

# Epic Cycling Adventure to Celebrate and Protect Parks and Protected Areas

*July 5, 2021*



More than 3,500 kilometres (more than two Vancouver to Calgary round trips by car)...that's the distance AWA's Sean Nichols will travel over the next month as he crisscrosses Alberta on his road bike. His goal is to visit most of the sites threatened last year by Environment and Parks Minister Nixon's "Optimizing" Parks initiative.

Last December Minister Nixon responded positively to public anger over his plan to remove parks and other protected areas from the provincial parks system. None of the 175 sites targeted would be delisted from the Parks system.

Sean's cycling adventure celebrates the diversity of Alberta's provincial parks

system. This adventure also celebrates the system's importance to Alberta's ecological and our personal well-being. Since some of the sites saved from delisting are no longer managed by AEP Sean also will use his visits to gather impressions of how well non-AEP managers maintain the province-wide expectations for Alberta's parks.

"Sean's epic cycling journey is the most ambitious adventure yet in AWA's 2021 Adventures for Wilderness Program," said Ian Urquhart, AWA's new Executive Director. "Like many of the adventures our members and supporters have created, Sean's adventure is about more than fundraising. It's also at the heart of AWA's mandate to inform Albertans about the health and stewardship of our province's magnificent natural treasures."

Sean is no stranger to epic cycling road trips, having previously cycled the breadth of Russia. More information about AWA's Adventures for Wilderness program, including the opportunity to sponsor Sean, may be found [here](#).

AWA will be providing regular updates of Sean's progress on our Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook accounts. We wish him following winds as he rides through all of Alberta's stunning landscapes.

**For more information please contact:**

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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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