

**LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION:**

Series

**No.:**

AU023.014S

**FORMS PART OF:**

AU023 Martha Kostuch fonds

**TITLE:**

Fish and wildlife series

**CREATOR:**

Kostuch, Martha

**DATE RANGE:**

1976-2008

**EXTENT:**

0.82 meters of textual records and other material

**ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY/BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:**

Martha Kostuch was concerned with preserving fish habitats and protecting spawning grounds. She was also concerned that many of the natural areas and wildlife breeding grounds were being invaded by industry, economic growth and tourism.

Kostuch was on the National Fish Habitat Coordinating Committee as the Environmental Non-Government Organization Co-Chair from 2006-2008, and was Chair of the Fisheries Working Group under the Canadian Environmental Network from 1993-1998. She was Vice-president of the Friends of the Oldman River Society from 1987 to 2008, a group that worked to improve and clarify the fisheries law in Canada. Much of her work concerning fisheries overlapped with her work on other committees. She was a member of several environmental organizations that worked to preserve wildlife and habitat, such as, the Alberta Wilderness Association, where she was a Director as well as a lifetime member.

Kostuch worked to ensure the national and provincial laws to protect fish and wildlife were meaningful. While investigating these laws, she found that the legislation regarding fisheries law was not readily available to the public and she often had to obtain material under the *Access to Information Act*. Some of the laws concerning the authority of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard were unclear and vague, and there was no distinction between provincial and federal jurisdictions. She was also a spokesperson for various organizations, which would initiate legal action against the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian

Coast Guard when permits were issued for roads, dams or bridges that would interfere with fish habitat and spawning grounds.

Kostuch presented a brief regarding Canada's environmental concerns in regard to the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation at the International Conference of the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation Council. She also lobbied various Ministers of the Environment, Natural Resources and Division of Wildlife departments when there were any changes or deregulation of legislation that she thought would be harmful to wildlife. As a member of the Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA), from 1979-1990, Kostuch was also on the executive board that worked to set policy and regulations concerning hunting, wildlife and migratory birds in Alberta.

**CUSTODIAL HISTORY:**

In April 2008, Martha Kostuch signed an agreement with Athabasca University to have her records digitized but she passed away before this work could be started. After her death on April 23, 2008, her records went into the custody of her son Edward and in July 2008, he donated the records to Athabasca University.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The series consists of material pertaining to Kostuch's work to improve Fisheries Legislation and preserve and improve wildlife and fish habitat.

Textual records consist of, reports, submissions, notes, correspondence, news releases, the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, Federal Bills C-115 and C-62, reports regarding Alberta regulatory reform, presentations, and newspaper clippings. As well, copies of material received under the Freedom of Information Act. Much of the material has been annotated by Martha Kostuch.

The four photographs depict damage to trees from deer. The CD consists of the proceedings of a workshop. The drawing is a head of a cougar done in pencil.

**SOURCE OF TITLE:**

Title taken from the contents of the fonds.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Fonds also includes 4 photographs. – 1 CD. – 1 drawing.

**CONSERVATION:**

Conservation copies have been made of some of the newspaper clippings, thermal fax paper and mimeograph paper. Some of the material was water damaged and sent for conservation work.

**ARRANGEMENT NOTE:**

Series have been based on the major topics identified from the creator's arrangement, though some records may pertain to a number of series.

**LANGUAGE NOTE:**

The material is in English.

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:**

None.

**USE CONDITIONS:**

Permission for use required. Subject to *The Copyright Act*.

**FINDING AIDS:**

Box list and file list are available. Some of the material is available in electronic form.

**INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ACCESSIONS:**

2008.015

Further accruals are not expected.

**ASSOCIATED MATERIAL:**

Other records pertaining to the Alberta Fish and Game Association may be found in the Alberta Fish and Game Association fonds at the Provincial Archives of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta.

**RELATED RECORDS:**

Records related to the Friends of the Oldman River Society may be found in the Friends of the Oldman River Society fonds at the Thomas A. Edge Archives & Special Collections at Athabasca University in Athabasca, Alberta.

**GENERAL NOTE:**

Information for the administrative history was obtained from the records and from *The Edmonton Journal*, *Calgary Herald* and *Red Deer Advocate* newspapers.

**SUBJECT HEADINGS:**

Environmental law  
Environmental policy  
Water - - Pollution  
Water - - Law and legislation  
Sewage disposal  
Water conservation