

Natural Region	Natural Subregion	Area (km2)	% of Province	Mean Elevation (m ASL)	Elevation Range (m)	Physiography	Major Soils	Main Vegetation Type	Wetlands and Water	Land Use
Boreal Forest	Dry Mixedwood	85,321	12.9%	600	200 - 1,225	Undulating plains and hummocky uplands. Mainly morainal with significant lacustrine (Peace Lowlands).	Orthic and Dark Gray Luvisols. Brunisols on sands. Wetlands are Mesisols and Gleysols.	Much of the natural subregion has been cultivated. Aspen forests with shrubby understories, some white spruce, jack pine on dry sites. Peatlands common.	15% (wetlands). 3% (lakes, streams, not including Lesser Slave Lake).	Forestry, oil and gas, coal mining, recreation, grazing, agriculture in southern areas.
	Central Mixedwood	167,856	25.3%	525	200 - 1,050	Undulating plains, some hummocky uplands. Equal proportions of morainal, lacustrine, and fluvial materials.	Orthic Gray Luvisols. Brunisols on sands. Wetlands are mainly Mesisols, some Fibrisols, Gleysols.	Closed-canopy mixedwood, aspen dominant in early seral stages, white spruce increasing with age; jack pine common on sandy sites; black spruce (tamarack stands) common on extensive peatlands.	40% (wetlands, mainly peatlands); 3% (lakes, streams).	Forestry, oil and gas, coal mining, recreation, grazing in southern areas, minor agriculture, subsistence.
	Northern Mixedwood	29,513	4.5%	350	150 - 650	Level to undulating plains. Fine textured morainal and lacustrine materials.	Uplands are Orthic Gray and Gleyed Gray Luvisols. Wetlands are Organic Cryosols and Mesisols; permafrost is common.	Wetland vegetation is characteristic (closed/open black spruce). Upland sites (mainly isolated elevated areas and in fluvial areas) forested by pure or mixed aspen, white spruce and black spruce stands.	70% (wetlands); 3% (lakes, streams).	Forestry, oil and gas, recreation, subsistence.
	Lower Boreal Highlands	55,615	8.4%	675	400 - 1,050	Lower slopes of the Northern Alberta Highlands and undulating to hummocky uplands. Mainly morainal.	Orthic and Gleyed Gray Luvisols. Wetlands are mainly Mesisols with some Gleysols.	Early to mid-seral pure or mixed forests (aspen, balsam poplar, black and white spruce, paper birch). Lodgepole pine - jack pine hybrids are common. Open black spruce peatlands; graminoid marshes and willow/marsh reed grass wetlands.	30% (wetlands, mainly in the Chinchaga area); 1% (lakes, streams).	Forestry, oil and gas, recreation, subsistence.
	Upper Boreal Highlands	11,858	1.8%	825	650 - 1,100	Upper slopes and undulating plateaus of Northern Alberta Highlands. Mainly morainal; seepage is common.	Orthic and Gleyed Gray Luvisols, some Brunisolic Gray Luvisols. Wetlands are mainly Mesisols and Organic Cryosols with some Gleysols.	Coniferous forests are dominant at all seral stages. Lodgepole pine - jack pine hybrids are common pioneers occurring with black spruce. Open black spruce stands on wetlands.	35% wetlands; 1-2% (lakes, streams).	Forestry, oil and gas, recreation, subsistence.
	Boreal Subarctic	11,823	1.8%	825	575 - 1,000	Undulating to rolling plateaus in the Northern Alberta Highlands; mainly morainal.	Uplands are Orthic Gray and Gleyed Gray Luvisols or Brunisols. Wetlands are Organic Cryosols and Mesisols; permafrost is common.	Open, stunted black spruce forests on organic materials are typical. Predominantly lodgepole pine - jack pine hybrids on drier areas. Wetlands are bogs and fens, often influenced by permafrost features.	60% (wetlands); 2% (lakes).	Oil and gas, recreation (fishing).
	Peace-Athabasca Delta	5,535	0.8%	225	200 - 250	Deltaic fluvial and lacustrine deposits; level. Silty and sandy fluvial materials.	Uplands mainly Cumulic Regosols. Wetlands are Gleysols; peatlands are limited.	Aquatic, shoreline, meadow, shrub and marsh vegetation in the lowlands; shrub and forset uplands on terraces, islands and levees. Sedge meadows are characteristic.	20% (wetlands); 40% (shallow lakes and meander channels).	Conservation, recreation, subsistence.
	Athabasca Plain	13,525	2.0%	300	200 - 650	Level to undulating plains with fluvial and eolian deposits; prominent sand dunes in the west. Strongly hummocky and rolling sandy and gravelly ice-contact materials in the east.	Mainly Dystric Brunisols on well drained materials. Wetlands are mainly Mesisols.	Dry jack pine forests are extensive. Dune areas are largely unvegetated; unique communities that stabilize open sand occur. Wetlands are primarily sedge fens.	20% (wetlands); 3% (lakes, streams).	Recreation, subsistence.
Canadian Shield	Kazan Uplands	9,719	1.5%	275	150 - 400	Rolling Precambrian shield, local relief to 90m. Mixture of rock and sandy ice-contact (morainal) materials.	Non-soils (rock); mainly Dystric Brunisols on sands. Wetlands are mainly Mesisols; permafrost occasional.	Mosaic of rock barrens with pocket communities; open jack pine, birch and aspen occur where there is sufficient soil. Wetlands are primarily bogs.	20% (wetlands); 10% (lakes).	Minor mineral extraction; recreation, subsistence.
Foothills	Lower Foothills	44,899	6.8%	950	650 - 1,675	Dissected plateaus, rolling uplands. Morainal with significant fluvial deposits.	Orthic Gray Luvisols, Brunisolic Gray Luvisols. Wetlands are Mesisols and Gleysols.	Mixedwood forests (aspen - lodgepole pine - white spruce).	20% (wetlands in valleys), < 1% (lakes, streams).	Recreation, oil and gas, coal mining, forestry, grazing, some agriculture at low elevations.
	Upper Foothills	21,537	3.3%	1,300	800 - 2,050	Rolling foothills, dissected plateaus, morainal with colluvium on steeper slopes.	Brunisolic Gray Luvisols, Orthic Gray Luvisols. Mesisols and Gleysols in wetlands.	Mainly closed coniferous forests (lodgepole pine, lodgepole pine-black spruce, white spruce).	10% (wetlands in valleys), < 1% (lakes, streams).	Recreation, oil and gas, coal mining, forestry, grazing.
Rocky Mountain	Montane	8,768	1.3%	1,400	825 - 2,150	Valleys and foothills. Morainal with significant fluvial deposits.	Mainly Black to Dark Gray Chernozems; significant occurrences of Brunisols, Luvisols.	Mixed of pure aspen, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, and white spruce forests; grassland.	2% (wetlands), 1% (lakes and streams)	Recreation, forestry, grazing, major transportation corridors
	Subalpine	25,218	3.8%	1,750	1,025 - 3,000	Morainal, residual materials over rolling and inclined bedrock.	Eutric Brunisols.	Mixed conifer (lodgepole pine-Engelmann spruce) forests.	2% (wetlands), 1% (lakes and streams)	Recreation, conservation, forestry, oil & gas, coal mining, minimal grazing
	Alpine	15,084	2.3%	2,350	1,300 - 3,650	Steeply sloping bedrock, colluvium, residual materials, glaciers.	Nonsoils, Regosols, Brunisols.	Largely non-vegetated; herbaceous meadows, shrublands.	Wetlands uncommon; 4% of area as glaciers, snow fields	Conservation, recreation
Parkland	Central Parkland	53,706	8.1%	750	500 - 1,250	Undulating plains, hummocky uplands. Mainly glacial till with lacustrine, fluvial, and eolian deposits.	Mainly Black Chernozems, some Dark Gray Chernozems. Significant Solonetzic soils. Wetlands are Gleysols.	Extensively cultivated. Aspen clones interspersed with grasslands dominated by plains rough fescue; tree cover increases with latitude. Graminoid wetlands.	10% (wetlands, mainly marshes), 2% (lakes, streams)	Oil and gas, agriculture, grazing.
	Foothills Parkland	3,921	0.6%	1,250	1,025 - 1,600	Sloping lower foothills and hummocky uplands. Morainal with significant lacustrine materials in valleys.	Mainly Black Chernozems, some Dark Gray Chernozems. Wetlands are mainly Gleysols.	Aspen forests (continuous and clones). Some areas of dense tall willow (north). Grasslands (mountain rough fescue and Parry's oatgrass) more common on southerly slopes.	4% (wetlands), < 1% (lakes, streams).	Recreation, oil and gas, grazing, agriculture (short-season crops).
	Peace River Parkland	3,120	0.5%	625	300 - 800	Gently undulating plains, south-facing slopes of the Peace River. Lacustrine deposits with colluvium on the slopes.	Dark Gray to Black Chernozems (often Solonetzic) with significant Solonetzic and Luvisolic soils. Slopes are Regosols and Dark Brown Chernozems. Wetlands are mainly Gleysols.	Mostly cultivated. Remnant aspen clones and continuous forest, interspersed with sedge - California oatgrass - porcupine grass. Jack pine on sands. Graminoid wetlands, often ringed by willow.	6% (wetlands), 2% (lakes, streams).	Oil and gas, agriculture.
Grassland	Dry Mixedgrass	46,937	7.1%	800	550 - 1,100	Undulating plains. Mainly morainal with significant lacustrine, fluvial, eolian materials.	Brown Chernozems; significant areas of Brown Solonetz. Wetlands are Gleysols.	Grasslands (blue grama, needle and thread), shrublands in moister locales.	3% (wetlands - marshes or temporary); 2% (lakes, streams).	Oil and gas, grazing, irrigation-based agriculture.
	Mixedgrass	20,072	3.0%	975	650 - 1,450	Undulating plains with some rolling to hummocky areas. Morainal and lacustrine materials.	Dark Brown Chernozems. Wetlands are Gleysols.	Mainly agricultural; native grasslands are needle and thread, porcupine grass, northern and western wheatgrass; buckbrush shrublands.	5% (wetlands, mainly marshes); 1% (lakes, streams).	Oil and gas, grazing, irrigation-based agriculture.
	Northern Fescue	14,933	2.3%	800	650 - 1,100	Undulating plains and hummocky uplands. Mainly morainal with significant lacustrine, fluvial, and eolian materials.	Dark Brown Chernozems, significant areas of Dark Brown Solonetz. Wetlands are Gleysols.	Plains rough fescue (moist), western porcupine grass (drier). Buck-brush and rose shrublands. Graminoid wetlands.	7% (Wetlands, mainly Marshes); 3% (lakes, streams).	Oil and gas, grazing, agriculture.
	Foothills Fescue	13,623	2.1%	1,100	800 - 1,525	Hummocky and rolling to undulating. Mainly morainal, significant lacustrine deposits.	Mainly Black Chernozems. Wetlands are Gleysols.	Mountain rough fescue on moister sites, western wheatgrass on drier sites. Wet areas often shrubby.	3% (wetlands), 1% (lakes, streams).	Recreation, oil and gas, grazing, agriculture (short-season crops).