

Eastern Slopes Protection Act

FACT SHEET

Protect Alberta's Rockies, Eastern Slopes, and Headwaters

Facts that indicate coal mine exploration and development and clear-cut logging will have a devastating impact on Alberta's pristine Rocky Mountains, Eastern slopes, and our life-giving Headwaters.

- Inter-related natural habitats and wilderness, animal corridors, water ways, and safe grazing areas will undoubtedly be harmed by coal exploration and development and clear cut logging.
- Clear cutting forests will definitely create destructive, surface water run-off. And the remaining rubble and piles of dead trees are an invitation to hazardous fires.
- Coal mines create impoundment ponds which leach poisonous selenium in high concentrations.
- Coal mining causes acid mine drainage, which causes heavy metals to dissolve and seep into ground and surface water, such as Headwaters.
- Open pit coal mines and their subsequent hazards and activities are likely to have a negative, financial impact on sustainable industries such as: tourism, recreation, ranching, green energy development, hunting, fishing, and agriculture.
- Worldwide, coal use is rapidly declining and is considered a sunset industry. Recent and ongoing developments of clean energy sources such as hydrogen, will soon replace thermal and metallurgical coal, negating the need for destructive coal mining projects.
- Based on Indigenous knowledge and science, protecting our rich natural environment, respects the rights and culture of Indigenous people and supports our natural resources sector.
- In light of heat waves and drought conditions, water allocation policy commitments should prioritize community and ecological health over commercial coal projects.
- Protecting our natural environment helps ensure the long-term health and well-being of our land, air, and water.

Summary of the Act:

The Eastern Slopes Protection Act will permanently halt all new coal mining or exploration activity in Category 1 and 2 lands, and halt new coal mining and exploration activity in Category 3 and 4 lands pending the development of a regional plan, which would be informed by thorough and meaningful consultation with Albertans.

