

# Petition Against Commercial Logging in the Castle Special Place / Special Management Area

To the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, in Legislature Assembled:

- Whereas:
- a) The Government of Alberta in 1998 added the 1040 sq km Castle Special Place as the Castle Special Management Area to “Alberta’s protected areas network” as *“a milestone in the preservation of Alberta’s natural heritage for future generations.”*
  - b) The management priorities are stipulated as watershed protection, tourism and outdoor recreation under the current land-use plan.
  - c) Commercial clear-cut or “cut-block” logging lessens the economic and ecological values of those priorities, and there is no saw mill in the region (logs would be hauled to west of Calgary).
  - d) There is no pine beetle outbreak in the Castle, risk is low and outbreaks have not necessitated commercial logging inside legislated protected areas, such as Wildlands and parks.
  - e) The Castle Special Management Area is the headwaters that provides an unprecedented third of the annual water flow for the Oldman River Basin, including the City of Lethbridge and more than 70 municipalities; and commercial logging in the Castle pre-empts integrated watershed planning underway for the Basin under the Government’s Water for Life strategy.
  - f) Commercial logging pre-empts regional land-use planning underway for southern Alberta (South Saskatchewan Regional Plan) under the Government’s Land Use Framework.
  - g) Risk of fire can be effectively reduced without commercial logging, as per legislated protected areas. (All fires over 2 sq km since 1936 in the Castle have occurred in the most logged area – the Carbondale drainage.)

**We, the undersigned ALBERTA RESIDENTS**, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta **to remove the Castle Special Management Area from its Sustainable Resource Development Department’s schedule of commercial logging** areas located in the Crowsnest Forest (C5) of the Forest Reserve.

Note: Names and addresses of petitioners become part of the permanent record of the Legislative Assembly and through that are available to be read by the public.

Signature	Print Name	Mailing Address	City or Town	Postal Code	I use the Castle (initial)
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