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## After 40+ Years of Effort

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# ***Alberta Protects 365 Square Miles as Wilderness and Park***

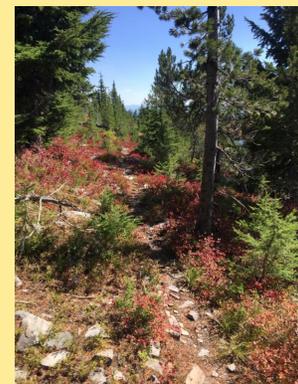
September 14, 2015

### **Greetings!**

It's a real change to be able say, "We can't keep up with conservation GOOD news!" So much is going on... and so much of the news is positive.

- The B.C. government committed this year to establishing a wildlife management corridor between the Montana border and Banff National Park.
- The Badger-Two Medicine area is moving closer to permanent protection.
- The Kootenai Forest "Common Ground" committee is reaching agreement on additional recommended wilderness
- In the Flathead, people continue to work together to find solutions to land use conflicts and management.
- Alberta just announced a huge expansion of protected lands north of Waterton Lakes National Park. And,... other stories.

There's an emerging theme here. People are reaching local and regional agreements on conserving large and small areas alike.



### **Balancing Things**

While we have good news to report, we continue to participate and watch other issues:

***Fire in Bunker Creek***

***Forest Management***

And together, across the Crown of the Continent, the conservation lands are adding up to significant "[landscape scale conservation](#)".

We will attempt over the next several weeks to provide you with the details of these important stories. But today, we bring you additional information about the new Alberta government's post-election decision to protect the Castle Wilderness. Read on and...

Cheers!



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***"Reform"***

***Logging in the B.C.***

***Flathead***

***Selenium pollution of the  
Elk and Kootenai Rivers***

***The Montana - Alaska  
Connection***

***What to Expect in 2015-16***

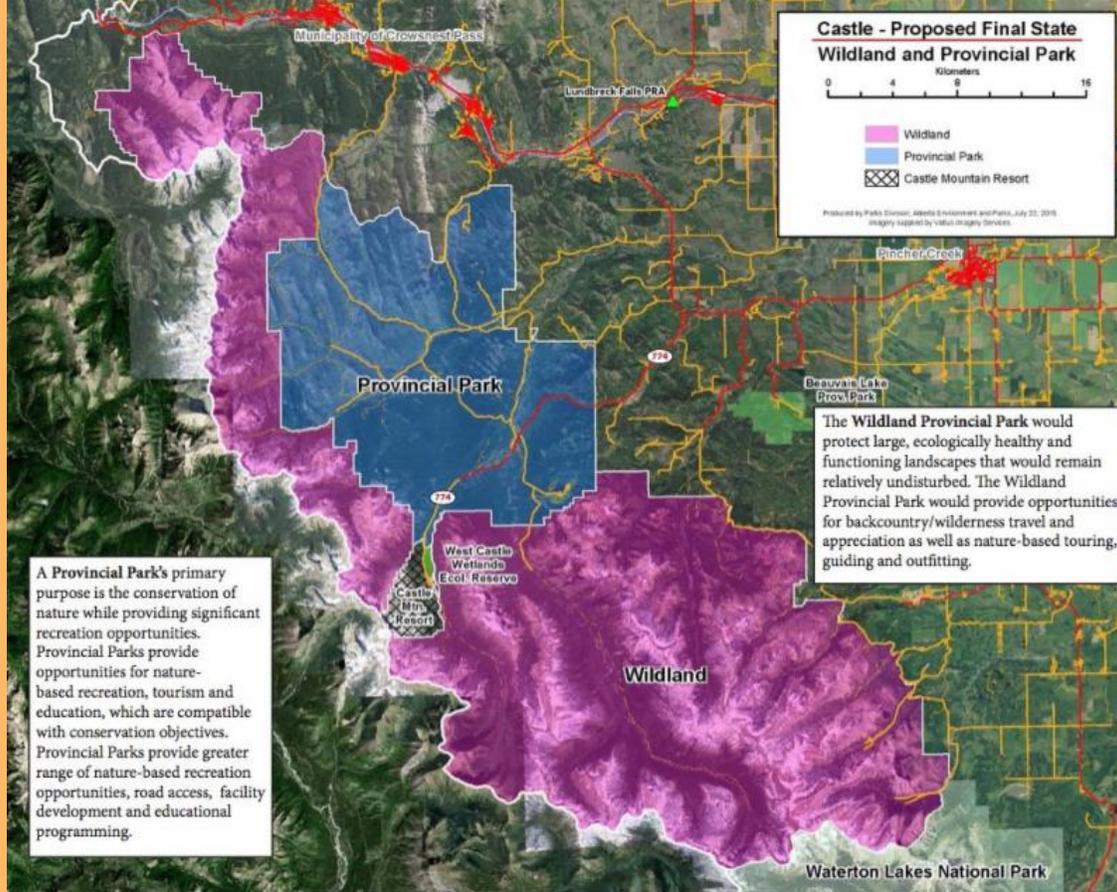


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## ***The Alberta Government Moves***

***to conserve the***

***Entire Castle Watershed Area***



(Map Source [here.](#))

Today we celebrate the vision of the people of Alberta for their commitment to protect the Castle Mountain wilderness to ensure the future of water and biodiversity in the [Crown of the Continent](#).

On September 4, the newly elected Alberta provincial government announced additional, sweeping protections for the Castle, a critical source of water for the province, and a key region for protecting and retaining natural biodiversity.

*The map above depicts the proposed land allocations within the Castle. They include:*

- *A "Wildland" designation, similar to a U.S. Wilderness area, and*
- *A Provincial Park.*

*The Alberta government has announced a public consultation process to determine the final management strategy for the 250,000-acre protected area. Existing mineral rights will be honored. Timber extraction has been halted. Waterton Lake National Park is seen in the lower right hand corner. The new Castle protected area is approximately two times the size of the Waterton. The proposed Waterton Park expansion (map [here](#)) into BC is located immediately west of the Castle protected area, and would double the size of Waterton, but would be less than half of the new Castle protected area. Taken all together, these conservation stories demonstrate the strong public support for landscape conservation at a large scale. Placing these lands in a highly protective land class gives those of us living today the gift of giving to the next generations. Our work continues to protect wildlands in the Flathead and the Crown of the Continent. Thank you for your support!*

**Thank You!**

Links to the Conservation Success Story: This story picked up very geographically broad media coverage.

[The Alberta Government](#)  
[National Geographic](#)  
[Canadian Parks and Wilderness Association](#)  
[The Calgary Herald](#)  
[Flathead Beacon](#)  
[The Missoulian](#)  
[Hungry Horse News](#)  
[Daily Inter Lake](#)

Notable Quotes:

*"Commercial forestry in the Castle Special Management Area has been stopped and the process to designate the entire area under Parks' legislation is underway." (From the official Alberta government press release.)*

*"Generally speaking, (development) is a one-way street. We turn wild land or open spaces into residential land, and you don't turn it back. Here, the street was the constant erosion of the Castle. The best you can hope for is to occasionally put up a dead end on a one-way street. And that's what we did." Michael Jamison, Crown of the Continent Program Manager at the National Parks Conservation Association. (From the [Flathead Beacon](#))*



*The Castle Mountains at sunset.  
Photo Credit: John Novotny*

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*Protecting the Water, Wildlife and Traditional Outdoor Heritage in the Crown of the Continent!*