



CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY
NORTHERN ALBERTA CHAPTER

Annual Report

2024–2025



From Our Desk

MESSAGE FROM CPAWS NORTHERN ALBERTA'S
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR

Every time we start to write this section the first thing that comes to mind is “A lot has happened in the last year”. This year is no exception. There have been some big public engagement opportunities on nature conservation issues in Alberta – the Government of Alberta’s initiation of the development of a new “Plan for Parks” and a “Nature Strategy for Alberta” and a public comment period for regulations on two sub-regional plans – and Albertans have stepped up to make themselves heard! However, there have also been multiple provincial government decisions that included no public input, and will be bad for nature, including the All Seasons Resort Act, Bill 204, which essentially halted progress on a proposal for a National Urban Park in Edmonton, and multiple changes to wildlife regulations. And of course, some decisions on topics that the government had heard extensively from the public on and they chose to ignore (coal mining in the Eastern Slopes). Despite the discouraging news on nature, Albertans continue to speak up and show their love for our natural world. That support fuels our work and keeps us reminded that it matters. Our staff and Board of Directors wish to convey a huge thank you for all your support – be it sending in a letter to your elected representative, joining us at one of our events, or supporting us with a donation – it all means the world to us!



DR. KECIA KERR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



STEVE DONELON
BOARD CHAIR

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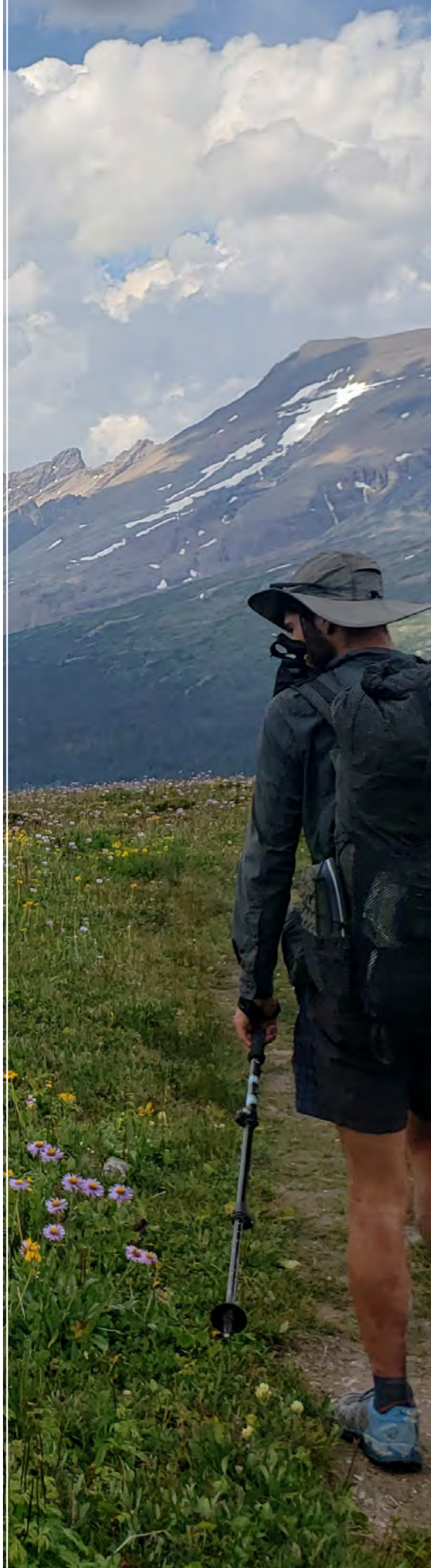
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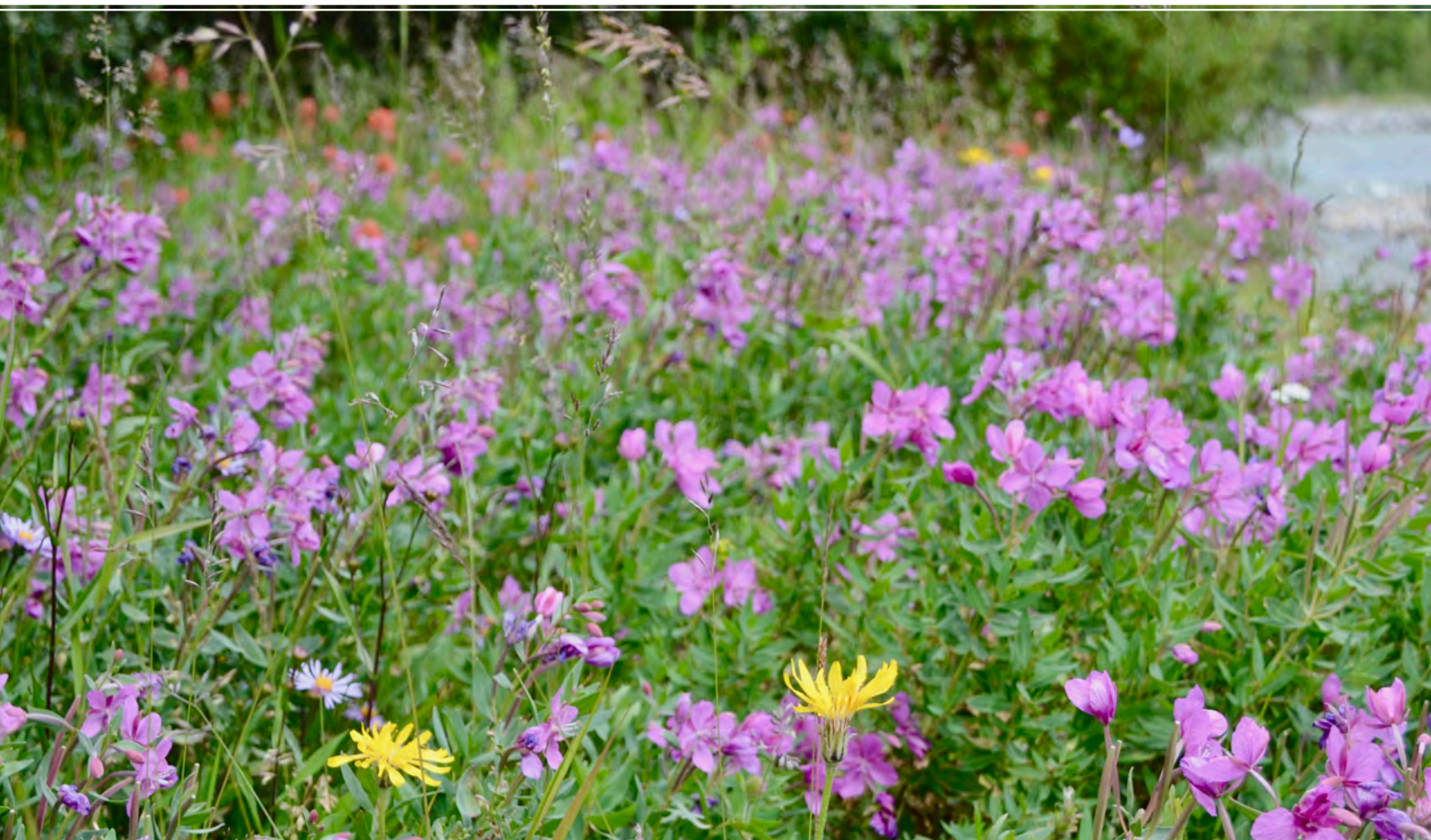
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Coal in Alberta

The threat of coal has certainly not disappeared from Alberta's Eastern Slopes, with 'advanced' projects like Mine 14 and the Vista Mine permitted to move forward, and other projects, including the Grassy Mountain project in Southern Alberta, continuing to move through court appeals. The issue was back on the larger public radar when the Government of Alberta announced it would be working to replace the 1976 Coal Policy with their [Coal Industry Modernization Initiative \(CIMI\)](#). This was announced on the last Friday before the holidays in December. While CPAWS Northern Alberta has been advocating for a new Coal Policy that prioritizes the interests of nature and communities first, it was clear that CIMI was unlikely to fill that policy gap.

The new initiative will be industry-led and promises to expand economic opportunities for development in Alberta. You can read more about the initiative through a blog we wrote "[CIMI and the terrible, horrible, no-good, very bad news for Alberta](#)" at cpawsnab.org/blog/.

Once Albertans welcomed the new year in 2025, they also were hit with the [news](#) that the moratorium on coal for new developments and exploration had been lifted. This meant that hundreds of thousands of leases that had been sold in 2019 (when the 1976 Coal Policy was removed) could now proceed. The moratorium, implemented by the Government of Alberta in 2022, was one of the few remaining safeguards against development going forward on those coal leases located in

See page 20 for a map of coal leases.

Alberta's headwaters, including several in the headwaters of the North Saskatchewan River. This news outraged Albertans across the province, and many gathered across the province to protest.

Coal is a threat to Alberta's waters, wildlife and communities. Over 3,000 Albertans sent a letter to the Alberta Minister of Energy and Minerals and their own MLA voicing their opposition to coal mining in the Eastern Slopes.



Oil Sands Tailings in Northern Alberta

The CPAWS Northern Alberta boreal team continues its work to detail the impacts, and potential future impacts, of oil sands tailings in Alberta. A follow-up report to [50 Years of Tailings](#) will be released later in 2025. The follow up report, entitled 50 More Years of Tailings, is in collaboration with Keepers of the Water with much of the research and mapping analysis supported by community knowledge. The new report will show how tailings “ponds” are expected to expand over the coming decades based on approvals that have already been granted.

More information has come out to the public about spills and potential fines for operators. CPAWS Northern Alberta has published two longer investigative blogs, “[Wildlife Keep Being Harmed from Tailings Ponds at the Hands of Negligence](#)” and “[CNRL Appeals Fine for 400 Bird Deaths: Triggers Public Release of AER Investigation](#)” that take a deep dive into incidents.

Environment and Climate Change Canada and Crown-Indigenous Working Group released [a discussion paper](#) that highlights the two considered paths to address growing

tailings ponds in northern Alberta. The two paths include regulations to permit the release of treated tailings in the Athabasca River or continue to explore alternatives. CPAWS Northern Alberta has submitted feedback, urging ECCC to explore alternatives to treated release.



photo: Garth Lenz



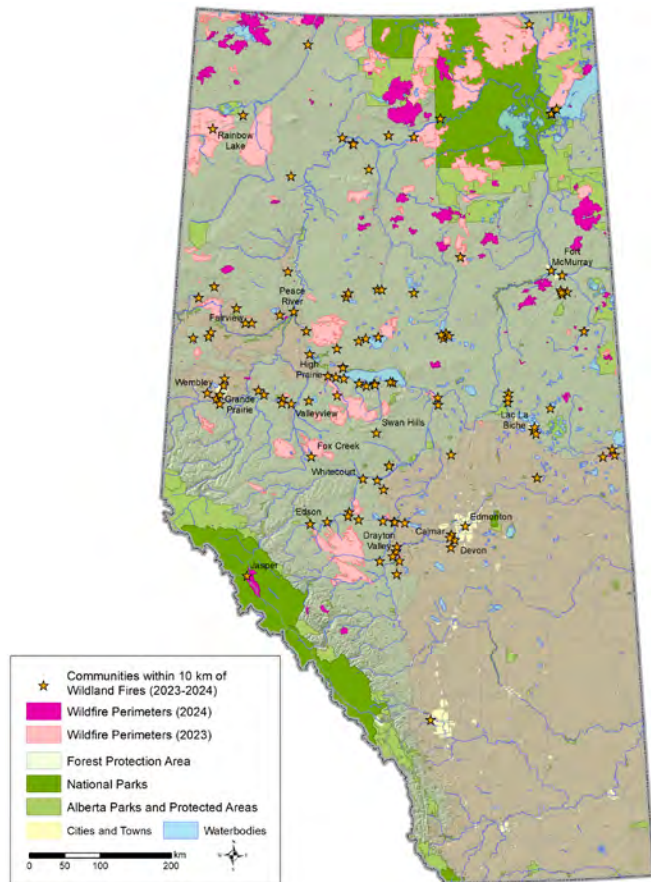
photo: Garth Lenz

Forests and Forestry

The way we manage and care for our forests has been top of mind as wildfire seasons grow in severity across the country. In Alberta, several communities were impacted by wildfires, losing homes and changing the landscape of beloved places.

A (valid) fear of wildfire is often used by forestry interest groups to defend unsustainable levels of clearcutting. CPAWS Northern Alberta developed resources this past year to counter this narrative and to foster a greater understanding of Alberta's forests throughout the province. While there are wildfire mitigation strategies that involve cutting down trees and clearing debris that should be used around communities, this should not translate to increased clearcutting in Alberta's forests more generally.

Alberta's forests face a number of challenges, and it is important that we understand how they are managed to effectively understand how communities, governments, forestry companies and wildlife interact within them and how management needs to change to improve forest ecosystem health.



Map outlining impacted communities from 2023-2024 wildfires and spread of wildfire in Alberta (mapped Aug 8, 2024).

Threats to Alberta's Forests

- **Climate Change**
- **Wildfire**
- **Unsustainable Practices**
- **Insufficient Legislation and Regulations**

Opportunities for Healthy Forests

- **Land use Planning**
- **Protected Areas**
- **Unsustainable Practices**
- **Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)**

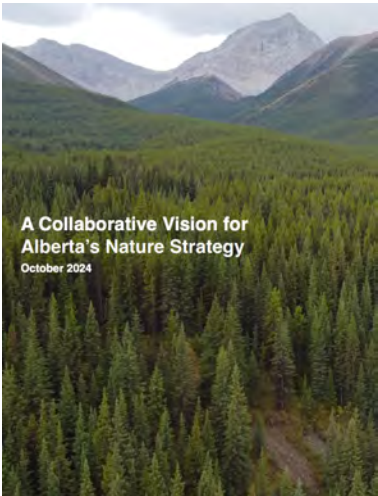


photo: Gillian Chow-Fraser

CPAWS Northern Alberta continues to work with leading companies in identifying and lobbying for protection of lands of high conservation value. One avenue is through the Conservation Areas Network with Alberta-Pacific Forestry Industries Inc., Mystic Management Inc and Ducks Unlimited and with board membership with FSC Canada.

A Nature Strategy for Alberta

CPAWS Northern Alberta, alongside 11 other expert groups, formed a “Collaborative Vision for Alberta’s Nature Strategy”: a guiding document for a nature strategy that would effectively safeguard Alberta’s nature.



scan to read

In the document, groups urge the Government of Alberta to adopt six key pathways to protect nature in Alberta:

- 1. Comprehensive land use planning
- 2. Expanded network of parks and protected areas
- 3. Indigenous-led conservation
- 4. Habitat conservation and restoration
- 5. Sustainable economic opportunities
- 6. Nature-based climate solutions

In September 2024, the Government of Alberta opened a public engagement to help form its “made in Alberta” Nature Strategy. CPAWS Northern and Southern Alberta created a survey guide which highlighted opportunities to emphasize nature protection in survey responses.

Our Executive Director, Dr. Kecia Kerr was fortunate to travel to [Cali, Colombia for COP16](#) (The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity).

Nations from around the world agreed to the Global Biodiversity Framework at COP15 in Montreal, Canada in 2023. The framework was a roadmap to how the global community could halt and reverse biodiversity loss. A challenge that kept resurfacing was how to align subnational governments (in Canada’s case: provinces and territories) to international commitments that national governments had made. Below are some reflections from Kecia, learning about obstacles and success through local action that feeds into global impacts.

We take home the enthusiasm and the learnings on how so many jurisdictions around the world, who are also heavily reliant on resource extraction, are recognizing the need for real change in protecting nature and are finding innovative ways to get citizens involved. These are examples that Alberta could follow. The Collaborative Vision for a Nature Strategy for Alberta provides a good roadmap for much needed changes in land management in Alberta.



While at COP16, CPAWS Northern and Southern Alberta hosted an event to launch the “[Collaborative Vision](#)” document and provide our comments on the Government of Alberta’s public engagement process for development of a Nature Strategy. In collaboration with other CPAWS chapters and invited speakers, we also hosted a panel discussion on how resource extraction dependent economies can better protect nature for the benefit of humans and wildlife.

Parks and Protected Areas

Parks and Protected Areas play a huge role in protecting the integrity of Alberta’s Nature. Not only are they a tool for formalized, permanent protection, but they are essential in creating accessible avenues for people to connect with nature. It is so important to create and expand parks in a way that is co-developed with Indigenous communities, prioritizes the health of ecosystems, protects species habitat, and fosters a culture of environmental stewardship.



Bill 35: The All-Season Resorts Act

In less than a week, over 4,000 letters were sent by concerned Albertans opposing [Bill 35](#) in November 2024. The All-Season Resorts Act, a bill that exposes public land to the development of year-round privatized resorts, was proposed and moved swiftly within the Alberta Legislature. In December 2024, the Government of Alberta passed the bill.

CPAWS Northern Alberta is asking for Bill 35 (the All-Season Resorts Act) to be repealed.

Here are a few reasons why:

- It undermines the Alberta Land Stewardship Act (ALSA) and the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and the Natural Resources Conservation Board Act.
- It does not allow members of the public, stakeholders, or Indigenous Peoples to have a say in how and where All-Season Resorts are developed and;
- Transfers land management to the Tourism and Sport Ministry, which has never been a land manager, and to staff in this Ministry who have no experience or expertise to carry out this role.

Alberta’s Plan For Parks

We saw the Plan For Parks as an excellent opportunity to encourage the public to speak up parks the way they did for the Defend Alberta Parks campaign in 2020 and 2021. In June 2024, the Government of Alberta released its “[Plan for Parks](#)”, which boasted a renewed vision for Alberta’s parks and protected areas. Unfortunately, we saw many glaring omissions and concerning directions in the initial information on the upcoming renewed Plan for Parks.

In response, we developed a [CPAWS survey guide](#), which many of you kindly applauded as a helpful resource, to complete the survey while highlighting support for more parks and their important role in nature protection. One of our team members, Carolyn Bouwsema, [wrote an op-ed](#) that was published in the Edmonton Journal.

We know that over 4,900 people filled out the government’s Plan for Parks survey! Here are some exciting numbers from the Government of Alberta’s “[What we heard](#)” report:

- 60% have been to an Alberta Park at least once a month in the past year.
- 83% oppose large scale commercial development
- 96% support more parks to increase conservation and access to nature
- 84% Support opportunities for quiet and mindful nature interactions



National Parks

Wood Buffalo National Park

CPAWS Northern Alberta continues to keep a close eye on efforts to address threats to Wood Buffalo National Park. The park is Canada's largest national park and holds status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. However, the Park's features that garnered its World Heritage status are at risk: degradation of the Peace-Athabasca Delta, unmanaged external threats such as oil sands developments upstream of the Park, and climate change are among key concerns.

Parks Canada released its "State of Conservation" report in December 2024 which is intended to provide progress updates on items listed in its Action Plan. Significant discrepancies exist between Parks Canada reporting and comments from First Nations communities. The latter group states that Parks Canada's account of progress is an overstatement of tangible work done.

CPAWS Northern Alberta supports the World Heritage Committee's recommendations for Parks Canada to update its Action Plan to reflect the snowballing severity of risks Wood Buffalo National Park faces. A Reactive Monitoring Mission is scheduled for 2026, where the committee will assess if adequate progress has been made to prevent the park from receiving an "In Danger" listing.



Elk Island National Park

Elk Island National Park continues to see large waves of visitors and as such, CPAWS Northern Alberta remains concerned with visitor management in the park. The deaths of multiple bison who were hit by cars traversing the Park emphasized these concerns. We hope that Parks Canada will continue to invest more in staff capacity, support for managing traffic and visitors, and infrastructure to limit undue pressure on the park's natural areas and to the wildlife inhabiting the park. CPAWS Northern Alberta was honoured to partner up with Parkbus again in 2024 and to team up with the Northern Forestry Centre for a special Parkbus ride for National Forests Week!

Since 2010, Parkbus has been connecting urban residents with nature by providing accessible, eco-friendly transportation from city centres to provincial and national parks across the country.





photo: Martin Prentice



photo: Gillian Chow-Fraser

Jasper National Park

Like many, we were saddened to see the severity of the wildfires burning through Jasper National Park in the summer of 2024. Even with FireSmart measures being implemented within the park, there was an extreme wildfire risk and the heat, lack of rain, and high winds were a recipe for disaster. Climate change is impacting us right now.

The people, the places and the wildlife we love are all being affected. As events like this fire, and other stressors for Alberta's wildlife become more common, we need to do everything in our power to make sure that communities, wildlife populations, and their habitat are better protected, in order to ensure that they are resilient enough to survive horrible events such as the Jasper fire. After the Jasper fire, the CPAWS Northern Alberta team was invited by CBC Radio to do syndicated segments on the potential impacts of the fire on wildlife in the park. Our team highlighted that while parks cannot prevent fire, they do provide much needed protected habitat for wildlife on a landscape with lots of other stressors to habitat and wildlife populations.

Our collective grief over the fire's impacts on Jasper emphasizes how nature and parks are foundational to our sense of identity, place, and many of our most treasured memories.

We asked, You shared: What do you love most about parks?

"Maintains the natural beauty of the landscape and preserves animal habitat."

– Elizabeth, Grande Prairie, AB

"Everything."

– Bow, Canada

"They protect our watersheds and drinking water."

– Aidan, Red Deer, AB

Edmonton Area National Urban Park

We continue to engage residents of the greater Edmonton metropolitan region about the conservation value and need for increased protections for the river valley that bisects the city. Despite meeting some political hurdles, such as those presented by Bill 204 which prohibits municipalities from entering into agreements with the Federal Government unless permitted by the Government of Alberta, we continue to highlight the need for improved and permanent protections for the North Saskatchewan river valley.

Here is a piece we published that provides a hopeful outlook of what a National Urban Park could look like through the eyes of an Edmonton resident looking back at the creation of the park in a future where the park already exists.

Hopeful Dreaming: A Vision for a National Urban Park in the Edmonton Region

In my hopeful dream, it's been one year since the North Saskatchewan River Valley bisecting the city of Edmonton was designated as a National Urban Park. As I reflect on how much of a victory it felt when the decision was finally passed, I also think about how strange it is that so much has changed yet my time spent in the river valley feels the same.

My earliest connection to the river valley was when I first moved to Edmonton from Fort McMurray for university. I found that I was often lonely while finding my footing in a new city and for the first time, not having many familiar faces in my classes. It was such a novel concept to me that after my last class of the day, I could walk from the university campus and cross the river on foot by way of the low-level bridge. I could head along the northern bank and then loop past Emily Murphy Park on my way back towards my apartment. On the route I'd see cyclists commuting or enjoying more of a leisurely ride. You could see couples holding hands, groups of teens excitedly gabbing away, parents pushing a stroller, and sometimes I'd spot someone who seemed to be on a solitary walk like me, pensively looking out at the trees and the river with headphones in.

Those early days exploring the river valley and seeing so many groups of people doing such different things from

one another made me feel like I was already part of a community.

Over the years, it was difficult to see certain trailheads washed away by flood and increasingly, it was evident that accessibility to the river valley was an issue. It wasn't until I had my own experience of limited mobility that I learned an entirely different aspect of accessibility to nature than what I had previously known. I won't go into much detail, but I was hit by a car which impacted my ability to walk without mobility aids for nearly a year.

The funicular built by the city remains a divisive topic but ultimately it increases access to the river valley from the downtown area. Having experienced the river valley through a lens of disability (though temporary), I can tell you that added benches to rest, marked trails that indicate accessible entry by ramp, added washroom facilities and shuttle options are all welcome. These may seem like small changes, but these 'small' changes have made leaps and bounds in making it easier for many more to enjoy the river valley.

Many fears around the National Urban Park centered around restricted access and specifically, whether we would need to pay for entry. In fact, the National Urban Park has made the river valley more accessible

than ever. The river valley remains free, there are more accessible entry points, wayfinding signage, and now many more maintained trails and rest areas. These are a few of the things that I think deliver on connecting people to nature. The support available from the national urban park initiative has made it possible for many more people to enjoy the river valley, eliminating barriers and increasing opportunities for connection. Before I began working with CPAWS Northern Alberta, it was simply by luck that I learned that North Saskatchewan River Valley is an important ecological corridor for wildlife to move safely through urban regions.

Due to the funding resulting from the National Urban Park's establishment, there are many more interpretive signs throughout the valley which make learning about the ecological, cultural and historical facets of the river valley much more accessible. I often see folks stop and read the signs about native and invasive species, how to identify bird calls, the river valley as a sacred place and as trading hub and transportation corridor for Indigenous Peoples. The concept and act of stewardship is something I believe is essential to forming a connection to nature for anyone. When it comes to a public good, like urban park space, it is often easy to take it for granted and to shift the responsibility of advocating for its longevity and its ability to thrive someplace that is external to us. It just makes sense that to foster and deepen relationships of stewardship, we would look to Indigenous stewardship practices as the foundation within the established national urban park.

These days, while exploring the river valley, it is evident that there is a deep history here. Through the input of the First Nations and Métis Partners of the National Urban Park initiative, the importance of the area to Indigenous Peoples is seen throughout the park, and management is shared among the partners. The importance of respect for and connection to the Land is celebrated. Those who wish to use the Park may do so without fear of displacement. It is not an uncommon sight to see a tipi raised with community gathered to share food and stories. I find no need to walk with headphones anymore, as I'd rather listen to the sounds of the river flowing, the trees rustling, and I keep an ear turned to the wind on the off chance there is a song and the beat of a drum I can catch in the distance.

Interpretive signs along trails honour First Nations and Métis cultures and languages with many of them sharing teachings, reflecting on our intertwined past, present future as Treaty People. This is only scratching the surface. There have been countless research and monitoring studies that have been made possible by the establishment of the national urban park that weave western science and First Nations traditional knowledge.

The opportunities for recreation, connection, and learning in this 'new' river valley as a National Urban Park seem endless. It's hard to believe that at one point, many were unsure if this process would be worthwhile. I am thankful that so many people in the area took the time to learn about the potential of this designation. With change, it is easy to fear that there is much to lose. Many held a deep, personal relationship to the river valley, and I empathized with the fear that by assigning a new status to the valley, their relationship to this special place that runs through the city we call home would fundamentally change. I can't speak for others, but I have a sense that it was that special relationship to the river valley that pushed many to stand up for how much there was to lose if we, as a community, did not seize this opportunity.

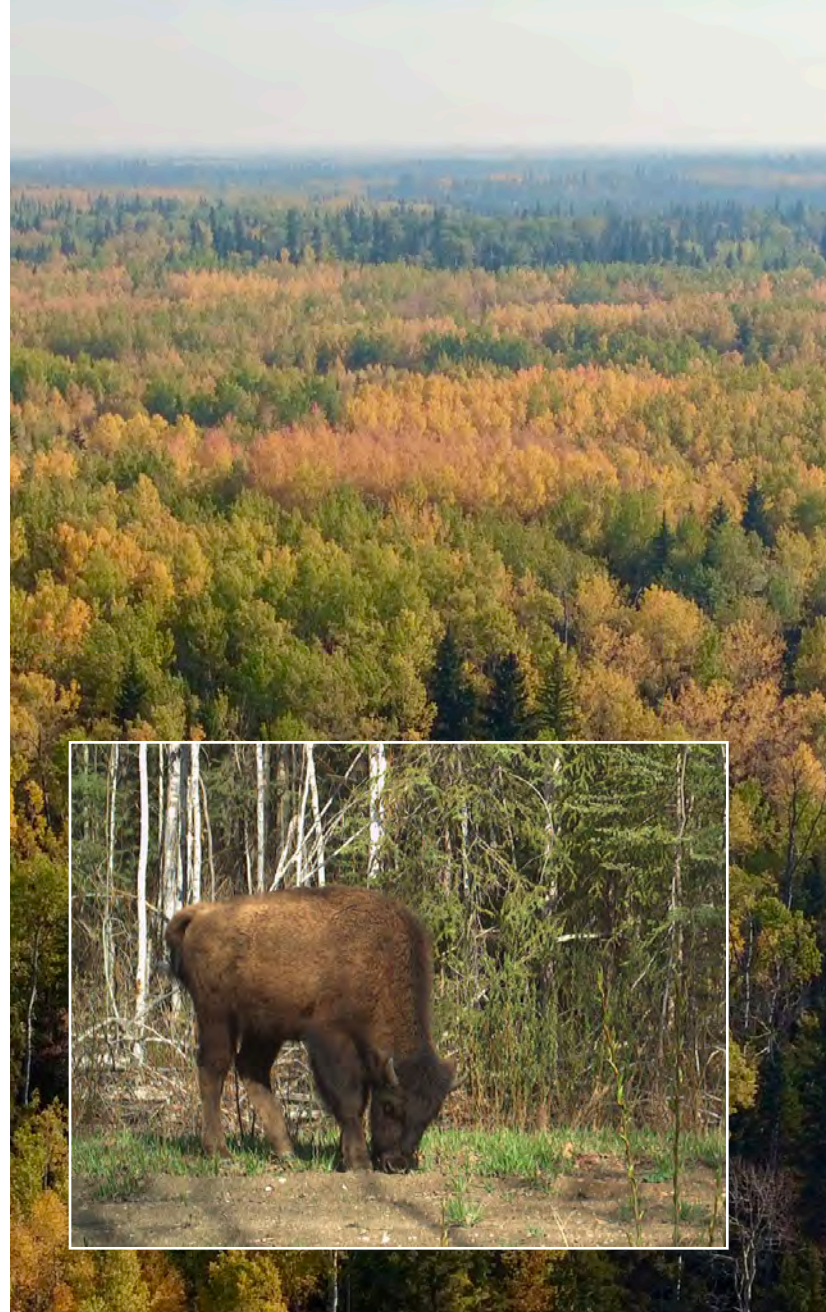
The establishment of the National Urban Park has shone a light on how integral this space is to the fabric of our communities and to local ecology.

Community Monitoring of Wood Bison Project

The collaborative work on the Community Monitoring of Wood Bison Project with the Dene Tha' First Nation came to a close in March 2025. The community-led project included a network of wildlife cameras and bison survey data conducted by Indigenous Guardians.

The project goals were crafted from community members' concerns and included the investigation and monitoring of:

- Climate change induced impacts on calf recruitment
- Areas of high mortality risk from vehicle collisions that intersect the Hay-Zama wood bison range
- Changes in predator-ungulate dynamics due to human development
- Current bison herd range and their movements
- Potential disease transmission from herd movements



The project collected important information about the Hay-Zama herd to address conservation issues. Outcomes from the project included the identification of dangerous areas for bison (on the highway) and training for community members to deploy their wildlife cameras and submit survey data for bison sightings.

CPAWS Northern Alberta was honoured to support the development of the camera array and data collection and analysis protocols. We are thrilled to know that the Nation has secured industry funding and the project will continue in the hands of Dene Tha' First Nation community members.

Bistcho Lake Conservation Area

Progress continues towards the dream of a protected area around Bistcho Lake led by Dene Tha' First Nation (DTFN). The region was significantly affected by the 2024 wildfire season. DTFN communities and many other northern Indigenous communities have been facing yearly wildfire evacuation. This stresses the importance of leveraging land-based and community knowledge as a way to protect culture and as a nature-based climate solution.

The CPAWS Northern Alberta boreal team joined DTFN technicians for field work in Bistcho Lake in March 2025 to assess the state of the field cameras and service the cameras that had survived. Fifteen field cameras were lost to wildfire in the region and fourteen of these cameras were replaced. In total, the array now has 54 cameras!

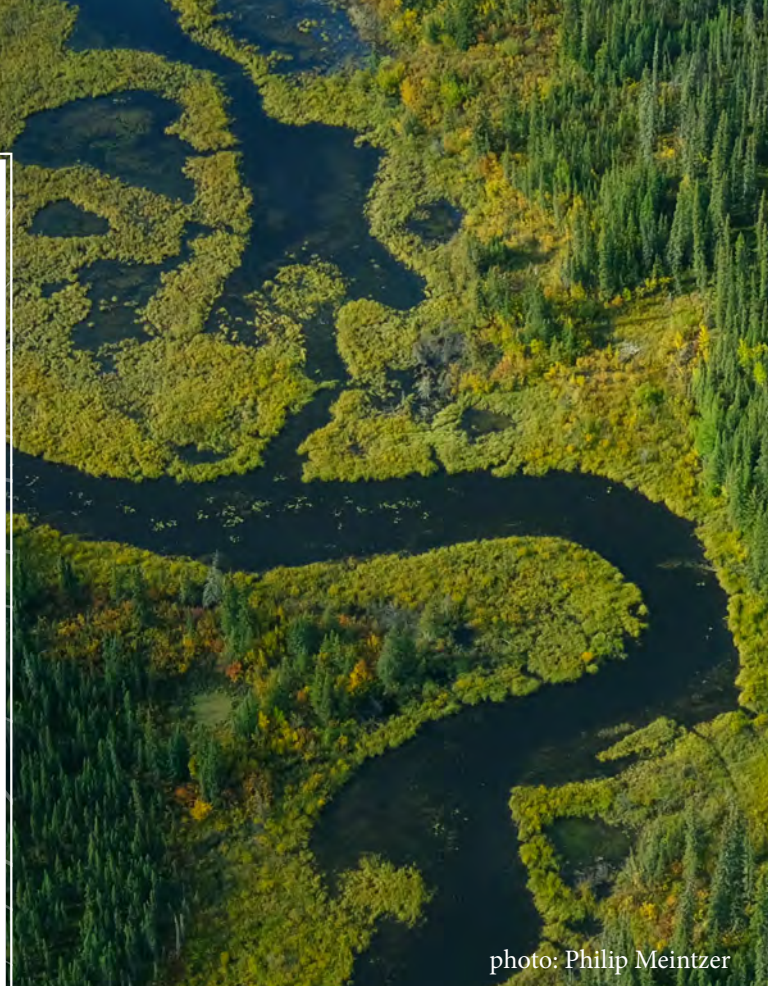


photo: Philip Meintzer



Wabasca Wood Bison Conservation

CPAWS Northern Alberta continues to collaborate with ShagowAskee, a team of Indigenous trappers, Elders, researchers, and experts, to advance action to save the critically endangered Wabasca wood bison herd. Members of our chapter's boreal team joined the group in northern Alberta to service the wildlife cameras and conduct habitat surveys. This will continue building knowledge of crucial habitat for the herd that must be protected.

Strategic Partnerships

Partnerships formed through cross-collaboration are vital for building public awareness on conservation issues, gaining public buy-in, and forming unity in efforts against development on public lands.



A Collaborative CPAWS Alberta

CPAWS Northern and Southern Alberta continue to work together on cross-jurisdictional conservation campaigns that impact all Albertans. The work includes land use planning, forestry, coal, and parks and protected areas in Alberta.

Eyes and Ears in the West Country

The West Country Sustainability Coalition is a voluntary group of the area's residents, recreation users, and organizations working together towards a healthy West Country - one without new coal mines. The group has been active with canvassing, letter-writing and creating community materials.



photo: Myles Belland

Teaming up for Caribou

CPAWS Northern Alberta had the opportunity to join forces with the Alberta Wilderness Association, the Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society, the David Suzuki Foundation, the Pembina Institute and Mikisew Cree First Nation to bring national and provincial attention to caribou conservation in Alberta.



photo: Shane Scott

Protect our Winters Canada - Edmonton Chapter

Our chapter has teamed up with the local Edmonton chapter of Protect our Winters Canada for community clean ups and advocacy workshops. Both of our organizations' mission complement each other well. While we focus on the protection of public lands and waters, Protect our Winters Canada encourages outdoor enthusiasts and athletes to take action for climate change.

Communications and Public Engagement

This past year, our chapter has experimented with putting on more CPAWS-led events. These events have created amazing opportunities to connect with members and new supporters all while highlighting our chapter's conservation programs.

Caribou Tracks and Prints: Art and Conservation at SNAP Gallery

We tried something new, and reached out to the Society of Northern Alberta Print-Artists (SNAP) to pair up for an event that would bridge art and conservation. CPAWS Northern Alberta provided programming on caribou conservation in Alberta while the team from SNAP led a linocut activity. Each attendee took home a small caribou print!

Eco Grief

In August 2024, CPAWS Northern Alberta partnered with Alberta Talks to host a community discussion on the topic of eco grief. The goal of this workshop was to open critical dialogue on this topic and provide community support.

Parkbus

In the summer of 2024, the Parkbus travelling to Elk Island National Park operated every weekend throughout the summer and we were happy to welcome new and returning Parkbus ambassadors! Parkbus provides an essential service, providing public transportation to the park outside of Edmonton's city limits.



An Anti-Valentine Affair: Tailings Don't Love You Back

CPAWS Northern Alberta hosted an anti-Valentine's event with the Society of Northern Alberta Print-Artists and Keepers of the Water to bring awareness to the risks and impacts of oil sands tailings in northern Alberta. To commemorate the anniversary of the Imperial Oil tailings leak at the Kearl site, the film "Killer Water" by Brandi Morin was screened while attendees had a chance to silk-screen cheeky phrases such as "Dear Alberta, Break up with Tailings" or "Tailings are toxic like my ex" onto shirts and totes.

Beat the Winter Blues: Keep Your Advocacy Fired-up Year-Round

In March 2025, we hosted an Advocacy Workshop in collaboration with Protect our Winters Canada.

The event was to guide attendees on how they can sharpen their advocacy skills and how to advocate for conservation issues at all levels of government; municipal, provincial, and federal. At the end of the night, each attendee had written a letter or a script about a conservation issue in the province.

Nature Walks

We started to host free CPAWS-led walks throughout the summer and fall of 2024. This seemed to meet a demand for this type of programming, as most of the walks completely filled up! Some were structured loosely as an opportunity to meet CPAWS team members and chat about conservation in Alberta. Others included more guided programming with a bird walk with Wings of Survival and an Indigenous-led walk in partnership with the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations.

Trivia Night

We hosted a Nature Trivia night for a second year in November 2024. Thanks to the support from Elements Outfitters for providing an excellent space to host, generously making sure trivia teams were kept well hydrated, and awarding the winning team prizes! The CPAWS Northern Alberta team has so much fun putting this event on and we look forward to making it happen again in 2025.



GIS in Conservation

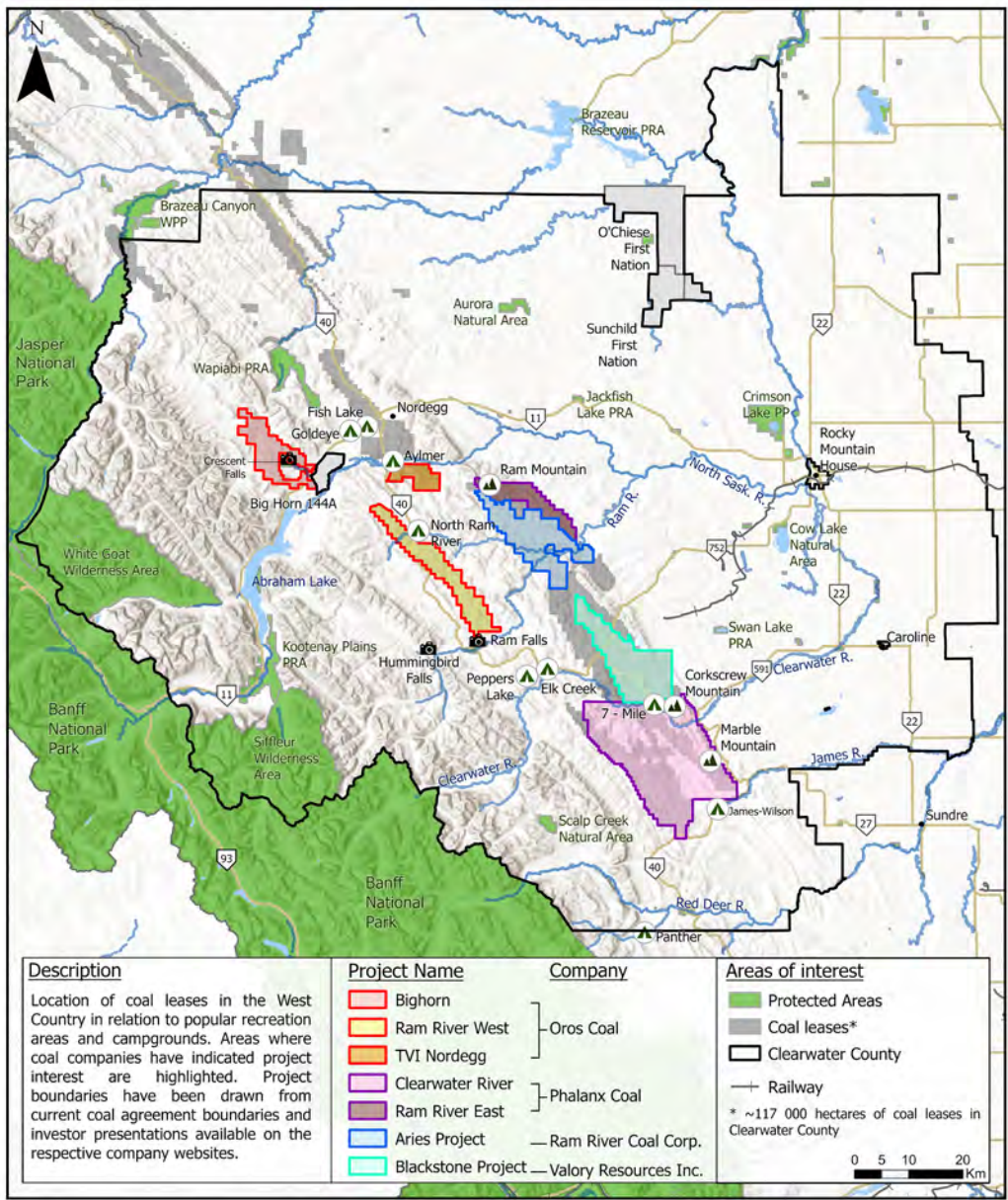
CPAWS Northern Alberta works with numerous other environmental organizations and community groups to share our expertise in creating hard hitting, impactful maps to highlight threats to Alberta's natural spaces to the wider public. This year's featured maps showcase two examples of maps that have been used to convey industrial developments at two different scales.

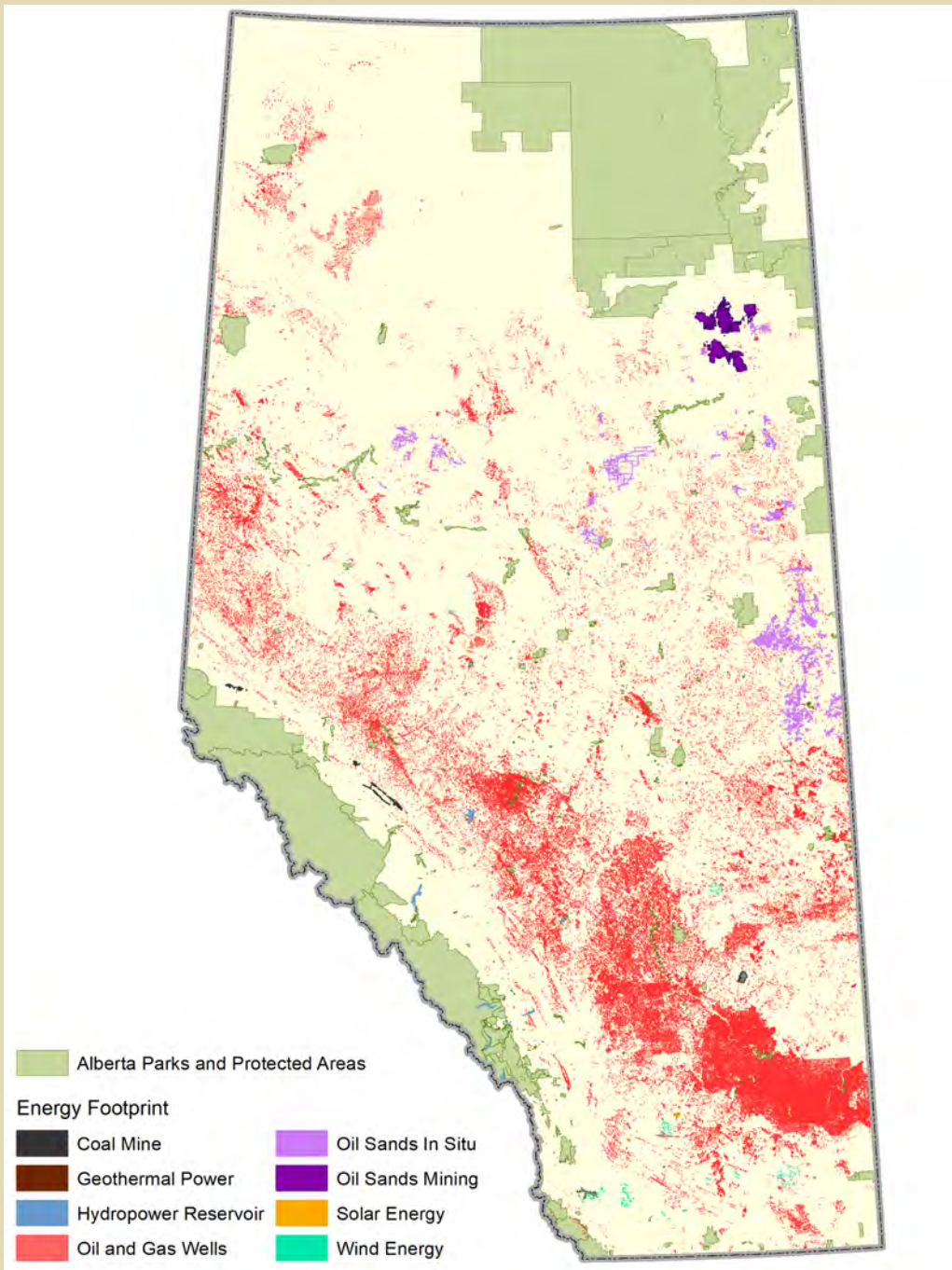
Coal Leases in our Headwaters

Wesley Bell, Conservation Policy Analyst, worked closely with the West Country Sustainability Coalition to create a map that shows the potential impacts of proposed coal developments in and around the Bighorn region of Alberta headwaters of the North Saskatchewan River.

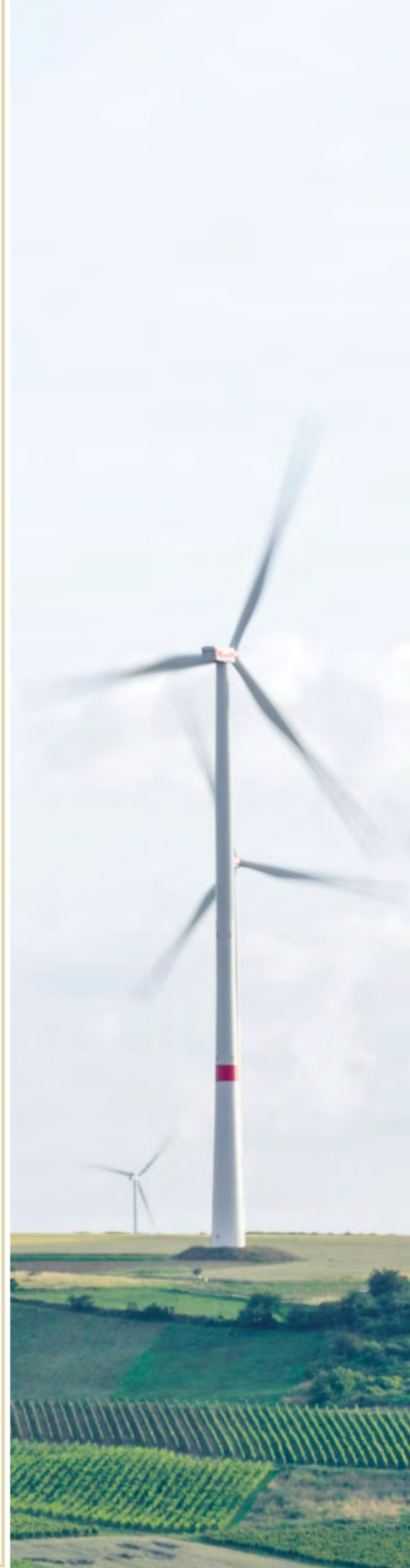
Wesley consulted with locals to identify the landmarks that are most treasured and recognizable to residents and visitors in the area in order to convey the location and extent of potential coal mines. The Blackstone Project, in particular is one to watch as they are conducting exploration and have requested extensions to their permits.

This map has been displayed at many CPAWS Northern Alberta events highlighting the potential impacts of coal developments and has received wide praise on the effectiveness of using local placemarks to underscore the importance of knowing the relationship between where we permit industrial development and where we value nature.





Elise Gagnon, Communications Manager, had the opportunity to present on behalf of CPAWS Northern Alberta at the North American Congress on Conservation Biology 2024. Elise presented research she and Ryan Cheng, Conservation Analyst, had been working on examining the amount and extent of land being used for various types of energy developments. While these maps were initially presented to an academic audience (to shocking effect), Elise will be revising the maps and findings (pending future funding) to ensure that all Albertans and the wider public can get a sense of the level of existing development and what nature's capacity is for industrial expansion moving forward.



In Memoriam
John Honsaker
1934– 2024



photo: Martin Prentice

Last summer, we were saddened to hear of the passing of John Honsaker. John and his wife, Leni, who predeceased him in 2017, had been long-time supporters of CPAWS Northern Alberta through grants from their family endowment fund held at the Edmonton Community Foundation.

John and Leni had led extremely interesting lives with shared loves of music and nature. John had been a professor of physics at the University of Alberta for many years.

They lived in rural Sherwood Park and were passionate about the nature, particularly the birds, in the Beaver Hills Biosphere. CPAWS Northern Alberta was very fortunate to receive a bequest from their estate after John's passing. The bequest has allowed us to fill a reserve fund that will ensure that the work of the chapter can continue, even in tough financial times. We are also allocating part of it to our upcoming strategic planning process in late 2025. We are incredibly grateful for this game-changing gift and for John and Leni's support of our work.

You will not be forgotten.

Financial Overview

CPAWS Northern Alberta is incorporated as a non-profit society in Alberta and governed by a board of directors. CPAWS Northern Alberta is an incorporated regional chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. CPAWS National hold charitable number (106865272 RR0001). Individual donors, granting foundations, the federal government, businesses, and the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) financially support CPAWS Northern Alberta.

Below are the audited finances for 2024-2025 prepared by Peterson-Walker LLP Chartered Professional Accountants.

photo: Martin Prentice



	Audited 2024-2025	Audited 2023-2024
<u>Revenues</u>		
Grants	\$ 341,644	\$ 320,859
Contracts	\$ 147,636	\$ 234,284
Donors & Supporters	\$ 390,401	\$ 95,746
Gaming	\$ 28,731	\$ 56,315
Interest	\$ 4,590	\$ 8,887
Other	\$ 50,565	\$ 67,115
	\$ 963,567	\$ 783,206
<u>Expenses</u>		
Salaries, Benefits & Contracts	\$694,186	\$ 544,316
Outreach, Advertising and Travel	\$ 92,172	\$ 107,384
Rent and Office Supplies	\$ 24,606	\$ 18,590
Professional Development and Fees	\$ 17,789	\$ 7,448
Insurances	\$2, 561	\$ 2,690
Interest and Bank Charges	\$ 983	\$ 1,537
Fundraising and Member Events	\$ 7,080	\$ 26,865
Amortization	\$2,259	\$ 1,996
	\$ 841, 636	\$ 710,826
Revenue Over Expenses	\$ 121,931	\$ 72,380

Support our Work

DONATE | Make a one-time gift or become a monthly donor. Your financial support funds our current work and provides stability through changing times.

TAKE ACTION | Write a letter, sign a petition, share with your networks. Our community is pivotal to enacting change.

HOST | Fundraisers are an amazing way to celebrate our work but also bring people together. Host your own event in support of CPAWS Northern Alberta.

CONTRIBUTE | CPAWS Northern Alberta has two endowment funds that you can contribute to through the Edmonton Community Foundation.

VOLUNTEER | From casually helping us table at community events to board membership, your passion and expertise pushes our mission forward.

SUBSCRIBE | Be the first to know about Alberta's emerging conservation issues. Our chapter newsletter is the best way to stay in the loop about local and online events.

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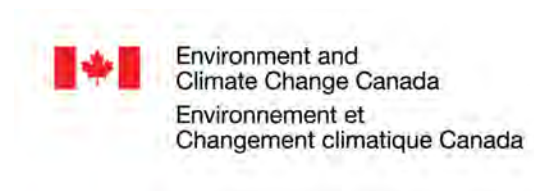


OUR MISSION

We seek to achieve conservation of public lands and protection of parks and wilderness in Alberta through science, collaboration, and community engagement.



Thank you to our Partners



**And many more that make our
continued work possible.**