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May 14, 2026

Honourable Andrew Boitchenko, Minister of Tourism and Sport
402 Legislative Building,
10800- 97 Avenue,
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
E-Mail: ts.minister@gov.ab.ca

Honourable Mr. Boitchenko,

The Crowsnest Conservation Society (CCS) is a charitable organization working together with community to inspire collective action to protect our natural world through advocacy, research, education, and habitat restoration. We advocate for responsible land uses and resource management practices that prioritize conservation. The CCS is located in the Crowsnest Pass, Alberta, and represents almost 300 active members, including 29% non-residents who support our goals and actions, and almost 500 newsletter subscribers.

We are strongly opposed to Stone Creek Resort's proposal for the Silvertip Gondola, associated lands, and the additional developments on the mountaintop near Canmore. We oppose all three questions that the public survey asks:

- That the area be designated as an All Season Resort Area
- That the boundary of the Bow Valley Wildland Provincial Park be adjusted
- That there be an amendment to the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan for this purpose.

This land is simply not suitable for designation as an All Season Resort Area. The Bow Valley is currently very crowded with existing highways, railway lines, urban development, and profitable tourism and outdoor recreation companies. There is no need to add to the existing world-renowned reputation of this area. The current number of visitors has already surpassed the capacity of the land and the local community's ability to absorb them without negative effects. The recent All -Season Resort Designation for both Nakiska and Fortress areas is already worrisome for the potential to increase tourism and bring thousands more people to the same already stressed region of Alberta.

The boundaries of the Bow Valley Wildland Provincial Park were established based on decades of monitoring studies for wildlife movement, biodiversity, and impacts of human usage of the landscape. Wildlife corridors in the valley are becoming increasingly narrow and in some cases, are no longer used by animals due to human encroachment. Scientific data already shows that the range of some animals has moved to higher altitudes where there is less human use. Changing the boundaries of the Wildland Park

undermines and may even eliminate the protection for many species of wildlife that are already under acute pressure.

The Rockies are the source of water for people, agriculture, and industry in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. The availability of that water is already threatened by climate change and the shrinking of the glaciers that feed those rivers. A change in land use such as this proposal is a completely avoidable stressor for both water quality and quantity. The All Seasons Resort Designation for this area does not protect the status or conditions of natural water courses, an expectation of applications under this Act. It would, in fact, reduce the ability to the land to hold water and increase the consumption of water, removing it from water courses that require that quantity to remain viable.

We have articulated this proposal's inability to "support long-term, environmentally responsible land use" as required in the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. We urge complete rejection of this Stone Creek proposal for these land use changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our opinion on this very important issue for the Bow Valley and the integrity of the Canadian Rocky Mountains.

Sincerely
Susan Wagner, Secretary,
Board of Directors.

Cc:
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