



ALBERTA  
ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

*Office of the Minister  
Minister Responsible for the Climate Change Office  
MLA, Lethbridge-West*

FEB 27 2019

Lisa Wardley, Councillor, Mackenzie County  
Chair, Northwest Species at Risk Committee  
PO Box 640  
4511 - 46 Avenue  
Fort Vermilion AB T0H 1N0  
[albertanwsar@gmail.com](mailto:albertanwsar@gmail.com)

Her Worship Crystal McAteer, Mayor  
Town of High Level  
Vice Chair, Northwest Species at Risk Committee  
10511 - 103 Street  
High Level AB T0H 1Z0  
[town@highlevel.ca](mailto:town@highlevel.ca)

Dear Councillor Wardley and Mayor McAteer:

Thank you for your letter requesting commencement of the Upper and Lower Peace Regional Planning. Although no timelines are currently identified, government staff have initiated some pre-planning measures for the Peace region, and I welcome the opportunity to provide the following information.

The Government of Alberta is committed to the conservation and sustainability of biodiversity, the protection of headwaters, sensitive habitats, sustainable and responsible recreation, as well as the continued economic growth and prosperity of Alberta. I want to share my deepest appreciation for sharing your knowledge of the area, your commitment to our province's important environmental objectives, as well as your dedication to the protection and conservation of our wildlife. Your feedback is critical to the land-use planning process. Land-use planning is fundamental to managing the impacts of development on our land, air, water, and biodiversity.

In June of 2017, the government's Land-Use Integration Team embarked on a tour of the region with the objective of gaining first-hand insight by listening and learning about the opportunities and challenges of those who live, work, and recreate in the area. In January of 2018, regional planning staff held a meeting in Peace River with Indigenous communities who have expressed interest in the development of the Upper and Lower Peace Regional Plans. The purpose of this meeting was to provide background information to communities on Alberta's regional planning process.

The conservation opportunities identified in the Lower Peace region are only preliminary suggestions. Please note that no final decisions have been made, nor will be made, until consultations have been conducted in the Peace region, and the regional planning process has been completed. During the regional planning process, government staff will gather input from people who live, work, and recreate in the area, including the public, Indigenous communities, municipalities, and other stakeholders. Input provides strategic guidance, including the identification and assessment of potential conservation areas. For further information, please contact Scott Duguid, Executive Director, Land Use Secretariat, at 780-644-7976 (dial 310-0000 for a toll-free connection), or at [scott.duguid@gov.ab.ca](mailto:scott.duguid@gov.ab.ca).

Thank you again for taking the time to write. Each region is complex as there are diverse views on land and resource management, and your government will take the time needed to develop, enhance, and adjust regional plans so that they reflect the views of local residents and all Albertans alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shannon Phillips  
Minister

cc: Honourable Ricardo Miranda  
Minister of Alberta Culture and Tourism

Scott Duguid  
Land Use Secretariat