

# ALBERTA JURISDICTIONAL REPORT TO CCEA

April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008

## Protected Areas Activities

### *System Initiatives:*

- Implementation of several initiatives related to a Divisional Science Strategy including hiring of a science coordinator to foster science-based decision making, initiation of a presentation series linking research to management (being advertised through CPC), MOU's with a number of Universities and colleges for joint research projects and development of an on-line permitting system modeled on US Parks Service (this will result in an electronic library that will be available to staff, researchers and general public (where possible).
- Celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AB Parks
- Began development of a strategic plan to ensure that AB Parks are accessible while remaining protected
- Hiring to several key (and new) positions

### *Legislation and Policy:*

- Review of major Memorandum of Understanding between Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and Alberta Parks to clarify overlapping mandates related to protected area and wildlife management issues (i.e. mountain pine beetle, fisheries).
- Participated in the development of a province wide Land Use Framework that will set a vision for land use in Alberta for the next 20 years.

### *Reserve stewardship:*

- Sheep River Valley Protected Areas management plan was signed off by cabinet:
- Numerous management plans are underway including Cypress Hills Provincial Park, Kananaskis Country PRA Management Plan (includes 51 sites), Bragg Creek Provincial Park; Grande Prairie Region (10 sites), OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland, William A. Switzer, Caribou Mountains and Eagle Point Provincial Park/Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area (this being developed by a local stakeholder group).
- Major capital investments in sites including Fish Creek Provincial Park learning centre, and revitalization of campgrounds at Miquelon, Wabamun Lake and Cypress Hills and William A. Switzer Provincial Parks.

### *Candidate Area Studies and/or Surveys:*

- Inventory of plants, lichens, birds, mammals, insects, paleontology, and archaeology in Willmore Wilderness Park. >\$200K with support of staff, other agencies, researchers, volunteers

*Research:*

- Over \$400K was spent on research and inventory projects in numerous sites throughout the network including >\$75K in grants to researchers.
- Major projects included inventories of Willmore Wilderness Park and Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park

**Establishment Process**

*New Protected Areas Designations*

- Establishment of OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland (>10 000 acres) just SW of Calgary-- this designation celebrates and continues a legacy of range management that is over a century old. (post April 2008)
- Establishment of Eagle Point Provincial Park-Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area.

**Major Achievements**

- Multi-agency effort to complete Phase 1 of a major biophysical in Willmore Wilderness Park.
- Establishment of OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland
- Increases to land base at Lois Hole Provincial Park
- filling of a new Science Coordinator position to foster a science-based organization
- twinning of Hay Zama with Chinese nature reserve