

# Kitaskino Nuwenënë Wildland Expansion

## Fact Sheet

### Overview

The Government of Alberta established the Kitaskino Nuwenënë Wildland (KNW) as a wildland provincial park in March 2019. Kitaskino, means “our land” in Cree and Nuwenënë means “our land” in Dene. The initial Kitaskino Nuwenënë Wildland covered an area of 161,880 hectares located directly south of Wood Buffalo National Park and is adjacent to the Birch River and Richardson Wildland Provincial Parks.

The Kitaskino Nuwenënë Wildland has now been expanded, adding around 152,000 hectares to the largest contiguous area of protected land in the world ([see map](#)). The expanded area was previously managed as Green Area under the *Public Lands Act*. The Green Area covers about 61 per cent of the province and includes most of northern Alberta as well as the mountain and foothills areas along the province's western boundary. In the Green Area, public lands are managed for timber production, watershed, fish and wildlife, recreation, energy development, and other uses. There is a mixture of industrial activity in the proposed expansion but there has not been a large amount of development in this area.

The expansion of the Kitaskino Nuwenënë Wildland was made possible by the collaboration of

Indigenous communities, industry partners and the Government of Alberta.

### Management Intent

The expansion aligns with the current management intent of the Kitaskino Nuwenënë Wildland as a wildland provincial park.



The Kitaskino Nuwenënë Wildland expansion:

- Supports Indigenous peoples' traditional activities, including the exercise of treaty rights
  - addressing interests of Indigenous communities and support collaboration among Indigenous communities, industry, and government.
- Creates backcountry recreation opportunities for Albertans.
  - The landscape will keep its wild, undeveloped character.
  - Recreation opportunities are wilderness-oriented, such as remote backcountry activities, hunting, fishing, hiking and connecting with nature.
- Connecting the landscape to other wildland provincial parks to enhance ecological integrity.
  - The expansion doubles the size of the existing Kitaskino Nuwenënë Wildland Provincial Park and contributes to land managed with a conservation intent in the Lower Athabasca Region.

- Provides habitat protection for caribou, the Ronald Lake bison herd, and other species.
  - Almost all of the expansion (97.95 per cent or 140,799 hectares) overlaps with the Red Earth caribou range.
  - The expanded area has a small overlap (1.83 per cent or 2,634 hectares) with the Ronald Lake bison herd range.
- Adds to the intent behind Kitaskino Nuwenēnē Wildland to:
  - Increase watershed protection in support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Outstanding Universal Values of the Peace-Athabasca Delta
  - Create a conservation buffer to support the UNESCO Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site
  - Support Indigenous cooperative management opportunities.

## Wildland Provincial Parks

Wildland provincial parks, managed under the *Provincial Parks Act*, are established for the conservation of nature and associated cultural features in a relatively undisturbed state. Nature-based recreation opportunities are supported in wildland provincial parks and focus on remote backcountry/wilderness recreation experiences, hunting and fishing, and experiencing nature with few if any amenities.

## Map

