

Welcome to the Cypress Hills

The island in the prairie plains



An Interprovincial Park

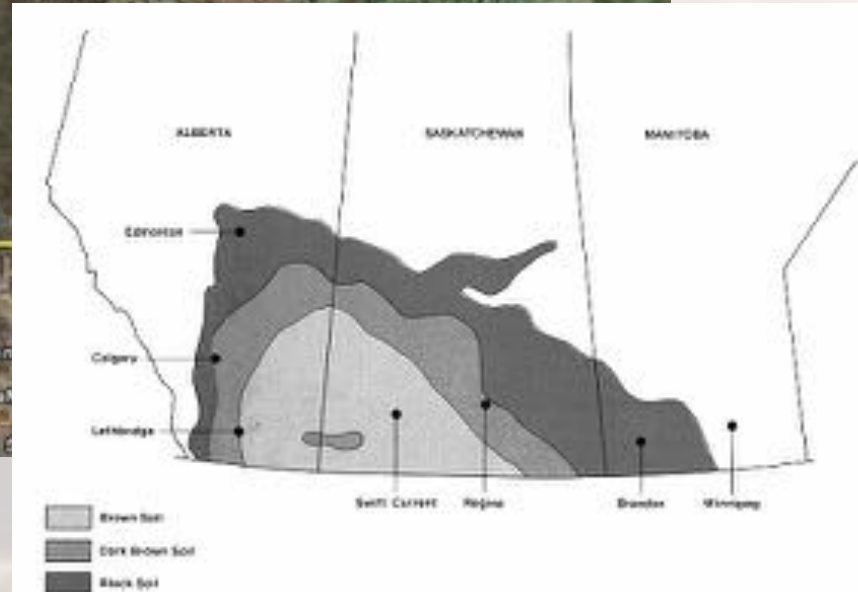
- The first Interprovincial Park in Canada
- Three Separate Blocks – The West Block, Centre Block, and East Block
- Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park spans the borders of two provinces, with three governments cooperating in the management of this unique geographical feature and ecosystem.
- In 1989, Cypress Hills - Saskatchewan and Alberta - joined forces and created Canada's first Interprovincial Park. The Interprovincial Park Agreement was amended in 2000 to formally include Fort Walsh National Historic Site.



**Government
of Alberta** ■

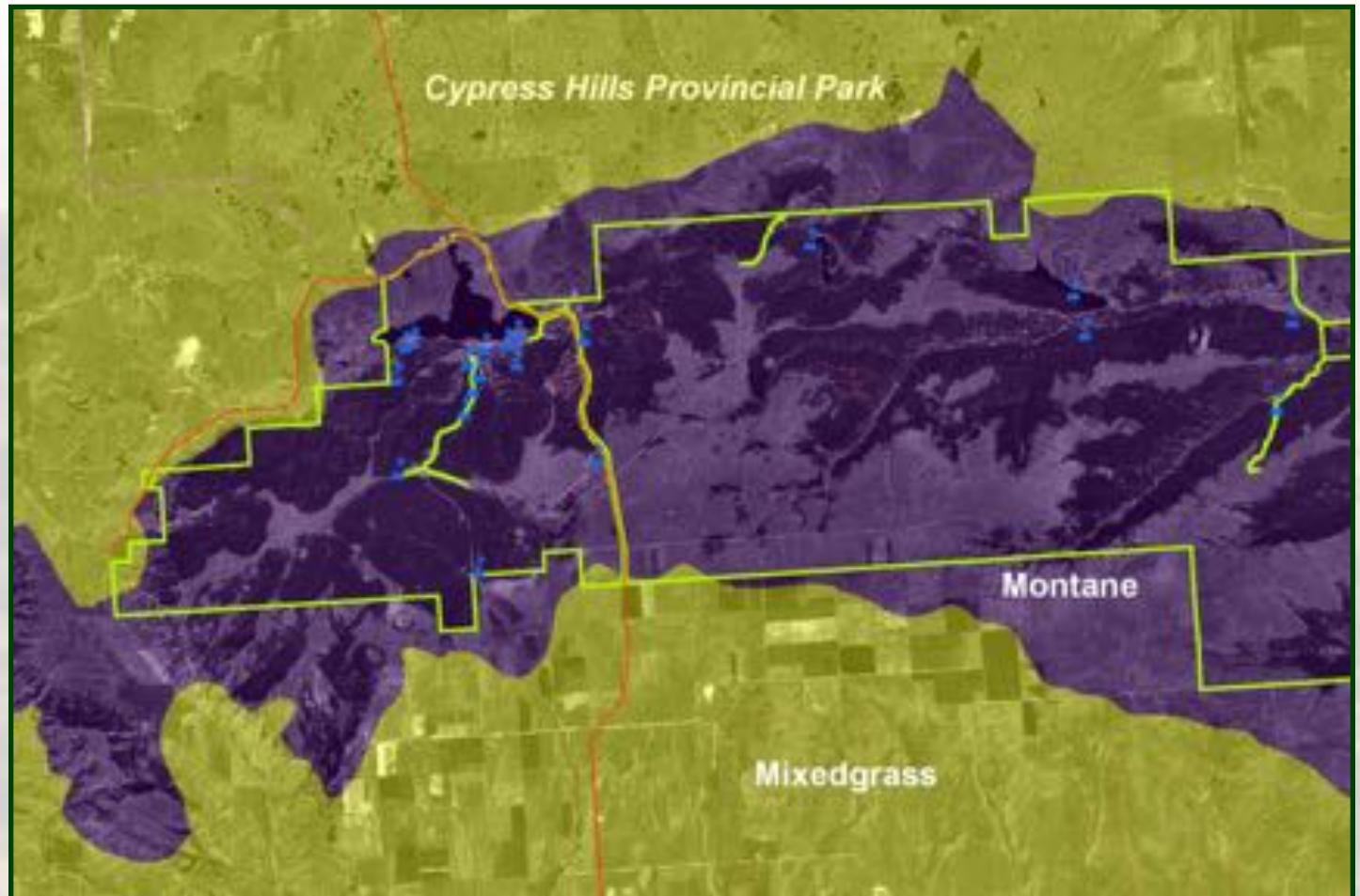
Cypress Hills...

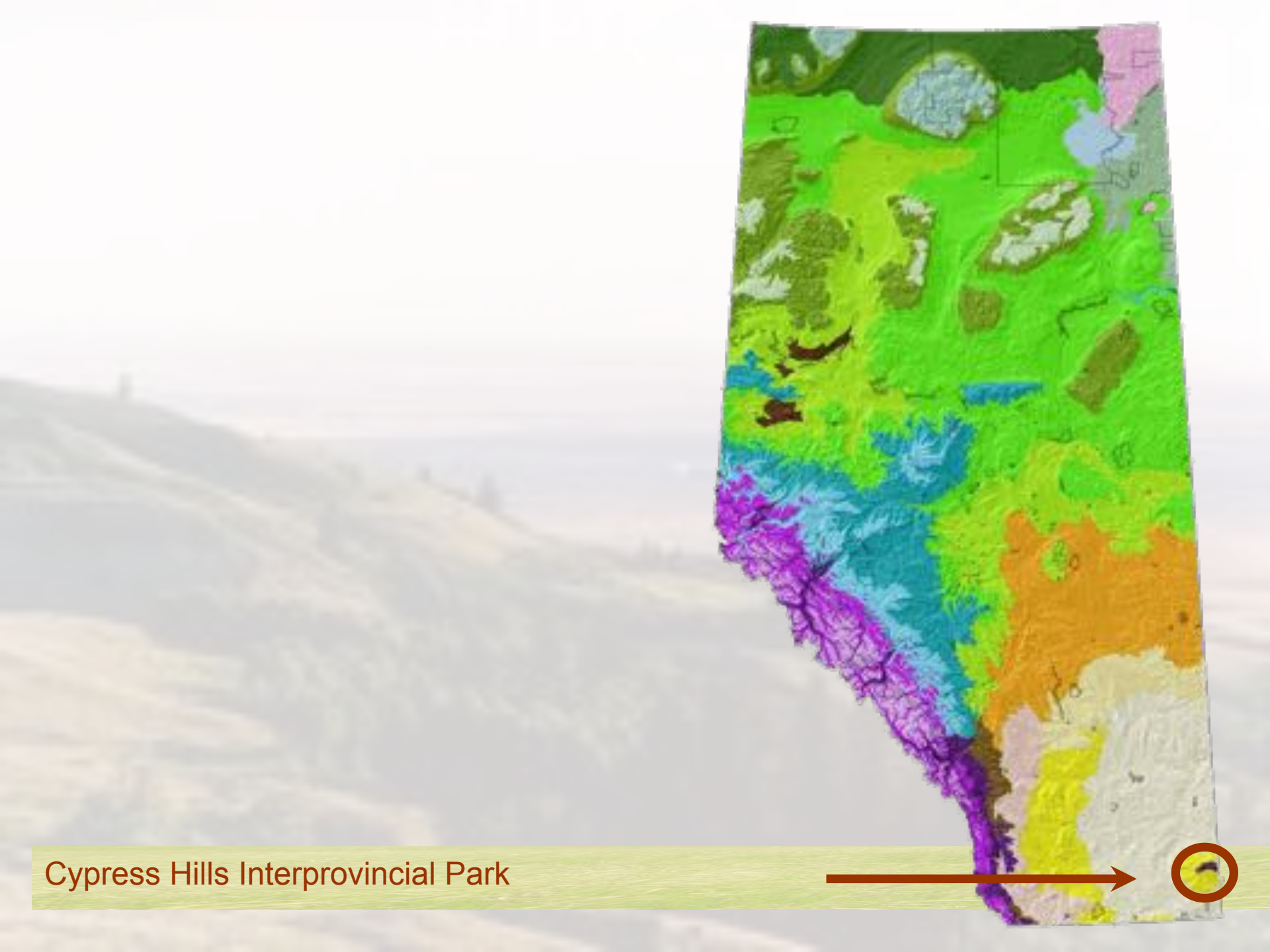
A perfect oasis in the desert we have traveled John Palliser, 1850



Protecting a Significant Place

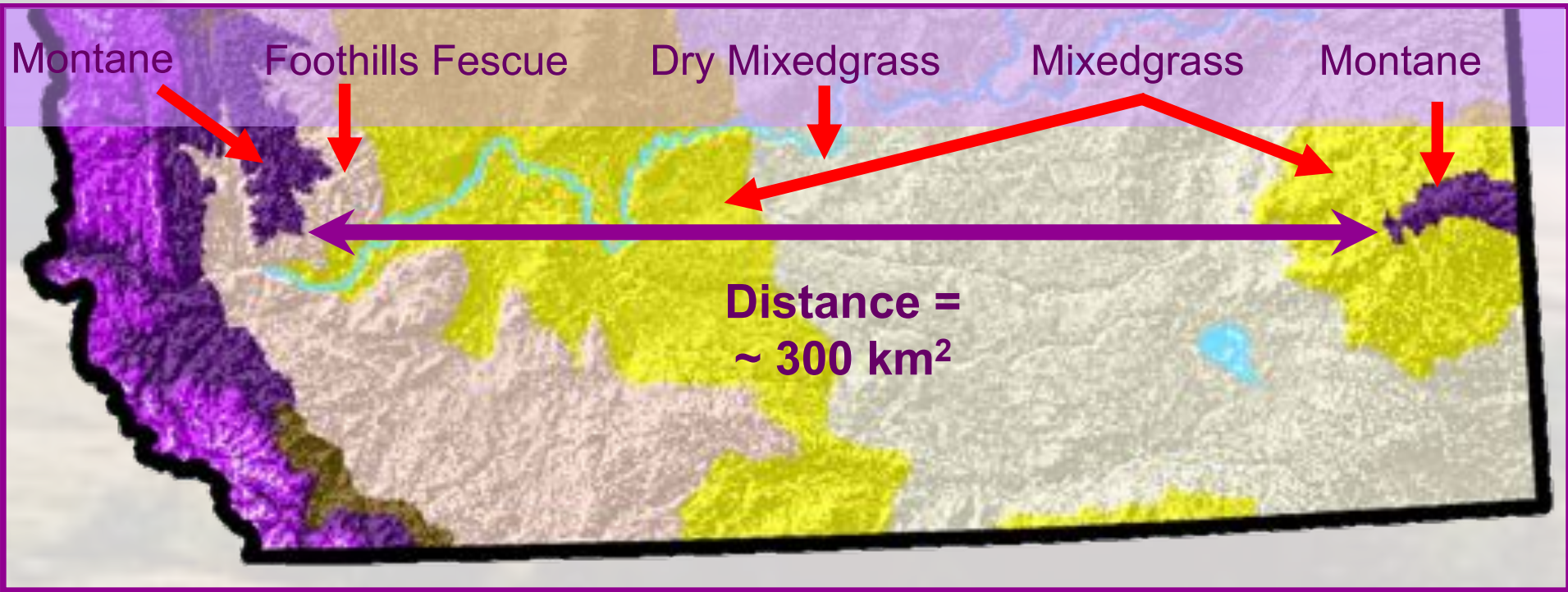
Systems Perspective: Environmental Diversity





Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park





Dark Sky Preserve

- On September 28, 2004, a declaration was signed between the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta and the Government of Canada, in partnership with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada to designate the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park as a Dark-Sky Preserve.
- Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park is the first park in Saskatchewan and Alberta to become fully recognized as a Dark-Sky Preserve in North America

Cypress Hills Dark-Sky Preserve



Geography

- Formed by sedimentary layers, not faulting and folding, or uplifting like the Rockies.
- Over 600 metres above the surrounding plains (though the hills are only 200 metres high)
- Cypress Hills were a Nunatak – meaning they were not covered by the glaciers in the last ice age



Wild Life



- Over 220 species of birds
- Over 47 mammal species
- Wide range of aquatic life







Plant Life



- Forest is like the foothills of the Rockies: Aspen, White Spruce, and Lodgepole Pine
- Many rare and unusual orchids – considering it is in the prairies!







A Long History...

- Over 8 000 years of people continuously using the Cypress Hills
- Many different aboriginal groups
- Instrumental in forming the North West Mounted Police and Fort Walsh

Stampede Archeological Site





PhotoBy: Nelson & Sharon Hogg



Alberta's parks inspire people to discover, value, protect, and enjoy the natural world and the benefits it provides for current and future generations.

