Volunteers Conducting Ecological Research in Alberta Parks – The Kananaskis Region Example

Tom Partello – Volunteer Volunteer Coordinator
John Paczkowski - AEP
Marie-Pierre Chappeland - AEP
Kananaskis Country
Kananaskis Country

- 4,200 km²
- 4 million visitors annually
- Recreation
- Commercial tourism
- Grazing
- Transportation
- 60% Protected
Ecology Volunteers

- About 40 volunteers currently active
- Usually 2-3 practicum students (seasonal)
- Integral to ecology research in Kananaskis Country
Why do Volunteers do it?

- Contribute to the community
- Contribute to the science
- Learn new things
- Source of great personal satisfaction
- Physical activity
- Like minded people
Ecology Volunteer Demographics

- Volunteers range from 30 to 74 old,
- Mean age about 60
- Mainly retired individuals from all walks of life
- Canmore is a vibrant physically active community to draw from
Ecology Volunteer Recruiting

- Recommended by current members
- Also members of the Bow Valley Stewards
- Practicum students are introduced into the group and become active participants
Volunteer Training

- Radio Operators Certificate
- Radio Protocols
- First Aid
- CPR
- Bear spray
Volunteer Safety

- First Aid Kits
- Spot devices
- Handheld radios
- Bear spray
- Snowshoes
- Traction devices
- Uniforms
- KC Public Safety
The Team Lead requirements

- Have a Radio Operators Certificate
- Permission to drive government vehicles,
- First aid
- CPR
- Call-in/Check-out with Radio Control Centre
Role of the Team Lead,

- Team safety
- Operational decisions
- Responsible for supplies to complete the days tasks
- Coordinates with the team

- All this said it is emphasized and understood that it is very much a team effort and all team members are included in any decisions
Ecology Practicum Students

- Enrolled in School or recent graduates
- 2-5 month commitment full time
- Must produce a report for credit (in English)
- Mostly international
- AEP provides accommodation
  - France
  - England
  - Spain
  - Scotland
  - Germany
  - USA
Ecology Practicum Students

- Requires advanced planning for immigration
- Difficult to screen
Communication

- Dropbox & email
- Dropbox is where all information is stored
- All information is conveyed by email
# Dropbox

## Files

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## Sharing

- Upload files
- New folder
- Show deleted files

## Out of space?

- No problem!
- Try Dropbox
- Business!

## Try it free
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Sheet1
Ecology Projects

• Telemetry
• Wildlife Crossing Structure Monitoring
• Winter transects and backtracking
• Wolverine Inventory
• Bobcat lure trials
• WCS monitoring (cameras)
• Image Classification
• BMA5 Grizzly Inventory
• Human Use Management Review
• KCTM 2017-
Ecology Projects

- HUMR
- Winter transects and backtracking
- BMA5 Grizzly Inventory
- Wolverine
- WCS monitoring (cameras)
- WCS data summary
- Image Classification
- Telemetry
- KCTM 2017-
Bobcat Inventory

- Slightly aged anal and reproductive cat glands
- Fresh winter cat pee
- A good spike of skunk
- The right blend of northern castor
- A few other things
Trail Monitoring

- Kananaskis Wide
- Duration 2 years
- Trail monitoring mechanism installed and serviced by volunteers
BBC Planet Earth II

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6yuv_-I4Z0
Classifying with Timelapse Image Analyzer
Challenges

- Safety
- Vehicles and work stations
- Recruitment
- Error checking
- Maintaining Relationships
HURT at WORK?
Know your RIGHTS

Tell your employer and report your injury to us. It's your RIGHT.

You can report your injury online. If you feel you've been pressured not to report, let us know with our confidential form.

Find out more →

Workers
> Report an Injury
> Learn about the claims process
> Get medical treatment
> Plan your return to work
> Learn about benefits during your claim

Employers
> Report an Injury
> Help an employee return to work
> Get a clearance letter
> Lower your premiums
> Access myWCB online services

Health Care Providers
> Create a report
> Access myWCB online services
> Find forms and supporting documents
> Access billing information
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Note: Mn, Mx, BL, SU, As, Co represent specific data related to each activity.
Number Of Volunteers By Activity

- Ecology - Wildlife Cameras
- Ecology - Image classification
- Ecology - Telemetry
- Ecology - Cheryl's project
- Ecology - Meeting
- Ecology - Transects
- Ecology - Bear denning research project
- Ecology - Administration
- Ecology - Wildlife Cameras (underpasses and ...ts)
- AOA
- Ecology - Training (radio, defensive driving)
- Ecology - Mussel check
- Ecology - Bear collaring
- Ecology - Maintenance

Number of volunteers

Alberta Parks
Kananaskis Country Park Volunteers
Ecology
Activity Totals: 6/1/2016 - 6/1/2017

Logged Hours By Activity

- Ecology - Wildlife Cameras
- Ecology - Image classification
- Ecology - Telemetry
- Ecology - Cheryl's project
- Ecology - Meeting
- Ecology - Transects
- Ecology - Bear denning research project
- Ecology - Administration
- Ecology - Wildlife Cameras (underpasses and ...ts)

Number of hours
ArcGIS Online

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), as proud stewards of air, land, water and biodiversity, will lead the achievement of desired environmental outcomes and sustainable development of natural resources for Albertans.
Download **Survey123 for ArcGIS** to your mobile device
Park Ecology

Observation *

Observation date *
March 28, 2017

Observation time *
8:10 AM

Tap to add location (move pin to location) *

51°5’N 115°21’W
± 1057.55 m

© Esri contributors
The Power of Volunteers

- Inform management decisions
- Mutually beneficial
- It’s takes a lot of work
- Relationships
- Stewardship
Partners

- Friends of Kananaskis Country
- Calgary Foundation
- Town of Canmore
- Government of Alberta
- Alberta Parks
New Hubs

- Cochrane
- East Kananaskis
- Equipment
- Vehicles
- Administration
Thanks to all the volunteers!