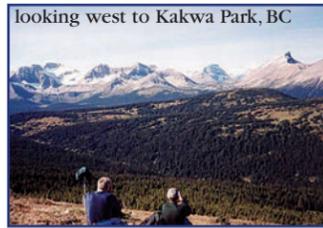


## Summer Recreation

### Trail Riding and Hiking

- About 100 km of trails have been mapped. The trails are not well marked, maintained, or regularly patrolled, so plan your route carefully and be prepared for all conditions in the backcountry. Some trails require fording streams that may be dangerous or impassable at high water levels.
- It is preferred that equestrian users stage outside the park at Lick Creek, as the trail into Kakwa is not suitable for heavy vehicles hauling horse trailers.
- Hiking along mountain ridges is spectacular, but getting to them is difficult. Carry a map and compass or GPS, and be prepared for emergencies.



### Camping

- Dead Horse Meadows is a camping area for trailriders. The site has pit toilets and fire rings. Pack out your garbage.
- Random camping is permitted anywhere in the park with the following exceptions: within one km of Dead Horse Meadows and within 1 km of the Kakwa Falls day use area. This is to disperse impacts from camping.
- Open campfires associated with random camping are allowed. Keep fires small, and use only dead trees.

### Off-Highway Vehicles

- Four-wheel drive vehicles and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are allowed on the trail to Kakwa Falls.
- ATVs are also allowed along the Kakwa River from the east end of the park, as far as Lower Kakwa Falls.

### Day Use

- Day use area near Kakwa Falls has picnic tables, firepits, firewood, and pit toilets. Hike a 1.2 km trail to Kakwa Falls viewpoint. ATVs not allowed on this trail.

### Fishing/Hunting

- The current Alberta Guide to Sport Fishing contains special regulations on closures, catch and release, size restrictions and catch limits on rivers and streams in Kakwa. Bull trout is catch and release only.
- Hunting is permitted in Kakwa Wildland Park. Alberta hunting regulations apply. Carrying and discharge of firearms is only allowed under permit or during open seasons under the *Wildlife Act*.

## Winter Recreation

Snowmobiles are permitted on the trail to Kakwa Falls and on two routes west to B.C. - along the Kakwa River, and on the trail west from Dead Horse Meadows. These trails provide access to snowmobile terrain in B.C. Winter snowmobile camps are allowed in the park in designated areas with a permit. Off-trail snowmobile use is not permitted.

## Be Safe in the Backcountry

- Be prepared for backcountry travel! Travel with others. Bring extra clothing and gear such as food, matches, a first aid kit and an emergency blanket, even for a day trip.
- Be knowledgeable about your route. Keep track of where you are at all times by map and compass or GPS.
- Be cautious when fording streams or rivers. They may be dangerous, particularly at high water levels.
- Be respectful of wildlife you may encounter. Look for signs of bears; make noise to warn them of your presence.
- Be tidy at your campsite. Store food properly at all times. At night or when away from camp, store food and garbage in animal-proof containers, or put into a waterproof sack and hang from a tree out of reach of wildlife.
- Be watchful of your campfire at all times. Make sure it is out and cold to the touch before retiring, and before leaving camp.

## Did you know...

- Kakwa is a Cree word for porcupine.
- About 40% of the park is above treeline.
- BC also has a Kakwa Park, just across the AB/BC boundary.
- Bull trout spawn in the cold mountain streams of Kakwa. You can identify bull trout by the absence of black spots on the dorsal fin. "No black, put it back."
- Woodland caribou spend summers in alpine country, and migrate to lower elevations northeast of the park for winter.
- Woodland caribou are "At Risk" in Alberta.

For more information contact:  
Alberta Community Development  
Parks and Protected Areas  
Grande Prairie, Alberta  
1-780-538-5350

To call toll free from anywhere in Alberta, dial 310-0000 and enter the number.

For information about other protected areas in Alberta, call 780-427-3582 (toll-free 1-866-427-3582) or visit [www.albertaparks.ca](http://www.albertaparks.ca)

To report a fire, call (780) 310-FIRE (3473) collect or dial #FIRE on Telus Mobility

# FACTS ON



# Kakwa Wildland Park

*"Rocky Ridges and Sparkling Waters"*

A remote, rugged park at the northern edge of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta. Forested valleys, swift clear creeks, and mountain ridges. A jewel of a park.

This park is for wilderness travellers. Get to Kakwa Falls by 4-wheel drive vehicle in summer or snowmobile in winter. Travel anywhere else in the park by foot or on horseback.

## Purpose of Park

To represent the Rocky Mountain Natural Region of Alberta.

## Park Establishment

- 1970s Wild Kakwa Society lobbied for protection of Kakwa area
- 1984 Forest Land Use Zone
- 1996 Wildland Park

## Location/Access

The park is 160 km southwest of Grande Prairie in the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. For travel beyond Lick Creek a 4-wheel drive vehicle is essential.

- Km 0 Grande Prairie. Take Highway 40 south, Secondary Highway 666 west.
- Km 11 Grovedale. Road is paved about 16 km beyond Grovedale, from there it is a maintained gravel road heavily used by industry.
- Km 138 Two Lakes Provincial Recreation Area. Formal camping areas, in summer conservation officer on duty.
- Km 149 Lick Creek. Only 4-wheel drive vehicles are suitable on unmaintained trail from here to Kakwa Falls. Trail includes creek crossings and wet areas.
- Km 160 Boundary of Kakwa Wildland Park
- Km 164 Dead Horse Meadows
- Km 168 Kakwa day use area and Kakwa Falls.

You can also get into the park using horse trails from Willmore Wilderness or trails from Kakwa Park, BC.

## Significant Features

Peaks include Mount May and Kakwa and La Creche Mountains. Sulphur Ridge and Coal Ridge form north boundary. There are many more unnamed mountains and ridges in the park.

Spectacular Kakwa Falls on Kakwa River is a 30 meter drop. Further east is Lower Kakwa



Falls. Francis Peak Creek Falls has a natural bridge over it.

Several emerald-colored kettle lakes are examples of glacial outwash.

The lower valleys are forested with lodgepole pine. Subalpine fir occurs in higher sites. Englemann spruce over 300 years old grow in some high southern valleys. Large stands of krummholz (stunted subalpine fir growing at treeline) occur around La Creche Mountain.

At least 450 vascular plant species grow in the park - 30 are considered rare in Alberta, 28 are at the extreme edge of their range.

The park is home to mountain goat, wolves, bighorn sheep, woodland caribou, moose, elk, mule deer, grizzly and black bear.

## Cultural History

Native families from the Jasper area were the first to live and trap in the Kakwa and Two Lakes area. Trappers and outfitters from around Grande Prairie discovered its attractions in the 1930s. Since then, the Kakwa /Two Lakes area has been used by trappers, outfitters and recreationists, mostly from the Peace Country, who appreciate its wilderness character.

A folk history project, capturing the memories of those who know the area well, was completed in 2002. Listen to audio tapes of recollections, stories and informal history of the area at the Grande Prairie Museum.

continued on back page

March 2003

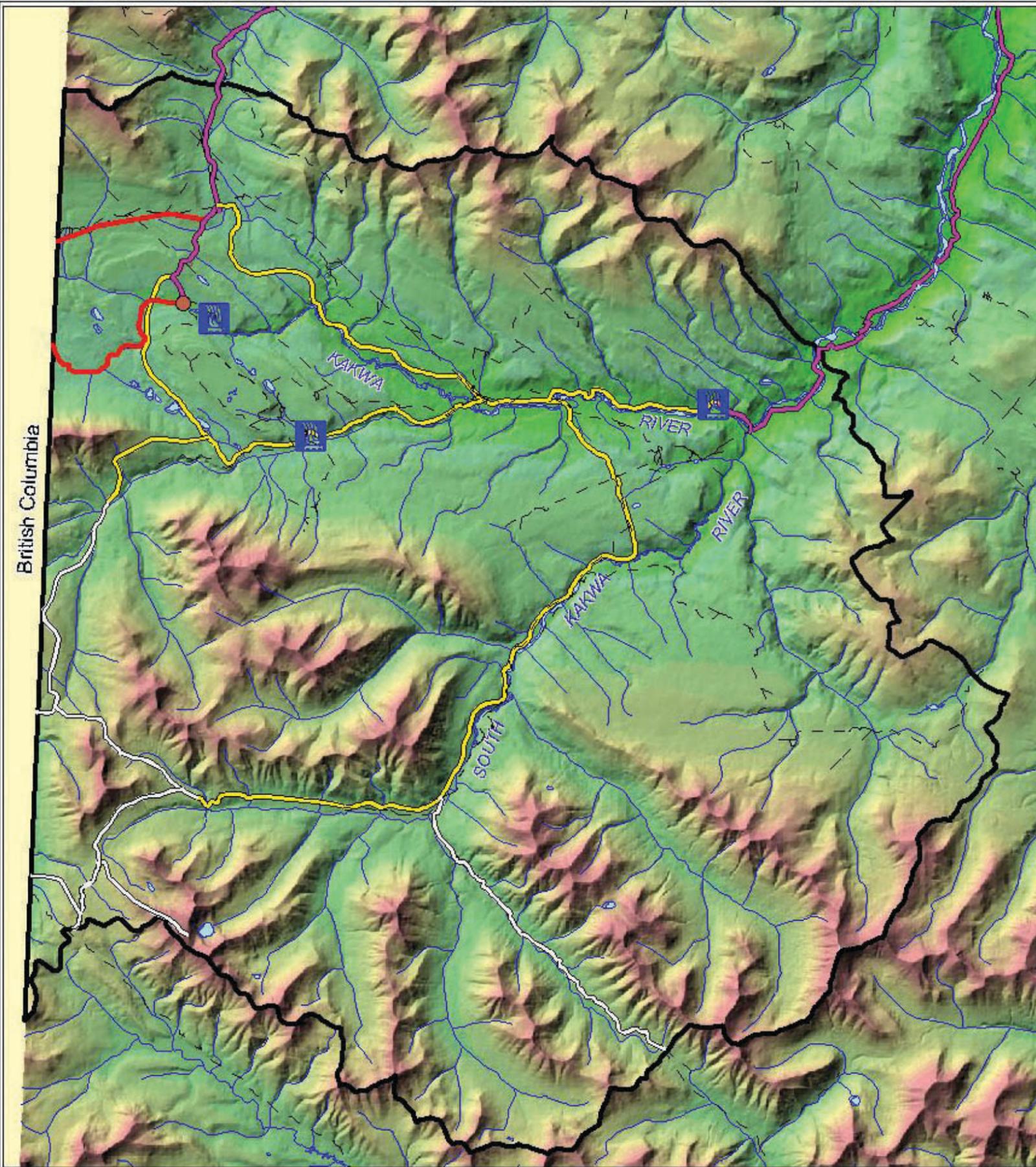
ISBN 0-7785-2222-9



Pub No. I/877

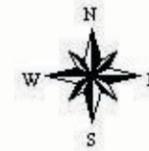


Parks and Protected Areas

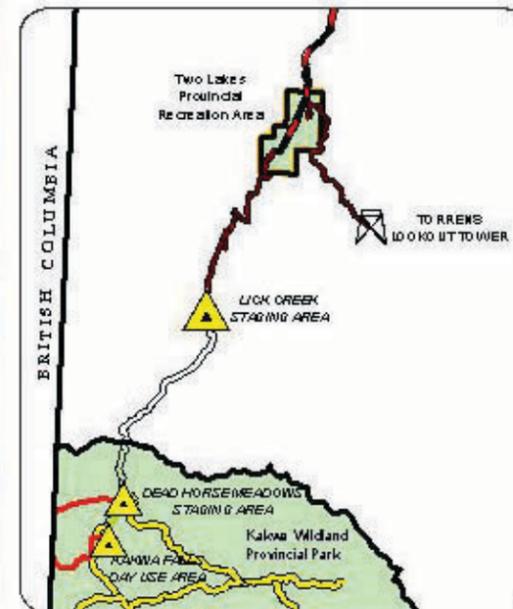


# Kakwa Wildland Park

0 2 4 6 Kilometers



-  Day Use Area
-  Falls
-  Horse Trails
-  Seismic
-  Snowmobile
-  Truck Trail
-  Trail

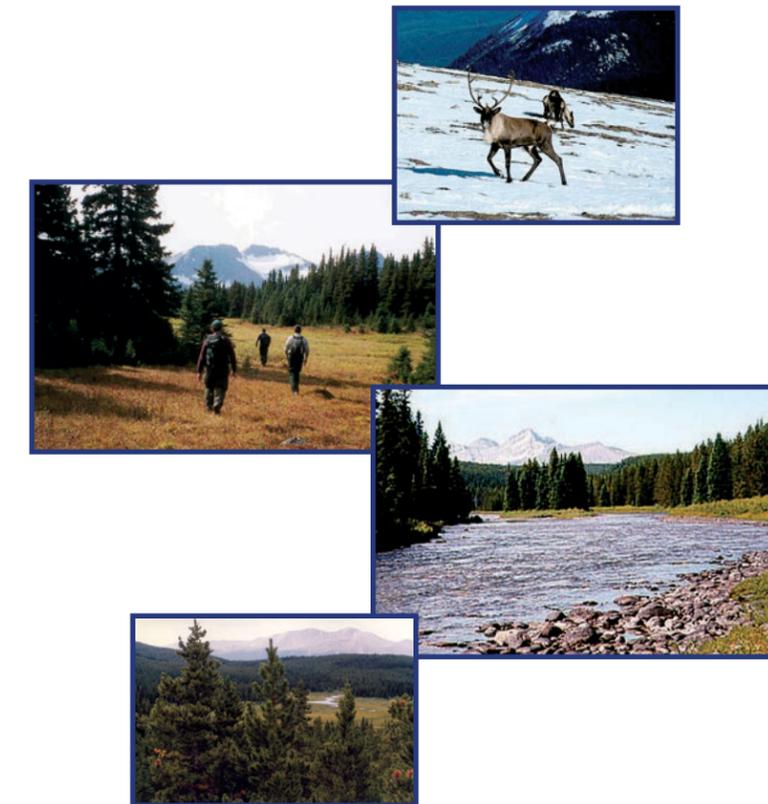


Produced by the Resource Information Unit  
ASRD - NW Region

© Government of Alberta 2003. All rights reserved.  
Base Data provided by Spatial Data Warehouse Ltd.



*“Rocky Ridges and Sparkling Waters”*



**Keep Kakwa Wild**