

South Athabasca Sub-regional Plan

Clearwater River Conservation Area and Multi-use Corridor

This plan proposes commitments to establish the Clearwater River Conservation Area as a Public Land Use Zone (PLUZ) with conservation intent, and to establish a multi-use corridor across the Clearwater River.

Key Components of the Plan

- Establish the Clearwater River Conservation Area (Page 38) – Changes the name and designation for the remaining portion of the Gipsy-Gordon Wildland Park conservation area from a Wildland Provincial Park under the *Provincial Parks Act* to a Public Land Use Zone with conservation intent under the *Public Lands Act*.
 - The Clearwater River Conservation Area is about 7,634 hectares in size.

- Create a multi-use corridor (Page 38) – Allows linear features (e.g. pipelines and transmission line) to cross the Clearwater River through the Clearwater River Conservation Area.
 - The multi-use corridor is 411 hectares in size.

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- The South Athabasca Sub-regional Plan (SASRP) must be aligned with the LARP.
- Key outcomes of the SASRP that align include:
 - Support for ongoing economic opportunities for industry,
 - Keeping the Clearwater River as a conservation area, and
 - Maintaining Crown lands that support biodiversity conservation and Indigenous traditional land uses.

Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP) Amendment

- The LARP is the first regional plan approved under Alberta's Land-Use Framework (Approved in August 2022).
- In the LARP, Alberta committed to managing long-term cumulative effects of human activities on the environment at the regional scale.
- The LARP establishes new conservation area, including the Gipsy-Gordon Wildland Park (GGWP). In July 2025, about 95% of the GGWP was designated under the *Provincial Parks Act* as Gipsy-Gordon Wildland Provincial Park.
- The remaining 5% of the GGWP conservation area overlaps land needed for forestry access to timber resources outside the conservation area. Road access is not compatible with the LARP's proposed Wildland Provincial Park designation.
- Establishing the remaining 5% as the Clearwater River Conservation Area with a PLUZ designation supports the intention for long-term forestry access.
- The LARP identifies a multi-use corridor for the co-location of linear footprint as an acceptable use in the new conservation areas.

Map of the Clearwater River Conservation Area Public Land Use Zone and the location of the multi-use corridor through the conservation area (Figure 6 from the Draft South Athabasca Sub-regional Plan)

