

Wildhay Glacial Cascades Natural Area

Wildhay Glacial Cascades Natural Area was officially established on December 20, 2000. This natural area covers approximately 25 square kilometres (1,233 hectares) preserving a special part of Alberta's natural heritage within the Foothills Natural Region. Natural areas protect special and sensitive landscapes of local and regional significance while providing opportunities for education, nature appreciation and low intensity recreation.

Wildhay Glacial Cascades Natural Area is an excellent example of an upper foothills river valley. The name given to this site signifies the role glacier meltwaters have played in creating the rolling terrain found here.

Site Location and Description

Wildhay Glacial Cascades Natural Area is located in the Upper Foothills approximately eight kilometres northeast of William A. Switzer Provincial Park (via Hwy 40 and the Hay River Road).

The park straddles the lower Wildhay River Valley and includes diverse upland and wetland habitats. Deciduous, mixed and conifer forests with stands of old growth white spruce, balsam fir (including subalpine fir), and lodgepole pine occur throughout the site. Wetland features common to this wildland area include fens, marshes, meadows and beaver ponds.

Significant Features

Wildhay Glacial Cascades Natural Area features rolling, broken terrain, steep slopes patterned by glacial deposits.

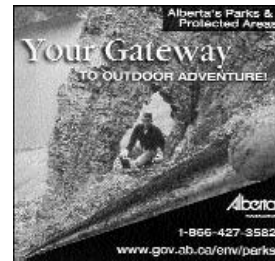
The vegetation communities of the Wildhay valley provide suitable habitat for ungulates and carnivores including elk, moose, white-tailed deer, mule deer, cougar, black and grizzly bear. Some birds found in this area include pine siskin, yellow-rumped warbler, ruby-

crowned kinglet, white-crowned sparrow and varied thrush.

Recreational Activities

Random camping, hunting, canoeing and fishing are activities enjoyed along the Wildhay. Native populations of bull trout, mountain whitefish, Arctic grayling and rainbow trout are present within the Wildhay River.

Remember to always pack out what you pack in when camping in the backcountry. Help prevent damage of sensitive areas by avoiding soft, wet, and marshy areas. Vegetation in these areas is easily damaged and can take years to recover.



To learn more about Alberta's parks and protected areas, visit your "Gateway to Outdoor Adventure". This dynamic website is a trip planning tool that will allow public access to the Park Sites and Facilities database.

Remember to respect others and tread lightly as you explore and enjoy the beauty of Wildhay Glacial Cascades Natural Area.

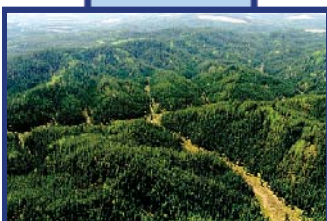
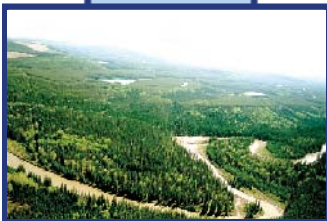


For more information, contact (780) 723-8244 in Edson. To call toll-free from anywhere in Alberta, dial 310-0000 and enter the number.

April 1, 2001

ISBN No. 0-7785-1702-0

Pub No. I /882



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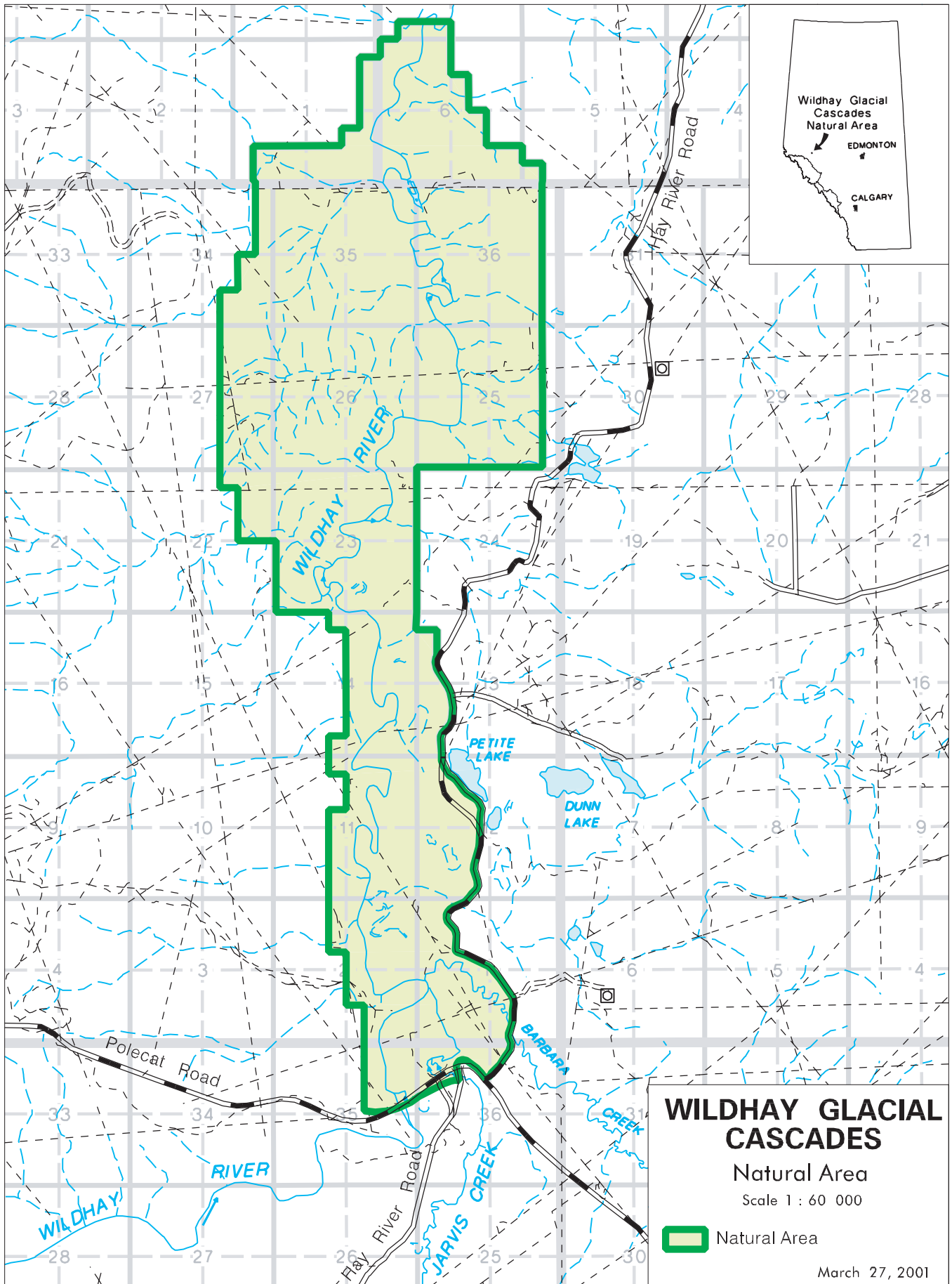
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**WILDHAY GLACIAL
CASCADES**

Natural Area

Scale 1 : 60 000

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March 27, 2001