



Alberta Wilderness Association

Winter has arrived and the holidays are fast approaching

Unique Gift Ideas That Support Wild Alberta



Photo: Will Lambert

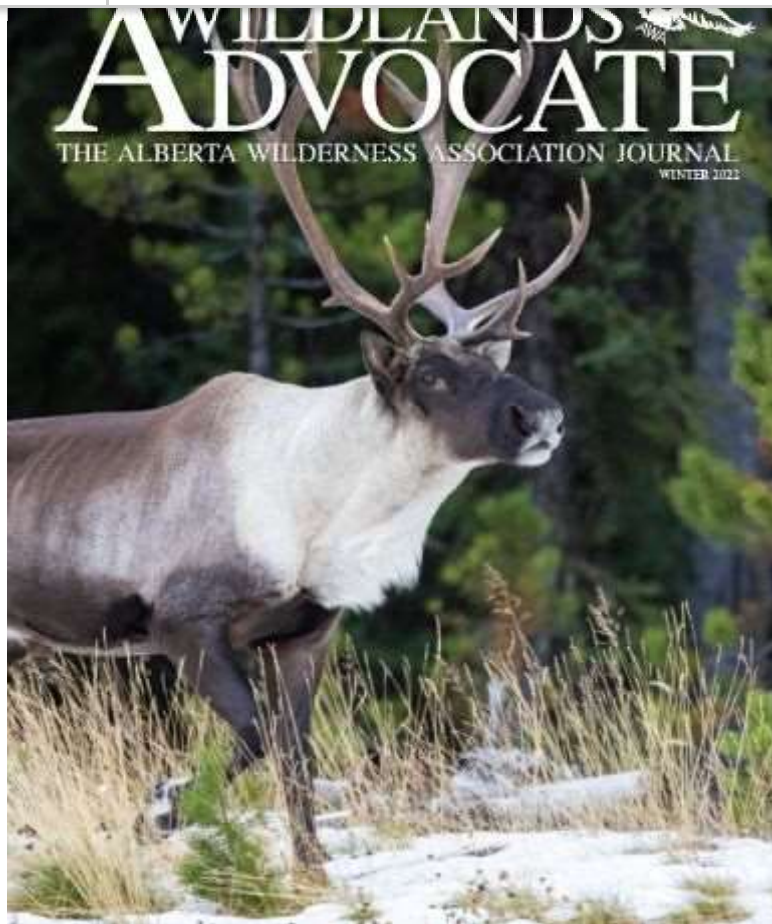
Are you still looking for that perfect gift? AWA has some great options that celebrate the wild places we love and contribute to their continued protection.

- [Zen Travellers has created a beautiful calendar featuring 12 Alberta photographers' images of Wild Alberta \(the photo above is one of the calendar images\). All proceeds will be donated to the AWA.](#)

["Don't Waste Your Time in the Canadian Rockies" to sell. We are offering them for only \\$20 until December 31! That's 60% off!](#)



- [Give the gift of an AWA lifetime membership. What better way to show how much you care about Wild Alberta?](#) Memberships give our organization strength. As a member you add your voice to the multitude who are speaking up for Wild Alberta. Become a voice for the landscapes and wildlife that don't have one.
 - [Give the gift of a donation to AWA in honour of someone special in your life.](#) Every dollar matters and your generosity directly contributes to the conservation work we do here at AWA. We are so grateful to all our donors.
-



Winter 2022 Wild Lands Advocate Magazine Now Available!

In planning our December issue, we had originally begun without a specific theme in mind. However, as these stories came together over the autumn months, a more cohesive through line began to emerge linking many of these articles together. Indigenous-led conservation plays a massive role in the protection of wilderness, both around the world and here in Alberta. At least three of our articles in this issue touch on this concept in some form or another, from my trip up to Bistcho Lake with the Dene Tha' First Nation, to Gillian Steward's discussion of Aseniwuche Winewak Nation's push for federal support in protecting caribou herds, and finally Carolyn Campbell's article on the hopes for Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in northeastern Alberta. Looking elsewhere, we have articles from AWA Staff on wolverines, Apetowun Creek, solar projects, a trip to Suffield National Wildlife Area, and December's UN Biodiversity Conference being held in Montreal (known as COP 15). To round out our final issue for 2022, we have tributes to many of our recent award recipients, an update on AWA financials from our new Executive Director Debborah Donnelly, and a thorough rundown of many of our successful

Calgary. I wish all our members, volunteers, and readers a happy and restful winter holidays, and I hope you enjoy reading this issue!

-Phillip Meintzer, AWA Conservation Specialist and Wild Lands Advocate Editor

The Winter 2022 issue is available [online](#). If you typically receive a print copy in the mail, the issue will be on its way shortly.

Current Issues

Logging Concerns

AWA recently [raised concerns](#) that logging may be allowed in parks and protected areas following comments by Premier Danielle Smith and recommendations in a 2020 report prepared by the Alberta Forest Products Association. We have since learned from a member of the public that Minister Todd Loewen has confirmed in writing that there will be no commercial forestry allowed in the future in parks; “trees may only removed for public safety, wildfire prevention and mitigation, or to support recreational opportunities”. AWA will hold the government of Alberta to this commitment. We remain concerned, given Premier Smith’s October 21 comments, that logging may be used under the above reasons as a way to open up parks for unsustainable levels of high-impact recreation such as off-highway vehicle use, and that there seems to be a strong focus on increasing recreation and tourism in parks rather than on conservation of ecological values.

-Devon Earl



Photo: G. Braasch

Sustainable Forestry Greenwashing

On December 2nd, EcoJustice submitted a [complaint to the Competition Bureau](#) of Canada against the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) due to SFI's false and misleading claims about the sustainability of forestry operations that it certifies. AWA signed onto this complaint along with seven other environmental organizations to fight greenwashing in the forestry industry. As the largest forest certification system in North America, SFI contributes to unsustainable logging on an immense scale. SFI's certification allows clearcutting, spraying of toxic chemicals, and logging of endangered forests (including old growth forests and caribou habitat).

-Devon Earl



Photo: C. Olson

AWA in the News



Photo: L. Wallis

- [Alberta merging Parks With Forestry raises concerns from environmentalists](#)
- [The Boss, one of the biggest, baddest grizzly bears in Banff, captured in a new series of photos.](#)
 - Also available in [French](#)
- [Conservation groups pin hopes on COP15 to preserve biodiversity.](#)
- [Drawing links between nature and our health](#) (video)

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.

[Donate](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.