

Tripoli Ridge

forms the mountain backbone of the park, connecting Cardinal Divide to Whitehorse Creek. The ridge includes Tripoli, Cheviot and Prospect mountains and their upper eastern slopes above tree line.



Upper Whitehorse Valley

The **Cardinal River Headwaters** is an open tundra valley between the western slopes of Tripoli Ridge and Jasper National Park. The upper headwaters beyond the falls are located in the park.

Recreational Activities

A number of low-impact recreational activities can be pursued in the park including hiking, nature study, horseback riding, backcountry camping, hunting and fishing. Mountain biking is permitted on Upper Whitehorse Creek trail only; other areas in the park are either

unsuitable or too fragile for mountain biking.

Whitehorse Creek Provincial Recreation Area, located 38 kilometres southwest of Robb on the park's eastern boundary,

provides basic camping facilities as well as corrals, hitching rails and loading ramps for equestrian users.

Bear safety

- Make plenty of noise when approaching blind corners, dense shrubs and streams, and when moving into the wind.
- It is best to leave your pet at home; however, if you do travel with a pet, keep it on a leash at all times (loose dogs can attract and irritate bears).
- Always keep your group together.
- If you see signs of bear activity (i.e. fresh diggings along trails, bear scat, claw marks on trees), go back the way you came.
- Never store food or toiletries (toothpaste, soap, deodorant, etc.) in your tent.
- Ensure that your cooking area is well separated from your sleeping area to prevent food odour contamination; **never sleep in the clothes you wear when you cook.** Cooking and food storage areas should be at least 100 metres away from your tent to decrease the chances of you being in the way should a bear decide to check out your food supply.
- Seal your garbage in plastic bags; never burn or bury food scraps; always pack out your garbage.
- If possible, hang your food, garbage and equipment high in a tree to discourage bears from investigating them.

- Keep young children close at hand, especially at night, dusk and dawn.
- At night, use a flashlight and move cautiously in and around your campsite.

Cheviot Creek Coal Mine

Elk Valley Coal, Cardinal River Operations is actively mining the Cheviot creek mine site resulting in public access closures in the area east of Whitehorse Wildland park. Access availability may change over the course of mining operations. For more information, call Elk Valley Coal at 1-866-306-9886 or visit their web site at www.elkvalleycoal.ca.

If you plan to go into Jasper National Park from Whitehorse Wildland Park, please be aware that different regulations and restrictions apply and that national park wilderness passes must be purchased for overnight stays in the backcountry. For more information about Jasper National Park call 780-852-6177, email them at jnp_info@pch.gc.ca, or visit their website at www.parkscanada.gc.ca/jasper.

For more information contact:

Alberta Community Development
Parks & Protected Areas
Edson District Office
107 Provincial Building
111-54 Street
Edson, AB T7E 1T2
Phone 780-723-8554

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 our web site at www.albertaparks.ca

To obtain a copy of the Whitehorse Wildland Park management plan (or other protected area management plans), visit the Parks & Protected Areas web site at www.cd.gov.ab.ca/parks/managing, or call 780-427-3582.

Revised: August 2005

ISBN 7785-0639-8



FACTS ON



Whitehorse Wildland Park

Alberta's wildland parks preserve and protect natural landscapes and ecological processes; they also provide opportunities for low-impact backcountry recreation. In some wildland parks, trails and primitive backcountry campsites are provided to minimize visitor impacts on natural heritage values.

Whitehorse Wildland Park, established in August 1998, is 60 kilometres south of Hinton. The park is approximately 175 square kilometres in size.

Site Description and Location

Whitehorse Wildland Park is located in the northern front ranges of the Rocky Mountains in the Rocky Mountain Natural Region. It shares a portion of its west boundary with Jasper National Park and its east boundary with the Cheviot coal mine.

There are many striking geological features and ground patterns within the park. The majority of the park is located above tree line and its extensive alpine meadows and sub-alpine slopes are home to numerous plant species. More than 277 species of plants have been documented in the park, including 37 that are considered rare or that have unusual distribution. At lower elevations there are forests of lodgepole pine, Englemann spruce and sub-alpine fir. At higher elevations, alpine meadows contain a variety of hardy plant species such as willow shrubs, lichen and small alpine wildflowers. These plants survive in an extremely harsh environment and can take centuries to recover from human disturbance.

Wildlife species in the park include elk, moose, mule deer, bighorn sheep, grizzly bear, wolves, cougar, hoary marmot and pika. The park is particularly important for conservation of the grizzly bears that traverse the mountain ranges between Whitehorse and Jasper National Park. Whitehorse Wildland Park is also home to several varieties of high-mountain birds. Studies in the region have recorded 128 bird species. Of these, 70 species breed in the area and 28 are permanent residents. Some of the species found in the alpine and sub-alpine areas of the park are mountain bluebird, horned lark, American dipper,



photo credit Alison Dinwoodie

Townsend's solitaire, varied thrush, Townsend's warbler, golden-crowned sparrow and American pipit.

Significant Features

The **Whitehorse Creek valley** is prime habitat for a variety of carnivores and ungulates such as grizzly bear and bighorn sheep. It is also breeding habitat for harlequin ducks, whose range in Alberta is restricted to the Rocky Mountain Natural Region. **Fiddle Pass**



Fiddle Pass Meadow; Photo Credit: Larry Chapman

provides one of the few east-west corridors in the region that penetrate the mountain barrier through to Jasper National Park.

Upper Whitehorse Creek Falls, where water cascades down a steep rock wall, is a stunning sight.

Cadomin Cave, located within the park just southwest of the Town of Cadomin, is a limestone cave that scientists believe began forming many millions of years ago. The cave provides important habitat for bats and is one of four known bat hibernacula (over-wintering residences) in Alberta. To protect the bats from potentially lethal disturbances, Cadomin Cave is closed each year from September 1 until April 30; the cave is also closed from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. during the month of August. There are significant risks associated with caving, so cave visitors must be knowledgeable about cave safety and be properly equipped for cave exploration.

There are spectacular mountain views from the top of **Cardinal Divide**, a wide ridge that separates two major watersheds. To the north, the Athabasca River system (which includes the McLeod River) drains into the Arctic Ocean, while to the south, the North Saskatchewan River system (which includes the Cardinal River) drains into Hudson Bay. The viewpoint at the top of Grave Flats road (a rough but auto-accessible road) provides a magnificent panoramic view of the Rocky Mountains. There are trails to the east and west of the parking lot; however, because the alpine soil is extremely sensitive to erosion, only foot travel is permitted to minimize human disturbance of the area.

continued on back page

Note: Fiddle Pass is also known as Miette Pass and Whitehorse Pass.
 Rocky Pass is also known as Cardinal Pass. Grave Flats Road is also known as Cardinal River Road.

Whitehorse Wildland Park

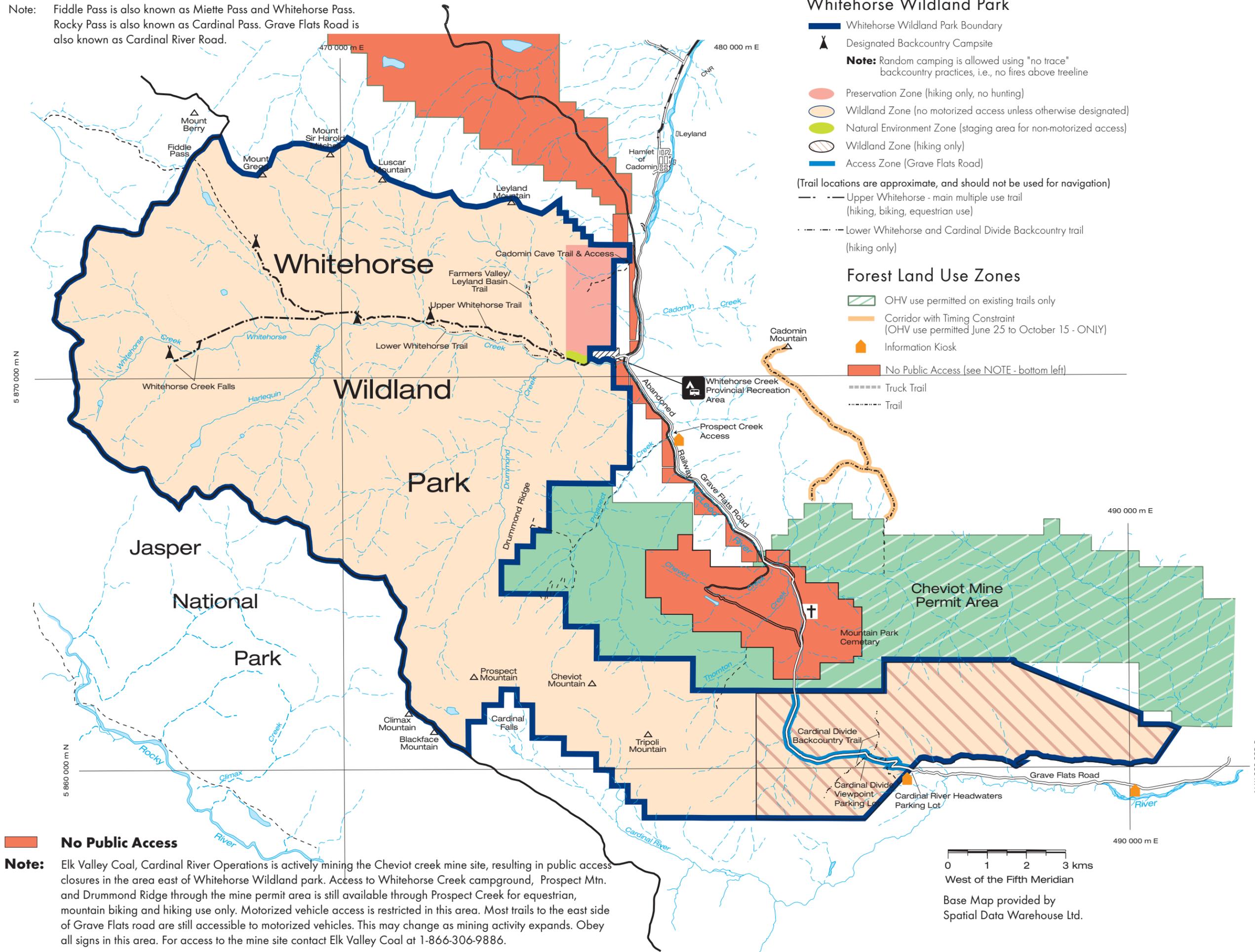
-  Whitehorse Wildland Park Boundary
-  Designated Backcountry Campsite
- Note:** Random camping is allowed using "no trace" backcountry practices, i.e., no fires above treeline
-  Preservation Zone (hiking only, no hunting)
-  Wildland Zone (no motorized access unless otherwise designated)
-  Natural Environment Zone (staging area for non-motorized access)
-  Wildland Zone (hiking only)
-  Access Zone (Grave Flats Road)

(Trail locations are approximate, and should not be used for navigation)

-  Upper Whitehorse - main multiple use trail (hiking, biking, equestrian use)
-  Lower Whitehorse and Cardinal Divide Backcountry trail (hiking only)

Forest Land Use Zones

-  OHV use permitted on existing trails only
-  Corridor with Timing Constraint (OHV use permitted June 25 to October 15 - ONLY)
-  Information Kiosk
-  No Public Access (see NOTE - bottom left)
-  Truck Trail
-  Trail



When visiting Whitehorse Wildland Park:

- Protect vegetation from trampling; stay on trails whenever possible; do not build cairns or remove stones that protect small plants.
- 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 on day trips).
- Be informed; obtain maps of the area you plan to travel through; know how to use a compass so that you can keep track of your whereabouts at all times.
- Familiarize yourself with regulations pertinent to the area.
- Practise "no-trace" camping.
- It is recommended that all backcountry travellers use camp stoves; they are lightweight, compact and efficient; camp stoves are more convenient than wood fires and they leave no scars in the backcountry. If a camp stove becomes inoperative or an emergency necessitates the use of a wood fire, use existing fire pits or learn how to properly construct a fire pit; use only dead wood lying on the ground (**trees in the sub-alpine zone grow very slowly and should never be used for campfires**); make sure your fire is out and cold to the touch before retiring for the night and before leaving camp. **NEVER LEAVE YOUR CAMPFIRE UNATTENDED.**
- For horses, supplemental feed such as hay, grain pellets and alfalfa cubes can be used to prevent over-grazing. Supplemental feeds should be stored in sealed containers to prevent tampering by wildlife. Please note that using hay as a supplemental feed has the potential to introduce noxious weeds into the backcountry; therefore grain and/or alfalfa pellets are recommended. **Remember - take only memories; leave only footprints.**

No Public Access

Note: Elk Valley Coal, Cardinal River Operations is actively mining the Cheviot creek mine site, resulting in public access closures in the area east of Whitehorse Wildland park. Access to Whitehorse Creek campground, Prospect Mtn. and Drummond Ridge through the mine permit area is still available through Prospect Creek for equestrian, mountain biking and hiking use only. Motorized vehicle access is restricted in this area. Most trails to the east side of Grave Flats road are still accessible to motorized vehicles. This may change as mining activity expands. Obey all signs in this area. For access to the mine site contact Elk Valley Coal at 1-866-306-9886.



Base Map provided by Spatial Data Warehouse Ltd.