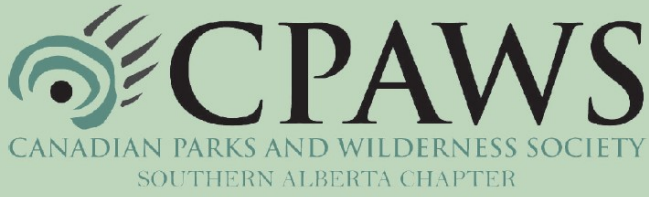
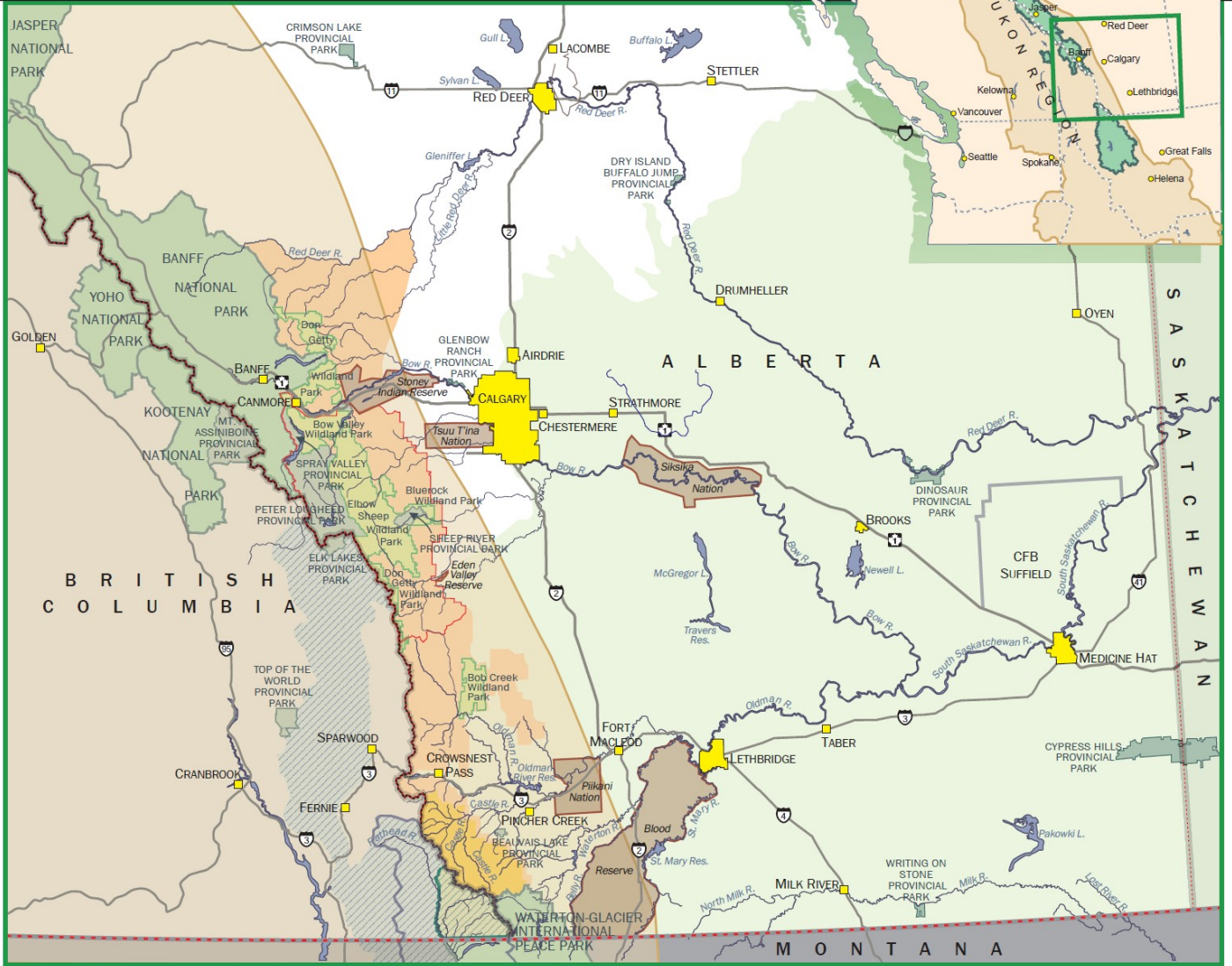




2015-2016 Annual Report



Southern Alberta Region Map



Cover Photo: Credit Grizzly Walking Through Snow, Jennifer Jones, 2012



Photo Credit: Alpine
Flowers with Three
Sisters, Heather
Boyчук, 2015

Year in Review *Anne-Marie Syslak, Executive Director*

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Southern Alberta Chapter's (CPAWS SAB) vision is about conservation and education. Ensuring our wilderness landscapes are taken care of for the health of our children and grandchildren. Ensuring that Albertans understand, use and respect these areas in such a way so that they continue to be a defining part of our natural heritage.

CPAWS SAB has helped to create many of the parks and wilderness areas in Alberta and has worked diligently to ensure management of these world renowned places does not compromise their ecological values. A great part of this work is educating, engaging and empowering Albertans to be stewards of this land.

In 2015-16, we made some significant progress towards our vision including the collective effort to create a new protected area, the Castle and celebrating over 100,000 youth reached with our environmental education program. This report will highlight the past year and illustrate that our work and success is based on the continued collaboration and engagement of partners, government, industry, decision makers and supporters like you. Together, we are making a difference in safeguarding our most valuable resource, nature.

Yours in conservation,

Anne-Marie Syslak

Our Vision

CPAWS envisages a healthy ecosphere where people experience and respect natural ecosystems.

Our Mission

CPAWS Southern Alberta chapter is a respected leader in the conservation and stewardship of the Southern Albertan landscape. We strive to educate, collaborate, engage and empower Albertans in developing solutions that safeguard, connect and expand parks and wilderness areas.

Conservation

Why We Are Always Talking About Bears



Photo Credit:
Wet Bear in Grass,
Peter Brown, 2012

Grizzly Bears are an “umbrella” species which means that by protecting grizzly bears, we indirectly protect many other species and ensure a healthy habitat or ecosystem overall. In southern Alberta in particular, this is critical as it translates to healthy aquatic ecosystems that give us our clean water and natural flows of water for users downstream.

Grizzly bears are listed as “threatened” in Alberta. While there are indications that the population is growing in some areas, the overall population still faces the same concerning problems of a highly fragmented disturbed habitat (roads, trails, cutlines, etc.) contributing to disconnected smaller population units (less than 100 individuals in some units) and unsustainably high mortality rates.

We provided feedback to the Government of Alberta on the Draft Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan that was released on June 1 and called on our members to do the same. We continuously encourage public support for grizzly bear recovery and education (including outreach, field trips, education and media coverage) to ensure people and bears can safely co-exist. We also raise awareness of links between grizzly bear recovery, landscape health and headwaters protection including recovery of other species such as westslope cutthroat and bull trout.

I believe in the work CPAWS does. If you are out enjoying parks and wilderness in this region you should know about, and support, CPAWS Southern Alberta.

C. Hudspeth

Water of Life

Whether it was called Uisce, Whiskey, Akvavit or Eau de Vie . . . people have known for centuries that Water = Life. CPAWS SAB works with government, private land owners, recreation groups and industry to protect our rivers and watersheds. The Castle, for example, is ecologically and socially important as the headwaters of the Oldman Watershed and for protection of wildlife habitat. The Castle is home to provincially and federally listed species at risk such as grizzly bear and westslope cutthroat trout.

Well managed protected areas help conserve headwaters.

The floods of 2013 reminded us that what happens upstream in Alberta, impacts everyone downstream. We need to manage our watersheds and forests carefully, looking at all resources, especially water. The mountains and foothills of southern Alberta are natural water towers for millions of people downstream. The tree and plant root systems naturally filter water and slow down run off. CPAWS SAB is also finalizing a report looking at a new model for ecosystem based forest management along the South Eastern Slopes to be released in the fall of 2016 which will address several concerns, including current policy and practices that fail to adequately protect the clean waters and healthy streams that belong to all Albertans.

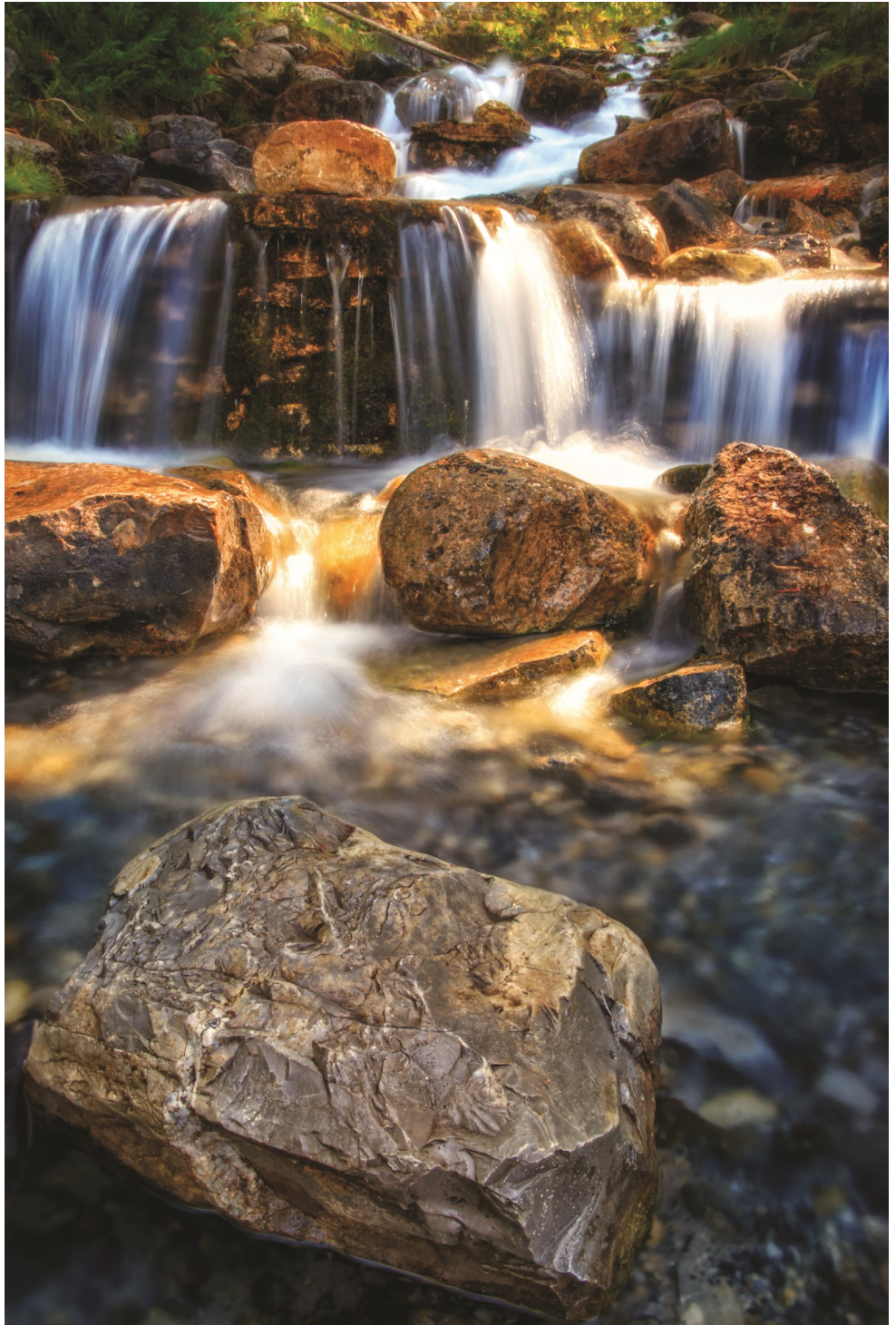


Photo Credit: O'Shaughnessy Falls, Chad McMahon, 2014

Conservation

Land Use Planning and Protection

The Government of Alberta is currently creating the first plans for managing and reclaiming trails, cut-lines and roads, as well as the associated off-highway vehicle use on public lands starting in the Porcupine and Livingstone areas of southern Alberta. Strong commitments, targets and enforcement are needed in these plans in order for us to be strong stewards of the land and fulfill these objectives. A business-as-usual plan will not address the cumulative effects evident on the land and waters.

We are also working with government and other stakeholders to ensure the Castle management plan prioritizes ecological integrity and decisions for Alberta's newest protected area are grounded in science. What happens in these areas will set precedent for what happens elsewhere in Alberta in the future. It will determine if we continue to erode our natural landscapes or if we can create a plan for sustainable land use and low impact recreation that meaningfully protects these regions for our children and grandchildren.

We have worked with CPAWS-Southern Alberta for a long time. Anne-Marie, her dynamic staff and their board understand the big picture for this region and they work with all groups and communities for long-term conservation. Lucky us to partner with CPAWS Southern Alberta.

Rose Letwin, Founder and President, Wilburforce Foundation

Working Towards a Sustainable Future

- We were given intervener status on the Grassy Mountain Coal Mine and have reviewed the initial environmental assessment. We will be monitoring the project as the process progresses.
- Our Alberta-wide recreation and wilderness values survey continues to be used and cited. It will be very important in the coming months to support land-use and recreation planning. To view the full survey report go to our website at www.cpaaws-southernalberta.org.
- We continue to be a watchdog organization for our national parks and highlight growing concerns about increasing development and direction away from a protective mandate. As part of the 2016 Annual Parks Report we provided recommendations to the federal minister to get the Parks Canada agency back on track and ensure ecological integrity come first in our treasured national parks.
- We are working collaboratively with others on a visioning project for the entire Eastern Slopes that will create a blueprint for conservation for the entire region.

88% OF ALBERTANS WANT MORE WILDERNESS PROTECTED.*



WE ARE WORKING TO PRESERVE THE WILD SPACES YOU LOVE. YOU CAN HELP.

VISIT WWW.CPAWS-SOUTHERNALBERTA.ORG

94% of all adult Albertans believe that wilderness areas are important because they help to preserve **PLANT & ANIMAL SPECIES.**



98% of all adult Albertans want **PROTECTION OF WATER** to take precedence over industrial development.



29% FEEL THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH PLACES TO CAMP.

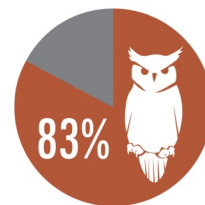


prefer non-motorized recreation in wilderness areas over motorized recreation (ATVs, OHVs (off-highway vehicles), motorbikes and motorboats).



PREFER TO RECREATE WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS.

Only 17% belong to an outdoor recreation group or club.



want wilderness protected and left in its natural condition even if these areas are never visited by, or benefit, humans.

CPAWS | EDUCATION

CPAWS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

June 2015 to June 2016

We set a new record for delivering education programs this past year. The CPAWS Education team delivered programs to students, teachers, community members and newcomers to Canada. We explored species at risk, water conservation, parks and protected areas, forest ecosystems and grizzly bear conservation.

TOTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- 500 programs
- 8,600+ people

SCHOOLS

- We delivered more than 450 programs to 7,732 students
- 132 interpretive hikes
- 10 interpretive snowshoe treks
- 180 classroom programs
- 315 classroom visits



NEW IMMIGRANT PROGRAMS

- We help new immigrant audiences discover parks and water issues in Canada
- 35 presentations
- Engaged with more than 800 newcomers



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

- Delve into conservation issues with members of the public & corporate groups
- 8 nature programs
- More than 50 outreach events reaching thousands of Albertans



TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- We explore environmental education with teachers' across southern Alberta
- 5 workshops at two teacher's conventions
- Professional development days with 2 schools
- Engaged a total of 100 teachers



To support our environmental education programs please visit:
www.cpaaws-southernalberta.org/campaigns/education

Education

Record Breaking Year



In September 2015 we achieved a significant milestone for our environmental education program that began in 1997- reaching over 100,000 participants! We celebrated this accomplishment by going on a hike with students from Terry Fox School, one of the schools who have benefited from our programs for many years.

We had another extremely successful school year in 2015-2016 surpassing our targets for both in-class and hiking programs, developing new programs to add to our repertoire, engaging more students than ever in environmental action and continuing to receive positive feedback from participants. This year we delivered a record number of 456 programs to nearly 8,000 students! This included 131 hikes, 10 snowshoe treks and 316 classroom visits. More than half of our programs were delivered to high needs and rural schools: 84 programs for high needs schools and 149 programs to rural schools. This year, about 75 percent of all participants were inspired to commit to positive environmental stewardship. Several of these classes took CPAWS' Action Challenge to new levels.

At HSBC, we believe our responsibilities extend beyond our customers, shareholders and employees, to the environment and the wider communities where we operate. We are pleased to support the CPAWS Species at Risk Environmental Education Program, that helps elementary students learn about species-at-risk in Alberta through games and activities about natural science and ecology, as well as interpretive hikes.

Bruce Robinson, Vice President, Energy Financing, HSBC Bank Canada and Executive Sponsor for CPAWS partnership

Awards Given and Received

The CPAWS Action Challenge is a unique feature of our education program that truly sets us apart from other environmental education programs. We link conservation with curriculum, build knowledge and create outdoor experiences that showcase Alberta's parks and wilderness. We also aim to inspire students to engage in positive environmental stewardship by taking on Action Change projects. The winners this year were Killarney School with their Environmental Leaders Forum, St. Sylvester School for their research project on water conservation and C.W. Perry School for presentations on a wide-range of stewardship projects. On August 27, 2016 the Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication (EECOM) recognized CPAWS Southern Alberta as Outstanding Non-Profit Organization for our significant contribution to environmental learning across Canada.



Winter Program Expansion

On our interpretive snowshoe treks, classes discover dynamic and dramatic stories of the past and present while snowshoeing along a beautiful wilderness trail. Students create their own stories about the surrounding Alberta winter landscape, play games and discover the wonder of Alberta's wildlife and ecosystems.

Winter offers a unique opportunity to study Alberta's biodiversity and ecosystems, get youth outside and bring learning alive. Classes snowshoe through an Alberta



ecosystem to investigate plant and animal population dynamics during the quiet of the winter. This new program allows us to expand the outdoor learning experience beyond our spring and fall hiking program, connecting science and conservation curriculum learnings to the Alberta landscape year round!

Adult Education

Our adult education programs and demand for these programs continues to grow. This past year, we delivered nearly 50 adult education programs to over 1000 participants including new immigrants, community and corporate groups and teachers. Topics include: Discover Parks!, Grizzly Bears Forever and In the Know about the Bow.

We are proud to partner with the Calgary Immigrant Women's Association (CIWA) and the Calgary Catholic Immigrant Society (CCIS) to provide environmental education for new immigrants. CPAWS educators offer a suite of programs for groups who support new immigrants. This is a great opportunity for new immigrants to improve language skills and develop a sense of place in their community. The focus is on building nature language and sharing nature and conservation experiences from different countries.

We are actively seeking funding to support our environmental education programs and expand adult education in particular as we recognize the value of connecting people with place to promote conservation awareness and an ethic of environmental stewardship in Alberta.

A detailed Education Report is available through our office or online at:

www.cpaaws-southernalberta.org/campaigns/education

Finances

CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY SOUTHERN ALBERTA CHAPTER

Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2016

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2)	\$ 254,243	\$ 385,090
Accounts receivable	21,711	37,385
Goods and services tax recoverable	5,928	2,187
Inventory	2,106	3,112
Prepaid expenses	3,842	2,819
Due from CPAWS National (Note 3)	54,265	89,079
	<u>342,095</u>	<u>519,672</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 4)	<u>12,367</u>	<u>16,767</u>
	\$ 354,462	\$ 536,439
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 39,801	\$ 31,521
Deferred contributions (Note 5)	97,719	278,252
	<u>137,520</u>	<u>309,773</u>
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 5)	<u>10,979</u>	<u>15,574</u>
	<u>148,499</u>	<u>325,347</u>
NET ASSETS		
INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS	1,388	1,193
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	<u>204,575</u>	<u>209,899</u>
	<u>205,963</u>	<u>211,092</u>
	\$ 354,462	\$ 536,439

COMMITMENTS (Note 6)

CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY SOUTHERN ALBERTA CHAPTER

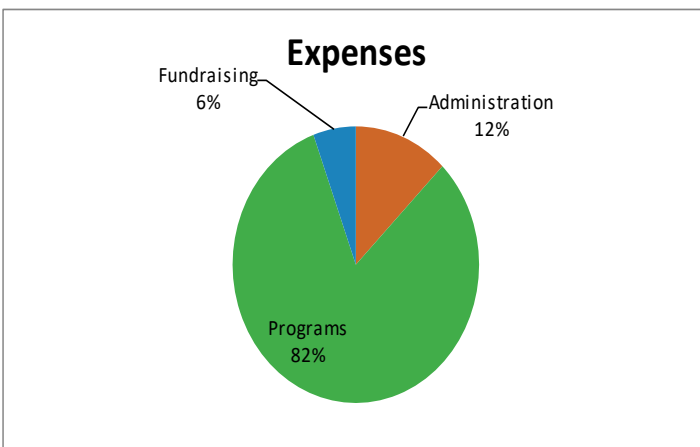
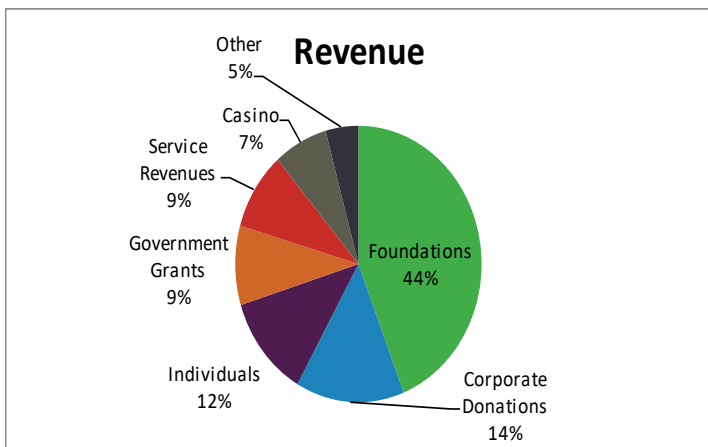
Statement of Operations
Year Ended March 31, 2016

	2016	2015
REVENUE		
Foundations	\$ 261,774	\$ 204,498
Corporations	84,672	79,081
Individuals	71,082	84,879
Government	55,154	29,180
Products and services	54,372	64,105
Casino	42,115	35,355
Events	24,542	24,435
Interest	889	1,401
Royalties	127	286
	<u>594,727</u>	<u>523,220</u>
EXPENSES		
Amortization of capital assets	5,641	5,666
Audit	7,000	7,700
Bank charges	355	47
Consulting	102,234	32,925
National office administration fees	16,548	21,140
Office rent and administration	39,584	39,614
Outreach and member services	424	165
Product purchases	1,006	571
Professional development	2,442	1,845
Professional fees	4,230	7,069
Salaries and employee benefits	386,828	336,850
Special events	16,742	16,664
Travel, meals and entertainment	16,822	9,944
	<u>599,856</u>	<u>480,200</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ (5,129)	\$ 43,020

The above Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Operations should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements which can be accessed via on our website: www.cpaaws-southernalberta.org/about/annual-general-meeting

I support CPAWS Southern Alberta because I love to mountaineer and CPAWS plays an incredibly important role in helping to establish and protect the wilderness areas I enjoy.

G. McDougall



CPAWS SAB Team

Staff

Thank you to our many volunteers!

Anne-Marie Syslak
Executive Director

Stacy McGuire
Communications Specialist

Alex Mowat
Hiking Guide

Katie Morrison
Conservation Director

Sara Anderson
Environmental Educator

Lauren Bally
Hiking Guide

Jaclyn Angotti
Education Director

Julie Walker
Hiking Guide

Justin Howse
Hiking Guide

Kirsten Olson
*Office and Fund Program
Administrator*

Board

Gord James
Chair, Finance Committee Member

Phil Nykyforuk
Vice Chair

Jim Donohue
Treasurer

Andre de Leebeeck, ICD.D.
Secretary, Finance Committee Member

Duncan Taylor
*Director, Chair of Engagement
Committee*

Dave Delawski
*Director, Conservation and
Engagement Committees Member*

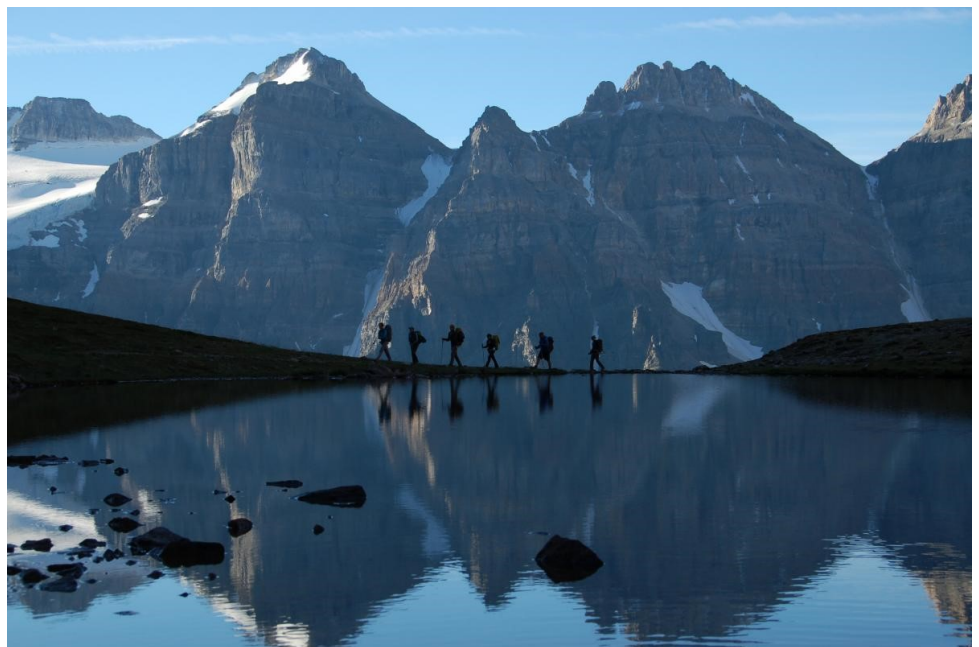


Photo Credit: Hikers Reflected, Sam Lawn, 2012

David McIntyre
*Director, Conservation Committee
Member*

Doug Firby
*Director, Conservation Committee
Member*

James Early
*Director, Engagement Committee
Member*

Riley Prescott
Director

Liv Vors
Director

Fundraising and Outreach

Events, Media and Publications

- Our Annual Wild Soiree was held on March 11, 2015 at Macdonald Hall at SAIT with Brian Keating as our speaker and musical guests, The Wardens.
- CPAWS Special Parks Report and Fight For Your Parks campaign were released and launched in the fall of 2015 to further address concerns about development threats in our Rocky Mountain national parks.
- On average, CPAWS SAB participates in over 40 events annually. Between May and August 2016 alone we attended 26 outreach events. We present at conferences, co-author papers, write articles, sit on panels and are involved in research and other collaborative projects. Of note this past year we were found in articles in Avenue magazine and in the summer edition of the national Alpine Club of Canada newsletter. We gave the keynote address at the Environmental Studies of Canada Conference.
- We produce a monthly Green Bites e-newsletter with a larger print Green Notes version published in the summer.
- We are continually striving to increase our public engagement through social media, print and radio news. This past year we were featured in approximately fifty traditional media stories.
- As part of the recreation project we were able to create three videos to promote our findings. Go to youtube.com and search for CPAWS Southern Alberta.

Looking Forward

- We will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of CPAWS Southern Alberta in 2017, the same years as Canada's 150th. It will also be the 20th Anniversary of our education program. The Wild Soiree will be held on March 10, 2017.
- CPAWS SAB will release a new report that will provide recommendations for an ecosystem approach to forest management on the Southern Eastern Slopes. This will be the first of its kind in Alberta and is designed to provide recommendations to government that should address continual conflicts in this region.
- We are working to raise funds to sustain and expand our youth and adult environmental education programs and get more Albertans aware of, connected to and being stewards of nature.
- We plan to re-launch our annual Capture the Canadian Wild photo contest in early 2017. The contest will go nation-wide in 2017, celebrating Canada's 150th.
- We will continue to work with government, landowners, local stewardship groups, municipalities and other environmental non-government organizations (ENGO's) on land-use planning and management in Southern Alberta and in our Rocky Mountain Parks to ensure our watersheds, wildlife and wilderness landscapes are safeguarded for a healthy future.

Supporters and Sponsors

Alberta Conservation Association ▪
 Alberta Culture and Tourism ▪ Alberta
 Real Estate Foundation ▪ The Banff
 Community Foundation ▪ The Calgary
 Foundation ▪ Canada Summer Jobs—
 Government of Canada ▪ The
 Chawkers Foundation ▪ The City of
 Calgary ▪ Community Initiatives
 Program (CIP) - Government of Alberta
 ▪ Crown of the Continent Roundtable ▪
 Edmonton Community Foundation ▪
 The Fanwood Foundation ▪ First
 Calgary Financial ▪ Fortis Alberta ▪
 HSBC ▪ Mountain Equipment Coop
 (MEC) ▪ Natural Sciences and
 Engineering Research Council of
 Canada (NSERC) ▪ Norseman Outdoor Specialists ▪ Patagonia ▪ RBC Blue Water Project ▪ Spectra Energy ▪
 Stantec ▪ Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP) - Government of Alberta ▪ TD Friends of the
 Environment Foundation ▪ Tim Horton Children's Foundation ▪ Wilburforce Foundation ▪ Yellowstone to
 Yukon Conservation Initiative ▪



Photo Credit: Griebe with chick, Roger Kirchen, 2012

Special Thank You to All Our Individual Donors!

When you donate to CPAWS Southern Alberta, you are helping to conserve the healthy wilderness you love and build the next generation of environmental stewards.

**Become a Voice for Wilderness Today!
 and help leave a legacy we can be proud of.**

Phone (403) 232-6686

Visit our website to make a secure donation designated for work in southern Alberta

www.cpaws-southernalberta.org

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Calgary, AB T3B 5R5

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Fax: (403) 232 6988

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