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PLUZ's and PNT's: Opportunities and Limitations for Nature Conservation

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Executive Summary

Public Land Use Zones (PLUZ's) and Protective Notations (PNT's) are two tools often offered up as possible conservation designations. However, the suggestion is usually tempered by a feeling of not knowing how or if they work. The goals for this report are to provide basic descriptions PLUZ's and PNT's, and to provide guidance as to their use in support of ecological conservation in Alberta.

PLUZ's are established via the *Public Lands Administration Regulation*, and provide general restrictions for the otherwise unlimited recreational access to public lands. In terms of conservation they have several limitations, but based on their ability to provide limits can be an important tool.

PNTs are annotations attached to public land parcels that speak to a feature of that parcel that is worth protecting. They are part of a system whose function is to internally track Government of Alberta goals and decisions for publicly-owned parcels. They have no legislative force to compel protective action, but can be important due to their ability to trigger formal consideration of ecological features when assessing a disposition request.

The key to wielding these tools in support of ecological conservation is for the conservation community to better understand how they provide limits and triggers, that they are mechanisms internal to the Government of Alberta, that they are not a conservation panacea, that they occupy a unique niche in the land use policy mosaic, and how to make use of their intangible characteristics.

Recommendations are offered for ensuring a PLUZ can work for conservation, ensuring a PNT can work for conservation, ensuring effective associated management plans, and protecting transfers of land to government agencies that become subject to a PLUZ and/or PNT.

While not the top-tier conservation devices in Alberta, PLUZ's and PNT's can play a vital role for nature conservation on multi-use public lands, so long as conservationists understand them and deploy them thoughtfully.

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Introduction

Alberta has several different land designations enabled by provincial law that can be used for conserving our natural heritage. For those who focus on this goal, the devil is in the details — and there are many details! Whether a given legal designation is truly a good choice for conserving the natural features of an area depends on understanding the capabilities and intent of that designation(s) AND understanding how it is deployed.

Two ‘conservation’ tools often offered up as possibilities are *Public Land Use Zones* (PLUZ’s) and *Protective Notations* (PNT’s). However, the suggestion is usually tempered, muted by a feeling of not really knowing how or if they work.

The good news is the opportunity here centres around ‘how’ rather than ‘if’, meaning that when properly understood, and properly conceived, these two devices can be effective supports for ecological conservation.

There are two goals for this report. The first is to provide a basic description of Public Land Use Zones (PLUZ’s) and Protective Notations (PNT’s). The second is to provide guidance as to how these devices can be used to support ecological conservation in Alberta.

“when properly understood, and properly conceived, these two devices can be effective supports for ecological conservation”

Public Land Use Zones (PLUZ's)

In one sense, a *Public Land Use Zone* or PLUZ is exactly what the name says it is: it is a type of provincial government zonation, specific to land that is held by the government on behalf the public, and which regulates certain aspects of its use by the general public.

In short, the functional intent of PLUZ's is to both *facilitate* and *regulate* recreational activity, first specifying a range of available recreational opportunities, then identifying any limitations on them.

To understand PLUZ's' purpose and their value for conservation, it is important to understand that public land has no *default* controls on recreational access and use simply by being public land. That means if there is no formal disposition (i.e., explicit permission from the Minister for some sort of use or activity), it is considered 'vacant' public land, and is available for relatively indiscriminate public recreational use (see sidebar). Thus, while the land use controls within a PLUZ may seem limited, they are a significant step above the base circumstance.

Establishment

PLUZ's are established via the *Public Lands Administration Regulation* (under the *Public Lands Act*), which means they are created at the Minister's discretion, with the power for management action vested in a Director designated by the Minister.

The Regulation lays out default guidelines for all PLUZ's, then adds a separate description for each specific PLUZ, wherein those general guidelines may be varied, augmented, or reversed. This means they do not exist as a general category of management, but as specific zones, with detailed boundary descriptions for every parcel included (for a list of all PLUZ's and their specific restrictions, see *Appendix 2: Alberta's Public Land Use Zones*).

Vacant Public Land

"Subject to this Part, any person may enter on and occupy vacant public land for a recreational purpose." *Public Lands Administration Regulation, Sec 32(1)*

"Subject to this Part, any person may enter on and occupy a trail on vacant public land for a recreational or commercial purpose." *Public Lands Administration Regulation, Sec 33(1)*

"Vacant public land that is within a public land use zone, a public land recreation area, or a public land recreation trail may be entered on and occupied only in accordance with Division 1 of Part 9. [The section enabling and establishing PLUZ's]" *Public Lands Administration Regulation, Sec 34(1)*

Although PLUZ's have been around for some time, the advent of the regional plans (enabled under the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act*) has added a new dynamic. The regulatory portion can be used to require that certain PLUZ's must be created.

PLUZ Restrictions

The general restrictions for all Public Land Use Zones (PLUZ, Secs 181-186) are structured to include blanket prohibitions, immediately followed by the caveat that these can occur if allowed by signage, a permit, an officer, or permissions specific to a given PLUZ. Again, knowing that all recreational activities are allowed on vacant public land, this approach makes some sense.

The base restrictions include prohibitions on:

- Operating on-highway vehicles off the highway
- Operating off-highway vehicles or snow vehicles (except for government work, retrieving injured people, etc.)
- Camping, horse use, and off-highway vehicles use within 100m of a lakeshore
- Landing helicopters on a lake or within 200m of the shore
- Operating motor boats
- Camping or having a fire with 1km of a designated recreation area

Exceptions are enabled for each specific PLUZ, which for the most part simply reverse the ban on vehicles, and then specify they must be used on trails. Other tweaks include specifying maximum weight of vehicles, setting seasonal restrictions, or requiring permits.

The enforcement regime is primarily passive. While there may be patrols in areas with significant levels of use at certain times, these are large tracts of land, and having constant on-the-ground patrols is beyond the resources of government.

Thus, adherence to these restrictions relies on the posting of, and compliance with, signage and notices, responding to complaints, and the securing of permits for specified activities.

It is important to note that none of these restrictions apply to aboriginal people, providing a loophole for approximately 7% of Alberta's population.

Limitations

The limitations of Public Land Use Zones as conservation devices all relate to the fact that it was not designed to be such a tool, so really should not be looked at as shortcomings, but rather areas that would need to be bolstered if a PLUZ was intended to support nature conservation.

First, PLUZ's apply only manage and limit random recreational activity on public lands.

Second, they are intended to constrain, but also to facilitate a certain amount of recreational use of types that may be contrary to good conservation practices (e.g., certain levels of off-highway vehicle use).

Third, enforcement of the restrictions is fundamentally passive, relying on signage, or on written or verbal orders from an officer; the size and nature of these areas often makes this type of enforcement ineffective.

Fourth, the enabling legislation and default restrictions for PLUZ's make no reference to ecological conservation concepts or goals.

And finally, though PLUZ's have the ability to limit recreational access, there is no pre-set mechanism for tying those to an underlying conservation science rationale, nor an operational management plan.

Importance for Conservation

At first glance, it can appear that Public Land Use Zones are not an effective tool for conservation. There is a clear intent to facilitate a wide range of recreational activities and access. There are no definitions of, nor references to, conservation, wildlife, protection, ecosystems, habitat, or other such values or goals.

The importance for conservation, however, is in the simple ability to provide limits. For example:

- Sec 184(1) "The director may, by order, restrict or prohibit, for any specified period of time, entry into all or any part of the lands within a public land use zone."
- Sec 181 "Every person who is within a public land use zone ... shall comply with (a) the lawful orders, instructions and directions of an officer, and (b) the instructions, prohibitions and directions contained in signs and notices posted by or at the request of an officer on or about the public land use zone ..."
- Sec 182 "An officer may order a person in a public land use zone, public land recreation area or public land recreation trail to refrain from doing anything that, in the opinion of the officer, is dangerous to life or property or detrimental to the management or use of any road, trail or route within the public land use zone ..."
- Sec 3(1) "The Minister may establish disturbance standards setting the maximum acceptable footprint that a class or combination of (a) activities, (b) uses, (c) dispositions, or (d) ancillary facilities may have on public land or a class of public land."

These are significant powers of limitation, but in terms of ecological conservation, they are “necessary but not sufficient conditions.” There exists no conservation rationale within the Regulation, and no direction as to securing such a rationale.

However, PLUZ’s are increasingly coming with management plans. The newest PLUZ’s — the *Livingstone PLUZ* and the *Porcupine Hills PLUZ* — are underlain by the *Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan* (AEP 2017). That plan explicitly states its commitment to:

- “Establishing a designated motorized trail system that meets the open motorized access limits prescribed by the *Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan* [AEP 2018b] to protect watershed, biodiversity and other values.”
- “Developing best practices and guidelines for siting recreation infrastructure, including trails, camping and day use areas that:
 - protect water bodies and riparian areas from sedimentation and damage;
 - buffer critical wildlife habitat and ecologically sensitive areas;
 - meet the needs of recreation users and promote positive experiences; and,
 - identify timing restrictions, temporary closures and other measures to manage impacts to the environment and recreation infrastructure.” (p i-ii)

The reference to the *Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan* (AEP 2018b) is critical. That plan takes its authority from the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (whose regulatory component has the force of law), and sets out science-based management thresholds and regulatory limits and targets.

In summary, what is provided in this case is a nested set of tools:

1. A regulatory tool that enables the placement of restrictions (a PLUZ);
2. A management plan that establishes the management intent and references ecological conservation concerns and goals; and
3. A science-based, enforceable articulation of threats, necessary limits, and regulatory targets.

It is worth noting that a dated management plan exists for the *Ghost Public Land Use Zone*, and – as with the Livingstone-Porcupine – the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan creates the foundation for a linear footprint management plan and a recreation management plan for this area. It remains to be seen whether a PLUZ that does not have specific direction from the applicable regional plan can acquire a similar science-based conservation mandate as the Livingstone and Porcupine PLUZ’s.

Protective Notations (PNT's)

Similarly to Public Land Use Zones, *Protective Notations* (PNTs) are very much what their name implies: a note or annotation attached to a parcel that speaks to a feature of that parcel that is worth protecting. The term 'protect' must be taken in a very broad sense, as they may *protect* the ability to explore for oil and gas or *protect* the area for agriculture. They have no legislative force to compel any protective action.

PNTs are part of a larger system of Reserves/Notations whose main function is to internally track Government of Alberta goals and decisions for publicly-owned parcels. These Reserves/Notations vary significantly, as in some cases they are backed by other pieces of legislation and can compel certain management actions (for example, Designated Historic Resources and Ecological Reserves are tracked through this system).

For the most part, this is not a publicly-facing system, and the public generally only comes in contact with it when they are seeking a surface disposition on public land. In its simplest terms, a *surface disposition* is formal permission granted by the provincial government to do something on public land. Though PNTs cannot compel protective action, they do require that certain characteristics or values of a parcel be formally considered when assessing whether a disposition should be granted.

How PNT's Operate

A Protective Notation (PNT) results from an internal application by a Government of Alberta public servant. Such applications follow a detailed manual (*Public Lands Reservation Information Guide*, ASRD 2006) which uses numeric codes related to a pre-set list of options. PNT's can be placed on any public land parcel, even ones already subject to a lease agreement. The application is forwarded to a central Reservations Unit in Alberta Public Lands for review and approval.

Successful PNT applications then become part of the Land Standing Report, the summary description used by the Government of Alberta to identify all reservations and notations that are attached to a public land parcel.

By specifying that "written agency consent" is required, approved PNT's become tied to a particular office. If a Land Disposition Request is received, the person/office who submitted the successful PNT application is contacted and asked to provide a response.

When a request for a disposition is made, the person making the application would have to present the Land Standing Report with their application, indicating how any required mitigations would be met.

All offices who have registered a notation or reservation of some type are contacted and asked to provide a response to the proposed disposition. All responses are collected and collated by the Land Use Officer, who then makes a determination regarding the disposition. It is very important to note that any Protective Notation may be disregarded at this stage. There is an informal sense that the most restrictive reservation/notation would be respected by the Land Use Officer, but that is not required.

Protective Notation (PNT) Structure

Protective Notations follow the same basic structure as any other type of reservation or notation, using numeric codes from the *Public Lands Reservation Information Guide* to indicate the following:

1. Reservation/Notation Type code

As well as a Protective Notation, these could include: Company Consultative Notation, Consultative Notation, Designated Historic Resource, Disposition Reservation, Ecological Reserve Area, Holding Reservation, Industrial Sample Plot, or Natural Area.

2. Purpose Code

The Purpose Codes indicate *why* the reservation or notation exists. These Codes are separated into eight groups, each comprised of a related suite of intended uses, potential uses, or landscape values. The highest-order purpose codes are:

- Surface Resource Management/Conservation Area (0100)
- Timber Resource Management Area (0200)
- Recreation Resource Management Area (0300)
- Fish and Wildlife Resource Management Areas (0400)
- Site or Adjacent Land Use Protection Area (0500)
- Special Places (0600)
- Study Area (0700)
- Other – General Purpose Code for Miscellaneous Situations (0800)

These highest-order codes are generally not used. Two lower tiers of more specific codes exist under each, and applicants are directed to use the most specific code possible (a full list of purpose codes and the number of years each may be placed for is included in *Appendix 3: Reservation/Notation Purpose Codes and Terms*).

Each purpose code has an associated time period or Term. These are specific to the code and vary widely, from 1 year to 9999 years (i.e., indefinite). Some give a range or years which the PNT must be within (a full list of purpose codes and terms for each is included in *Appendix 3: Reservation/Notation Purpose Codes and Terms*).

3. Restriction Code

Restriction Codes indicate the level of restriction applicable to surface dispositions. Protective Notations can use any of the codes.¹ Because the PNT is not legally binding, it simply indicates the level of restriction the applicant agency *would like* to see on the parcel.

These restrictions relate to surface dispositions and sales generally, or to agricultural dispositions and sales, and state that a disposition or sale is not appropriate due to the purpose code.

4. Restriction Exception code

Because the Restriction Codes are very broad, a series of 18 'Restriction Exceptions' exist that can more specifically allow certain things to take place. They speak to grazing, timber harvest, haying, recreation, cultivation, and commercial/industrial/residential land use, allowing for these activities to take place, or often dictation that *only* these activities can take place. For example, a restriction exception can be "allows only oil and gas activity" or "allows only commercial uses."

5. Administrative/Comments/Flag

While these are, in fact, 'exception' codes, they do not function that way. Instead they mostly provide a mechanism to reference additional information that may be needed/useful.

¹ Some notations (such as a *Consultative Notation*) can only use the first code: 'no restriction.'

PNT Restriction Codes

1 – No Restriction

Used only with Consultative Notations; it indicates that all disposition applications must be referred for the holding agency's comments or special conditions.

2 – No agricultural Sale Disposition

This is used when lands aren't suitable for agriculture sale due to the stated purpose code. Land may be available for FDL without the option to purchase.

3 – No Agricultural Disposition

No agricultural types of dispositions are permitted due to the stated purpose code.

4 – No Surface Disposition

No surface dispositions of any kind are permitted due to the stated purpose code.

5 – No Surface Sale Disposition

This is used when lands aren't suitable for any type of land sale due to the stated purpose code.

*Public Lands Reservation
Information Guide (ASRD 2006)*

Limitations

The limitations of *Protective Notations* lie in how those two words interact; 'protective' generates high expectations, but there is really no subterfuge here - they are just 'notations' and they may just as easily be 'protecting' timber harvest, recreation, etc. When the emphasis is put on the desire for ecological *protection*, several challenges are encountered.

First, as they are simple notations included in an internal Government of Alberta database, they have little regulatory weight. They can be overturned or ignored by the responsible Land Use Officer when considering a request for disposition. And they can be removed altogether by a Director.

Second, they are separate from the sub-surface system, and the responsible body there, the Alberta Energy Regulator. While a smart proponent would have spoken with the office that placed the PNT before going to the AER, and much work has been done recently to rationalize them, these are still two separate processes.

Third, numerous ministries have an interest in public land; energy, rangeland, forestry, parks, tourism, etc. may all want to place notations and reservations which may compete. For this reason, a very restrictive PNT may, in fact, be less successful, as it may garner more resistance than it can withstand. For example, the manual specifically cautions against restrictions on areas larger than 40 acres, as "Areas larger than 40 acres make it difficult to sell subsurface rights and thus are a legitimate concern." (ASRD 2006)

Fourth, the process is very bureaucratic and entirely internal, with essentially no ability for public interests to play a role either in the drafting or championing of them. This also means they are very poorly understood by the general public and even by many disposition proponents. As well, to adjust a PNT (for example, to augment it) essentially means starting from the beginning and submitting a new application.

And finally, they cannot prevent access. Their role in the regulatory process is to identify desired limitations, but their simple existence gives no authority to outright prevent random access or formal dispositions.

Importance for Conservation

So do *Protective Notations* have any value for ecological conservation? The answer is a definite, 'yes.' However, they cannot be viewed (and judged) as a single all-encompassing guarantor of ecological conservation. Instead, they must be viewed and wielded specific to the niche they occupy.

First, they represent a robust ‘trigger’. An application for a surface disposition on public land must consider PNT’s, and that triggers a formal consideration of the impacts of the activity, including the potential mitigation that might be needed to maintain the identified values.

Second, while ‘protection’ can mean a variety of non-ecological values, there is a long list of purposes that are targeted at ecological features and processes (see sidebar).

Third, the management of public lands is a process internal to the provincial government, and could therefore be subject to vague and opaque guidance. Members of the public can download the Reservation/Notation Manual, and request the Land Standing Report for any public land parcel. Perhaps more importantly, public servants within the Government of Alberta have a mechanism for reconciling competing interests on public lands. More than one interviewee noted that having this process in place had led to inter-departmental discussions happening before a PNT application was submitted, which smoothed the process.

Fourth, the long-standing existence of PNT’s has led to the device gaining reputational weight beyond the micro-details of the notation. Some examples were identified where the long-term existence of a PNT meant it was well known and thus well regarded. In these cases, disposition requests were often either not submitted or were considered less favourably.

Fifth, PNT’s — or rather the public servant applicants — have evolved several creative uses. For example, southern Alberta has several PNT’s that are specific to plant communities. Five ‘Fescue PNT’s’ cover very large areas of Alberta’s native prairie, extending into areas important for oil and gas activity. Because the PNT applies only to the fescue grasses on the identified parcels, there is less push back from other departments (like Energy) because the PNT’s do not preclude all activity, just activity affecting the fescue grasses.

Ecologically-focused Purpose Codes

Ungulate Winter Range, Ungulate Habitat Protection Area, Ungulate Summer Range, Ungulate Calving Area, Mineral Lick, Waterfowl Production Area, Waterfowl Staging Area, Waterfowl Moulting Area, Wetland Habitat Management Area, Dancing Ground Protection Area, Colonial Nester Habitat Protection Area, Spawning Habitat Protection Area, Streambank Habitat Protection Area, Lakeshore Habitat Protection Area, Fisheries Enhancement Area, Wildlife Sanctuary Potential, Bird Sanctuary Potential, Habitat Management Area, Remnant and Isolated Islands of Habitat Protection Area, Habitat Management Area, Riparian Habitat Protection Area, Fragile Slope, Watershed Management, Lakeshore Protection, Watercourse Protection, Multiple Resource Concerns, Provincial Park Potential, Ecological Reserve/Wilderness Area Potential, Education Natural Area Potential, Conservation Natural Area Potential,

Public Lands Reservation Information Guide (ASRD 2006)

Sixth, and most importantly, PNT's — liked PLUZ's — need to be judged based on their collaborative contribution. While they do not control access, provide regulatory certainty, or provide management guidance, PNT's can provide the trigger for review, a strong ecological context, and an internal mechanism for reconciliation of competing interests. Thus, when paired with PLUZ's, grazing leases, the Recreation Access Regulation, Habitat Conservation Areas, regional plans, etc., they fill conservation gaps that other tools cannot.

Analysis

For Alberta's public lands the four most-pernicious issues for ecological conservation are recreation, agriculture, forestry, and oil and gas (arguably in that order).² PLUZs and PNTs address different ones of these, and do so in different ways; PLUZs will target random recreational access and some linear development, while PNTs will target surface disposition requests for public land.

The key to wielding them effectively in support of ecological conservation is for the conservation community to have a better understanding of how they work (and how they don't work). The following are concepts vital to that understanding:

Provision of Limits and Triggers

Public land is just that, intended to provide a variety of functions and services for all Albertans. In the effort to have the ecological values of those lands conserved, the first step is to have some way of limiting the otherwise unlimited capacity for use. PLUZ's can provide a significant part of that.

Similarly, with the multitude of uses that can happen on public lands, there needs to be a way to simply pause and point to ecological values that may be at risk. PNT's can do that.

Mechanisms Internal to the Government of Alberta

For the most part, these are mechanisms that operate internally within the Government of Alberta. They are generally initiated, reviewed, applied and managed without significant external involvement. While this makes conservation organizations nervous, the system needs to be recognized for what it is.

The Government of Alberta is an extremely large organization, and many conservation issues arise when one department mandated with one set of goals is not connected to another department and its goals. The Reservation/Notation system requires and guides a process of reconciling those goals. Likewise, the establishment and management of a PLUZ (especially when a management plan is involved) can create critical mechanisms for interagency/interdepartmental cooperation.

² Public land can also accommodate a number of other ecologically-threatening activities (like mining, public infrastructure), but they are less pervasive.

Not a Conservation Panacea

It is important to differentiate between 'conservation tools' and 'tools that can be used for conservation'; PLUZ's and PNT's fall into the latter category. Neither was conceived as a conservation mechanism, and a person cannot expect conservation to be enabled by the simple existence of these designations. Both are used to enable and 'protect' many land uses detrimental to natural ecosystems.

A large concern here is that when these tools are considered to be a silver bullet' there can be a tendency to push them too hard, expect too much. An extremely restrictive PNT can simply generate backlash from other public land interests (e.g., oil and gas, agriculture), leading to them being denied or ignored, and their potential contribution removed.

To be clear, if the goal is comprehensive ecological conservation, designations such as Wilderness Area, Wildland Provincial Park, Ecological Reserve, Natural Area, or Heritage Rangeland should be pursued.

Land Use Policy Mosaic

Perhaps the most important phrase to ensure PNT's and PLUZ's support ecological conservation is "when combined with"

PLUZs and PNTs share an interesting common trait when it comes to ecological conservation: alone they may be relatively ineffective and tenuous, but when combined with certain other policies, each can provide a robust – even critical -- contribution.

These tools are policy vanguards, the first to be engaged when activity is proposed for public lands. However, to be effective from a conservation perspective, they must be backed up by two key players in this land use policy mosaic: science-based rationale, and management planning.

These support tools will inform the reasons for limits, the response to land use requests, the day-to-day actions on the parcel, the public engagement, and the interagency discussions.

Importance of Intangibles

Like any policy issues, there are the slightly more nuanced intangibles that need to be understood.

Legacy is clearly important. PNT's that have been in place protecting ecological values for years appear to have more immediate credibility than brand new ones.

Maintaining good relationships with public servants is always important, but more so when the tools being employed are largely internal.

Effectiveness of PNT's and PLUZ's for conservation will be largely dependent on the level of awareness in the conservation community, both of the tools in general, and of the specific applications of them.

Multi-use landscapes by definition require high levels of cooperation, and PNT's and PLUZ's can help facilitate that. For example, rangeland and conservation stakeholders often seek similar limits on recreational access. Pre-application discussions between oil and gas stakeholders and those filing ecologically-based PNT's can advance best practices.

Recommendations

It is clear that both Public Land Use Zones (PLUZ's) and Protective Notations (PNT's) can provide a vital contribution to ecological conservation on public land; it is also clear that that is not a given.

The following recommendations are aimed at helping those with an ecological conservation interest better ensure that PNT's and PLUZ's protect nature on public land. They are framed from the perspective that one of these devices has been proposed as a way to protect nature on a parcel of public land.

It should be noted again that the first step in any of these situations would be to determine if there is a more stringent protective mechanism that could be used, such as a Wilderness Area, Wildland Provincial Park, Ecological Reserve, Natural Area, or Heritage Rangeland.

Ensuring a PLUZ Can Work for Conservation

To ascertain if a PLUZ could be considered to be supporting a conservation purpose:

1. Check that the PLUZ would contain limits on recreational access activities that could impact known conservation values.
2. Determine if there is an established history in the area of random recreational access and use at unsustainable levels, which may make the enforcement of limits practically untenable.
3. Ensure recreational limits are based on a publicly-accessible, science-based conservation rationale.
4. Ensure the PLUZ is underlain by a comprehensive and binding management plan, which contains goals for ecological conservation of the area.
5. Work with the relevant public servants to gain access to any review, science, or management committees associated with the PLUZ.
6. Determine if another order of governance, restriction, or protective mechanism exists, such as:
 - a. The PLUZ is enabled or referenced by the relevant regional plan, and the stated rationale for doing so includes ecological conservation.
 - b. Parcels in the PLUZ are subject to conditions established as part of a contract for a sale, transfer, or land swap.

- c. PNT's, Consultative Notations or other Reservations require considerations or restrictions that would support ecological conservation.
 - d. Grazing leases or permits require established conservation management practices.
7. Determine if another order of governance, permission, or reservation exists that will allow or promote activities that would have a significant impact on the ecological values, such as:
 - a. PNT's that reserve parcels for intense or extractive uses.
 - b. Dispositions that allow for high-intensity timber, recreation, or agriculture use, or oil and gas surface access.
 - c. Potentially active sub-surface leases for mines, minerals, and hydrocarbons.

Ensuring a PNT Can Work for Conservation

To ascertain if a PNT could be considered to be supporting a conservation purpose:

1. Ensure its Purpose Code enables conservation of the identified ecological values, ideally relating to a high-level ecological function or feature (providing the greatest 'umbrella' effect possible).
2. Ensure the Restriction Code is either "No Surface Disposition" or "No Surface Sale Disposition" (restriction codes referencing "agriculture" will only restrict agricultural dispositions).
3. Ensure the area it covers coincides with the area of conservation concern.
4. Check to see if there is a legacy of PNT's in the area being respected by all parties, internal and external.
5. Ensure the PNT is paired with a mechanism for restricting public land access and use, such as a PLUZ, Habitat Conservation Area³ or Grazing Lease⁴.
6. Ensure the PNT rationale is based on a publicly-accessible, science-based conservation rationale.

³ Enabled under the *Wildlife Regulation*, *Habitat Conservation Areas* allow for restriction of hunting, parking, firearms, and camping.

⁴ The *Recreational Access Regulation* allows holders of grazing leases to restrict some types of recreational access.

7. Ensure the PNT is one part of a comprehensive and binding management plan, which contains goals for ecological conservation of the area.
8. Determine if another order of governance, permission, or reservation exists that will allow or promote activities that would have a significant impact on the ecological values, such as:
 - a. PNT's that reserve parcels for intense or extractive uses.
 - b. Dispositions that allow for high-intensity timber, recreation, or agriculture use, or oil and gas surface access.
 - c. Potentially active sub-surface leases for mines, minerals, and hydrocarbons.

Ensuring Effective Management Plans

Because the role of the management plan is so critical to the land use policy mosaic, it is important that it is robust enough to truly support PLUZ and PNT designations. This means ensuring that a management plan is either in place, or will be created, which:

1. Prioritizes protection of the property's ecological features and processes.
2. Includes public reporting mechanisms.
3. Consults an internal, cross-departmental referral committee that can collectively review disposition requests.
4. Is established based not only on multi-stakeholder discussions, but also on rigorous ecological science that speaks to limits and thresholds.
5. Is binding and not simply advisory.

Protecting Transfers of Land to Government Agencies

Increasingly, land trusts, conservancies, and municipalities are involved in transfers or swaps of land, where ecologically-valuable parcels are passed into the stewardship of the provincial government. It is not uncommon for those parcels to become part of a Public Land Use Zone (PLUZ) or subject to a Protective Notation (PNT). The general advice above would apply, but the following are recommendations for these specific circumstances so the transferring entity can be assured the ecological values of the parcel(s) will endure.

1. Start by asking for a higher order of conservation designation.
 - o Again, PLUZ's and PNT's are not, in and of themselves, conservation mechanisms, so the best choice would be a *Wilderness Area*, *Wildland*

Provincial Park, Ecological Reserve, Natural Area, or Heritage Rangeland designation⁵.

- Explore the possibility of placing a conservation easement or restrictive covenant on the land prior to its transfer.⁶
2. Provide comprehensive, accessible background information.
 - Ensure any information gathered on the ecological values, sensitivities, threats, and their status, including all inventories, baseline reports, monitoring, and other data with relevance, is transferred to the managing agency, but still made publicly available.
 3. In the case of the land being designated as a Public Land Use Zone (PLUZ), ensure:
 - The PLUZ is underlain by both a science-based description of the ecological values and threats to them, and a binding management plan with conservation goals articulated.
 - The signage proposed will be adequate (recall this is the primary mode of enforcement).
 4. In the case of a parcel(s) being assigned a Protective Notation (PNT),
 - Ensure it is clear if the entire area is subject to the PNT, just certain portions, or specialized circumstances (e.g., just certain plant communities), and ascertain if that coincides with the conservation values.
 5. Determine if any existing Reservations or Notations are attached to the parcel which may conflict with the conservation goals for the property.
 6. Request that a *Company Consultative Notation*⁷ be placed on all applicable parcels such that you are required to be notified and given opportunity to comment in the case of any requests for disposition.
 7. Prepare a communications package making all local parties aware of the conservation protections placed on the property (local conservation groups, local biologists, local politicians), including the interlacing nature of PLUZ's, PNT's, science-based conservation information, and management plans.

⁵ NB: The Provincial Park designation provides unlimited opportunities for the Minister to grant dispositions under the *Provincial Parks (Dispositions) Regulation* (Alberta Regulation 241/1977).

⁶ NB: As of yet, this has not occurred in Alberta, but neither has the possibility been fully explored.

⁷ *Company Consultative Notation* "Indicates a company or individual with a justified interest in the land wishes to be consulted prior to any commitment or disposition of the land." It appears this type of consultative notation has been used to ensure affected conservation stakeholders can be notified.

Conclusion

Public Land Use Zones (PLUZ's) and *Protective Notations (PNT's)* are not the top-tier conservation devices in Alberta. Much better mechanisms exist for ensuring comprehensive, exclusive nature conservation. However, while those approaches must receive primary attention, land conservation in the province increasingly needs to encompass multiple-use landscapes in order to maintain large-scale processes and features like connectivity, migration, extensive habitats, whole watersheds, climate change adaptation, etc.

Therefore, In terms of nature conservation on multi-use public lands, devices like PLUZ's and PNT's can play a vital role. The secret is in understanding them and deploying them thoughtfully. This means:

- Understanding their limits, potential contributions, and role within the matrix of land use planning and protection mechanisms.
- Working collaboratively with the Alberta public service to employ them.
- Getting the science in place and making sure it is used.
- Pairing their restriction and trigger powers with effective management planning.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Resources and Citations

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP). 2017. *Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan*. Government of Alberta.

Available at: <http://aep.alberta.ca/recreation-public-use/recreation-on-public-land/default.aspx>

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP). 2018a. *Alberta Public Lands Glossary of Terms*.

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Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP). 2018b. *Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan*. Government of Alberta.

Available at: <http://aep.alberta.ca/land/programs-and-services/land-and-resource-planning/regional-planning/south-saskatchewan-region/default.aspx>

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD). 2006. *Public Lands Reservation Information Guide*. Edmonton, AB. Available at: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/public-lands-reservation-information-guide>

Government of Alberta (GoA). 2018. *Master Schedule of Standards and Conditions (MSSC)*. Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy Regulator (AER).

Accessed at: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/master-schedule-of-standards-and-conditions>

Government of Alberta (GoA). 2019. *Public Land Use Zones*. Informational website.

<https://www.alberta.ca/public-land-use-zones.aspx>

Land Use Planning Hub. 2019. *Exploring the past and present of Alberta's Public Land Use Zones*. Available at: <https://landusehub.ca/pluz-in-alberta>

Poulton, David W. 2015. *Public Lands, Private Conservation: Bridging the Gap*. A Background Paper for the Workshop October 20, 2015, Edmonton, Alberta.

Provincial Parks (Dispositions) Regulation. Alberta Regulation 241/1977 (With amendments up to and including Alberta Regulation 3/2013)

Available at: www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2003_228.pdf

Public Lands Administration Regulation (PLAR). Alberta Regulation 187/2011 (with amendments up to and including Alberta Regulation 70/2018). Available at: http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2011_187.pdf

Public Lands Act (PLA). RSA 2000. Available at: <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/P40.pdf>

Recreational Access Regulation. Alberta Regulation 228/2003 (with amendments up to and including Alberta Regulation 58/2017)
Available at: http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2003_228.pdf

Wildlife Regulation. Alberta Regulation 143/1997 (with amendments up to and including Alberta Regulation 161/2018).
Available at: www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/1997_143.pdf

Appendix 2: Alberta's Public Land Use Zones (PLUZ's)

Schedule 4 of the *Public Lands Administration Regulation* lists all current Public Land Use Zones. The greater portion of the detail in those regulations is devoted to explicitly identifying the parcels and boundaries of each PLUZ.

The following are the specific restrictions for each PLUZ. These either override the general provisions, or augment them. In the cases where there are no details, the general provisions would apply. In the case of the *Livingstone Public Land Use Zone* and the *Porcupine Hills Public Land Use Zone*, the *Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan* and the *Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan* provide the greater detail.

For information on each PLUZ, the Government of Alberta maintains a website at: <https://www.alberta.ca/public-land-use-zones.aspx>.

(NB: Inconsistencies on the numbering indicate sections that have been repealed)

The Kananaskis Country Public Land Use Zone

1(2) The operation of a motor vehicle on land within the Kananaskis Country Public Land Use Zone that is not a highway is permitted

- a) to transport an employee of the Government in the course of the person's work,
- b) where the vehicle is being used to conduct, or to transport any person or equipment to be employed or used in, work within the Zone that has been approved by the director,
- c) to remove a sick, injured or deceased person from the Zone, or
- d) at places within the limits of a registered trapping area located within the Zone where the use of the vehicle is approved by an officer.

2 No person shall

- a) camp, or
- b) start or maintain an open fire
- c) within one kilometre of a public land recreation area or roadway located within the Kananaskis Country Public Land Use Zone.
- d) Spatial description omits all the other designations within its borders, including
- e) McLean Creek Off-Highway Vehicle Public Land Use Zone
- f) Sibbald Snow Vehicle Public Land Use Zone

McLean Creek Off-Highway Vehicle Public Land Use Zone

4(1) The operation of motor vehicles is permitted within the McLean Creek Off-Highway Vehicle Public Land Use Zone except as otherwise indicated by signs posted in the Zone or by an access permit.

4(2) A person operating a motor vehicle within the Zone shall, at the time of the person's entry into the Zone, obtain a copy of, and comply with, the access permit referred to in subsection (1).

5 No person shall operate a motor vehicle on a highway or trail within the McLean Creek Off-Highway Vehicle Public Land Use Zone at a speed exceeding the maximum speed limit posted for that vehicle.

6 No person shall

- a) camp, or
- b) start or maintain an open fire
- c) within one kilometre of a public land recreation area or roadway located within the McLean Creek Off-Highway Public Land Use Zone.

Sibbald Snow Vehicle Public Land Use Zone

8(1) Subject to subsection (2) and to section 9(2), no person shall operate a snow vehicle within the Sibbald Snow Vehicle Public Land Use Zone.

(2) The operation of a snow vehicle is permitted within the Sibbald Snow Vehicle Public Land Use Zone only on trails that are designated for that use by signs posted in the Zone or by an access permit.

(3) A person operating a motor vehicle within the Sibbald Snow Vehicle Public Land Use Zone shall, at the time of the person's entry into the Zone, obtain a copy of, and comply with, any order or instructions referred to in sections 189(1), 190(3) and 191(1).

(4) No person shall operate a snow vehicle on a trail designated for that use within the Sibbald Snow Vehicle Public Land Use Zone at a speed exceeding the maximum speed for snow vehicles posted on or about the trail.

Cataract Creek Snow Vehicle Public Land Use Zone

12(1) Subject to subsection (2), no person shall operate a snow vehicle within the Cataract Creek Snow Vehicle Public Land Use Zone.

(2) The operation of a snow vehicle is permitted within the Cataract Creek Snow Vehicle Public Land Use Zone only on trails that are designated for that use by signs posted in the Zone, or by an access permit.

(3) A person operating a motor vehicle within the Cataract Creek Snow Vehicle Public Land Use Zone shall, at the time of the person's entry into the Zone, obtain a copy of, and comply with, any order or instructions referred to in sections 189(1), 190(3) and 191(1).

(4) No person shall operate a snow vehicle on a trail designated for that use within the Cataract Creek Snow Vehicle Public Land Use Zone at a speed exceeding the maximum speed for snow vehicles posted on or about the trail.

Blackstone/Wapiabi Public Land Use Zone

[no PLUZ-specific additions]

Job/Cline Public Land Use Zone

20(3) The operation of

- a) an off-highway vehicle with a maximum weight of 590 kg (1300 lb), a maximum tire pressure of 110 kPa (16psi), a maximum wheelbase of 185 cm and a maximum width of 178 cm,
- b) a snow vehicle, or
- c) an on-highway vehicle that is a motorcycle

is permitted in areas or on trails that have been designated for that purpose by signs or notices posted in the Zone or in accordance with the written instructions of an officer.

(4) A person operating an off-highway vehicle or motorcycle described in subsection (3) within the Zone shall, at the time of entry into the Zone, obtain a copy of, and comply with, any written instructions referred to in subsection (3) that are then available.

Panther Corners Public Land Use Zone

[no PLUZ-specific additions]

Upper Clearwater/Ram Public Land Use Zone

30(3) The operation of

- a) an off-highway vehicle with a maximum weight of 590 kg (1300 lb), a maximum tire pressure of 110 kPa (16psi), a maximum wheelbase of 185 cm and a maximum width of 178 cm,
- b) a snow vehicle, or

c) an on-highway vehicle that is a motorcycle is permitted in areas or on trails that have been designated for that purpose by signs or notices posted in the Zone or in accordance with the written instructions of an officer.

(4) A person operating an off-highway vehicle or motorcycle described in subsection (3) within the Zone shall, at the time of entry into the Zone, obtain a copy of, and comply with, any written instructions referred to in subsection (3) that are then available.

Holmes Crossing Public Land Use Zone

36(1) A person may allow a horse under the person's control to be on trails in the Holmes Crossing Public Land Use Zone only if the trails are designated for that purpose by signs or notices posted in the Zone under this Regulation.

(2) The operation of a snow vehicle is permitted within the Holmes Crossing Public Land Use Zone from December 1 to March 31 on trails designated for that use by signs or notices posted under this Regulation.

Whitecourt Sandhills Cross-Country Ski Public Land Use Zone

38 No person shall, at any time between November 1 and March 31, allow a horse under the person's control on a trail within the Whitecourt Sandhills Cross-Country Ski Public Land Use Zone if the trail is designated for cross country skiing by signs or notices posted in the Zone under this Regulation.

Coal Branch Public Land Use Zone

[no PLUZ-specific additions]

Athabasca Ranch Public Land Use Zone

[no PLUZ-specific additions]

Brule Lake Public Land Use Zone

[no PLUZ-specific additions]

Kiska/Willson Public Land Use Zone

43(3) The operation of

- a) an off-highway vehicle with a maximum weight of 590 kg (1300 lb), a maximum tire pressure of 110 kPA (16psi), a maximum wheelbase of 185 cm and a maximum width of 178 cm,
- b) a snow vehicle, or
- c) an on-highway vehicle that is a motorcycle

is permitted in areas or on trails that have been designated for that purpose by signs or notices posted in the Zone or in accordance with the written instructions of an officer.

(4) A person operating an off-highway vehicle or motorcycle described in subsection (3) within the Zone shall, at the time of entry into the Zone, obtain a copy of, and comply with, any written instructions referred to in subsection (3) that are then available.

Dormer/Sheep Public Land Use Zone

47(3) The operation of

- a) an off-highway vehicle with a maximum weight of 590 kg (1300 lb), a maximum tire pressure of 110 kPA (16psi), a maximum wheelbase of 185 cm and a maximum width of 178 cm,
- b) a snow vehicle, or
- c) an on-highway vehicle that is a motorcycle

is permitted in areas or on trails that have been designated for that purpose by signs or notices posted in the Zone or in accordance with the written instructions of an officer.

(4) A person operating an off-highway vehicle or motorcycle described in subsection (3) within the Zone shall, at the time of entry into the Zone, obtain a copy of, and comply with, any written instructions referred to in subsection (3) that are then available.

Ghost Public Land Use Zone

[no PLUZ-specific additions]

Livingstone Public Land Use Zone

[no PLUZ-specific additions]

Porcupine Hills Public Land Use Zone

[no PLUZ-specific additions]

Appendix 3: Reservation/Notation Purpose Codes and Terms

PURPOSE CODE	APPLICABLE TO PNT'S?	TERM
0100 Surface Resource Management/Conservation Area	Yes	Indefinite
<u>0110 Erosion Hazard</u>	Yes	Indefinite
0111 Water Erosion	Yes	Indefinite
0112 Wind Erosion	Yes	Indefinite
0120 Fragile Slope	Yes	Indefinite
<u>0130 Adverse Soil Characteristics</u>	Yes	Indefinite
0131 Organic/Poorly Drained Soils	Yes	Indefinite
0132 Extremely Acidic Soils	Yes	Indefinite
0140 General Topographic Constraints	Yes	Indefinite
0141 Fragmented Land Pattern	Yes	Indefinite
<u>0150 Water Resource Management Area</u>	Yes	Indefinite
0151 Watershed Management	Yes	Indefinite
0152 Flood Hazard Area	Yes	Indefinite
0153 Potential Reservoir Area	Yes	Site specific
0154 Lakeshore Protection	Yes	Indefinite
0155 Watercourse Protection	Yes	Indefinite
<u>0160 Land Use Protection</u>	Yes	Site specific
0161 Proposed Grazing Reserve Site or Expansion	Yes	Site specific
0162 Range Improvement Plan (RIP)	Yes	Terms usually coincide with the agricultural activity or for 10 years
0163 Irrigable Land Potential	Yes	Site specific
0164 Arable Lands Potential	Yes	Site specific
0165 Grazing Allotment Area	Yes	Site specific
0166 Resource Management Operational Plan (RMOP)	No	Terms usually coincide with the agricultural activity
<u>0170 Access Constraints</u>	Yes	10 years

0180 <u>Multiple Resource Management/Conservation Area</u>	Yes	10 years
0181 Multiple Resource Concerns	Yes	10 years
0190 <u>Unique Site Features</u>	Yes	Site specific
0191 Topographical Feature	Yes	Site specific
0200 Timber Resource Management Area		
0210 <u>Active Timber Permit Area</u>	No	1 year
0220 Public Wood Cutting Area (Green Area)	Yes	5 years
0221 Potential Timber Management Area	Yes	5 years
0222 Potential Timber Disposal	No	2 years
0223 Sustained Yield Timber Management (White Area)	Yes	20 years
0240 <u>Timber Liquidation</u>	Yes	5 years
0241 Insufficient Forage	Yes	5 years
0260 <u>Seed Production</u>	Yes	10 years
0270 <u>Silviculture Plot</u>	Yes	1 – 20 years
0280 <u>Research or Sample Plot/ Experimental Program</u>	Yes	Indefinite
0281 PSP Non-harvested (Mature Permanent Sample Plot)	Yes	Indefinite
0282 PSP Reforestation (Immature Permanent Sample Plot)	Yes	Indefinite
0283 WESBOGY	No	Indefinite
0289 Joint User Plot	Yes	Indefinite
0290 <u>Reforestation/Afforestation Project</u>	Yes	30 – 90 years
0300 Recreation Resource Management Area		
0310 <u>Recreation Site Potential</u>	Yes	10 years
0311 Lakeshore Recreational Site Potential	Yes	10 years
0312 River Recreational Site Potential	Yes	10 years or a specified period of time
0313 Commercial Recreation and Tourism	No	1 year

Proposals		
0314 Island Recreational Site Potential	Yes	10 years
<u>0320 Provincial/Municipal Park Potential</u>	Yes	5 years
0321 Provincial Park Potential	Yes	5 years or site specific
0322 Provincial Recreation Area Potential	Yes	5 years or site specific
0323 Municipal Park or Recreation Area Potential	Yes	5 years
<u>0330 Natural Heritage Area Potential</u>	Yes	5 years
0331 Ecological Reserve/Wilderness Area Potential	Yes	10 years
0332 Education Natural Area Potential	Yes	10 years
0333 Recreation Natural Area Potential	Yes	10 years
0334 Conservation Natural Area Potential	Yes	10 years
0335 Order in Council Natural Area	No	9999 years
0336 Order in Council Ecological Reserves	No	9999 years
<u>0340 Recreational Campground</u>	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0341 Forest Recreation Campground	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0343 Group Campground	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0344 Staging Area	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
<u>0350-Day Use</u>	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0351 Picnic Area	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0352 Rest Area	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0353 Viewpoint	Yes	10 years when a potential development is

		being considered
0354 Parking Lot	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0355 Public Access Area	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
<u>0360 Trails</u>		
0361 Hiking Trails	Yes	10 years
0362 Cross-country Skiing Trails	Yes	10 years
0363 Snowmobile Trails	Yes	10 years
0400 Fish and Wildlife Resource Management Areas		
<u>0410 Ungulate Habitat Protection Area</u>	Yes	10 years
0411 Ungulate Winter Range	Yes	10 years
0412 Ungulate Habitat Protection Area	Yes	10 years
0413 Ungulate Summer Range	Yes	10 years
0414 Ungulate Calving Area	Yes	10 years
0415 Mineral Lick	Yes	10 years
<u>0420 Waterfowl Habitat Protection Area</u>	Yes	10 years
0421 Waterfowl Production Area	Yes	10 years
0422 Waterfowl Staging Area	Yes	10 years
0423 Waterfowl Moulting Area	Yes	10 years
0424 NAWMP* Wetland Habitat Management Area	Yes	10 years
<u>0430 Upland Bird Habitat Protection Area</u>	Yes	10 years
0431 Dancing Ground Protection Area	Yes	10 years
<u>0440 Furbearer Habitat Protection Area</u>	Yes	10 years
<u>0450 Non-Game Habitat Protection Area</u>	Yes	10 years
0452 Colonial Nester Habitat Protection Area	Yes	10 years
0453 NAWMP* Upland Habitat Management Area	Yes	10 years
<u>0460 Fisheries Habitat Protection Area</u>	Yes	10 years
0461 Spawning Habitat Protection Area	Yes	10 years

0462 Streambank Habitat Protection Area	Yes	10 years
0463 Lakeshore Habitat Protection Area	Yes	10 years
<u>0470 Rare and Endangered Species Habitat Protection Area</u>	Yes	9999 years
<u>0480 Special Fish & Wildlife Management Area</u>	Yes	10 years
0481 Fisheries Enhancement Area – Buck for Wildlife	Yes	10 years
0482 Fisheries Enhancement Area – Buck for Wildlife	Yes	10 years
0483 Wildlife Sanctuary Potential	Yes	5 years
0484 Bird Sanctuary Potential	Yes	10 years
0485 Habitat Management Area	Yes	10 years
0486 Remnant and Isolated Islands of Habitat Protection Area	Yes	10 years
0487 NAWMP*Habitat Management Area	Yes	10 years
0488 Riparian Habitat Protection Area	Yes	10 years
0500 Site or Adjacent Land Use Protection Area	Yes	5 years
<u>0510 Buffer</u>	Yes	5 years or 9999 if related to a Disposition Reservation (DRS)
0511 Residential Buffer	Yes	5 years or 9999 if related to a Disposition Reservation (DRS)
0512 Industrial, Commercial Buffer	Yes	5 years or 9999 if related to a Disposition Reservation (DRS)
0513 Recreational Area Buffer	Yes	5 years or 9999 if related to a Disposition Reservation (DRS)
0514 Airstrip Buffer	Yes	5 years or 9999 if related to a Disposition Reservation (DRS)
<u>0520 Archaeological, Historical, Paleontological Site Protection</u>	Yes	10 years or site specific
0521 Provincial Historic Resource	Yes	10 years while under

		evaluation
0522 Registered Historic Resource	Yes	10 years while under evaluation
0523 Buffer Encompassing a Historical Resource	Yes	1 year prior to designation
<u>0530 Industrial/Commercial Site</u>	No	3 – 5 years
<u>0540 Surface Material Extraction Site</u>	No	9999 years
0541 Surface Materials Exploration	Yes	10 years
0542 Sand and Gravel Removal	No	9999 years
0543 Surface Materials Potential	Yes	10 years
0544 Topsoil Removal	No	9999 years
0545 Surface Materials Stockpile Site	No	9999 years
0546 Surface Materials Haul (Access) Road	No	9999 years
0547 Public Pit (Domestic Use)	No	9999 years
0548 Public Pit (Public and Commercial Licences)	No	9999 years
0549 Peat Moss	No	9999 years
<u>0550 Structural Development</u>	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0551 Residential/Bunkhouse	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0552 Wilderness Cabin	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0553 Ranger Station	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0554 Tower or Lookout	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0555 Research Site Structure	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0556 Dock	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0557 Remote Device	Yes	10 years when a

		potential development is being considered
0558 Fish Hatchery	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0559 Water Treatment Plant	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
<u>0560 Water Control Structure or Development</u>	Yes	5 - 10 years when a potential development is being considered
0561 Flood or Erosion Control Structure or Project	Yes	5 years when a potential development is being considered
0562 Irrigation Structure/Headworks	Yes	5 years when a potential development is being considered
0563 Hydro-Electric Development	Yes	5 years when a potential development is being considered
0564 Water Pipeline	No	9999 years
0565 Drainage Structure/Project 0566 Lake Stabilization Structure/Project	No	9999 years
0567 Ground Water Observation Well	No	9999 years
0568 Meteorological or Hydro-Meteorological Site	No	9999 years
<u>0570 Waste Disposal or Reclamation Site</u>	Yes	5 years when for a reclamation site
0571 Active Land Fill Site	Yes	25 years or to coincide with the MLL's expiry date
0572 Sewage Lagoon	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0573 Reclamation Project	Yes	25 years or site specific
0574 Closed or Reclaimed Landfill Site	Yes	25 years or site specific
0575 Potential Landfill Site	Yes	1 year
0576 Waste Transfer Site Potential	Yes	1 year
<u>0580 Other Miscellaneous Site Protection Areas</u>	Yes	5 years

0581 Airstrip	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0582 Road or Right-of-Way	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0583 Transportation, Utility Corridor or Distribution System	Yes	10 years to restrict development
0584 Firefighting Base Camp	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0585 Minimum Security Correctional Camp	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0586 Storage Area	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0587 Facility Expansion Area	Yes	10 years when a potential development is being considered
0588 Abandoned Rail Line	Yes	5 years
0589 Potential Subdivision	Yes	5 years
<u>0590 Mineral Resources Extraction Site</u>		
0591 - Coal	No	For term of mineral lease
0592 – Metallic Minerals	No	For term of mineral lease
0593 – Oil and Gas	No	For term of mineral lease
0594 – Oil Sands	No	For term of mineral lease
0595 - Placer	No	For term of mineral lease
0596 – Quarriable Minerals	No	For term of mineral lease
0597 - Other	No	For term of mineral lease
0600 Special Places	No	5 years
<u>0610 Special Places Candidate</u>	No	5 years

0700 Study Area	Yes	5 years
<u>0710 Watershed Study Area</u>	Yes	15 years
0800 Other - General Purpose Code for Miscellaneous Situations	No	1 year
<u>0810 Undisclosed - Refer to Agency</u>		
<u>0820 Transfer or Exchange Pending</u>		
0821 Public Sale, Advertisement or Tender		
<u>0830 Privately Owned Improvements</u>	No	5 years
<u>0840 Permanent Cover Program - PFRA</u>	No	to coincide with the term of the sale agreement