

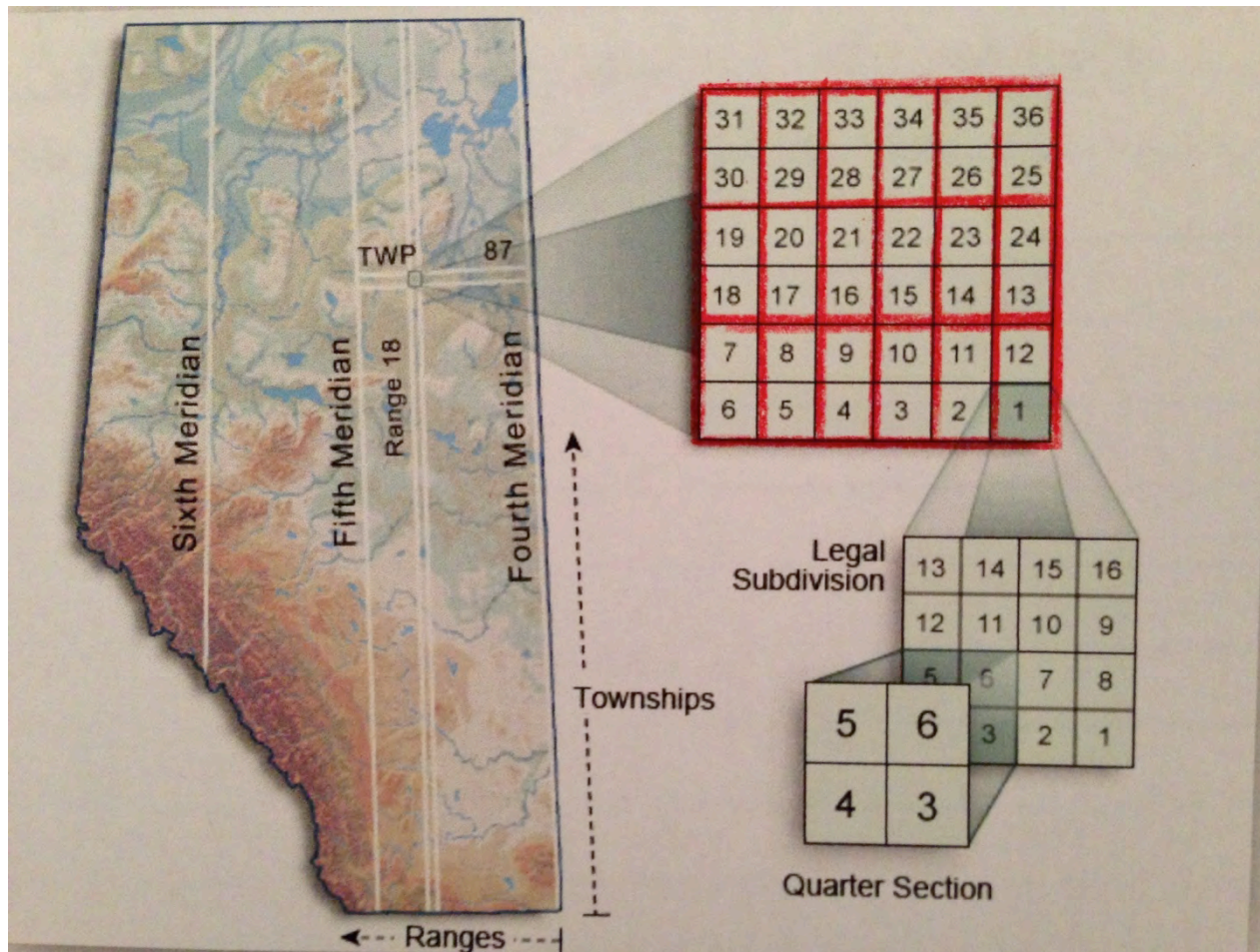
# **HUNTING ON UNDEVELOPED ROAD ALLOWANCES WITHOUT PERMISSION TO HUNT ADJACENT PRIVATE LAND.**

- LEGAL YES, BUT IS IT ETHICAL?
- LEGAL YES, BUT IS IT RIGHT?
- Does Alberta Game Policy Advisory Group (AGPAG) support this type of hunting?

# Road Allowances

- Road Allowances are public lands owned by the Province of Alberta.
- In Alberta road allowances are like grid lines across the Province. They are located in a north/south direction every mile from the east boundary to the west boundary of the Province.
- They are also located in a east/west direction every 2<sup>nd</sup> mile from the south boundary to the north boundary of the Province.

# Road Allowances shown in red



# Undeveloped Road Allowances

- Most of the road allowances in the Province are undeveloped.
- Undeveloped Road Allowance (URA)
- URA's are 66 feet or 20 meters in width.
- Designed for future road development.
- Not designed as “Public Hunting Corridor” between private land.

## Undeveloped Road Allowance **(fenced on one side)**

- Typically, one of the adjacent landowners has an agricultural licence for grazing/cultivation on the URA.
- Agricultural licences are administered by Municipal/County Authority.
- A fence is normally erected on one side of the URA.
- The fence allows the licensee the ability to graze cattle on the URA and on his adjacent private land without the need for two fences.

ATTACHMENT 'A' - PRESENTATION FROM TERRY RAYMOND

# Undeveloped Road Allowance (fenced on one side)



## Undeveloped Road Allowance **(fenced on both sides of URA)**

- In most cases but not all, neither one of the adjacent landowner has an agricultural licence on the URA.
- The URA is utilized by recreation enthusiasts such as hunters, ATV, hikers, horse back riders, campers and so forth.
- Unfortunately it is also a place for dumping and other unwanted illegal activity.



## Undeveloped Road Allowance (fenced on both sides of URA)





## Undeveloped Road Allowance **(not fenced or marked)**

- Not all URA's are fenced or marked.
- There is no crop line, no field line, no gate, no fence.
- This is very common where the landowner owns the lands on either side of the URA.
- Impossible for hunter to know or the landowner to prove where boundaries of the URA are located.
- Impossible to prove trespass in court.

# Undeveloped Road Allowance **(not fenced on either side)**

NOT ALL ROAD ALLOWANCES ARE FENCED OR MARKED



## Section 51 Wildlife Act

- Allows an individual to hunt and discharge a firearm from or cause a projectile from a firearm to pass along or across an URA.
- Allows a person hunting game birds with a shotgun under the authority of a licence to discharge a firearm from or cause a projectile from a firearm to pass along or across any road allowance except a provincial highway in a municipal district or prescribed area.

## PROBLEMS/CONFLICTS

- In many parts of the Province, private lands adjoin the URA's.
- Firearms including bow & arrow seldom drop an animal dead in its tracks. Most animals die outside the boundaries of the URA.
- Hunting on URA's leads to the discharge of firearms on private lands adjacent to the URA.
- Hunting on URA leads to further trespass and hunting on occupied land without permission.



- Landowner/hunter relations continue to be eroded.
- Short term, another landowner/hunter feud.
- Long term, more private property closed to hunting.
- The next generation of landowners are more likely to not allow hunting.
- We must be proactive and resolve the conflicts between landowners/hunters.

ATTACHMENT 'A' - PRESENTATION FROM TERRY RAYMOND

## MORE HUNTERS

- More hunters afield each year.
- More hunters with different principals, goals and values.
- Increased competition for hunting opportunities.
- Increase in unethical hunting.

# Fish and Wildlife Officers

- F&WL Officers respond to numerous calls of trespass and hunting on occupied lands each year.
- When F&WL arrive on scene, complete investigation they often find the offending parties used the URA as a means of travel between land they do not have the right to hunt on.
- Landowners do not have to allow hunters access to retrieve a dead or wounded animal.

- When hunters are refused entry onto private property they often ask F&WL for assistance to recovery animal utilizing the excuse they could be charged, if they abandon animal or allow meat to spoil. (General Regulations # 6.)
- Many F&WL Officers interpretation of “authority to access *without warrant*” is incorrect. If there *is not a safety issue* they have no reason to enter private property without authorization.
- Landowners trust for hunters continues to diminish.



# International Hunters Education Association (IHEA)

- Set standards for hunter education instructors.
- Some expectations about ethics:
  - endeavor to exercise the highest of hunting ethics, hunters must have respect to each other, landowners, laws and for wildlife.
  - they also have the responsibility to ask themselves, “Is this the right thing?”

A man wearing an orange baseball cap and an orange shirt is shown in profile, aiming a rifle. The background is a blurred natural setting. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

Ethical behavior  
is doing the  
right thing  
*when no one else is watching*  
even when doing the wrong thing is  
legal.

-Aldo Leopold  
Boone and Crockett Club

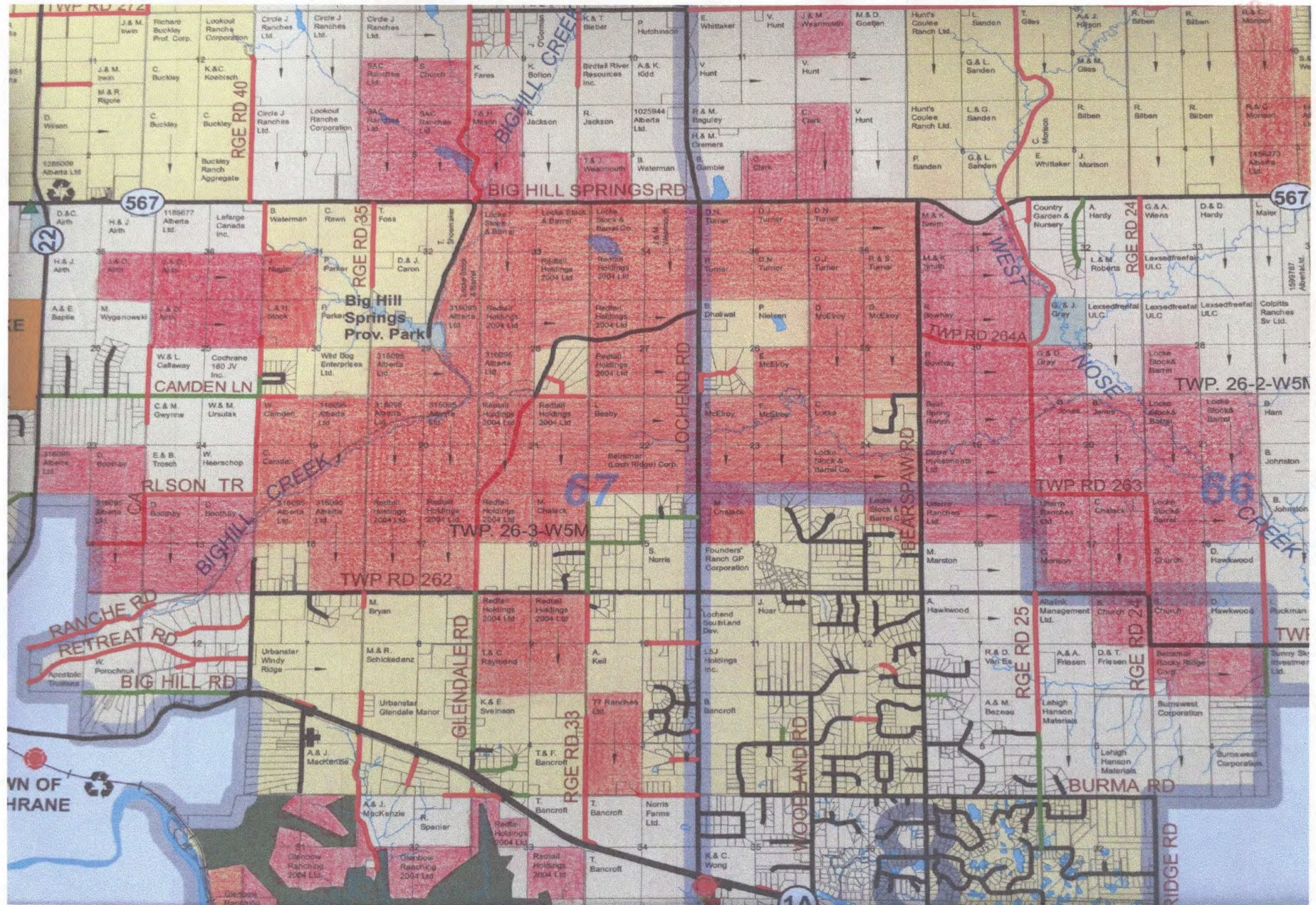
# THE FUTURE

- Will the next generation of landowners allow hunting?
- Can IHEA, Hunting For Tomorrow, F&WL and other groups bring more landowners to the understanding that responsible hunters are needed.
- Landowners can benefit from a managed hunting program but they need help putting a program in place.
- Will the Government of Alberta commence informational programs so that landowners open their doors and land base to allow for ethical and responsible hunting?

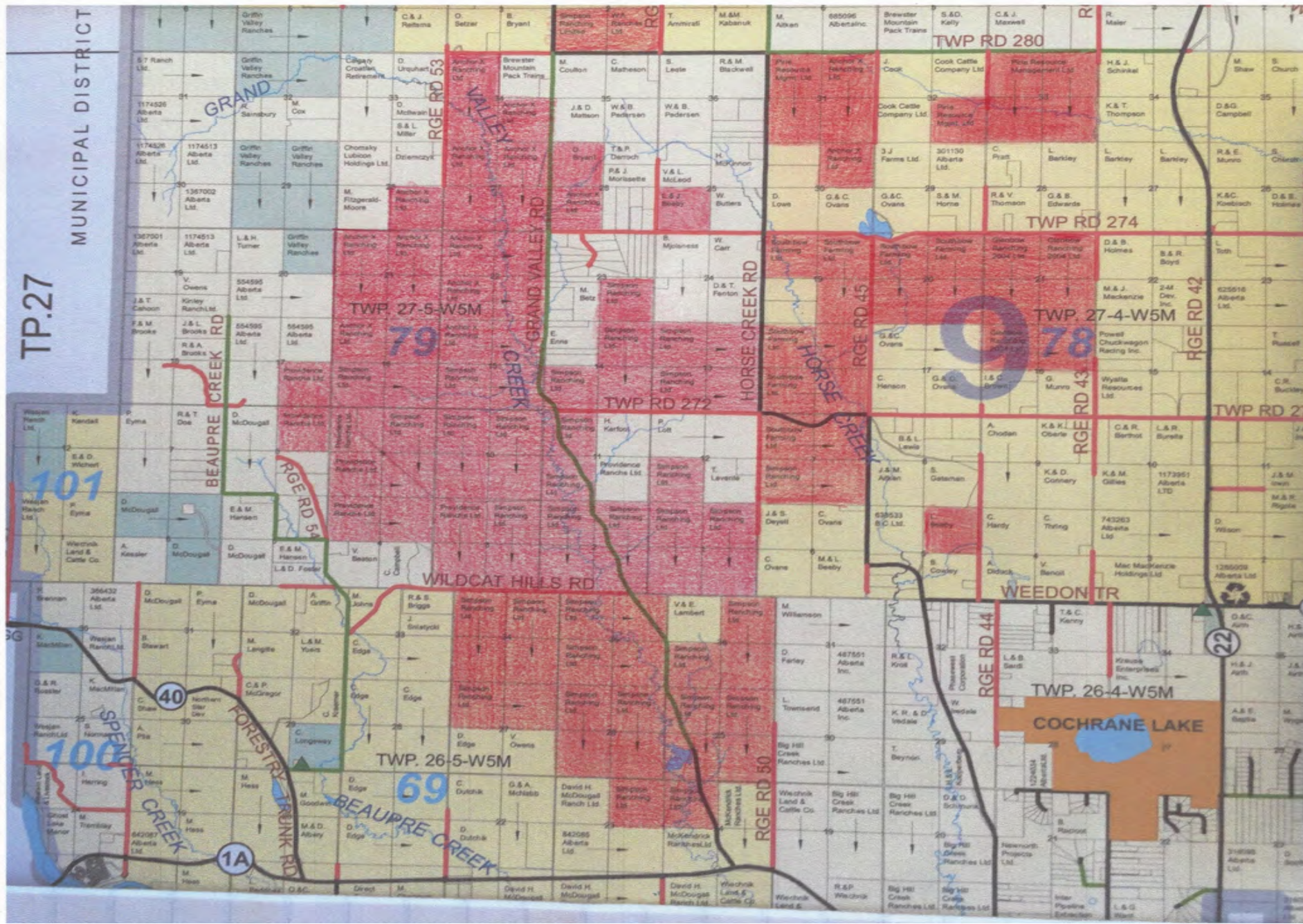
## SUPPORT FOR CHANGE IS GROWING

- Four (4) years ago I asked my Councillor and Rocky View County for support.
- Rocky View County, Mountain View County and Improvement District of Big Horn support change.  
(not attempting to make changes similar to Strathcona County)
- Alberta Beef Producers support change.
- Stan Hawes, retired F&WL Officer from Cochrane supports change.
- Rural landowners that are effected by road allowance hunters support change.

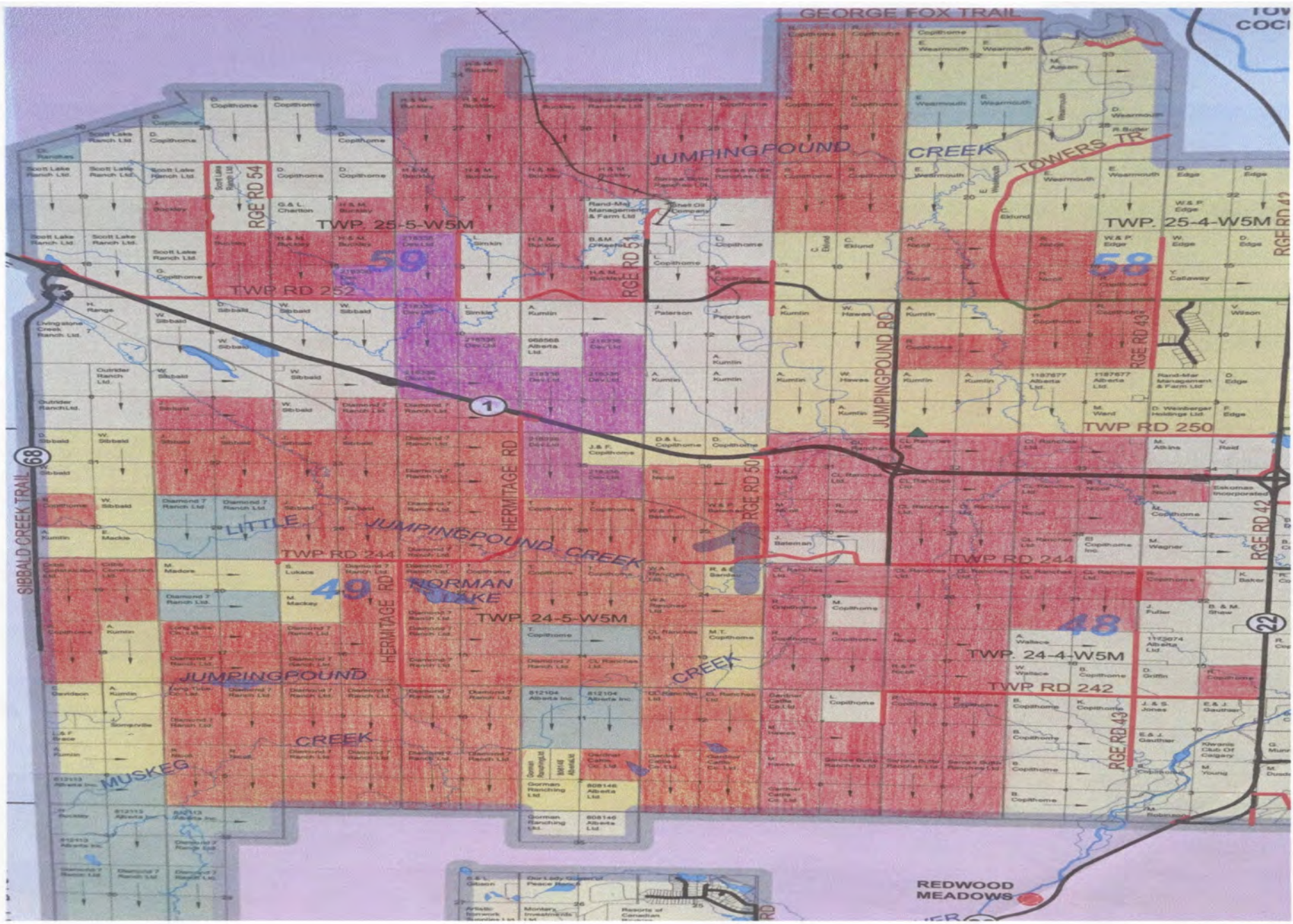












## Landowner support – not shown on map(s)

Soderglen Ranches Ltd. (Stan Grad) Airdrie, Cardston & Fort McLeod Areas

Glenbow Ranching 2012 Ltd. (Katie Harvie) Cochrane Area

Two Dot Ranch (Katie Harvie)- Willow Creek Area

Jerry Sawley- Willow Creek Area

Butters Ranching Ltd. (Erik Butters) – Improvement District of Bighorn

Rondalyn Reesor – Irvine

Gary Etherington, - Dewberry

Flying E Rancho (Larry Sears) – Willow Creek Area

Bill Hansen – Valley View

Star Ranches Ltd. (George Ward) – Arrowwood

Joseph & Audrey Busetto - Athabasca and Lyalta Areas

Lost River Ranches (Tim & Tannis Piotrowski) - Manyberries

Milk River Cattle Co. Ltd. (John A. Ross) – County of 40 Mile # 8

Ross Ranches (Darren A. Ross) – Foremost 40,000 acres

Darcy & Laura Wills – Coutts

G.W. Murray Ranches (George Murray) County of Newell

McIntyre Ranching Co. Ltd. (Ralph Thrall III) – 160,000 acres

Deseret Ranches of Alberta Ltd. (Darren Bevans, GM) 100,000 acres

Rocky View County

Mountain View County

Improvement District of Bighorn No. 8

# RECOMENDATIONS

- Amend Wildlife Act and Alberta Big Game Hunting Regulations to read:
- ***It is unlawful to discharge a weapon while hunting Big Game on or from an undeveloped road allowance unless the person hunting has authority to hunt on adjacent land(s).***
- Penalty/Fine: \$1,000.00
- Increase Petty Trespass to \$1,000.00
- Increase Hunting On Occupied Land Without Permission to \$1,000.00



# Compromise?

- Apply recommended change(s) to **Rocky View County, Mountain View County and Improvement District of Big Horn.**
- Hunters must notify URA grazing licence disposition holder of access in same manner as required by Grazing Licence Disposition holders of larger tracts of public land. (Changes to Recreation Access Regulations)
- **In WMU 212 (Bow Zone) - *It is unlawful to discharge a “primitive weapon”.....***



# CLOSING

- Hunting traditions are at risk.
  - Less acceptance by general public.
  - The future of hunting is the responsibility of hunters and government.
  - Ethics is about laws, personal beliefs, rules and customs.
  - Ethics is about making positive choices and maintaining high standards of choices.
  - Ethics means respecting private and property property.
  - It also means honoring the feelings and values of those that do not hunt.
- 
- I consulted with **Shane Mahoney (Conservations Canada)** and I was advised to ask the following:
  - Is it wrong for me to restrict access to a hunter who may have shot an animal on an URA when they did not have permission to hunt on the adjacent private property?
  - Is it ethical and responsible to hunt on an URA between private property when permission has not been obtained to hunt the adjacent private property?
- 
- Some people believe its “OK”, because its “LEGAL”.