



The Alberta Fish & Game Association

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Dear AFGA Members,

No doubt you are aware of the Bighorn Country Proposal, and the controversy surrounding it. As was the case with the Castle Parks proposal, multiple members of your AFGA Executive have met with government representatives several times, and expressed our concerns with the current proposal as written. We have presented both a list of concerns and a summary of our current position on the Bighorn Country Proposal, which is posted on the AFGA web site here: [AFGA's stand on Government of AB Bighorn Country Proposal – Alberta Fish and Game Association](#). This position is based on current positions in our AFGA Operations Manual (6.2) "Wilderness Areas", (6.5) "Access Management" and a draft update to (6.7) "Off Highway Vehicles."

While we recognize that increased fish and wildlife habitat protection and some restrictions are needed, our major concern is that the heavy emphasis on increased tourism in the current "Bighorn Country Proposal" are contrary to conservation objectives and will result in conflict and loss of opportunity for traditional uses such as back country hiking, camping, angling, hunting, trapping and responsible OHV access on suitable trails, as is already the case in Jasper, Banff, K-Country and the Castle. (Hunting is currently permitted in the Shunda, Bighorn Dam and Snow Creek areas; it would be disallowed if the proposal was to proceed as currently written.)

We recognize that improvements to existing campsites, parking lots, washrooms et cetera, are needed, but developing "tourist attractions" will detract from the relatively pristine and natural character of much of the area.

Whether or not you are in agreement with the position your AFGA executive has taken on this proposal, it is important for every AFGA member to "have their say" individually. The Government of Alberta is relying heavily on an online survey which will only be open until February 15. Background information is here: [Bighorn Country Proposal | Talk Alberta Environment and Parks](#). The online survey is linked in that document or you can access it directly here: [Survey](#). Whatever your personal position is, please take the time to respond to the survey and make your views known. It is also important that your MLA hears directly what your position is.

Doug Butler, President
The Alberta Fish and Game Association