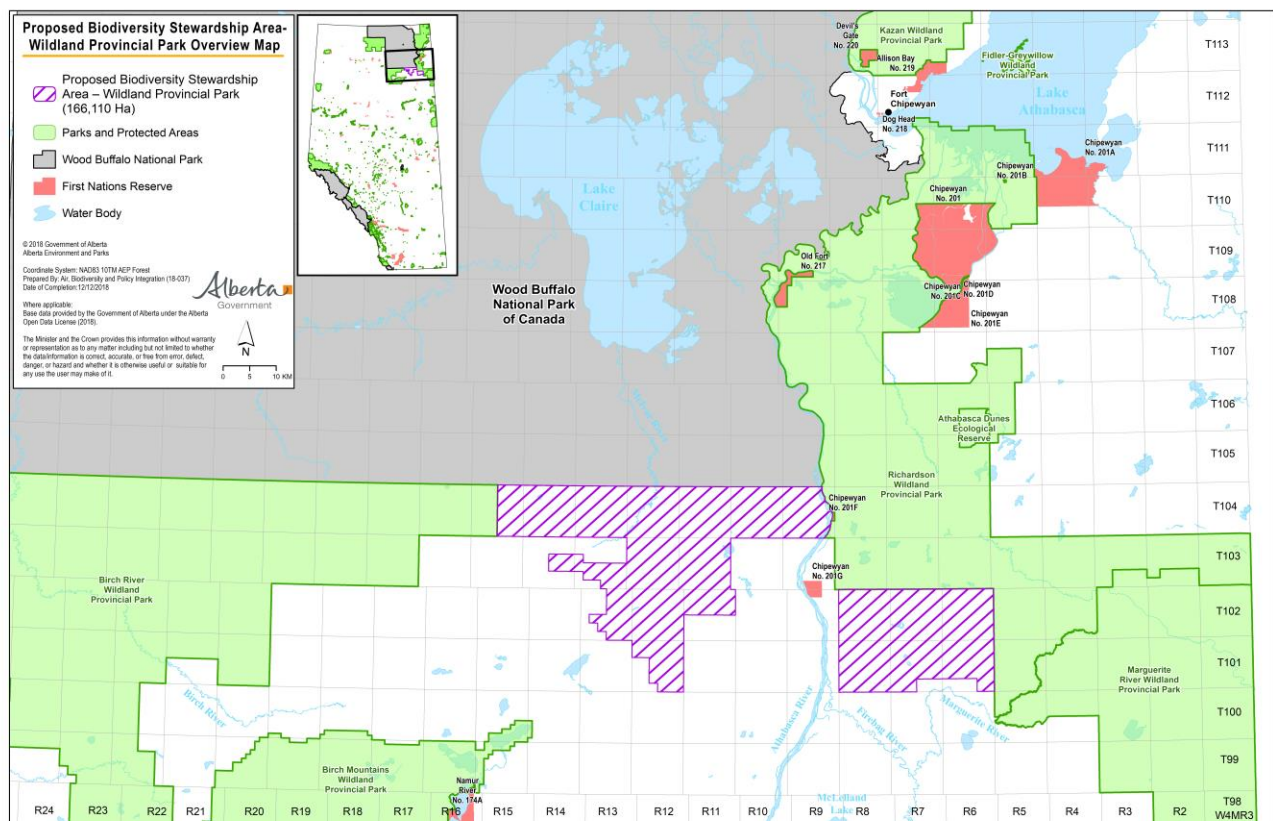


Proposed Biodiversity Stewardship Area - Wildland Provincial Park in the Lower Athabasca Region

Background and Map

Following months of collaborative discussions with Indigenous groups, industry and other stakeholders, the Government of Alberta is proposing to establish the Biodiversity Stewardship Area to be designated as a wildland provincial park (protected area). The proposed protected area is about 166,110 hectares located directly south of Wood Buffalo National Park. The designation would shift the current multiple-use area with existing forest and energy tenure into an area focused on the conservation of biodiversity.



From December 13, 2018 to January 20, 2019, government will be consulting with Indigenous communities, stakeholders and the public. At this time, we want to hear from all interested parties on the proposed protected area.

For more information and to provide input on this proposal, visit Albertaparks.ca.

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Management Intent of the Proposed Biodiversity Stewardship Area - Wildland Provincial Park

Wildland provincial parks are intended to conserve nature and associated cultural features in a relatively undisturbed state. They also support backcountry and remote nature-based recreation opportunities, dependent on their compatibility with conservation outcomes.

The proposed protected area would increase protection of the Peace-Athabasca watershed. It would also increase connectivity between existing wildland provincial parks and the national park in the area, which is important to maintain ecological integrity and habitats for species at risk like woodland caribou.

The proposed protected area has been identified by Indigenous Peoples as having natural values and species, such as the Ronald Lake bison herd, that are important to support Indigenous People's rights, culture and well-being. The exercise of Treaty rights and traditional uses in the area would be supported in the proposed protected area and cooperative management opportunities would be available to interested Indigenous communities.

Nature-based recreation opportunities would be focused on remote backcountry experiences where visitors can experience solitude, challenge and personal interaction with nature. Facilities will be limited to trails and rustic backcountry campsites. Nature-based ecotourism or adventure tourism opportunities could be supported.

Current and Proposed Permitted Activities

Activity	Current Permitted Activities – Public Lands, Green Area	Proposed Permitted Activities – Wildland Provincial Park
Foot Access (hiking, snowshoeing, Nordic skiing, etc.)	Yes	Yes
Equestrian Use	Yes	Yes
Hunting	Yes	Yes
Fishing	Yes	Yes
Backcountry Camping	Yes	Yes
Off-highway Vehicle/Snowmobile Use	Yes	Yes – On designated trails
Trapping	Yes	Yes
Existing Petroleum and Natural Gas Commitments (Crown Owned)	Yes	Yes
New Petroleum and Natural Gas (Crown Owned)	Yes	Yes, but with no surface access
Fixed Roof Accommodation	Yes	Maybe – Non-auto access backcountry or fly-in lodges may be permitted if compatible with site values and objectives and restricted to backcountry facility zones
Helicopter/Float Plane Landing	Yes	Maybe – A permit for landing is required.
Auto Access Camping	Yes	No
Large Scale Tourism Development	Yes	No
Commercial Forestry	Yes	No
Coal, Metallic and Industrial Minerals (Crown Owned)	Yes	No

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