



BEAVER HILLS INITIATIVE **L'INITIATIVE BEAVER HILLS**

Municipal Stakeholder Presentation
February 2015

Glen Lawrence, Chair
Jocelyn Thrasher-Haug, Acting Executive Director
Dr. Guy Swinnerton, Chair Protected Areas Working Group

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Communication Objectives

1. Greater understanding of the ecological and cultural significance of the Beaver Hills Moraine.
2. Greater awareness of the Beaver Hills Initiative and its activities and benefits to the communities within the moraine.
3. Introducing the Biosphere nomination process and soliciting feedback and on-going support for the Biosphere designation.
4. Establishing the foundation for on-going support and involvement in the BHI and the UNESCO Biosphere.

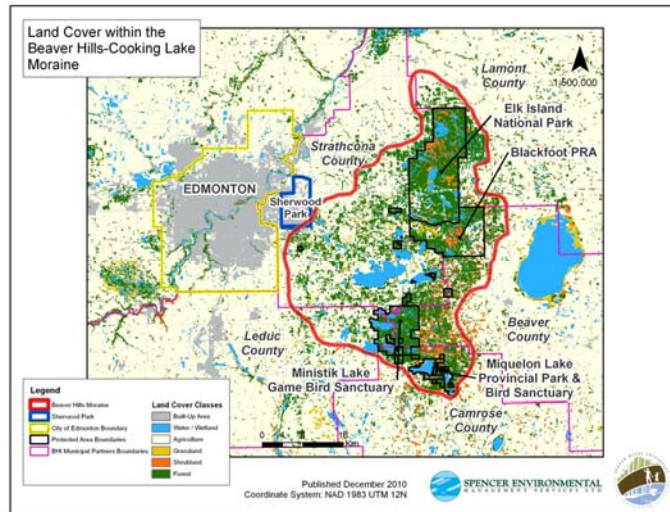
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Beaver Hills Moraine



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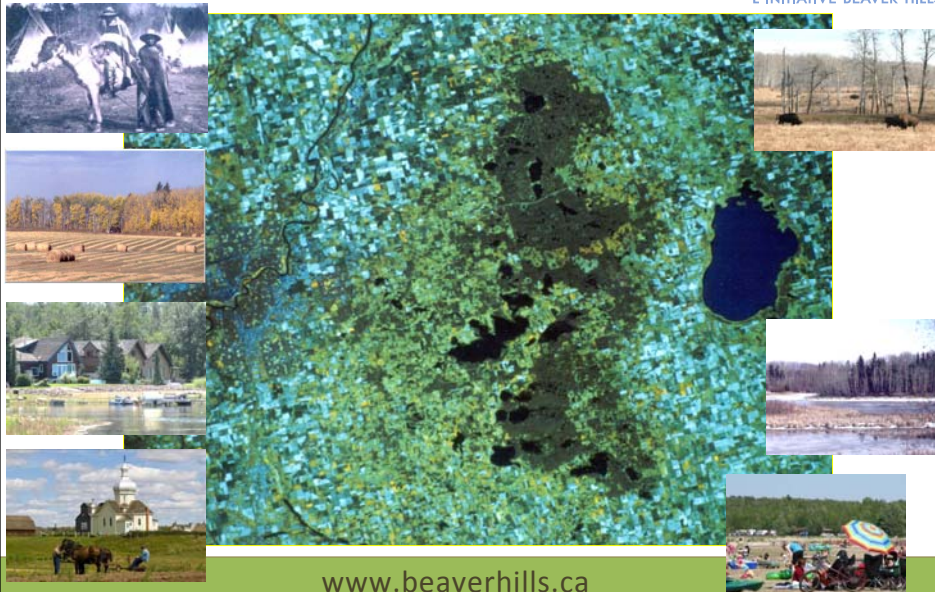


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Beaver Hills Moraine



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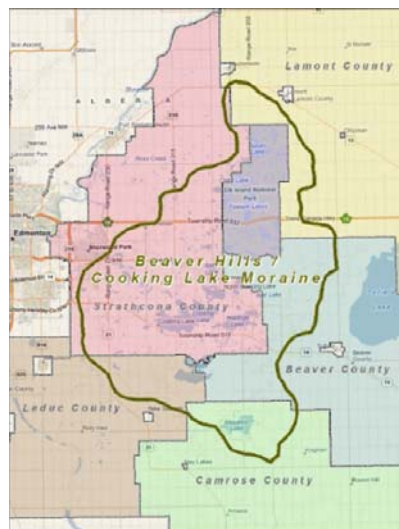
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Beaver Hills Initiative



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- Catalyst – 2000: Proposed development in proximity to Elk Island National Park
- Recognition of the need to develop a collaborative strategy that would develop a proactive and long term approach to land-use planning within the Beaver Hills Moraine
- BHI – 2002: Stakeholder workshop results in a vision and mission statement and partner commitments



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Vision & Mission



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Our Vision

- The Beaver Hills Initiative values the region for its natural beauty, quality of life, and supports co-operative efforts to sustain quality of water, land, air, natural resources and community development



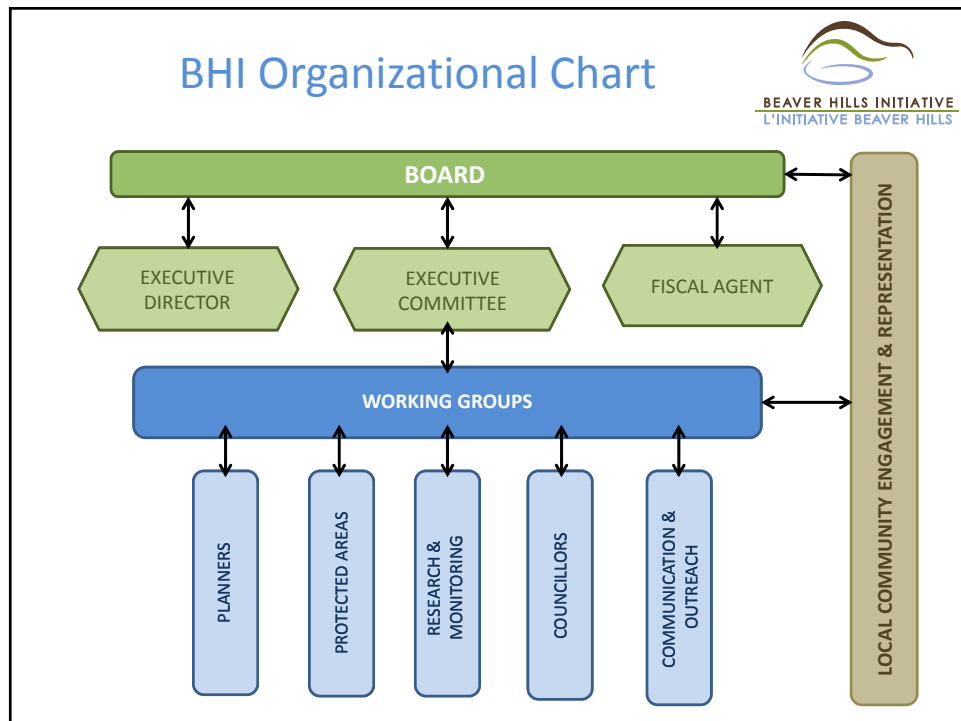
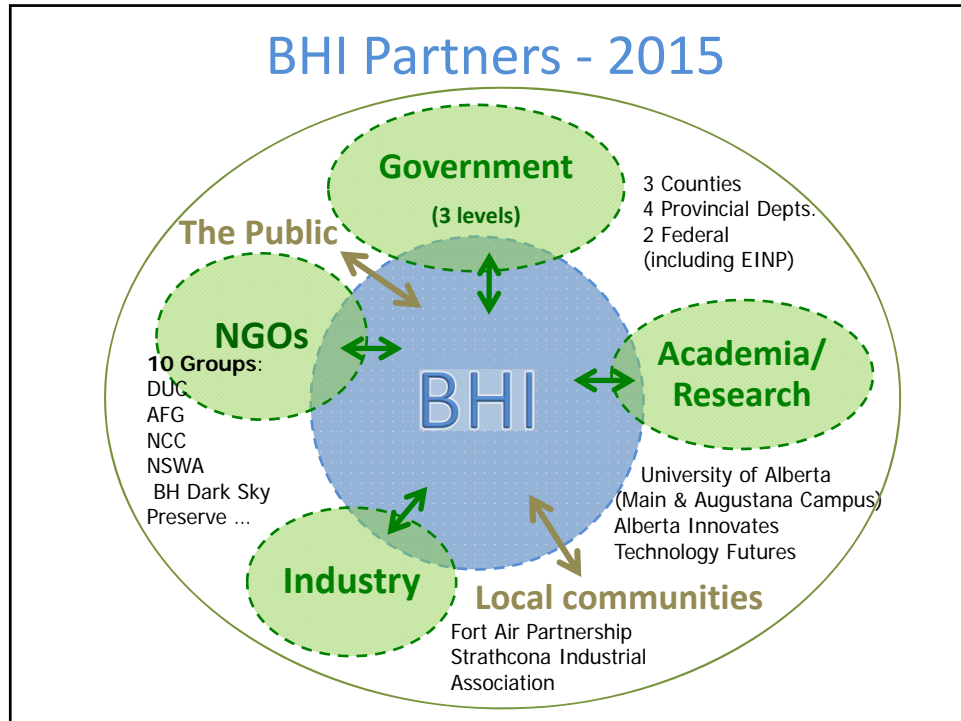
Our Mission

- Working together for a sustainable region, through shared initiatives and coordinated action



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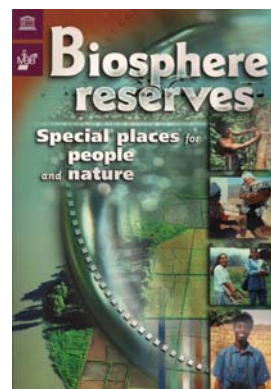


UNESCO Biosphere Reserve



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- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Biosphere Reserves are the only global designation or accreditation for an area demonstrating excellence in sustainable development in practice.
- Global network: 631 Biosphere Reserves in 119 countries [16 in Canada]



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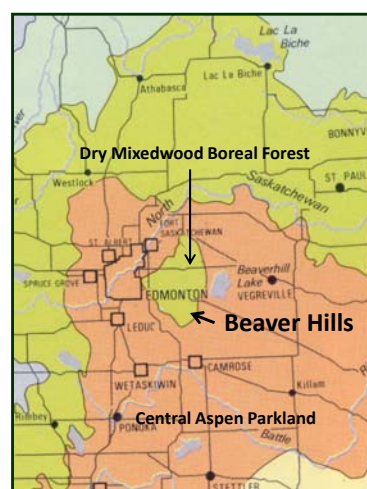
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UNESCO Criteria



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1. Encompasses a mosaic of ecological systems representative of major bio-geographic regions, including a gradation of human interventions.



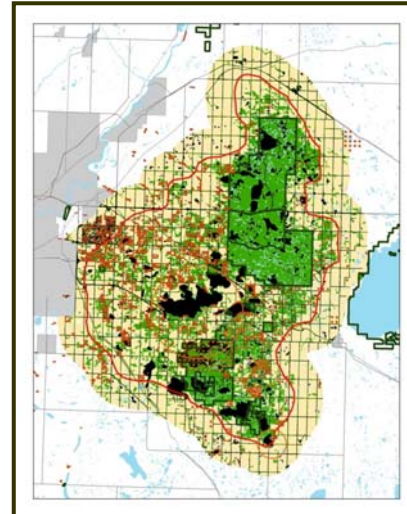
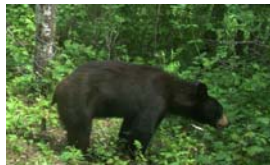
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UNESCO Criteria



2. Should be of significance for biological diversity conservation.



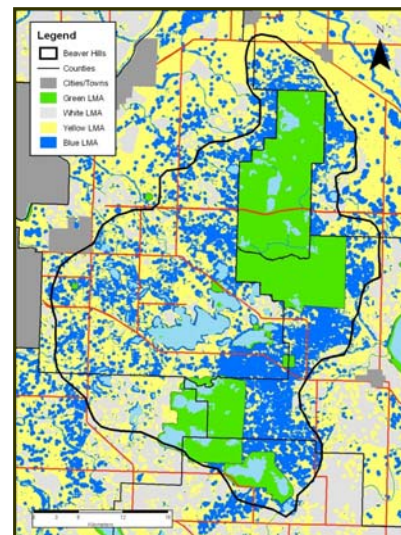
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UNESCO Criteria



3. Provide an opportunity to explore and demonstrate approaches to sustainable development at a regional scale.



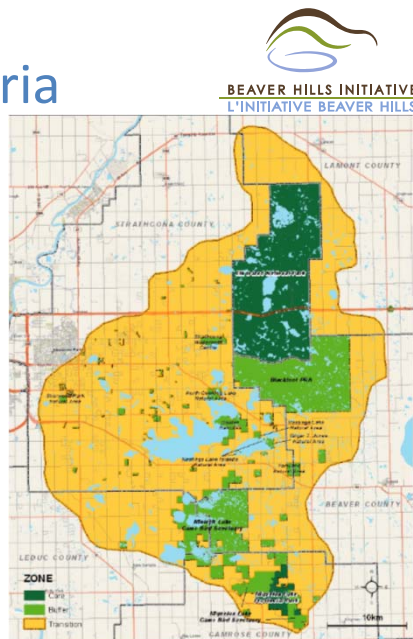
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UNESCO Criteria

4. An appropriate size to serve the three functions of biosphere reserves

- ✓ conservation
- ✓ logistic support
- ✓ development



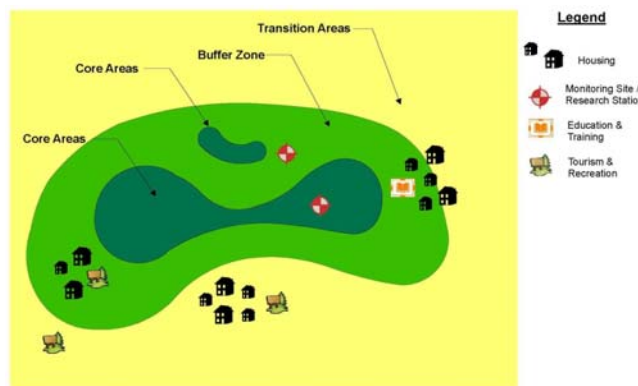
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UNESCO Criteria

5. Include the three functions – conservation, logistic support and development through appropriate zonation:

- ✓ core area(s)
- ✓ buffer zone(s)
- ✓ transition area



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UNESCO Requirements



- The establishment of local governance arrangements for developing collaborative capacities to address local and regional issues associated with conservation and sustainable development.
- Focus on a multi-stakeholder approach that involves local community involvement.
- **This international designation does not intrude on property rights, Aboriginal rights, jurisdictional authorities, or on the responsibilities of elected bodies**



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2012 Nomination



- Overall positive feedback from the Canadian Commission for UNESCO
 - "We encourage the continued regional efforts that embrace a vision of sustainable development."
 - "Impressive accomplishments and strong potential to become an outstanding Biosphere Reserve."
- Following to be addressed with resubmission:
 - 1) First Nations engagement and Treaties honored
 - 2) General public and citizen engagement
 - 3) Clear explanation of why we want to become a UNESCO Biosphere

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2015 Resubmission

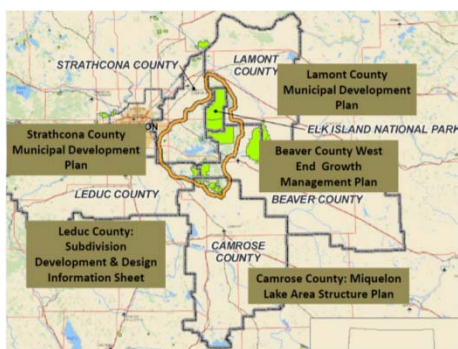


- Change of emphasis in criteria
- Demonstrate how we've addressed the initial submission comments:
 - 1) Develop and implement an Aboriginal Strategy
 - 2) Develop and implement a Communications and Public Involvement Plan
 - 3) Clearly explain and demonstrate the values and inspirational forces driving the local willingness to become a UNESCO Biosphere

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Biosphere Benefits



- ✓ Fosters the region's environmental, economic, and social sustainability.
- ✓ Expands the capacity of residents and local communities to direct their future.
- ✓ Provides a "brand name" to improve and diversify the local economy.
- ✓ Gains access to information and support through national and international networks.
- ✓ Attracts research activity that addresses local & global issues.
- ✓ Increases national and international recognition.

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2014 Partner Funding



- 2014 Partnership Funded (\$136,243.50)
- Strathcona, Beaver, Lamont Counties

Operational costs



- ED salary & benefits
- Catering, printing, telephone, mileage, equipment, professional development
- Business promotion (website development)
- Consulting

Updated website went live on September 18!

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2015 Operating Budget




- Increased by 3%
- Partnership contributions will be consistent with 2014
 - Re-engage Leduc and Camrose Counties in early 2015
- Continue to pursue and leverage grant funding

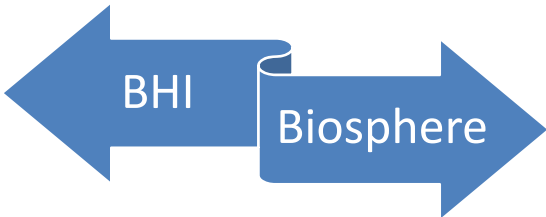


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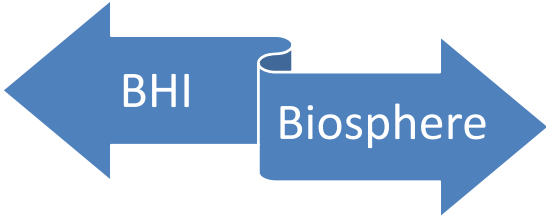
- **Why?**
- Vision and mission of BHI mirrors aims of Biosphere program
- BHI has allowed us to link research science with applied conservation and land use planning
- MDP, LUB, municipal policies
- Tourism opportunities




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- **What if we're successful?**
- International recognition of the commitment and success of the BHI in applying innovative approaches to sustainable development and addressing environmental global issues.
- Contribute to and benefit from being a member of a globally recognized network of Biosphere Reserves.



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The diagram shows two blue arrows pointing in opposite directions. The left arrow is labeled 'BHI' and the right arrow is labeled 'Biosphere'. To the right of the arrows is the logo for the Beaver Hills Initiative, which includes a stylized green and blue wave icon and the text 'BEAVER HILLS INITIATIVE' and 'L'INITIATIVE BEAVER HILLS'.

- **How can you help?**
- www.beaverhills.ca
- Letter of Support
- Endorsement
- Join a Working Group!
- Be a Board Member!



The screenshot shows the website for the Beaver Hills Initiative. The header includes the logo and navigation links: 'LEARN', 'CONSERVE', and 'ENJOY'. The main banner features a landscape photo with the text 'THE BEAVER HILLS INITIATIVE WELCOMES YOU TO THE BEAVER HILLS'. Below the banner are three sections: 'Visit the Beaver Hills', 'About the BHI', and 'Biosphere Nomination', each with a small image and descriptive text.

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Key to the success of a Biosphere Reserve nomination for the Beaver Hills is the continuing support and commitment of all BHI members and the local community, and their conviction that the BHI and Biosphere Reserve designation is important and beneficial.

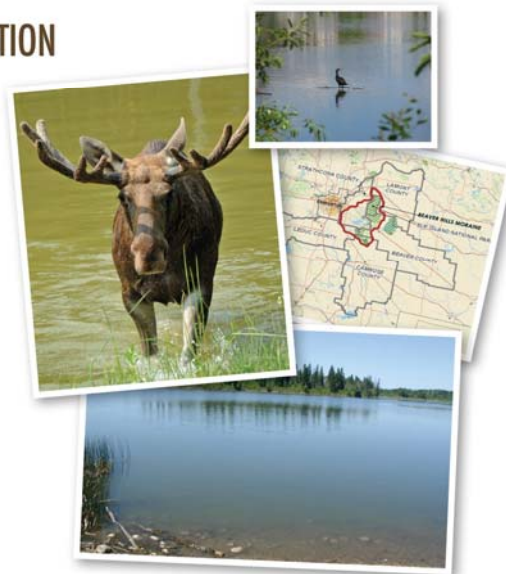
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SUPPORT THE BEAVER HILLS UNESCO BIOSPHERE NOMINATION

The Beaver Hills is an ISLAND OF BOREAL FOREST, surrounded by ASPEN PARKLAND, located east of Sherwood Park. The Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI) is working on an application to be classified as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, but we need your help.

Support us today by filling out the online statement of support on our website at:

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Thank you!

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