

LANDSCAPES AND LANDFORMS



Waterton Lakes National Park, Peace Park and Biosphere reserve is an region of stunning beauty and diversity. Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waterton_Lakes_National_Park#/media/File:Pano14.jpg

Canada 3: Landscape values and protection

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NOTE: this is a condensed and adapted version of an article published in the *Geography Bulletin*: Vol 47, No 4, 2015

LANDSCAPE VALUES AND PROTECTION

The aesthetic, spiritual, cultural and economic values of Canada's landscapes, landforms and biomes are evident in the images and example contained in this article. These values are managed and protected in a system of protected forty-four national parks and park reserves. Parks Canada's first priority is the protection the natural and cultural heritage. The parks system includes representative areas for key landscapes and biomes.

- **National Parks** – a system of 44 representative natural areas of significance in every province and territory. The parks are managed for public enjoyment without compromising the area for future generations, and include the management of wildlife and their habitats eg. Banff National Park. Park management recognises and incorporates indigenous knowledge and the unique relationship of First Nations people with the land.
- **World Heritage Listing** – that recognises sites of natural and cultural significance. For example the national parks of Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho and three provincial parks are listed as the *Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site* for the following reasons.
 - Natural beauty and biological diversity including landscape features such as mountain peaks, glaciers, lakes, waterfalls, canyons and limestone caves
 - Representation of significant and on-going glacial processes.

- **Wildlife protected areas** fall into two categories:
 - *National Wildlife areas* (46 Marine and terrestrial sites) to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat
 - *Migratory Bird Sanctuaries* (92 sites) to protect and conserve migratory birds and their nests.

There are 146 sites protecting many of Canada's important wildlife habitats. Since 1990, the overall protected area in Canada has doubled to nearly 10% of land.

The *Dinosaur Provincial Park* is listed for its natural qualities including the unique badlands landscape and fossil site. The park also protects the prairie grasslands on the site.

The unique *Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park* includes the *Waterton Lakes National Park* in Canada and the Glacier National Park in the United States. Both parks are declared Biosphere Reserves by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site to preserve the unique mountains, prairie, lakes and freshwater wetlands. Landscapes and habitats protected in the bio-sphere reserves include prairie grasslands, alpine tundra biosphere and forests.

Canada's National Parks



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news2/interactives/map-canada-parks/>



How does Australia protect its valued landscapes and landforms?

Canada's World Heritage Listed sites



Source: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/progs/spm-whs/sec02.aspx>

The *Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site* and *National Park Status* recognise the aesthetic, spiritual and environmental values of this mountain landscape above Lake Louise.



The aesthetic, spiritual and economic value of Canada's landscapes, landforms and biomes is reflected in the thousands of tourists travelling Canada in RV's every year.



The *Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump* cultural listing recognises the cultural significance of a site where, for hundreds of years, Blackfoot hunters drove stampeding bison off the edge of a cliff and into the rocks below. This cultural listing is one of the world's oldest, largest, and best-preserved buffalo jumps where the foothills of Canada's Rocky Mountains meet interior plains. The site contains the cliff, the remains of butchering camps, buffalo trails and an accumulation of bones that recognises the understanding of topography and bison behaviour that enabled native people to hunt bison (buffalo).

The *Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump World Heritage Listing* recognises and protects the cultural values of this cliff landform, prairie landscape and cultural heritage



All photos L. Chaffer