



February 18, 2018

The Honourable Shannon Phillips  
Minister of Environment and Parks - Government of Alberta  
208 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

**Re: ACTWS comments on “Ecological Response to Human Activities in Southwestern Alberta: Scientific Assessment and Synthesis”**

Dear Minister Phillips,

The Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ACTWS), an organization representing over 300 wildlife professionals in the province of Alberta, appreciates and supports your Department’s recent work to assess and summarize evidence on the effects of human activities on fish and wildlife populations in southwestern Alberta. This body of work is found in the report *Ecological Response to Human Activities in Southwestern Alberta: Scientific Assessment and Synthesis*, released in December 2017 and prepared by your Environmental Monitoring and Science Division.

The report is timely for the current sub-regional planning in the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills and Ghost areas, and regional planning that will eventually occur for the remainder of the Eastern Slopes. Although the report references many human disturbance factors (forestry, grazing, industrial development, human-caused fire, recreation and invasive species), the linear footprint (road and trail density) provides the clearest indication of impacts on fish and wildlife species, especially those designated as species at risk. If our goals are for conservation outcomes for these important landscapes, the inescapable summary from this report is that reducing or restricting human activity will increase the chances of reaching those objectives.

Although the report focuses on the Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Park, the ACTWS feels the information gathered has relevancy and applicability to other landscapes, notably the remainder of the Eastern Slopes.

The ACTWS endorses and supports the use of the information contained in the report and requests that it be used to guide decisions about managing and limiting human disturbance for the Castle parks and for the rest of the Eastern Slopes. We would urge you to ensure the report is referenced and used in your department’s planning efforts to assist in better land use decisions and outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Delinda Ryerson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Delinda Ryerson  
Executive Director - Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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**ALBERTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

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