**FACTS SHEET**

 Protect Alberta’s Rockies, Eastern Slopes, and Headwaters

Facts that indicate coal mine exploration and development and clear cut logging will have a devastating impact on Alberta's pristine Rocky Mountains, Eastern slopes, and our life-giving Headwaters.

**FACTS**

* Inter-related natural habitats and wilderness, animal corridors, water ways, and safe grazing areas will undoubtedly be harmed by coal exploration and development and clear cut logging.
* Clear cutting forests will definitely create destructive, surface water run-off. And the remaining rubble and piles of dead trees are an invitation to hazardous fires.
* Coal mines create impoundment ponds which leach poisonous selenium in high concentrations.
* Coal mining causes acid mine drainage, which causes heavy metals to dissolve and seep into ground and surface water, such as Headwaters.
* Open pit coal mines and their subsequent hazards and activities are likely to have a negative, financial impact on sustainable industries such as: tourism, recreation, ranching, green energy development, hunting, fishing, and agriculture.
* Worldwide, coal use is rapidly declining and is considered a sunset industry. Recent and ongoing developments of clean energy sources such as hydrogen, will soon replace thermal and metallurgical coal, negating the need for destructive coal mining projects.
* Based on Indigenous knowledge and science, protecting our rich natural environment, respects the rights and culture of Indigenous people and supports our natural resources sector.
* ⁠ In light of heat waves and drought conditions, water allocation policy commitments should prioritize community and ecological health over commercial coal projects.
* Protecting our natural environment helps ensure the long term health and well-being of our land, air, and water.