

GETTING STARTED

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE EXTREME ALBERTA CHALLENGE

Science Alberta Foundation is pleased to make *The Extreme Alberta Challenge*, one of our crate programs, available in your community.

The Extreme Alberta Challenge focuses on the Grade 9 Biological Diversity curriculum unit. Students participate in seven hands-on activities that focus on a proposed Alberta-wide, multi-sport race. Each activity showcases real-life examples of field research techniques, species at-risk in Alberta, and species/habitat management practices. Students will determine the impact of the race on local species and decide if it will be cancelled, changed, or continue as planned.

Activities in *The Extreme Alberta Challenge* include:

Race leg 1: a cross-country ski course that might pass through the wintering range of the woodland caribou

Race leg 2: a mountain bike race that may interfere with burrowing owl re-introduction sites

Race leg 3: a hiking route nearing Banff springs snail habitats

Race leg 4: a running race crossing a grizzly bear corridor

Race leg 5: a canoe race portaging through a pink lady's slippers' habitat

Race leg 6: an ATV course through an asexually reproducing population of Easter daisy

Race leg 7: a fishing derby that may affect the bull trout population

Each team must decide whether each race leg will continue as planned, be cancelled or need changes based on their recommendations. There are two possible approaches to the crate.

Approach 1

Teams rotate through the seven stations. Groups complete an environmental assessment chart for each species and record information in the student notebook. Students are assessed individually based on their conclusions.

Approach 2

After completing *Approach 1*, teams present their decision to the class for discussion and consensus about the best race options. To facilitate the process, you can play the role of a senior official on *The Extreme Alberta Challenge* Board of Directors. Use *The Extreme Alberta Challenge* Map to record the class's decisions.

This activity guidebook outlines information beyond what is presented to the students so you are aware of the science behind these activities. The activities provide an introduction to these topics and can serve as a springboard for further research into any of the species, management practices and ecological field studies. Many resources are listed at the end of the guidebook that will help with this process.