

FALL • WINTER 2008

Alberta Wild

RESPONSIBLE USE & PRESERVATION OF ALBERTA'S PARKS AND WILDERNESS

A  CPAWS Northern Alberta Publication



Water

Economy

Environment

Industry

Wilderness

Air

Parks

Cities

Social Needs

Agriculture

SHAPING ALBERTA'S LANDSCAPE

Alberta's Land-Use Framework (p.2)

Northern Alberta Chapter

Keeping Alberta Wild

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

CHAIR Jeannette Gysbers

SECRETARY Wally Friesen

DIRECTOR Harry Stelfox

DIRECTOR Liv Vors

DIRECTOR Stephen Mayor

DIRECTOR Jacqueline Osborn

DIRECTOR Alex Abboud

PROSPECTIVE DIRECTOR Morgan Gauthier

NORTHERN ALBERTA CHAPTER STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Catherine Shier

cshier@cpaws.org

SENIOR POLICY ANALYST Richard Schneider

ministiki@telus.net

BOREAL CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR Helene Walsh

helene_w@telus.net

PARKSWATCH PROGRAM COORDINATOR

George Newton

parksnab@cpaws.org

VOLUNTEER AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Kate Charuk

volunteernab@cpaws.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Jennifer Liu

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 52031

Edmonton, AB T6G 2T5

Ph 780.432-0967

Fax 780.439-4913

infonab@cpaws.org

www.cpawsnab.org

MAGAZINE ART DIRECTION

Robert Andruchow, VisCom Design

MAGAZINE DESIGN

Kathleen Jacques

EDITORIAL

Marc Avey, Bethany Ensslin, Laurie Frerichs, Jeannette Gysbers, Billi Murray, Janine Sutherland

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE MAGAZINE

Kate Charuk, George Newton, Christina

Robichaud, Catherine Shier, Rick Schneider, Liv

Vors, Helene Walsh, Cheryl Williams

In this issue

- 1 **Keepers of the Athabasca Tour a Wild Success**
by Helene Walsh
- 2 **Managing Alberta's Changing Landscape: The Land-Use Framework**
by Rick Schneider
- 4 **Northern Flying Squirrels *Glaucomys sabrinus* Acrobats of the Boreal Forest!**
by Cheryl Williams
- 5 **Alberta Pine Beetle Strategy Danger to Watersheds and Communities** *by Helene Walsh*
- 6 **Monitoring Park Health**
by George Newton
- 7 **Going Wild for *The Big Wild***
by Kate Charuk
- 8 **Caribou, Wolves and Bears... Oh My! (part 2)**
by Christine Robichaud
- 9 **Go Crazy for Caribou**
- 9 **cPAWS & Effect**
by Catherine Shier
- 10 **Being Caribou in Edmonton...***by Liv Vors*
- 11 **Victoria's Secret Helps With Alberta Foothills Conservation**
by Helene Walsh
- 12 **Staff News**
by Catherine Shier
- 13 **Volunteer News**
by Kate Charuk

From the Executive Director

The Big Wild is here!

On May 23rd, 2008 *The Big Wild* was launched in Edmonton. Founded by CPAWS and Mountain Equipment Co-op, *The Big Wild* is a social movement intended to mobilize Canadians to demonstrate their support for the protection of Canada's publicly owned wilderness. Our vision is bold: to ensure that at least 50% of Canada is maintained in a permanently wild state with the remaining wilderness to be used responsibly (see page 9 for more details).

A key component of *The Big Wild* is to encourage people to experience Canada's remaining wilderness areas. Whether it be a two-day trip into a favourite park or a three-month epic journey across part of Canada by canoe, everyone can show their support for wilderness by signing up for a Big Wild Challenge. To show my support for Canada's big wild, I just completed an 11 day hike into Wilmore – Alberta's premier provincial wilderness park. It was energizing to know pristine wilderness areas like that are protected in Alberta. Sadly, upon my return, I learned that exploration is currently underway to determine if a coal mine would be viable in an untouched area just outside of Wilmore that is very important for wildlife. This was a reminder to me that while we have a lot to celebrate and be inspired by, we also have more work to do; it is urgent that we conserve what remaining wilderness areas still exist in Alberta now, prior to changing them forever.

As a fellow supporter of Alberta's wilderness and biodiversity I would like to encourage you to plan a trip to a wild place that inspires you, and dedicate it to wilderness protection by signing up for a Big Wild Challenge. See you on the trail!

— *Catherine Shier*



Keepers of the Athabasca Tour

A Wild Success

by Helene Walsh

CPAWS took part in the Keepers of the Athabasca Watershed Tour in July and August. We visited eleven communities in the watershed starting in Jasper and ending in Fort Chipewyan.

We provided information on the state of the watershed and in some communities we gave special sessions on natural methods of treatment for clean drinking water and threats to groundwater from tar sands development. A primary focus was on hearing the concerns of citizens attending these meetings with a view to a coordinated watershed network to address these issues. Special attention was given to getting input from Aboriginal groups and the meetings were culminated in an evening meal followed by much appreciated local entertainment that got our feet dancing.

We learned a lot from each other. For example, did you know...

- In the entire watershed, Jasper is the only place that uses tertiary sewage treatment (removing nitrogen and phosphates);
- The tar sands area has the largest aquifer in Canada which may be threatened by development;
- Many rural Hinton residents are concerned about their well water quality; and
- The tailings ponds now cover about 130 sq. km, an increase from 50 km² in 2005?

The tour ended in Fort Chipewyan for the Keepers III Water Conference, which focused on tar sands issues and was attended by over 200 people including First Nations Chiefs from three provinces and the Northwest Territories as well as 18 environmental groups from across North America. The Aboriginal leaders committed to taking all steps in their power to protect their lands, sustain their communities, and assert their rights. They resolved to:

- Initiate legal action to assert their rights;
- Engage with other leaders to build unity among their communities;
- Work in solidarity with organizations that support these goals

The environmental groups discussed plans to slow the development of the tar sands including organizing citizens to stop refineries from taking tar sands products, stopping construction of pipelines for tar sands products, and pointing out to bankers the risks of investing.

CPAWS NAB intends to continue to advocate for protected areas in the watershed, a slow down in development, and better environmental practices. We are very pleased and encouraged that Alberta is now getting so much international attention and feel that this will motivate all levels of government to make real on-the-ground changes. ☞



TOP: Alice Martin, member of Mikisew Cree First Nation in Fort Chipewyan and Keepers of the Athabasca, at Athabasca Glacier the headwaters of the Athabasca River.

BOTTOM: Two jawed fish caught by children at the time of the Keepers III Conference in Fort Chipewyan. Photo: Ling Wang, Mikisew Cree First Nation

Managing Alberta's Changing Landscape

The Land-Use Framework *by Rick Schneider*

From tar sands, clear cuts and mines to water, wilderness and recreation, all reflect choices we make about how to use our land.



On May 21, 2008 the Government of Alberta released the Draft Land-use Framework (LUF). This new framework will profoundly affect how we use land and water in the future.

Alberta's system of planning and decision making dates back to the 1950s. The underlying assumption is that economic growth is the key to improving the quality of life of Albertans. Over the years, however, our goal to maximize economic growth has compromised our environment and social values. The rapid pace of development and declining quality of life that characterize Alberta today invite the question – can we do better?

A TIMELY IDEA...

The Draft LUF acknowledges that “we have reached a tipping point, where sticking with the old rules will not produce the quality of life we have come to expect.” A new approach is proposed, and most of the reforms are headed in the right direction. For example, the LUF is committed to objective-based management and integrated regional planning.

...BUT NOT QUITE COMPLETE.

There are important gaps in the draft LUF that need to be addressed. CPAWS, in collaboration with several other organizations, has been working to alert the government to these deficiencies and to suggest workable solutions.

LEFT: Aerial photo of the Rocky Mountain Foothills. In this habitat the Little Smoky caribou herd struggles to survive.

THE KEY NEEDS ARE:

- **New legislation** to support the LUF and provide it with the legal foundation it needs to be successful;
- **Clear and measurable outcomes** that reflect the broad public interest and describe what success looks like;
- **A monitoring system** to assess progress in achieving outcomes;
- **Human and financial resources;**
- **A detailed implementation plan** (with a timetable) to bring the reforms embodied in the LUF to life;
- **Interim measures** to maintain land-use values while the planning process (which will take years) is underway; and
- **Opportunities for public participation**, particularly with regards to setting land-use objectives and the development of regional plans. ☞



Take Action

Help shape Alberta's future. Although the formal public review period has ended, it is still crucial to let your MLA know you care about the LUF. Other land-use planning initiatives, such as the Alberta Forest Conservation Strategy, stalled at the implementation stage because of insufficient political will. With sufficient courage provided by the citizens of Alberta, the LUF can survive. For tips on meeting with your MLA contact the CPAWS office: 780-432-0967.



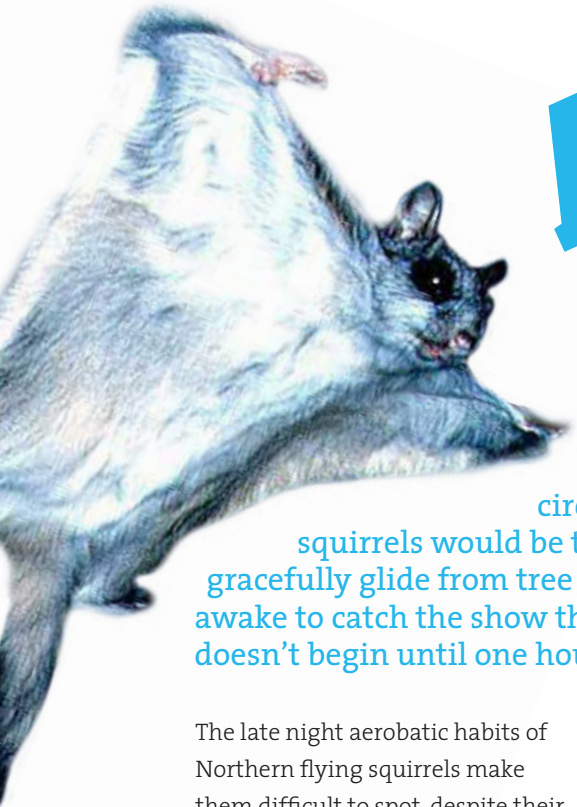
What is the Land-Use Framework (LUF)?

- The LUF is a set of principles and a process for making land-use decisions.
- It recognizes that ecological and social limits should guide our development.
- It suggests we split Alberta into 6 land-use regions and create 6 regional land-use plans.
- The 6 regional plans will set land-use “objectives” (or goals) to manage the impacts of development on land, water and air.
- Land-use plans will be developed by a Cabinet Committee, with input from other government departments and regional advisory councils. Local officials will still make decisions on the ground, but their decisions must match the regional land-use plan.



On the Web

For more information visit www.cpawsnab.org, www.landuse.gov.ab.ca or www.albertabydesign.ca.



Acrobats!

of the Boreal Forest *by Cheryl Williams*

If the boreal forest was a circus, then the Northern flying squirrels would be the trapeze artists, as they gracefully glide from tree to tree. Be prepared to stay awake to catch the show though, as their frolicking doesn't begin until one hour after sunset.

The late night aerobic habits of Northern flying squirrels make them difficult to spot, despite their wide habitat range across Canada... but you can be sure their large, dark eyes are watching you!

If late night squirrel sightings appeal to you, the arrival of cold weather should not dampen your enthusiasm. Northern flying squirrels do not hibernate during the winter months. Instead, they opt to huddle together in nests with 5-6 other flying squirrels when the chill sets in.

So have these interesting mammals discovered the true secret to flight? Well, not exactly. Though their name is not completely misleading, Northern flying squirrels are not capable of the true, sustained flight that birds are able to. Instead, these furry critters “fly,” or more appropriately glide, thanks to a loose fold of skin that runs along

the sides of their bodies from their wrists to their ankles.

Each glide is carefully thought out, as the squirrel spots a good landing target and gets set to launch with its head down and tail up. It propels itself into the air with its arms and legs extended and can glide up to a distance of 49 metres.

The lifespan of most Northern flying squirrels is not too long – usually around 4 years. The short lifespan is not due to crash landings or mid-air collisions, but commonly due to predators like owls, hawks, martins and weasels. Habitat loss as a result of deforestation is quickly becoming a significant threat as well: clear-cutting creates wide-open land areas unsuitable for gliding.

One way to help Northern Flying Squirrels is by building a nest box. There is some great information on building nest boxes online. 🐿️



Photo: Ann Elliot



Top left and bottom photos: Cy Hampson / FlyingSquirrels.com The late Cy Hampson was a professor at University of Alberta for many years and was an expert in flying squirrel gliding morphology

Alberta's Pine Beetle Strategy: Danger to Watersheds & Communities

by Helene Walsh

Alberta's strategy to reduce mountain pine beetle outbreaks in the Foothills could pose serious risks to the area's watersheds and communities.

The plan involves logging existing highly susceptible mature lodgepole pine stands and replacing them with less susceptible stands of mixed species. Ted Morton, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) maintains that logging will have less impact on flooding dangers than the pine beetle.

In fact, logging in Foothills watersheds will increase flooding risk, and watersheds will lose their ability to maintain water flow throughout the year. If the pine beetle does appear, the flooding will be even worse.

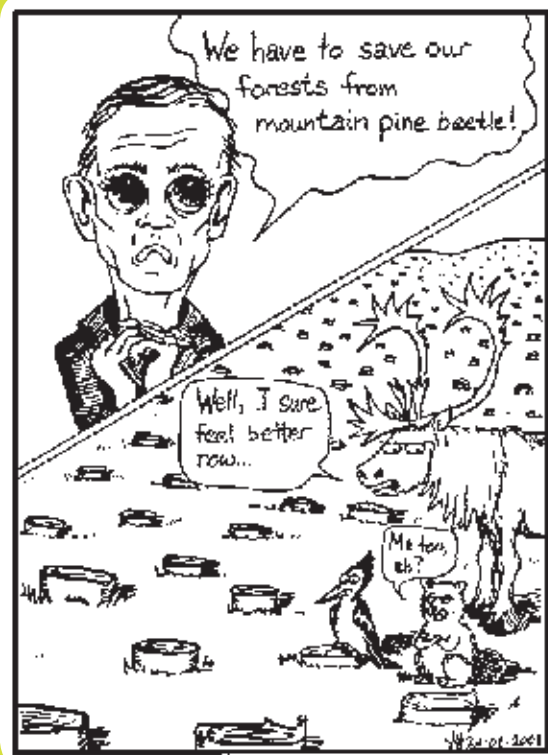
A study by the BC Forest Practices Board confirmed that logging created a 31% higher peak flow than the pine beetle alone. Although these findings were clear, Minister Morton's explanation in the legislature of the study's results was completely inaccurate. CPAWS attempted to correct this misinformation with SRD, but the errors have never been acknowledged.

CPAWS also discussed the pine

beetle strategy with Rob Renner, Minister of Environment. He agreed that deforestation could increase the flooding risk, but he went on to say that "the climate mechanism that produces larger floods in Alberta is different [than BC]; our major flood events are produced by intense cold, low systems that overwhelm watershed storage.... The situation with the mountain pine beetle may require consideration of expanded and accelerated measures associated with more intensive timber harvesting."

Acknowledgement of the real impact of logging the Foothills watersheds finally came from John Taggart, Section Head, Surface Water Policy Branch, Alberta Environment: "[w]ithin a watershed, the greater the amount of deforestation, the greater the impact on the evapo-transpiration, the wetter the basin becomes, the greater the runoff."

This truth is exactly what CPAWS has been cautioning. Unfortunately, neither minister appears to comprehend or accept these facts. It is frightening that they are the ones taking decisions about a situation they do not understand. ☹



"Alberta's Pine Beetle Strategy" by Liv Vors



Take Action

Write Mr. Morton and Mr. Renner and ask them to reconsider the pine beetle strategy that will likely not slow or stop the pine beetle, but will endanger watersheds and communities.

420 Legislature Building
(Hon. Ted Morton)

OR

425 Legislature Building
(Hon. Rob Renner)
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5K 2B6

Monitoring Park Health

by George Newton

We have recently completed the careful revision of a monitoring tool for people who care about Alberta parks, and you can help!

Our 2007 report The State of Alberta's Parks and Protected Areas provided an overall assessment of how well the province looks after its protected areas. The logical next step for ParksWatch was to bring our focus to the individual areas that comprise Alberta's parks and protected areas network. The plan was to design a survey instrument and pilot it (i.e., give it a test run) with select park steward groups and individuals. It was thought that the right instrument, completed by the right respondents, would yield a lot of useful data – data that would help us assess the health of individual protected areas.

“The logical next step for ParksWatch was to bring our focus to the individual areas that comprise Alberta's parks and protected areas network.”

Not wanting to reinvent the wheel, we borrowed liberally from the World Wildlife Fund's Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management (RAPPAM) Methodology, tailoring our instrument to the Alberta context. In the spring of 2008 we circulated the draft to our “test pilots.” Over the summer

our pilots tested the survey, not only filling it out, but also providing the much-needed critique of the first draft: “It's too long!” “It expects too much of the respondents.” “It assumes a sophistication lacking both in the [Parks] Division and on the ground.” ... Et cetera.

Because much of the data collected in the test run was indeed rather telling—not to mention illustrative of the protected area management challenges identified in our 2007 report—we decided to address the critiques and redraft the instrument for future use. The main challenge was to keep the survey manageable, yet comprehensive and still probing in a way that really gets at the telling information.

Version II of the questionnaire is now ready for use and available to any protected area visitor or principal with a demonstrated intimate knowledge of a park or protected area of their choosing. ☞



Take Action

If you consider yourself someone who is quite familiar with a certain park or protected area and would like to get involved, please contact George at: parksnab@cpaws.org or 780-432-0967.

Even if you don't have intimate knowledge of a particular park or protected area, you can still contribute! Check us out online and send us your stories and photos of AB parks.

WWW.CPAWS.ORG



Going Wild for The Big Wild

by Kate Charuk

LEFT: May 22 — Motorists on their way home from work are shocked to find us camping by one of the busiest intersections in town!

Fast Facts About Canada

- 90% of our land is in public hands
- Less than 10% of lands and less than 1% of coastal waters are protected
- We have:
 - ▶ The largest intact forest area in the world
 - ▶ 20% of the planet's fresh water
 - ▶ Over 500 endangered species



May 12 — Campers and Kayakers descend on the Strathcona Farmer's Market and trek down Whyte Ave

If you have not yet checked out TheBigWild.org then put this newsletter down and go look it up right now. As well as being a neat website, The Big Wild is a brand new wilderness conservation movement founded by Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) and CPAWS. The Big Wild has a big vision: to protect at least half of Canada's public land and water forever.

Why half? According to conservation science, maintaining a healthy ecosystem in Canada requires that at least 50% of our land and water remain in its natural state.

LAUNCHING THE BIG WILD IN EDMONTON

CPAWS and MEC staff and volunteers used playful pop-up wilderness scenes to get the word out about the Big Wild and to advertise our Big Wild Launch Party on May 23rd. Our antics were caught on camera — check out the adjacent photos. 📸



May 23 — The Big Wild Launch Party at the Royal Alberta Museum, featuring renowned naturalists Robin and Marion White, and musical guests Bob Jahrig, Karla Anderson and Marc Ladouceur

Get Involved!

- Join over 11,000 Canadians and sign on to TheBigWild.org
- Take a Big Wild Challenge: Dedicate your next trip to wilderness protection
- Wear a Green shoelace: Pick yours up at MEC today
- Join CPAWS Northern Alberta's Big Wild Team — organize local activities, go on a Big Wild trip and spread the word! Contact volunteernab@cpaws.org or call 780.432.0967 for more details.



PART TWO OF A TWO PART SERIES

Caribou, wolves & bears...oh my!

Managing the Little Smoky Caribou Herd

By Christine Robichaud

A wolf control program being carried out by the Alberta government in the Little Smoky caribou range sparked concerns over changes in ecosystem dynamics possibly resulting from the removal of a top predator.

Although the purpose of the cull is to preserve caribou, calves remain vulnerable to animals such as cougars, coyotes, and bears. High calf mortality has been largely attributed to predation and represents an important factor influencing population growth. Consequently we have been working on a bear diet study to identify the importance of caribou, particularly the calves, in bear diets.

We set up 45 barbed-wire bear bait stations across the caribou range to collect black and grizzly bear hair samples. First, we compared the make-up of the hair to that of various food items to reconstruct what each bear had eaten over the period of hair growth. The majority of our samples had weak caribou calf signatures indicating they had little to no caribou in their diet. However, seven bears did show

stronger dietary contributions from caribou, suggesting they may be honing in on this particular food source. We recorded a considerable range of meat input in bear diets, which indicates varying levels of carnivory between individuals and suggests that certain individuals are either efficient predators or else very successful scavengers. We concluded that bear use of the Little Smoky caribou range is widespread and predation risk for caribou is likely spread across the landscape. Our focus on bear predation highlights the need to look at the whole ecosystem when undertaking and monitoring management strategies. We are currently refining our techniques to obtain better dietary estimates and hope to calculate minimum predation rates for caribou calves. We will be able to compare these rates to caribou population demographic trends, notably calf recruitment, to get a better understanding of the role bears play in calf survival. 🌿

Christine is a M. Sc. Candidate in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Alberta. Christine's research is partially funded by CPAWS Northern Alberta through a Mountain Equipment Co-op research grant.

Go Crazy for Caribou

October 23, 2008

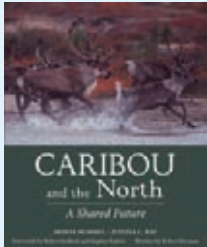
University of Alberta

Earth Sciences Building, Room 327

6:00 PM CPAWS Northern Alberta's AGM

7:00 PM Crazy for Caribou presentations

Free event! All are welcome



Caribou and the North: A Shared Future

Presentation and Book Launch

Dr. Justina C. Ray presents *Caribou and the North: A*

Shared Future, a brand new book that explores the reason for the interlinked fate of caribou and the North. Caribou are now facing unprecedented new threats such as climate change, and widespread oil, gas, and mineral development. Dr. Ray will address why we need to conserve the caribou, the threats that caribou face and the actions that we can take.

Threatened Caribou Nearby

Christine Robichaud will also present her research on the Little Smoky Caribou Herd. This herd is struggling for survival in Alberta's foothills.

2008 Annual General Meeting

CPAWS Northern Alberta is celebrating its 40th anniversary! Come to our 2008 Annual General Meeting, and learn more about the business-end of our organization. The AGM is held one hour before the Crazy for Caribou presentations.

Bylaw Revision

There will be a special resolution tabled at the 2008 AGM to revise the bylaws as follows:

- a) Section 3.0.2: "The Board shall appoint from its membership a representative to the National Society of CPAWS" will be deleted and section 3 numbering will be adjusted to reflect the deletion.
- b) All mention of "CPAWS Edmonton" or the "Edmonton Chapter" to be changed to "CPAWS Northern Alberta" or the "Northern Alberta Chapter" to appropriately reflect the organizations name change in 2005



CPAWS & Effect

By Catherine Shier

Too often we are guilty of thinking about the next urgent conservation issue and forgetting to celebrate our successes along the way.

This is particularly true when it comes to providing what seems to be an endless stream of feedback to government processes: we present a lot of solutions, but when can we expect to see action? CPAWS Northern Alberta and its members have been busy providing feedback to the Draft Land-Use Framework (Draft LUF) that was released by the Alberta Government on May 21, 2008. In addition to meeting with staff from Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture, and distributing to MLAs our Alberta Land Use Framework Report Card (written in collaboration with the Pembina Institute), CPAWS also sent out successful e-alerts which requested people provide their responses to the Draft LUF. Over 10,000 Albertans were reached by our e-alert and, of those that we could track, we received a very high response rate compared to other CPAWS e-mail alerts.

A key message in our e-alert was to ensure that the Government hears the message that the Draft LUF is missing an important conservation strategy essential to land-use planning: a completed and fully networked Parks and Protected Areas system for Alberta. It is vital that the Alberta Government understand that legislated Protected Areas should not be considered as after-thoughts or merely areas for recreation (as is outlined in the Draft LUF) but the very foundation and source

of healthy thriving landscapes. We also stressed that a commitment to parks and protected areas should go beyond merely addressing gaps in the conservation of Alberta's land base and should include a recognition of the need to conserve fully functioning ecosystems on large pieces of landscape with ecological connectivity, so that wide-ranging species (such as caribou and grizzly bears) can be sustained and thrive.

So, when can we expect to see action? After all the input from CPAWS members and other concerned Albertans, all indications are pointing to the Alberta Parks Department and the Minister of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture having a bigger role to play in the revised LUF. However, we will only know for sure this fall when the final version of the LUF is released by government. Although the formal public review period has ended, it is still very worthwhile contacting your MLA with regards to the LUF. ☞



Become Informed

See pg. 2 for our featured article on the Land-use framework, links to more information and action steps you can take.



Being Caribou in Edmonton

By Liv Vors

Caribou-Woman made her debut in Edmonton on April 12th.

First stop: the Strathcona Farmers' Market. Here, the curious caribou was mistaken for a deer, antelope and moose! More often than not, children guessed her identity correctly the first time but parents were often mistaken.

Caribou-Woman sniffed bunches of fresh flowers, observed the creation of balloon animals, bumbled along through the throngs of people, and very nearly knocked a hanging sign over when her antlers became entangled as she attempted to taste some baba ganoush! Evidently it is safer to stick to lichens.

While her human helpers gathered signatures to support protection of

caribou habitat, Caribou-Woman boogied to the lively strains of a nearby accordion player. She and her entourage then slipped out of sight and on to their next destination: the Alberta Legislature. Upon their arrival, they met a troupe of Cub

“ She slipped away into the sunset, on the road to the next stop on her quest to raise awareness of her species' plight. ”

Scouts, who eagerly gathered with Caribou-Woman for a photo.

At the Legislature, Caribou-Woman and her pals were shocked to see news crews. Was the media there to see them? Alas not. Another rally was making its way to Alberta's government, so the Caribou-Woman crew took some more photos, and

then proceeded indoors, where, Caribou-Woman got herself trapped in a bathroom stall, and later was accosted by a huge stuffed grizzly bear and a grey wolf!

The final Caribou-Woman destination, Mountain Equipment Co-op, was teeming with people, mostly surprised and bemused to see such a large ungulate indoors. They continued gathering signatures, but after a close encounter

with a light bulb, Caribou-Woman realized the city was making her very tired and she began to long for her forest home. So, she slipped away into the sunset, on the road to the next stop on her quest to raise awareness of her species' plight. 🦌



Victoria's Secret helps with Alberta Foothills Conservation

By Helene Walsh

Grizzly in Little Smoky region of Alberta's Foothills Photo: Chuck Priestley

The Alberta Foothills Network (AFN) has hired Chuck Priestley as its full time Coordinator thanks to financial support from Limited Brands, parent company of lingerie giants Victoria's Secret and La Senza.

Last year, Limited Brands stopped purchasing pulp for its catalogues from West Fraser due to concerns about West Fraser's wildlife management policies, especially those regarding caribou in the Foothills near Hinton.

To show its commitment to

wildlife preservation and habitat stewardship, Victoria's Secret also sanctioned a study entitled "Mapping High Conservation Value and Endangered Forests in the Alberta Foothills." The report concluded that not enough habitat is currently protected in the Foothills and recommended an expanded protected areas network in the region.

The AFN, composed of CPAWS Northern Alberta as well as other local, provincial, national and international conservation groups, is working to establish new protected areas and sustainable forest man-

agement in the Foothills. The group wants to see Kakwa Wildland Park south of Grande Prairie enlarged and new protected areas established in the Little Smoky between Hinton and Grande Cache and the Bighorn near Rocky Mountain House.

As AFN's Coordinator, Chuck will focus on communications with local communities, industry and government agencies to make them aware of the urgent need for new protected areas in the Foothills, a natural region that currently has only 1.2% protection. 🌿



Staff News

By Catherine Shier

WELCOME, KATE!

CPAWS Northern Alberta would like to introduce you to our new Volunteer and Outreach coordinator: Kate Charuk.

Kate comes to us with plenty of volunteer and work experience in the environmental not-for-profit world. She moved to Edmonton a few years ago from Ottawa where she was the Resource Coordinator of the Youth Environmental Network and served as Director of the Sierra Youth Coalition. Kate attended Mount Allison University in New Brunswick where she acquired a degree in Philosophy and English, as well as a healthy dose of grassroots spirit and a love of cycling. Kate has been involved in community environmental action from touring Canada with the Climate Change Caravan to running a community garden. In Alberta, she has worked for both Cityfarm Edmonton and the Edmonton Community Garden Network. Kate shares her home with Chewy the (fat) Cat, and the other loves of her life: Pascal and Etianne. She has a passion for fabric arts, pottery, and organic gardening. We are excited to welcome Kate to our chapter and think she will be a great resource for CPAWS. If volunteering for CPAWS piques your interest, Kate would love to hear from you.

Contact her at: volunteernab@cpaws.org or 780.432.0967



Kate

WELCOME, PAUL!

CPAWS would also like to welcome Paul Janssen to our team as he joins us for a four month research internship. Paul hails from the Netherlands where he is currently registered as a Master's student in the Department of Social and Political Sciences of the Environment at Radboud University Nijmegen. While with us, Paul will be exploring the social, economic, and environmental motivations of stakeholders who have an impact on the conservation of Alberta's wilderness. The goal of his Master's project is to identify common ground among stakeholders and identify conditions that promote effective nature conservation. If you have any information to share with Paul he would love to hear from you. Stop by the CPAWS office (780.432.0967) and say hello – Paul's internship starts this September and ends in December.



Paul

FAREWELL, TAI!

We wish Tai Munro (our previous Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator) all the best as she starts her PhD in Environmental Education at the University of Alberta this Fall.



Tai

Volunteer News

Volunteer profile *By Kate Charuk*

MICHAEL SEMENCHUK CPAWS NETWORK GURU

Michael Semenchuk has volunteered for CPAWS Northern Alberta for almost a decade! Michael volunteers his valuable IT skills to ensure our computers run smoothly at our Chapter headquarters in Edmonton. Michael set up our office network and continues to help us work out a lot of computer, email and network kinks. IT support is often expensive and hard to come by. Michael's gift of his time and expertise is a generous one – we often contact him with last minute computer problems and we can always rely on him to save the day.

When asked why he volunteers for CPAWS, Michael responded: "While I don't always have a lot of spare time, this is a way I can share some of my expertise and help out groups who make a difference to issues that are important to me."

When not hard at work, Michael enjoys taking his dogs for walks, getting his hands dirty in the garden, or escaping the city for hikes in the mountains.

On behalf of everyone at CPAWS, I'd like to send out a big thank you to Michael. We are so lucky to have you as a volunteer! 🌀



Volunteer opportunities

Check out our website for the most current volunteer positions, or consider joining a volunteer team such as the Wild over Wilderness (WOW) Education Team, or the Newsletter Team.

BIG WILD TEAM

We are also forming a new volunteer team to work on promoting The Big Wild in Northern Alberta. Join us in developing a killer strategy, creating materials, hosting presentations, and planning a Big Wild Challenge.

For more information on these or other volunteer opportunities:
432-0967
volunteernab@cpaws.org



Volunteer Thank Yous

CPAWS Northern Alberta would like to thank the following people for their help on a variety of projects over the past several months:

Alex Abboud, Amanda Marshall, Amanda Prysizney, Anne Dao, Bethany Ensslin, Billi-Jean Murray, Carl Morrison, Cheryl Williams, Chris Field, Christina Colenutt, Christina Tatarniuk, Christine Robichaud, Cyrielle Laurent, Erin Prout, Faye Shier, Hala Moraich, Harry Stelfox, Heather Davis, Irma Rowlands, Igor, Jacqueline Osborn, Janine Sutherland, Jeannette Gysbers, Jolene Shannon, Lauren Thomson, Laurie Frerichs, Liv Vors, Marc Avey, Matthew Shier, Michael Semenchuk, Morgan Gauthier, Naomi Korner, Phil Alain, Radhika Gopinath, Sarah Brennan, Stephen Mayor, Wally Friesen

What would you do with your gear if our wilderness disappeared?



**HELP US PROTECT
OUR WILDERNESS** 
www.cpawsnab.org

**YES, I want to support
CPAWS's work**

I would like to donate:
 \$35 \$50 \$100 Other:\$

I am enclosing payment* Cheque*
 VISA MasterCard AMEX

I would be interested in finding out more about
CPAWS's endowment and/or planned giving

I allow CPAWS to acknowledge my donation by
listing my name (no amount will be indicated)

Credit Card No. _____

Name _____

Expiry _____

Signature _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____

Postal Code _____ Phone _____

Email _____

* Make your cheque or money order payable to: CPAWS
Mail to: BOX 52031, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2T5
Registered Charity 10686 5272 RR0001



Canadian Parks And Wilderness Society
NORTHERN ALBERTA CHAPTER
P.O. Box 52031
Edmonton, AB T6G 2T5

