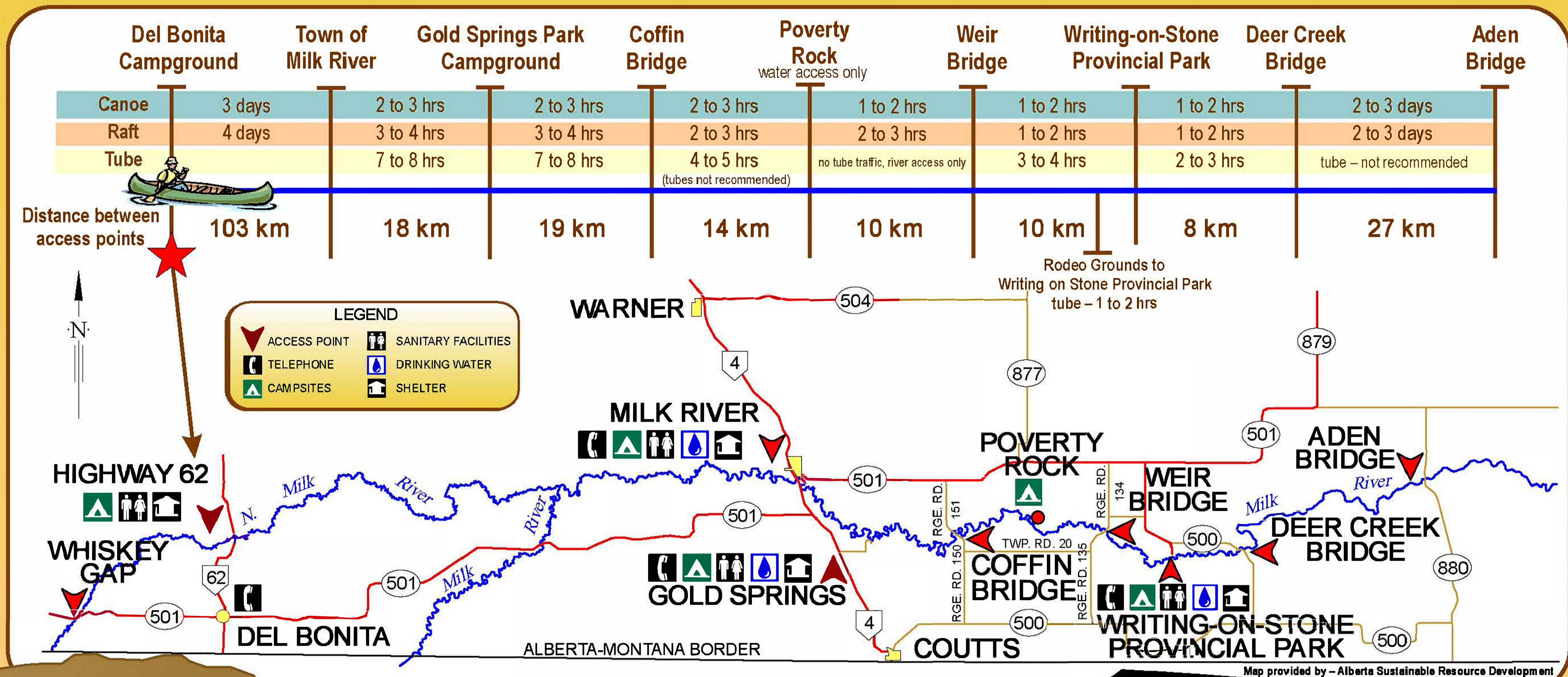


CANOE the MILK RIVER – Del Bonita Campground

Have a safe and enjoyable adventure!



The banks of the river, from the high water mark and beyond is private property. Please use respect.

RULES OF THE RIVER

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Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

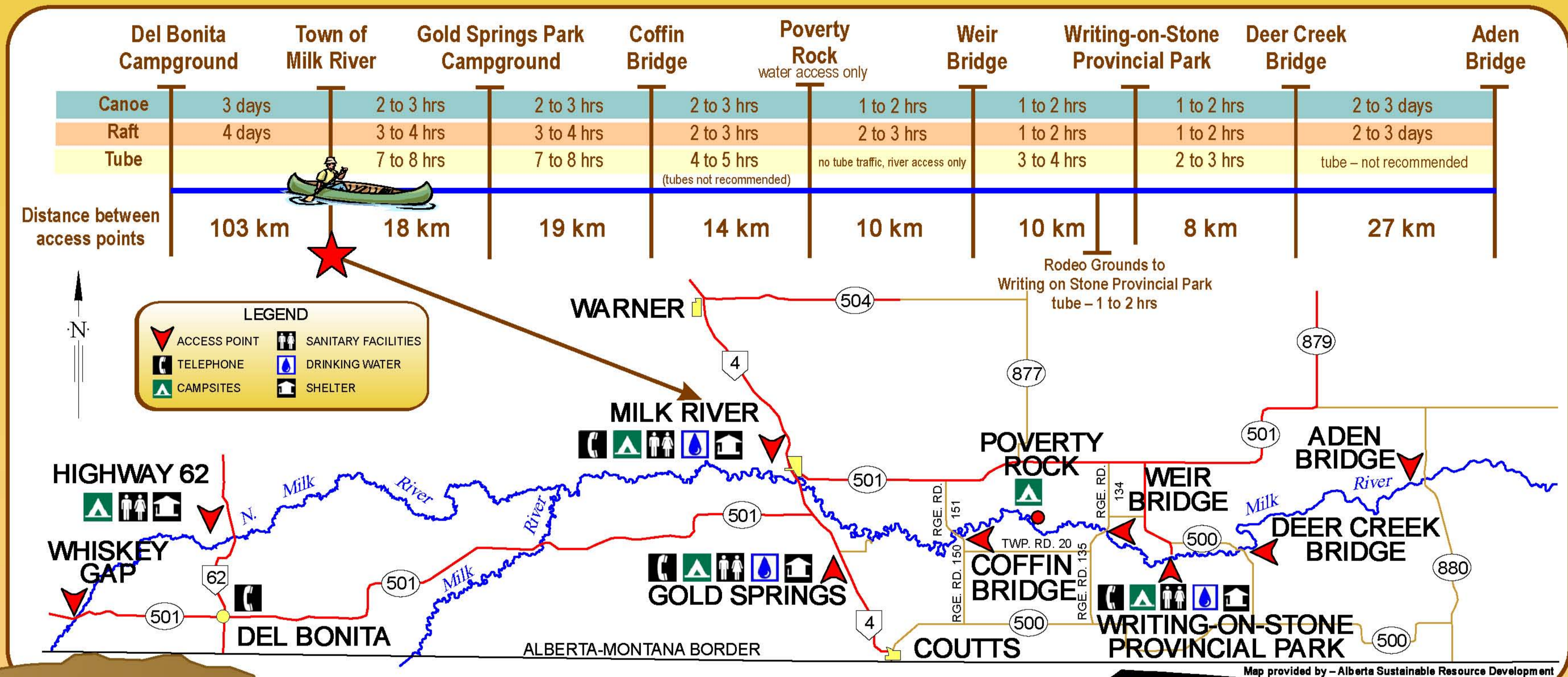
This large bird of prey is native to the open, arid grasslands, prairie and shrub steppe country; it is endemic to the interior parts of North America. The Ferruginous Hawk is listed as “endangered” under Alberta’s Wildlife Act. As with all birds of prey, the female is larger than the male. Males and females have identical markings, having white breasts and bodies with dark legs. Their wings and back are brownish rust color with the tips almost reaching the tip of the tail. Their heads are white with a grayish cap and there is a dark streak extending behind the eyes. Their legs are feathered to the talons. Ferruginous Hawks nest in areas where grazing is the dominant land use or in relatively wild open landscapes. They prey primarily on small to medium sized mammals, such as the ground squirrels and mice, but will also prey on birds, reptiles, and some insects.

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CANOE the MILK RIVER – Town of Milk River

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Prickly Rose (*Rosa acicularis*)

The Prickly Rose is the official flower of Alberta, and is more often called the Wild Rose. It tends to grow in thickets, woods, along roadsides and along streambanks. It grows throughout much of Western Canada and flowers in early summer with white to deep pink petals. Each leaf has coarse, irregular teeth on the edges and small hairs on the lower surface and stalk. The stems are a reddish-brown with many branches and densely covered with straight, weak bristles, which give this plant its common name. The fruit on this plant is a reddish-orange and slightly pear shaped. They hold many seeds, which allows it to reproduce quickly. The fruit (rose hips) from this shrub can be used to make tea.

RULES OF THE RIVER

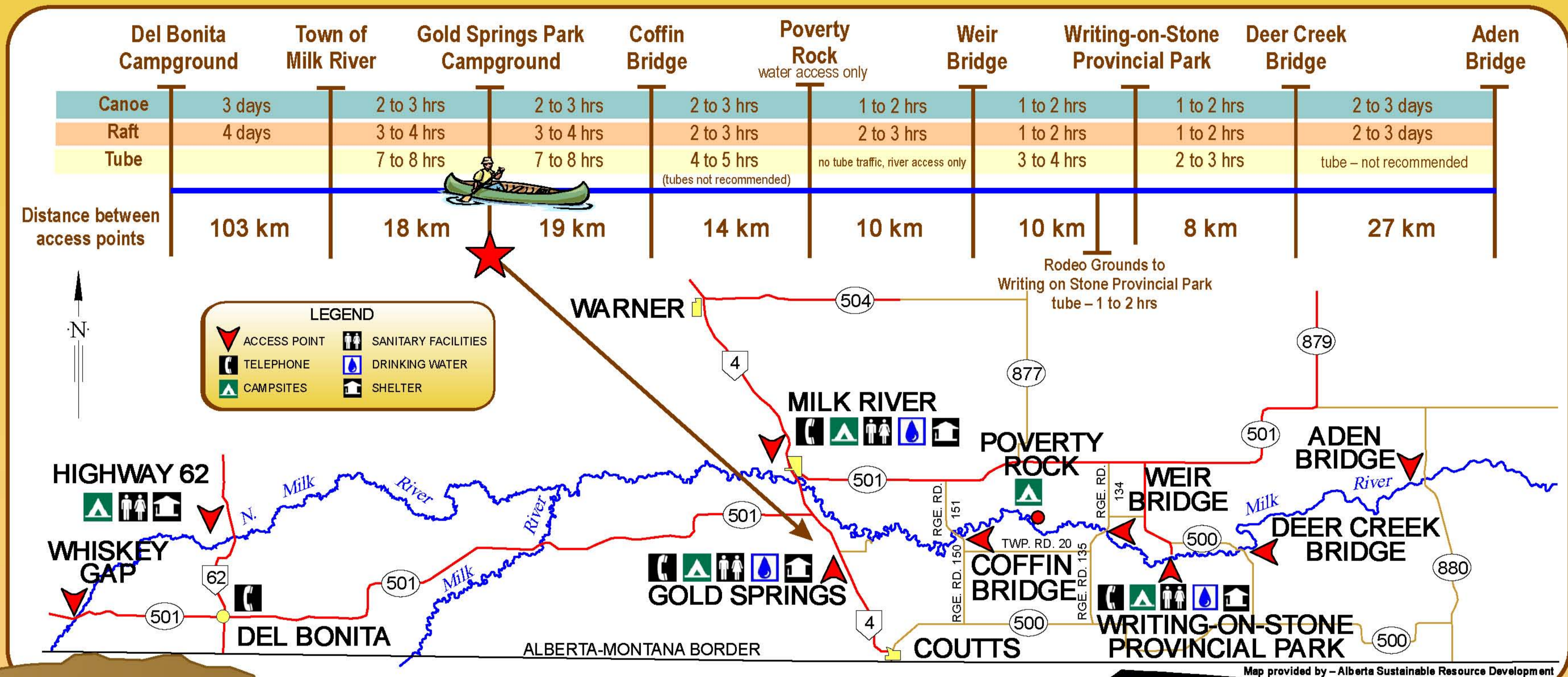
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CANOE the MILK RIVER – Gold Springs Park Campground

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Yellow-bellied Marmot (*Marmota flaviventris*)

The Yellow-bellied Marmot inhabits southwestern Canada and the western United States, including the Rocky Mountains. It inhabits open areas typically above 2000 metres of elevation. The marmot's habitat is mostly grass and rocks with few trees. The size of their territory is about 2 to 3 hectares that encompass a number of summer burrows. Marmots dig burrows under rocks because they are less likely to be seen by predators, that include wolves, foxes, and coyotes. When alarmed, the marmot whistles a warning giving it the nickname the whistle pig.

Yellow-bellied Marmots weigh between 2 and 5 kg when fully grown and may live up to 15 years. They reside in colonies of about 10 to 20, with each male living with 1 to 4 females in his burrow. They reproduce when about 2 years old, having 4 to 5 offspring per female. The marmot is an omnivore, eating grass, leaves, flowers, fruit, grasshoppers and bird eggs.

RULES OF THE RIVER

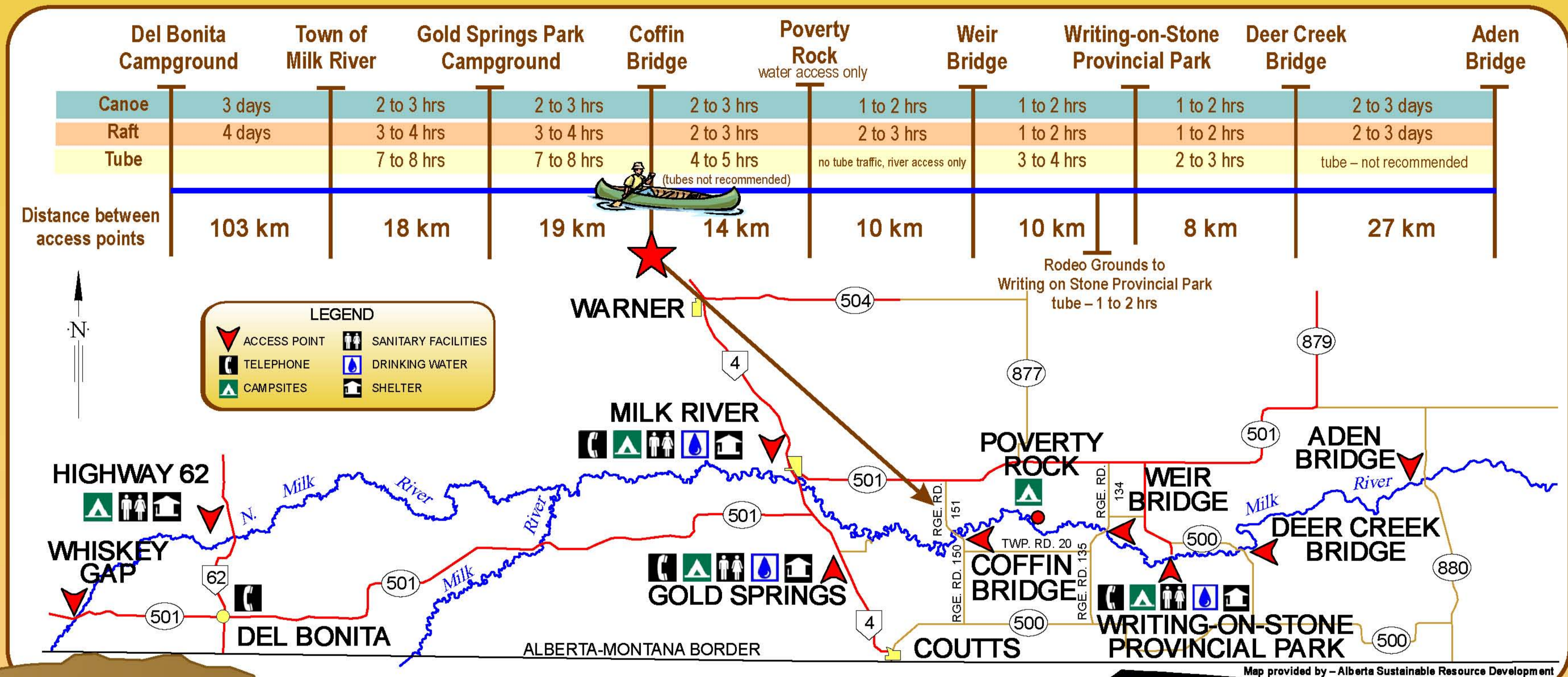
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CANOE the MILK RIVER – Coffin Bridge Access Point

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Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)

The Canada Goldenrod is a native plant that can be seen along the river banks throughout the year. When flowering in the late summer and fall you will notice the small yellow heads of ray and disk flowers. The heads cluster together to form a plume shape at the top of the stem. When not in bloom, you may notice the dark green leaves that are lance shaped and pointed at the tip. The fruit is dry, one-seeded and nut-like. The seeds are hairy with white bristles, similar to tufts of hair, which helps with their dispersal. The leaves can be eaten as a green, but the plant is also widely used for ornamental purposes and in flower arrangements.

RULES OF THE RIVER

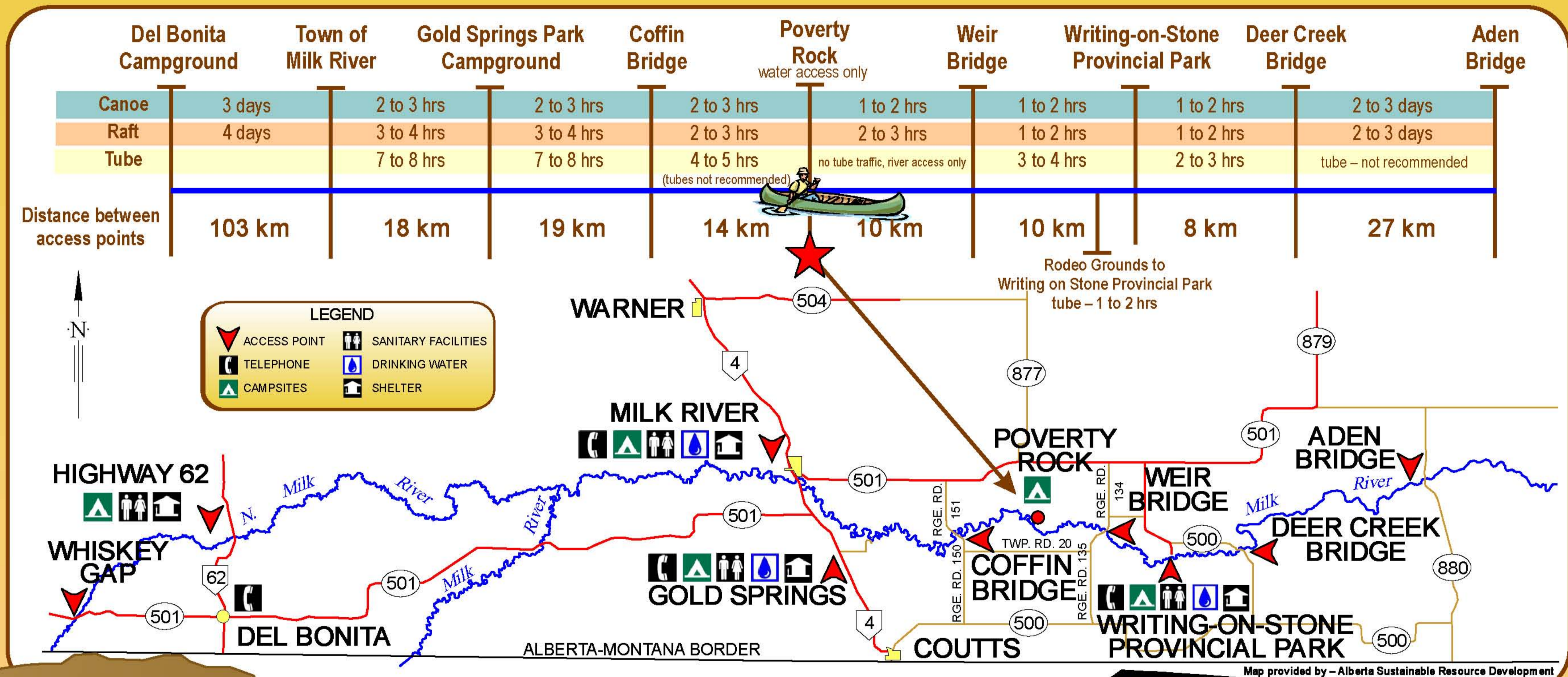
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CANOE the MILK RIVER – Poverty Rock Access Point

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Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

The Coyote has a greyish-brown to yellowish-brown fur on its body while having a lighter tan to white belly and chin. It's large triangular ears will usually differentiate it from a dog. When running, a coyote will hold its tail straight down, compared to a dog which holds it up and a wolf which holds its tail straight out. Males and females usually pair up and mate for several years. The pups are weaned when they are about one month old. Once fully weaned, both parents feed the pups regurgitated food. Female pups will stay with their mother's pack and the males will leave the mother when they are between 6 and 9 months old. Coyotes do most of their hunting alone and at night. Most of their diet consists of mammals, but they will also eat birds and snakes. Coyotes will not usually dig their own dens. Instead, they will enlarge crevices in rocks or dens from other animals. Listen for the Coyote's distinctive yip and howl at night when together in a pack. They are very vocal animals.

RULES OF THE RIVER

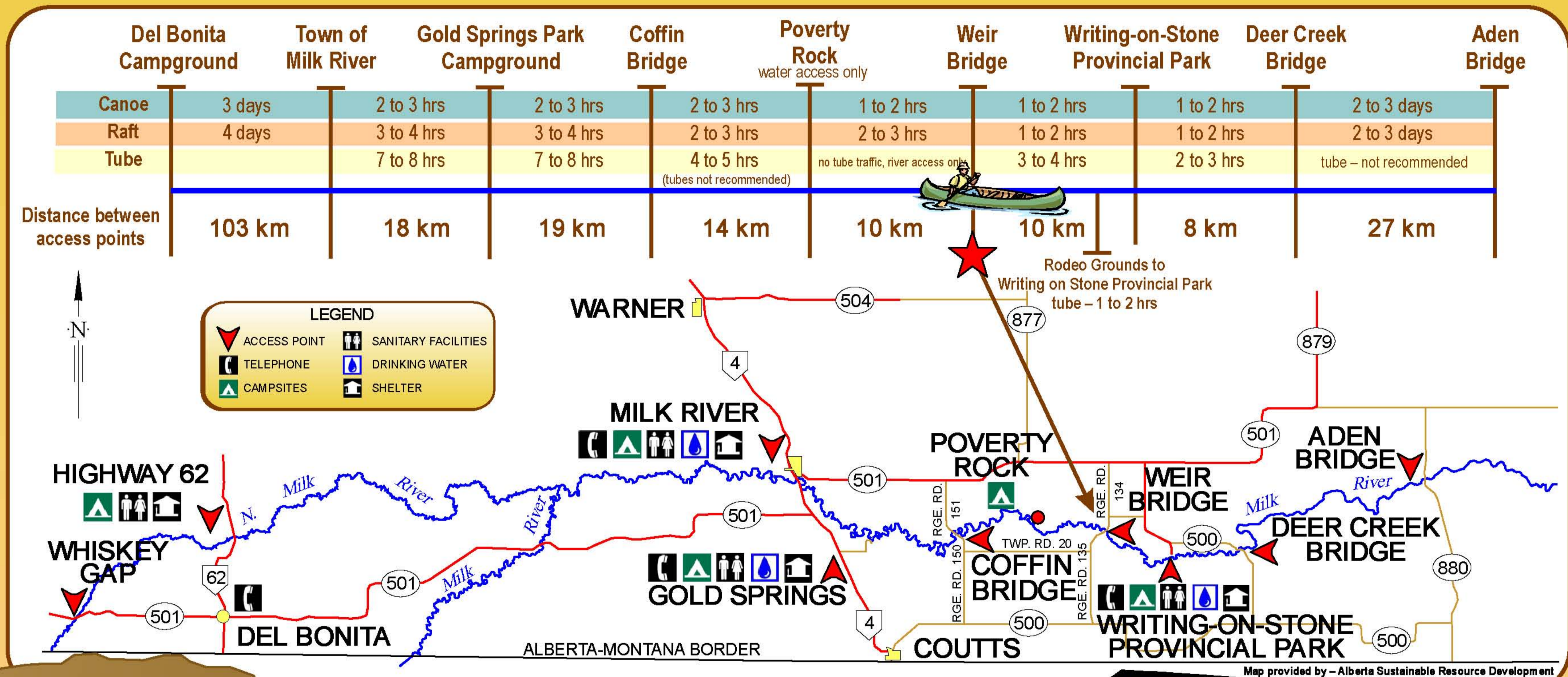
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CANOE the MILK RIVER – Weir Bridge Access Point

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The Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*)

The Killdeer is a common ground-dwelling bird found across most of North America. Their breeding habitat is open fields or lawns, often quite far from water. Adults have a brown back and wings, a white belly, and a white breast with two black bands. The face and cap are brown with white forehead. They have an orange-red eyering. The chicks are patterned almost identically to the adults, and are precocial birds meaning they are able to move around right after hatching. The killdeer frequently uses a "broken wing act" to distract predators from the nest. Their breeding habitat is open fields or lawns, often quite far from water, and they range across most of Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Killdeer will nest on open ground, most of often on gravel. They do not line their nests; a slight depression is what holds the eggs. They eggs are often hard to find as they are speckled and look like stones themselves.

They are easily identified by their frequently heard call "kill-deer, kill-deer" while they are foraging for food in nearby mud flats.

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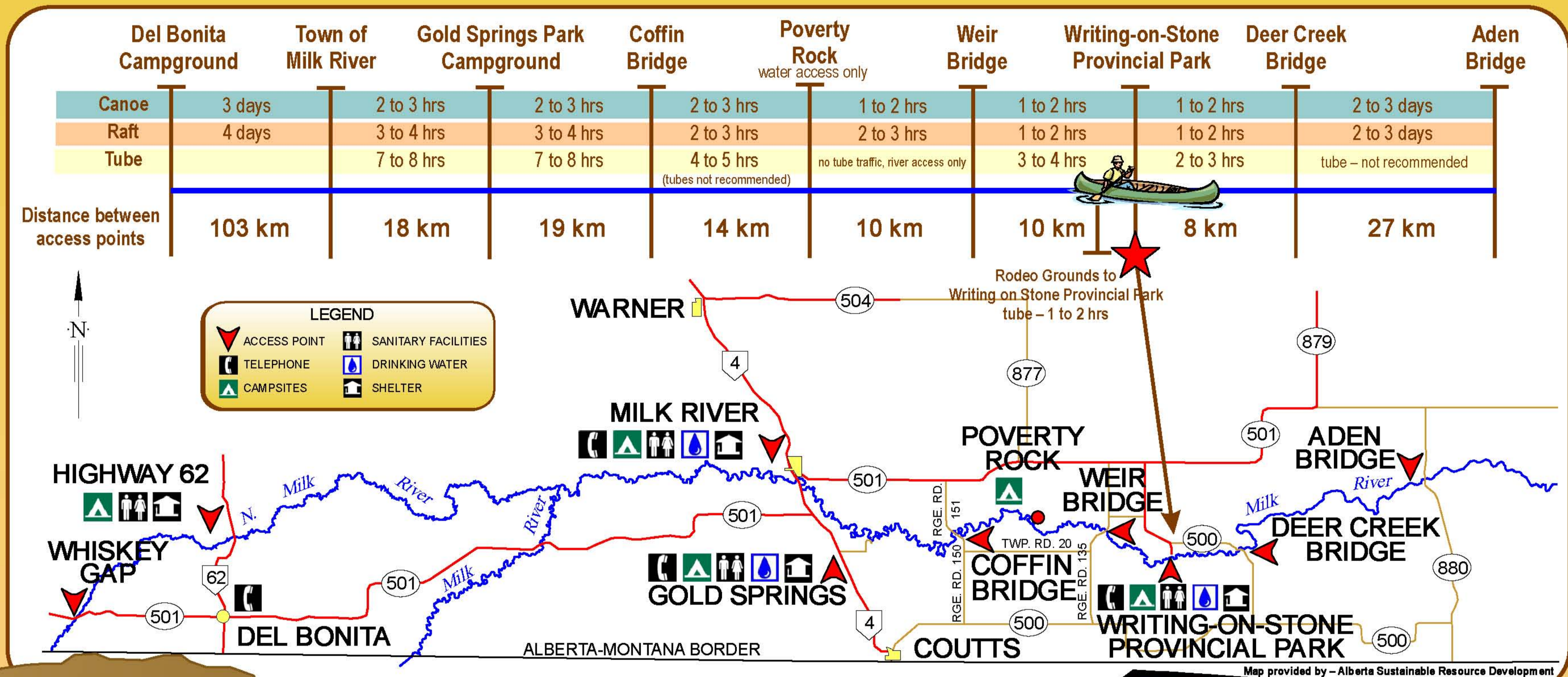
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CANOE the MILK RIVER –

Have a safe and enjoyable adventure!

Writing-on-Stone
Provincial Park



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Plains Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)

The Plains Cottonwood plays a major part in creating and sustaining the stability of the stream banks. To survive, they require bare soil, full sunlight, freedom of competition and an abundant, stable supply of water, all of which the Milk River can provide. It is a tall deciduous, usually single stemmed tree with a round to upright crown. It is fast-growing with a possible mature height of 25 m (80 ft), but usually 15 to 18 m (50 to 60 ft), with a spread of about 15 to 20 m (50 to 65 ft). It can be expected to reach a height of 6 m (20 ft) in five to seven years from a one - year - old rooted cutting. It is fast-growing, but is also short-lived, approximately 15 to 30 years. It is distinguished by strong wide-angled branches with large leaves at the ends. Leaves appear in late spring and drop relatively early. The leaves alternate, they are simple, shiny green, broadly ovate with toothed edges. The bark will eventually become furrowed and rough, unlike the smooth greenish bark of a young sapling or juvenile tree.

RULES OF THE RIVER

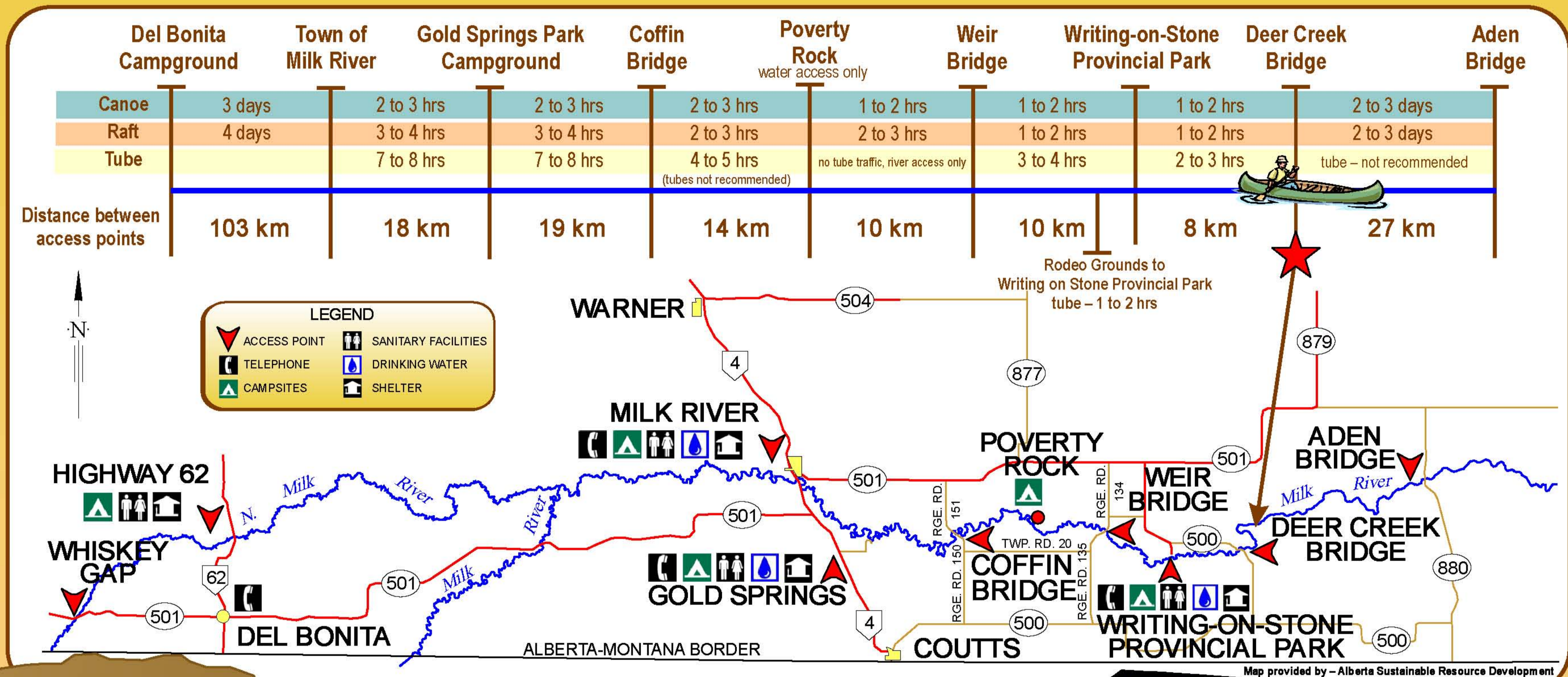
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CANOE the MILK RIVER –

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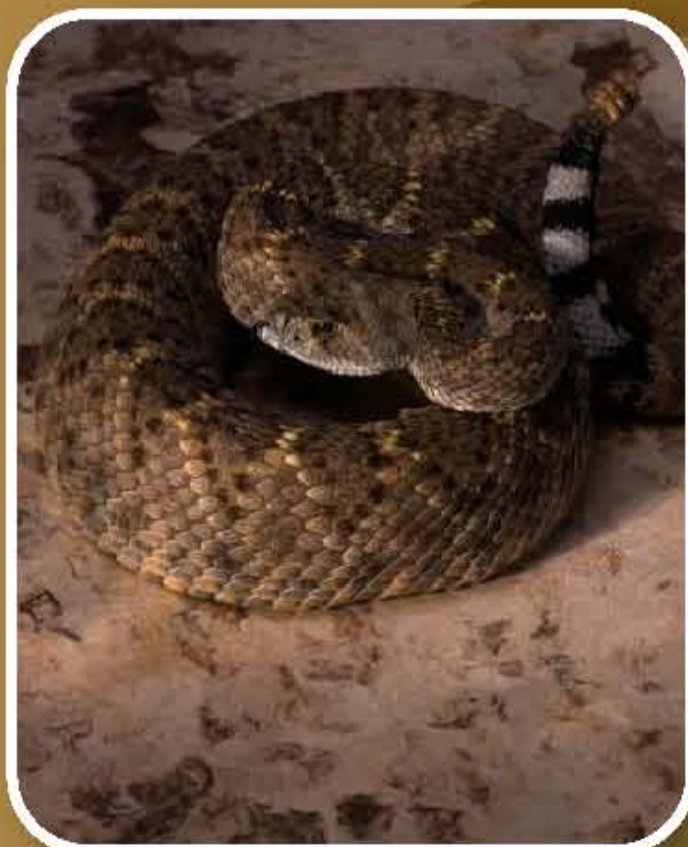
Deer Creek Bridge Access Point



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Prairie Rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis viridis*)

The Prairie Rattlesnake is a venomous snake that is similar in appearance as the Bull Snake. They have a rattled tail, a large triangular head (wider than the neck), are dusty tan-brown in colour with dark patches throughout and have a light-coloured stripe running from the eye to the corner of the mouth. Rattlesnakes avoid trouble. Their rattle is meant to scare away any potential threats. If you hear a rattle, determine where the sound came from and back away. If you are bitten, splint the extremity, reduce exertion and proceed to a hospital. Rattlesnakes may be "at risk" in Alberta as human activity encroaches on their habitat. Please do not injure or kill these reptiles as they are an important part of the ecosystem and control rodents such as the Richardson Ground Squirrel (gophers).



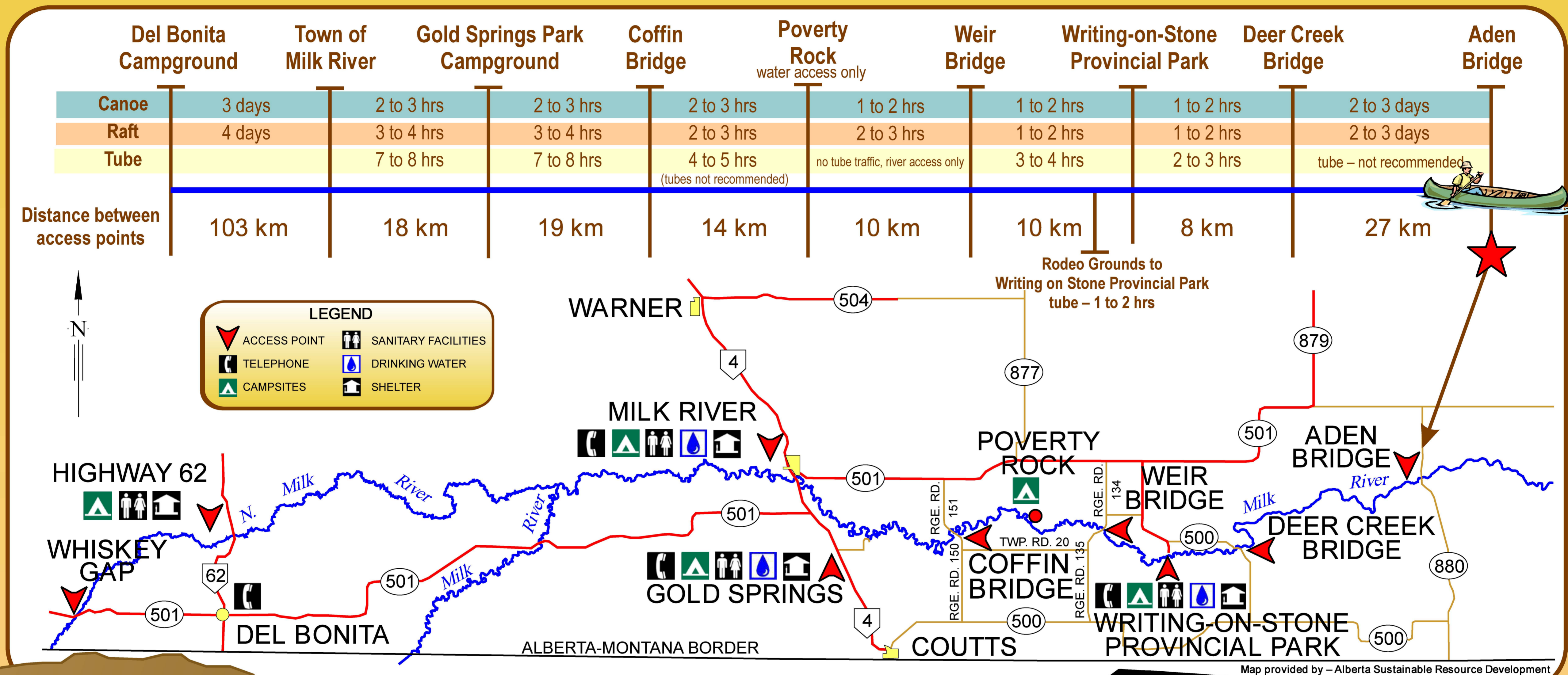
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CANOE the MILK RIVER – Aden Bridge Access Point

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American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*)

The American badger is a relatively large member of the weasel family. Large males may weigh up to 12 kg. They are not very agile and their normal gait is a leisurely waddle. When pursued, they run close to the ground with a trotting movement. A special belly gland emits a musky odor when the badger is excited.

Badgers live in burrows, which may be as long as 10 m and up to 3 m deep. Enlarged grass-lined sleeping chambers lie at the end of these burrows. The Badger's powerful digging claws are also used to find food, such as other burrowing rodents like gophers. Badgers are not true hibernators as they become torpid during winter to save energy. A powerful fighter, the badger has few non-human predators. Once common on the Canadian prairies, their numbers are now greatly reduced because of land conversion for agricultural, industrial and urban use.

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