Alberta Environment and Parks
Affirming the Context
The many roles of Alberta Environment and Parks

- **Regulator** – apply principles of stewardship to make decisions on activities that affect the environment and enforce good behaviour on our landscapes

- **Landscape/Resource Manager** – apply policy to create opportunities for economic activity while managing impacts to the environment and environmental resources (water, air, biodiversity)

- **Conservationist** – protect species at risk, critical habitats and heritage grasslands/rangelands

- **Ambassador** – provide leadership to implement initiatives that achieve climate change goals

- **NEW – Innovator and Entrepreneur** – influence economic development and diversification - a new area of emphasis for the department
  - This is the basis for the Department’s contributions to Government goals for Economic Diversification
Priority 1 - Regulatory Certainty and Process Efficiency

The goal:

• Increase the competitiveness of Alberta Industries,
• Reduce the cost of government services, and
• Provide further opportunities for innovation, revenue and job creation.

The benefit:

• An associated evolution arising from this work will be moving from supporting economic activity to also include driving economic development and diversification.
Priority 2 - Diversified Land Use
Strategic intent and purpose

The goal:

• A diversified and modernized approach to Public Land use will permit expansion of outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities beyond provincial park boundaries to include vacant public lands (vacant lands are those currently not under disposition for other uses).

The benefit:

• This work will serve as a catalyst and opportunity for capital (domestic and foreign) investment, job creation, and increased tax base, particularly in rural economies.
How we answer the challenge

Our Vision:

• A healthy, clean and prosperous province where Albertans are leaders in environmental conservation and protection, enjoy sustainable economic prosperity and a great quality of life
How do we achieve our vision?
Environment and Ecosystem Health and Integrity

Converting Alberta’s ecosystems and ecosystem services to protect biodiversity and provide wildlife habitat

Air

- Operate the Air Quality Management System
- Implement the Climate Leadership Plan – reduce energy consumption, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency of our homes, businesses and public buildings

Current priorities

- Implementation of the adaptation/mitigation components of Alberta’s Climate Leadership Plan
- Air quality management frameworks under regional land use plans
- Red Deer and Capital Region Particulate Matter 2.5 Management Plans
Environment and Ecosystem Health and Integrity

Conserving Alberta’s ecosystems and ecosystem services to protect biodiversity and provide wildlife habitat

Land

- Administer the use of two-thirds of Alberta’s land base (public lands), including resource management on private land
- Manage cumulative effects and competing interests on a very busy landscape

Current Priorities:

- Developing and implementing regional and sub-regional land use plans and environmental management frameworks
- Establishing Public Land Use Zones
- Public land recreation management strategy
- Tailings Management Framework implementation
- Reclamation of contaminated sites
- Contributing to national and international biodiversity targets
Environment and Ecosystem Health and Integrity

Conserving Alberta’s ecosystems and ecosystem services to protect biodiversity and provide wildlife habitat

Water - surface and ground

- Administer the water allocation, monitoring, evaluation and public reporting system
- Protect water quality
- Oversee the Wetland Policy

Current priorities

- Wetland policy implementation
- Water management strategy (access to clean drinking water)
- Integrated water management (oil sands tailings, hydraulic fracturing and water re-use)
- Fisheries Habitat Enhancement and Sustainability Program
- Dam Safety and Dam Operations Programs
Environment and Ecosystem Health and Integrity

Conserving Alberta’s ecosystems and ecosystem services to protect biodiversity and provide wildlife habitat

Biodiversity

- Overarching management of Alberta’s biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides
- Parks and protected areas
- Sustainable forest management
- Invasive species
- Manage the province’s fish and wildlife
  - Habitat conservation and enhancement
  - Species at risk
  - Hunting and fishing allocation
  - Honouring First Nation and Metis subsistence rights
- Ecosystem services policy framework
  - Market options for ecosystem services
  - Evaluation and planning for recreation spaces
Environment and Ecosystem Health and Integrity (Biodiversity)

Conserving Alberta’s ecosystems and ecosystem services to protect biodiversity and provide wildlife habitat

Current priorities

- Biodiversity management frameworks within regional plans
- Woodland caribou range planning
- Grizzly bear recovery plan
- Fish and wildlife policy renewal
- Westslope Cutthroat Trout recovery plan
- Aquatic Invasive Species program
- Greater Sage Grouse recovery plan
- Ecosystem services policy framework
- Wildlife directives for wind energy projects
- Wildlife allocation policy
- Wildlife conservation and management strategy
Environment and Ecosystem Health and Integrity (Monitoring)

Conserving Alberta’s ecosystems and ecosystem services to protect biodiversity and provide wildlife habitat

Environmental monitoring and science

• A Chief Scientist develops guides the monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the condition of the environment in the province
• Ambient environmental monitoring and scientific assessments identify changes in the state of the environment and their cause
• Open and transparent reporting of scientific data on air, land, water and biodiversity, including information necessary to understand and predict cumulative effects from multiple environmental stressors

Some of our partners and stakeholders:

• Indigenous Wisdom Advisory Panel
• Science Advisory Panel
Working with the Alberta Utilities Commission on Renewables

Regulatory Guidance of renewable projects
- Alberta Utilities Commission is the Regulatory body responsible for approval of power plants (inclusive of utility scale wind/solar).

Environmental oversight on renewables
- Alberta Utilities Commission looks to Alberta Environment and Parks for review/policy guidance on certain environmental aspects.
- A review is required by an Alberta Environment and Parks biologist for wildlife review of wind/solar applications (AUC Rule 007).
- Wildlife Directives for Wind/Solar outline requirements to obtain this review.
Wildlife Directives for Wind/Solar

Providing direction to industry on environmental considerations for renewables

The importance of Wildlife Directives for Renewables

• Minimize risk to wildlife/wildlife habitat from new developments.
• Provide certainty to industry on wildlife related requirements.
• Provides clarity on areas of higher risk that should be avoided for developments.
• Allows for consistency in review by Alberta Environment and Parks biologists.

Avoiding areas of higher risk to wildlife/wildlife habitat

• Alberta has a mandate to ensure protection of Species at Risk.
• Wildlife Directives for Wind/Solar provides direction to avoid key habitats.
• Sage Grouse habitat is one such area to avoid when siting facilities.
Regulatory System

Alberta Environment and Parks wants to ensure we develop renewable energy in a responsible manner and have mechanisms in place to safeguard the environment.

The Department has recently made amendments to the following:

- *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (royal assent December 14, 2016)
- *Environmental Assessment (Mandatory and Exempted Activities) Regulation* (royal assent March 31, 2017)
Sustainable Economic Diversification

Enabling the growth of a green economy through investment in waste reduction, promotion of ecotourism and outdoor recreation

- Enhance recreation infrastructure to increase opportunities for eco-tourism and outdoor recreation
- Enable multiple use on agricultural public land via the Recreational Access Regulation
- Implement Alberta’s Climate Leadership Plan:
  - create jobs by investing in a higher-value, lower-carbon, energy-efficient economy
  - diversify the economy, promoting innovative environmental technologies and practices, and helping to build our global reputation as an environmental leader

Some of our partners and stakeholders

- Alberta Recycling Management Authority
- Alberta Used oil Management Authority
- Beverage Container Management Board
- Energy Efficiency Alberta
Social well-being

*Enhancing quality of life by providing opportunities for nature-based experiences*

Recreation and public use

- Enable enjoyable and safe experiences in nature and a nature-based outdoor recreation activities

Current priorities

- Enhancing protection in the Castle
- Renewal of the Provincial Parks Act
- Recreation strategy for public land
- Tourism opportunities and economic diversification
- Backcountry trail flood rehabilitation
- Increased enforcement capacity
Protecting public health and safety from environmental conditions and events

*Increasing public safety by reducing environmental incidents, economic and environmental impacts and damage to property and infrastructure*

- Flood and drought funding programs
- Flood and drought adaptation and mitigation initiatives
- Flood hazard mapping
- River flow forecasting
- Human-wildlife conflict management
- Environmental Emergency Response Hotline (1-800-222-6514)
- Climate change office
- Alberta Support and Emergency Response Team
- Kananaskis Country Public Safety Section
- Conservation Officer Program
- Environmental Protection and Compliance Officers
How we achieve these outcomes

Minister
Shannon Phillips

Climate Change Office
Deputy Minister
Eric Denhoff
- Policy, Legislation and Evaluation
- Implementation, Engagement and Regulatory
- Communications
- Corporate Services (shared with Environment and Parks)

Environment & Parks
Deputy Minister
Andre Corbould
- Corporate services
- Environmental monitoring and science
- Operations
- Parks
- Policy and Planning
- Strategy
- Communications
- Human Resources
- Environmental Law
- Land-use Secretariat
How we achieve these outcomes

We work with others in an integrated resource management system.

- Environment and Parks
- Energy
- Indigenous Relations
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Alberta Energy Regulator
- Alberta Health

Presently collaborating on a number of Information Technology pilot projects that will ultimately streamline our processes and enhance system interoperability
How we achieve these outcomes

IRM in action – Regional Planning

Provincial Policy & Legislation

Lower Athabasca Regional Plan & Management Frameworks (e.g., RMF, Tailings MF, Surface Water Quality, etc.)

Sub-Regional Plans (e.g., LMP, Municipal, SAOS-SRP, IRPs)

Sectorial and Operational Plans (e.g., Forest Management Plans, Recreation Management Plans, Water Management Plans)

Operational and Regulatory Decisions (e.g., Project and Disposition Approvals)

Place-Based Rules & Decisions
How to Reach Us

We’re proud to serve your community
- more than 50 offices in Alberta outside of Edmonton

Find our nearest office by calling 310 -3773 or by visiting aep.alberta.ca