

# Splitting Alberta's Fish And Wildlife Branch Weakens Provincial Conservation (Copy 01)

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## Splitting Alberta's Fish and Wildlife Branch Weakens Provincial Conservation



Bighorn sheep balancing on rocks. Photo © C. Olson

Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) is extremely concerned to learn that Alberta's Fish and Wildlife capacity and staff have recently been split between three separate ministries, without public consultation or notice. Fishing and hunting allocations have gone to the Ministry of Forestry, Parks and Tourism; fish hatcheries management has gone to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation; and fish and wildlife species at risk decisions are left behind in the Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas.

"Dividing governmental capacity and responsibilities over fish and wildlife compromises the protection of the species that we share our home with," says Devon Earl, AWA conservation specialist. "Management of fish and wildlife should be kept in one unified ministry so that wildlife and their habitat don't suffer from reduced capacity and fragmented communication between departments."

AWA calls on the government to reverse this fragmentation of staff and roles and restore a cohesive fish and wildlife branch.

AWA is concerned with the probable lack of coordination between each department and its effect on fish and wildlife populations and species protection. Each department has a separate mandate with separate priorities,

Feedback



