

CALGARY
RIVER
VALLEYS

www.CalgaryRiverValleys.org

We are the voice of our rivers

Fish Creek History

Do you know some of the history of Fish Creek Park?

6500 BCE: First Nations people living in Fish Creek Valley



2500 BCE: First known use of bison pounds for hunting in the valley



1873: Glenn family, first European settlers, arrive in the Bow River/Fish Creek valley



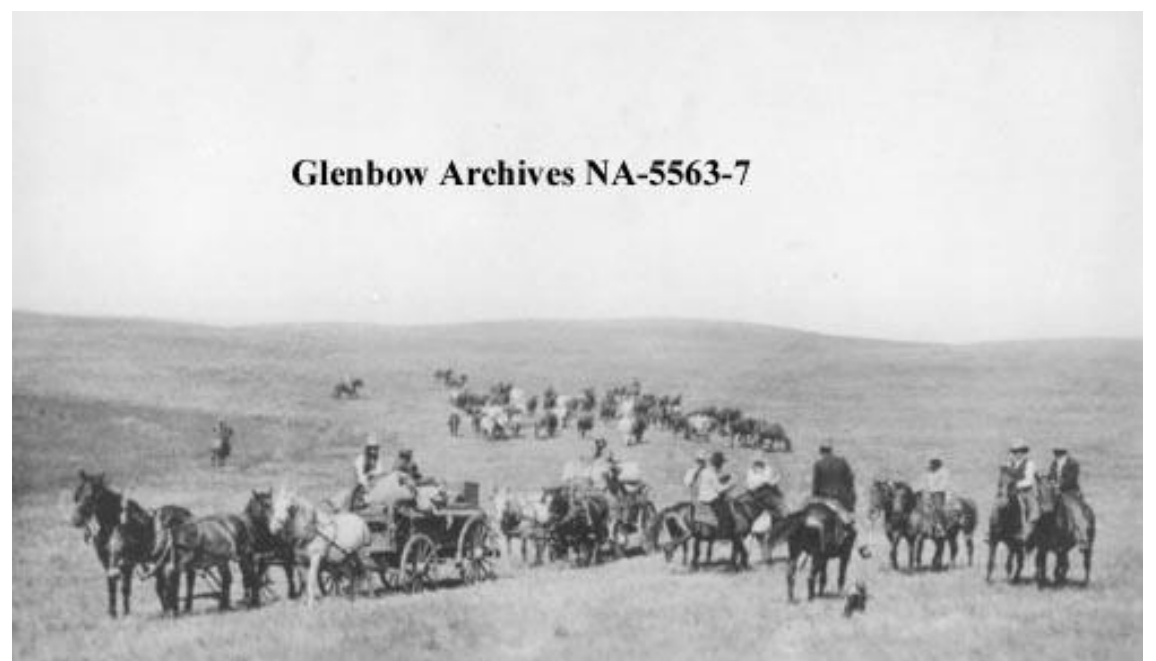
1902: Bow Valley Ranch sold to Patrick Burns & family for cattle ranching



1972: Alberta Government bought land, and in 1975 Fish Creek Provincial Park officially opens



A Bison Pound: a circular "trap" that First Nations peoples drove bison into for hunting purposes. Photo credit: Royal Alberta Museum



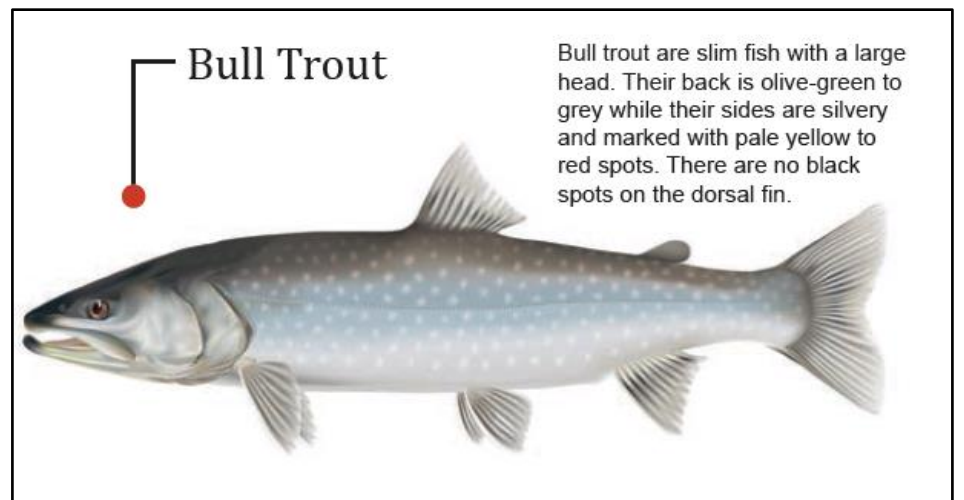
Glenbow Archives NA-5563-7

Patrick Burns' ranch in Fish Creek area, 1920

Historical dates and details are from Alberta Environment & Parks site for Fish Creek Provincial Park

Fish Creek Fish

- Fish Creek used to be full of fish, including native trout species, **Bull Trout** (Alberta's Provincial Fish) and **Westslope Cutthroat Trout**



- Alberta's native trout are at risk of becoming extinct if we don't protect them and their habitat
- Bull Trout populations have declined by 30 to 50% in recent decades, and Westslope Cutthroat Trout have declined by almost 80% (*Statistics cited are from Alberta Wilderness Association*)
- Non-native species, including Brown Trout, Brook Trout, and Rainbow Trout have mostly taken over

Reasons why some fish species are no longer prevalent in Fish Creek

- **Competition between species:** Native fish species have been outcompeted for food, spawning grounds, etc. by non-native species
- **Inter-breeding:** Non-native species have inter-bred with native species, resulting in loss of native genetics
- **Damming:** Dams and water diversions can lead to low water during crucial spawning periods & lack of access to preferred spawning areas
- **Land use:** urban development leads to rainwater going into pipes and gushing into the creeks and rivers, rather than absorbing into the ground or flowing more slowly; some side channels no longer have enough water available for spawning
- **Temperature:** water temperatures have increased due to lack of creek-side vegetation and climate change; native trout prefer colder water