

*The Land Use Framework - Regional
Planning
and the Alberta Land Stewardship Act*

*Presentation to the Interstate Oil and Gas
Compact Commission
Vancouver. June 4, 2012.*



**Government
of Alberta** ■

Overview of Presentation

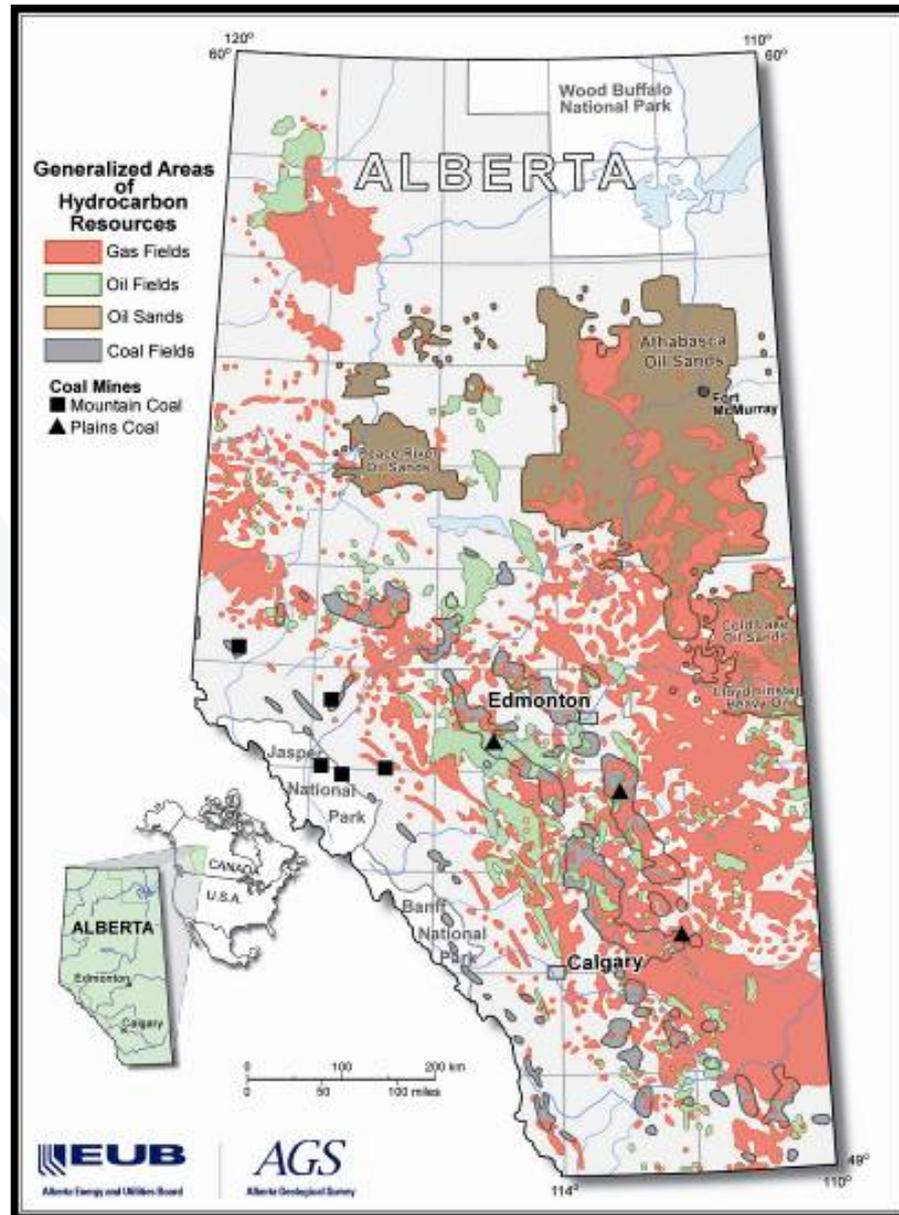
- Background
- Rationale for the Land-use Framework and Regional Planning
- Supporting Legislation
- The Lower Athabasca Regional Plan



Public Lands and Private Lands in Alberta

- In Canada, the provinces have jurisdiction over natural resources and the management and sale of public lands, allowing them to engage in long term land-use planning for these areas.
- Private Lands
 - Municipal governments responsible for planning in areas under their jurisdiction
 - Private landowners decide how to use their own land
- Subsurface Resources
 - 81% of mineral rights in Alberta belong to the Crown
 - The remaining 19% are “freehold” mineral rights

Distribution of Hydrocarbon Reserves in Alberta



Land-use Framework (LUF) – What is it?

- Sets out a new approach for managing public and private lands and natural resources
- Designed to guide better decisions on land and resource use
- Three core outcomes:
 - ❑ A healthy economy
 - ❑ Healthy ecosystems and environment
 - ❑ People-friendly communities

Purpose is to manage growth, not stop it



Seven Land-use Framework planning regions:

- Lower Athabasca
- Lower Peace
- Upper Peace
- Upper Athabasca
- North Saskatchewan
- Red Deer
- South Saskatchewan



Purpose of Regional Plans

- Define regional outcomes (economic, environmental and social) and a broad plan for land and natural resource use for public and private lands
- Align provincial strategies and policies at the regional level
- Determine specific trade-offs and appropriate land and natural resource management for specific landscapes within a region
- Define the cumulative effects management approach for the region and identify targets and thresholds



Alberta Land Stewardship Act

- Proclaimed October 1, 2009
- Ensures that we have responsible, coordinated, long-term planning
- Amendment of 27 Provincial Acts
- Lieutenant Governor in Council has authority to:
 - Align planning, policy and decision making with that direction
 - Requires officials under other Acts to follow direction in regional plans and implement under their legislation

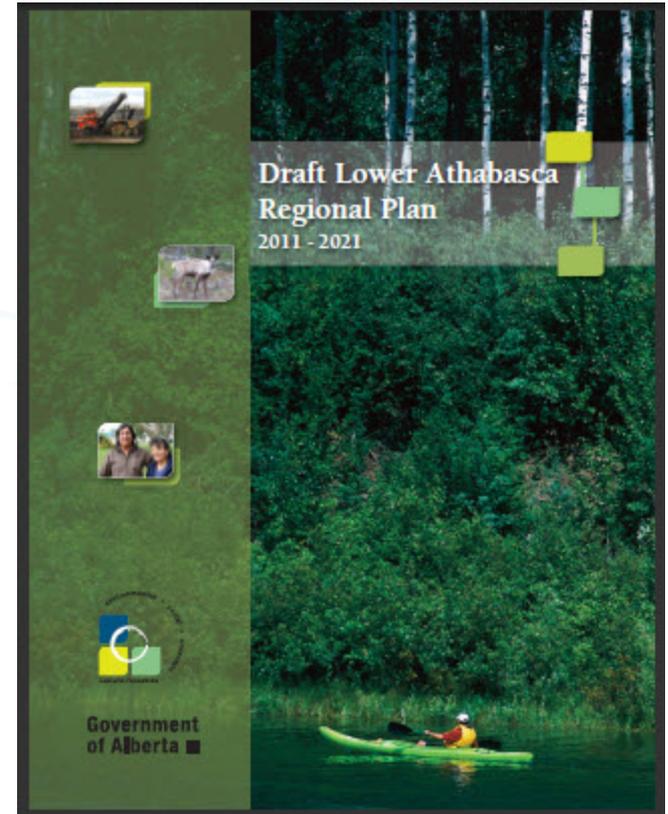
• ALSA Amended May 2011

□ Confirmation re: private property rights



The Lower Athabasca Regional Plan

- First regional plan to be developed under the Land-use Framework.
- Final Draft released August 2011



Lower Athabasca Regional Plan - Consultation

- Extensive consultation with the public, municipalities, Aboriginals and stakeholders
- Three 'phases'
 - Phase 1: *Building awareness and initial input – Summer 2009*
 - Phase 2: *Regional Advisory Council Advice to GOA – Fall 2010*
 - Phase 3: *Draft LARP – Spring 2011*
- Supplemental engagement with key stakeholders
 - Meetings with energy and mineral companies



LARP Structure and Components

Strategic and Implementation Plan:

- Strategies and Actions that will support achieving the Vision and Outcomes
- Includes indicators to measure and evaluate progress
- Policy Direction - must be considered by decision makers but not binding

Regulatory Details Plan:

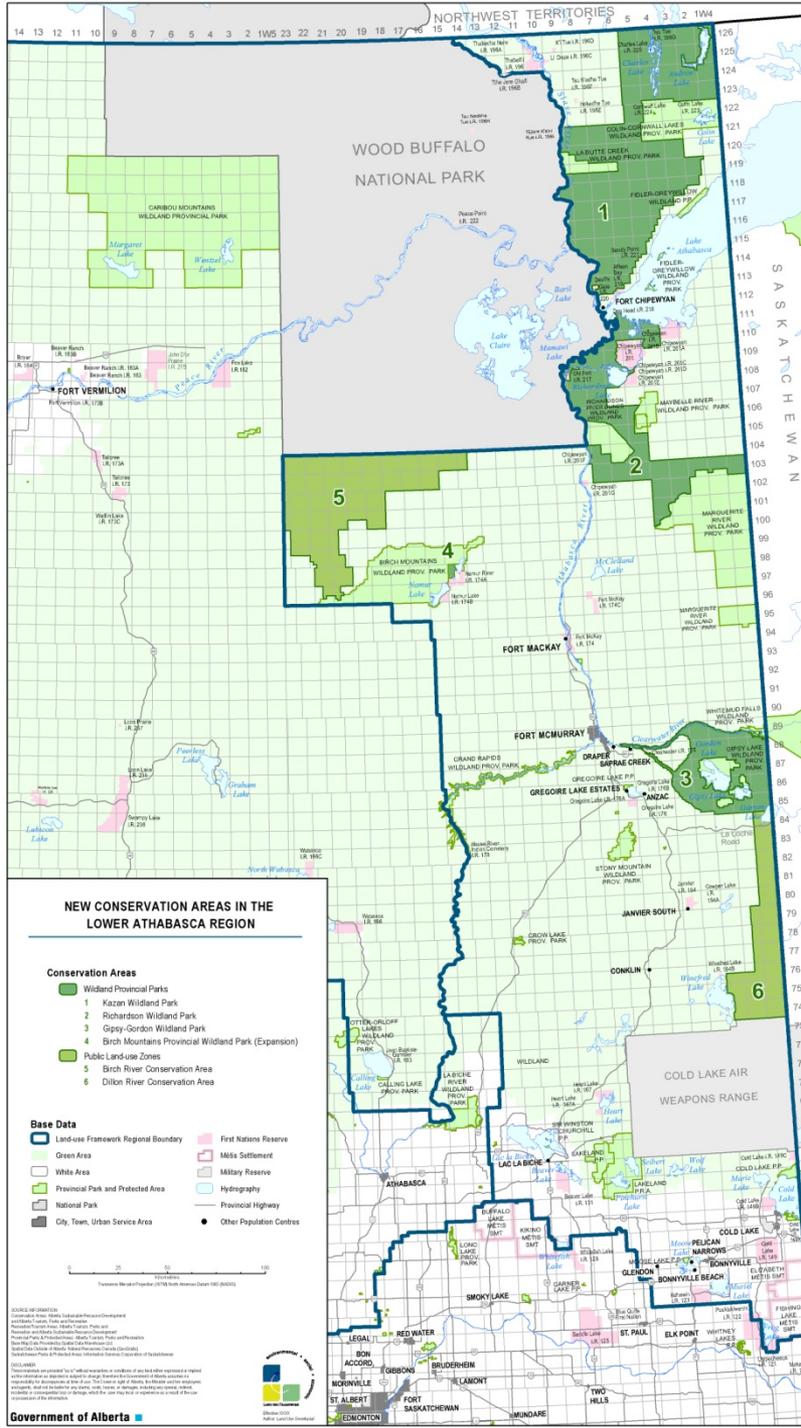
- Enables the achieving the strategic direction and strategies and actions
- Is binding on decision-makers

Lower Athabasca Regional Plan – Key Environmental Strategies

- Management Frameworks:
 - Air, Water, Biodiversity
- Regional Strategic Assessment and Landscape Management Planning
- Tailings Management Framework
- Progressive Reclamation – oil sands mining
- Conservation Areas



Conservation Areas



- Six per cent of region conserved today – Wildland Parks.
- New conservation areas would legislatively protect ~22 per cent or two million hectares.
- Have minimal existing disturbance.
- Managed to achieve the long-term conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem processes.

How LARP Supports Investment

- Increases certainty for investors
 - Clear expectations and clear rules
- Improves International Reputation
 - Global community's environmental and social expectations are high
 - Recognition as a responsible, world-class energy supplier to secure trading relationships for years to come
- Social License

Infrastructure Development Supports Economic and Population Growth

- **Comprehensive Regional Infrastructure Sustainability Plan (CRISP)**
 - infrastructure planning where development will create rapid growth and development pressures
- **Fort McMurray Urban Development Sub-region**
 - enables effective land-use planning, infrastructure construction and timely land release and land developments.
- Ensure opportunities for future routes and siting for **pipeline gateways, transportation corridors and utility and electrical transmission corridors** are maintained

Next Steps

Lower Athabasca Regional Plan

- Government approval – *anticipated summer 2012*
- Implementation – *Following Cabinet approval*

South Saskatchewan Regional Plan

- Public/stakeholder consultations – *currently anticipated Fall 2012*

QUESTIONS