

February 3, 2011

Government to transfer land to municipalities for local use

Edmonton... After managing various tracts of land throughout the province since the 1930s and 1940s, the Alberta government will transfer more than 84,000 acres to municipalities in a continued effort to support local decision-making.

The lands being transferred were once private lands that have been under provincial management because of tax forfeiture. For many years, these lands have been managed with the understanding that they would be transferred to the municipalities.

The government has transferred about 80 per cent of the original tax recovery land. More than 84,000 acres are still to be transferred to municipalities as the associated grazing leases expire, or before the lease expires, with agreement of the leaseholder. In some cases, leaseholders have been given more than 10 years notice.

“The transfer of these lands will allow municipalities to make decisions on the land that are best for the local area,” said Mel Knight, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development. “This will create opportunities for local municipalities to build stronger communities for tomorrow.”

The Alberta government will retain environmentally significant land near rivers, water bodies and coulees while municipalities will receive land for local use.

“Our government will keep these sensitive areas as public land,” said Knight. “These lands will continue to provide valuable wildlife habitat and grazing and recreation opportunities for Albertans.”

More than 35,000 acres, worth about \$17 million, will be retained because of their importance for soil and watershed protection and for the maintenance of biodiversity. The majority of these tax recovery lands are located in southern Alberta.

The Government of Alberta has a clear plan for a strong economic recovery by trimming government spending; using cash reserves to protect key programs; continuing to invest in public infrastructure; and ensuring that our province's industries are competitive and continue to attract investment to provide jobs and prosperity.

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Backgrounder: Land to be transferred to municipalities

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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Lands to be transferred to municipalities (acreage is approximate)

Municipality	Acres
Cardston County	493
County of Grande Prairie	470
County of Lethbridge	2,229
County of Paintearth	1,117
County of Vermillion River	156
County of Warner	1,757
Cypress County	324
M.D. of Acadia	160
M.D. of Provost	320
M.D. of Taber	54,845
M.D. of Willow Creek	160
Mountain View County	958
Starland County	1,249
Town of Peace River	11
Vulcan County	20,128
Wheatland County	4
Total	84,381

These lands will be transferred to the municipalities for a nominal sum of \$1.

Retained as Crown land (acreage is approximate)

Municipality	Acres
Cardston County	320
County of Lethbridge	4,219
County of Stettler	338
County of Thorhild	800
County of Warner	161
M.D. of Provost	160
M.D. of Ranchland	52
M.D. of Taber	15,909
Mountain View County	159
Starland County	640
Vulcan County	12,587

Total	35,345
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Land that is in the Thorhild Provincial Grazing Reserve will also be retained because of its multi-use benefits to the community.

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