

The “New”ACTWS Conservation Committee and Issues Acted Upon

Environmental advocacy was a major topic discussed at our AGM in March 2006, where it was agreed ACTWS should be doing more in that regard. As a result, there was a motion to establish a multi-member committee to handle that task, which had previously been assigned to a single member. Subsequently a committee consisting of six members along with a new terms-of-reference was established on September 2006.

The “new” committee has been operating since that time. Most of its communication has been via e-mail with a group meeting held at the AGM in 2007 and a conference call in October 2007. Prospective issues have arisen from various sources and action has been taken on those meeting the new advocacy guidelines.

The following summarizes those efforts over the past several months.

September, 2006 - A letter was prepared, approved by ACTWS Executive, and sent to the SRD Minister (D. Coutts) urging him to fill the newly vacant Director of Wildlife of the Fish and Wildlife Division position with a person qualified in the field of wildlife management.

October, 2006 - A letter was prepared, approved by ACTWS Executive, and sent to the Alberta Environment Minister (T. Morton) in support of input by the Pembina Institute, which urged a rethinking of the rapid pace of development in *In Situ* tar sands projects because of serious threats to the integrity of the boreal forest.

February, 2007 - A letter was prepared, approved by ACTWS Executive, and sent to the SRD Minister (T. Morton) urging action on the long-dormant grizzly bear management plan.

December, 2007 - A letter was prepared, approved by ACTWS Executive, and sent to the Premier urging the establishment of the “Crown Land Conservation Tax” as outlined in the recent Oil Royalty Report.

Outside panel membership includes:

- ACTWS is represented on the Alpac Forest Management Task Force (B. Rippin).
- ACTWS is represented on the Endangered Species Conservation Committee (D. Collister).

ACTWS Conservation Committee membership includes:

B. Rippin (chair) (2006...)
M. Boyce (2006....)
A. Todd (2006-07)
L. Wilkinson (2006-07)
M. Pyper (2006....)
D. Scobie (2006....)
K. Crutchfield (2007...)