



ALBERTA
ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Lethbridge-West*

JUN 01 2017

Mr. Bob Lowe, Chair
Alberta Beef Producers
165, 6815 - 8 Street NE
Calgary AB T2E 7H7

Dear Mr. Lowe:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of cattle grazing for managing and enhancing the health of ecosystems as outlined in the Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Draft Management Plan. The Government of Alberta appreciates the Alberta Beef Producer's (ABP) commitment to environmental stewardship and the conservation of rangelands.

Environment and Parks has long recognized the significance of grazing in grassland conservation. Our department is happy to work directly with the ABP and the rest of the grazing community to ensure that these practices remain both economically and environmentally sustainable in the Castle region. In the interim, I have been informed that my department has received the ABP's comprehensive assessment of the Castle Management Plan, and your feedback will be considered as we are developing the final management plan.

I welcome the opportunity to meet with you to ensure that the operational needs and pressures of the beef industry are understood and considered during plan development and implementation. My Scheduling Assistant, Ms. Dawn Turton, will be in touch to arrange a mutually convenient meeting time. Ms. Turton can be reached in my Edmonton office at 780-427-2391 (dial 310-0000 for a toll-free connection), or at dawn.turton@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you again for your support of the draft Castle Management Plan. I look forward to meeting with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Shannon Phillips
Minister

cc: Honourable Rachel Notley, Premier of Alberta
Honourable Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Mary MacArthur, Executive Council
Dawn Turton, Scheduling Assistant, Minister's Office