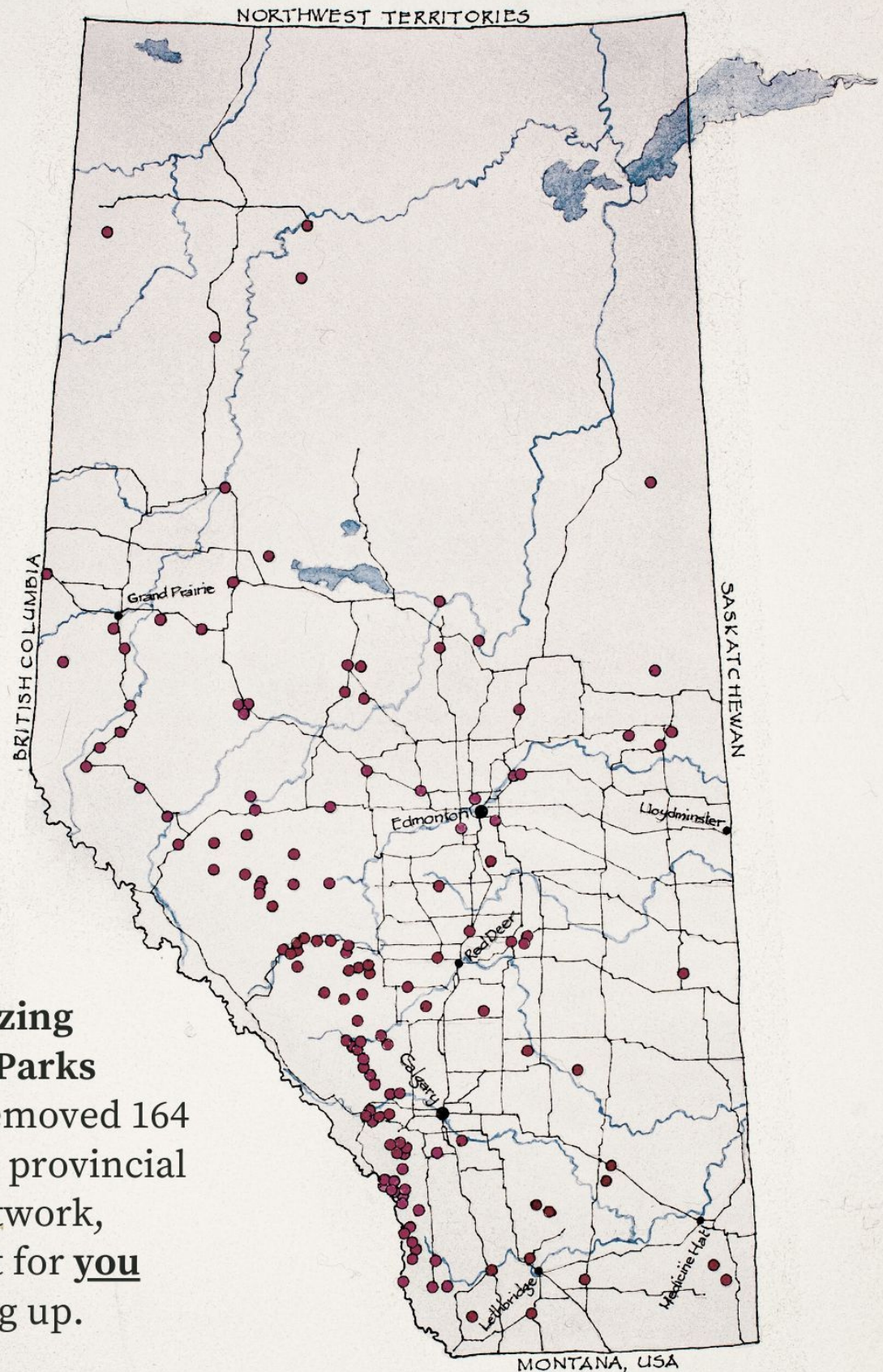
Little Fish Lake
Provincial Park
has habitat for endangered
piping plover, a small
migratory shorebird that
nests on the sandy or
gravelled shores of
rivers and lakes.



Westslope cutthroat and **bull trout** are a threatened native fish species that inhabit the cool, clear waters of Alberta's Eastern Slopes. Parks help to protect the streams and rivers important to the future survival of these native salmonids.



Recent decisions by the Government of Alberta could impact how our parks are managed, accessed and how they protect our local ecosystems.



Optimizing Alberta Parks

would have removed 164
sites from the provincial
parks network,
if it weren't for you
speaking up.

The new **Alberta Crown Land Vision** will be looking at potential changes to park categories, which could affect protections for landscapes, wildlife and wild waters.



Help Protect Our Parks

Please contact:

Honourable Jason Kenney
Premier, Government of Alberta
premier@gov.ab.ca

Honourable Jason Nixon
Minister, Environment and Parks
aep.minister@gov.ab.ca

Let them know why parks are important to you!

For more information visit
www.albertawilderness.ca/protecting-our-parks



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