

FACTS ON

Rock Lake-Solomon Creek Wildland Park



Rock Lake-Solomon Creek Wildland Park was officially established on December 20, 2000. The 347 square kilometres (34,683 hectares) Wildland Park protects a variety of landscapes including mountain peaks, forested valleys, grassy slopes and fast flowing streams.

Site Description and Location

Rock Lake-Solomon Creek Wildland Park is located northwest of Hinton and extends from the Athabasca River in the south to Rock Lake Provincial Recreation Area (PRA) and Willmore Wilderness to the northwest. You can reach the south end of the park along Solomon Creek by taking the road to the hamlet of Brule. The access to Rock Lake PRA is 70 kilometres north of Hinton. A 32 km graveled road leaves Highway 40 and winds along a route used by the petroleum and forest industries. Use caution when traveling this road and be aware that the road is not regularly maintained.

Rock Lake-Solomon Creek Wildland Park is located in the Front Ranges of the Rocky Mountains, adjacent to the northern boundary of Jasper National Park. Elevations range from the 7,826-foot peak of Boule Roche to about 3,300 feet where Solomon Creek leaves the Wildland Park before entering the Athabasca River. The difference of over 4,500 feet in elevation is a significant reason for the wildland park designation. This expansive area represents alpine, subalpine and montane subregions of the Rocky Mountain Natural Region, as well as the Upper Foothills Natural Region.

Significant Features

The Solomon Creek area is one of the most diverse Upper Foothills habitat complexes in Alberta. Habitats range from dense coniferous forests of lodgepole pine and white spruce through mixed and aspen woods, to tall shrub communities, grassy slopes and wet

meadows. It is one of three known locations for Pygmy Whitefish in Alberta.

The Rock Lake area is a significant wildlife movement corridor. It is here that Rock Creek and the Wildhay River cut across the Front Ranges of the Rocky Mountains resulting in a low valley. This allows wildlife to move with more ease across the mountains, as well as in and out of both Willmore Wilderness and Jasper National Park. Open grassy slopes exposed to the westerly winds provide critical winter range for elk, deer and bighorn sheep. The park is also home to moose, grizzly and black bear, cougar, wolf and a variety of birds.

Recreational Activities

Rock Lake-Solomon Creek Wildland Park is a spectacular setting for hiking, horseback riding, fishing, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, camping and cross-country skiing. Basic camping, picnic and horse holding facilities are available at the Rock Lake Provincial Recreation Area.

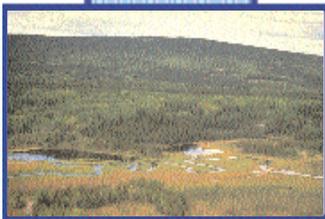
Nature lovers and explorers will discover an array of sites and treasures from wildflowers, birds and mammals to handy access for equestrian use and hiking. Rock Lake PRA is the major staging area for hiking and trail riding into the southern part of Willmore Wilderness and northern Jasper National Park.

Signs of historical use of the area may also be observed, including logging and coal mining that supported the early railways through the Athabasca Valley.

Rock Lake is a popular fishery primarily for mountain whitefish, and lake trout, although bull trout, rainbow trout, burbot and northern pike can be found here. Hunting for moose, elk and deer is permitted in this wildland park, however, hunting is not permitted in Rock Lake Provincial Recreation Area. There is commercial tourism, as well as recreation facility operators providing lodging, trail riding in the area of Rock Lake PRA.



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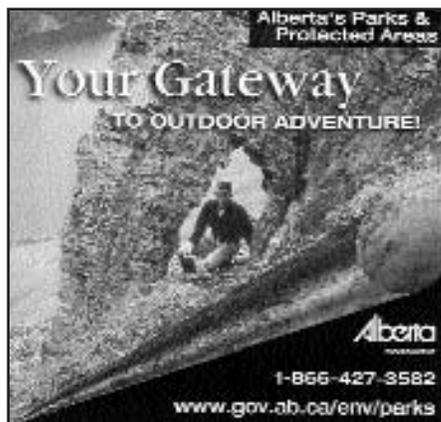


Trail and Access Information

An extensive network of trails winds through the forest and valleys of this wildland park. Some of these are abandoned resource roads, some were constructed as recreation trails, while others follow old pack trails, fur trade routes and prehistoric routes used by aboriginal peoples. Most of the trails receive little or no maintenance and most stream crossings are not bridged. Off-highway vehicle access routes may be considered upon completion of a park management plan and studies on plants, soils, water and other biophysical aspects. At this time however, off-highway vehicle access is not permitted.

For general information on trails and access, please refer to the attached map.

To learn more about Alberta's parks and protected areas, your "Gateway to Outdoor Adventure" website. This dynamic website is a trip planning tool that will allow public access to the Park Sites and Facilities database.
www.gov.ab.ca/env/parks



Please "Bear In Mind"...

While visiting Rock Lake-Solomon Creek Wildland Park, you are in Bear Country.

Remember:

All bears, even tame-looking ones can be dangerous. Never feed or approach a bear.

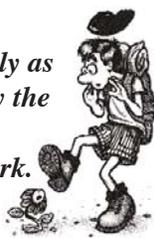
Avoid female bears with cubs and never go near a cub.

Remember to give bears a wide berth; they may look big and clumsy but they can outrun people, both up and down hills (as fast as 65 kph for short distances).

Always pack your garbage out with you. Store garbage in a waterproof sack or bag. When not using the bag, hang your garbage from a tree (6 meters above ground) and a distance from your camp.

Avoid coming upon a bear by surprise. Make noise when walking near streams or coming to corners, or in windy conditions so the bear hears you coming.

Remember to respect others and tread lightly as you explore and enjoy the beauty Rock Lake-Soloman Wildland Park.



For more information, contact 780-865-8264 in Hinton, or 780-827-3626 in Grande Cache. To call toll-free from anywhere in Alberta, dial 310-0000 and enter the number.

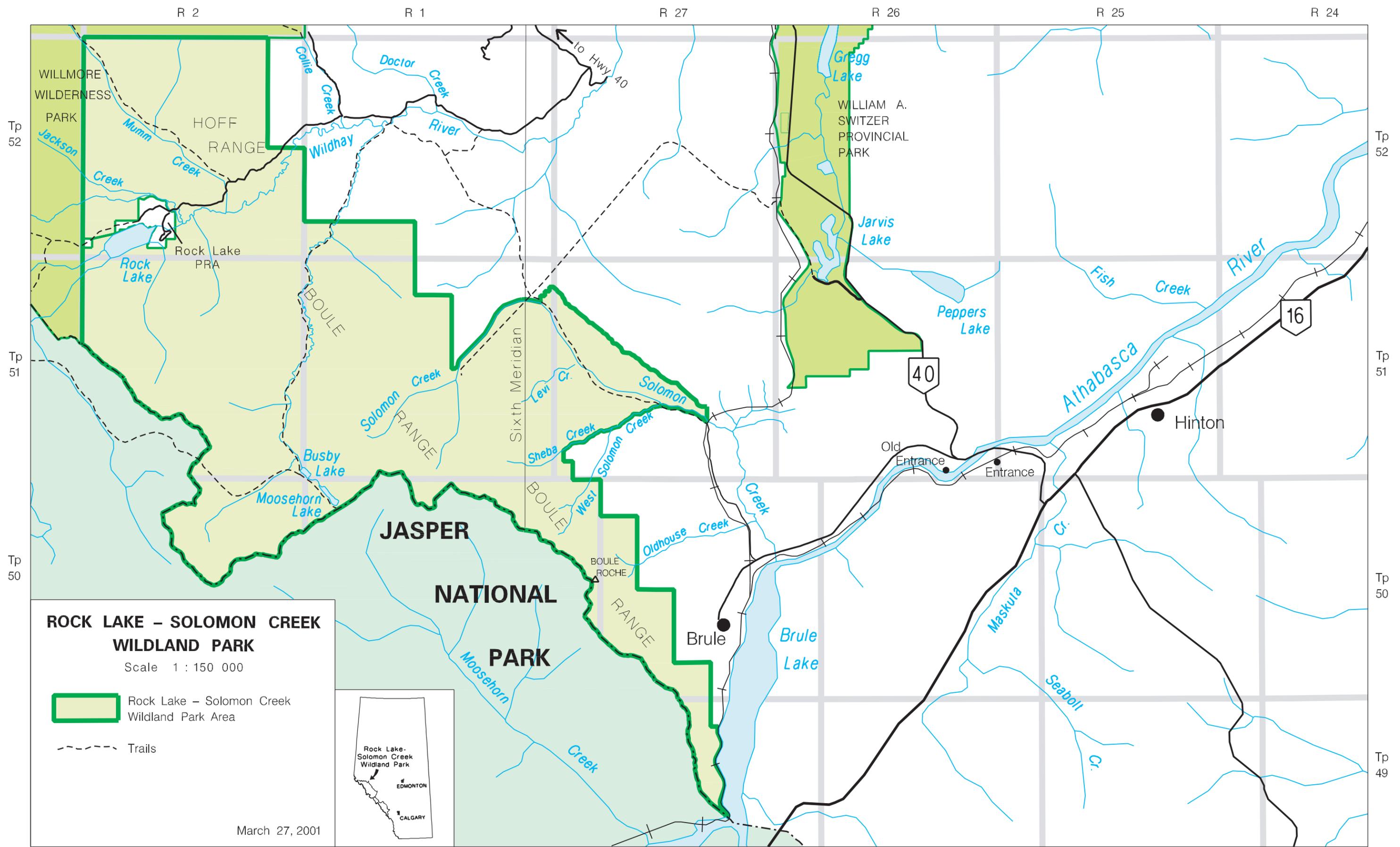
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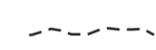
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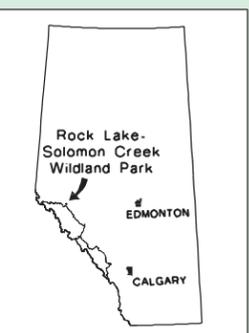


**ROCK LAKE - SOLOMON CREEK
WILDLAND PARK**

Scale 1 : 150 000

 Rock Lake - Solomon Creek
Wildland Park Area

 Trails



March 27, 2001