



RESOLUTION #29

TITLE:

Flathead Valley, the Missing Piece of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, and Canadian Rocky mountain wildlife connectivity



WHEREAS

British Columbia's Flathead River Valley contains the long-recognized missing piece of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. The Government of Canada's National Parks Action Plan calls for the expansion of the Waterton Lakes National Park which adjoins the Flathead River Valley. This landscape is critical for protecting connectivity along the Yellowstone to Yukon Corridor.

The Flathead River Valley is the last low elevation valley in southern Canada with no human settlement and water quality in the Flathead River is an international benchmark for water purity.

The Flathead is home to the highest density of grizzly bears in the interior of North America and provides habitat for the greatest range of carnivores in North America. The area also has the highest diversity of vascular plants in Canada and is home to 16 carnivore species, 6 ungulate species and 4 native fish species.

Legislation passed to ban oil and gas and mining on land in the Flathead under the jurisdiction of the province of British Columbia is a major step forward since The Ninth World Wilderness Congress (WILD 9) but has not yet resulted in protection for the area.

The UNESCO Mission Report on Waterton-Glacier as a World Heritage Site being potentially in danger recommended concrete actions be taken to address connectivity between Waterton-Glacier World Heritage Site and the Canadian Rockies World Heritage Site to the north. Moreover, a recent commitment by the Government of Canada to not develop the Dominion Coal Block in the Flathead is also welcome but has not yet legislated

THEREFORE

All the delegates at the 10th World Wilderness Congress (WILD10) urge the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to take action for the protection of the Flathead River Valley, the Missing Piece of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, and for wildlife connectivity in Canada's Southern Rocky Mountains.

RESOLVED

The Governments of Canada and British Columbia co-operate in the completion of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park by designation of a National Park Reserve in the south eastern one-third of British Columbia's Flathead River Valley.

The British Columbia Government create a Wildlife Management Area along the Rocky Mountains which will connect wildlife and their habitat between the Waterton-Glacier and the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site.

The Government of Canada preserve the Dominion Coal Block in the Flathead River Valley and legislatively ban all mining and drilling activities on it.

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