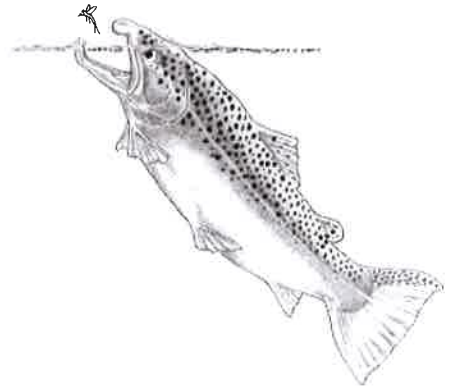


Friends of the Red Deer River

3829 - 50A Street, Red Deer, AB T4P 1E4
Phone: (403) 343-8699



September 16, 2020

Keith McCrae, Director, Planning & Development Clearwater County
Box 550, 4340 – 47th Avenue
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta T4T 1A4

Re: Clearwater County – Land Use By-Law Amendment Submission

Dear Sir,

Our group "Friends of the Red Deer River" would like to forward this letter in support of the By-Law Amendment Submission put together through the joint conservation property co-owners. This submission was a combined effort of the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA), Trout Unlimited and the Alberta Fish and Game Association. In this submission there is very clear-cut and relevant support by environmental professionals, the public, outdoor organizations, outdoor writers, local landowners, anglers and tourists for the approval of this Land Use By-Law Amendment Submission.


Our group would like to open this letter by recognizing the pertinence, validity, significance, and passion that has gone into formalizing this "Land Use By-Law amendment" raised and submitted by the province's largest outdoor organizations. This document clearly demonstrates this area being reviewed is an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA). This fact has also been clearly personified at all the public forums, by area residents, local land owners, the anglers of Alberta and worldwide. The groups submission also demonstrates pertinent scientific data/evidence as well as Land-Use groups that are and are not acceptable within the 1.8-kilometre area within proximity to any of the "North Raven" and "Clear Creek" headwater springs. The significance of the opening letter submitted in with the actual "Land Use By-Law Amendment submission" is quite a statement in itself. It has been penned by the president of Alberta's longest standing, largest and most respected outdoor organization. The Alberta Fish and Game association has 22,000 members and the President has clearly spoken for all these members in his opening letter.

The Alberta Fish and Game Association as a whole and specifically Victor Benz have clearly stood behind and took the lead in this endeavour to protect both the land and the two spring creeks at risk here. Mr. Benz is not only highly accredited; he is well spoken and at least as well written. Our group has been present at all the public forums and have been very impressed with his demeanor, knowledge and background expertise overall. We are very confident he is very well versed with both the background and scientific baseline data in the areas involved with this issue. Mr. Benz's background, accreditation, and past involvement in many environmental issues should both be recognized and seriously considered in any decision-making process by both the Province and the County.

This groups endeavour and combined effort, as far as we know is a precedent setting situation that has embraced and involved the expertise, views, opinions and input from the entire conscious society of the province we call Alberta. Many of the Provinces most famous outdoor writers have written of the virtues and fragility of these spring creeks from Bob Scammell to Jim McLennan, Barry Mitchell, Bruce Masterman and Neil Waugh. Just as many world-famous anglers and outdoor writers have been lured by the charms of these spring creeks. Both Don Anderson and Barry Mitchell have put a life time of blood, sweat and tears into preserving, enhancing and protecting this area. Mr. Michael Short a very recognized reporter, videographer and blogger and has become very involved in attending, recording and sharing his belief in this worth while effort through the worldwide YouTube venue. This group successfully approached and gained the efforts and scientific expertise of Mr. John Fennell a highly recognized Hydrogeologist and Geochemist. The collective presentation of this group clearly demonstrates the ecologically significant value of this area in itself clearly making it worth protecting and nurturing. The historic, scenic, natural and economic value and the overall significantly sensitive nature of this area clearly demonstrates this amendment must be passed.

Buck for Wildlife, Trout Unlimited, the Alberta Conservation Association and Sustainable Resources Development now Alberta Environment and Protection (AEP) have over five decades of monumental effort applied here. This collaborative effort has lucratively achieved the most successful large-scale enhancement venture in the history of Alberta. Since 1973 over \$ 10 Million dollars of funding and many thousands of volunteers (hours) have been dedicated to enhance rehabilitate, protect and preserve this special area. This alone defines how really special this (ESA) is to our Provincial heritage. Hopefully what these special organizations, professionals and individuals have worked hard to set aside for the sportsman and anglers worldwide will not be put in eminent jeopardy by one single oversight.

This group has clearly gone out and raised scientific data, evidence and provided sound advice on the most successful avenue forward in order to protect this very significant (ESA) located in the county of Caroline Alberta. This is a large-scale issue that is extremely important to a very large societal sector, in Alberta and to the sportsmen of the world and they are all watching. Let's hope Alberta makes the right decision. Our group whole heartedly extends both our gratitude and our support to this combined groups fantastic effort.



Bryant (Bob) Edens
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