

WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

BOW VALLEY NATURALISTS
BOX 1693, BANFF, ALBERTA, T1L 1B6

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BVN's 2016 evening speaker series runs on the 4th Tuesday of February, March, April, October and November. Admission is free. Donations at the door. See our [upcoming program schedule](#) and other event information below.

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What do Pikas climate change and municipalities have in common? Join us to find out Tuesday February 23, 7:30 at the Banff Senior Centre!

LET THEM KNOW YOUR MIND...

[Contact information](#) for letting politicians, governments and land managers know what you're thinking. Give credit where credit is due and otherwise good, better, best, never let 'em rest – they work for you

1967 - 2016

Ecosystem Protection And Education

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23: RESPONDING NATURALLY - How Will Alberta Communities and Species Adapt to Climate Change?

A changing climate regime will have significant implications for the species that rely on Alberta's natural systems - both human and wild! Dr. Christopher Shank and Guy Greenaway participated in the Biodiversity Management and Climate Change Adaptation project intended to develop knowledge and tools to support the management of Alberta's biodiversity in a changing climate. On Tuesday February 23rd Chris and Guy will briefly summarize the results of the project, with special reference to potential effects of climate change on species, especially Pikas, and development of Adapt-Action, a tool for municipalities to understand the local implications of climate change, and respond using ecosystem-based approaches. Program starts at 7:30 pm in the Banff Seniors Centre. Admission free to all.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22 at 7:30 pm in the Banff Seniors Centre: Award winning nature and science writer Candace Savage will be travelling to Banff from Saskatoon to do a talk about her most recent book - [A Geography of Blood: Unearthing Memory from a Prairie Landscape](#) which won the 2012 Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26TH: Alex Taylor will share his photographs and stories about his trip to Signy Island in Antarctica this winter.

ALBERTA ECOTRUST'S First Annual Environmental Gathering: Change the Climate. Feb. 25 – 27

This conference in Calgary will bring together as many environmental and sustainability organizations as possible to meet and engage about a series of climate change topics. The conference is intended to attract people who work to protect environment in many ways, recognizing that healthy environments and environmental practices promote climate health, as well.

Looking for other interesting events? Check out the [Alberta Environmental Network's](#) and [Alberta wilderness Association's](#) event lists.

BOW VALLEY NATURALISTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS FEBRUARY 23, 2016

Our AGM, is held in February every year. This year we are hoping to attract a few new folks to run for the Board positions and to recruit a few volunteers to assist with some of BVN's on-going work. The intent is to share the load and help everyone to do a good job while bringing fresh ideas and energy to the mix. BVN is a collaborative endeavour and offers opportunity for people to share their skills while working on interesting tasks with a team of like-minded folks.

NEWS AND ISSUES

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOW VALLEY NATURALISTS

Bow Valley Naturalists has been growing as an organization ever since its inception in 1967. The Board of Directors would like to find an achievable way to celebrate our history, perhaps even tell our history, and to share our hopes as a way of celebrating our persistence and longevity. We have a list of ideas, are open to others, and would like to strike a sub-committee of interested members to strategize and establish how we might make this happen. If you are at all interested, perhaps just a bit curious to learn more before making a commitment, please share you contact data with us at the Annual General Meeting on February 23, 2016.

SOME RAMBLINGS ABOUT THE CURRENT STATE OF BOW VALLEY NATURALISTS

Colleen Campbell

BVN is an amazing organization, with support in many quarters. Mike and Diane McIvor led us for many years, kept brilliant records (which, thanks to Diane's impeccable organizational strategies, are now all accessible through the archival collection at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies) and left the organization in excellent condition.

The transition has been busy and productive:

- Recently, the website has been renewed. And now that the new platform is working, we can add and modify content and keep members up to date. If you have ideas that relate to the website, please find a way to share them with the Board.
- Heather Dempsey has been posting all the updates on the website and notifying our members.
- Local papers continue to accept our press releases for publication and members of the press, local and regional, usually attend and write about our presentations, often interviewing our presenters to expand their stories with more content.
- New people have joined the roster of folks involved with the Christmas Bird Count. Thank you Ethan Denton and his dad Neil for looking after the Canmore area, Heather for coordinating the Banff area and writing up the reports, and to new volunteers looking after the evening potluck and recording session.
- The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program has continued with many early morning field sessions each spring and summer. This program is supervised by Cyndi Smith and supported by dedicated volunteers coordinated by Peter Duck.
- Others have come together to analyze various development proposals and write and submit thoughtful analyses to insure that we do all we can to protect regional ecological systems, minute to grand scale.
- Our High Elevation Localized Species (HELs) website is being used by researchers and more people are recording their sightings of HELs species every year. It is terrific that researchers are finding the data useful showing the value of citizen science.
- Participation in a monthly environmental NGO telephone meeting is usually maintained by Reg Bunyan. The discussions help all the NGOs learn from each other and keep up to date about regional questions and concerns.
- Our speakers have all been generous with their energy before, during and after our meetings.
- Attendance at monthly meetings is predictably upwards of 70 individuals, many of whom remain to ask a few more questions of the speaker while equipment is packed up. The involvement suggests that we are "on the mark" with our continued dedication to education about the environment. The audience includes many faithful members and we always note new faces among the attendees. Folks regularly arrive in time to help arrange chairs and set up the room and help to collect and store all the chairs and tables after the presentations.
- We have a positive financial balance.
- In addition to the Board members who are all volunteers, Stefani Gignac is designing our spiffy new posters and Leanne Allison is coordinating our programming, finding stellar speakers and writing the press releases.
- The team is amazing - sharing energy, talent to benefit the work of BVN.
- Our wonderful BVN Newsletter, ably produced by Peter Duck with contributions from several others, continues to appear three times a year.
- Our annual membership is still \$5.00. This means that, occasionally, you will receive e-mail notices about relevant events, you will receive a PDF version of the Newsletter in advance of being posted on the website, and that we maintain our program of six public presentations each year. We have made a small change, to accept membership applications/payment only during the January - April meetings.

While maintaining and expanding each of the above, there are other things yet to achieve — to aspire to, to solve, to encourage, and invoke. Some of these goals and ideas are ideal for volunteer help:

- Some energetic people to help with strategies for the 50th Anniversary of Bow Valley Naturalists (2017). This is a priority.
- It would be good to involve some younger folks in the work of Bow Valley Naturalists. Ideas are welcome.
- We would benefit with more volunteers to help with the some of the ongoing “work” and to help with occasional short projects. Volunteers bring fresh ideas and energy and it is good for everyone. Volunteer help also relieves the Board to write letters, keep the books balanced, field press calls, collaborate with other NGOs, attend other meetings and occasionally attend a conference.
- When time and energy permit, BVN may investigate and develop other possible citizen science projects.
- We want to design and produce a flexible desktop display about BVN to use at meetings, events such as Earth Day, Parks Day, local conferences and other gatherings.
- For mutual benefit we will continue to develop our collaboration with other regional organizations with similar goals.
- We want to encourage occasional articles for the Newsletter from our membership and from others.

You are encouraged to get involved – with a small idea, help on a single day, a grand scheme. Members of the Board are each interested to hear from you. Drop us a note, Info@BowValleyNaturalists.org, if you want to chip in and help us do more!

WINTER HABITAT FOR WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN *Mike Mclvor*

Everybody in BVN knows about the long-standing Banff-Canmore Christmas Bird Count and many people participate in it. Some members though, may not be aware that for 30 years BVN also conducted the Bow Summit Christmas Bird Count. It began in 1975 and continued until 2007 with 3 years along the way when it wasn't done because of terrible road conditions on the Icefields Parkway. The centre of the count circle was at the south end of Bow Lake and encompassed an area that reached from south of Hector Lake to just north of Bow Pass.



Roadside Ptarmigan near Bow Lake. *Diane Mclvor Photo*

The person who initiated the count (the Mclvors took over as compilers in 1978) was Dr. Geoff Holroyd of the Canadian Wildlife Service who spent some years in the Bow Valley at that time as lead biologist for the Wildlife Inventory for the Ecological (Biophysical) Land Classification of Banff and Jasper National Parks. He always emphasized that there was a “signature species” for the Bow Summit Count and that was the White-tailed Ptarmigan. And every year, no matter how busy we were checking other parts of the circle for other species, we always paid special attention to the willow habitat in the vicinity of Bow Lake hoping to see some ptarmigan. Some years we didn't see any and some years we reported the highest number for any count in North America, keeping in mind that because of its very limited distribution the vast majority of areas where counts are held do not include any habitat for this species.

No doubt, its limited distribution is a central factor in it becoming a very desirable species for birders hoping to add it to their lists and photographers wanting images for their portfolios. Beginning several years ago we noticed an increasing amount of snowshoe activity through the willows in the vicinity of Bow Lake. And this was not random travel; the activity was concentrated in places where ptarmigan tracks were obvious as people tramped around hoping to see the birds. Unfortunately, what ptarmigan need more than anything in the winter is access to willows, their primary winter food, and deep, soft snow where, since they are equipped with their own version of snowshoes, they are completely at home moving around and are able to burrow under the surface for shelter. That critical winter habitat can be seriously degraded when the snow is compacted by people on snowshoes.

We brought this problem to the attention of Parks Canada back when we became aware of it but no action was taken to protect the site. In fact, Parks Canada continued to promote it as “Recommended” for snowshoeing.

However, more recently we have raised it again as a matter deserving attention and this time Parks Canada has begun taking some positive steps to deal with it. Using their social media avenue they will discourage snowshoeing in the willows and the site no longer is listed on the Trail Report on the Parks Canada website. In addition, some signs are being prepared for the Bow Lake parking lot to explain the issue and encourage respectful behaviour. The area will be monitored for the rest of this winter and if it appears that some people are not complying, the option to institute a legal closure next winter is available. (It should be noted that none of this is intended to curtail skiing access to slopes on either side of the Parkway north of the crucial willow area.)

We encourage anyone who is up that way in the winter to watch for White-tailed Ptarmigan. It may take more patience than wandering through the willows but it is not unusual to see these birds from the road and that can be accomplished without disturbing them or their habitat. They are a beautiful sight in their winter home.

BIG BROWN BINS *Colleen Campbell*

Last autumn, one of our presenters commented that we are doing well on many “fronts” in the Bow Valley. Our diligent and science-based work to protect effective wildlife corridors and our general garbage management were both cited. We live in bear country and that is the biggest reason why we have big brown neighbourhood bins to collect garbage — for nearly 30 years in Banff National Park and 20 years in Canmore.

It took more than a decade for Parks Canada to respond to season’s end reports about bears, every single one suggesting we needed better methods of garbage control to reduce attractions to wildlife near human-use facilities. Finally, in the 1980s, large bins were deployed. The hatches can only be opened with a twist of the wrist and fingers poked into a slot to release the catch. Though deft of paw, bears cannot perform the physical manoeuvre of opening the hatch and other wildlife are even more challenged than bears to break into the cache of goodies inside.

In Canmore, the pressure for change came from local citizens, many of whom patrolled the streets and stuck 4” square “Bear Bins, not Bear Bait” decals on garbage cans left out too early for pickup. Finally, Canmore overcame the resistance to start-up costs and a bit of anxiety about site-selection and installed the “big brown bins” as well. During the past few years some of the big brown bins have been paired with big blue ones, to collect neighbourhood recycling.

Bears are not the only creatures to be attracted by our smelly trash; coyotes, pine martens, squirrels, rats and raccoons, skunks and mice, many species of birds and occasionally a cougar find our garbage interesting and palatable. The big bins are not a complete solution to garbage collection and recycling, however, when properly used and maintained, they significantly diminish attractions for wildlife.

That is part of it — the bins must be used as intended. They are containers. The trash needs to be inside the bins, not on top, not beside, not sticking out of the hatch because the bin is over-full. They are most effective when we maintain informed communities. We need to remind ourselves why we have them and we should help newcomers and visitors to understand the “why and how” of the big bins. The big bins, both brown and blue, make it easy to keep our neighbourhoods, picnic areas and campgrounds relatively free of wildlife seeking food. There are small brown and blue bins, too, on downtown sidewalks, at entries to buildings, at ball parks and in some of the off-leash areas for the small bits of garbage that are generated in those areas. Can we encourage other places to use big bins to diminish attractions for wildlife in their human-use areas?

Wolves were recently spotted exploring human-based trash near an open construction bin at Johnston Canyon. Whether they were food-rewarded or not is important - and the situation highlights the importance of our wildlife proof bins and of using them correctly.



1980s Canmore Bear Bin Campaign Sticker

PLANNING FORUM REGRETS

Bow Valley Naturalists (BVN) and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) have chosen to not participate in this year's annual Banff planning forum. We came to this decision because of serious concerns about the commercial development threats to Banff, and the lack of focus on these threats in public engagement processes like the Banff Forum. Over the past few years we have observed that the planning forum has changed significantly so that it now has an inadequate focus on the Park's conservation mandate, and has shifted to a predominant focus on visitation, visitor experience and tourism. In a letter to Superintendents McDonough and Kwong we offered to work with them to ensure that future public planning events reflect the legislative requirement that national parks are to be managed with ecological integrity as the first management priority. This planning should include public reporting on and discussing the results of science and monitoring programs. In addition, we indicated the planning forum should have a balanced representation of interests, including from the environment and conservation community, to enable a fruitful discussion that reflects Parks Canada's ecological integrity mandate.

The public part of the planning forum lasts for an entire two hours from 7 to 9 pm February 11th in Harkin Hall at the Banff Administration Building. The session includes a year-in-review presentation followed by a question and answer period.

OF WILD THINGS

2015 BANFF-CANMORE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Compilers Heather Dempsey (Banff) and Ethan Denton (Canmore).

On December 19, 2015 over 70 participants were out between Banff and Canmore. Everyone I talked to had an enjoyable day with mild temperatures and mild to moderate winds, often the bane of past counts. Fifty different species were confirmed. Our long term average is 43 species. The number of individual birds counted was 4581 which is close to double the number seen last year and higher than many counts in the past 2 decades.

New species for our area's count: 1 Sora at the Cave & Basin Marsh.

Overall very few ducks. 257 Mallards were counted in Canmore, only 2 seen in Banff. This is more than twice as many seen in the last couple of years on the count but pales beside the counts of the 1990s when we topped over 1400 of them in 1994. No Common Goldeneyes were seen the day of the count, although 12 were seen at Lake Minnewanka earlier in the week. Although there is a lot of open water, the lack of Goldeneye on the Bow River is attributed to Banff's improved sewage treatment over the decades.

A couple of Bald Eagles were overhead during the day which is usually expected. Three Merlin were sighted in Canmore. Merlin, which are small falcons, are rare to see on our count, having only been counted 6 times total. The most ever before has been one or two so the three seen in Canmore is a new record. Another 2 were seen in Banff area and Lake Minnewanka the week after the count. Merlins are often seen on counts in urban areas as they feed off small birds. Calgary recorded 27 last year, Edmonton 19. Most winter birders will see members of the crow and jay family. All likely members were seen - Magpies, Crows, Ravens, Blue and Steller's jays, Nutcrackers and Gray Jays.



Sora Rail in Cave and Basin Marsh. *Kevin Barker Photo*

The mix of Chickadees seen seems to be changing with increasing numbers of Mountain and Boreal Chickadees being seen. It also seems there is a decline in finding the cheery Black-Capped Chickadees, not just here but in many parts of North America.

It's a great year for seed eaters overall - numerous Red-Breasted Nuthatches, Pine Grosbeaks, and especially White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins were found. Probably most birders out for the count encountered White-winged Crossbills, as they were the most numerous species overall with over 1600 found. Their numbers fluctuate with the annual "cone crops" of local spruce trees and you may still see large flocks of them circling the tops of heavily cone-laden white spruce trees in the valley.

Nice to see some Bohemian Waxwings are still lingering in Canmore. And in Banff at the Cave & Basin wetlands, there were a couple of Killdeer, a Rusty Blackbird, plus the Sora were counted. The Sora Rail is a new species for this count. It was rumoured that it was lingering at the marsh in early December and an exciting discovery to see one this late in the year. Do you want to see what we got on other counts? The BVN web site has [records of past counts](#) from 1975 to the present.

Thank you to everyone who came out for the count, a special thank you to fellow organizers Ethan and Neil Denton for taking on the Canmore count again this year, and to Abbie Swanson and Jeannette Fish for making sure the sumptuous potluck dinner afterwards ran smoothly. Please mark **Saturday, December 17, 2016** for next year's Banff-Canmore Christmas Bird Count. Here's the details for this year...

Mallard	259	Black-capped Chickadee	96
Common Goldeneye	12 (Count Week)	Mountain Chickadee	385
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	Boreal Chickadee	105
<i>Goldeneye species</i>	5 sp.	<i>Chickadee species</i>	100 sp.
Common Merganser	4	Red-breasted Nuthatch	229
Ruffed Grouse	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	8
Bald Eagle, adult/ imm.	2/1	Brown Creeper	17
Red-tailed Hawk	1	American Dipper	10
Merlin	3	Golden-crowned Kinglet	5
NEW! Sora Rail	1	Townsend's Solitaire	4
Killdeer	3	American Robin	2
Rock (Dove) Pigeon	54	European Starling	5
Belted Kingfisher	3	Bohemian Waxwing	127
Downy Woodpecker	9	American Tree Sparrow	unconfirmed
Hairy Woodpecker	6	White-throated Sparrow	1
Three-toed Woodpecker	2	Harris' Sparrow	CW
Black-backed Woodpecker	1	White-crowned Sparrow	1
Northern Flicker	3	Dark-eyed Junco	23
Pileated Woodpecker	3	Rusty Blackbird	1
<i>Woodpecker species</i>	1 sp.	Pine Grosbeak	200
Northern Shrike	2	Red Crossbill	4
Gray Jay	24	White-winged Crossbill	1618
Steller's Jay	1	<i>Crossbill species</i>	17
Blue Jay	19	Common Redpoll	12
Clark's Nutcracker	102	<i>Redpoll species</i>	1 sp.
Black-billed magpie	208	Pine Siskin	362
American Crow	19	Evening Grosbeak	26
Common Raven	334	House Sparrow	120

BOWKAN BIRDERS CHRISTMAS COUNT *Chris Hansen*

Thirty-eight species were counted in this year's Christmas count (January 2, 2016) by the BowKan Birders. This is above our average of 36 species but only the fifth highest number since 1992. The highest species count was 44 on the 2003 count. Of note, the 10 species seen on every previous count-day were accounted for again (Downy & Hairy Woodpeckers, Gray Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Common Raven, Black-capped, Mountain & Boreal Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and American Dipper). The Bald Eagle should be considered here too but on the 2006 count it was added when two were spotted during count-week rather than the count-day. No new species and no second counts of the 24 species only counted once before were added to our records. Our most exciting find was eight Trumpeter Swans still on the Bow River. There were only two previous Christmas counts which included this species (1995 when one was sighted during count-week and 2004 when six were present on count-day). After a number of years of low counts of finches, it is gratifying to see their numbers increasing, in particular, Pine Siskins. Their numbers rebounded from two previous counts of zero and an average of only 13 to 206 birds. Ducks were low in number. Mallards and Common Goldeneye counts of 7 and 3 respectively are much lower than their averages of 44 and 20 respectively. Other ducks normally sighted are Barrow's Goldeneye and Common Mergansers but they were missing this time.

Mammal wise, our count was average with sightings of 53 Red Squirrels, 1 Snowshoe Hare, 28 Bighorn Sheep, 2 White-tailed Deer, 32 Elk, 5 Coyotes, and a highlight - 2 Gray Wolves seen crossing the Kananaskis River. In addition to the above, recent tracks in the snow of many species suggested a great deal more mammal activity of many species than our visual sightings would indicate.

REASSESSMENT AND DOWNLISTING OF AT-RISK SPECIES

Dwayne Lepitzki, Ph.D., Member of COSEWIC

According to the Canadian *Species at Risk Act*, species that are Extirpated, Endangered (EN), Threatened (TH), or Special Concern (SC) must be reassessed by COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) at least every 10 years. Reassessment and downlisting are two of the themes resulting from the latest COSEWIC wildlife species assessment meeting held at the end of November 2015 in Ottawa.

Following the May 2015 species assessment meeting, 711 species were at risk according to COSEWIC. Because the first COSEWIC assessments were done in 1977, COSEWIC's priority processes aimed to assess those species most at risk of going extinct first, and with the continually growing list, much of COSEWIC's time is currently spent on reassessments. Of the 19 wildlife species discussed in Ottawa in November, only five were for new species not previously assessed. These were three insects and a couple of endemic freshwater fishes, the fishes found nowhere else in the world except a single coastal lake in British Columbia. The rest were reassessments.

Half of the 14 reassessments resulted in species being placed into a lower at-risk category, including one that was determined to be Not at Risk (NAR). The downlisted species were Peary Caribou (confined to the Canadian Arctic Archipelago: from EN to TH), Bear's-foot Sanicle (wildflower found in Canada along a 30 km stretch of coastline on extreme southeast Vancouver Island: from EN to TH), Lake Erie Watersnake (confined in Canada to four small islands in Lake Erie: from EN to SC), Rainbow (southern Ontario freshwater mussel: from EN to SC), Common Hoptree (southwestern Ontario: from TH to SC), Flooded Jellyskin (lichen found from Manitoba to Quebec: from TH to SC), and Giant Helleborine (southern BC orchid: from SC to NAR). For five of these seven, the discovery of additional subpopulations since the last assessment contributed to their downlisting. The most interesting reason for these downlistings might be for the Lake Erie Watersnake. COSEWIC determined that because the population of this snake was increasing on the US side of the border, these US snakes could help sustain or recover the Canadian population. The reason the US population is increasing: the invasive freshwater Round Goby fish is providing a new food source for the US snakes!

But the news on biodiversity and species at risk is not all rosy. Of the remaining seven reassessments at the November 2015 meeting, four were uplisted into a higher at risk category. Of the seven downlisted species, only one was determined to be no longer at risk in Canada. For the other six, substantial threats still remain. And the list continues to grow. Full results of the November 2015 COSEWIC wildlife species at risk assessment meeting can be found at cosewic.gc.ca. The next meeting will be held in April 2016.

BOOK REVIEWS

SLICK WATER, FRACKING AND ONE INSIDER'S STAND AGAINST THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL INDUSTRY by Andrew Nikiforuk, *Reviewed by R Bunyan*

Another outstanding read by Canada's finest petroleum industry investigative journalist. Mr. Nikiforuk documents one woman's (Jessica Ernst) nine year battle over groundwater contamination and her efforts to hold companies, government agencies and regulators accountable.

Beyond describing the terrible price that Ms. Ernst has paid, Mr. Nikiforuk carefully documents how all the major players, both in our one-horse-province and other like-minded fracking provinces and states, divide, conquer, stall, and dehumanize; all with the unstated intent of either driving complainants away or forcing out of court settlements. And this is the horrifying epiphany: even when the complainant "wins" in virtually all cases, we collectively "lose" through enforced "confidentiality agreements". You and I may think that fracking can contaminate ground water but if there is no public court record and no impetus for an incestuous regulatory board or government agency to investigate further, then from a judicial perspective, "there is no complaint" and "what isn't proven, does not exist". The end result is an ongoing legacy of contaminated water and a system that leaves each subsequent complainant with a lonely, uphill battle that starts from ground zero.

A must read for anyone who cares about the future of our groundwater supplies and a gripping testimony to one woman's courage and the personal, financial and professional price of taking on big oil, government and politicized regulatory boards. The court case is still ongoing and 15% of the book profits go towards Ms. Ernst's legal costs. Read the book and if you wish to learn more or donate visit [Ernst v. Encana Corporation](#).

THE REAL THING: The Natural History of Ian McTaggart Cowan, by Briony Penn

An historical note on a recommended read by Mike McIvor

I guess we first became really aware of Cowan in the early 70s when we were fighting the Village Lake Louise proposal. We knew his reputation as a scientist and were dismayed when he was hired by the developers. He insists that he did not support the project and now that I have read this book it is hard to believe that he would have. Unfortunately, it seems to me that he - or his name - was used by those pushing for approval which fortunately, they did not get. (As we know, the pushing never stops.)

He did some work in the national parks and he also spent a great deal of time in parts of BC including some that have since been destroyed by dams or other tools of progress. He died in 2010, 3 months before his 100th birthday and was extremely active well into his nineties.

But it is so interesting to learn about the changes in science from the time he started, when it was all about killing and collecting everything you saw, to a more ecological approach with concerns about ecosystems. (Not that the killing and collecting completely stopped.) He was interested in everything and concerned when the emphasis in the natural sciences began to shift from a "naturalist" perspective that he felt was central to understanding ecosystems to specialization with less and less field work and more and more time spent in labs. And of course the changes that occurred in terms of political support for science sound familiar based on the experience of recent years. Also sounding familiar were the names of many of his colleagues and students, a veritable who's who of researchers. He had contacts in the scientific community throughout North America and around the world.

CONTACTS

CANADA

Environment Minister
Catherine McKenna
Catherine.McKenna@parl.gc.ca
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

NDP Environment Critic
Nathan Cullen
Nathan.Cullen@parl.gc.ca
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Opposition Environment Critic
Ed Fast
Ed.Fast@parl.gc.ca
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Leader, Green Party
elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Blake Richards MP
Richards.B@parl.gc.ca
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

CEO Parks Canada Agency
Daniel Watson
Daniel.Watson@pc.gc.ca

Dave McDonough,
Superintendent, Banff Field Unit
Dave.McDonough@pc.gc.ca

Melanie Kwong
Superintendent, LKLY Field Unit
Melanie.Kwong@pc.gc.ca

Greg Fenton
Superintendent, Jasper National Park
Greg.Fenton@pc.gc.ca

Mount Revelstoke/Glacier National Parks
P.O. Box 350
Revelstoke, B.C. Canada
V0E 2S0
250-837-7500
[Email](#)

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Hunter Tootoo
Hunter.Tootoo@parl.gc.ca
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

ALBERTA

If your call to your MLA, or any Alberta government office, is long distance then please dial 310-0000 then the area code and the phone number for toll free access.

Minister Environment and Parks
Shannon Phillips
Legislature Office
208 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB, T5K 2B6
Phone: 780.427.2391
Fax: 780.422.6259
lethbridge.west@assembly.ab.ca

MLA Banff-Cochrane
Cameron Westhead
Legislature Office
6th Floor, 9820 - 107 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E7
Phone: 780.638.1418
Fax: 780.415.0701

Constituency Office
102, 721 Main Street
P.O. Box 8650
Canmore, AB T1W 0B9
Phone: 403-609-4509
Toll Free: 1-866-760-8281
Fax: 403-609-4513
banff.cochrane@assembly.ab.ca