



Protecting Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site

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Quick Facts

- *The recognition of Wood Buffalo National Park's Outstanding Universal Value led to its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983.*
- *In July 2017, the World Heritage Committee requested that Canada develop a plan to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site. The Government of Canada welcomed the World Heritage Committee's request as an important call to action.*
- *The World Heritage Committee considered Canada's Action Plan at its annual meeting in early July of this year in Baku, Azerbaijan.*

Adoption of the World Heritage Committee decision on the state of conservation of Wood Buffalo National Park

The decision of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) on the state of conservation of WBNP was adopted on July 6th, 2019.

While this decision did not inscribe WBNP on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the Government of Canada recognizes that climate change and external development pressures are seriously impacting WBNP and that these impacts are most evident in the PAD.

The decision acknowledges the actions that have been taken to strengthen the protection and management of WBNP including the historic \$1.35 billion investment by the Government of Canada to protect its nature, parks, and wild spaces. The decision welcomes the creation of new Wildland Provincial Parks by the Government of Alberta, in collaboration with Indigenous groups.

Canada's work to enhance the way that science and Indigenous Knowledge work together to conserve the nation's natural heritage was also recognized in the WHC's decision.

Canada, in collaboration with partners, will continue to take action by implementing the measures outlined in the Action Plan. These measures include strengthening relationships with Indigenous peoples, protecting the ecological integrity of the park and surrounding ecosystems, and taking action to improve water management in the PAD.

Through ongoing collective action with provincial, territorial, and Indigenous partners, the Government of Canada will preserve the Outstanding Universal Value of Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site so that it remains a treasured place for generations to come.

About this newsletter—

This newsletter keeps WBNP partners and stakeholders informed as Parks Canada and the Government of Canada collaborate with Indigenous groups, other government partners, and stakeholders, to protect Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site. For additional information, please visit Wood Buffalo National Park's website at this link:

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nt/woodbuffalo/info/action>



Next steps in Action Plan implementation

The implementation of the Action Plan requires collaboration between federal, provincial and territorial governments, each of which have specific responsibilities for action within their jurisdiction and authority, and with Indigenous governments which have stewardship responsibilities for their traditional territories.

These actions vary in scope and include:

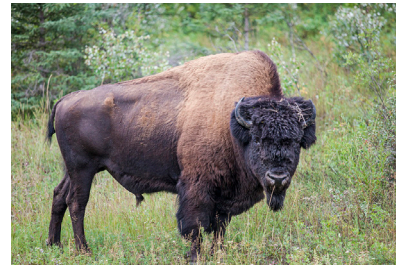
- actions to strengthen relationships with Indigenous partners,
- actions to ensure improved understanding and water management of the Peace-Athabasca Delta,
- actions to increase protection of ecosystems within and beyond Wood Buffalo National Park
- actions to support improved integration of science and monitoring in the Peace-Athabasca Delta, and
- actions to support the recovery of iconic species, such as Whooping Cranes and Wood Bison.

Work is currently underway in support of early implementation of the Action Plan. Some examples include:

- The Government of Alberta announced the establishment of new Wildland Provincial Parks adjacent to WBNP in 2018, and in 2019 the Government of Alberta, in collaboration with Indigenous communities and industry, announced the establishment of Kitaskino Nuwenëné Wildland Provincial Park, which protects approximately 160,000 hectares of additional land immediately south of WBNP. These protected areas

provide significant buffers and landscape connectivity to WBNP, contributing to the largest contiguous protected boreal forest in the world.

- In June 2019, the Government of Canada enacted new legislation to change the way major projects under federal jurisdiction are reviewed and approved, including projects that may have an impact on WBNP. In part, these changes will ensure decisions are informed by consultation with, and input from, Indigenous peoples and the public.
- The Government of Canada is convening a Federal-Provincial-Territorial-Indigenous committee to implement the more than 75 hydrology-related monitoring and management actions to meet ecological and traditional use objectives within the delta.
- Parks Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Government of Alberta and Indigenous communities are initiating work to further develop and monitor indicators of the site's Outstanding Universal Value, with an initial focus on the Peace-Athabasca Delta.
- Parks Canada and Indigenous partners are proceeding with further development of the Cooperative Management Committee and bilateral engagement processes to improve the cooperative management of the site.



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