

THE TRANS CANADA TRAIL IN ALBERTA



Lusk Creek Trail (part of the Trans Canada Trail) in Kananaskis



Old Baldy Pass meets Lusk Creek Trail

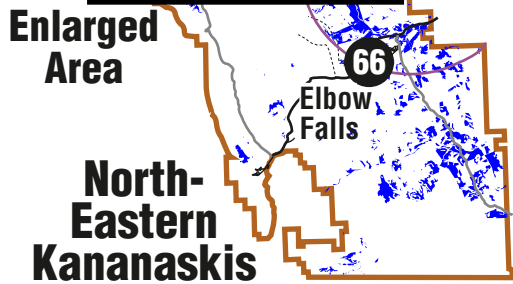
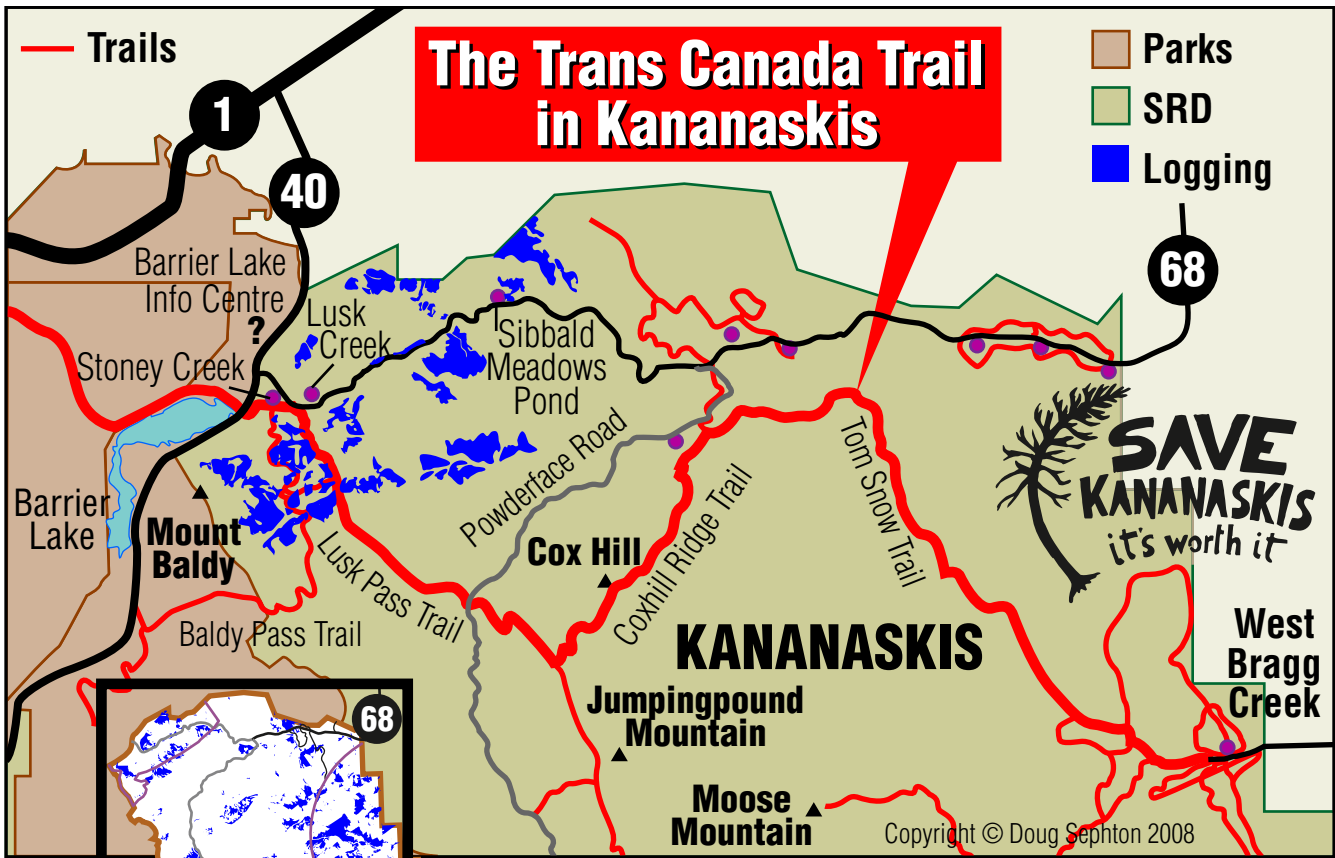


The photos, above, show the Lusk Creek /Old Baldy Pass Trails - part of the Trans Canada Trail system. The trail has been turned into a logging road where trucks roll over a trail that people have donated funds to, as a dedication to their loved ones. This trail connects Canadians. It is a disgrace, not a point of pride.

How could this happen? In part it's the disconnect between the Alberta government departments of Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) and Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture (Parks). Also, greed and the insatiable need to exploit every resource in the province plays a part; no matter where it is or what effect it has on the environment or the quality of life of citizens.

Only about half of Kananaskis is a protected park. The rest is a multi-use area where logging, oil & gas and agriculture clash with recreational users. Trails in areas managed by Sustainable Resource Development are not protected. So they can be bulldozed into logging roads and clearcuts can overrun them. Recreation facilities have deteriorated or been abandoned over the last 15 years due to budget cutbacks and government policy. Interpretive programs have been abandoned. Parks employees have been laid off. Trails and signs have deteriorated or disappeared. Meanwhile industrial activity is increasing with a large logging operation underway.

The Kananaskis multi-use policy is contradictory. The Parks department limits recreational activities, like the TransRockies Bike Race, due to environmental concerns. At the same time SRD requires that bulldozers and feller bunchers rip across the landscape to extract the maximum value from the natural resources.



The blue areas, above, are current clearcuts. The blue areas in the map of Northeastern Kananaskis, at left, are scheduled for the next 20 years. This logging will destroy trails and scenery in Kananaskis. Stop it now!



The photo above left is a trail map about 4 kilometres up the Lusk Creek Trail/logging road. It is surrounded by logging equipment and sports a Trans Canada Trail sign. The clearcut at right overlooks beautiful Barrier Lake.

The Save Kananaskis campaign began because we care about Kananaskis and nature. It is painful to see the scarred landscape logging leaves behind, and to reflect on the senseless degradation of water quality, recreation and natural habitat that logging so close to Calgary produces. A walk in the forest invigorates and provides respite from the intense stresses of the city. There is beauty in the foothills forest. We play, get fit, learn, grow and find joy in the wilderness. It sustains us.

SAVE KANANASKIS IS A FEW PEOPLE – WE NEED YOUR HELP

Our goal is to create a park that provides a rewarding experience for people; it should contribute to a secure water supply and a stable, natural habitat for wildlife. This will protect and promote the social, economic, and environmental interests of Albertans, in particular, the recreation and tourism users of the area, and the businesses that provide them with products and services.

PROTECT IT NOW!

If you would like to know more about this issue, please visit www.savekan.ca. If you've seen enough please write to the government of Alberta to tell them to stop logging and create a park in Kananaskis.

Writing a personal letter and/or a letter to the editor of your local news paper is the most effective action you can take.

CONTACT KEY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

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Alberta Minister responsible for protected areas (Kananaskis): Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture Honourable Hector Goudreau (PC)

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