

# FIRST

THINGS FIRST

ONCE IN A LONG WHILE, an opportunity comes along in southern Canada to create a better future for wildlife and wild places. Such an effort is now underway in the Rocky Mountains of southern British Columbia.

If it succeeds:

- **100,000 acres of the Flathead Valley will be added** to Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park
- a Wildlife Management Area will be legislated that **connects the Peace Park to Banff National Park** and
- **long-term resource based jobs** in the region will be preserved.



**YOUR HELP is needed!**

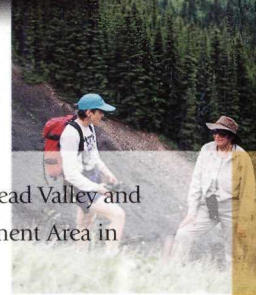
Turn this incredible opportunity into a reality. Please visit [www.peaceparkplus.net](http://www.peaceparkplus.net) and take the actions proposed in this brochure.



# FINAL

NOTES

THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT the effort to help complete Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park by expanding the Park into the Flathead Valley and establishing a legislated Wildlife Management Area in southeastern BC:



- Bert Riggall Environmental Foundation
- Bow Valley Grizzly Bear Alliance
- Bragg Creek Environmental Coalition
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- Castle Crown Wilderness Coalition
- Crowsnest Environmental Action Society
- East Kootenay Environmental Society
- Great Bear Foundation (US)
- Montana Wilderness Association
- National Parks Conservation Association (US)
- Sierra Club of Canada/Chinook Group
- The Wilderness Society (US)
- Wildcanada.net
- Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

This brochure was produced by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, BC Chapter, and the East Kootenay Environmental Society.



SOCIÉTÉ  
POUR LA NATURE  
ET LES PARCS  
DU CANADA



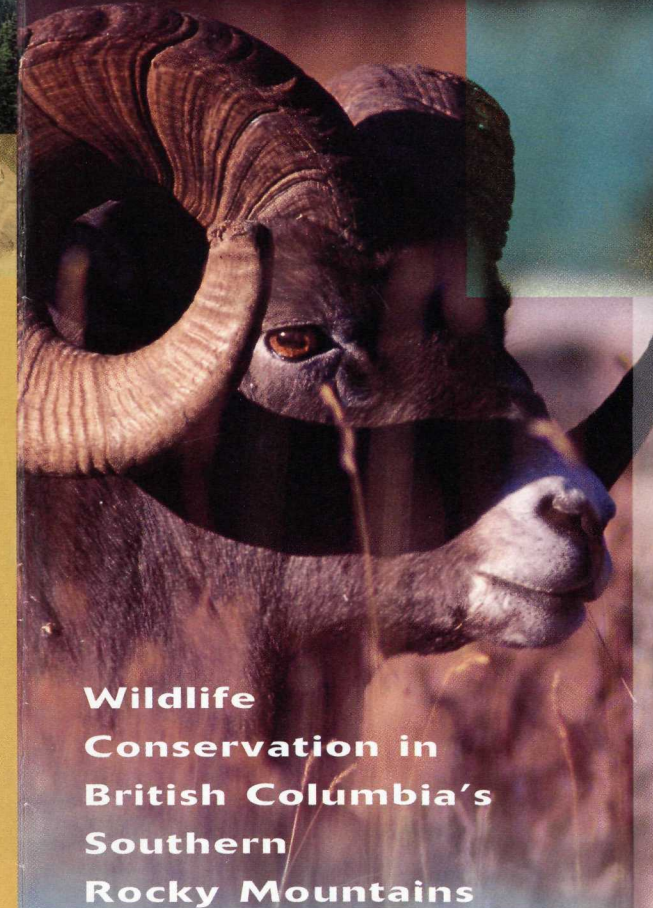
Photography by Patrick Freeze, Ernest Keeley, Dr. Allan W. King, Harvey Locke, Anton Pitts, Keith Thirkell and Fred Seiler ([www.grizzlytours.ca](http://www.grizzlytours.ca))  
Design by Roger Handling • Maps by Miistakis Institute for the Rockies



Printed in Canada

# CREATE

A BETTER  
PEACE PARK



**Wildlife Conservation in British Columbia's Southern Rocky Mountains**

www.peaceparkplus.net  
YOU CAN HELP! LOOK INSIDE

**Helping to Complete Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park**



## THE AREA

THE SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAINS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA are internationally renowned for their abundance and diversity of wildlife. Endangered or sensitive species such as grizzly bear, mountain goat, wolverine, big-horn sheep and bull trout still thrive in the mountains, rivers and valleys of this beautiful landscape.

BC's southern Rocky Mountains are naturally connected to the large protected areas of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park to the south, and the Canadian mountain national parks of Banff, Kootenay and Yoho to the north. Many species of wildlife, who spend part of their time in those protected areas, also live and travel in the intervening lands in southeastern BC.



is less space where wild animals can roam freely and find the foods and conditions they need to survive.

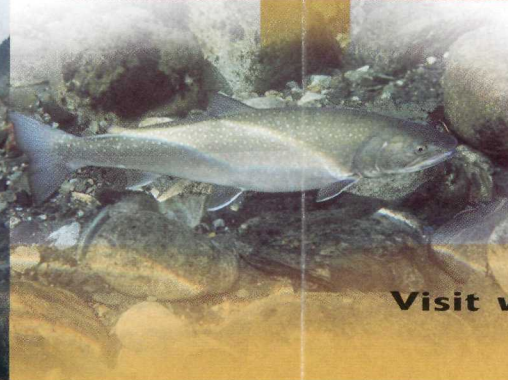
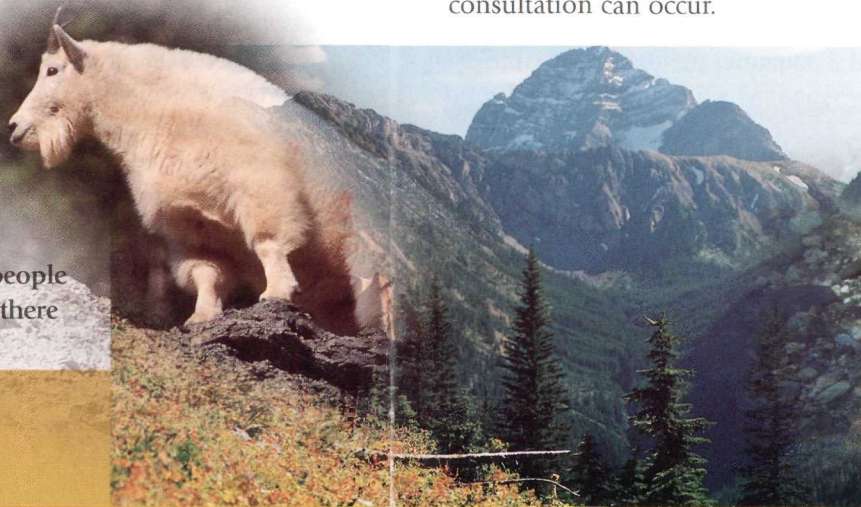
*THE VALLEY OF THE FLATHEAD RIVER, WHICH RISES IN SOUTHEAST BC AND FLOWS SOUTH INTO MONTANA, HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS PERHAPS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT BASIN FOR CARNIVORES (GRIZZLY BEARS, WOLVES, LYNX, MARTEN AND WOLVERINE) IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. IT IS AN EXCEPTIONALLY RICH AREA FOR WILDLIFE, THAT IS THREATENED IN BC BY LOGGING AND THE PACE OF GROWTH IN THE REGION. IN MONTANA, THE EAST HALF OF THE FLATHEAD IS PROTECTED IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, IT IS NOT.*

In 2001, the former British Columbia government established the Southern Rocky Mountain Conservation Area over much important habitat in the Flathead, Wigwam, Elk and Bull watersheds, the major valleys that run north from the International Peace Park. However, the newly-elected government revoked that designation so that further public consultation can occur.

## THE CHALLENGES

SOUTHEASTERN BC IS CHANGING. Residential development is taking up more land in critical valley bottoms that are homes for wildlife. Snowmobiling, off-road vehicle use, helicopter skiing and heli-hiking increasingly occur across the landscape. Five large open-pit coal mines are found within the region. Forestry remains a significant activity. Highway 3, which slices the area from east to west, is a major transportation corridor. Crossing it is a huge risk for wildlife, and some of them don't make it.

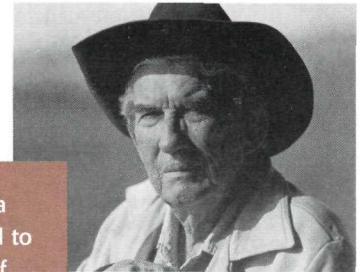
These activities and the increasing presence of people on the landscape mean there



## THE OPPORTUNITY

TEMBEC, INC. IS THE FORESTRY COMPANY WITH RIGHTS TO LOG IN THE FLATHEAD VALLEY, adjacent to Waterton Lakes National Park. It has recognized the remarkable value, richness and diversity of the area. Tembec has offered to relinquish its tenure within 100,000 acres in the Flathead, in return for private and public funding to upgrade its mill at Elko, BC. The loss of timber from the Flathead would be made up through more efficient operations. **The environment will be protected, and the sawmill will be more modern and competitive, while providing long-term job security.**

For almost a century, the Flathead Valley has been recognized as a missing piece of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. The Park's first Superintendent, John "Kootenai" Brown, recommended in 1911 that Waterton should be "greatly enlarged to preserve a breeding ground" adjacent to Glacier National Park. In 1993, British Columbia's Commission on Resources and Environment recommended a large provincial park there, but it was not implemented due to resource industry conflicts. Now, the primary resource



Making this part of the Flathead Valley into a park is a good idea. When I was riding and hunting in it, I used to think this area should be a park. It's a missing piece of Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks.

**Andy Russell**, Outdoorsman and Author

industry active in the area is prepared to accommodate protection of a significant part of this biologically critical region. **This is an historic opportunity to resolve a problem almost 100 years old.**

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## A CORRIDOR FOR WILDLIFE

AS IMPORTANT AS IT IS TO PROVIDE A SANCTUARY FOR WILDLIFE and opportunities for back-country recreation through a national park in the lower Flathead Valley, it is equally important to ensure that wildlife can use the lands in the rest of BC's Flathead and the adjacent Wigwam, Elk and Bull River valleys. A Wildlife Management Area would protect key habitats, many of which were designated Special Management Zones in 1994 but were never legislated. It would ensure wildlife management is a priority, while allowing careful resource extraction, by controlling access in a 760,000 acre corridor from the Flathead and Wigwam River valleys up through the mountains between the Bull and Elk Rivers. A wildlife corridor would be preserved between Waterton and parks to the north, while allowing communities to achieve a sustainable future.

I have strongly recommended to the Fernie Game Association that immediate steps be taken by the provincial Parliament to permanently set aside, as a game preserve, the country between the Elk and Bull Rivers. The reasons for such a step are too many to mention here, but let me say that whoever aids in preserving from extinction the grand game of British Columbia renders good service to two countries.

**W.T. Hornaday**, New York Zoological Society

in *Campfires in the Canadian Rockies*, 1905

On December 6, 2001, the British Columbia Ministry of Sustainable



Resource Management launched a public process to review land use in southeastern BC. By the end of June 2002, a decision will be made regarding the future of these lands, including the former Southern Rocky Mountain Wildlife Conservation Area and the proposal to help complete Waterton Lakes National Park. Parks Canada is a participant in this process.

## YELLOWSTONE TO YUKON

THE YELLOWSTONE TO YUKON CONSERVATION INITIATIVE (Y2Y) is a collaboration of organizations, foundations, scientists and businesses, representing almost 1 million individuals from 2 territories, 2 provinces and 5 states. They are working to ensure the web of life remains connected in the world's most intact mountain range, and that people can live in and enjoy the Rocky Mountains in ways that keep economies, communities and natural systems healthy. The Rockies of southern BC make up one of the most important landscapes for wildlife



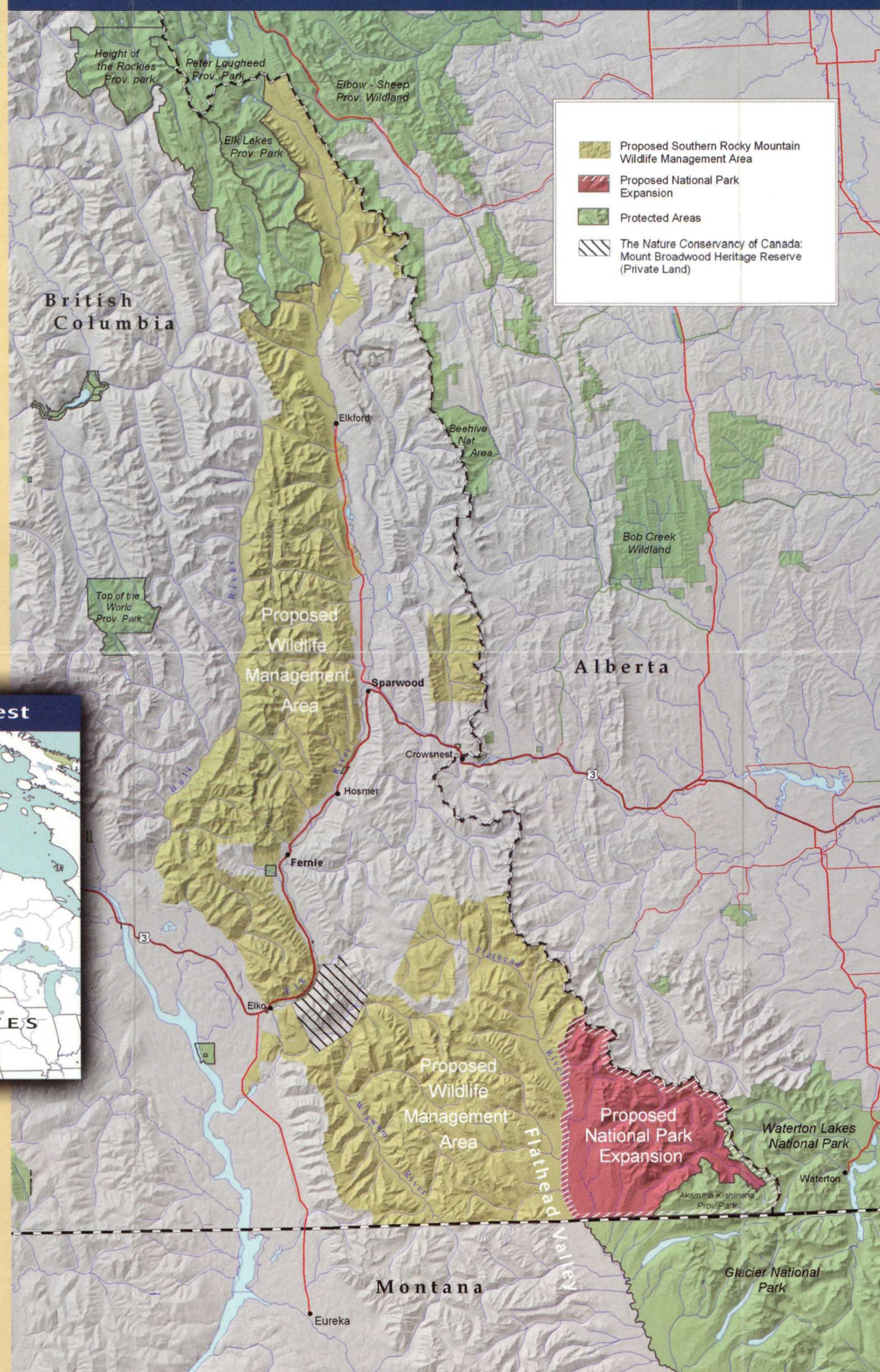
within the entire Yellowstone to Yukon region, and also one of the most threatened. Expanding Waterton Lakes National Park into the lower Flathead Valley and securing a Wildlife Management Area in the upper Flathead, Wigwam, Bull and Elk watersheds will go a long way toward achieving the Yellowstone to Yukon vision in this region.

### KTUNAXA KINBASKET FIRST NATION

The entire southeastern BC region is the subject of a land claim by the traditional people of the area. If Waterton is extended and a Wildlife Management Area created, any land use designations would not affect their claim.



## Conservation Vision for Southeastern British Columbia



YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT

### Address your letters to:

Honourable Gordon Campbell  
Premier of British Columbia  
PO Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt,  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1  
Facs: (250) 387-0087

Also send a letter to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien telling him you support a conservation plan for BC's southern Rocky Mountains that includes: (1) the expansion of Waterton Lakes National Park to create a wilderness zone in the lower Flathead Valley, and (2) an international agreement to cooperate in management of the Flathead watershed as a whole. Write to:

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2  
CANADA  
Facs: (613) 941-6900

If you live in British Columbia, please also contact your MLA in support of these conservation goals. (Find out your MLA's address by visiting [www.wildcanada.net](http://www.wildcanada.net) and clicking on "Action Centre.") Talk to your families, friends and colleagues and pass this brochure on to others, to help generate the letters needed to provide a future for Rocky Mountain wildlife.



Visit [www.peaceparkplus.net](http://www.peaceparkplus.net)

- (1) protection of the lower Flathead Valley as part of a wilderness zone (an area with no new development) within an expanded Waterton Lakes National Park
- (2) a legislated Wildlife Management Area for the remaining public lands in the region that makes the needs of wildlife a priority, while accommodating other uses where compatible, and
- (3) an international conservation agreement to cooperate in management of the Flathead watershed as a whole.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Visit [www.peaceparkplus.net](http://www.peaceparkplus.net) to learn more, take a virtual tour of southeastern BC, and send letters to Premier Campbell, Prime Minister Chrétien and British Columbia MLAs with just a click of the mouse!

Or, write Premier Gordon Campbell. Ask him to take action to protect the wildlife and rivers of BC's southern Rockies by implementing a conservation plan that includes: