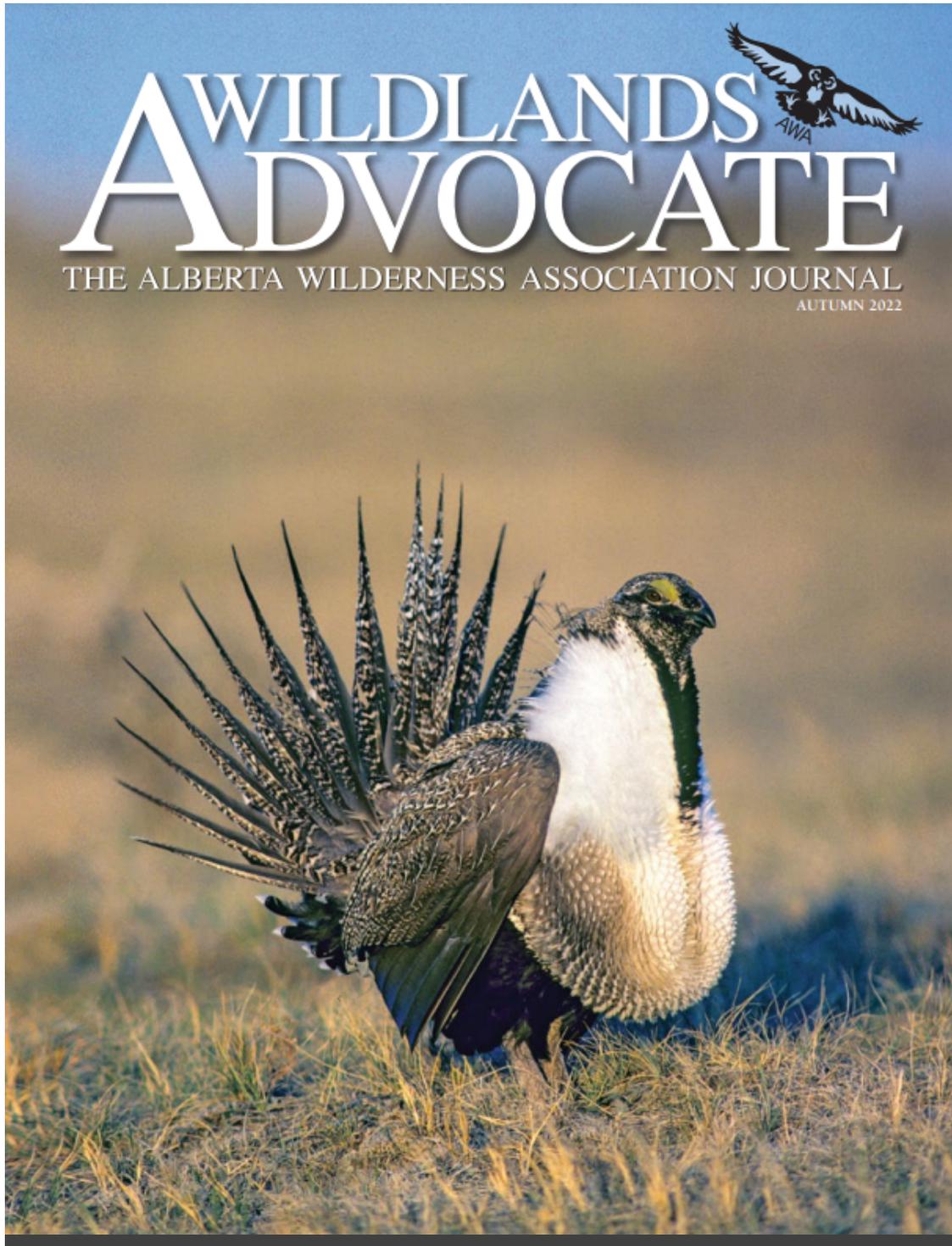




Alberta Wilderness Association

Fall 2022 Wild Lands Advocate Now Available



Dear Friend,

When I was first asked to take on the role of Editor for AWA's Wild Lands Advocate magazine by our acting Executive Director Christyann Olson, I wasn't sure whether I was the right person for the job. Having only been in my role as Conservation Specialist for just over one year, and no previous experience with magazine editorship, I was intimidated by the task, and hit with intense feelings of imposter syndrome, like many of us feel when asked to take on responsibilities that we feel imperfectly suited for. I love writing, and I also know – from the kind words of others – that copy-editing is one of my strengths, but I was concerned about maintaining the quality of our publication while ensuring that AWA's reputation for journalistic and scientific integrity continues under my supervision. As the Fall issue started coming together over the summer months, I have become more confident in my abilities to take on this task moving forward, and I am incredibly grateful to Christyann and others for their support and mentorship in producing this issue. The transition into this role has gone more smoothly than I was expecting.

For our Fall 2022 issue, I wanted our articles to highlight the breadth and diversity of the many challenges facing Alberta's wilderness from all angles. I have called the theme of this issue "The Speed of Business" because we often hear this phrase used by those who believe the world needs to move faster, or that we need less regulation, to ensure that businesses can operate, and so that money can change hands more quickly. In this issue, you will read about the Government of Alberta's push to "cut red tape", at the same time as we seek to expand mineral mining in the province as part of the "lithium rush" to cash in on the global transition to electric vehicles. We risk missing important information and causing irreparable harm if we continue to move at the speed of business without stopping to consider the cumulative impact of our activities.

Sage Grouse – our cover star – turned out to be the focal point of this issue, with two excellent articles by AWA's conservation specialist Ruiping Luo, discussing the threats to their habitat from helium mining among other issues. Other articles discuss the potential Calgary-Banff train development, cross-border coal issues with the United States, a message from a Calgary youth climate activist taking the federal government to court, a new group that has formed to fight the proposed release of oil sands tailing effluent into the Athabasca River, and our Cub Reporter segment is from a grade six student

who discusses her love of backcountry camping under the stars.

As concerned environmentalists, the speed of business can be difficult to keep up with at times, as it seems like new threats appear each week which require our time and attention. I hope that this issue of the Advocate manages to articulate the volume and diversity of development occurring across our landscape. I also hope that this issue might make our readers consider the positive effect that slowing down might have on mitigating our ever-expanding human footprint. Some resource extraction and development will always be necessary to meet the needs of our society, but that development demands more thoughtful consideration than we typically see. Rather, than cutting red-tape, any and all development should take the appropriate measures to understand the best-available science, to incorporate Indigenous traditional knowledge, and to ensure that the voices of those who are most marginalized are incorporated into the decision-making process.

Slowing down needs to be part of the solution to better land management.

The Fall 2022 issue is available online at the link below, and if you typically receive a print copy in the mail, the issue will be on its way shortly.

[Wild Lands Advocate Fall 2022 Issue](#)

Sincerely,

Phillip Meintzer,

AWA Conservation Specialist and Wild Lands Advocate 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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