



ALBERTA
ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Lethbridge-West*

94555

AUG 17 2018

Delinda Ryerson, Executive Director
Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society
PO Box 4990
Edmonton AB T6E 5G8
conservation@actws.ca

Dear Delinda Ryerson:

Thank you for your support and submitting your feedback on the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan and Recreation Management Plan. The input we receive from stakeholders is essential to informing the work we do, and I have shared your input with our department staff responsible for the plans. I welcome the opportunity to provide the following information.

As Alberta grows, there are increasing pressures on our public lands, both for recreational use as well as economic development. The Government of Alberta recognizes how important the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills area is to supporting headwaters protection and providing critical habitat for species such as bull trout and grizzly bears. We also appreciate the value of the area for supporting a growing local economy based on responsible recreational and tourism development.

The Land Footprint Management Plan was approved as a subregional plan under the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, and includes regulatory limits on motorized access. The Recreation Management Plan will be implemented as per the amended South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, and an advisory group will help support its operationalization. These new land management plans will be implemented through a phased approach, as there is still much work to be done to ensure that Alberta's eastern slopes remain healthy and sustainable. To support the transition toward managed recreation in these areas, we will focus our summer efforts on enhanced education and outreach.

For further information on any of these developments, please contact Rob Simieritsch, Regional Resource Manager, in our Calgary office, at 403-297-8713 (dial 310-0000 for a toll-free connection), or at rob.simieritsch@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you again for writing to express your support. We look forward to continuing to work with you on the implementation of these plans and ensuring Alberta's public lands are healthy, productive, and enjoyed by both current and future Albertans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "P".

Shannon Phillips
Minister

cc: Rob Simieritsch
Environment and Parks

Chad Willms
Environment and Parks