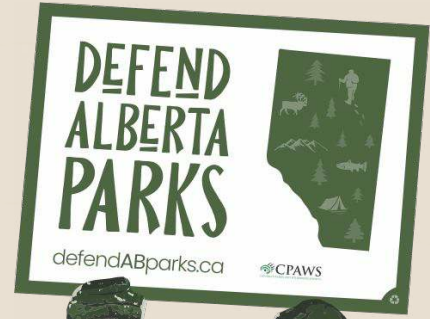


DEFEND ALBERTA PARKS Q AND A

**Honest answers from
fellow park lovers.**



Who are we?



Non-profit collaboration,
supported and funded
by Albertans

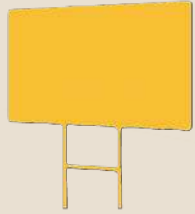


Our goal: Ensure the
province's parks remain
within the Alberta Parks
system and remain
protected



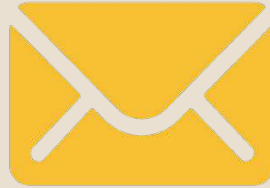
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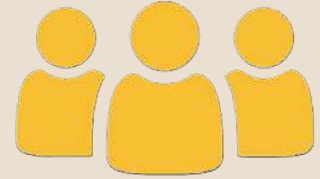
17,000

lawn signs



20,845

letters sent

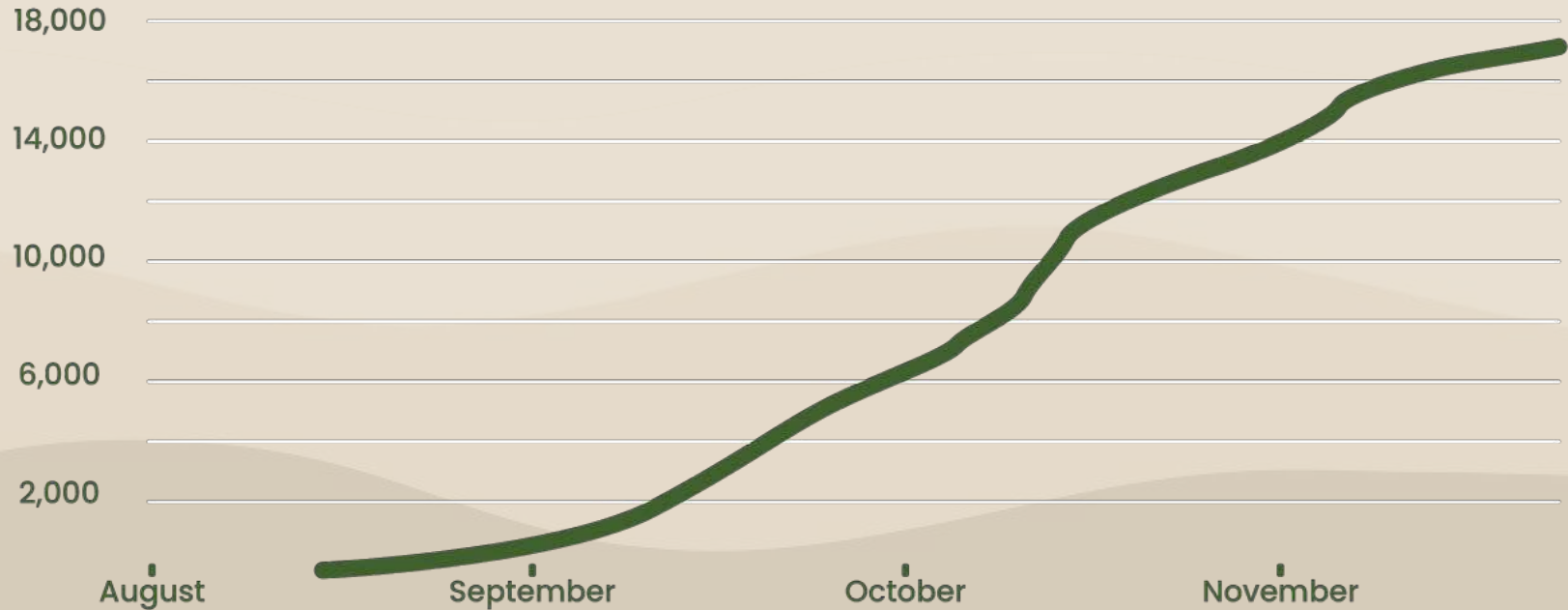


1,400

volunteers

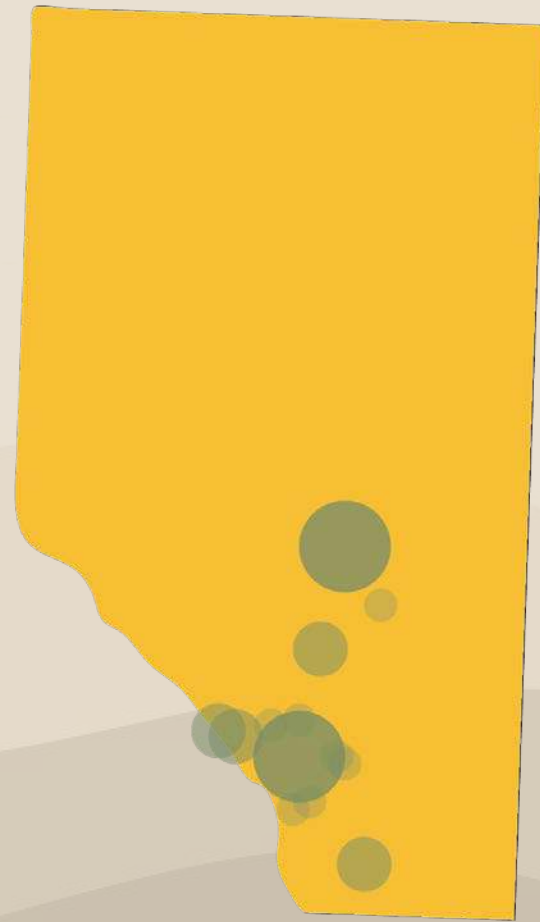
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Lawn Signs



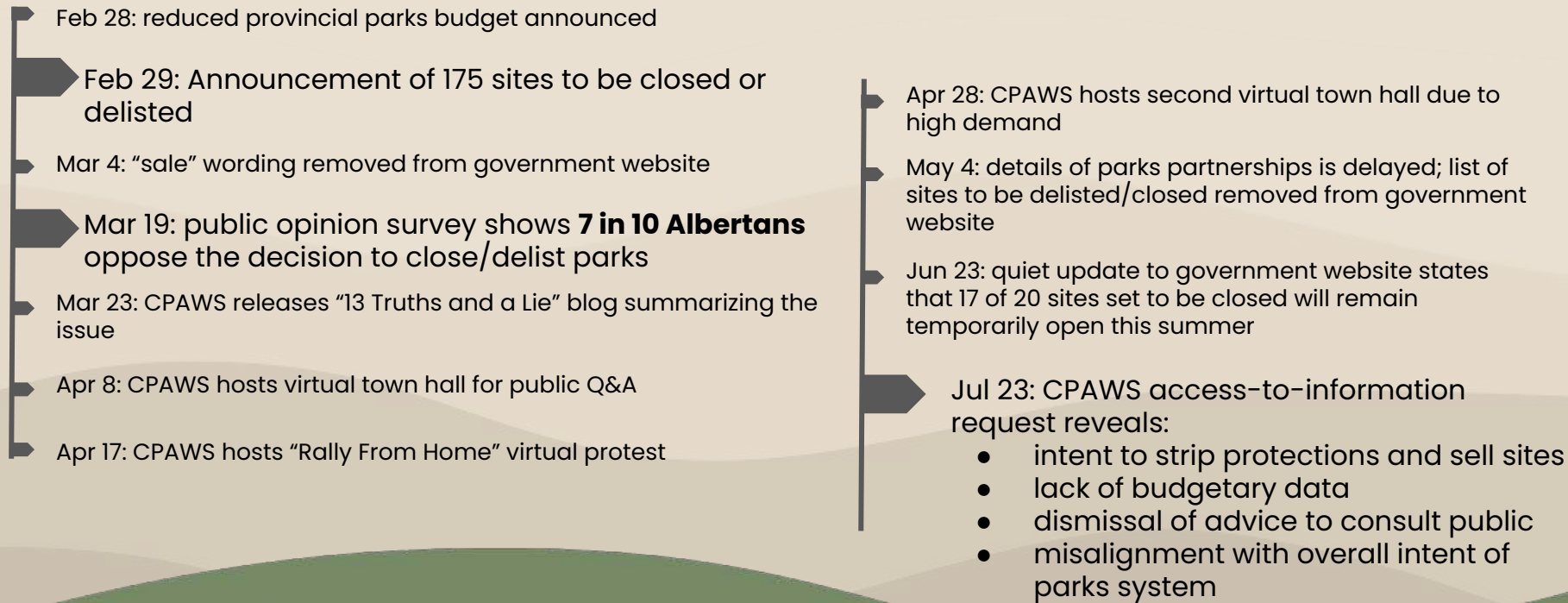
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Airdrie
Banff
Black Diamond/Turner Valley
Bragg Creek
Calgary
Camrose
Canmore
Chestermere
Cochrane
Edmonton
High River
Lethbridge
Okotoks
Red Deer
Strathmore



DEFEND ALBERTA PARKS

Timeline



DEFEND ALBERTA PARKS

Timeline & Where are we now?

- Aug 18: CPAWS and AEN launch Defend Alberta Parks lawn sign campaign
- **Sep 15:** government announces increased infrastructure investment for parks but reaffirms commitment to delisting/closing 175 sites; touts importance of existing partnerships
- Nov 2: government launches “My Parks Will Go On”; states that parks will remain protected under “Alberta Environment and Parks”, but no clarity provided on how this will occur legally
- Nov 5: CPAWS and Arc'teryx co-host an information and action night to update public and answer questions
- Nov 17: the UCP caucus hosts a virtual town hall with the Minister reiterating a commitment to keep parks protected under AEP, but still mention delisting and transfer to public lands
- **Today:** Defend Alberta Parks organizers and all Albertans engaged in this discussion remain committed and motivated to seek clarity on how parks will remain protected!

DEFEND ALBERTA PARKS



New Parks and Public Land Legislation on the Horizon

- UCP election platform: “Review Alberta Environment and Parks legislation to modernize it for the 21st century”
- Minister of Environment and Parks mentions in the legislature his intention, within the next year, to modernize the Parks Act to include more “multiple-use” management on July 13
- Minister of Environment and Parks references new legislation on public lands and trails in Town Hall on Nov 17
- @AB_Enviro on Twitter Nov 20: “They’ll continue to be protected as the province modernizes Crown land legislation and policies.”

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PUBLIC ≠ PROTECTED

Public lands and protected areas are not “protected” equally, even though they are both managed by Alberta Environment and Parks.

Protected areas are a specific type of public land that has been established to maintain certain environmental or recreational features.



protect sensitive plants and animals



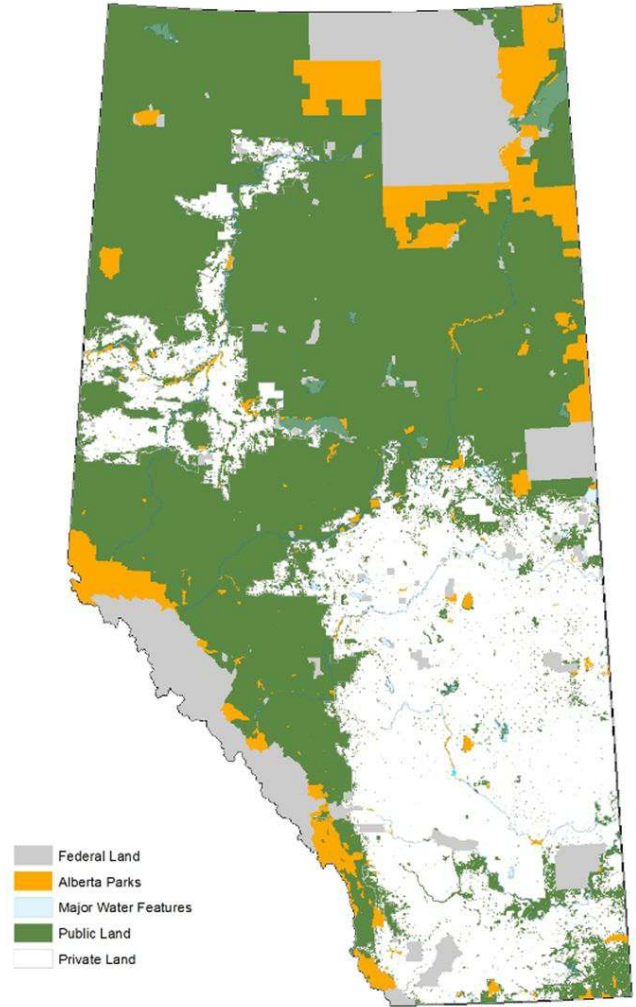
prevent industrial development



maintain nature for public use

- Recategorizing protected areas to public lands removes their legislated protected status
- This opens sites to industrial development and other environmentally risky activities
- Government promises to keep these areas “protected” do not prevent any *future* government from developing or leasing these lands

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A wide range of activities that are generally permitted on public lands are typically **not allowed in protected areas.**

These activities can include new industrial developments such as mining, quarrying, oil and gas, and commercial forestry, but also extend to some recreational activities when they could negatively impact the values for which the site was established.



restricted



permitted



may be permitted (case by case)

Protected Areas

Public Lands

Industrial Activities

Petroleum and natural gas



Mining/quarrying



Commercial forestry



Tourism development



Recreational Activities

Hiking



Horse riding



Random camping



Hunting/trapping



Off-highway vehicles (ATVs)



Note: table does not cover full range of permitted/restricted activities on all land types

Consultation?

- Alberta Parks has a long history of consulting with local communities, First Nations and public on changes to the parks system.
 - Special Places 2000
 - Castle Parks
 - Sylvan Lake
- But there has been no meaningful consultation on these proposed changes.
- In February 2020 parks previously robust consultation process was changed so that deregulation of parks sites would no longer trigger consultation.
- No visitor use or ecological data has been provided to support the rationale for delisting of sites.
- Potential changes to Parks legislation must include comprehensive consultations.



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How can you keep taking action?

Hang in there! – keep your sign up, keep engaging until we receive confirmation that these sites will remain ***protected under the Parks Act***

Write your MLA – AGAIN! From your own email if you sent your first one via our Action Page. Get 5 friends to do the same!

Ask MLA for clarification on 1) will sites will remain protected as parks under the Parks Act, 2) why do they need to delist/remove parks protections if they are just looking for partnerships?



DEFEND ALBERTA PARKS

Where can I get more info?

Fact check: <https://cpawsnab.org/alberta-parks-fact-check/>

What you haven't been told:

<https://cpaws-southernalberta.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/What-you-havent-been-told-Combined-File.pdf>

How to write an effective letter:

<https://cpaws-southernalberta.org/how-to-write-a-letter-to-your-elected-officials/>

Taking action with impact:

<https://cpawsnab.org/conservation-from-the-couch-taking-impactful-actions/>

Follow AEN, CPAWS SAB & CPAWS NAB on social media for updates & new resources!

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