

# WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK ACTION PLAN

The Government of Canada continues to work with Indigenous partners and provincial and territorial governments to advance actions identified in the Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site Action Plan.



## The Action Plan contains 138 actions.

Each action contributes to protecting the Outstanding Universal Values of the park. These actions aim to:

- **strengthen relationships** with Indigenous partners,
- **enhance research, monitoring and management** of the Peace-Athabasca Delta using both science and Indigenous knowledge,
- **increase protection** of ecosystems within and around Wood Buffalo National Park, and
- **support the recovery** of the Whooping Crane and the Wood Bison.

Canada has committed to the conservation of this special place for future generations through an investment of

**\$87 million**

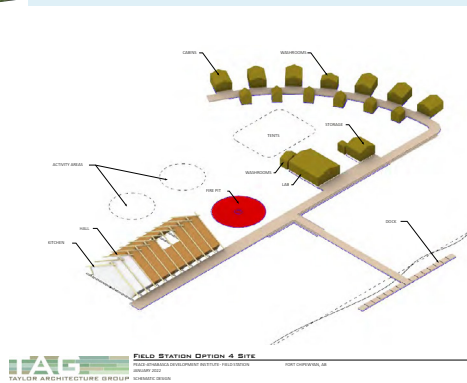
to support the Action Plan's implementation.



## WHAT'S NEW

### Field Station in the Peace Athabasca Delta

Site clearing is scheduled to take place in late summer and early fall for the field station. The field station will provide a physical space on the land to support ecological monitoring work and cultural use activities in the Peace Athabasca Delta. Mikisew Cree First Nation, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and Fort Chipewyan Metis Association took the lead in developing a conceptual design for the field station. Construction activities of the field station to occur throughout 2023.



### Water Control Structures

Two proposed water control structures are being designed to create a local water management approach in the Peace Athabasca Delta with an aim to restore key areas of the Delta and to support traditional Indigenous use in target areas. Indigenous knowledge and scientific information to inform the design of these water control structures is being gathered by partners. Community members will have opportunities to participate and provide input through upcoming engagement events.



### Indigenous Knowledge and Science

An ecological monitoring program that uses science and Indigenous knowledge is being developed. The monitoring program will measure the health and trend of the site's Outstanding Universal Values. Implementation of the program with the three Fort Chipewyan communities of the Peace Athabasca Delta begins this year.

Indigenous Knowledge is at the heart of the Action Plan activities. Six separate Indigenous Knowledge Sharing Use Agreements, which support Indigenous partners to use and share their Indigenous Knowledge appropriately to inform Action Plan activities, have been signed. Capacity agreements are in place with Indigenous partners to support their participation in various task teams working to advance the Action Plan.



## Environmental Flows (E-Flows)

Engagement on the development of a basin-wide environmental flows framework has begun. This framework includes linkages to the water monitoring and management actions to support ecological and traditional use objectives.



Photo Credit: Government of Alberta

## Protected Areas Outside of WBNP

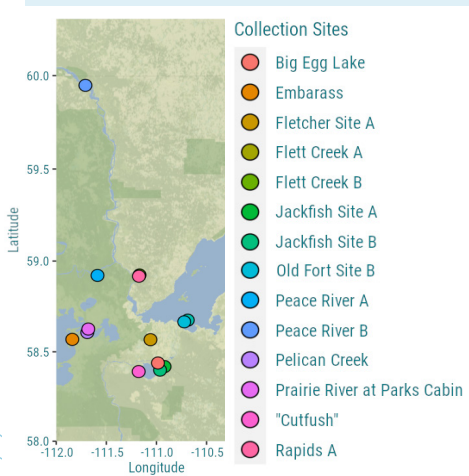
In February 2022, Alberta Environment and Parks, working with the Mikisew Cree First Nation, industry and stakeholders, announced the expansion of Kitaskino Nuwenēné Wildland (KNW) on the southern boundary of Wood Buffalo National Park. This recent expansion, following the establishment of KNW in 2019, provides improved protection to many natural values important to Indigenous peoples' including to their cultural relationship with bison, and their exercise of treaty and harvesting rights.

## Gen-Fish Project Results

Each fish, like a human, has its own genetic blueprint. The Wood Buffalo National Park Action Plan has brought together researchers and community members to use a combination of Indigenous knowledge and molecular techniques together in a first-of-its-kind pilot project.

Water samples, stomach contents, and tissue samples were taken by the Community Based Monitoring teams at important habitat sites across the Peace-Athabasca Delta and sent to GEN-FISH labs for environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis for species identification and transcriptional (health) profiling.

Working collaboratively with all partners ensures that we make progress and deliver on the 138 actions in the Action Plan. Together, we are committed to the conservation of Wood Buffalo National Park for future generations.



## Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site Action Plan

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