



BRAGG
CREEK

WILD
wildlife and people living in community



WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

2024 Highlights

2025 Looking Ahead

A Retrospective



In a Nutshell

With the Winter season settling in, we can reflect on the past year and the choices we made that benefit both the environment and our community. With focussed discussions on conservation, habitat preservation, sustainable practices and adopting wildlife-friendly habits, this newsletter is filled with the ideas and insights we've learned from our featured guests, our Bragg Creek community and from current issues of concern to our area.

Thank you!

Bragg Creek Wild's success and ongoing efforts are driven by the dedication of our incredible volunteers. Our quarterly newsletters highlight the talents, skills, and resources of passionate individuals who believe in the possibility and importance of co-existing with our wildlife.



Brad Stelfox

Understanding Human Land Use and Its impact Past, Present, and Future

The most iconic landscape in the world

Bragg Creek ecosystem and upper Bow basin
Part 2 of 15



Brad's presentation to a spellbound Bragg Creek audience shed light on Bragg Creek's transformation over time and highlighted actionable steps for creating a sustainable future.

Historical Context

- Bragg Creek began as an Indigenous landscape, home to the Tsuut'ina and Stoney Nations, and later evolved into a recreational and tourism hub.
- Early resource extraction and development laid the foundation for current land-use patterns, but at the expense of some natural ecosystems.

Present Challenges

- Growing tourism and population pressures threaten wildlife habitats, water systems, and the area's natural beauty.
- Recent extreme weather events, such as floods, have revealed the need for better infrastructure and planning to protect communities and ecosystems.

Future Vision

- Brad advocates for conservation-focused planning, including protecting critical habitats, implementing climate-resilient infrastructure, and fostering community engagement.
- Collaboration with Indigenous groups and environmental organizations will be key to preserving Bragg Creek's rich cultural and natural heritage.

You can view Brad's full video presentation and short segments (as shown on this page) of his presentation on [Bragg Creek Wild website](http://BraggCreekWild.com).

Visit: www.braggcreekwild.ca/our-videos

Greater Bragg Creek - Canada's Serengeti - The threat of expanding land uses in this precious natural capital

Part 11 of 15



The world's Mammal Biodiversity

Part 12a of 15



Natural Capital

Are we balancing risks and opportunities?

Part 9 of 15



Grizzly Bears in the Crosshairs A Call for Conservation

The debate over grizzly bear management highlights the tension between conservation and human interests. While grizzly populations have rebounded in certain areas, they still face habitat loss, human-wildlife conflicts, and climate change threats. Bragg Creek Wild advocates fiercely for the protection of grizzlies and joins other advocacy groups in their vocal opposition to being hunted.

Key Issues

Opposing Views

- Conservationists argue that grizzlies remain vulnerable and should stay under the protection of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- Others advocate for delisting them, citing population growth and the need to manage conflicts.

Balanced Solutions

- Science-driven wildlife management is crucial, ensuring grizzly bears are protected while addressing human concerns such as tourism, land development, and resource use.

The grizzly bear's future depends on policies that prioritize coexistence and sustainable practices.



October 28, 2024

Dear Minister Loewen and Minister Schulz,

Nature Alberta is a non-profit organization dedicated to the greater appreciation and conservation of Alberta's natural environment. We serve as a hub for 50 grassroots nature clubs across the province and collaborate with many more community partners. We are a member organization of the provincial Endangered Species Conservation Committee and are obligated to recommend to the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas regarding the status of Alberta species and appropriate management responses. On behalf of our 1,747 members, and the 1,057 members of 9 nature organizations undersigned, **Nature Alberta urges you to immediately reverse the Wildlife (Grizzly Bear - Ministerial) Amendment Regulation that permits hunting of *Ursus arctos* (Brown (Grizzly) Bear), a Threatened species.**

The amendment — stating, "Despite its status as a threatened animal, the hunting of *Ursus arctos* (Brown (Grizzly) Bear) is permitted under section 53.1" — does not align with the Alberta Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan that was implemented in 2020, nor does it align with the conservation efforts of a listed Threatened species. The recovery plan priority is to "resolve human-caused mortality, and ensure a supply of high-quality secure habitat through appropriate land management."

In situations where human-bear conflicts arise, wildlife management procedures should prioritize non-lethal conflict resolutions, led by qualified wildlife officials using established mitigation protocols. We are deeply concerned by the notion of human-wildlife conflict situations involving a Threatened species being managed by private hunters.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kimberly MacKenzie, Nature Alberta President, president@naturealberta.ca

On behalf of:

- Nature Alberta's 1,747 members
- Boreal Avian Research & Conservation Association's 40 members
- Bragg Creek Wild's 87 members
- Buffalo Lake Nature Club's 49 members
- Crowsnest Conservation Society's 112 members
- Grasslands Naturalists Society's 125 members
- Nature Calgary's 352 members
- Peace Parkland Naturalists' 36 members
- Red Deer River Naturalists' 140 members
- Southern Alberta Group for the Environment's 116 members

BCW endorsed this letter earlier this fall.

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Guy Greenaway

Corvus Centre for Conservation Policy

Navigating Tourism, Development, and Conservation



The greater Bragg Creek area faces growing pressure from increased tourism and development, making the balance between preserving natural habitats and supporting growth more challenging than ever. The next 20 years are expected to bring even greater hurdles than the past two decades. As the Area Structure Plan is rewritten to accommodate these changes, our community has a unique opportunity to influence what the future of our region will look like.

On October 23, 2024, Guy Greenaway - expert in land use policy, conservation, and sustainable development - unpacked the issues and provided insights for a Bragg Creek audience into the following:

- The complexities of land use planning and how to address them effectively.
- Strategies for balancing development and tourism with habitat preservation.
- Opportunities for community engagement to protect wildlife and natural spaces.

Following Guy's presentation, audience members assembled into enthusiastic discussion groups to determine their key concerns and focus points relating to the preservation of the area's natural assets that safeguard the ecological integrity of our region. A report summarizing the the presentation and discussion will be available in the new year and distributed widely.

Link to video presentation

www.braggcreekwild.ca/our-videos



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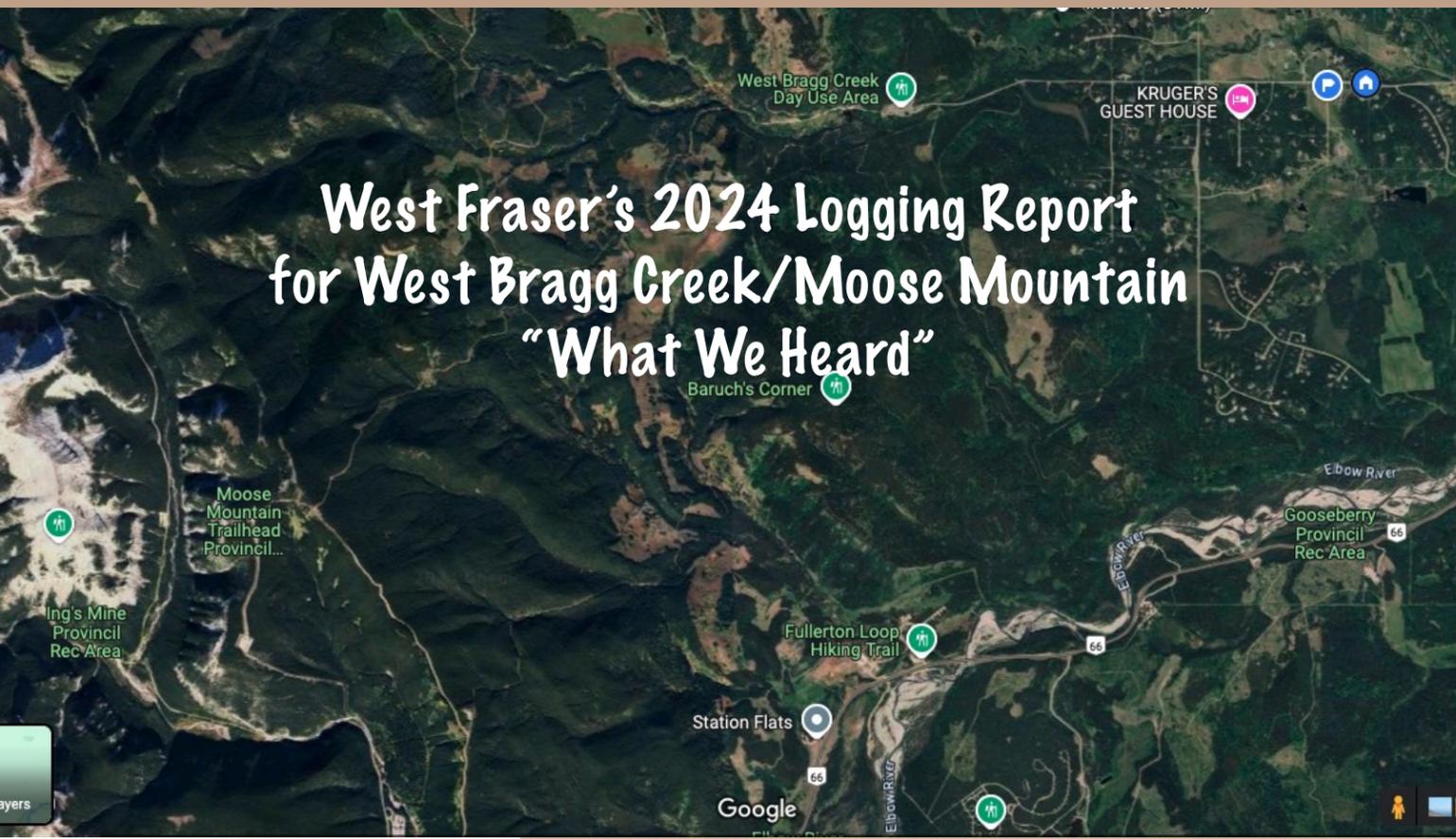
Bragg Creek Wild wishes to sincerely thank all of our audience participants in this event and will be featuring a comprehensive video capturing Guy Greenaway's presentation and the results of our audience feedback session!



Guy also presented to the Bragg Creek Chamber of Commerce on April 17th, 2024. Powerpoint presentation available on our website: www.braggcreekwild.ca/resources-on-bragg-creek



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West Fraser's 2024 Logging Report for West Bragg Creek/Moose Mountain "What We Heard"

The map above highlights current clear cuttings in West Bragg Creek and the proposed Moose Mountain area which is currently whole.

Bragg Creek Wild has raised concerns about West Fraser's 2024 "What We Heard" report, which outlines logging plans for West Bragg Creek and Moose Mountain.

Highlights

Proposed Measures

- The report includes "aesthetic buffers" to address trail users' concerns but lacks adequate protections for sensitive ecosystems like the Elbow River watershed and wildlife corridors.

Advocacy Efforts

- Bragg Creek Wild is pushing for Provincial Park status for the area to protect its ecological and cultural significance.
- The group emphasizes the importance of consulting Indigenous communities, such as the Tsuut'ina and Stoney Nations, whose traditions are deeply connected to the land.

[Link to West Fraser report](https://www.westfraser.com/sites/default/files/CochraneWest%20Fraser%20Cochrane%20Report%20October%2030%202024.pdf)

<https://www.westfraser.com/sites/default/files/CochraneWest%20Fraser%20Cochrane%20Report%20October%2030%202024.pdf>

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The Hidden Dangers of Food Attractants to Wildlife

In all seasons, winter included, wildlife will often take the path of least resistance and take advantage of unsecured food sources, such as garbage and compost. This trend poses risks to animals and ecosystems alike.

Why It Matters

- **Wildlife Health:** Reliance on human-provided food disrupts natural foraging behaviours, leading to malnutrition and poor health.
- **Ecosystem Impacts:** Changes in animal behaviours can destabilize ecosystems, increasing human wildlife conflicts.

Practical Tips

- Use wildlife-proof garbage bins.
- Avoid leaving food or bird seed outside.
- Properly dispose of waste to prevent animals from accessing harmful substances.

By minimizing food attractants, we can reduce harm to wildlife and create safer communities.

An example of how a bird feeder can lead to unintended consequences



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Wildlife-Friendly Holiday Decorations

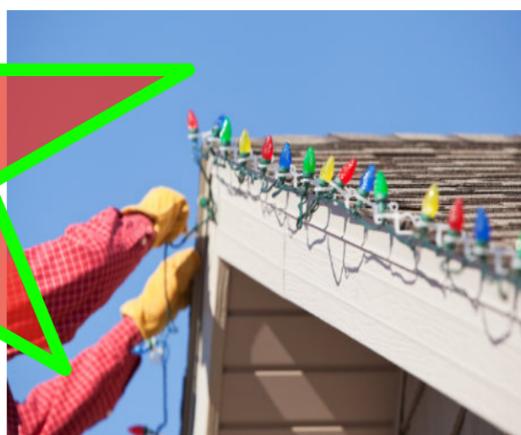
This winter, we can all make a difference by supporting conservation efforts, adopting sustainable practices, and making eco-friendly choices. By being mindful of our impact on the environment, we can protect wildlife and preserve our planet for generations to come.

Celebrate the season with eco-conscious decorations that are safe for animals!

Eco-Friendly Tips

- Use natural materials like pinecones, wood, or dried flowers, which are biodegradable or reusable.
- Choose LED or solar-powered lights in warm tones like red or orange to minimize disruption to nocturnal wildlife.
- Add birdhouses or bat boxes to provide shelter during the cold months.
- Please do not use fireworks or firecrackers. They scare pets and wildlife, are stressful, disrupt movements, and put animals at risk of predation.

After the holidays, ensure decorations are cleaned up to prevent littering and harm to local wildlife.



Don't



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2025 Looking Ahead



Brian Keating **Champion of Conservation** **Coming in March 2025** *Guest Speaker*

Discover the wonders of the Alberta's Foothills!

Join us for an exciting evening as Brian invites you to celebrate our amazing wildlife and their unique contributions to our beautiful area.

Brian Keating, a celebrated Canadian naturalist and conservationist, has dedicated decades to environmental education and advocacy, with the following key contributions:

- **Wildlife Research:** Keating has led numerous biodiversity studies, focusing on preserving species and ecosystems under threat.
- **Community Outreach:** Through engaging public talks, nature tours, and educational programs, Keating inspires others to care for the environment.
- **Collaboration:** Partnering with conservation groups and local communities, Keating works tirelessly to develop actionable solutions to ecological challenges.

Look for upcoming information from Bragg Creek wild for Brian Keating's upcoming speaking event in Bragg Creek. His passion for environmental stewardship encourages his audiences to embrace sustainability and protect the natural world.

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Garbage Bylaw for Bragg Creek and The Area Structure Plan

Rocky view Council mandated their staff to develop options for a garbage bylaw to limit wildlife- human conflicts in our area. The work is progressing, but oh! So slowly.

Similarly, BCW has representation on the Area Structure Plan for the hamlet and expansion area's visioning committee. The work is progressing but is behind schedule by a few months.

Bragg Creek Wild will remain actively involved and seek progress toward the implementation of a garbage bylaw for our area. Similarly, we will closely monitor the progress of our Area Structure Plan and advocate for strategies to minimize negative impacts on our natural environment. We will keep the community fully informed of our efforts and provide residents with the necessary information when Rocky View County initiates community engagement.



Community Awareness and public Education

Celebrating our wildlife and learning to coexist safely with it are at the heart of our organization. We will continue to raise awareness about reducing human-wildlife conflicts—whether on the road, at home, or in the great outdoors. We believe that residents and visitors can and should live harmoniously with nature. We look forward to sharing new tips on how to engage with our natural surroundings in sustainable and regenerative ways.

We also look forward to refining our internal operations, engaging in strategic planning exercises, and connecting with our sister organizations.



We invites you to join the movement and embrace sustainable practices to support wildlife and protect the environment. Together, we can ensure a thriving future for our community and planet. Visit us at

www.braggcreekwild.ca.

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Please support Bragg Creek Wilds' Vision and Mission

Wildlife and People living in Community

- Follow us on our social media
- Become a member - it's Free
- Encourage others to become members
- Consider becoming a volunteer
- Support our efforts through a donation



To find out more Visit, Email or Call us at:

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