

Before You Start!



General Information



Who are you,  
contact details,  
where did you go?

Overall Impression



What did you think?

Visit Details



Why did you go?  
What is there that  
should be there?

Disturbances



What should NOT be  
there?



Attend Training

# SAPAA Site Inspection

## Training on the 2025 Site Inspection Form



Agree to Terms &  
Conditions

What to be Done?



Clean up, repairs,  
crime, remediation,  
etc.

Pictures?



Upload, email,  
***naming  
conventions!***

Reports, etc.



→ Site inspection  
→ Minister's annual  
report  
→ Report to peer  
organizations  
→ Amalgamated  
data

2024 Reports: Only  
WAERNAHR Act

# Inspecting the Agenda

1. A 2-minute (ish) overview.
2. Not for Emergencies!
3. Full or Short Form?
4. The Questions
5. So, Why are We Doing This?
6. Want to Help? Questions



## Housekeeping Items:

- *This session: recorded and used for training.*
- *Please stay muted and cameras off unless speaking.*
- *Questions in chat preferred, or Raise Hand function*

# A 2-Minute'ish Overview

***sapaastewards.com***

PROTECTED AREAS

PA VISITS ETC.

LIST OF PROTECTED AREAS

SITE INSPECTIONS

SITE INSPECTION FORM

SITE INSPECTION FORM – SIMPLE

*[sapaastewards.com/protected-areas/site-inspections/site-inspection-form/](https://sapaastewards.com/protected-areas/site-inspections/site-inspection-form/)*

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WAERNAHR Act

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## Visit Details



Why did you go?  
What is there that  
should be there?

## Disturbances



What should NOT be  
there?

## What's to be Done?



Clean up, repairs,  
crime, remediation,  
etc.

## Pictures?



Upload, email,  
***naming  
conventions!***

## Reports, etc.



- Site inspection
- Minister's annual report
- Report to peer organizations
- Amalgamated data

## Before You Start!



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2025 Reports: Only  
WAERNAHR Act

- Not a Volunteer
- Send Reports
- Information privacy
- Use iNaturalist

No Shareies  
(except GoA  
& Members)

***1 Report =  
1 Visit at 1 Time to 1 Location by 1 Person***



## Before You Start!



Attend Training



Agree to Terms &  
Conditions



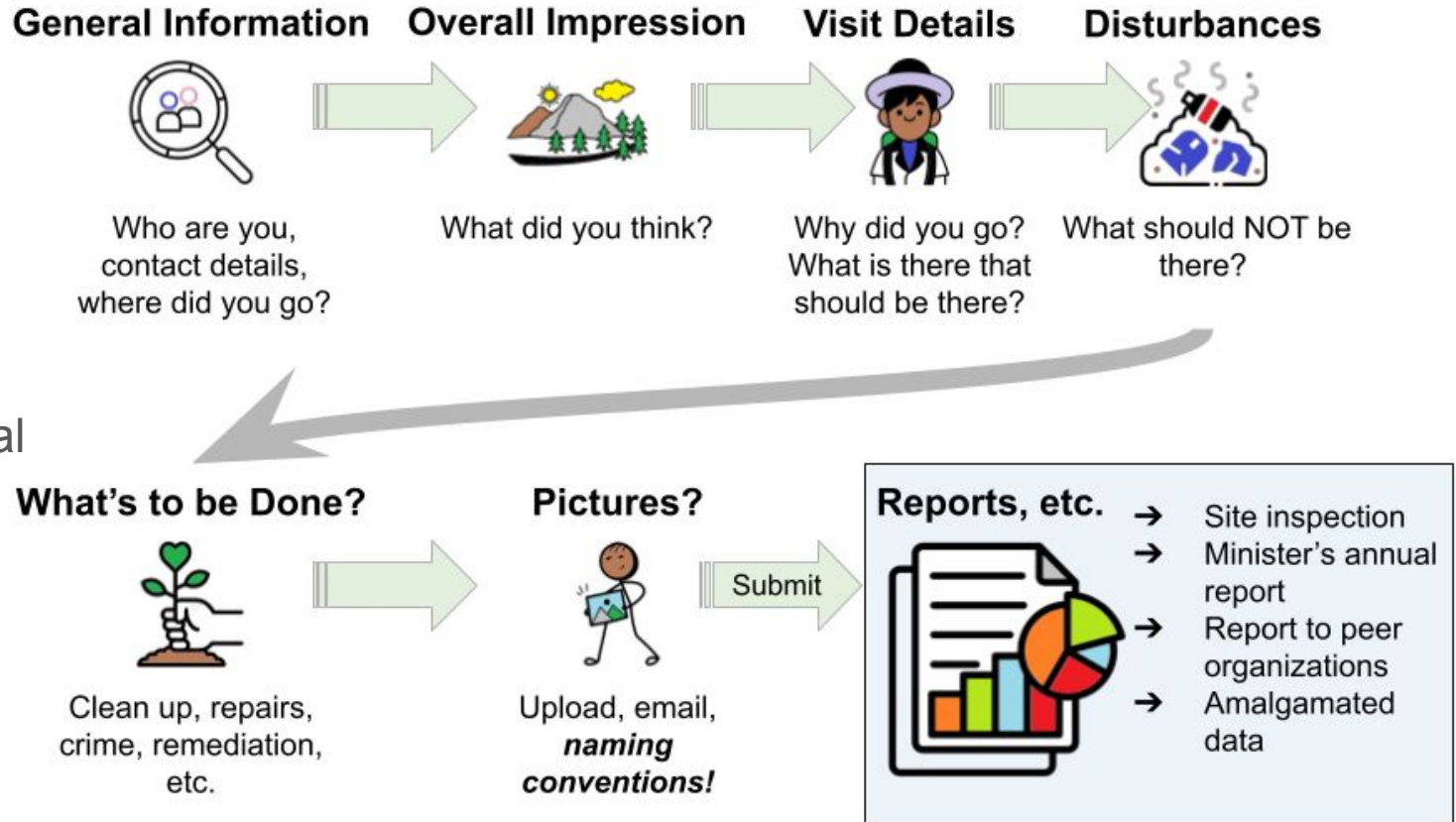
2025 Reports: Only  
WAERNAHR Act



1. Wilderness Areas
2. Ecological Reserves
3. Natural Areas
4. Heritage Rangelands



- Six Sections
- Two Forms: Short & Full
- Submissions published on Web and Annual Report
- Love Photos, GPS files & iNaturalist



# Not for Emergencies!

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# Emergencies, Illegal Activities, Significant Damage

- Emergencies: life at risk, crime in progress
  - Contact the RCMP, call 911, local Police
- Significant damage or disturbances:
  - Report illegal activity and public safety issues on public land or in Provincial Parks,
  - Call 310-LAND.
- Poaching:
  - Report suspicious
  - Illegal hunting and fishing activity, or
  - Dangerous wildlife encounters
  - Online or by phone, 1-800-642-3800.



# Full or Short Form?

***sapaastewards.com***

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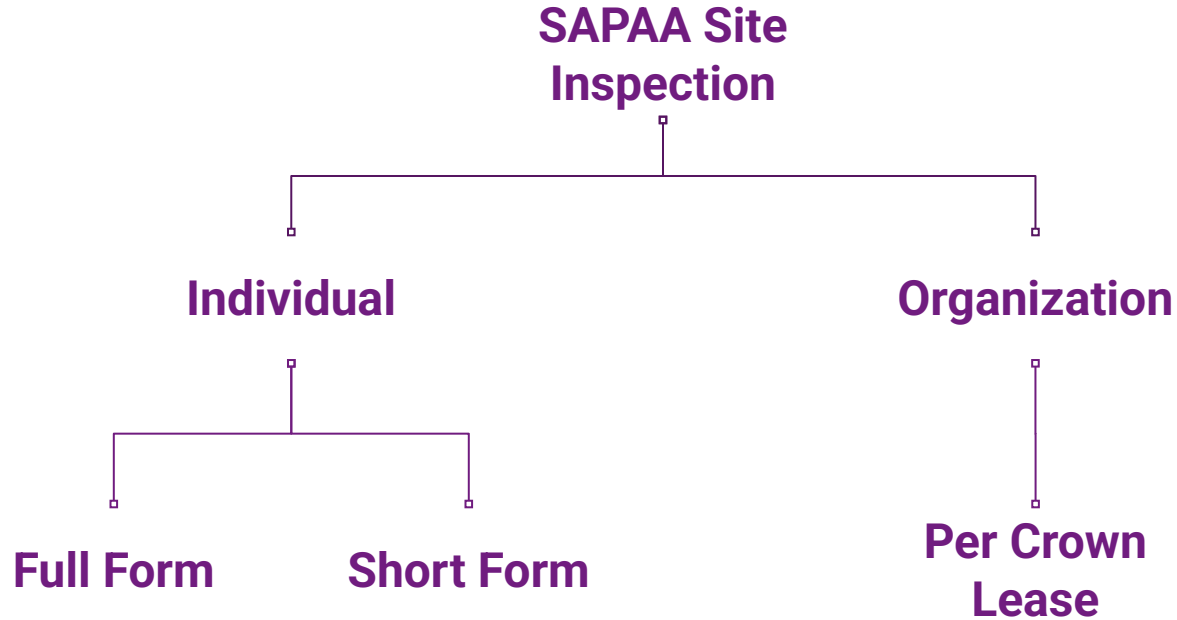
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# Three Types of Inspections: Full, Short, & Organization



# Short or Full Form?

## Full Form

- SAPAA Members, experienced
- Save progress (e.g. use in field)
- Have a GMail Account
- Addition Information:
  - Changes since last Visit
  - Trip duration & Ease to visit site
  - Submission to iNaturalist
  - Landscape changes
  - Invasive Species
  - Individual Inspection Info
  - Stewardship actions (e.g. signs)

## Short Form

- Casual Visitors, inexperienced
- Cannot save progress
- Any Email can be used

# The Questions

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## General Information



Who are you,  
contact details,  
where did you go?



## Overall Impression



What did you think?



## Visit Details



Why did you go?  
What is there that  
should be there?



## Disturbances



What should NOT be  
there?



## What to be Done?



Clean up, repairs,  
crime, remediation,  
etc.



## Pictures?



Upload, email,  
***naming  
conventions!***



*Items Noted with an “\*” are Full Form Entries only.*

## General Information



Who are you,  
contact details,  
where did you go?

### Q# Element/ Question

- 11 Email Address
- 12\* Steward's Name; Select from drop-down\*
- 13 First and Last Name for Guests.
- 14 Phone (how can we reach you other than email?)
- 16 SAPAA Member
- 21 Date of Visit (default = today)
- 22 Site Name; Drop down list. SAPAA PA sites only
- 23 Site Name-optional, if site is not listed
- 24\* Designated Steward; Are you the Steward?
- 25\* Inspection Number, Optional for Record Keeping

**Overall  
Impression**



What did you think?

Q31: What is the Naturalness of the Site?

- 4=Great
- 3=Good, but has issues
- 2=Passable, lots of issues but not poor or terrible... yet
- 1=Bad
- 0=Terrible, YIKES
- Cannot Answer

**Overall  
Impression**



What did you think?

Q31: What is the Naturalness of the Site? *Continued*

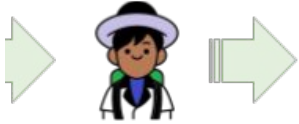
- How natural is this site?
- Your measure but ...
- Your consistency between sites is important.

Q32: Comments, Impression, optional explanation(s).

Q33\*        Changes in Conditions, past visits

*Factors to consider: infrastructure incursions (e.g. pipelines), human activity (e.g. dumping or ATV tracks), site infrastructure (e.g. trails, signs), evidence of natural activities (e.g. tracks or scat).*

## Visit Details



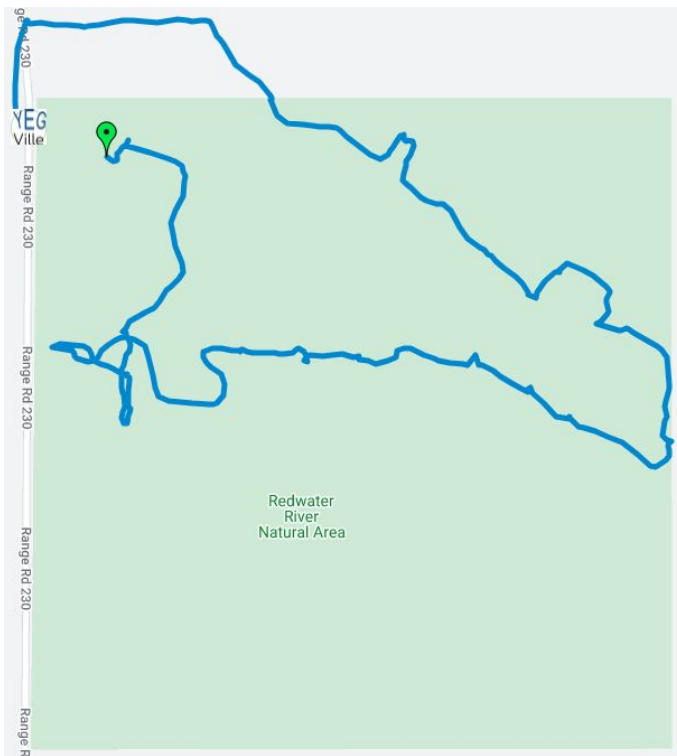
Why did you go?  
What is there that  
should be there?

### Q# Element/ Question

- 41\* Trip Duration, how long was your stay?
- 42 Why Did you Go? Select all that apply or provide a comment.
- 43 GPS track? Blog Post, etc.
- 51\* Ease to Visit; How friendly for those not used to the 'bush'.
- 52 Biological Observations; Summary of significant observations.
- 53\* Submissions to iNaturalist; SAPAA prefers this online resource.
- 54\* Landscape changes; Non-biological/human changes.
- 55 Designation; Is it obvious this is a protected area?
- 56 Comments; Other health comments



Why did you go?  
What is there that  
should be there?



## Visit Details



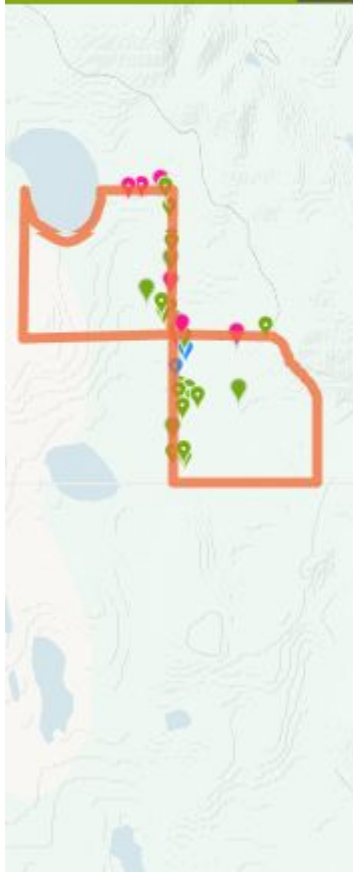
Why did you go?  
What is there that  
should be there?

321  
OBSERVATIONS

120  
SPECIES →

58  
IDENTIFIERS →

31  
OBSERVERS →



- Research Grade 2 Oct '24

**Northern Purple Pitcher Plant**  
(*Sarracenia purpurea purpurea*)  
Nestow, AB T0G 1S0... Sep 14, 2024

Research Grade 4 Sep '24
- Research Grade 4 Sep '24

**Northern Purple Pitcher Plant**  
(*Sarracenia purpurea purpurea*)  
Nestow, AB T0G 1S0... Sep 14, 2024

Research Grade 4 Sep '24
- Research Grade 4 Sep '24

**Northern Purple Pitcher Plant**  
(*Sarracenia purpurea purpurea*)  
Nestow, AB T0G 1S0... Sep 14, 2024

Research Grade 4 Sep '24
- Research Grade 4 Sep '24

**Northern Purple Pitcher Plant**  
(*Sarracenia purpurea purpurea*)  
Nestow, AB T0G 1S0... Sep 14, 2024

Research Grade 4 Sep '24
- Research Grade 4 Sep '24

**Round-leaved Sundew**  
(*Drosera rotundifolia*)

## Disturbances



What should NOT be there?

### Q# Element/ Question

- 61 Agricultural Activities; grazing
- 62 Resource extraction; oil and gas, minerals, etc.
- 63 Motorized disturbances (e.g. ATV); How pervasive
- 64 Activities; (hiking, fishing, biking, equestrian, etc.)
- 65 Gathering and Dumping Activities; Living or partying on the site.
- 66 Infrastructure encroachment; Industrialization and urbanization
- 67 Comments; How the site is being consumed or disturbed by humans.



## Disturbances



What should NOT be there?



F.Potter, visit [YEGville.ca](http://YEGville.ca) for usage terms.

## What to be Done?



Clean up, repairs,  
crime, remediation,  
etc.

### Q# Element/ Question

- 71 Remediation/Protection Activities Needed
- 72\* What Have you Done?; Activities by designated Stewards.
- 73\* Nearby Stewards?; Residents - Citizens Stewards?
- 74 Comments; Optional field.
- 81 Photos (see preferred format and file names)
- 82 Any Last Words?; Have we missed anything, comments or thoughts?



## What to be Done?



Clean up, repairs,  
crime, remediation,  
etc.





- Filename: [WHERE]\_[WHEN]\_[WHO]\_[IDENTIFIER],
- Good: BilbyNA\_2098-12-31\_JSmith\_Pineforest
- Not so good: IMG\_1234

## Pictures?



Upload, email,  
***naming  
conventions!***

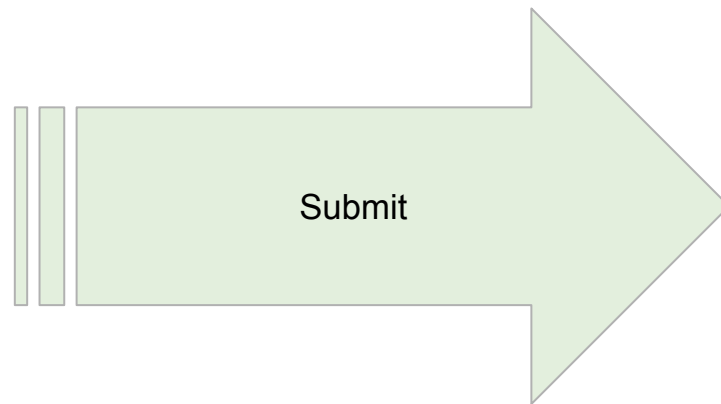


## Pictures?



Upload, email,  
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- Filename: [WHERE]\_[WHEN]\_[WHO]\_[IDENTIFIER],
- Good: BilbyNA\_2098-12-31\_JSmith\_Pineforest.
- Not so good: IMG\_1234
- IPTC Caption information & Watermarks - *OKAY!*
- 10 files (images, GPS, video, etc.) < 10 MB each.
- Otherwise: [webmaster@sapaastewards.com](mailto:webmaster@sapaastewards.com)
- Upload if you have access



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there?

## What to be Done?



Clean up, repairs,  
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## Pictures?



Upload, email,  
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Submit

# Why Visit a Site?

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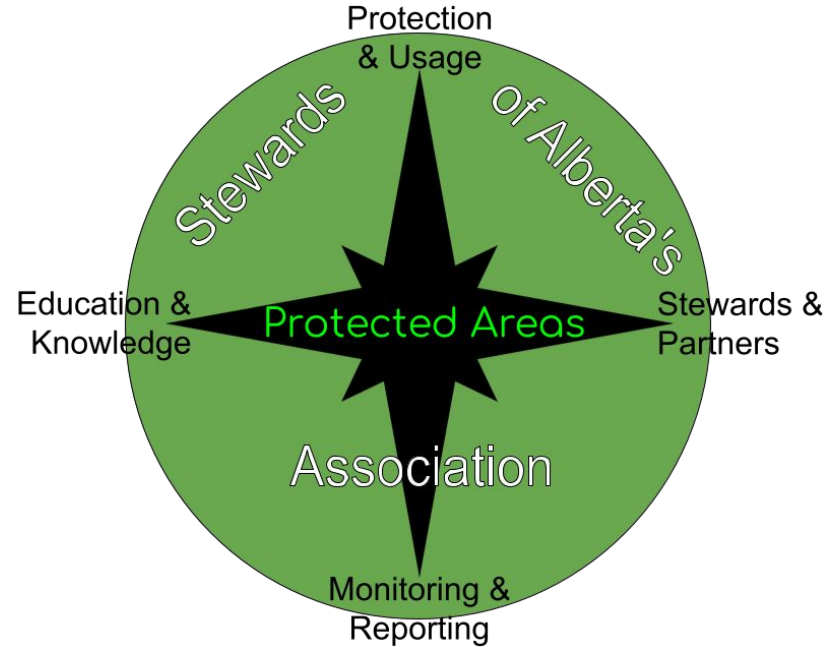
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# SAPAA Vision Star

- Protect/Use: Defined Usage
- Stewards: (non) Volunteer, Groups
- Monitor: Inspections, iNat., etc.
- Education: Telling PA story



# Telling the State of Alberta's Protected Areas

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## **Stewards of Alberta's Protected Areas Association (SAPAA)**

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2024 (Rolling 3-Year) Site  
Inspection Results

Version – GoA Submission, Feb 14, 2025

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## **Stewards of Alberta's Protected Areas Association (SAPAA)**

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2023 Plus 2024 First Quarter  
Site Inspection Results

Version – May 3rd, 2024

# Inspection Posts

[2024-03-29: Redwater River Natural Area | SAPAA](#)  
([sapaastewards.com](#))

## 2024-03-29: Redwater River Natural Area

1 Reply

Heavily disturbed natural area and the only one (so far) deserving of a score of "0" for Naturalness, a rating of 'Terrible'.

The Redwater River Natural Area, as of 2024-03-29, is heavily disturbed by ATV tracks, an illegal gun range, and dumping sites, posing safety risks and environmental damage. Remediation activities like signage, cleanup, and ongoing monitoring are urgently needed. This site requires immediate attention due to extensive abuse and neglect.



Boundary sign bravely explains usage near to a large ATV track entering the NA heading west from RR226, Redwater River Natural Area, 2024-03-29, R. Potter

## Inspection Report

Question	Q#	Response
General Information		
Date/Day/Submitter	Q21/Q22/V12	2024-03-29: Redwater River Phorak R.
Guest Names	Q14	Frank Potter
SAPAA Member	Q16	Yes
Over all impression of the Site		
What is the Naturalness of the Site? 4=Great, 0=Terrible	Q31	0 - Terrible
How Natural? comments	Q32	A site that has been partially destroyed through bush parties, ATVs, and an illegal gun range. Visit with extreme caution.
How was your visit to the PA?		
Trip Duration	Q41	1-2 hours
Why Did you Go?	Q42	Order (see comments)
Visit Details	Q43	Visit while researching for yegville.ca
What is in the Site?		
Ease to Visit	Q51	Parking lot or parking for 2 or more cars
Biological Observations	Q52	The western portion, most affected by ATV traffic, was devoid of fresh animal tracks (rodent, ungulate) or scat. Only when I moved away from the illegal gun range area were there some older deer and hare tracks. One tree was stripped of bark, unclear if the animal doing the ravaging.
Submissions to Naturalists	Q53	No, did not see anything of note
Geological Observations	Q54	Nothing of note
Designation as a Protected Area	Q55	Exclus but in disrepair
Comments	Q56	A single boundary sign on RR226.
Human Activities/Disturbances		
Agricultural Activities	Q61	None noted
Resource extraction	Q62	None Noted
Motorized disturbances (ATV or vehicle activity)	Q63	Off Highway Vehicles (e.g. quads, motorbikes)
Animal or self propelled activities	Q64	Order (see comments)
Gathering and Dumping Activities	Q65	Camping (lean-tos, fire rings, etc.), Bush party sites (e.g. bottles), Recreational fires or burns, Garbage dumping

# Want to Help?

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# Want to Help?

1. Reports! Different areas.
2. Register: Contributor
3. Computer Mentor (need help)
4. Be an Editor
5. Support iNaturalist

Thoughts, Comments or Questions?