

Proposal for a land exchange between Bow Valley Wildland Provincial Park and Silvertip Golf Course

What is being proposed?

The Alberta Government is proposing a land exchange between Bow Valley Wildland Provincial Park and Stone Creek Properties (Silvertip Golf Course) within the town of Canmore.

The Alberta Parks Division requires a small portion of land (0.135 hectares) from Silvertip Golf Course to protect an important wildlife corridor along a park trail. In return, Silvertip Golf Course has requested a small portion of land (0.045 hectares) from the wildland provincial park to be able to reroute a golf cart path for public safety reasons.

The proposed land exchange is considered to be mutually beneficial to Bow Valley Wildland Provincial Park, Silvertip Golf Course, as well as park visitors and golfers.

Background to Proposed Land Exchange

In 2004, 162 hectares of land was added to the park adjacent to the west side of Silvertip Golf Course. This land had previously been held as an option for development by Stone Creek Properties, who relinquished the option, allowing the lands to be added to the park.

Following the inclusion of the lands, Silvertip Golf Course requested to reroute a golf cart path several meters inside the park to increase public safety on Hole 10. However, as the land was now included in the park, it was not possible under legislation to allow any new development within the Wildland Provincial Park. To permit this to occur, the land would have to be legally removed from the park.

In 2005, the Alberta Parks Division rerouted a hiking / biking trail adjacent to the east side of the Silvertip Golf Course in order to better protect an important wildlife movement corridor in the area. To achieve a suitable alignment for the new trail, a short section of the trail was developed on a small parcel of Silvertip Golf Course lands.

The proposed land exchange will result in no net loss to the size of the park or its natural values.

Bow Valley Wildland Provincial Park Background

Bow Valley Wildland Provincial Park, located in central Kananaskis Country in western Alberta, stretches throughout the Bow Valley adjacent to Highway 1. The park preserves and protects 34,446 hectares of alpine, sub-alpine, and montane environments.

The site was established as a Wildland Provincial Park in 1998 under the *Provincial Parks Act* with the intent to preserve and protect natural heritage and provide opportunities for backcountry recreation.

The park was expanded in 2001 to include the Bow Flats and Yamnuska Natural Areas, which added approximately 2900 hectares of land. In 2004, a boundary amendment was completed which added 162 hectares of land to the park adjacent to the west side of Silvertip Golf Course.

Recreational Values

Bow Valley Wildland Provincial Park accommodates widespread use from the local community as well as tourists from around the world. The park provides scenic and accessible backcountry recreation opportunities including hiking, rock climbing, mountain biking, fishing, and equestrian



and hunting opportunities. The trail associated with the land exchange is modestly used as part of a broader network of recreation trails and pathways throughout the Bow Valley.

Natural Values

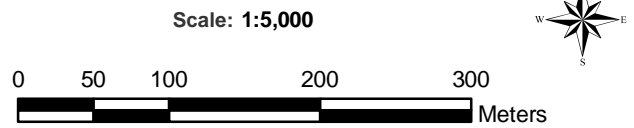
The park contains diverse landforms characteristic of the Rocky Mountain Natural Region. These include high ridges and cliffs alternating with shale slopes or colluvial material on lower slopes, interspersed with glaciated valleys and active river floodplains. As well, several unique and important geological features are present such as major thrust faults and fossil beds. It also protects the historic site of Georgetown and several significant archaeological sites.

Bow Valley Wildland Provincial Park contains areas of important fish and wildlife habitat and several rare plant and animal species in the area, including the yellow lady's slipper orchid. It contains a regional wildlife movement corridor for wolves, cougars, bears, and elk that move between and through Banff National Park, Kananaskis Country, and the Town of Canmore.



Stone Creek / Bow Valley Wildland Park Amendments

Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation
 Canmore: November 3, 2009.
 File Ref: 4_StoneCreek_BVWPP_20091103.mxd



- Proposed boundary amendment
- Park boundary