



# *Timberwolf Wilderness Society*

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## Statement

### *Decision of the Joint Review Panel on the Grassy Mountain Mine*

16 June 2021

#### **The Decision**

Timberwolf Wilderness Society welcomes yesterday's finding of the provincial-federal Joint Review Panel (JRP) that approval of the proposed Grassy Mountain Coal Mine is not in the public interest. The JRP found that the environmental effects of the proposed mine on surface water quality and threatened westslope cutthroat trout and habitat *alone* were sufficient to outweigh the "low to moderate" positive economic impacts of the project. It denied the proponent's application on those grounds, even though it found that there would be additional significant adverse effects beyond those two.

Timberwolf, as a full participant and major player in the proceedings, acknowledges the outstanding contributions of the many other intervenors that contributed evidence crucial to this outcome. This appears to be the first time in Alberta that a regulatory body has placed the greater importance of protecting a native species and its habitat above economic interests in its decision.

#### **Where Do We Go from Here?**

Timberwolf believes that wilderness is the highest and best use of public lands on the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta. These lands now need to be restored to protect this iconic landscape as our source of water, wildlife, natural refuge, and inspiration. The Grassy Mountain site should be an integral part of a recovered natural ecosystem stretching from the Montana border to Kananaskis Country, with Crowsnest Pass as its principal service centre. We urge the people of the Crowsnest Pass to recognize this outcome as an opportunity to reorient its economy and purpose to that end.

#### **Timberwolf Wilderness Society**

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