



Logging Goat Creek 1993 in what is now Castle Special Place

SRD Schedules

Beaver Mines Lake / Castle Falls Area For Clear-Cut Logging

Sustainable Resource Development has scheduled an estimated 5,075 truckloads of logs to come from clear-cutting the middle of the Castle Special Place. Operations have begun (e.g. flagging cut-blocks) with cutting to be winter 2011-12.

This clear-cutting is scheduled despite:

- No pine beetle outbreak in the Castle. No approved Forest Management Plan (FMP). SRD Minister (2007) deferred approval of his department's Crowsnest Forest (C5) FMP (over-arching 20-year plan for forests between Kananaskis Country & Waterton Lakes NP) until the State of the Oldman Watershed Report & watershed planning is done, due to public concern for watershed protection, wildlife habitat & outdoor recreation.
- The Alberta Government adding the Castle Special Place (Castle Special Management Area) to "*Alberta's protected areas network*" as "*a milestone in the preservation of Alberta's natural heritage for future generations.*" (1998)

And despite:

- The Castle Special Place providing 1/3 of the annual water flow for most of southern Alberta (Oldman River Basin).
- Current land-use planning under the Land Use Framework for all of southern Alberta. Planning that is not finished.
- The 1985 land-use plan setting watershed protection, recreation and tourism as the "priorities" for this southern part of the Crowsnest Forest, including what later became the Castle Special Place protected area.

Logs will be trucked to Spray Lake Sawmill (SLS) in Cochrane, west of Calgary. That company is scheduled to do the logging. It is currently operating in the Castle, marking blocks of forest to be clear-cut, and planning trails & roads to take out the logs.

Public Consultation?

SRD didn't seek public input prior to scheduling logging inside this "protected area;" public land depended upon for water, multiple types of outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat & grazing.

SRD did have a public advisory committee (CROW PAC) in 2005-06, while drafting the C5 FMP for the whole of the Crowsnest Forest – the plan that isn't approved and which the committee had a number of serious, outstanding concerns about (April & May 2006 letters to SRD Minister & local papers).

Concerned? Contact:

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Logging plans for the Crowsnest Forest, including in the Castle, will be available for public viewing at Spray Lake Sawmill's open house, **Thursday, May 6**, from **1:00 pm to 7:00 pm** at their **Blairmore** office, 12530 - 21 Ave., phone 403 562-8520.