



Dear Willmore Wilderness Park Visitor!

Exploring the Human Dimension: Visitor Use Analysis of Willmore Wilderness Park is a project being conducted by the University of Alberta with support from the Foothills Research Institute and Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation. We are interested in learning more about you and your trip into Willmore. As part of this project, we are conducting Willmore Wilderness Park user surveys, determining user numbers through trail cameras, mapping user patterns through GPS Tracksticks, and conducting interviews with selected individuals. This information is critical to learn as it will help ensure that your Willmore trip experience is being maintained and improved in ways which will greatly benefit you – the Willmore Wilderness Park visitor! The data will also be incorporated into my thesis, part of my Master’s degree requirements at the University of Alberta.

We request that **one member from your group** complete this survey as you **enter or exit** the park. This includes **ALL users** regardless of where you are from or what activity you are doing. e.g., locals, non-locals, commercial trail operators, mountain bikers, hikers, outfitters etc.). Please fill out a survey **each time** you visit Willmore for **both day use or overnight use**.

During this study, you may be offered a GPS Trackstick to use during your Willmore trip. The GPS Trackstick is a small GPS unit that would collect location data about your movement through the park. The unit would be attached for example, to your backpack or saddlebag while you are travelling. The GPS Trackstick is not a safety tracking device and we will not know where you are visiting until the GPS Trackstick is returned to us and the data is analyzed. The data collected by the GPS Trackstick will be linked to the user survey and will be used as part of this research project.

All information that you provide will be strictly confidential. Only a summary of everyone’s answers will be made public and your name will never appear with your answers. You can also skip over questions that you do not wish to answer at any time during the survey. Images from the trail cameras will be securely stored and will be utilized to determine user numbers. These cameras are not intended for law enforcement purposes, however, legal prosecution may result if illegal activities are



captured on images. This project has obtained human ethics research approval from the University of Alberta. Please contact Kelvin Jones, Acting Chair of the PER-ALES-NS Research Ethics Board at the University of Alberta at 780-492-0650 with any concerns or questions related to the ethical aspects of this project. Dr. Jones has no direct involvement with this project.

We emphasize the importance of collecting this information and we hope that you will complete the entire survey. Survey drop boxes will be available at Rock Lake, Sulphur Gates, Big Berland and Cowlick Creek trailheads, the Willmore Wilderness Foundation office in Grande Cache, and also at the Grande Cache, Hinton, William A. Switzer, and Jasper Visitor Information Centers. You can also download a trail survey online from the Foothills Research Institute website. The completed survey can also be mailed to the following address:

Survey Mailing Address:

University of Alberta c/o the Foothills Research Institute
Willmore Wilderness Survey
P.O. Box 6330
Hinton, Alberta
T7V 1X6

Project Website: http://foothillsresearchinstitute.ca/pages/willmore_project/default.aspx

Thank you and we hope you will enjoy your visit to the Willmore Wilderness Park!

<p>My contact information:</p> <p>Name: Debbie Mucha Email: dmucha@ualberta.ca Phone: (780) 865-8290 Address: Department of Physical Education and Recreation, E-419 Van Vliet Centre University of Alberta Edmonton, AB T6G 2H9</p>	<p>My supervisor's contact information:</p> <p>Name: Elizabeth Halpenny Email: elizabeth.halpenny@ualberta.ca Phone: (780) 492-5702 Address: Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, E-419 Van Vliet Centre University of Alberta Edmonton, AB T6G 2H9</p>
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Sincerely,

Debbie Mucha

Debbie Mucha, MA Candidate

University of Alberta (Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation)