



ALBERTA
ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Lethbridge-West*

MAY 07 2018

Delinda Ryerson, Executive Director
Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society
PO Box 4900
Edmonton AB T6E 5G8
conservation@actws.ca

Dear Delinda Ryerson:

Thank you for your letter regarding your appreciation and support for the "Ecological Response to Human Activities in Southwestern Alberta: Scientific Assessment and Synthesis," released by our Environment Monitoring and Science Division in December of 2017. I am pleased to provide the following information.

Environment and Parks thanks you for kindly taking the time to send your feedback. Your praise for the report is appreciated, as is your request that its key findings be applied in the Castle parks and the rest of the eastern slopes.

I was delighted to meet society members and executive at your recent annual conference in Lethbridge this past March; thank you again for that opportunity. I was especially encouraged to see so many students in attendance, and applaud the society for its work in training and mentoring young wildlife professionals. The society continues to make vital contributions to excellence in wildlife management in Alberta through stewardship and education initiatives, such as your annual meeting. I am pleased that your membership includes many Environment and Parks employees and am confident that they both contribute to, and benefit from, their involvement in the society.

I welcome further dialogue with the society as our department continues to develop and implement evidence-based land-use actions for the Castle parks and eastern slopes regions, informed by scientific reports such as this one. Your observation about the timeliness of this report is apt; it provides informed revisions to the draft Castle Parks Management Plan. The report also supports development of the footprint and recreation management plans for the nearby Livingstone-Porcupine Hills region, and draft reports are available online at <https://talkaep.alberta.ca/livingstone-porcupine-hills-footprint-and-recreation-planning>.

These two plans provide tangible evidence of the Government of Alberta's commitment to protect sensitive wildlife and other values through science-informed limits on human footprint and recreation activity. As outlined in the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, our department intends to continue integrated resource management through further land management footprint planning public land in the South Saskatchewan region as soon as possible.

Thank you again for your feedback and kind support. Environment and Parks strives to make prudent, science-based management decisions that benefit Albertans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Phillips". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Shannon Phillips
Minister