

AGENDA
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK
APRIL 24, 2018
9:00 AM

1. Approval of Agenda
2. In-Camera
 - Legal – Call Logs – FOIP Section 16
3. Livingstone – Porcupine Hills Footprint and Recreation Planning (9:30 am)
Connie Simmons will be attending the meeting
 - Public Land Management
 - Fact Sheets
 - Have your Say – Do the Government Surveys
 - Draft Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan
 - Draft Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan
4. Code of Conduct
 - Report from Interim Chief Administrative Officer, dated April 16, 2018
5. Update on Dams within the MD
 - An update will be provided at the meeting
6. Annual Road Tour
 - Date to be scheduled
7. Roundtable Discussion
8. Adjournment

Public Land Management



Southern Alberta's Eastern Slopes

Southern Alberta's Eastern Slopes are highly valued landscapes for their natural resources and biodiversity and are the source of most of the region's drinking water. Indigenous peoples have used this area since time immemorial and it continues to be culturally significant to several First Nations communities for a variety of uses. Forestry, energy and mining, tourism, recreation, and grazing are among the primary uses around rural communities in this part of the province. Growing population pressure and the diverse interests that converge on this landscape have led to a need to focus resource and environmental management for its long-term health and use.

Managing this part of Alberta has implications far beyond its borders. The Castle, Livingstone, and Porcupine Hills are subregions in the Eastern Slopes that form important components of the Crown of the Continent landscape. The Crown of the Continent includes the headwaters of the Saskatchewan, Missouri and Columbia River systems and is critical for providing clean water for downstream use. The area is also known internationally for its rich biodiversity, iconic views, and diversity of climate regimes and ecosystems.

Headwaters protection, reducing wildfire risk, conserving biodiversity, and balancing multiple uses on this landscape is described in the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. Understanding the interplay of values, how the subregions connect, and how to accommodate an appropriate mix of uses and activities are important dimensions of landscape management. In recognition of these multiple values, the Castle area became part of the province's network of conservation areas, and the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills continue to be multiple use Public Lands.

Livingstone and Porcupine Hills Public Land Use Zones

Public Land Use Zones (PLUZs) assist in managing commercial and recreational uses and support other planning outcomes, especially where there is the need to designate and manage motorized trails. They allow for multiple uses, including motorized recreation. Both the Land Footprint Management Plan and the Recreation Management Plan require the PLUZs to designate motorized access, where permitted.

Will there be a change to motorized recreation on public lands?

A designated motorized trail system will be established within the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills areas. Motorized recreation will be permitted on designated trails in areas best able to accommodate motorized use while providing desirable experiences.

Land Footprint Management Plan

The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan identified the need for human footprint planning to minimize disturbance from all activities in the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills. The Land Footprint Management Plan (LFMP) considers environmental, social and economic values with a goal to ensure responsible land-use on Alberta's public lands.

Increasing demand for motorized access in the area has led to the need for better management of land use activities to provide the social benefits appreciated by residents and visitors. The plan establishes motorized access limits that protect headwaters, biodiversity and other values. Approaches contained in the plan include designating trails within appropriate limits, reducing conflict of multiple land uses, creating enhanced opportunities for Indigenous peoples to participate in land-use management approaches while upholding access to traditional lands and the ability to practice their traditional way of life, and improving opportunities for all forms of recreation.

The plan also provides a suite of Integrated Land Management (ILM) tools that will improve management of these valuable public lands. ILM tools enable all sectors to reduce footprint, coordinate approaches to reduce impacts on other users, and to use land efficiently. Footprint management planning in the PLUZs requires a proactive and coordinated approach led by provincial regulators working in collaboration with Indigenous peoples, stakeholders and the public to manage footprint to sustainable levels.

The Livingstone and Porcupine Hills are working landscapes that support sustainable resource use and recreation activities. The LFMP provides clarity to land-use decision makers on the management intent to minimize footprint by increasing cooperation and sharing among resource agencies, increasing the use of ILM tools, which may reduce costs through shared infrastructure and the coordination of linear corridors, and reducing industry's liability from random recreation use of infrastructure that may not be suitable for that purpose.

Alberta
Government

**PORCUPINE HILLS AND LIVINGSTONE
Proposed Public Land Use Zones (PLUZ)**

Public Land Use Zones

- Porcupine Hills
- Livingstone

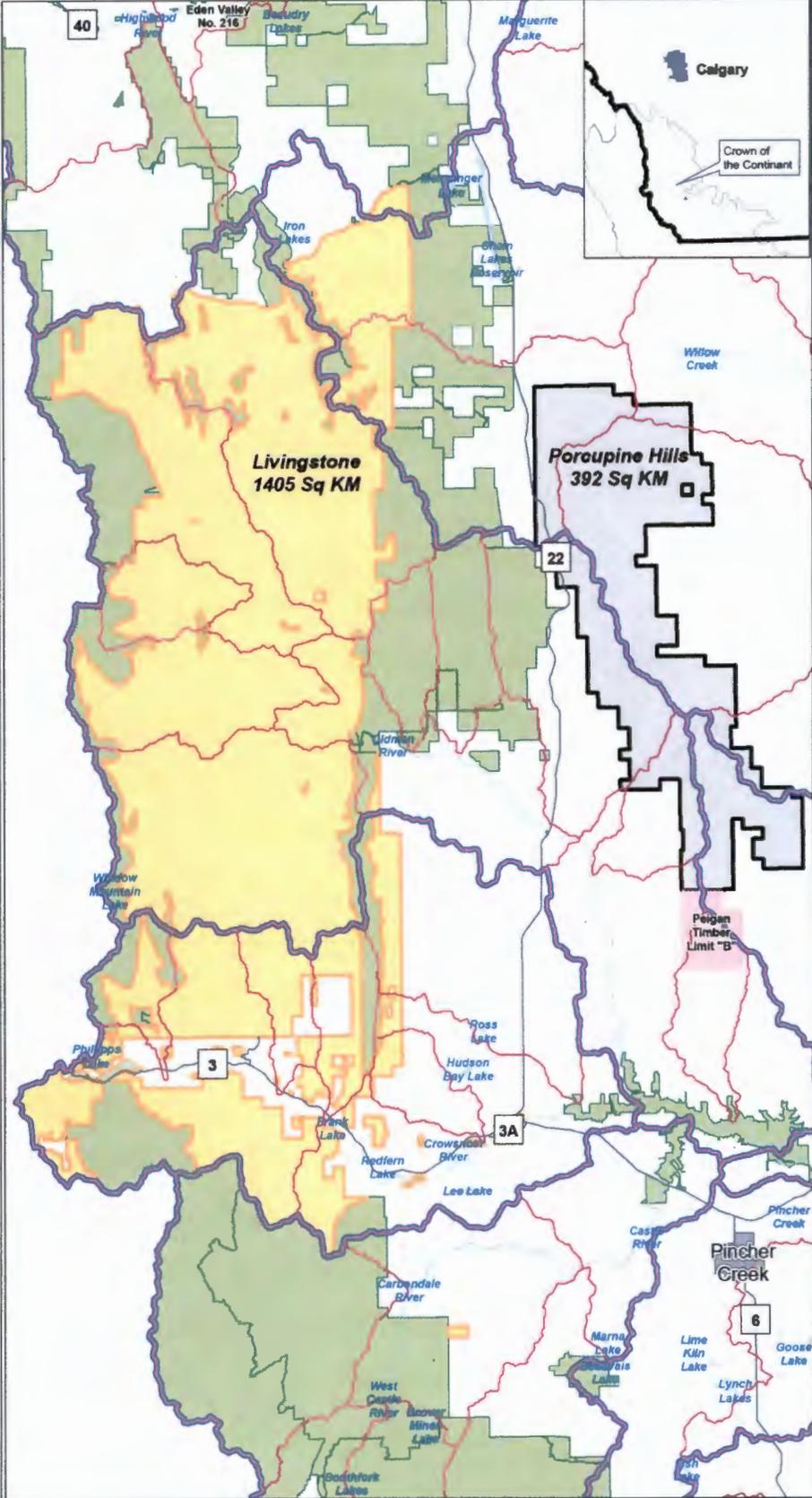
Other Mapping Features

- Hydrological Unit Code 10
- Hydrological Unit Code 8
- Primary Highway
- Hydrography
- Town
- First Nations Reserve
- Parks and Protected Areas (Existing and Proposed)

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 Coordinate System: NAD83 10TM AEP Forest
 Alberta Environment and Parks

Where applicable:
 Base data provided by the Government of Alberta under the Alberta Open Data License (2017).

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Recreation Management Plan

Albertans value nature and support the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan's objectives for biodiversity and ecosystems. The goal of the Recreation Management Plan (RMP) is to provide positive experiences and opportunities for outdoor recreation while minimizing environmental impact. The RMP balances the needs of various recreational activities to create a space for them to co-exist on the landscape. A designated trail system reduces risk for all users by ensuring everyone is aware of what activities are occurring and where. It also provides land managers with the ability to manage incompatible uses.

The RMP focuses on reducing human footprint to sustainable limits while recognizing the value of outdoor recreation and access to natural spaces for the mental and physical well-being of Albertans. Better trail design, ongoing maintenance and monitoring of recreation infrastructure will provide improved outdoor recreation experiences for Albertans and visitors. Planning, stewardship and good trail design and trail placement will improve relationships between Indigenous people, recreationists, other land users and landowners. Collaborative implementation of the RMP will provide benefits to all land users.

The plan recognizes that outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism are significant contributors to local, regional and provincial economies. Outdoor recreation and tourism-based businesses diversify local economies and rely on a well-managed system of recreation opportunities to grow and thrive. The plan will provide greater clarity and certainty for industry and agricultural land users on where and how Albertans and visitors are accessing these areas. It will also enable opportunities for nature-based tourism where desired by local communities.

Conservation Areas

The two parks established in the Castle area are the Castle Provincial Park and the Castle Wilderness Provincial Park. The Castle parks are to be managed as protected areas that allow Albertans and visitors to experience this unique ecological area. The Castle Provincial Park will provide Albertans and visitors the primary location for front-country nature-based experiences and also provide access to park services including educational and interpretive programs, information and visitor support. The Castle Wildlands Provincial Park will focus on low-impact backcountry and wilderness experiences including trails and backcountry huts.

Future Possibilities

Public lands are a tremendous provincial resource that the government must manage for the greater public good by accommodating an appropriate mix of land uses and activities. The draft Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint and Recreation Management Plans are a vital step in that direction.

First Nations and public consultation has begun on the draft plans and will continue until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday April 26, 2018. Your feedback is important to us as we continue to understand how cumulative effects will shape our social, environmental and economic values on this multi-use landscape. This is a shared responsibility!

Engagement HQ Address:

talkaep.alberta.ca

Deadline to participate:

4:00 p.m. Thursday April 26, 2018

Fact Sheet 1: The Land Use Planning Process

The forests of Southern Alberta provide water, sustain fish and wildlife and offer some of the province's best opportunities for recreation and tourism. But pressures on our lands and resources are mounting. Good land-use planning ensures that our public lands are properly managed with and for Albertans. In 2014, the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan authorized the development of a Land Footprint Management Plan (LFMP) and Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for the Porcupine Hills and Livingstone regions. These recently released plans are an important step in preserving our outdoor heritage and protecting Alberta's headwaters now and for future generations.

Who initiates land use planning (and why)?

Land use planning is a way to ensure that Alberta's public lands are effectively managed with and for all Albertans. Alberta's Land-Use Framework was introduced in 2008 to establish "a provincial vision of Albertans working together to respect and care for the land as a foundation for our environmental, economic and social well-being."¹ **As part of this process, in 2014 the Progressive Conservative government released the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP).**

"Regional plans, developed with the input and feedback from Albertans, establish a long-term vision for the region, set the desired economic, environmental and social outcomes and objectives for the region using a cumulative effects management approach, and align provincial policy at the regional level to balance Alberta's outcomes."² **Regional plans such as the SSRP, authorize the development of sub-regional plans such as the Land Footprint Management Plan (LFMP) and Recreation Management Plan (RMP).**

Who had input into these plans?

Public consultation for the planning of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan began under the previous government in 2010. Since the release of the SSRP, there have been **dozens** of meetings between stakeholders and Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) on the development of the LFMP and RMP. Recreational users in the Porcupine Hills were surveyed by AEP in summer 2015 and multiple public information sessions and stakeholder consultations have occurred in **Blairmore, Chain Lakes, Calgary, Pincher Creek and Lethbridge.**³

Stakeholders of all types, **including motorized recreationists**, were involved in providing input and feedback into the drafting of these plans. Groups and individuals had numerous opportunities to consult on drafts and give input on the **Linear Footprint Plan** and the **Recreation Management Plan** for Porcupine Hills and the Livingstone Range. Two additional public information open-houses were held in Pincher Creek and Ranchlands in early 2017.⁴

In 2017 the government created the **Southwest Alberta Recreation Advisory Group** to advise on the creation of the plans. The **Southern Advisory Regional Group** was composed of: municipalities, landowners, ranching community, the Blackfoot Confederacy, winter and summer Off-Highway Vehicle groups, winter and summer non-motorized recreationists, equestrian, fish and game organizations, guides and outfitters, non-government organizations and industry. **All stakeholder groups were represented and had proportionate input into the plans;** participants were also encouraged to consult with and bring forward views of their respective sectors. This group met with Alberta Environment and Parks **5 times** over several months to provide input into the important recreational value of the Porcupine Hills and Livingstone and comment on recreational trails for the region. Stakeholder of many types including, **hunters, outfitters, ranchers, anglers, and outdoor recreationists all supported this planning process** for the Porcupine Hills and Livingstone Range.⁵

Fact Sheet 1: The Land Use Planning Process. References

¹ Alberta Environment and Parks, Land-Use Planning Progress Report, 2014.

² Alberta Environment and Parks, Land-Use Planning Progress Report, 2014.

³ Engagement Summary, Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan & Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan. Alberta Environment and Parks, 2016.

⁴ Engagement Summary, 2016.

⁵ Southern Advisory Regional Group, Planning it Right, Albertans Collaborate on Public Lands Stewardship, 2017.

Fact Sheet 2: The Science of Roads and Trails

The forests of Southern Alberta provide water, sustain fish and wildlife and offer some of the province's best opportunities for recreation and tourism. But pressures on our lands and resources are mounting. Good land-use planning ensures that our public lands are properly managed with and for Albertans. In 2014, the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan authorized the development of a Land Footprint Management Plan (LFMP) and Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for the Porcupine Hills and Livingstone regions. These recently released plans are an important step in preserving our outdoor heritage and protecting Alberta's headwaters now and for future generations.

What are the LFMP and RMP?

The Land Footprint Management Plan (LFMP) will manage the effects of roads and trails on headwaters and biodiversity values by placing science-based limits the number of roads and trails in these important regions. The Recreation Management Plan (RMP) will use the road and trail limits outlined in the LFMP to protect the important ecological values while enabling recreation opportunities for all Albertans through partnerships with users, stakeholders and governments.¹

What is a linear footprint?

Linear footprints consist of the roads, railways, pipelines, seismic- exploration trails, transmission lines, and recreational trails.² Decades of mismanagement have led to expanding linear footprints in Southwest Alberta, increasing damage to watersheds, wildlife, fish and ongoing user conflicts. Demands for better stewardship of our public lands from many stakeholders have intensified over the years in response to ongoing degradation. In the Eastern Slopes, recreational trails are by far the biggest linear disturbance.³ There are currently 4,053km of linear features in the Porcupine Hills/Livingstone with an average trail density of 2.28km/km². This is almost 4 times the threshold to support many sensitive species.⁴ Better management is required to provide consistent and clear direction for managers and users.

How do linear features affect the environment?

The ecological impacts of linear features, trails, and roads on soil and vegetation are well-documented. They include: increased rates of soil erosion and compaction, destruction and loss of vegetation cover, loss of species richness, shifts in species composition, disturbance to wildlife and habitat fragmentation. The recovery of native vegetation after damage resulting from linear features can be slow or nonexistent.⁵

Currently roads and trails cross watercourses 3,990 times in the Porcupine Hills and Livingstone regions. The highest trail densities are in the Crowsnest Watershed, Dutch Creek and Beaver Creek.⁶ Multiple creek crossings exacerbate erosion and sedimentation input; increasing drainage density and adding to flooding in headwater streams. Threatened aquatic species are also affected; Bull trout are 50% less likely to be found where road density was greater than 0.4 km/km².⁷ In the Porcupine Hills and Livingstone the linear density is over 5 times greater than this threshold.⁸

Linear features also allow increased human access to remote areas, which increases pressures on wildlife. Human caused mortality is the leading cause of death in grizzly bears in North America, these deaths consistently occur in close proximity to linear features. "Most human-caused grizzly bear mortalities in Alberta and British Columbia are less than 500 metres from a road, or within 200 metres of a trail." Reducing linear features and disruptive recreational access is positive for grizzly recovery.⁹

Linear disturbances are also directly linked to increased probability of wildfire and associated losses, a growing concern across Alberta: "Increased access (e.g., road density) into forested areas often increases levels of successful, accidental (e.g., campfires and debris burning), or deliberate (i.e., arson) fire ignition."¹⁰ Responsibly managing linear densities is positive for public safety, environmental effects and wildlife health and species richness.

Fact Sheet 2: The Science of Roads and Trails. References

- ¹ Heather Sinton and Rob Simieritsch. Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan Development. Alberta Environment and Parks. 2016
- ² Dan Farr, Andrew Braid, Arnold Janz, Brett Sarchuk, Simon Slater, Agnieszka Sztaba, David Barrett, Gordon Stenhouse, Andrea Morehouse, Matthew Wheatley. Ecological Response to Human Activities in Southwestern Alberta: Scientific Assessment and Synthesis. Government of Alberta, Environmental Monitoring and Science Division. 2017.
- ³ Ecological Response to Human Activities in Southwestern Alberta: Scientific Assessment and Synthesis. 2017.
- ⁴ Ryan van der Marel. Update on Land Footprint Management Planning Livingstone-Porcupine Hills. Alberta Environment and Parks. 2016.
- ⁵ Ecological Response to Human Activities in Southwestern Alberta: Scientific Assessment and Synthesis. 2017.
- ⁶ Update on Land Footprint Management Planning. 2016.
- ⁷ Ecological Response to Human Activities in Southwestern Alberta: Scientific Assessment and Synthesis. 2017.
- ⁸ Update on Land Footprint Planning. 2016.
- ⁹ Ecological Response to Human Activities in Southwestern Alberta: Scientific Assessment and Synthesis. 2017.
- ¹⁰ Cardille, J.A., Ventura, S.J., Turner, M.G. Environmental and social factors influencing wildfires in the Upper Midwest, United States. Ecological applications. 2001.
- Prestemon, J.P., Pye, J.M., Butry, D.T., Holmes, T.P., Mercer, D.E. Understanding broadscale wildfire risks in a human-dominated landscape. Forest Science. 2002.
- Guyette, R.P., Spetich, M.A. Fire history of oak-pine forests in the Lower Boston Mountains, Arkansas, USA. Forest Ecology and Management. 2003.
- In Ecological Response to Human Activities in Southwestern Alberta: Scientific Assessment and Synthesis. 2017.

Fact Sheet 2: Motorized Recreation and Trails

The forests of Southern Alberta provide water, sustain fish and wildlife and offer some of the province's best opportunities for recreation and tourism. But pressures on our lands and resources are mounting. Good land-use planning ensures that our public lands are properly managed with and for Albertans. In 2014, the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan authorized the development of a Land Footprint Management Plan (LFMP) and Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for the Porcupine Hills and Livingstone regions. These recently released plans are an important step in preserving our outdoor heritage and protecting Alberta's headwaters now and for future generations.

How does motorized recreation affect our land and water?

Motorized recreation has the highest impact of any non-industrial activity on the landscape.¹ The impacts of trails and Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use on Alberta's lands and waters are serious and long-lasting. The science is clear that trails and motorized recreation are not compatible with protection of water, wildlife and fish.

In areas with high motorized recreational use, trails change the overall water system of the area by changing where the water flows and increasing sediment in streams.² Dirtier water from this sediment, threatens the clean waters that flow to our downstream communities. Fish and wildlife that live in and depend on our waters are also affected; for example, bull trout are particularly vulnerable to increased stream sedimentation caused by the physical disturbance of stream crossings. Bull trout are **50% less** likely to be found in streams where the surrounding upland road density was greater than **0.4 km/km²**. In the Porcupine Hills and Livingstone the linear density is over **5 times greater** than this threshold.³

Impacts from OHV use can be **severe and long-lasting** in sensitive areas. The mere presence of OHV (activity) is a greater determinant of the degree of associated negative environmental effects than varying levels of OHV use. Damage to land and water as a result of motorized use compounds to cause further degradation. Studies have found that **reduced volume of OHV use has little mitigating effect on the negative environmental consequences.**⁴

How does motorized recreation affect Albertans?

The majority of Albertans participate in non-motorized recreation. **89%** of South Saskatchewan residents prefer **non-motorized** to motorized recreation on public lands. Only **6%** of **ALL Albertans** participate in summer OHV use, and only **2%** of South Saskatchewan residents.⁵

While all recreational uses need to be managed responsibly, the damage caused by unregulated motorized recreational use is far greater than any other recreational activities: "OHV use across all seasons causes a **disproportionate** level of impact and damage compared to non-motorized recreational activities, such as hiking, biking, and horse riding."⁶ The damage excessive OHV use causes affects the ability of other Albertans to sustainably and responsibly recreate.

Motorized recreation often displaces other recreationalists from the landscape.⁷ OHV use is consumptive and the noise and disruption pre-empts and drives out activities that are quieter, less consumptive and contemplative.⁸ Because of this displacement, OHV use shrinks the amount of land available to other recreational users, in effect creating an exclusive use. The Recreation Management Plan and sound planning should ensure large and intact quiet areas be established to maintain wildlife populations, encourage use for non-motorized recreation, and reduce conflict among users.

The noise and disturbance of motorized recreation also affects nearby residents and landowners who value the peace and quiet of the rural lifestyle. Noise emissions from OHVs can exceed 100 dB, roughly equivalent to a nearby jackhammer or helicopter, or comparable to 16 times normal conversation, 32 times typical urban residential subdivisions, and over 100 times quiet rural neighbourhoods.⁹ Noise levels are also additive, increasing with each additional machine; noise from four machines at these levels will typically travel to as far as 5 miles in any direction before reducing to normal ambient levels in the area. In Alberta, noise disturbance from industrial activity is highly regulated. Noise levels are generally required to

be below 40 dB nighttime and below 50 dB daytime to protect landowner's rights to a quiet environment, those standards still being significantly higher than normal ambient levels.¹⁰

How is motorized recreation regulated on public

Currently in the Porcupine Hills and Livingstone regions there is no Public Land Use Zone or designated trail system. Existing motorized trails are ad-hoc trails created by default rather than design.¹¹ Camping is similarly random and unmanaged and uncontrolled. **In contrast, other activities on public land in Southern Alberta are subject to regulatory land use oversight.**

Ranchers require **grazing permits and leases**. Forestry companies require **Forest Management Agreements**. Industrial development requires **impact assessments** and operational permitting for each location. Hunters and anglers require **licenses**. Outfitters and hunting guides require **permits**. Approvals for all of these activities are issued with specific limits, seasons, and other conditions. These stakeholders are held **accountable** for their treatment of the Southern Eastern Slopes. OHV activities have consequences for **all** Albertans, but as a major impactful land-use, they have been uniquely exempted from regulatory requirements and accountability. It is reasonable to expect motorized trails and recreation to be an accountable land-use.

Fact Sheet 3: Motorized Recreation and Trails. References

¹ Dan Farr, Andrew Braid, Arnold Janz, Brett Sarchuk, Simon Slater, Agnieszka Sztaba, David Barrett, Gordon Stenhouse, Andrea Morehouse, Matthew Wheatley. Ecological Response to Human Activities in Southwestern Alberta: Scientific Assessment and Synthesis. Government of Alberta, Environmental Monitoring and Science Division. 2017.

² Ecological Response to Human Activities in Southwestern Alberta. 2017.

³ Ecological Response to Human Activities in Southwestern Alberta. 2017.

⁴ Crisfield, V., MacDonald, S., Gould, A. Effects of recreational traffic on alpine plant communities in the northern Canadian Rockies. *Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research*. 2012.

van Vierssen Trip, N, Wiersma, Y.F. A comparison of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail impacts on boreal habitats across scales. *Natural Areas Journal*. 2015.

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⁵ Praxis Group. Albertans' Values and Attitudes toward Recreation and Wilderness. Prepared for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Southern and Northern Alberta chapters. 2015.

⁶ Ecological Response to Human Activities in Southwestern Alberta. 2017.

⁷ Webb, R and H.G. Wiltshire, Editors. Springer-Verlag Publishers. Environmental Effects of Off-Highway Vehicles. W.J. Knockelman. 'Management Concepts.' 1983.

⁸ Kil, N., Holland, S.M. and Stein, T.V. Identifying differences between off-highway vehicle (OHV) and non-OHV user groups for recreation resource planning. *Environmental Management*. 2012.

Ouren et al., Environmental Effects of Off-Highway Vehicles on Bureau of Land Management Lands: A Literature Synthesis, Annotated Bibliographies, Extensive Bibliographies, and Internet Resources. 2007.

⁹ Ouren et al., Environmental Effects of Off-Highway Vehicles on Bureau of Land Management Lands: A Literature Synthesis, Annotated Bibliographies, Extensive Bibliographies, and Internet Resources. 2007.

Encyclopedia Britannica. The Decibel Scale. 2018.

Webb, Chris. OHV Noise Issues Are You Next? Motorcycle USA. 2005.

¹⁰ Alberta Energy Regulator. Directive 038: Noise Control. 2007.

¹¹ Heather Sinton and Rob Simieritsch. Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan Development. Alberta Environment and Parks. 2016.

Fact Sheet 4: What do Southern Albertans Value?

The forests of Southern Alberta provide water, sustain fish and wildlife and offer some of the province's best opportunities for recreation and tourism. But pressures on our lands and resources are mounting. Good land-use planning ensures that our public lands are properly managed with and for Albertans. In 2014, the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan authorized the development of a Land Footprint Management Plan (LFMP) and Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for the Porcupine Hills and Livingstone regions. These recently released plans are an important step in preserving our outdoor heritage and protecting Alberta's headwaters now and for future generations.

What do Southern Albertans Value?

There have been numerous studies on what Albertans value in our communities and outdoor experiences.¹ Some of the most commonly shared values and services that respondents of these studies felt that southwest Alberta provides are:

- headwaters,
- wildlife and fish habitat,
- aesthetics,
- agriculture and ranching,
- low-impact recreation, and
- public involvement and consultation in forest management

For example, the two most supported uses for public lands in the Municipal District (MD) of Pincher Creek were **enforcing appropriate use of public lands** and **setting aside land in an undisturbed state for habitat protection**.² Residents said the best parts about living in the Municipal District of Pincher Creek were: **The beautiful scenery, friendly people/community minded, the peaceful, quiet rural lifestyle and agriculture**.³

Residents of Southwest Alberta rated the following values their highest priorities: **Protecting the natural environment, conserving and protecting water resources, practicing sustainable agriculture, and maintaining natural wildlife and fish populations**.⁴

They also rated the following environmental values most highly: **maintaining healthy and fully functioning ecosystems; conserving ecological diversity; sustaining wildlife habitat; saving native fescues and grasslands; maintaining the productivity and viability of the land; and protecting water resources**.⁵

Albertans across the province also value these areas to connect with our amazing landscapes. **76%** of all Albertans participate in some form of outdoor recreation. **94%** of all adult Albertans believe that wilderness areas are important because they help to preserve plant and animal species. Additionally, **89%** of South Saskatchewan residents prefer **non-motorized** to motorized recreation on public lands. Only **6% of all Albertans** participate in summer off-highway vehicle use.⁶

How does land-use planning uphold these values?

Land footprint and recreation management planning will ensure that all Albertans can sustainably participate in recreation for generations. **“Regional plans ... establish a long-term vision for the region, set the desired economic, environmental and social outcomes and objectives for the region using a cumulative effects management approach, and align provincial policy at the regional level to balance Alberta's outcomes.”**⁷ **These plans have been developed with Albertans, for Albertans and will ensure the future of sustainable land-use in our province.**

Fact Sheet 4: What do Southern Albertans Value. References

¹ Government of Alberta. South Saskatchewan Regional Plan Workbook Results. Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. 2010.

Southern Foothills Community Stewardship Initiative (SFCSI). Values and Voices: Stewardship Priorities for the Southern Alberta Foothills. Report of the Southern Foothills Community Stewardship Initiative. 2011.

Southern Foothills Study (SFS). The Changing Landscape of the Southern Alberta Foothills: Report of the Southern Foothills Study Business as Usual Scenario and Public Survey. 2007.

The Miistakis Institute. MD Ranchland – Community & Conservation Values Mapping Project – Phase III Report. Prepared for Municipal District of Ranchland No.66. 2011.

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² Praxis Group. Community Values Assessment for the M.D. of Pincher Creek No. 9. For: The Southwest Alberta Sustainable Community Initiative and Municipal District of Pincher Creek. 2012.

³ Community Values Assessment. 2012.

⁴ Community Values Assessment. 2012.

⁵ Community Values Assessment. 2012.

⁶ Praxis Group. Albertans' Values and Attitudes toward Recreation and Wilderness. Prepared for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Southern and Northern Alberta chapters. 2015.

⁷ Alberta Environment and Parks. Land-Use Planning Progress Report. 2014.

Public Input to the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan and Recreation Management Plan

Have Your Say – do the Government surveys:

- 1. Land Footprint Management Plan Survey**
- 2. Recreation Management Plan Survey**

Go to:

<https://talkaep.alberta.ca/livingstone-porcupine-hills-footprint-and-recreation-planning>

Or send a short email to Minister Phillips

AEP.Minister@gov.ab.ca



Draft Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan

Any comments, questions, or suggestions regarding the content of this document may be directed to:

Alberta Environment and Parks
Planning Branch
8660 Bearspaw Dam Road
Calgary, Alberta
T3L 1S4

Tel: 780-427-2711
Toll Free (in Alberta): 310-0000

Email: AEP.Planning@gov.ab.ca
Media Inquires: AEP.Mediainquiries@gov.ab.ca
Website: <http://aep.alberta.ca/>

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recent, rapid growth and expanding human development are impacting the South Saskatchewan Region's natural biodiversity assets and ecosystems. To address these changes and to manage the impacts of competing land-use demands, the Government of Alberta committed to guiding human development on public lands through footprint management planning as specified in the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan.

Footprint means the impact or extent of a disturbance and includes the intensity, frequency, and nature of any uses or activities related to the disturbance. Natural events such as fire, wind, and insect outbreaks have disturbed Alberta's landscapes for millennia, creating cycles of disturbance to which today's ecosystems are adapted. Human footprint is an outcome of land use and can impact water quality, fish and wildlife, recreational and tourism opportunities, and Indigenous peoples' activities on the land.

Through the regional planning process, Albertans clearly identified a priority on the Livingstone area and Porcupine Hills as having high values for components such as headwaters, westslope cutthroat trout, Foothills fescue grasslands, recreation opportunities, and high scenic value. The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan provides direction to guide the long-term cumulative effects of human footprint on public lands in the Eastern Slopes - particularly impacts to biodiversity and watersheds. Opportunities for the responsible development of natural resources, tourism, and recreational activities are maintained as identified in the objectives and strategies in the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan.

This land has also provided shelter, food, medicine and enabled a way of life for First Nations since time immemorial. First Nations continue to have a strong connection to this land and the implementation of the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan acknowledges and maintains the relationship that Indigenous Peoples have with the land.

Plan Authority

The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan ("this Plan") becomes effective as a subregional plan under the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan and in accordance with Section 13(5) of the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act*.

Under the overarching umbrella of the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act*, management on Crown Lands within the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills will be delivered through existing legislation where applicable such as the *Public Lands Act*, *Water Act*, *Forests Act*, *Provincial Parks Act*, *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* and other existing policies and strategies.

This Plan will be implemented as part of the Implementation Plan of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. The mandatory and enforceable components of this Plan will be the management thresholds described in Sections 2.2 and 3.1 below. These will be implemented by departments and agencies through the regulatory system. This will include: Public Land Use Zones to be enacted in this region effective 2018 under the *Public Lands Act*; the motorized trail system on the Public Land Use Zone maps; the forest management plan requirements; and the regulatory approvals.

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COMMON TERMINOLOGY

For ease of interpretation, some commonly used terms are provided with some context as to how they are to be understood:

Cumulative effects, cumulative impacts – the combined effects of past, present and reasonably foreseeable future land-use activities on the environment.

Disturbance, human disturbance – means human activity that moves or removes one or more of the following features of the public land or that alters or results in the alteration of the state of one or more of those features from the state in which it existed before the human activity occurred, and includes any change in the intensity, frequency or nature of the human activity:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| (i) vegetation | (vi) wetland |
| (ii) soil | (vii) water body or watercourse |
| (iii) subsoil | (viii) air flow or wind currents |
| (iv) bedrock | (ix) ambient sound volumes |
| (v) landform | (x) light or shade |

Footprint, human footprint – means the impact or extent of a disturbance and includes the intensity, frequency, and nature of any uses or activities related to the disturbance. For further context pertaining to the scope of this document, footprint is interpreted to include temporary and permanent human landscape alterations including patches and linear corridors of disturbance (e.g. roads, trails, well sites, land clearings, industrial sites, etc.). Footprint also includes the duration, timing and other factors (e.g. noise, scenic value) that are attributes related to the physical land disturbance.

Indigenous peoples – for the purposes of the present document, “Indigenous peoples” means “Aboriginal Peoples of Canada” within the meaning of Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. For the reasons stated in the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, the focus on conversation with the region’s Indigenous peoples has been with First Nations. All First Nations in the planning area adhered to a Treaty, under which they hold treaty rights within the meaning of Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

Motorized access – means roads or trails receiving use by a motorized vehicle. Motorized access, and its respective disturbance limits, makes no distinction as to the corridor width or type of conveyance used for motorized access.

Threshold, management threshold – has the meaning given to it in a regional plan and may include a limit, target, trigger, range, measure, index or unit of measurement. All thresholds in this document are management thresholds and therefore are premised on the ecological response to a disturbance but also consider the socioeconomic realities of conservation decision-making, including the risk associated with greater levels of development.

1 Section 1(1)(m) of the Public Lands Administration Regulation

2 Section 1(1)(m) of the Public Lands Administration Regulation

3 *Alberta Land Stewardship Act, 2009*

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

GOA	Government of Alberta
ILM	Integrated Land Management
IRMS	Integrated Resource Management System
LFMP	Land Footprint Management Plan (“this Plan”)
PLUZ	Public Land Use Zone
SSRP	South Saskatchewan Regional Plan

PART 1: CONTEXT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The benefits we receive from biodiversity and healthy, functioning ecosystems are critical to the ongoing prosperity of all Albertans. However, these natural features are sensitive to the impacts of human development. Alberta's historic development and more recent, rapid growth is impacting the South Saskatchewan Region's natural biodiversity assets and ecosystems. To address these changes and to manage the impacts of land-use demands, the Government of Alberta (GoA) committed to guiding human development on public lands through footprint management planning as specified under Implementation Section 3 of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP).

1.1 Purpose

The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan ("this Plan") outlines a system to minimize the extent, duration and rate of cumulative footprint to achieve landscapes with healthy, functioning ecosystems that provide a range of benefits to communities and all Albertans. Footprint management planning applies to the identified multiple-use landscapes⁴ in the Eastern Slopes, also referred to as the Green Area, of the South Saskatchewan Region (see Section 5: Maps – Regional Overview Map). In the Livingstone area and the Porcupine Hills, these landscapes are used for forestry, mining, grazing, tourism and recreational activity. Each of these uses transforms the landscape from its natural condition and contributes to the overall disturbance and human footprint. Efforts to maintain the overall landscape connectivity and ecosystem integrity of the Eastern Slopes are part of a larger legacy of land stewardship for Alberta and North America. This Plan currently only applies to the Livingstone area and to the Porcupine Hills (see Section 1.4 – Planning area).

1.2 Management Outcomes

The purpose of this Plan is accomplished by addressing two coarse components of footprint:

1. **Motorized access** – Research and species at risk recovery planning initiatives in Alberta, have shown that managing human footprint (including the extent, duration and rate of disturbance and motorized access) are the most significant actions that can be taken to support biodiversity and watersheds (SSRP 2017, p. 61).
2. **Spatial human footprint** – Research and natural resource management in Alberta have shown that the ability of a landscape to be resilient and support biodiversity and healthy, functioning ecosystems is affected by the loss, fragmentation, and alteration of key habitats due to human footprint⁵.

⁴ Multiple-use landscapes are areas of land managed for multiple environmental, social and economic outcomes and are held in trust by the provincial government on behalf of all Albertans.

⁵ Farr, D., Braid, A., Slater, S. 2017. Ecological response to human activities in southwestern Alberta: Scientific assessment and synthesis. Alberta Environment and Parks. ISBN No. XXX. Available at: <<https://url>>

The following three management outcomes provide a system to minimize the extent of motorized access, and to guide the spatial placement and rate of linear and patch footprint development. Each outcome directly relates to objectives described in Part 3 of this document.

Outcome 1: Human footprint and disturbance are effectively minimized so as to sustain biodiversity and watershed values and provide a range of benefits to communities and all Albertans:

- This outcome describes the regulatory and enforceable management thresholds (limits and targets) for motorized access and spatial human footprint (see Section 3.1).

Outcome 2: Operational planning and management are aligned so as to minimize the extent, duration and rate of footprint development:

- This outcome describes the Integrated Land Management (ILM) practices required in operational plans that receive direction on motorized access and spatial human footprint from this Plan (see Section 3.2).

Outcome 3: Service delivery is truly integrated, through clear coordination, collaboration, and proactive decisions across government departments and agencies, to minimize footprint:

- This outcome describes the departmental business processes and integration mechanisms which enable footprint to be managed as a condition of approval and informed decision-making (see Section 3.3).

1.3 Provincial Guidance

The SSRP establishes the long-term vision for the region and it aligns provincial policies to achieve Alberta's environmental, economic and social outcomes. This Plan receives guidance from the SSRP and from the regional environmental management frameworks (i.e. surface water quality, air quality, and biodiversity). To integrate all planning initiatives, this Plan is also intended to support regional biodiversity objectives, and federal and provincial species-at-risk recovery efforts. This Plan is also intended to implement the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in a way that is consistent with Canada's Constitution and with Alberta law.

According to SSRP, the management intent for public land in the Eastern Slopes is for integrated management that incorporates the objectives for biodiversity and healthy, functioning ecosystems, to achieve multiple objectives. Watershed management and headwaters protection is the highest priority.⁶ Forests will be managed with this as the highest priority (including water storage, recharge and release functions). Practices to manage wildfire risk to communities will be equal in priority to headwaters protection. Other values such as biodiversity, forest ecosystem resiliency (natural disturbance patterns) and timber supply will be key secondary management priorities (SSRP p.58).

⁶ Carried forward from A Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes (Eastern Slopes Policy, revised 1984).

In the SSRP, subregional priorities for footprint planning were identified with a focus on key headwaters areas, areas of sensitive terrestrial and aquatic habitat, and other areas of high biodiversity value including for connectivity (p. 61). The SSRP also specifies that footprint planning include approaches and requirements related to the intensity of linear footprint, management of motorized access, mandatory use of Integrated Land Management (ILM) tools; and direction on how and where such requirements will apply (p.69). These are provided in Parts 2 and 3 of this Plan and are consistent with provincial policies, strategies and frameworks, and with the desired vision for the region as stated within the SSRP.

1.4 Planning Area

The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills, combined with the Castle Parks, form a landscape complex that is an integral part of the internationally significant Crown of the Continent Ecosystem. The Crown of the Continent has long been recognized by Indigenous Peoples, scientists, and conservation groups as an ecologically significant area. It comprises the headwaters of North America's three great watersheds (the Saskatchewan, Missouri and Columbia River systems) and is recognized as critical to the protection of wildlife, landscapes and water⁷.

The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills subregion (see Maps – Public Land Use Zone) is situated northwest of Pincher Creek, west of Claresholm and surrounds the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass in the Eastern Slopes of the South Saskatchewan Region. It is a mountainous landscape surrounded by a patchwork of farms and ranches. The Livingstone area and the Porcupine Hills are two distinct but adjacent landscapes. Both are known for their views, iconic wildlife species, diversity of climate regimes and ecosystems (grasslands, forests, foothills, and alpine habitats), key linkage areas, and wilderness. The planning area encompasses approximately 1,401 km² within the Livingstone and another 392 km² within the Porcupine Hills.

The 'Cowboy Trail' (Highway 22), is the area's main transportation artery. Intersecting Highway 22 are private and public roads accessing historic and current forest harvest areas, oil, gas, and mining sites, as well as grazing lease lands and provincial parks. The metallurgical coal potential and tourism opportunities are significant and important economic resources for the region and the province. Many trails were created by outdoor recreation users who enjoy using public lands for various activities including camping, hunting and fishing, horseback riding and off-highway vehicle use. These activities have all left a footprint on the landscape.



⁷ Crown Managers Partnership. 2011. Crown of the Continent Ecosystem. Retrieved on August 16, 2017 from: <http://crownmanagers.org/crown-of-the-continent-ecosyst/>

PART 2: MANAGEMENT TOOLS

2.0 Integrated Land Management

This Plan recognizes that the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills will continue to support concurrent industrial, commercial, and recreational activities. In practical terms this means footprint is managed to sustain industrial purposes and access for commercial and non-commercial recreation and tourism opportunities for all Albertans. ILM is a strategic, planned approach to manage human footprint on the landscape by:

- Actual footprint reduction (including reclamation)
- Working together (coordinated approaches to reduce impacts on other users)
- Reducing the intensity or longevity of footprint (temporal)
- Efficient use of land (spatial)⁸

ILM is a collaborative process promoting responsible use of public lands for all land users. This Section provides direction and clarity to concepts relevant to operational planning (e.g. forestry management plans, recreation management plans). It is expected that as operational or sectorial plans are created and updated, that it is the responsibility of the GOA to enact decisions consistent with the priorities identified in Section 1.3 and with the intent to integrate the management of all activities on public lands. Mandatory practices described in this Plan include:

2.1 Zoning

2.2 Management Thresholds

2.3 Siting to Avoid Valued Features

2.4 Restoration and Reclamation

2.1 Zoning

Zoning is a common tool for land planning that allows better spatial and temporal management of various activities. This Plan utilizes the following zoning tools:



⁸ From the ILM Tools Compendium (2012), these practices are in addition to the Master Schedule of Standards and Conditions that can be applied to individual dispositions that will enable ILM.

2.1.1 Public Land Use Zones

Where established, Public Land Use Zones (PLUZs) are public lands to which legislative controls apply under authority of the *Public Lands Act*, to assist in the management of industrial, commercial and recreational land uses and resources. The establishment of PLUZs supports this Plan's outcomes through focused efforts to designate motorized trails and to reduce disturbance in the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills. This Plan requires the ability to designate motorized access, on which motorized use is permitted as signed or otherwise identified⁹;

2.1.2 Footprint Planning Zones

This Plan uses an intensity-based zonation scheme in which Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) are spatially represented to determine management intents for different areas, in particular motorized access disturbance limits. VECs spatially represent environmental elements and ecosystem services about which we want to understand the implications of development (e.g. clean water, westslope cutthroat trout, etc.). VECs enable land manager's to build an understanding between planning, human activity, and the condition of the biophysical landscape. This condition is expressed in terms of an indicator. Zones were delineated using VECs modelled in a series of outputs. These outputs were combined with local and expert knowledge and used to create the zones outlined in Part 5: Maps – Footprint Planning Zones. The delineated zones include Conservation and Multiple-Use Landscapes, which are described below:

Conservation Landscapes

Zone 1 – Conservation: This zone identifies existing or proposed protected areas or conservation areas determined in the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan and the more recent Castle Parks designations. These zones are characterized by limited human development, limited disturbance, and low impact recreation and are not managed by the Land Footprint Management Plan. Acknowledging Zone 1 areas provides a holistic approach to landscape management and these ecological benchmark areas will enable comparison of the ecological performance of the other zones. This Plan does not prescribe or enact further conservation areas.

Multiple-Use Landscapes

Zone 2 – Enhanced: This zone prioritizes high value landscapes while enabling economic and social opportunities with lower intensity disturbances and activity types. In the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills, this zone includes areas of higher overall landscape sensitivity due to the abundance of VECs. These areas translate into a higher risk from fragmentation and more potential damage from human disturbance. Components identified in this zone include the highest value habitats for grizzly bear, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, westslope cutthroat

⁹ Restrictions may apply differently, or not at all, to First Nations individuals exercising treaty rights.

trout, and important areas for headwaters and biodiversity, including key linkage areas (e.g. elk migratory corridors). Zone 2 is characterized by:

- Low-intensity land uses such as mix of forestry, small-scale industrial or commercial land uses, tourism and recreational uses, well-managed grazing, and traditional land uses.
- Activity-based requirements in operational planning that reduce the extent and duration of industrial and commercial footprint.

Zone 3 – Extensive: This zone enables a broad range of economic and social opportunities with emphasis on reclamation and managing new footprint disturbance. Long-term landscape considerations are made for ecological values over time and space. In the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills, Zone 3 has traditionally received more human disturbance and therefore provides opportunities for re-use of footprint or for reclamation activities.

- Intent is to direct responsible footprint development that aligns with restoration intents (see Section 2.4) for the area;
- There may be areas within the extensive zone where mitigation measures may be required. For example, the multiple-use public lands are generally in an extensive management zone. However, in the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills, there is a need to manage footprint to lower intensity levels in order to restore and preserve sensitive species habitat and headwaters values. Therefore, an enhanced level of management is required.

The zones guide the nature of various activities or considerations required for regulatory approvals. The nature of enhanced management requirements are outlined in Section 3.2.

2.2 Management Thresholds

This Plan establishes and provides for implementation of the following management thresholds:

- 2.2.2 Disturbance limits on Restricted Motorized Access (see Section 3.1, Objective 1.1);
- 2.2.3 Disturbance limits on Open Motorized Access (see Section 3.1, Objective 1.1);
- 2.2.4 Disturbance limits on Near-Stream Motorized Access (see Section 3.1, Objective 1.1); and
- 2.2.5 Spatial human footprint targets (i.e. interior habitat) based on the draft Biodiversity Management Framework's indicators (see Section 3.1, Objective 1.2).

Disturbance limits will come into effect with the regulatory



details upon approval of this Plan in accordance with Section 13(5) of the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act*.

2.2.1 Motorized Access Densities and Limits

This Plan utilizes motorized access densities as a measure to assess, manage, and report on the relationship between the levels of motorized use and a disturbance limit (expressed in kilometres per kilometre squared). As an indicator, the density of motorized roads and trails captures the cumulative impact of human access including:

- i) increased use of areas by humans,
- ii) increased sedimentation and erosion into streams,
- iii) wildlife mortality from route construction or collisions,
- iv) stress or negative impacts to wildlife behaviour, and;
- v) the spread and increases of undesirable species (e.g. invasive plants).

These impacts are pressures affecting VECs. Motorized access densities make no distinction as to the corridor width or type of conveyance used for motorized access. Managing motorized access considers the relationship between cumulative motorized access and its impacts to a suite of watershed, wildlife and habitat values. Designating a limited amount of well-located motorized access helps to ensure the integrity of ecosystems and watersheds, visual quality objectives, landscape connectivity, and overall wilderness quality.

The disturbance limits on motorized access densities represent undesirable conditions with heightened risk of adverse effects. Exceedances of limits are to be avoided and setting density targets in operational planning should reflect this goal. It is important to note that the limits are not considered to be “manage-up-to” numbers and that a contingency will be held for new developments. Typical management responses enacted by a coordination of resource managers if a limit is being approached, or has even been exceeded, could include: increasing requirements for the use of Integrated Land Management tools, the use of integrated regulatory approvals, or increases in the use of restoration and/or reclamation as a condition of development. Management responses should leverage existing programs where possible. Motorized access is classified either as Restricted Motorized Access or Open Motorized Access to better manage for competing land uses in multiple-use landscapes outside of core protected areas.

2.2.2 Restricted Motorized Access

Restricted Motorized Access is for industrial or commercial roads and trails under disposition (primarily forestry, energy and mining, and for grazing allotment holders) to access allocated resources. Access for public use is restricted on a case-by-case basis with the disposition holder. It is not sufficient for such access to be for industrial use only and closed to the public - Restricted Motorized Access reasonably demonstrates that there are no significant, long-term

or irreversible impacts to wildlife, habitat, and/or watercourses (e.g. from surface sedimentation) by meeting conditions set by the Government of Alberta. For example, use is of low intensity, seasonal or temporary, and has access controls to prohibit public use. Restricted Motorized Access throughout the planning area will be managed with a limit as set out in Section 3.1, Objective 1.1. This access is being addressed with its own limit so that industry and commercial interests are more informed to apply Integrated Land Management practices, and to reduce liability for disposition holders. Criteria for Restricted Motorized Access include:

- Prohibited public access (e.g. access controls may include gates, signage, compliance);
- Restricted Motorized Access mitigates impacts to wildlife through a combination of:
 - Vehicle volume restrictions to manage wildlife risks (e.g. 20 vehicles per day);
 - Vehicle speed limits to manage wildlife risks;
 - Vehicle timing restrictions (e.g. daytime use only, seasonal);
 - Vehicle noise restrictions;
 - Road construction standards to manage sedimentation and surface erosion risks.

2.2.3 Open Motorized Access

Open Motorized Access is general public access including permitted access for motorized recreation on designated trails, as well as established public/municipal roads and any industrial access that does not meet the criteria for Restricted Motorized Access. Current roads under disposition are already calculated into the Open Motorized Access densities. Open Motorized Access is maintained for general public use and includes both motorized roads and motorized trails. Open Motorized Access throughout the planning area will be managed with a limit as set out in Section 3.1, Objective 1.1.

2.2.4 Near-stream Motorized Access

Near-stream Motorized Access refers to Open and Restricted Motorized Access that falls within 100 m of a stream on highly erodible soils. Since headwaters protection is a priority in the Eastern Slopes, limiting activities near streams and other water bodies by restricting access to riparian areas has been a common practice for many years. This indicator was identified by Porter et al.¹⁰ as the most significant predictor of reduced westslope cutthroat trout populations. Near-stream Motorized Access throughout the planning area will be managed within an analysis unit (see Maps – Analysis Units). Erosion susceptibility is identified by soil texture and soil drainage properties using Derived Ecosite Phase¹¹. Near-stream Motorized Access throughout the planning area will be managed with a limit as set out in Section 3.1, Objective 1.1.

¹⁰ Porter, M, et al. "Tier 1 Watershed-Level Fish Values Monitoring Protocol Rationale. Draft Version 3. April 2012. Draft Report Prepared by Essa Technologies Ltd. For BC Ministry of the Environment, Victoria, BC. 33 P." iii, (2012)

¹¹ This methodology is published by the Forest Management Branch and identifies what soils are classified as having high erosion hazard. Derived Ecosite Phase open source found at: <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/derived-ecosite-phase>.

2.2.5 Spatial Human Footprint Targets (Interior Habitat)

In accordance with Section 3.2 of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, this Plan outlines a system to minimize the extent, duration and rate of linear footprint development to meet outcomes and objectives for biodiversity and ecosystems in the SSRP. Target-setting is used in this Plan to determine a desirable future condition based on ecosystem needs for biodiversity and watersheds, also considering social and economic dimensions. The approach under this Plan is to identify indicators of biodiversity and watershed condition that will guide targets for total amounts of human footprint at any one time. Within one year of the effective date of this Plan, thresholds to guide spatial human footprint until 2045 will be developed. The system of monitoring, evaluation, and reporting will also be described (see Section 4.4). Note that much of the management response information will be addressed through implementation of the draft Biodiversity Management Framework for the South Saskatchewan Region.

Some of the key considerations (in order of priority) in setting targets are:

- Identifying key indicators for biodiversity and watershed integrity in the region, in particular those that address the impacts of both patches and linear forms of human footprint (e.g. interior habitat and patch size and connectivity, and related trigger levels as described in the draft Biodiversity Management Framework for the South Saskatchewan Region and the emerging final document);
- Identifying targets that ultimately align with the planning hierarchy and support achieving improved performance of biodiversity and watershed integrity indicators and related objectives as expressed through trigger levels for each indicator. Regional trigger levels identified in the environmental management frameworks (i.e. air quality, surface, water quality, biodiversity) should be first assessed as to applicability/ relevance in setting targets for the sub-region in this Plan. In particular, interior habitat reflects habitat quality, as many species require large tracts of intact 'core' habitat. Therefore this indicator is sensitive to all linear corridors of disturbance, including motorized ones, and also includes patches of disturbance such as forest harvest areas, industrial sites and land clearings. Interior habitat reflects an inverse relationship to landscape fragmentation. It provides an indication of subregional biodiversity condition as it relates to footprint. This indicator is also strongly correlated with undisturbed land cover and is a useful measure for watershed integrity;
- Locally relevant information on biodiversity (e.g. species- and habitat-specific needs);
- Watershed integrity needs (i.e. footprint levels for continued function of headwaters and other sensitive source areas, in addition to those considered already in regional environmental management frameworks);
- Levels of projected forest harvesting and wildfire risk mitigation needs.

2.3 Siting to Avoid Valued Features

This Plan requires the use of siting criteria to determine the suitability of a location when developing new footprint. In addition to activity-specific processes and direction, elements to be considered in these siting criteria are those relevant to land disturbances as follows: (including those identified in the ILM Tools Compendium (2012) under Siting to Avoid Valued Features¹²):

- Visual quality objectives (including for scenic value)
- Erosion risk potential, both landscape-level and site-level including slope, soil type, moisture
- Indigenous Peoples ancestral, traditional, and continued use sites and other sites of cultural significance
- Water features, including surface and groundwater considerations identified in source water protection planning (e.g. Wet Areas Mapping and Stepping Back from the Water¹³)
- Sensitive habitat (e.g. rough fescue grasslands) and/or wildlife features or movement (e.g. from Fish and Wildlife Management Information Systems)
- Species at risk data or inventories (e.g. Alberta Conservation Information Management System)
- Noise considerations for wildlife, other land users, and adjacent private landowners
- Limits and targets outlined for footprint management (see Section 3.1).
- Seek ‘multiple win’ solutions; maintain opportunities for multiple uses on the landscape (e.g. recreation and tourism, resource extraction, ecosystem services)

2.4 Restoration and Reclamation

This Plan focuses on mitigating risk¹⁴ at all times, particularly where human activities could have foreseeable and negative impacts to biodiversity and watershed integrity, and to avoid exceeding limits. To manage future human activity and due to the amount of pre-existing (‘legacy’) footprint in the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills, there is a clear need for a well-defined restoration strategy to address the restoration and reclamation needs on this landscape.

The success of this Plan relies on the collaborative and integrated approach of land management across sectors to forecast and respond to anticipated cumulative effects of land disturbances as outlined in Part 3 of this document. To address the systematic restoration and reclamation of disturbed areas, the development of an Eastern Slopes Restoration Strategy must be completed within one year of the effective date of this Plan, with site-specific planning details

¹² Integrated Land Management Tools Compendium (2012: p. 63)

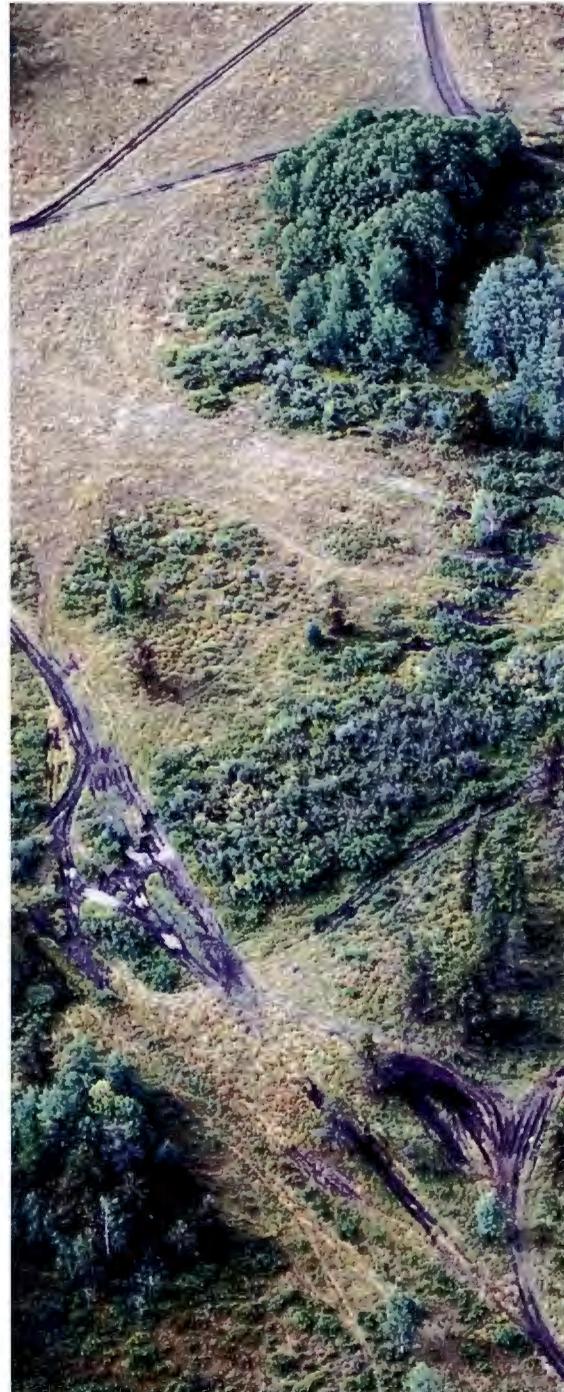
¹³ Stepping Back from the Water (2012): <http://aep.alberta.ca/water/education-guidelines/documents/SteppingBackFromWater-Guide-2012.pdf>

¹⁴ The risk mitigation hierarchy prioritizes avoidance and reduction/minimization before restoration and offsetting – the latter will be explored in the Restoration Strategy through a conservation offset program guided by A Framework for Designing Conservation Offset Programs in Alberta (2016).

for each natural subregion. The intent is to re-establish native plant communities on disturbed sites within the planning areas and to restore ecosystem processes to as natural (normal) state as possible. Elements to be included in the Restoration Strategy include:

- A narrative of the proposed approach, reflecting this Plan's intent for footprint restoration, including scope, objectives, priorities and requirements (permits, license agreements, regulatory approvals);
- A chronological work plan including major tasks, resource allocations, milestones, deliverables, dependencies, and start and end dates;
- Principles that will apply to resource the work, and to manage performance and quality assurance over time;
- An identification of risks applicable to reclamation tasks and proposed strategies to mitigate these;
- A description of proposed deliverables including:
 - A methodology or guidelines to identify site-specific areas requiring restoration and the standards to which reclamation is deemed sufficient. This should include a spatial analysis of legacy footprint which is eligible for reclamation;
 - Criteria for determining sites for natural recovery, sites for active restoration, and disturbance areas for which disposition holders (industry or otherwise) have post-operation reclamation responsibilities
 - Criteria for prioritizing sites where reclamation efforts will be applied, as evaluated by risk and urgency to include (in order of priority):
 - » Any areas with a risk to public safety;
 - » Within watersheds containing critical fish habitat (for Westslope Cutthroat Trout and/or Bull Trout), areas near watercourses that pose a high erosion risk either through slope stability, soil type or resulting from drainage causing sedimentation;
 - » Areas that are an important habitat for species at risk or species of potential conservation concern (e.g. species listed at risk in federal and provincial legislation), particularly easily accessible locations and those that are at risk of continued motorized use;
 - » Native grassland areas that are unlikely to experience natural recovery because of the extent of disturbance or their difficulty to reclaim (e.g., Foothills fescue grasslands), or relatively healthy range sites including those at low risk of colonization by non-native species, especially plants known to be invasive;

- » Areas of low potential to experience recovery to adjacent grassland, shrubland or forest community without assistance because of large disturbance area and/or severe soil disturbance/compaction (e.g. roads and wide vehicle trails);
 - » Sites colonized by non-native or undesirable plant species including invasive and noxious plants designated under the *Alberta Weed Control Act*;
 - » Areas of high scenic or tourism development value.
- A framework which can be used to incorporate the criteria above into an actionable, place-based plan based on risk, urgency, cost and other socio-ecological factors. This should include a template for reclamation and vegetation management planning (see Section 3.2, Objective 3.2.6) that integrates climate change¹⁵, wildfire risk management, and forestry management for future projects in the Eastern Slopes;
 - A review of pertinent literature for best practices and approaches to reclamation in natural subregions and valued ecosystems of the South Saskatchewan Region (e.g. Foothills fescue grasslands). This should explore options for financing reclamation including concepts of offsetting, Green Bonds or other incentive-based approaches.



¹⁵ Climate change is a complex issue that affects all Albertans. Increasing temperatures, more frequent droughts, floods and forest fires will create challenges for wildlife and ecosystems but also for the resource sector and land users. This Plan's purpose of reducing fragmentation and optimizing landscape connectivity is considered to improve ecosystem resiliency to support climate adaptation.

3.0 STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

This section of the Plan provides the details that link outcomes and management tools to manage human footprint in the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills area. The strategies and actions in this section will have implications for land and resource use. These have been collaboratively developed based on achieving land-use outcomes that optimize benefits across environmental, social and economic dimensions. The following tables provide the objectives, actions, and performance metrics related to the three management outcomes of this Plan. The responsibility column refers to the government department or agency with primary responsibility. The timeline column indicates by when certain frameworks and actions need to be achieved and apply as of the Plan's effective date.

3.1 Detailed Regulatory Limits and Targets

Objectives	Strategy/Action	Performance Metric	Responsibility	Timeline
3.1.1 Motorized access is managed to sustain biodiversity and watershed integrity	Establish an <u>Open Motorized Access</u> disturbance limit of 0.4 km/km ² in Zone 2	Open Motorized Access: Livingstone: < 386.2 km Porcupine Hills: < 117.6 km	Alberta Environment and Parks	< 1 year
	Establish an <u>Open Motorized Access</u> disturbance limit of 0.6 km/km ² in Zone 3	Open Motorized Access: Livingstone: < 252.9 km Porcupine Hills: < 58.8 km	Alberta Environment and Parks	< 1 year
	Establish a <u>Restricted Motorized Access</u> disturbance limit of 0.6 km/km ² in both Zone 2 and Zone 3 respectively	Restricted Motorized Access: Livingstone: < 832.3 km Porcupine Hills: < 235.2 km	Alberta Environment and Parks	< 1 year
	Establish a <u>Near-stream Motorized Access</u> disturbance limit (within 100 m of a stream on erodible soils) of 0.04 km/km ² in each analysis unit	Near-stream Motorized Access: Livingstone: < 55.4 km Porcupine Hills: < 15.7 km (across all watersheds)	Alberta Environment and Parks	< 1 year
3.1.2 Important ecosystems and habitat are managed to sustain biodiversity and watershed integrity	Within one year of the effective date of this Plan, management thresholds to guide spatial human footprint until 2045, will be developed.	To be determined in 1 year of effective date	Alberta Environment and Parks	< 1 year

3.2 Detailed Integrated Land Management Practices

Objectives	Strategy/Action	Performance Metric	Responsibility	Timeline
Forestry and Wildfire Management Planning				
3.2.1 Forestry management planning and operations incorporate human footprint requirements for biodiversity and watersheds, and integrate recreation, tourism, grazing, wildfire and other resource uses	Develop forest management plan(s) with values, objectives, indicators and targets that align with the strategic land-use priorities for the Eastern Slopes (e.g. creation of resilient, healthy forests within a natural range of variation that support water storage, recharge and release functions) and align with actions below	Revised C5 Forest Management Plan sets parameters on footprint in accordance with this Plan	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry	Upon revision of Forest Management Plan(s)
	Coordinated access planning (and subsequent approval) of forestry activity will meet management thresholds established in this Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 4 forestry roads (1-3 years) consistent with the Timber Harvest Planning and Operating Ground rules are managed as <u>Restricted Motorized Access</u> Forest Harvest Areas are assessed for their contribution to <u>Spatial Human Footprint</u> and managed to meet the target (Objective 1.2) 	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry in revised C5 Forest Management Plan	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks	< 2 years
	ILM applies to all forestry activity. Where possible, forestry operating roads will convert to <u>Restricted Motorized Access</u> , are coordinated with other sectors, and meet access criteria approved by the Government of Alberta. Forestry roads, under a License of Occupation, are allowed to continue until the road is no longer needed. Forestry roads will be assessed for future access needs with other sectors to reduce the extent of permanent motorized access, before decision to close and reclaim when the resource activity ends (use sequencing) ¹⁶	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry in revised C5 Forest Management Plan	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry	< 2 years
	On the classified land-base, commercial forestry supports multiple objectives including managing non-timber resources such as wildfire risk, forest encroachment onto grasslands, maintaining scenic values, optimizing connectivity, snowpack retention, and water quality ¹⁷	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry in revised C5 Forest Management Plan	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry	Ongoing

¹⁶ Refers to use of multi-use corridors and coordinated physical access controls in the ILM Tools Compendium, 2012.
¹⁷ Consistent with objectives 1.1.1.1, 1.1.1.2, 1.1.1.3, 1.1.2.1, 1.2.1.1 and 3.1.1.1 in the Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard.

Objectives	Strategy/Action	Performance Metric	Responsibility	Timeline
3.2.2 Wildfire risk management integrates footprint planning holistically through a combination of prescribed fires, natural fires, and forestry activity for relevant sub-areas to minimize losses and risk to human life, communities, watersheds, sensitive soils, natural resources and infrastructure	Complete and coordinate sub-area (Porcupine Hills-Poll Haven, Crowsnest Corridor, Castle-Carbondale) disturbance management plans (e.g. utilizing natural range of variation, specific regime targets, cumulative risk, etc.) and considering footprint parameters and FireSmart Strategies (Hazard and Risk Assessments, Wildfire Preparedness Guides, and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies) for all communities in the planning area	Completion schedule set by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry	< 3 years
	Reduce the area identified by the <u>Catastrophic Fire Indicator</u>	% area reduction set by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry	< 3 years
	Complete Emergency Response Plans for all identified Human Life Values-at-Risk considering footprint parameters	Emergency Response Plans are complete and municipalities have signed off on the respective plan(s)	Municipal governments	< 3 years

Commercial and Industrial Development Planning

3.2.3 Planning and development of energy (including renewables) and mining incorporate human footprint requirements for biodiversity and watersheds, and integrate forestry, recreation, tourism, grazing, wildfire and other resource uses	The Government of Alberta will work with industry proponents to comply with motorized access limits for new coal, mineral, oil or gas, and renewable energy developments. Planning for access must demonstrate the application of ILM and align with the Restoration Strategy.	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Environment and Parks	Alberta Energy Regulator, Alberta Environment and Parks	< 1 year
	Coordinated access planning (and subsequent approval) of energy and mining activity will meet thresholds established in this Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access management by energy- and mining-related transportation corridors is coordinated with other sectors and adheres to motorized access limits (Objective 1.1) • Industrial sites, utility corridors, pipelines and other exploration or seismic disturbances are assessed for their contribution to <u>Spatial Human Footprint</u> and managed to meet the target (Objective 1.2) 	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Environment and Parks	Alberta Energy Regulator, Alberta Environment and Parks	< 1 year
	• Single purpose or limited use industrial access corridors will convert to <u>Restricted Motorized Access</u> , are coordinated with other sectors, and meet access criteria approved by the regulator	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Environment and Parks	Alberta Energy Regulator, Alberta Environment and Parks	< 1 year

Objectives	Strategy/Action	Performance Metric	Responsibility	Timeline
	The SSRP states that where freehold rights exist, opportunities for the responsible exploration, development and extraction of energy resources are maintained – this Plan supports the strategy to maintain physical access to freehold minerals. Any development of freehold minerals will be reviewed by the Alberta Energy Regulator. If development is approved, then dispositions will be issued for access roads and other infrastructure, taking measures to minimize impacts to fescue grasslands and the ecological values of the overall landscape as per the intent of this management plan	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Environment and Parks	Alberta Energy Regulator, Alberta Environment and Parks	Ongoing
	Siting, timing, and site-related footprint requirements for renewable energy developments follow standards and best management practices	See applicable documents (e.g. Wildlife Directive for Alberta Wind Energy Projects, 2017)	Alberta Environment and Parks	Ongoing
3.2.4 Planning and development of commercial recreation and tourism incorporate human footprint requirements for biodiversity and watersheds, and integrate forestry, non-commercial recreation, grazing, wildfire and other resource uses	a) Commercial recreation and tourism proponents will be required to demonstrate motorized access requirements for new tenure. Planning for access must demonstrate the application of ILM and align with subregional plans for recreation management.	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Environment and Parks in consultation with Alberta Culture and Tourism	Alberta Culture and Tourism, Alberta Environment and Parks	< 1 year
	Coordinated access planning (and subsequent approval) of commercial recreation and tourism activity will meet thresholds established in this Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access by tourism-related transportation corridors is coordinated with other sectors and adheres to motorized access limits (Objective 1.1) • Commercial sites, staging areas, campgrounds, etc. are assessed for their contribution to <u>Spatial Human Footprint</u> and managed to meet the target (Objective 1.2) 	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Culture and Tourism and Alberta Environment and Parks (Operations Division)	Alberta Culture and Tourism, Alberta Environment and Parks	< 1 year
	Single purpose or limited use commercial access corridors will convert to <u>Restricted Motorized Access</u> , are coordinated with other sectors, and meet access criteria approved by the Government of Alberta	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Environment and Parks in consultation with Alberta Culture and Tourism	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Culture and Tourism	Ongoing

Objectives	Strategy/Action	Performance Metric	Responsibility	Timeline
	The SSRP states that work should occur with municipalities, private investors, and landowners to identify areas of high value for tourism to encourage tourism investment and infrastructure development opportunities. Any commercial recreational or tourism development applications will be reviewed by Alberta Environment and Parks. If the development is approved, then dispositions will be issued for access roads and/or other recreational or tourism infrastructure.	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Culture and Tourism and Alberta Environment and Parks (Operations Division)	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Culture and Tourism	Ongoing
Recreation Management Planning				
3.2.5 Recreation management planning and operations incorporate footprint requirements for biodiversity and watersheds, and integrate tourism, grazing, wildfire and other resource uses	Develop recreation management plan(s) with outcomes and objectives that align with the Eastern Slopes priorities and with this Plan. Recreation management planning will demonstrate the application of ILM, including the siting criteria identified in Section 2.3 and also compatibility factors that consider the needs of other land users and adjacent land owners to public lands	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Environment and Parks (Operations Division)	Alberta Environment and Parks	< 1 year
	Coordinated access planning (and subsequent approval) of recreation and tourism activity will meet thresholds established in this Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access corridors for motorized recreation is coordinated with other sectors and adheres to motorized access limits and are considered <u>Open Motorized Access</u> (Objective 1.1) Motorized camping nodes, staging areas, recreation infrastructure are assessed for their contribution to <u>Spatial Human Footprint</u> and managed to meet the target (Objective 1.2) 	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Environment and Parks (Operations Division)	Alberta Environment and Parks	< 1 year
	Coordinated access planning and development of non-motorized recreation must also adhere to mandatory ILM particularly siting criteria to minimize the effects of footprint on sensitive areas	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Environment and Parks (Operations Division)	Alberta Environment and Parks	< 1 year

Objectives	Strategy/Action	Performance Metric	Responsibility	Timeline
	Planning and development of motorized recreation sites, manages motorized recreation, including camping on public land to ensure the protection of environmental values including biodiversity, sensitive wildlife and landscape elements, and cultural values	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Environment and Parks (Operations Division)	Alberta Environment and Parks	Immediately
	Public Land Use Zones will be established whereby off-highway vehicles must stay on signed, designated trails specified for motorized recreational use, or multi-use. Certain areas may be designated for specific recreational uses (e.g. snowmobile areas). Wheels out of water applies to all watercourse crossings, especially in sensitive fish habitat	Public Land Use Zone established as part of Crown Land and recreation management implementation. All watercourses have crossing structures as specified in the Recreation Management Plan	Alberta Environment and Parks	Immediately
	Alberta Environment and Parks may close or restrict motorized and non-motorized access to protect ecological values, to ensure public safety, or for management purposes (e.g. during periods of heavy rainfall, thin snowpack for snowmobiles, or for wildfire risk or species management requirements, etc.)	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Environment and Parks (Operations Division)	Alberta Environment and Parks	Ongoing
	Manage the impact of recreational motorized access to wildlife through key mountain passes in partnership with Parks and authorities in British Columbia	To be determined following regular meetings held with staff in BC Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations (Cranbrook) to discuss and address issues	Alberta Environment and Parks	< 2 years

Management of Grazing and Range

3.2.6 Range (or grazing allotment) management and vegetation management planning incorporate footprint requirements for biodiversity and watersheds, and integrate wildfire, with a focus on Foothills Fescue grasslands and riparian health	As a part of restoration and reclamation, develop a vegetation management plan, including specifications for range vegetation inventories, and range and riparian health assessments. Results are used to develop and update range planning. Vegetation inventories will be used to measure changes to fescue communities.	A vegetation management plan, coordinated with restoration and reclamation is completed to improve range and riparian health for fescue communities. Other indicators and targets set by Alberta Environment and Parks (Operations Division)	Alberta Environment and Parks	< 3 years
	Coordinated access planning (and subsequent approval) of motorized access for grazing activity will meet thresholds established in this Plan. Any development of new trails for range management purposes will require coordination among sectors and prior review and approval for ILM. Allotment holders receive a permission placard for off-highway vehicle use off designated roads or trails to conduct range management activities	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Environment and Parks (Operations Division)	Alberta Environment and Parks	Ongoing

Objectives	Strategy/Action	Performance Metric	Responsibility	Timeline
	Apply range management practices such that range and riparian communities are maintained or improved. Allotment holders will consider projects that will reduce or mitigate impacts from livestock use (e.g. development of off-stream watering facilities, protection of springs, practices that reduce risks of invasive species introduction)	Strategies and targets set by Alberta Environment and Parks (Operations Division)	Alberta Environment and Parks	Ongoing
	All proposed activities are reviewed to ensure impacts to Foothills fescue ¹⁸ grasslands, particularly those that are largely intact, are avoided wherever possible. ¹⁹ Avoiding disturbance to Foothills fescue grassland is a priority for all siting criteria. Where impacts cannot be avoided, detailed mitigation plans (including construction and reclamation plans) are required	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Environment and Parks (Operations Division)	Alberta Environment and Parks	Ongoing
	Manage and monitor invasive species, insect and pathogen infestations according to Government of Alberta policies, legislation and best practices	Indicators and targets set by Alberta Environment and Parks (Operations Division)	Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry	Ongoing
Restoration and Reclamation Management Planning				
3.2.7 Restoration is planned to sustain biodiversity and watershed integrity	Work with stakeholders and adjacent land managers to ensure wildlife connectivity corridors are enhanced throughout the Livingstone, Porcupine Hills and adjacent landscapes	To be determined following regular meetings held with industry, municipalities, land organizations (e.g. Miistakis, Southern Alberta Land Trust, Nature Conservancy of Canada, etc.)	Alberta Environment and Parks	Ongoing
	Rare, significant or sensitive ecosystems and habitats are maintained or enhanced through existing species at risk recovery planning initiatives, best practices, or through measures described in this Plan to manage new footprint disturbance	To be determined in a monitoring program developed by Environmental Monitoring and Science Division, Alberta Environment and Parks	Alberta Environment and Parks	Ongoing
	Develop a strategy to restore linear features in the area to support the above thresholds, to reduce landscape fragmentation, and to integrate use of public land. Details are identified in Section 2.4.	Restoration Strategy completed within timeframe with sites and areas identified and prioritized for restoration and reclamation	Alberta Environment and Parks	Strategy < 1 year; restoration efforts ongoing
	Where possible, plant or re-plant native vegetation using seeds sourced within the respective area; where not possible, use best certified native seed sources or best available alternative sources	Restoration Strategy identifies this directive for restoration and reclamation	Alberta Environment and Parks	Ongoing

18 The "Foothills Fescue PNTs" (i.e., PNT090087) will remain in place as a means of alerting applicants to the presence of fescue communities and the responsibilities associated with operating in these areas (as per Information Letter 2010-02).
19 Principles for Minimizing Surface Disturbance in Native Grasslands 2016 available online at: <http://open.alberta.ca/dataset/dbbc914c-a2f7-4df9-8b28-979459883f17/resource/5070c720-58e8-4a1d-baed-256727449611/download/2016-Principles-for-Minimizing-Surface-Disturbance-in-Native-Grassland-September-1-2016.pdf>

3.3 Detailed GoA Business Process and Integration Mechanisms

Objectives	Strategy/Action	Performance Metric	Responsibility	Timeline
3.3.1 Appropriate and effective governance are in place to support the implementation of this Plan	<p>Led by Alberta Environment and Parks, all departments and agencies with a responsibility for approving and issuing dispositions, allotments and tenure, and their respective resource managers, collaborate toward a business process and structural mechanisms to integrate footprint into approvals and decision-making. Concurrent initiatives (e.g. Integrated Approvals Process) may provide a suitable platform for this.</p> <p>Systems and structures must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the system tools for tracking, monitoring, real-time spatial data and storage for resource managers and users (must support the performance management system) • Provide clarity to staff on dealing with foreclosure, exceedance of limits, footprint calculations, restoration requirements • Provide a means of communication between different sectorial needs on the landscape and how to guide the sequencing of activities over time (10 year outlook) • Consider traditional land use and traditional ecological knowledge in decision-making • Develop a robust monitoring, evaluation and reporting program for biodiversity and watershed indicators which links the actions to manage footprint in this Plan to performance metrics (enabled by the effective date of the plan) • Address outstanding management of pre-existing dispositions including abandoned dispositions, shifting to <u>Restricted Motorized Access</u>, and <u>restoration</u> 	<p>Integrated Resource Management System business processes for approvals and decision support are developed as described in Section 4.0</p> <p>Metrics for service delivery are improved</p>	Alberta Environment and Parks	< 2 years

Objectives	Strategy/Action	Performance Metric	Responsibility	Timeline
3.3.2 Relevant provisions in Sub-regional Integrated Resource Plans are effectively rescinded (see Appendix B)	Implement necessary regulatory direction (e.g. land disturbance standards) and assess needed alignment with other regulatory tools (e.g. PNTs) and whether gaps need to be addressed	The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Sub-regional Integrated Resource Plan gets approval to be rescinded (no further outstanding items exist)	Alberta Environment and Parks	< 2 years
	Any remaining Prime Protection (IRP Zone 1) or Critical Wildlife (IRP Zone 2) direction should be replaced by biodiversity sensitivity data layers or new surveys that reflect the best and most recent information. The layers must be integrated into approval mechanisms (e.g. Enhanced Approval Process Integrated Standards and Guidelines) to direct how those layers are used in decision-making	Biodiversity sensitivity layers are integrated into a decision support tool as described in Section 4.1.2	Alberta Environment and Parks	< 2 year
	Any outstanding provisions are redirected to the appropriate agency for incorporation into suitable policy and planning documents (e.g. Recreation Management Plans)	Outstanding provisions are reviewed by appropriate agencies with direction provided to Alberta Environment and Parks confirming they are incorporated	Alberta Environment and Parks	< 2 years
	As part of reviewing and incorporating the Integrated Resource Plans, the Government of Alberta will integrate a review of the coal categories for the South Saskatchewan Region (SSRP p. 61). New direction, consistent with footprint planning outcomes, will supersede the coal categories and may extend to all large-scale industrial surface disturbances, including coal. This new direction should be consistent with an integrated approach. It will specify where surface exploration and development can and cannot occur based on the best and most recent biodiversity sensitivity data	A strategy is developed for updating Coal Policy and Integrated Resource Plan direction around coal and mineral extraction	Alberta Environment and Parks	< 3 years
3.3.3 Enable accessible and relevant opportunities for the participation of Indigenous peoples in land-use planning and input to decision-making	Partner with First Nations to appropriately collect, use, and disclose traditional ecological knowledge and Traditional Land Use information, respecting confidentiality and ensuring security	Traditional Land Use studies are completed for the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills, direction is used in land-use management	Alberta Culture and Tourism, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Indigenous Relations	< 3 years (Traditional Land-Use studies), ongoing
	Where appropriate, consider and implement buffers or other mechanisms to protect traditional use sites and sites of cultural significance while maintaining access, if appropriate, for the sites.	Methodologies and best practices are developed in partnership with First Nations and used in land-use management	Alberta Culture and Tourism, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Indigenous Relations	Ongoing

Objectives	Strategy/Action	Performance Metric	Responsibility	Timeline
	Provide support and communicate with First Nations regarding their use of traditional use sites. Identify key access and types of access required to practice traditional uses	Methodologies and best practices are developed in partnership with First Nations and used in land-use management	Alberta Culture and Tourism, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Indigenous Relations	Ongoing
	Deliver cultural awareness and sensitivity training, with First Nations involvement, through annual training of permanent and seasonal GOA land and field staff. Staff should also be required to be familiar with the standard operating procedures regarding Public Lands Area Regulations enforcement as it relates to First Nations	All operational staff involved in land-use management are trained	Alberta Culture and Tourism, Alberta Environment and Parks, Indigenous Relations	Ongoing



4.0 IMPLEMENTATION

All departments and agencies and resource managers with land use, tenure, and resource management mandates in the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills area will be responsible for leadership and collaboration to enable the purpose and outcomes outlined in this Plan. Footprint management planning requires that land-use which impacts footprint must better forecast and predict cumulative effects, the impacts of new technologies, the impacts of climate change, and how to responsibly manage resources into the future. Alberta's Integrated Resource Management System (IRMS) exists to understand the impact our growth has on communities, our environment and each other as a whole. This coordinated approach includes setting and achieving the environmental, economic, and social outcomes Albertans expect from resource development, while maintaining the community support to develop these resources. The IRMS roles and responsibilities for footprint plan implementation are identified in Table 4.1.2.

4.1 Governance

New ways of doing things require new organizational structures which determine how, who and what, and must provide accountability in decision-making. The related institutional architecture and how it executes decision-making can be referred to as governance. Governance of public lands must evolve as land-use pressures change, new technologies become available, and new science emerges to inform management.

Since footprint management planning and the implementation of this Plan are emergent in the Province of Alberta, novel governance structures will emerge to fulfill the needs created by this Plan and other plans. New business processes for implementation, including better forecasting of footprint development, will be created through direction from this Plan including guidance on approvals, data and informatics, performance management, and enabling accessible and relevant opportunities for the participation of Indigenous peoples in land-use planning and input on decision-making.

4.1.1 Inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in Land-use Planning

The Eastern Slopes include the hunting and gathering, and ceremonial places that lie within traditional territories of multiple First Nations. The Livingstone and Porcupine Hills areas provided sustenance, materials, medicines, and sacred places for First Nations since time immemorial and is expected to continue to do so for generations yet to come. Indigenous communities are intimately connected to the land and are therefore their ancestral, traditional, and continued uses of public lands are at risk from the impacts of climate change, industrial development, and unmanaged recreational use.

The GOA prioritizes renewing and strengthening relationships with Indigenous Peoples, and all government departments have been mandated to implement the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in a way that is consistent with Canada's

Constitution and with Alberta law. For the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills area, the completion and integration of Traditional Land Use studies to support planning and land-use decisions that respect First Nations Treaty rights and ancestral, traditional, and continued land uses, is a priority. First Nations involvement in subregional footprint management planning processes has occurred regularly through one-on-one meetings and at the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan First Nations Implementation Table. Implementation of this Plan is expected to be consistent with First Nations ability to continually exercise their Treaty rights and to acknowledge and maintain the relationship that Indigenous Peoples have with the land and the importance of their activities on that land.

4.1.2 IRMS roles and responsibilities in footprint plan implementation

Stage	Environment and Parks, Planning Branch	Environment and Parks, Operations Division	Environment and Parks, Monitoring and Science Division	Alberta Energy	Energy Regulator	Agriculture & Forestry	Indigenous Relations	Land-Use Secretariat	Related Parties
Development of LFMPs	□	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	○	◇
Governance and business process	□	◇	◇	○	◇	◇	○	◇	◇
Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting									
Sharing results to inform reporting	◇	◇	□	○	◇	◇	○	○	○
Status of Ambient Environmental Condition	○	○	□	○	◇	◇	○	○	○
Status of Management Response	◇	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Coordination of reporting into Regional Plan reporting	□	◇	○	○	○	○	○	◇	○
Communication related to reporting	◇	◇	□	○	○	○	○	◇	○
Management Response									
Determination of threshold exceedance	◇	□	○	○	◇	◇	○	○	○
Investigation	◇	□	◇	◇	◇	◇	○	○	○
Development and evaluation of potential management actions	◇	□	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	○	◇
Oversight and delivery of management actions	◇	□	◇	◇	◇	◇	○	○	◇
Evaluation of effectiveness	◇	◇	□	◇	◇	◇	◇	○	○
Review of LFMP (every 5 years)	□	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇

□ = lead, group/person who is ultimately accountable & responsible for completion of activity or work

◇ = participant, group/person who needs to provide feedback and contribute to an activity

○ = informed, group/person who needs to know of a decision or action

4.2 Access Coordination Mechanisms

Footprint management planning in the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills area requires a proactive and coordinated approach by the GOA. Access coordination is led by department land managers and disposition regulators and enables all sectors to manage motorized access to sustainable, long-term levels that are below the disturbance limit. This Plan requires the following mechanisms to be used by GOA to support ongoing access coordination planning:

- 4.21. Integrated Approvals Process – a one stop portal for applications which allows a predetermination of how motorized access densities are impacted;
- 4.22. Cumulative Effects Management System Decision Support Tool – a digital interface to track, monitor, and evaluate changes to motorized access densities which allows for proactive decision-making;
- 4.23. Guiding Principles – a list of management principles which guide decision-making to incorporate consistent valuations of how to navigate the complexities and uncertainties of conservation and resource use.

4.2.1 Integrated Approvals Process

A core function of the Operations Division within Environment and Parks is to receive, evaluate, decide upon, and manage the application of natural resource and industrial activities that operate under the *Public Lands Act*, *Water Act* and *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*. This Plan requires that footprint be assessed as a condition of approval.

Integrating approvals will streamline the business processes to manage the full life cycle of the approval from application to closure and restoration. Institutional structure will be needed to implement appropriate, underlying data architecture and stewardship, information technology to simplify the client-facing application process, automate processes where appropriate and reduce manual handling of approval data and information in the system. The GOA is already working to integrate approvals and develop the respective business process. This is a natural part of the ongoing organizational change necessary for evolving toward better and more efficient ways of doing things over time. A key requirement of the resultant approvals system is that it is agile and flexible to ensure ongoing developments and improvements can be made quickly and efficiently and in response to accelerating change. A prerequisite of system agility is the establishment of integrated data inventory, storage, and management and client interface with appropriate governance stewardship, built to accommodate accelerating changes in technology, business requirements, policy and legislation.

4.2.2 Cumulative Effects Management System Decision Support Tool

Alberta Environment and Parks is currently developing a Decision Support Tool (DST) to build the underlying data architecture described above to make approvals decisions. It is proposed that this tool or a similar process tool be created specifically to support decision-making around footprint. The current tool will serve to report on biodiversity indicators so that decision-makers (Alberta Energy Regulator, Alberta Environment and Parks, and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry) can query real-time current conditions, compare this condition to regional or subregional thresholds, and evaluate the impacts of proposed new development activities. The successful development of this system will serve as a prototype to develop applications for other indicators, such as human footprint.

The successful management of footprint is predicated on understanding the current and future landscape conditions with the ability to assess potential impacts, in order to proactively make decisions. Building a decision support tool for footprint is an important step to coordination across Government of Alberta departments and improving client service delivery. It is expected that the future priorities for this project are to expand to the South Saskatchewan Region, make the tool available to external proponents, and incorporate scenario modelling for future states – including for restoration. This will enable footprint to be factored into all decision-making for land management and resource use in the South Saskatchewan Green Area.

Success will be defined by tangible demonstration of:

- Consideration of cumulative effects management indicators and thresholds from this Plan in the decision-making process used by the Alberta Energy Regulator, Alberta Environment and Parks and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry;
- Multiple decision-makers accessing a single authoritative source of information on habitat condition and footprint, and following consistent methodologies in assessing impacts in relation to thresholds;
- An up-to-date inventory of project applications and approvals that is accessible across decision-makers;
- A business process that can be communicated to proponents or project applicants on how their project impacts indicators and thresholds;
- Transparency of how the management system has been enhanced to enable effective implementation of the Land Footprint Management Plan.

4.2.3 Guiding Principles

The following management principles will guide decision-making for the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills area and can be used to avert disputes regarding resource priorities and second-order allocations:

Accountability: Land managers and regulators must operate with a common objective to minimize footprint. For example, to reduce the extent of motorized access, land managers must understand the attribution of Open and Restricted Motorized Access, how these access types are to be accounted for separately and managed distinctly, and how to communicate conditions and potential constraints to proponents;

Integrated management: This Plan deems recreation, forestry, wildfire, grazing and other operational plans to support coordinated access planning. This requires each of these plans to understand the motorized needs of the respective activity and how it contributes to the overall motorized access levels in the subregion. This Plan allocates motorized access such that industrial activity will have precedence over public motorized recreation. For example, recreation management plans must consider the levels of motorized trails designated for off highway vehicle use. These trails will detract from the overall Open Motorized Access available for other future applicants;

The Precautionary Principle: The GOA recognizes that the lack of certainty regarding a potential threat to the environment should not be used as a reason for not taking action to avert the risk of serious or irreversible harm to the environment. For example, approvals, investments, and operational planning must consider the impacts on future opportunities and the ability of Valued Ecosystem Components to withstand further impacts;

Evidence-based decision making: Decisions on actions and management responses are informed by natural and social science, local knowledge, and Indigenous traditional knowledge.



20 Headwaters Action Plan. 2014. Oldman Watershed Council. p. 26

4.3 Operational Transition

Many components of implementing this Plan will require a one to three year period as of the Plan's effective date where current activities are gradually transitioned to align with the outcomes and objectives and create the necessary business processes. Some components of this Plan can be implemented in practice before the respective operational plans can be amended (e.g. C5 Forest Management Plan). Other transitional components include:

1. Adherence to designated roads and trails, and recreation requirements to be defined in the draft Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan;
2. Alignment with other subregional planning initiatives, in particular the recreation plans mentioned above, the Castle Parks Management Plan²¹, and the Pekisko Heritage Rangeland Management Plan²². The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan is the main proactive management action to implement the regional draft Biodiversity Management Framework²³ and to support related outcomes in the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan.

4.4 Performance Management

Measuring performance is an integral part of planning to enable monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the implementation progress and the effectiveness of this Plan. This valuable information guides decision-making and supports continuous improvement towards achieving plan outcomes. To facilitate performance measurement, a performance management system will be developed that outlines how outcomes are developed and realized through plan implementation, review and reporting. The Land Footprint Management Plan identifies outcomes, objectives, and actions that can be evaluated using performance metrics. These metrics are monitored and analyzed on a regular and ongoing basis to determine the progress of plan implementation. The actions developed through the planning process and their effectiveness in achieving the desired outcomes, will be monitored. Agencies responsible for implementation will report annually on progress on implementing their respective management actions. Alberta Environment and Parks will coordinate the collection of this information which will then be summarized and incorporated into the regional planning status reporting cycle.

This Plan is intended to sustain biodiversity and watershed integrity by directing that three kinds of management actions take place in the region:

1. Management of motorized access (Section 3.1, Objective 1.1);
2. Managing spatial human footprint (Section 3.1, Objective 1.2);
3. Directing ILM practices (Section 3.2).

21 Castle Management Plan – draft Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park (2017)

22 South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (amended 2017; Strategy 3.13 p. 73, 135, 136)

23 South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (amended 2017; p. 56, Strategy 3.1 p. 68, p. 132)

4.4.1 Monitoring

Monitoring performance includes monitoring the specific actions taken, as well as progress towards achieving the outcomes. Measuring whether management actions are completed is done on an annual basis while measuring progress towards outcomes entails longer-term data monitoring as this is progress towards a specified end or desired condition could take years to be realized.

A monitoring strategy will be developed immediately. Development of the strategy will be coordinated by Alberta Environment and Parks in collaboration with all departments and agencies responsible for implementation, subject matter experts (including Indigenous peoples), local stakeholders, and advisory groups. Collaborative monitoring provides an opportunity to share information and expertise while still allowing respective monitoring programs as a component of a plan monitoring strategy. A monitoring strategy will:

- Identify the key questions to be answered by monitoring activities;
- List and define each attribute to be monitored, and explain:
 - The relevance of each attribute to biodiversity and watershed integrity and, where applicable, valued ecosystem components;
 - The linkage between each attribute and one or more management actions listed under Section 3.1, with reference to existing scientific evidence where applicable;
- Explain the data collection, analytical, and quality assurance protocols used to monitor each attribute;
- Specify the location and monitoring schedule of each monitoring site (note that monitoring sites would be located within and outside the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills);
- Describe the statistical approaches that will be used to answer each key question, which may include:
 - Assessing the relationships between biodiversity and ecosystem health attributes versus anthropogenic disturbance, across one or more gradients of anthropogenic disturbance;
 - Comparing differences in biodiversity and ecosystem health attributes before versus after plan implementation (Before After Impact Control);
 - Comparing the levels of biodiversity and ecosystem health attributes in the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills (after plan implementation) compared to one or more reference areas;
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of each organization involved in monitoring;
- Identify milestones and the reporting schedule over the initial monitoring period (five years);

- Provide an estimated budget (expenditures and revenue) over the initial five-year monitoring period;
- Explain how monitoring findings would potentially inform the five-year plan review, and subsequent decisions to amend, renew, or otherwise adjust this Plan.

As part of developing a monitoring strategy, a performance metric framework will be populated to contain the specific details for each metric, including: relevance, data collection frequency or availability, reporting frequency, data sources, and data storage. A standard performance metric framework is under development by Alberta Environment and Parks and will be used for this Plan's monitoring strategy.

4.4.2 Evaluation

Evaluation is the systematic assessment of the design, implementation or results of a plan for the purpose of reporting, learning, making adjustments to priorities or decision-making. In order to assess the effectiveness of plan implementation, performance metric data and information needs to periodically undergo a rigorous analysis and interpretation to determine the extent to which this Plan is achieving the intended outcomes. This will include evaluation against baseline conditions and/or established limits and targets. Also as part of evaluation, the efficiency with which resources were used, and results or outputs achieved, needs to be examined. The relevance of this Plan, in light of current priorities, also needs to be included as part of evaluation.

The tool for tracking performance metric data and information will be the performance metric framework, which will be critical for determining how effective this Plan has been in achieving outcomes. Tracking of inputs and implementation progress through the status of strategies and actions to understand which have been completed, which are in progress, and which have not yet started and why, is also important to assist evaluation of plan efficiency. Assessing the effectiveness of these actions, and specifically the impact of these actions on biodiversity and watershed integrity, is challenging because:

- Biodiversity and watershed integrity are not easily defined or measured;
- The impacts of management actions on biodiversity and watershed integrity are incompletely understood;
- Management actions beyond the three types listed above, that are directed in this Plan, may also impact biodiversity and watershed integrity;
- Additional management actions not considered in this Plan, plus natural disturbances such as wildfire and weather, may also impact biodiversity and watershed integrity.

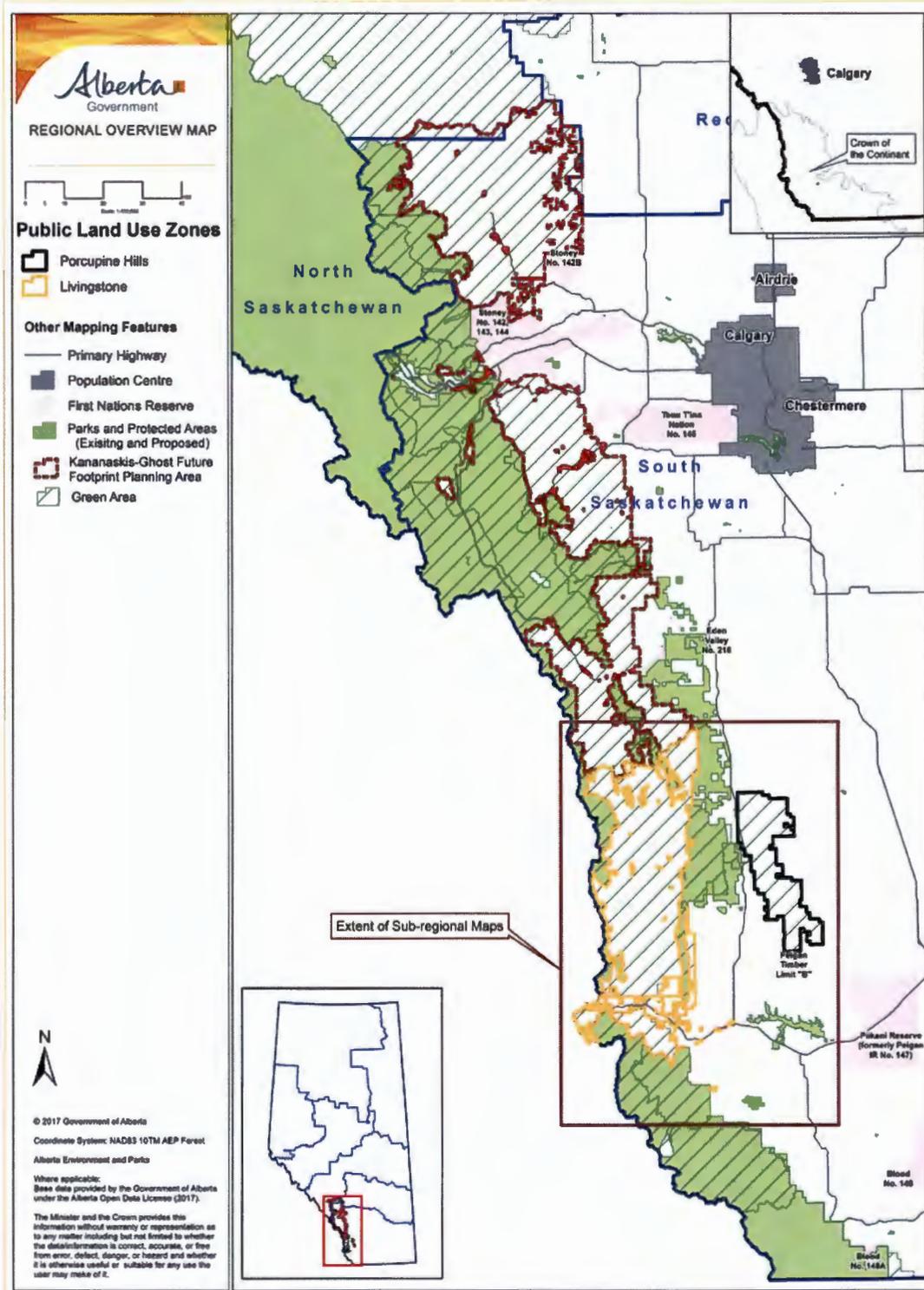
4.4.3 Reporting

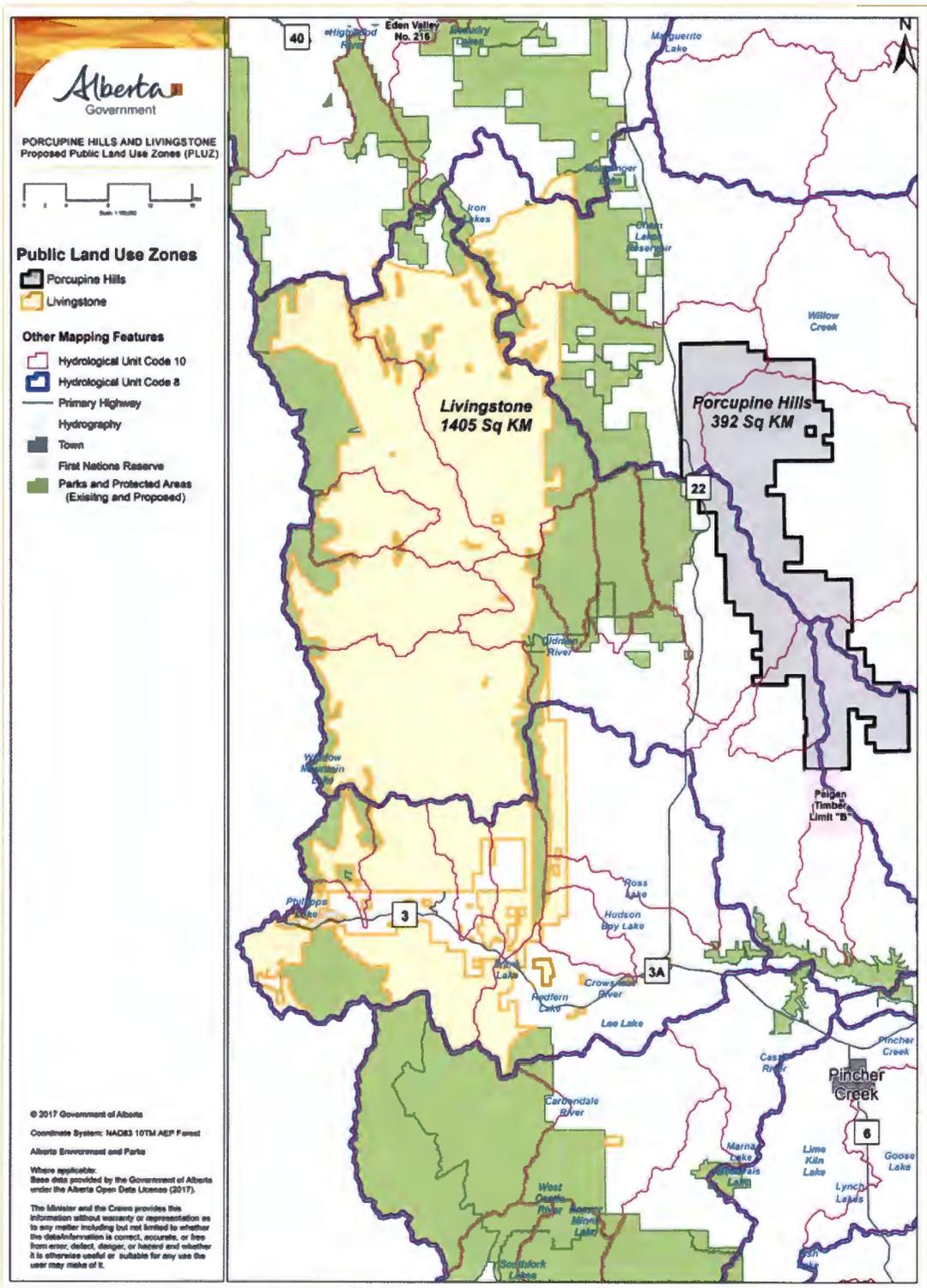
Reporting is an essential component of any planning process. The results of evaluation and changes arising from implementation need to be shared broadly. Government will use various mechanisms to formally communicate on plan progress, including the release of reports that speak directly to this Plan, as well as communications that address more specific aspects of this Plan. Reports will provide evidence that progress is being made towards achieving the outcomes. They will adequately communicate progress on metrics and include technical information.

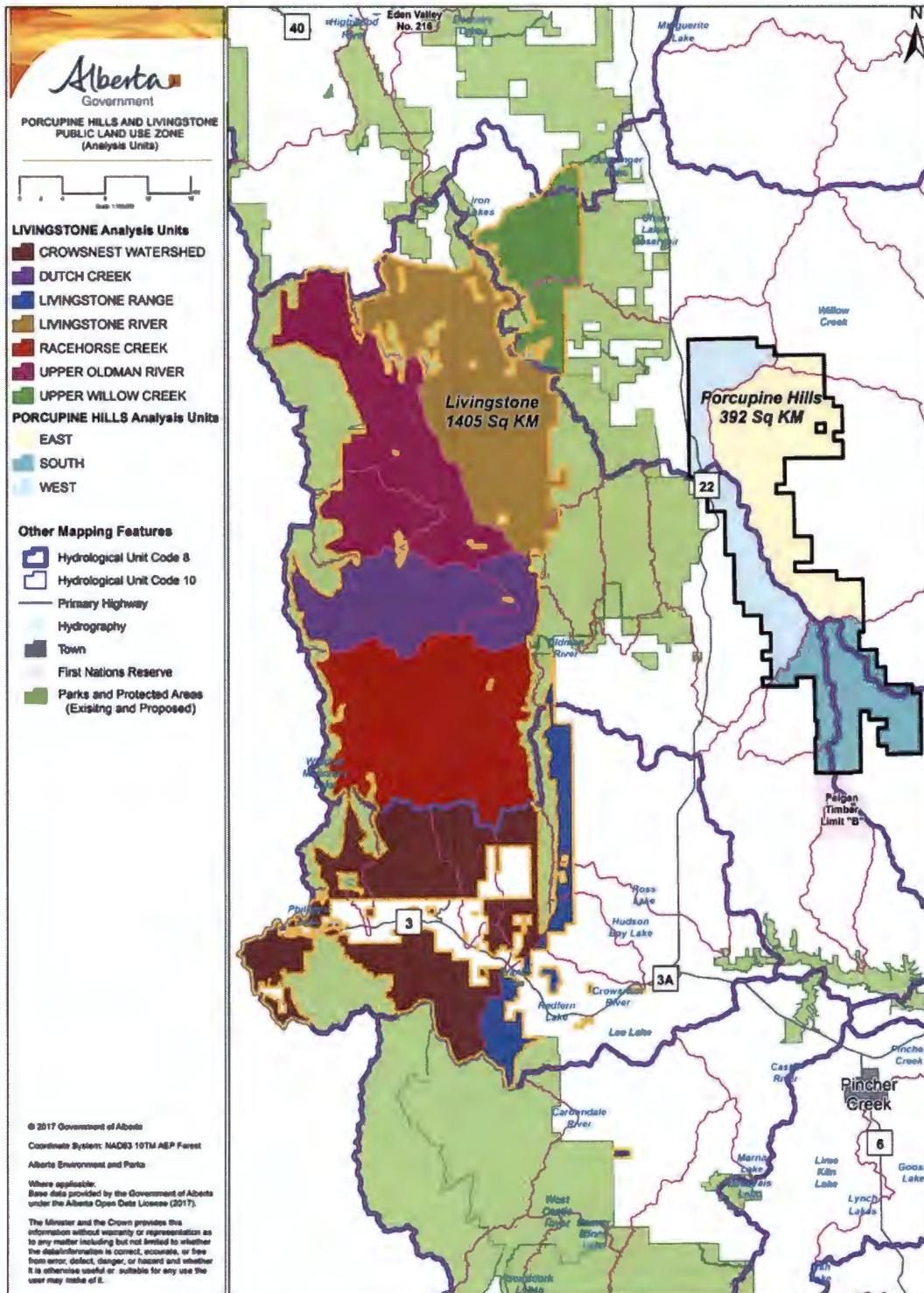
Reporting on implementation progress (strategies and actions) is anticipated to be done annually. Reporting on progress towards achieving strategic outcomes is anticipated to be undertaken after the five-year plan review and following the comprehensive ten-year review. Plans developed under the Land-use Framework are scheduled for review at least once every five years following plan approval, with a report made available to the public. Five year reviews will examine how well this Plan is progressing towards achieving outcomes and include an assessment of the performance metrics. At least once every ten years following plan approval, a comprehensive review is anticipated to be undertaken which will include a thorough evaluation of plan effectiveness, efficiency and relevance. This could result in this Plan being amended, replaced, renewed or repealed. First Nations and public consultation is anticipated to be a part of the formal ten-year review.

Plan reviews can also be triggered by the ongoing review of the performance metrics. If this Plan is meeting the expected objectives, no further action is required until the five and ten year scheduled reviews. Should analysis of the performance metrics show that this Plan is not meeting expected objectives, a review the performance components may be conducted, or a review of the Plan in its entirety, can be initiated. This Plan is intended to be adaptive in order to advance footprint management in the Eastern Slopes.

5.0 MAPS







APPENDICES

Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

Biodiversity – The assortment of life on earth—the variety of genetic material in all living things, the variety of species on earth and the different kinds of living communities and the environments in which they occur (Land-use Framework, 2008).

Catastrophic fire indicator – Large, contiguous areas within a region where the occurrence of intense wildfire that is uncontrollable with conventional suppression methods (greater than 4000kW/m - air suppression is less effective) is more likely to occur. The size threshold used to define large contiguous areas will vary based on desired land-uses within a region and their tolerance for wildfire disturbance.

Commercial recreation - Instructing/guiding/outfitting activities on public land and/or water for which a consumer pays a fee (e.g. commercial trail riding, dog tours, heli-ski tours, fishing, bird hunting, off-highway vehicle tour, etc.). Typically these operations are not supported by capital investment in permanent infrastructure, such as fixed roof structures (Outdoor Recreation Glossary of Terms).

Conservation – The responsible preservation, management and care of our land and of our natural and cultural resources (Land-use Framework, 2008).

Conservation offset – An action taken to counteract impacts from development that remain after efforts have been taken to avoid and minimize those impacts (Alberta Conservation Offset Framework, draft).

Corridor, wildlife corridor – A physical linkage, connecting two areas of habitat and differing from the habitat on either side. Corridors are used by organisms to move around without having to leave the preferred habitat (draft Biodiversity Management Framework, 2017).

Crown of the Continent – The region that includes and surrounds Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) in southwestern Alberta, southeastern BC, and northwestern Montana (draft Castle Management Plan, 2017).

Cumulative effects – The combined effects of past, present and reasonably foreseeable land-use activities, over time, on the environment (South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, amended 2017).

Designated trail – A linear feature which, through regional and subregional planning processes or management plans, is identified for a specific activity or activities. Trails are mapped, signed, and maintained.

Disturbance – In respect of public land, means human activity that moves or removes one or more of the following features of the public land or that alters or results in the alteration of the state of one or more of those features from the state in which it existed before the human activity occurred, and includes any change in the intensity, frequency or nature of the human activity (Public Land Administration Regulation, 2011):

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| (i) vegetation; | (vi) wetland; |
| (ii) soil; | (vii) water body or watercourse; |
| (iii) subsoil; | (viii) air flow or wind currents; |
| (iv) bedrock; | (ix) ambient sound volumes; |
| (v) landform; | (x) light or shade. |

Ecosystem function – Processes that are necessary for the self-maintenance of an ecosystem such as primary production, nutrient cycling, decomposition, etc. The term is used primarily as a distinction from values (South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, amended 2017).

Ecosystem services – Outputs (goods and services) derived from ecosystems that benefit people. These include provisioning services, regulating services, supporting services, and cultural services. Ecosystems, and the biodiversity contained within them, provide a stream of goods and services essential for society's well-being. It is synonymous with 'Ecosystem Goods and Services' (draft Biodiversity Management Framework, 2017).

Ecosystems – The interaction between organisms, including humans, and their environment. Ecosystem health/integrity refers to the adequate structure and functioning of an ecosystem, as described by scientific information and societal priorities (South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, amended 2017).

Footprint –The Land Footprint Management Plan adopts the meaning of footprint as it is set out in Section 1(1)(m) of the Public Lands Administration Regulation, 2011. Footprint means the impact or extent of a disturbance and includes the intensity, frequency and nature of any uses or activities related to the disturbance.

Foreclosure – The reduction in availability of development of future options if the capacity of a valued ecosystem component to absorb change or further impacts has been taken up by approved and to-be-approved activities (Sinclair et al. 2016).

Headwaters – The source and upper tributaries of a stream or river (South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, amended 2017).

Indicators – These are identified as part of the performance management system and are a measure of state or condition.

Indigenous Peoples – For the purposes of the present document, “Indigenous Peoples” means “aboriginal peoples of Canada” within the meaning of Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982. For the reasons stated in the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, the focus on conversation with the region’s Indigenous Peoples has been with First Nations. All First Nations in the planning area adhered to a Treaty, under which they hold treaty rights within the meaning of Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

Limit, disturbance limit – A management threshold that establishes a maximum amount of land disturbance that may occur in a given area in order to prevent undesirable change in the condition of a given landscape. It can be described specific to types of disturbance, for example linear or non-linear footprint, and is based on an assessment of environmental, social and economic priorities in a given area. It may be used in areas where it is necessary to take active steps in footprint management to address one or more key drivers for the area in either a proactive or responsive manner.

Linkage areas – Broader regions of connectivity important to maintain ecological processes and facilitate the movement of multiple species.

Open motorized access – General public access including permitted access for motorized recreation on designated trails, as well as established public/municipal roads and any industrial access that does not meet the criteria for Restricted Motorized Access.

Public land – Land owned by the Government of Alberta, which makes decisions about how it is used and managed, including for agriculture, forestry, resource development, habitat conservation and protection of watersheds and biodiversity (South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, amended 2017).

Public land use zones - Are areas of public land to which legislative controls apply under authority of the Public Lands Act, to assist in the management of industrial, commercial and recreational land uses and resources.

Reclamation – The process of reconvertng disturbed land to its former or other productive uses (Glossary of Reclamation and Remediation Terms Used in Alberta 7th Edition, 2002).

Restoration – The process of restoring site conditions as they were before the land disturbance (Glossary of Reclamation and Remediation Terms Used in Alberta 7th Edition, 2002).

Restricted motorized access – Industrial or commercial access under disposition (primarily forestry, energy and mining, and grazing allotment holders) to access allocated resources, and is restricted on a case-by-case basis for public use.

Spatial – Relating to, or occupying, space (draft Biodiversity Management Framework, 2017).

Target, disturbance target – A management threshold that establishes a quantitative goal for land disturbance in a given area to improve the performance of an environmental indicator(s) in the biodiversity management framework or other guiding plans. It can be described specific to types of disturbance, for example linear or non-linear footprint, and is based on an assessment of environmental, social and economic priorities in a given area. It may be used in a variety of geographic areas where it is desirable to work towards and promote deliberate footprint management practices in proactive manner.

Temporal – Relating to time (draft Biodiversity Management Framework, 2017).

Threshold – Has the meaning given to it in a regional plan and may include a limit, target, trigger, range, measure, index or unit of measurement (*Alberta Land Stewardship Act, 2009*).

Tourism – Activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited (United Nations World Tourism Organization).

Valued ecosystem components – The environmental element of an ecosystem that is identified as having scientific, social, cultural, economic, historical, archaeological or aesthetic importance. The value of an ecosystem component may be determined on the basis of cultural ideals or scientific concern.

Watershed – All lands enclosed by a continuous hydrologic-surface drainage divide and lying upslope from a specified point on a stream (South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, amended 2017).

Appendix B: Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Subregional Integrated Resource Plan Review Summary

Currently for the area, the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan (1987) sets the land-use direction through provisions that provide management direction for various activities. The 1987 Integrated Resource Plan will remain in effect until all provisions have been reviewed for their relevance and incorporated as appropriate under the implementation strategies of subregional planning or issue-specific plans in the region.

Under the Land-Use Framework, the Government of Alberta has affirmed an enhanced Integrated Resource Management System for managing the province's land and natural resources. Footprint management planning is a key component to the system and builds on the objectives of regional planning while representing Alberta's resource management policy for public lands and resources within defined planning areas. All land use decisions are aligned within the planning system.

The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan included 484 provisions with 83 per cent of them considered either aligned with current plans, directives, and other land management tools. The remaining 17 per cent have been redirected for consideration on a localized scale during the development of various plans such as the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan, recreation management plans, and/or tourism destination plans under the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, or Wildlife Land Use Guidelines, Forest Management Plans, Operating Ground Rules, Range Management Plans, and Wildlife Management Plans.

Forty provisions were identified to be addressed by the implementation of the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan or to be redirected to sectorial plans for consideration on a localized scale, for example, through Recreation Management Plans, Operating Ground Rules, Range Management Plans, etc. The relevant provisions are incorporated through policy into this Plan's implementation.



Draft Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan

Any comments, questions, or suggestions regarding the content of this document may be directed to:

Alberta Environment and Parks
Planning Branch
8660 Bearspaw Dam Road
Calgary, Alberta
T3L 1S4

Tel: 780-427-2711
Toll Free (in Alberta): 310-0000

Email: AEP.Planning@gov.ab.ca
Media Inquires: AEP.Mediainquiries@gov.ab.ca
Website: <http://aep.alberta.ca/>

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan addresses the priorities for outdoor recreation expressed in the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, which is within the traditional territory of Treaty 7. The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan prioritized planning for the Livingstone–Porcupine Hills areas as a region of high recreational use. It contains the headwaters of the Oldman River, supports biodiversity values, requires the management of wildlife risk and provides traditional First Nations land uses.

The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills area supports forestry, agriculture, mining and energy industries, in addition to outdoor recreation and tourism. Enhanced recreation management is required to thoughtfully manage the impacts of recreation on other land uses and ecological values. The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan promotes sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that support Albertans' quality of life, diversify local economies and reduce conflicts across the landscape.

The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan provides direction for recreational opportunities and management so that Albertans and visitors are able to enjoy these public lands responsibly. The plan also commits to monitoring and reporting on plan implementation and adapting as needed to address changing pressures and trends.

The plan also recognizes that partnerships and collaboration with stakeholders are essential to developing and delivering a recreation experience and management system that is ecologically sustainable and meets the varying needs of users.

The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan commits to:

- Establishing a designated motorized trail system that meets the open motorized access limits prescribed by the draft Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan to protect watershed, biodiversity and other values.
- Developing best practices and guidelines for siting recreation infrastructure, including trails, camping and day use areas that:
 - Protect water bodies and riparian areas from sedimentation and damage;
 - Buffer critical wildlife habitat and ecologically sensitive areas;
 - Meet the needs of recreation users and promote positive experiences; and,
 - Identify timing restrictions, temporary closures and other measures to manage impacts to the environment and recreation infrastructure.

- Improving recreation infrastructure, including installation of appropriate water crossings, upgrading trails and other recreation areas and providing enhanced camping opportunities, as resources permit.
- Formalizing existing and desired trails and supporting infrastructure for non-motorized recreation activities.
- Enhancing public use of recreation infrastructure through management strategies and actions.
- Enabling nature-based tourism opportunities where desired and appropriate.



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Context

The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (2017) identifies the long-term **vision¹** for the region and the management intent for public land within the **Green Area** (Figure 1). As part of management intent for the Green Area, the Government of Alberta aims to provide a diversity of **outdoor recreation** opportunities while recognizing that recreation occurs within a multiple use landscape with complex environmental, economic and social values.

The Government of Alberta is changing its approach to recreation management on **public land**. Recreation management plans enable the government to work with partners and recreation users to improve sustainability of the recreation infrastructure system and provide the experience Albertans and visitors are seeking. The plan recognizes that access to natural spaces improves residents' and visitors' sense of place and connection to nature, which enhances quality of life

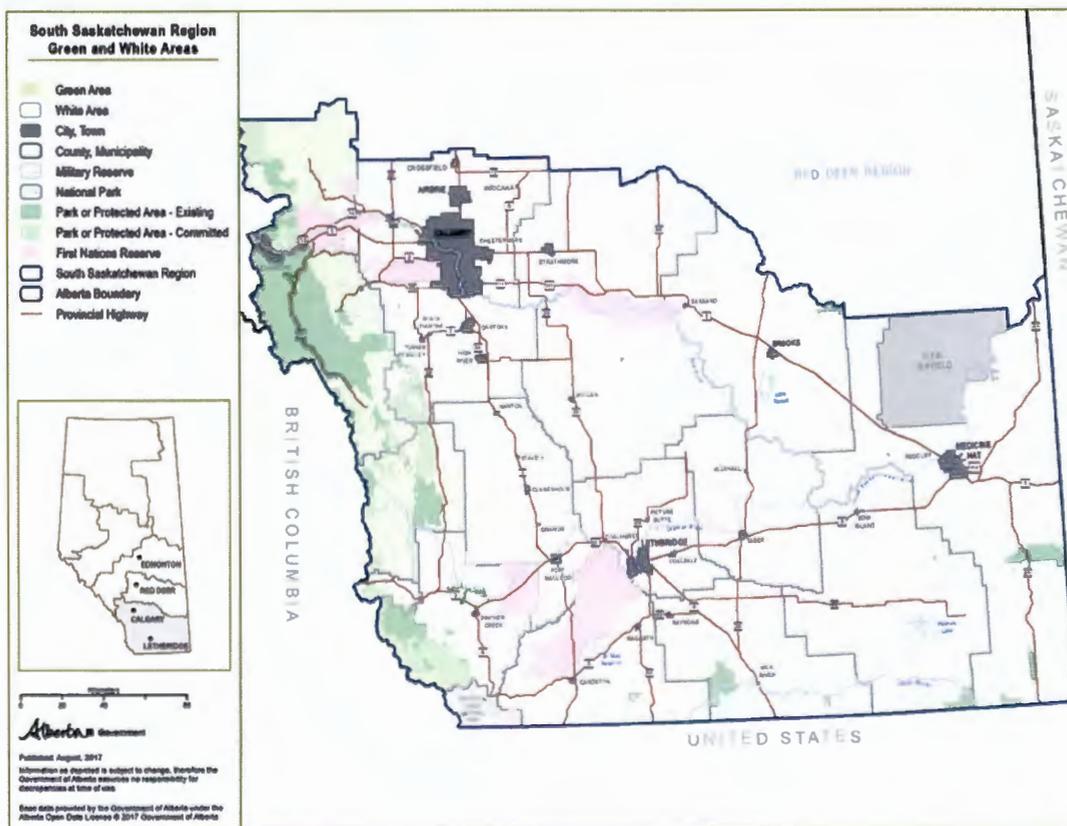


Figure 1: Green Area of the South Saskatchewan Region

¹ Note to Readers: The bolded words have definitions provided in the Acronym and Glossary Appendix. The bolded words are bolded once upon first use of the word.

and promotes stewardship of Alberta's public land. The physical, spiritual and mental benefits of outdoor recreation are widely recognized as essential for health². Public lands provide an opportunity for Albertans and **visitors** to benefit from all that outdoor recreation offers. With a management plan in place, managing recreation on public lands will be undertaken in a way which assures Albertans that public lands can be enjoyed for recreation and that opportunities will be provided for future nature-based tourism and economic diversification in southwest Alberta.

1.2 Strategic Nature of the Plan

The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan outlines the strategic direction of the Government of Alberta for managing recreation within the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills **Public Land Use Zones** (Figure 2). This will assist government staff and stakeholders in operationalizing the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan. This includes:

- Direction on the sustainable development and management of a recreation system.
- Allowable recreational uses of the public lands within the planning areas by the public.
- Identification of recreation and tourism opportunities in the planning areas.
- Location of **trails** available for motorized and non-motorized recreation use.
- Future use of the public lands and the recreation infrastructure within the planning areas by commercial tourism operators and/or developers.
- Strategies and actions to enhance management of public use of the planning area's recreation infrastructure.
- Actions that need to be undertaken to support recreation activities.

This plan is sufficiently flexible so that future proposals within the prescribed allowable uses may be considered. Implementation is subject to available resources and project prioritization both within the planning area and throughout the region.

1.3 Vision

Albertans and visitors to the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills Public Lands Use Zones are able to experience a broad variety of outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism opportunities. The vision for recreation management in the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills areas is:

² A Framework for Recreation in Canada - 2015 - Pathways to Wellbeing.

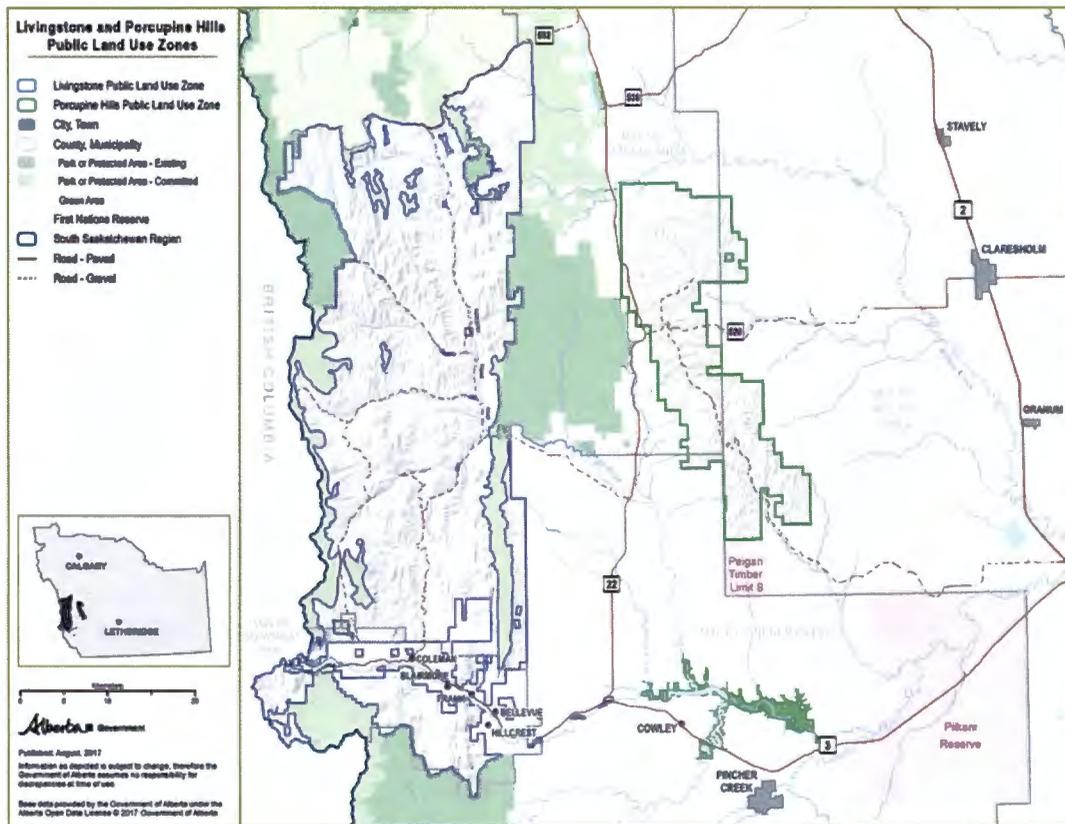


Figure 2: Porcupine Hills and Livingstone Public Land Use Zones

“The scenic and well-managed landscapes of the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills regions, and their abundant wildlife, thriving populations of native fish, inspiring vistas, and unique Indigenous and rural ways of life, will provide Albertans and our visitors with a diversity of recreational opportunities which connect us to the natural environment. Recreational users will find adventure, challenge, solitude, escape, and wonder that reflects the living diversity of Alberta’s southern foothills and mountains and the stewardship ethic that sustains the landscape.”

The vision is supported by outcomes and objectives (Section 2.2, Table 3) and specific management actions and strategies (Section 4-5, Tables 4-12).

1.4 Planning Area

The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills planning area includes portions of four municipalities: The Municipal Districts of Ranchland No. 66, Willow Creek No. 26, Pincher Creek No. 9 and the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass. The Towns of Nanton, Stavely, Claresholm, Granum, and Fort Macleod are east of the planning areas, while the Village of Cowley and the Town of Pincher Creek are located to the south. Peigan Timber Limit “B” Reserve Lands and Piikani Reserve No. 147, including the Piikani community Brocket, are south and east of the planning area. The Blood Reserve No. 148 is to the southeast and the Eden Valley Reserve No. 216 is located to the north. Finally, the City of Lethbridge is the largest populated centre in the vicinity of the Porcupine Hills, approximately 100 kilometres east-southeast of the planning area.

The Livingstone area is comprised of the headwaters of the Oldman River, Dutch Creek, and Racehorse Creek, to the Livingstone Range, with the strip of Green Area along the North Burmis Road and south of the Crowsnest Pass to the Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildlands Provincial Park. The area is located between the British Columbia (BC) border in the west to Highway 22 in the east and from the Castle Parks border in the south to Highway 532 in the north. It encompasses approximately 1398 km² of public land in the Green Area. (Figure 2). The Porcupine Hills are found east of the Livingstone Range, between Highway 22 (also called the Cowboy Trail) and Highway 2, south toward Peigan Timber Limit “B”, and north toward Highway 533. The Porcupine Hills comprise approximately 392 km² of public land in the Green Area of Alberta.

The Livingstone and Porcupine Hills areas form important components of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem which covers approximately 72,000 km² of land along the shared Rocky Mountain borders of Alberta, British Columbia and Montana. It is an area recognized internationally for its rich biodiversity and diverse landscapes that range from prairies to mountain peaks. The Livingstone area includes the headwater basins of the Oldman and Livingstone rivers. The Livingstone and Porcupine Hills have a diverse array of flora and fauna including the well-known landmark and local icon – the Burmis Tree (a limber pine). There are several legislated species at risk in the area, including westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, grizzly bear, limber and whitebark pine. Native rough fescue grasslands grow throughout the planning area.

The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills area has been an important landscape for **Indigenous Peoples**. A strong First Nations cultural connection to the area continues today as treaty rights are exercised and various traditional uses of the area continue, including spiritual and ceremonial activities, and food and medicinal plant collection. The Livingstone and Porcupine Hills areas also have a long history of logging, mining and providing rangeland for local ranchers to graze cattle. The area has also supported the oil and gas sector.



Limber Pine

This area is increasingly becoming a destination for tourism and recreation. With its close proximity to large urban centres, the area provides an easy escape for southern Albertans. The hills, creeks, forests, and grasslands draw recreationists of all kinds. Locations for overnight stays can be found in nearby communities and a range of camping styles are accommodated in the region, including provincial parks and natural areas found within the Public Land Use Zones. There are numerous summer and winter recreational opportunities including hiking, wildlife viewing, mountain biking, horseback riding, scrambling, caving, cross country skiing, canoeing, rafting, snowmobiling, and summer **off-highway vehicle** (OHV) use. Hunting is popular in the area and the Livingstone, Oldman and Crowsnest Rivers are known as world-class locations for fly fishing. Trails extend throughout the Livingstone area and provide connections to other areas in the region, as well as into British Columbia. **Tourists** are drawn to the area by the iconic Cowboy Trail (Highway 22), often to take part in authentic ranch vacations, or to learn about local history at the nearby Head-Smashed-in Buffalo Jump World Heritage Site, Leitch Collieries Provincial Historic Site, the Bellevue Mine Provincial Historic Site, the Village of Lille Provincial Historic Resource, and the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre.



Frank Slide

1.5 Indigenous Values

Indigenous Peoples have been present in southwestern Alberta since time immemorial. The Livingstone and Porcupine Hills areas were, and continue to be, culturally important landscapes to a number of First Nations communities today. Strong connections were formed with these landscapes as nomadic Indigenous Peoples engaged in seasonal activities that brought them in recurring contact with hunting, gathering, harvesting, ceremonial and cultural sites in the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills areas. As a result, numerous traditional use and sacred sites exist in these two areas. The area has sustained First Nations communities, particularly for hunting and fishing, food gathering, encampments, ceremonial use, burial sites, securing tipi poles and other raw materials (including medicinal and ceremonial plants, ochre, tools, and firewood), for engaging in various cultural practices and renewing connections with other Indigenous communities.

Through frequent and close contact with these landscapes, an intimate knowledge of the land, its waterways, plants and animals, natural resources and seasonal cycles was accumulated over time from their ancestors – often referred to as **traditional knowledge**. There is an extensive history of recurring use of the two areas within the archaeological record and the oral tradition of involved First Nations. This, however, changed with the signing of Treaties and the creation

of Indian Reserves which contemplated a transition to agriculture. Confined to reserves, First Nations were unable to engage in the long-standing seasonal round³ that involved the use of these important landscapes. Government policy changes would eventually remove travel restrictions and allow First Nations to re-engage with their traditional sacred sites and culturally significant areas and to pursue hunting, gathering and other activities within their traditional territory. First Nations continue to have strong cultural, spiritual and physical connections with these landscapes today and use the two areas on a regular basis.

The Livingstone and Porcupine Hills areas are culturally significant and provide enduring benefits to Indigenous Peoples in Alberta. A number of significant sacred, ceremonial and cultural sites are located in the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills area. Some of these sites are well known, others are less known, and some have been forgotten (lost) over time. The visible remains and relics of past Indigenous activity are scattered throughout the landscape and give testimony to First Nations occupation and use. Geologic landmarks can be particularly significant to First Nations because of their spiritual or ceremonial value (i.e., they are central to traditional knowledge and belief systems). Landmarks in this area often have known traditional names (Table 1).

Table 1: Examples of Landmark Names

English Name	Name in Blackfoot	Name in Stoney
Crownsnest Mountain	Thunder Pipe Mountain	Raven's Lodge (Gar-a-ga-ma-be)
Livingstone Range	The Tipi Liner (Punnii-ik'k'tattsis)	White Goat Mountains (Key Ska Tha-ga Hie)
Livingstone Gap	Napi's Gambling Area (Napii Ootsit-taik'tsspii)	
Racehorse Creek		A-gda-kya-be Wabda
Window Mountain	Hoop Mountain	
Porcupine Hills	Porcupine Tail (Kais-kkoo'p'soyis)	Tall Pine (Cha-bda-e-pa)
Oldman River	Old Man River (Napiiotsiit'taam)	

³ A pattern of movement from one resource-gathering area to another in a cycle that was followed each year.

2.0 RECREATION MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

2.1 Legislative and Planning Context

Plan Authority

The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan came into effect <insert date here>. Under the Land-use Framework, the Government of Alberta has affirmed an enhanced Integrated Resource Management System that sets out a new approach for managing the province's land and natural resources. Regional priorities, outcomes and direction are established through regional plans. The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) came into effect September 1, 2014 (amended February 2017) and the Government of Alberta committed to numerous strategies within southern Alberta, including issue-specific planning, such as recreation management planning. This Recreation Management Plan becomes effective in accordance with Section 13(5) of the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* as an issue-specific sub-regional plan under the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan.

The *Public Lands Act* and the Public Lands Administration Regulation provide for the management and use of **vacant public land** and public land under **disposition** in Alberta. The Recreation Management Plan is further supported by a wide array of provincial legislation, regulations, provincial policy, directives, and codes of practice which are implemented through a full range of both regulatory and non-regulatory tools. One key tool is the draft Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan, which provides direction for the draft Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan by setting **limits** and thresholds for motorized access density including roads and trails.

The second key tool required to provide for activities in appropriate places and enable compliance efforts is a Public Land Use Zone. These are regulatory instruments that are established on Alberta public lands, under Public Land Administration Regulations, to provide those activities and any accompanying enforcement authority. Public Land Use Zones for the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills areas were established effective Month day, year.

The pre-existing Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan (1987) has been providing land use and resource management direction for the planning area. There are 42 provisions that are addressed by the draft Recreation Management Plan. The Integrated Resource Plan will remain in effect until all provisions have been reviewed for their relevance and incorporated as appropriate under the implementation strategies of sub-regional planning or issue-specific plans in the region.

Plan Hierarchy

The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (2017) establishes the long-term vision for the region. It aligns provincial policies to achieve Alberta's environmental, economic and social outcomes. Recreation management plans are issue-specific and also receive the guidance and commitments from the draft Land Footprint Management Plan, which in turn receives guidance from regional environmental management frameworks (Figure 3).

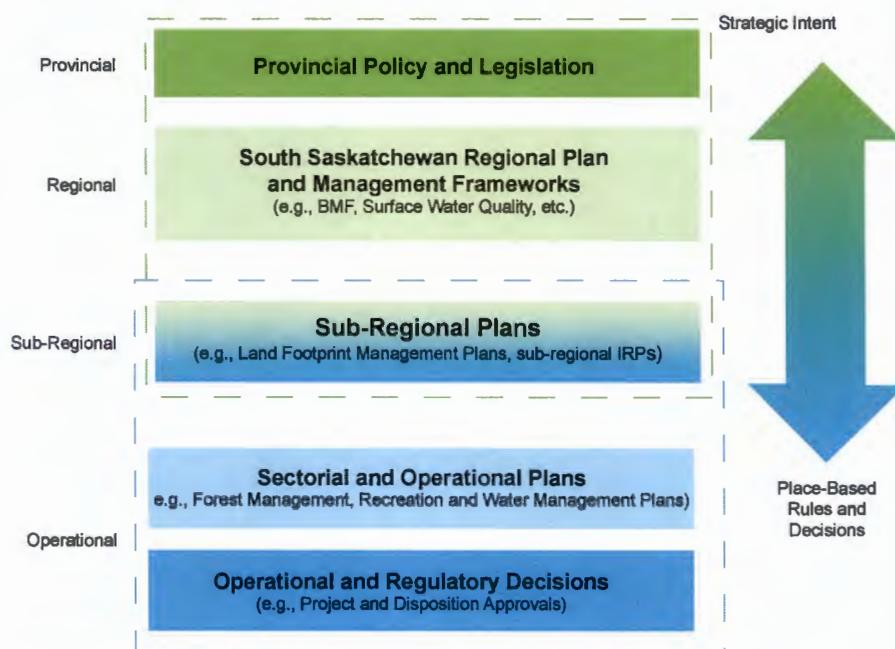


Figure 3: Provincial Planning System Hierarchy

The draft Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan's management actions also align with current provincial species at risk recovery plans and federal species at risk legislation.

South Saskatchewan Regional Plan Outcomes and Objectives

The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (2017) also sets the broad outcomes and objectives for the region. The draft Recreation Management Plan will directly support the following South Saskatchewan Regional Plan outcomes:

- Outcome 3: "Biodiversity and ecosystem function are sustained with shared stewardship." (SSRP, Pg. 56)
- Outcome 4: "Watersheds are managed to support healthy ecosystems and human needs through shared stewardship." (SSRP, Pg. 77)

- Outcome 6: “The quality of life of residents is enhanced through increased opportunities for outdoor recreation and the preservation and promotion of the regions unique cultural and natural heritage.” (SSRP, Pg. 91)

In addition, the draft Recreation Management Plan will contribute to:

- Outcome 1: “The region is positioned as a world-class, year-round, tourism destination.” (SSRP, Pg. 50)

The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan identifies biodiversity and healthy, functioning ecosystems as key priorities for sub-regional planning. Specifically, these are:

- Headwaters protection
- Conservation of biodiversity and sensitive habitat, including connectivity
- Mitigation of wildfire risk, including public safety and ecosystem health
- Integrated and coordinated use of public land

The outcomes, objectives and priorities of the draft Recreation Management Plan for Livingstone-Porcupine Hills align with the outcomes and objectives of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan and apply them to the unique local values and landscapes of these areas.

Alignment with the Land Footprint Management Plan

In the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills, recreation use is one of the main contributors to human footprint. The draft Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan provides direction to this plan in managing two components of footprint: i) motorized access, and ii) spatial human footprint (Figure 3). Most notably, the direction received from the draft Land Footprint Management Plan relates to disturbance limits on motorized access, particularly on **Open Motorized Access** which means roads or trails, of any width or type, permitted for ongoing public use. There is also a disturbance limit on **Near-stream Motorized Access** which applies to all motorized access – including motorized trails – that occur on erodible soils within 100 metres of a watercourse.

The mandatory integrated land management practices that are outlined in the draft Land Footprint Management Plan include:

- Develop recreation management plan(s) with outcomes and objectives that align with the Eastern Slopes priorities in the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan and with the draft Footprint Plan. Recreation management planning will demonstrate the application of integrated land management, including the siting criteria identified in Section 2.3 of the draft Land Footprint Management Plan and also compatibility factors that consider the needs of other land users and adjacent land owners to public lands; coordinated access planning (and subsequent approval) of recreation and tourism activity will meet thresholds established in the draft Land Footprint Management Plan:
 - Access corridors for motorized recreation are coordinated with other sectors and adhere to motorized access limits and are considered Open Motorized Access

- Motorized camping nodes, staging areas, recreation infrastructure are assessed for their contribution to Spatial Human Footprint and managed to meet open motorized access targets of 0.4km/km² within Zone 2 and 0.6km/km² within Zone 3. Coordinated access planning and development of non-motorized recreation must also adhere to mandatory integrated land management, particularly siting criteria to minimize the effects of footprint on sensitive areas
- Alberta Environment and Parks may close or restrict motorized and non-motorized access to protect ecological values, to ensure public safety, or for management purposes (e.g. during periods of heavy rainfall, thin snowpack for snowmobiles, or for wildfire risk or species management requirements.)
- Minimize the impact of recreational motorized access to wildlife through key mountain passes in partnership with Parks and authorities in British Columbia

Access coordination mechanisms:

Footprint management planning in the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills area requires a proactive and coordinated approach by the Government of Alberta. Access coordination is led by department land managers and disposition regulators and enables all sectors to manage motorized access to sustainable, long-term levels that are below the disturbance limits. The draft Land Footprint Management Plan provides the following guidance to access coordination efforts, including access provided in the draft Recreation Management Plan:

- The draft Land Footprint Management Plan requires that footprint be assessed as a condition of approval;
- Land managers and regulators must operate with a common objective to minimize footprint;
- Operational plans must understand the motorized needs of the respective activity and how it contributes to the overall motorized access levels in the subregion. The draft Land Footprint Management Plan allocates motorized access such that new industrial activity will have precedence over public motorized recreation; and
- The Government of Alberta recognizes that the lack of certainty regarding a potential threat to the environment should not be used as a reason for not taking action to avert the risk of serious or irreversible harm to the environment.

Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park

In 2017, the Government established two parks in the Castle area, the Castle Provincial Park and the Castle Wilderness Provincial Park. These two parks are managed through the Castle Management Plan – Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park (draft 2017). The Castle parks are to be managed as world-class protected places that allow Albertans and visitors to experience this unique ecological area. As part of Alberta's park system, recreation and tourism opportunities will include infrastructure for non-motorized trails, campgrounds and day use facilities. The Castle Provincial Park will provide Albertans and visitors the primary

location for front-country nature-based experiences and also provide access to park services including educational and interpretive programs, information and visitor support. The Castle Wildlands Provincial Park will focus on low-impact backcountry and wilderness experiences including trails and backcountry huts.

On its southern border, the Livingstone Public Land Use Zone is directly adjacent to the Castle Provincial Park and the Castle Wildlands Provincial Park. The draft Recreation Management Plan will complement the direction set in the Castle Parks plan for outdoor recreation. The direction and management intent of the Castle Parks plan will be taken into consideration to ensure all Albertans and visitors to the region have a broad array of activities and recreation styles to choose from. Integrated planning will occur to ensure trail systems are designed with the management intent of all areas in mind, and to take advantage of the tremendous opportunity to develop and maintain interconnected trail networks that showcase the beauty and uniqueness of the region.

Recreation and Other Land Uses

A recreation system will be developed in the two Public Land Use Zones in future years. A designated system reduces risk for all land uses and users by ensuring everyone is aware of what activities are occurring and where, along with the ability to manage incompatible uses.

The development and designation of recreation infrastructure will be done with consideration of compatibility between desired activities and existing land uses, including industrial, forestry and agricultural uses. These designations are done with the understanding that public lands are working landscapes that provide a number of essential economic benefits to Albertans. Designations for recreation infrastructure will not occur where the impacts of recreation on the commercial/industrial use will cause unnecessary risk to public or disposition holders, nor will designations contravene any existing land use commitment. Within the working land context however, there is a need to invest in recreation infrastructure and protect it from unnecessary damage or loss.

Potential impacts to the continued exercise of treaty rights, and to plant and animal communities supporting continued **traditional land use**, and protection of culturally important areas, should be considered when designating and/or developing recreation and tourism related infrastructure. Designation of new trails and development of recreation infrastructure will require assessment by Alberta Culture and Tourism to determine if historical resources are present and if the recreational activity may have impact to those resources.

2.2 Strategic Outcomes and Objectives

The strategic outcomes and key objectives are outlined in Table 2. These strategic outcomes and objectives are supported by a comprehensive list of strategies and actions found in Section 4 of this plan. Timeframes for completion of strategies and actions supporting the outcomes and objectives are specified in the tables in Section 4.

Table 2: Outcomes and Objectives

Outcome	Key Objective
Watershed integrity, biodiversity values and reduction of wildfire risk will be enhanced through improved management of the recreation system, in collaboration with users.	Through management of recreation activities and designated trails, environmental values will be maintained and improved, including habitat for species at risk.
	As trails, staging, day use and camping areas are planned and designated, environmental assessment will be guided by motorized access limits, existing policies and other current plans.
Outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities will provide a diverse array of activities for Albertans and visitors.	The designated trail system reflects a variety of experiences for summer and winter activities that are developed, managed and maintained using recognized best management practices and guidelines to sustain long-term use on sites and infrastructure suitable for the activity.
	Staging areas , complete with appropriate infrastructure and amenities, are available at locations that support parking and access to the trail network and permitted uses of the area.
	A diverse array of non-motorized activities, including non-trail based opportunities such as hunting, backcountry camping and hiking, mountaineering, and horseback riding are enabled.
	A variety of camping experiences are available.
	Day use opportunities are available at attractive and appropriate locations.
	Connectivity of the recreation system is developed with surrounding land and adjacent recreation infrastructure, where possible and appropriate, to foster linkages to other parts of the region, in particular the Castle area, British Columbia, municipalities and regional trail systems.
Albertans have increased awareness, knowledge and respect for the current, historical and cultural use of the areas.	Public awareness of the designation of the Porcupine Hills and Livingstone areas as Public Land Use Zones and of the associated rules and regulations is increased.
	Public understanding of the recreational opportunities available, responsible use of the natural environment and stewardship practices is enhanced.
	Education and awareness of First Nations and local history, culture and values within the Public Land Use Zones are advanced.
Recreationists are responsible stewards of the land and resources.	Partnerships with recreational groups are encouraged and recreation users have the opportunity to participate in stewardship activities such as clean-up days, restoration, trail maintenance and monitoring.
Recreationists demonstrate increased compliance with the rules and regulations when recreating.	Those involved in compliance activities (e.g. enforcement officials, education staff, partner groups) are engaged to provide ongoing and continued enforcement, education, awareness and outreach to support acceptable behaviour on public lands.
Provincial, municipal governments and emergency service agencies work together to improve public safety.	Public safety messaging, including education about the risks inherent in outdoor recreation activities on public lands, is delivered by Alberta Environment and Parks and other partners.
Local and regional communities with an interest in increasing and diversifying their tourism industries are supported by opportunities that enhance appreciation and enjoyment of the area.	Tourism products and offerings that complement opportunities elsewhere in the region will be developed with local communities, First Nations, recreation user groups and tourism operators.

2.3 Management Principles

Management Principles were created based on input from stakeholders and First Nations, cross-jurisdictional best practices, and staff expertise. They are to be considered and upheld in all aspects of planning, implementation and evaluation of outdoor recreation management within the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills Public Land Use Zones.

1. Outdoor recreation activities and the development of associated nature-based tourism opportunities is a significant land use in Porcupine Hills and Livingstone.
2. Sustainable best management practices that support biodiversity, ecological health and watershed integrity underlies the development of all outdoor recreation infrastructure, including trails, staging areas, day use areas and tourism developments.
3. Decisions on recreational land use are evidence-based on science, monitoring and Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge
4. Indigenous ecological knowledge and ways of knowing, as well as traditional land use, historical resources data possessed by Alberta Culture and Tourism, will be considered alongside scientific perspectives in management decisions.
5. The “5 Es of management”⁴, engineering, education, enforcement, evaluation, and experience, are employed in the implementation of this plan. (Figure 4)
6. Recreation management is appropriately integrated with other land uses by land managers and impacts from and between recreation and other land uses will be managed. The Porcupine Hills and Livingstone areas exist within a broader landscape of public lands, First Nations lands, private lands, parks, and municipal lands. Respecting and cultivating the relationships across all lands and communities is necessary to strengthen their health and vitality.

5 “Es” of Recreation Management

Engineering – Designing and constructing the facilities to address environmental, economic or social interests and values.

Education – Informing participants about what is expected, important and interesting.

Enforcement – Ensuring compliance with rules and regulations.

Evaluation – Making sure actions are accomplishing goals and addressing issues.

Experience – Ensuring that the needs of the users are met in a way that creates a positive experience.

Figure 4. 5 “Es” of Recreation Management

⁴ Adapted from the NOHVCC Management Guidelines for OHV Recreation, 2006.

7. Public recreation trails, day use and staging infrastructure are considered public resources and are not designated for long-term exclusive use.
8. Public safety within the designated trail and camping system is a shared responsibility.
9. Activities and partnerships that enhance stewardship are encouraged and enabled.
10. Recreational use, management actions and management objectives are actively monitored and evaluated. A monitoring program will be designed and used to address emerging needs.



3.0 ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

3.1 Issues

Key issues have been derived from conversations with a broad range of stakeholders, First Nations and experts within the Government of Alberta.

1. Environmental:

- Damage to watersheds (especially riparian areas), landscape degradation and scarring to forested areas and grasslands, including headwaters and areas containing sensitive species such as limber pine, and rough fescue grasslands.
- Wildlife and wildlife habitat disturbance, including streams bearing westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, grizzly bear habitat, and migration pathways of bighorn sheep, mountain goats, elk, and deer.
- Terrestrial and aquatic invasive species spreading along trails, camping and staging areas, and along waterways.
- Wildfire risk from recreational use.
- Soil erosion during rainfall and runoff events.
- Human waste and garbage.

2. Social:

- Increasing population and pursuit of leisure activities leading to more pressure from recreational activities on public land.
- Anticipated additional pressure from motorized recreation and random camping due to increase in activity and to changes in management intent in other regions and jurisdictions.
- Public resistance and opposition to changes to the status quo resulting from the creation of new protected areas, establishment of Public Land Use Zones, setting trail density limits, and the development of recreation plans.
- Disturbance and/or destruction of cultural and heritage sites (known and unknown).
- Illegal activities, including: exceeding the 14-day camping limit, littering, dumping of human waste, cutting of trees, etc.
- Public safety issues including: difficulty in undertaking evacuations as a result of recreational activities, improperly extinguished campfires, drinking and driving, unsafe operation of motorized vehicles, irresponsible use of firearms, etc.

- Conflict between recreation use and landowners including: noise disturbances, wildlife displacement (onto private land), property damage, trespassing, and vandalism.
- Conflict between recreationists participating in incompatible recreation activities.
- Integrating recreation, as a new formal land use, with existing land uses and activities.

3. Economic:

- Impacts to the grazing allotment holders from damage to rangelands, damaged gates and/or fences, disturbance to cattle, impacts to cattle health, displacement of livestock, etc.
- Potential loss of economic benefits to local communities through the imposition of reduced summer OHV trail system or perceived curtailment of winter snowmobile opportunities.
- Loss of economic benefits to local communities due to absence of a comprehensive, integrated, well-managed recreation system.
- Economic risk due to excessive costs associated with wildfires, provision of emergency services, potential evacuation difficulties, etc.
- Economic and liability risk due to industrial infrastructure damage, trespassing, etc.
- Potential additional costs to disposition holders to work around formally established recreation facilities.
- Economic cost of reclamation.

4. First Nations:

- Concerns about impact to First Nations' treaty rights and traditional activities, including harvesting of animals and plants.
- Disturbance and/or destruction of cultural and heritage sites (known and unknown).
- Lack of knowledge by officials and the public about treaty rights and traditional land use.



3.2 Opportunities

As well as issues raised by a broad range of stakeholders, First Nations and experts within the Government of Alberta, key opportunities were also identified. These include:

1. Environmental:

- There is opportunity to develop partnerships and share information so that Albertans and visitors can learn about the ecology and geology of the area, including information about species at risk, environmental stewardship, historical land use, etc.
- Enhanced management of public land use supports preservation of environmental goods and services: clean water, soil stability, ecosystem resiliency, carbon sequestration, landscape and plant biodiversity.
- The presence of rich natural resources that provide opportunities for nature-based tourism and nature-dependent recreation activities.
- The presence of spectacular landscapes that provide opportunities for people to discover Alberta's natural heritage and ecological diversity.

2. Social:

- The Porcupine Hills are accessible through five main points and are centrally located to a large regional population.
- The highways and municipal roads through the Livingstone provides access to Wildland and Provincial Parks, and Natural Areas.
- Spectacular scenic byways and viewpoints can provide day use and educational opportunities.
- The Livingstone area offers a number of mixed-use recreational activities.
- There is opportunity to develop partnerships, information, and resources for Albertans and visitors to learn about ranching cultures and local history.
- There is opportunity to develop partnerships, information, and resources for Albertans and visitors to learn about and participate in recreational stewardship, connect to nature, etc.
- Enhancing access to nature for all Albertans provides substantive mental and physical health benefits.

3. Economic:

- There is opportunity to partner with municipalities to leverage the area as an important hub for outdoor recreation with an already well established tourism market for snowmobilers, hiking, cross country skiing and mountain biking.
- There is opportunity to develop facilities and infrastructure to support nature-based tourism and increase all-season recreational activities to enhance visitation.
- Outdoor recreation and tourism can generate demand for more businesses to provide goods and services, creating employment, attracting investment, contributing to government revenues and enhancing the desirability of communities.
- The growth of tourism in the region can support economic diversification by supporting growth in other sectors such as transportation, retail, construction and agriculture.

4. First Nations:

- There is opportunity to develop partnerships, information, and resources for Albertans and visitors to learn about First Nations history, culture and current socio-cultural practices.
- There are opportunities to develop Indigenous-focused tourism.

4.0 RECREATION MANAGEMENT DIRECTION – LIVINGSTONE AND PORCUPINE HILLS

The eight topics presented below outline the general management intent, strategies and actions that, as they are completed, will build the recreation system across the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills.

Each topic in this section contains two parts:

- **Management Intent:** Builds on the strategic intent of the plan and provides the direction for each management topic or theme. The management intent is supported by specific objectives, strategies and actions that describe the ways in which the Government of Alberta and its partners will meet the outcomes described in Section 2.2 (Table 3).
- **Objectives, Action and Strategies:** Recognizing that implementation will occur incrementally over a period of years, the strategies and actions support reaching or delivering upon the associated objective. These objectives, when achieved, will collectively result in reaching the desired outcomes.

Timeframes for all strategies and actions are provided to ensure timely implementation of this plan. All timeframes start from the date the plan is approved. They are generally defined for this section as:

- Short Term: one to three years
- Medium Term: four to seven years
- Long Term: seven to 10+ years
- Ongoing: Implemented immediately or short term and continuing forward

4.1 Recreation, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Function

Management Intent

The public use of landscapes, especially unmanaged use, can have significant impacts on watershed integrity and biodiversity. While the management of all recreation is to be carried out in a manner that supports sustainable use of public lands, several key shifts are required to ensure maintenance and improvement of environmental values over time within the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills areas. These include:

- Reducing human footprint to sustainable limits. While all recreational activities have a footprint, motorized vehicles have the greatest impact on wildlife, water, livestock, adjacent landowners, and other use. The recommended access limits, as described by the draft Land Footprint Management Plan, support overall biodiversity and watershed health, and also align with direction for species of concern, including grizzly bear, westslope cutthroat trout, white bark and limber pine, and native grasslands. Limits to motorized access and appropriate trail siting also reduces the spread of invasive species, addresses noise concerns, and relieves conflict among users.
- Designating motorized use. Impacts from unpredictable use by recreation users are significant for wildlife, particularly ungulate species and wide-roaming carnivores, as well as livestock. Designated trails allow wildlife and livestock to become accustomed to the patterns of human use, learn to avoid designated areas and generally decrease stress responses in wildlife populations.
- Construction of trail water course crossings. Bridges and culverts will eventually be constructed over all water bodies on designated trails. This will include building properly designed approaches and prioritizing investment in crossings within habitat for westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout. These measures will reduce sedimentation to waterbodies and limit impacts to fisheries populations.
- Development and implementation of standards and best practices: Requirements for location, design and use of recreation infrastructure will mitigate the impacts of recreation on sensitive areas, species of concern, wildlife corridors and other natural resource values. These include (for example):
 - Shifting current camping away from riparian areas and meadows containing native grasslands, to less sensitive areas.
 - Re-routing trails to reduce the number of water crossings and away from riparian areas and highly erodible soils.
 - Timing restrictions to address sensitive periods for livestock and wildlife (e.g. calving seasons, ground nesting season) and wet time periods with high soil erosion potential.
 - Avoiding high value wildlife corridors wherever feasible.

Species at Risk Recovery Plans

The draft Recreation Management Plan for the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills will be an important tool to enable action towards specific recovery measures in



Westslope cutthroat trout

Species Recovery Plans, such as for westslope cutthroat trout, grizzly bear, limber pine, and other species at risk. Impacts to species at risk and appropriate mitigation measures must be considered when managing recreation activities.

Invasive Species Management

Controlling invasive species is a critical strategy for maintaining healthy ecosystems and biodiversity on the landscape. Consideration of recreation infrastructure system design, placement and maintenance, as well as partnerships and public education, will help manage invasive species, in particular invasive plants. Other plans and policies, including the draft Land Footprint Management Plan and species recovery plans, provide guidance and requirements for invasive species management.

Restoration

Restoration is a critical strategy to improve environmental condition and ecological function over time and will be an ongoing activity to restore deactivated trails and **random camping sites** and other undesirable disturbances on the landscape. Restoration methods will be natural or directed. Natural recovery will occur on disturbed sites that have the capacity to recover without intervention and can be assisted through trail design (e.g. prevention of sedimentation), as well as education that promotes responsible actions to reduce impacts to sensitive areas (e.g. “clean, drain, dry” for boats). Directed restoration activity is where the Government of Alberta and partners reclaim ground conditions to a predetermined level. This type of activity will take place on disturbed sites that are highly degraded, sites that are critical for species at risk, and sites that need to re-designed to fit the permitted uses.

Prioritization for restoration in the Public Land Use Zones will be directed and guided by the draft Land Footprint Management Plan as well as other species-specific recovery plans including westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout. Restoration will proceed as resourcing and partnerships allow and will align with Alberta’s restoration guidelines, existing or as to be developed.



Table 3: Recreation, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Function Strategies and Actions

Objective		
Through management of recreation activities and designated trails, environmental values will be maintained and improved, including habitat for species at risk.		
Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
<p><i>Westslope Cutthroat Trout and Fish Habitat</i></p> <p>a. Designated motorized trails that cross fish bearing water bodies will have a water course crossing. Priority will be for westslope cutthroat critical habitat.</p> <p>b. Interim measures will be adopted in priority areas on designated motorized and non-motorized trails to mitigate sedimentation until bridges can be constructed, e.g. closing or rerouting crossings, placement of matting to prevent erosion, etc.</p> <p>c. Non-motorized trails that are impacting westslope cutthroat trout habitats will be mitigated to reduce sedimentation to the waterbody.</p> <p>d. Motorized access to sensitive westslope cutthroat trout populations may be restricted for conservation purposes.</p>	Short Term and Ongoing	Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), Operations Division
Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
<p><i>Whitebark and Limber Pine</i></p> <p>e. Design trails to avoid cutting down limber/whitebark pine.</p> <p>f. Install education and interpretative signage at key trails/staging areas on whitebark and limber pine in coordination with species at risk recovery plans.</p>	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division
<p><i>Native Grasslands</i></p> <p>g. Siting of trails to minimize impacts to native grasslands where possible. Trails through rough fescue will be left to a minimum distance possible and be placed where there are existing disturbances.</p> <p>h. Camping areas will be assessed and prioritized to be moved or redesigned in such a manner to avoid and mitigate impact to native grasslands wherever feasible.</p> <p>i. Education and interpretative signage will be installed at key trails/staging areas around native grasslands coordination with species at risk recovery plans.</p>	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division
<p><i>Wildlife</i></p> <p>j. Designated trails will be designed to avoid critical wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors. If trails are located in important wildlife areas, appropriate mitigation will be completed or the trail will be closed. Appropriate mitigation includes siting in areas that minimize impact as well as seasonal, specific timing restrictions or minimize the length of trail through the area.</p>	Short Term and Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division
<p><i>Invasive species</i></p> <p>k. Engage Alberta Invasive Species Council for education and outreach and to work with user groups and the public, including potential to provide education and interpretative signage at key locations.</p> <p>l. Use a risk management approach to target species of concern, avoid unintended consequence and to utilize resources in an effective and efficient manner.</p> <p>m. Monitor trails/staging areas for the spread of invasive plants and remove/control when necessary or to comply with the Weed Control Act.</p> <p>n. Collaborate with municipalities on invasive species to raise awareness (themed around the "Play, Clean, Go" messaging).</p> <p>o. Explore potential funding or partnerships opportunities to install vehicle wash stations.</p>	Medium Term and Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division, Agriculture and Forestry

Objective		
As trails, staging, day use and camping areas are planned and designated, environmental assessment will be guided by motorized access limits, existing policies and other current plans.		
Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
a. Monitoring and evaluation will occur for trail networks, to establish usage levels and the condition of recreation infrastructure.	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division
b. Areas historically used for trails and camping will be assessed for sustainability.	Short – Medium Term	AEP, Policy and Planning Division and Operations Division
c. Areas identified as unsuitable will be improved, rerouted or closed to allow natural recovery. Directed restoration prioritization will occur as per the draft Land Footprint Management Plan as resources permit.	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division

4.2 Trails and Staging Areas

Management Intent

Motorized Trails

Off-highway vehicle use is an established recreational activity on public lands and will continue as directed by the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. Trail infrastructure will move from an ad-hoc state to a system of purpose built, engineered and appropriately designed trails, including properly designed staging areas. Greater recreation use pressures, a reduction in the number of motorized trails compared to historic levels, and the removal of summer motorized use within the adjacent Castle Parks are likely to affect the motorized trail network within the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills area in the future. Existing trails that have been established and maintained have been assessed for potential incorporation into the new designated trail system and long-term monitoring will occur to ensure the designated trails systems aligns with other land uses.

Over the long term, the designated motorized trails will provide positive experiences that encourage stewardship, investment and appropriate behaviour. The future motorized trail system(s) within the Public Land Use Zones will reflect a variety of trail designs that accommodate a range of experiences. The Government of Alberta is committed to ensuring that the necessary resources are in place to work with recreation partners to establish infrastructure for the sustainable trail system over time.

Motorized recreation use will be enabled through designated trails in accordance with the Public Land Administration Regulation. The extent, location and design of the trail network will be determined through integrated and coordinated planning among government agencies and stakeholders and will conform to the motorized access limits set by the draft Land Footprint Management Plan.

Trail Classification for Motorized Use

Summer motorized trails will be classified by vehicle type in the short term (OHV and Single Track). As designated trails are assessed and upgraded as required, the designation will shift to a vehicle width based system. This system will use a combination of notice (through Public Land Use Zone maps) and signage, as well as physical barriers to only permit vehicles that meet the designated width. This system will be based on the current Alberta Recreation Corridors and Trails Classification System, or provincial policy that may be implemented in the future. Additional measures may be implemented with regards to trail classification and managing access of vehicle types.

Noise

Noise from motorized recreational activity can affect adjacent land owners, other recreational users, livestock and wildlife. To reduce site-specific noise impacts on neighboring landowners, the following mitigation measures will be considered: spatial buffers, motorized trail placement in locations that naturally reduce or muffle sound, timing restrictions, etc. (Table 4). It is recommended that provincial policy options are explored, such as: manufacturing standards that reduce noise from OHVs, and standards to guide noise mitigation on public lands.

Buffers of a minimum of two kilometres between the location of existing, private residences and designated motorized trails will be put in place with the objective of reducing noise impacts from motorized recreation. Siting of new residential developments adjacent to the Public Land Use Zones should consider the location and extent of the designated motorized trail network to ensure that the two kilometre buffer is in place.

Off-Road Capable Highway Vehicles (Trucks, 4x4s, Jeeps, SUVs, etc.)

The use of 4 wheeled on-highway vehicles for off-road activity is both a traditional way to access the backcountry and a recreational activity. However, these vehicles are challenging to manage off road due their overall size and ability to reach places smaller off highway vehicles cannot, with resulting environmental damage.



Extreme use trails, areas for bouldering or rock climbs, as well as technical trails with obstacles requiring specialized vehicle modification (e.g. snorkels, low pressure or other high traction tires) will not be designated nor will such use be permitted. On-highway vehicles will continue to have access to all publicly accessible roads in the region. The department will explore options for limited trail access within the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills to enable continued access to traditional land use areas for First Nations elders as well for access to recreational opportunities, where such trails can be engineered and maintained to be sustainable long term.

Single Track Trails for Motorbike Use

Single-track only trails are desired by motorbike riders who are seeking challenging trails, including narrow trails, winding paths, trail obstacles and/or steep inclines and declines.

Due to the small area of the Porcupine Hills, the designated motorized trail network will, in the future, permit both OHVs and single track vehicles on all designated motorized trails. It will also include a limited single track network. The motorized network will support opportunities for families, casual riders and those seeking shorter rides. The system will be designed to avoid impacts to environmental values in particular native grasslands, limber pine, and westslope cutthroat trout. The design will also address impacts to adjacent landowners, forestry and grazing activities.

The Livingstone area can potentially support a more diverse range of single track options. These opportunities will need to be built and maintained with partners in the future to reflect the specialized needs and considerations of this activity. In addition to any designated single track specific trails that may be identified in the future, motorbike riders will have access to all other designated motorized trails during the summer period unless otherwise restricted.

Winter Trails

Snowmobiling in the Livingstone is a well-established and popular recreational activity. In the Porcupine Hills it occurs when there is sufficient snowpack.

Winter motorized use is generally seen as compatible with the overall resource values and outcomes for both areas. Management direction for winter snowmobile use include:

- **Snow vehicles** will be required to stay on designated trails or within designated random ride areas.



- Critical wildlife habitat, as represented by Key Wildlife and Biodiversity Zones dataset maintained by Alberta Environment and Parks, will be avoided by snow vehicle trails or timing restrictions.
- Future snow vehicle trails and infrastructure within critical wildlife habitat for ungulates will require assessment by wildlife biologists and other experts to determine appropriate extent, time and location.
- Unless otherwise indicated by Public Land Use Zone maps, signs or notice, trails for snow vehicles will be permitted from December 1 – April 30.
- Partnerships for grooming trails, maintaining safety shelters and clearing winter staging areas will be formalized with trail groups and municipalities.

As funding and partnerships permit, options for warming huts may be explored in suitable locations. These structures can provide shelter along long interconnected trail systems or in backcountry locations for safety.

Snow and ice bridges are generally permissible within the Livingstone area for winter recreation trails where existing bridges are not in place. The use of snow bridges may be limited in specific locations if impacts to sensitive water bodies are occurring.

Non-Motorized Trails

Non-motorized recreational use of the Porcupine Hills and Livingstone is an important, long-standing use of the area. The region contains important travel routes for First Nations, and some of the earliest trails in the region were created by ranchers to move livestock. Trails are used for a variety of activities including: hiking, biking, horseback riding, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Mountain biking in particular is a growing sector that has a strong community and organized support. Non-motorized trails also offer important access for other activities including: hunting, fishing, mountaineering, berry picking, wildlife viewing, viewscape photography and backpacking.

Currently, there are no designated non-motorized trails in this area, however there is support for designated non-motorized activities (staging, amenities, trail development, water crossings etc.).



The overall management intent is to continue to enable non-motorized activity throughout Porcupine Hills and Livingstone except where land use commitments, public safety risks or sensitive environmental issues would prohibit such access.

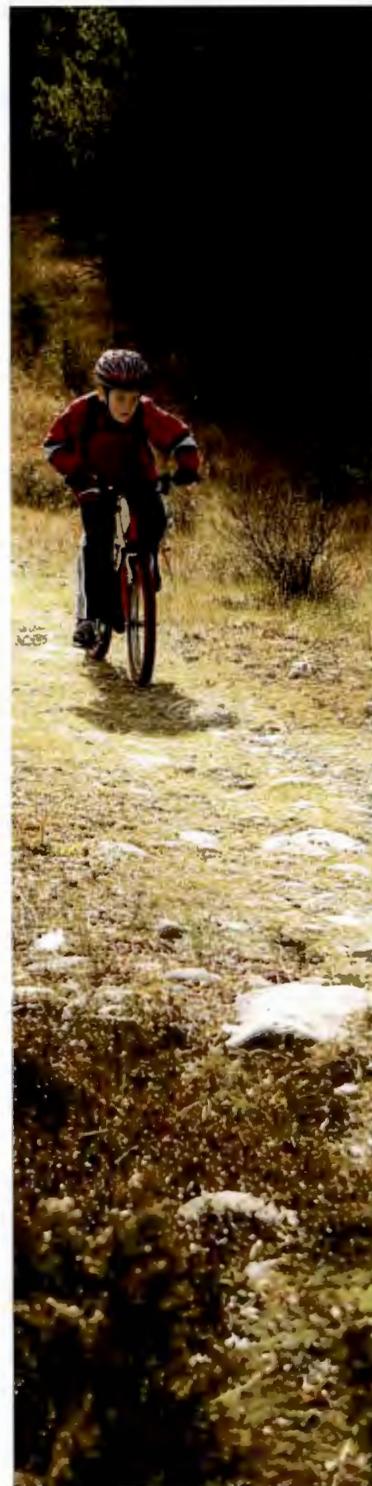
Significant trails, including managed networks (e.g. hiking, skiing, biking), those that provide connectivity to staging areas, viewpoints, cultural or natural landscape features or are destination trails (e.g., Great Divide Trail), will receive appropriate designation. Heavily used designated trails will require improvements to an established trail standard. Supporting infrastructure, including staging areas, signage, or hut to hut systems may be established as funding and partnerships permit. Partners will be enabled to develop formalized trails where appropriate.

Equestrian use will continue within the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills Public Land Use Zones and is allowed on and off the designated trails unless otherwise indicated by sign or notice. Public trails may continue to be used by equestrian commercial operators, subject to the same rules and regulations as the public at large. Alberta Environment and Parks policy for the issuance of commercial trail riding permits will continue to be followed. Trails will not be available for exclusive commercial use unless privately developed under an appropriate disposition as per the *Review Process for Commercial Recreational Tourism Use*.

Mountain Biking

Mountain biking is a growing use within the region, with both approved trails and informal routes existing on public lands. The location of mountain bike trails, is important, with most mountain bikers preferring to ride within a relatively short distance from a well-developed and highly accessible staging area or community. The most popular mountain bike areas are currently located in or near the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass. Cooperation and coordination among the municipality, local trail groups and the Government of Alberta will be required to successfully and sustainably support this use. Separation of hiking, equestrian and mountain bike trails will be required in heavily used areas designed for specific users (e.g. people who downhill mountain bike).

A mountain bike strategy was previously developed for the Crowsnest Pass by interested parties. A dedicated mountain



bike trail network (and skills park) already exists at the Pass Powderkeg. Mountain bikers are also using existing trails and modified bike trails for mountain biking on public land that surrounds the municipality. As participation levels in mountain biking grows, the Government of Alberta, partners and stakeholders will explore options to locate, designate, build and maintain technical trails. These trail networks will be located in suitable areas within the Public Land Use Zones and will be built to sustainable best management practices as described by the International Mountain Biking Association. In particular, the government will work with trail groups to develop an “epic ride” as defined by the International Mountain Biking Association, that would connect the Castle parks and the Livingstone Public Land Use Zone.

The strategies and actions below support the identified objectives. These objectives, when achieved, collectively will result in reaching the desired outcomes described in Section 2.2 (Table 2).

Table 4: Trails and Staging Strategies and Actions

Objective		
The designated trail system reflects a variety of experiences for summer and winter activities that are developed, managed and maintained using recognized best management practices and guidelines to sustain long-term use on sites and infrastructure suitable for the activity.		
Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
a. Complete inventory and assessment of existing motorized trails. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails identified as unsuitable for recreational use will either be improved so that they can be used without significant impacts or closed/reclaimed. 	Short Term Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division
b. Ensure new trails are designed and classified following the <i>Alberta Recreation Corridors and Trail Classification System</i> and the <i>Minimizing Risk and Liability</i> best practices or future guidelines as may be developed by the province.	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division
c. Establish partnerships with stakeholders for development, maintenance and/or monitoring of the trail system. Systems managed by local clubs will require authorization by the Government of Alberta.	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division, Trail Groups
d. Buffers will be established to minimize and avoid impacts to adjacent private landowners, including noise and trespass. Standard provincial guidelines will be developed for buffer specifications.	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division, Policy and Planning Division
e. Work with stakeholders to develop and maintain an appropriate trail difficulty rating system.	Medium-Long Term	AEP, Operations Division, Trail Groups
f. Designated trails that cross into BC will be aligned with the timing restriction in BC. Alberta's designated trails into BC will be signed and access limited at appropriate locations away from the BC border to limit illegal access during period of restriction ⁵ .	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division
g. Designated trails may have seasonal (timing) restrictions imposed to mitigate disturbance to wildlife, be responsive to high fire risk and wet conditions, consider livestock entry into Forest Reserve allotments, or address noise considerations where required.	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division
h. Trail access to key cultural, historic and scenic features will be considered as part of the trail plan for the area.	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division
<i>Summer Motorized Trails Strategies and Actions</i>		
i. Seek shared road use agreements with municipalities and industry disposition holders to accommodate OHV use on select municipal road segments and select disposition roads that connect designated OHV trails.	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division

⁵ As per BC's Outdoor Access Guide and Access Management Areas for Alexander Creek, Corbin Creek and Chauncey Todhunter

Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
Winter Motorized Trails Strategies and Actions		
j. Establish a winter designated trail network and random sledding areas.	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division
k. Future random ride sledding areas will be considered for designation in consultation with local snowmobile groups.	Medium Term	AEP, Operations Division, Snowmobile groups
l. OHV and Truck (4x4) Trails that do not have seasonal restrictions will be available in winter for snowmobile use.	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division
m. Groups will be enabled to groom specified snowmobile trails through an authorization. Restrictions may be placed on groomer size where bridge crossings are required.	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division, Snowmobile groups
n. Restrict use of groomed trails to vehicles meeting the definition of a snowmobile, as defined by the Motor Vehicle Safety Regulation CRC c1038 made pursuant to the <i>Motor Vehicle Safety Act</i> (1993, c.16).	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division
o. Explore opportunities with land managers and disposition holders to enable winter use of municipal and other disposition roads for snow vehicle use, where those roads are not maintained for on-highway vehicle traffic in winter.	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division
Non-motorized Trails Strategies and Actions		
p. Formal non-motorized trail development will receive appropriate disposition and/or designation to ensure trails are recognized on the landscape and are built in the best locations. Informal trails will continue to exist unless signed closed.	Short Term and Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division
q. Identify locations for a hut-to-hut concept that could be established by third parties to provide a diverse backcountry experience. Huts could facilitate hiking on long, interconnected trail systems or in popular backcountry climbing areas.	Medium-Long Term	AEP, Operations Division and Parks Division
r. Explore options for technical mountain bike trails	Medium Term	Mountain Bike Groups
s. Work with user groups to enable grooming of identified trails for cross country skiing	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division, Cross Country Ski Groups

Objective		
Connectivity of the recreation system is developed with surrounding land and adjacent recreation infrastructure, where possible and appropriate, to foster linkages to other parts of the region, in particular the Castle area, British Columbia, municipalities and regional trail systems.		
Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
a. Opportunities for interconnected and diverse multi-use trails systems are enabled for a full range of recreation activities that promote multi-day trips/tours which include or lead to or connect key attractions and communities.	Long Term	AEP, Alberta C&T, Municipalities
b. Identify non-motorized trail networks that connect to the region's parks and protected areas.	Short Term	AEP

Objective		
Staging areas, complete with appropriate infrastructure and amenities, are available at locations that support parking and access to the trail network and permitted uses of the area.		
Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
a. Work with partners to maintain year round access to key roads and staging areas.	Long Term	AEP, Operations Division
b. Staging areas are identified to support the designated trail systems and dispersed recreation use.	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division

4.3 Camping and Day Use

Management Intent

Backcountry Camping

Backcountry or tent camping will continue to be permitted throughout the two Public Land Use Zones unless there is a risk to public safety, environmentally sensitive areas requiring restrictions (e.g. wildlife corridors), incompatibility with adjacent activity, or existing dispositions issued under the *Public Lands Act* prohibit public access. Camping is not permitted on designated trails at any time.

Rustic Motorized Camping

Motorized camping is managed to address the concerns associated with random motorized camping, lessen impacts to the environment and to promote desirable camping experiences.

Rustic motorized camping will occur in established designated rustic camping areas (described to the right), the majority of which will coincide with former random camping sites (i.e., at existing disturbed sites) in the short term. Camping sites will be assessed for environmental concerns and if required, moved to more suitable locations over time, and associated restoration work will be undertaken where it is most needed. Riparian areas, terrestrial critical habitat for threatened fish species like westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout, will be avoided and camping areas moved to less sensitive areas over time.

Backcountry Camping

Camping that typically requires some travel from highway, OHV trail or road access, which may involve hiking, boating, riding or being accompanied by pack animals and utilizes a tent, sleeping bag or tarp for sleeping.

Rustic Motorized Camping:

Camping with a recreational vehicle (RV) or camping unit designed to be towed on or behind a motorized vehicle within a designated area with limited or no services or amenities.

Figure 6. Camping definitions

Future rustic motorized camping areas will have a defined boundary and the Government of Alberta will conduct ongoing monitoring to assess damage and over-use to these sites.

Motorized camping will be allowed within the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills Public Land Use Zones in the following designated areas (Figure 7):

- a) **Rustic Camping Zones** – various sized camping zones that parallel a road, trail or watercourse. Their length and size will vary, with some allowing campers to be more dispersed and provide more opportunities for isolated camping.
 - Best practices for siting camping zones will be created including: setbacks, safe approaches, surfacing, and in consideration of riparian areas, critical wildlife habitat and other sensitive areas.
 - Initially, these zones will be established in disturbed areas.
 - These sites will be non-serviced.
- b) **Public Land Recreation Areas** – created through the Public Lands Administration Regulation.
 - These areas are located in existing high use areas, many of which were identified in South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. They will also serve as key staging points for trail systems and may have enhanced services or amenities to support higher intensity use.
 - To manage wildlife risk, fires are permitted only within facilities provided for such use within Public Land Recreation Areas, or as in accordance with Section 6 of the Forest and Prairie Protection Regulation.
 - Garbage disposal and outhouses are basic amenities; other amenities including warming shelters, kitchen shelters and picnic sites could be developed in cooperation with partners.
- c) **Provincial Recreation Areas** – existing campgrounds.
 - These are existing campsites under the authority of Alberta Parks. Provincial Recreation Areas are subject to the regulations of the *Provincial Parks Act*.
 - Opportunities will be explored to link Provincial Recreation Areas to the designated trail system.

Monitoring and evaluation will inform whether other solutions are required to manage rustic motorized camping in the future. This may include the expansion of existing camping zones, the creation of additional zones, the deletion or relocation of camping zones or registration system that sets a limit on numbers of users within a given designated camping area. In all cases, the regulations governing camping on public lands as prescribed by the Public Lands Administration Regulation will be enforced.

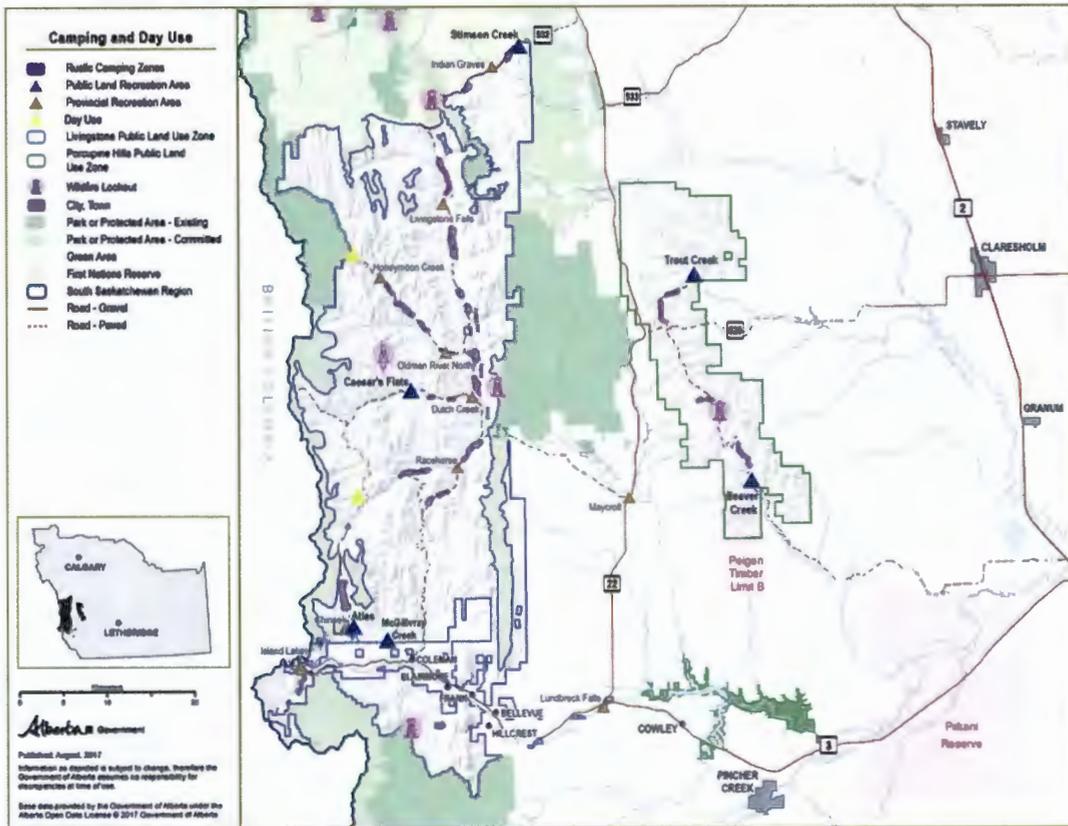


Figure 7: Rustic Motorized Camping Areas



Table 5: Camping Strategies and Actions

Objective		
A variety of sustainable camping experiences are available.		
Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
a. Establish new Public Land Recreation Areas within the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills Public Land Use Zones for managed recreation and camping opportunities.	Short Term	AEP, Policy and Planning Division
b. Explore the upgrading of existing Provincial Recreation Areas to provide a camping experience that accommodates large camping units and group camping experiences.	Medium Term	AEP, Parks Division
c. Explore options for Provincial Recreation Areas that could directly connect to designated motorized trail systems and enable OHV users to leave from/near their campsite.	Medium Term	AEP, Parks Division
d. Best management practices for locating and designing new or improved camping areas, will be developed and followed.	Short Term and Ongoing	AEP, Policy and Planning Division
e. Designated rustic motorized camping areas will be identified on Public Land Use Zone maps and through signage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting signs may be installed in the future that identify the rules that apply to rustic motorized camping and identify the boundaries of designated camping areas. 	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division
f. Annually, rustic camping zones will be inspected for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental impacts within the camping zone and adjacent lands (ground scarring, litter management, camp fire debris, tree damage or removal, etc.). Condition of perimeter markers (where these are installed) and approach roads to camping zones. Maintenance of rustic camping zones, Public Land Recreation Areas and staging areas will be contingent on appropriate resources or partnerships. 	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division
g. Temporary camping closures will be used in response to the following, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wildfire or flood threat, poor ground conditions, and human-wildlife conflict. 	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division

Management Intent

Day Use

Specific sites within the two Public Land Use Zones have great potential for **day use** but are virtually undeveloped. The size and amenities offered in day use areas will vary, dependent on their location, popularity, site features and existing road access.

- Crowsnest Mountain (Livingstone)
- North West Branch (Oldman River Falls) (Livingstone)
- Sharples Creek Road - East (Porcupine)

The provision of day use opportunities would serve Albertans and visitors by providing them with:

- A scenic spot to enjoy public lands.
- Interpretive signage or kiosks that allow travellers to learn about the immediate area, the viewscape, the area’s local and natural history, dominant land uses (e.g. ranching, logging), or the areas of cultural significance to First Nations in a respectful manner.
- The opportunity to explore and discover.

Table 6: Day Use Strategies and Actions

Objective		
Day use opportunities are available at attractive and appropriate locations.		
Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
a. Where appropriate, consideration will be given to combining day use sites with staging areas or trailheads.	Ongoing	AEP

4.4 Nature-based Tourism, Scenic Areas and Viewpoints

Management Intent

Nature-based tourism is an important contributor to local and provincial economies, encompassing visitation that is undertaken largely or solely for the purpose of enjoying natural attractions and engaging in outdoor activities, whether for relaxation, discovery or adventure (e.g., camping, bird watching, trail riding, downhill skiing, hunting, mountain biking, motorized recreation). The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan defines the priorities under which tourism development must occur, including headwater protection, conserving biodiversity, management of wildfire risk and integrated land management. These priorities inform the location, extent and use of any nature-based tourism opportunities that may be provided. While visitation to these Public Land Use Zones should be encouraged, associated nature-based tourism and commercial recreation opportunities must fit within established thresholds for land disturbance and must also consider the resource values, desires of local communities and effects of proposed developments to the public lands outdoor recreation system.

The role of public lands in support of tourism within these Public Land Use Zones is to maintain, within a working landscape, the natural setting, important destinations, and infrastructure that facilitates a variety of positive outdoor recreation experiences including commercial recreation and nature-based tourism experiences. In particular, the development of sustainable trails, staging areas, and supporting recreation infrastructure is needed to support the future growth of tourism opportunities. Recreation infrastructure, both current and future, within the Public Land Use Zones is available for use by tourism and commercial recreation operators under the same

regulations and restrictions that apply to the general public. Tourism operators are not granted any preferential use of (or exclusive rights to) public recreation facilities, staging areas, trails, etc. Tourism operators can apply for authorizations for specific use for activities that are compatible with the land use in the Public Land Use Zones.

Outdoor recreation activities and nature-based tourism are major attractions for residents and non-residents. While limited commercial services are available north and south of Highway 3, visitor services and facilities are found in Municipality of Crowsnest Pass and the adjacent communities of Pincher Creek, Nanton, Longview and Claresholm. In addition to these important local communities, the designation of the Castle Provincial Park and Wildland Provincial Park creates new and unique opportunities for nature-based tourism. The Castle Region Tourism Strategy will explore support for tourism outside the recently created Castle parks. This area includes the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass and M.D. of Pincher Creek and south to the borders of the Waterton National Park. Alberta Environment and Parks staff will consider the different management intents, intended settings and requirements for supporting infrastructure when working with operators to determine the most appropriate location for their desired development. Tourism operations on public lands should complement the attractions and opportunities available within the Castle parks.

Ensuring an adequate land base that maintains these high aesthetic qualities is necessary for tourism development and essential to providing certainty and security for future investment. There is a strong desire to ensure that land bases are managed for potential future commercial recreation and/or tourism use, including maintaining the features, setting, scenery, and access to recreation activities and opportunities.

Scenic Areas and Viewpoints

The Porcupine Hills and Livingstone area offers tremendous scenery. Previous plans, including the Eastern Slopes Policy (1984) recognized the high scenic and recreation values of the area that draw residents and visitors alike to visit these areas. Efforts will be made to locate trails and day use areas near viewpoints to maximize the visitor experience. However, topography, elevation, ground conditions and the presence of sensitive native vegetation are factors that ultimately determine whether viewpoints can be provided along trails. Recreation facilities will be situated in a manner that maintains scenic views.

Table 7: Nature-based Tourism, Scenic Areas and Viewpoints Strategies and Actions

Objective		
Tourism products and offerings that complement opportunities elsewhere in the region will be developed with local communities, First Nations, recreation user groups and tourism operators.		
Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
a. Surrounding communities with an interest in boosting outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism capacity are encouraged to develop and implement tourism plans.	Short-Medium Term	Culture & Tourism (C&T), Tourism Division
b. Potential tourism development nodes for future commercial tourism opportunities will be identified in collaboration with all stakeholders and First Nations.	Short Term	C&T, AEP
c. Identify suitable parcels of lands within public lands that could facilitate future tourism developments.	Short Term	AEP, C&T

4.5 Other Recreational Activities

Management Intent

Alberta's public lands have long provided an array of recreation opportunities to Albertans and visitors including: hunting, fishing, target shooting, climbing and scrambling, kayaking and canoeing, snowshoeing, cross-country and backcountry skiing, hiking, mountain biking, caving, geo-caching, equestrian use, backpacking (i.e. backcountry camping), nature appreciation, photography, berry picking as well as other newer recreation pursuits such as zip-lining and via-ferrata. These activities are pursued by individuals and groups on their own as well as through commercial ventures and will continue in a similar way in the future. The Government of Alberta will work with stakeholders and partners to identify, build and maintain any infrastructure that might be needed to support these various recreation pursuits, including ensuring appropriate permissions or dispositions are in place.

Special Events and Commercial Activities for Recreational Purposes

A special event is any organized event that requires special provisions or conditions that are not under the authority of an existing disposition. Events may range from local or family functions (e.g. wedding, family reunion) to large provincial, national and international events (e.g. rallies, international races). They may require use of public facilities or require additional amenities to be brought in (e.g. waste services, parking etc.).

Both the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills areas are destinations for various commercial recreation and other organized special events. Events such as motorbike races, poker rallies, human endurance adventure races, and trail rides can significantly benefit the local economy and provide meaningful recreation and tourism experiences. These events may continue on public land where they are compatible with the recreation management intent for the area.

Alberta Environment and Parks requires that special events for **commercial purposes** receive prior authorization. Authorizations follow established government policy and processes. Development of a standard provincial process specifically for special events on public land approvals is recommended.

Hunting and Fishing

Hunting and fishing will continue within the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills Public Land Use Zones in accordance with provincial hunting and fishing regulations. As per the Public Lands Administration Regulation, hunters and anglers will be required to stay on designated trails when using OHVs to access areas. According to Public Land Regulation Administration Section 185(8), this does not apply to an individual who is exercising a right recognized and affirmed under Part II of the *Constitution Act, 1982* or a right under Section 12 of the Transfer Agreement or is travelling to a location to exercise such a right. The design of the designated motorized trails network will consider maintaining reasonable access to important hunting or fishing areas.

Target Shooting

Target shooting includes the following: sport-based target shooting using rifles and handguns, trap and skeet shooting, and other types of skill based shooting done for purposes other than hunting. These activities have historically taken place on public land among areas with recreational and other activity. Subsequently, public safety has been identified as a concern. To prohibit dangerous activities such as target shooting in the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills Public Land Use Zones, Alberta Environment and Parks will post signs or notices prohibiting these activities. Further, Alberta Environment and Parks has the authority under the Public Lands Administration Regulation to prohibit dangerous activities near Public Land Recreations Areas, camping zones, designated staging and day use areas and designated trails. The safe use and discharge of a firearm can be conducted elsewhere within the Public Land Use Zones. All uses of firearms upon public land must comply with provincial and federal legislation.

Mountaineering/Rock & Ice Climbing/Via Ferrata

As public interest in mountaineering, rock and ice climbing, and via ferrata, grows in this area, the Government of Alberta will seek input from recreation users about sites and routes that may be of interest. As issues at popular climbing and scrambling sites arise, actions may be undertaken to ensure that increased use does not result in excessive impacts.

Water Access

Staging areas that provide access to larger tributaries for fisheries and water-based recreation such as canoeing, kayaking, rafting, will be designated to identify access points. This will be done in consultation with stakeholders and First Nations.

Table 8: Other Recreational Activities Strategies and Actions

Objective		
A diverse array of non-motorized activities, including non-trail based opportunities such as hunting, backcountry camping and hiking, mountaineering, and horseback riding are enabled.		
Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
a. Working with users and commercial operators to identify and formalize water access.	Short Term	AEP, C&T
b. Ensure the designated trail system considers hunting and fishing access.	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division
c. Explore options for designating access to popular areas for mountaineering, rock and ice climbing based on demand from the user community.	Long Term	AEP, Operations Division
d. Identify areas where target shooting will not be permitted and include on Public Land Use Zone maps.	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division

4.6 Education

Management Intent

Education and outreach programs will support, and align with, the management and decision-making plans for recreation and tourism experiences of the area. Educational activities are designed to support government, community, and First Nations by building collective capacity to manage the environment through enhanced awareness and understanding of sustainable recreation on public land. It is also intended to contribute to greater stewardship, protection of the environment, and enhanced recreational experiences.

Table 9: Education Strategies and Actions

Objective		
Public awareness of the designation of the Porcupine Hills and Livingstone areas as Public Land Use Zones and of the associated rules and regulations is increased.		
Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
a. Provide information on best practices for recreation activities and recreating in a safe manner through social media campaigns, the Alberta Environment and Parks website, public service announcements, and utilize existing Government of Alberta educational campaigns for responsible recreation.	Short Term	AEP, Fish & Wildlife Enforcement Branch (FWEB)
b. Develop integrated programming to equip enforcement, engagement and other staff with information and materials to engage and educate visitors on-site.	Short-Medium Term	AEP, FWEB, Strategy Division
c. Plan and host 'Respect the Land' trailer events, education workshops, presentations and support stewardship events led by partners.	Short Term	AEP, Strategy Division
d. Create a smart phone app to accompany the Alberta Environment and Parks website to share information on the rules and regulations associated with the two Public Land Use Zones including communicating area closures.	Short-Medium Term	AEP
Objective		
Public understanding of the recreational opportunities available, responsible use of the natural environment and stewardship practices is enhanced.		
Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
a. Develop materials and messaging to be distributed and delivered by multiple partners, as well as by the Government of Alberta.	Short Term	AEP, Strategy Division
b. Establish and foster mutually beneficial partnerships that expand the delivery of land stewardship and responsible recreation education. Identify, manage and promote opportunities for partners to participate in planned recreational and environmental stewardship activities and events.	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division
c. Develop interpretative signage at staging areas, trail heads and viewpoints to highlight the natural environment.	Short-Medium Term	AEP, Operations Division, Strategy Division
d. Support development of self-guiding/interpretive brochures/maps for specific trails that provide information on natural and cultural values.	Medium-Long Term	Partners, AEP, Strategy Division

Objective		
Education and awareness of First Nations and local history, culture and values within the Public Land Use Zones are advanced.		
Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
a. Reflect Indigenous history and culture in educational signage at staging areas, trail heads, viewpoints and areas of cultural significance.	Short-Medium Term	AEP, C&T
b. Reflect local history of surrounding communities and current land use within the region in place names and educational signage at staging areas, trail heads and viewpoints.	Short-Medium Term	AEP, C&T
c. Provide the public with information on First Nations' treaty rights and traditional land use practices as it applies to access on public land.	Short-Medium Term	AEP, C&T

4.7 Compliance and Public Safety

Management Intent

Compliance

The authority for managing recreation activities on public land is mainly derived from the *Public Lands Act* and Public Land Administration Regulation. The Public Land Use Zone allows for authority to enforce rules and regulations, including specific direction from a notice of an officer. All recreational users in the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills must comply with any conditions and restrictions that are identified.

Public Land Administration Regulation provides a list of actions and activities that are illegal, as does the *Traffic Safety Act*, the Off-highway Vehicle Regulation, and the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*. Infractions that may be ticketed at the time of the offence are outlined in the *Provincial Offences Procedures Act* while other offences require a court summons. As new provincial enforcement guidelines, tools and instruments are approved; those pertaining to recreation regulations will be adopted. Enforcement responsibilities will be shared by various government and municipal agencies. Where education and enforcement are not effective and consistent non-compliant behaviour persists, additional measures may be taken including temporary or permanent closures of areas for specific uses.

Public Safety

The recreation system will be designed, constructed, and maintained to provincial standards. Education, enforcement and stewardship partnerships will be utilized to inform and encourage safe and responsible behaviours. However, it is important that users recognize these areas are wilderness areas, with little to no immediate emergency response available. Visitors to the area should be aware of the risks and have the appropriate skill level and equipment to undertake their chosen activity.

The Wildfire Management Branch of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry implements various measures under the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act* to manage wildfire risk and safety. These measures include fire restrictions and fire bans, OHV bans, and in extreme fire hazard situations, forest reserve closures. Public lands may be closed due to other risks including flooding, storms, and human-wildlife conflicts. Any closures will be communicated broadly.

Table 10: Compliance and Public Safety Strategies and Actions

Objective		
Those involved in compliance activities (e.g. enforcement officials, education staff, partner groups) are engaged to provide ongoing and continued enforcement, education, awareness and outreach to support acceptable behaviour on public lands.		
Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
a. Implement temporary closure of trails and areas, or restriction of certain activities to reduce wildfire risk, flood risk, wildlife-human conflict risk or other public safety matters.	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division
b. Impose speed limits on designated OHV trails within Public Land Recreation Areas where warranted.	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division
c. Indigenous cultural awareness training is made available to all provincial officers on public lands.	Short-Medium Term	AEP, Parks Division
d. Implement provincial enforcement actions and priorities throughout the Public Land Use Zones (e.g. long weekend compliance campaigns, regulatory messaging.).	Ongoing	GoA, Public Lands Enforcement Committee (PLEC)
e. Compliance, engagement and other staff will engage with visitors on-site to provide information and/or materials.	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division, Strategy Division
Objective		
Public safety messaging, including education about the risks inherent in outdoor recreation activities on public lands, is delivered by Alberta, Environment and Parks and other partners		
Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
a. Use signs and other media to communicate safety messages to recreational users.	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division, Strategy Division
b. Albertans and visitors are informed of the risks of recreating on public lands through education and outreach programs.	Short Term and Ongoing	AEP, Strategy Division

4.8 Partnerships

Management Intent

The establishment of a new management approach for recreation in the two Public Land Use Zones will be dependent on partnerships. Recreation groups engaged in the development, management and/or stewardship of the recreation system often take significant pride in their investments, align themselves with best management practices for managing trail systems, and are responsible users (with the expectation that others will also demonstrate responsible behaviours). Local recreation groups and clubs have proven themselves to be positive partners

with the Government of Alberta in the construction and maintenance of trail networks in the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills areas, investing significant time and resources. Other groups have focused on environmental stewardship including: reclamation and restoration projects for riparian areas and old trails, delivering education and outreach programming and messaging to support responsible and sustainable use of public lands, and monitoring to assist in evaluating the recreation system. The Government of Alberta will continue to coordinate partnerships with volunteers and willing parties including: clubs, associations, stewardship groups, municipalities, First Nations, willing individuals, industry, disposition holders, landowners and interested organizations.

It is recognized that there is uncertainty around liability of trails and recreation infrastructure when either developed or maintained by trail groups and not-for-profit organizations. Improved processes for agreements with organizations will be pursued to clarify liability and role in risk management between the Government of Alberta and parties active in recreation infrastructure development and/or maintenance or stewardship activities on these public lands. It is also recommended that provincial policy be developed that provides clarity and certainty on the assumption of risk between the Government of Alberta, recreation users and the parties supporting recreation management.

Table 11: Partnerships Strategies and Actions

Objective		
Partnerships with recreational groups are encouraged and recreation users have the opportunity to participate in stewardship activities such as clean-up days, restoration, trail maintenance and monitoring.		
Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
a. The Government of Alberta will establish multi-sector advisory group(s) to support the implementation of the Recreation Management Plan.	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division
b. Stakeholder support and partnerships will be pursued to establish, maintain and monitor recreation infrastructure, education and outreach, and reclamation activities.	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division

5.0 RECREATION MANAGEMENT UNITS: LIVINGSTONE AND PORCUPINE HILLS

This section provides the management intent, strategies and actions that apply to specific recreation management units within the Public Land Use Zones. Recreation Management Units are administrative boundaries that provide a way to provide direction in smaller areas with a higher level of specificity. They are non-regulatory in nature and are used to guide detailed recreation management decision-making. Albertans and visitors to the area are not required to be aware of the differing units and should use signage and public notices (through maps, websites, staff, or other mechanisms) to guide their actions within these areas.

The Livingstone Public Land Use Zone is comprised of four Recreation Management Units (Figure 8). The Porcupine Hills is comprised of one Recreation Management Unit.

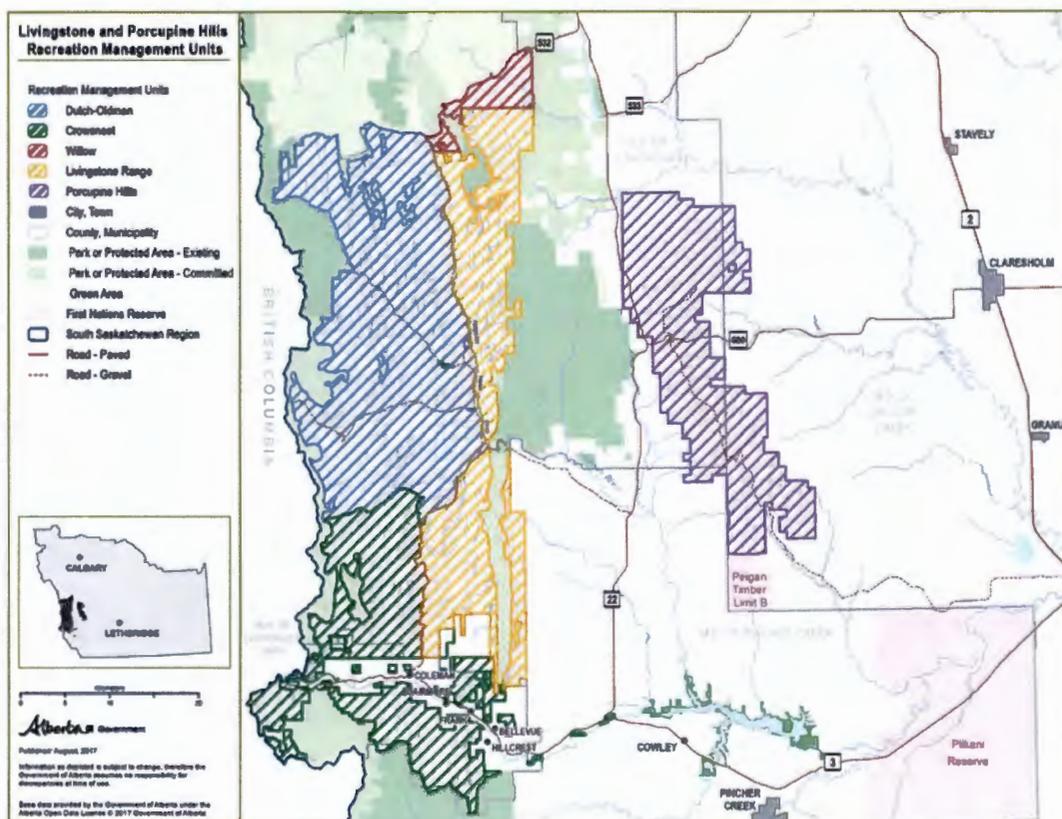


Figure 8: Livingstone Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Units Map

Recreation Management Unit Summary

Each Recreation Management Unit is comprised of different values, management intent, desired settings and compatible activities. Table 13 summarizes the overall management direction of these areas. More detail can be found in Sections 5.1 and 5.2.

The recreation setting is representative of the spectrum of recreation opportunities possible within a given landscape based on the experience sought. While the affects of industry may change the overall setting of a specific location over time, generally, recreation in the Recreation Management Units will be managed to the following settings:

- **Backcountry:** Very low levels of infrastructure, largely natural surroundings (some industry or agriculture activity may be evident but only in isolated locations), no, or limited, services or amenities, expectation of fewer recreationists within the area
- **Mid-Country:** Some infrastructure developed; a variety of natural and modified surroundings; some services or amenities may be provided at high use locations; may encounter other recreationists
- **Front-Country:** Infrastructure developed to support high intensity use; surroundings may be modified or highly modified (e.g. roads, industrial uses, human settlement); some amenities or services are provided; likely to encounter other recreationists

Table 12: Recreation Setting and Activities by Recreation Management Unit

	Crowsnest RMU	Livingstone Range RMU	Oldman Dutch RMU	Willow Creek RMU	Porcupine Hills RMU
Recreation Setting	Front-Country to Mid-Country	Backcountry	Mid-Country to Backcountry	Mid-Country	Mid-Country to Backcountry
Summer Motorized Trails e.g. quads, side by sides, dirt bikes, trucks, 4x4	Yes	Limited	Yes^	Yes	Yes
Snow Vehicle Trails	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Summer Non-Motorized Activities hiking, equestrian, mountain biking.	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Winter Non-Motorized Activities e.g. snowshoeing, skiing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Motorized Special Events	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Limited (no more than 2 per year)
Non-motorized and Other Special Events e.g. endurance races, festivals	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Backcountry Camping	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rustic Motorized Camping (in designated areas)	Yes	Limited	Yes	Yes	Yes

* Provision will be made for dedicated, engineered mountain biking trails in the Crowsnest RMU

^ Motorized activity will avoid the Continental Divide and proposed wildland parks which will be focused more backcountry and non-motorized activities.

Note 1: Other recreational activities not listed in the matrix (i.e. hunting, fishing, climbing, scrambling, backcountry skiing, backcountry backpacking/camping, caving, geo-caching, nature appreciation, photography, canoeing, kayaking, tubing, picnicking, etc.) are permissible within a Recreation Management Unit unless restricted by applicable regulations, guidelines or conditions. Access for First Nations exercising treaty rights and traditional land uses and ranchers with cattle will be maintained in all Recreation Management Units.

5.1 Livingstone Recreation Management Units

Background

As shown in Figure 8, the Livingstone Public Land Use Zone occupies a large land base along the continental divide. It has experienced considerable recreational use in the past, which has grown stronger with each passing decade. The area is particularly popular among hunters, anglers, random campers and OHV enthusiasts (both summer trail riders and winter snowmobile users). Recreational access to every mountain valley is available due to established public and industry roads.

Snowmobiling, and use of other tracked vehicles, has grown substantially within the Livingstone Public Land Use Zone over the last 30 years, with Crowsnest Pass area being frequently voted one of the best riding areas in western Canada. For snowmobilers, the area provides:

- high snowfall
- long riding season
- variety of terrain on groomed and ungroomed trails
- convenient staging areas
- impressive scenery
- proximity to amenities and services needed by riders

In addition to the recreational values, the Livingstone Public Land Use Zone provides important habitat for key land and water-based species, including species at risk (e.g. westslope cutthroat trout, grizzly bear). The Public Land Use Zone is also an active working landscape with logging, oil and gas development, mining, and trapping underway. Grazing is another significant land use, with ranching being a primary income source for a large number of residents.

First Nations have a special connection to the Livingstone area. Several significant sites within the Livingstone are reflected in oral history, with First Nations exercising treaty rights, traditional land uses and cultural practices into present day. Management of recreation within Livingstone will respect the historical and cultural significance of the area and ongoing conversations with First Nations will help to ensure that effects to the Nations from public use are understood and mitigated appropriately.

Additionally, the Livingstone Public Land Use Zone is envisioned as capable of supporting year round commercial recreation and tourism opportunities of all types. Crowsnest Pass is an important hub and gateway for recreational activity on surrounding public lands. Growth of tourism and outdoor recreation related industries are desired by the community, and the surrounding public lands will play a pivotal role in providing the features, scenery, and setting, including the recreation infrastructure, that attracts visitors to the area.

The potential of the Livingstone Public Land Use Zone as a destination for winter recreation and supporting non-motorized commercial recreation, such as hiking and trail riding, has been recognized and should be encouraged, along with continued motorized recreation during the summer.

Services for visitors within the Public Land Use Zone are very limited and servicing for infrastructure development (power, water, sewage), are not readily available. The focus of enhancements and new nature-based tourism development will be focused within the Crowsnest Recreation Management Unit that surrounds the municipality. As such, partnerships for recreational trail development, road sharing and other services that will enable tourism growth within the municipality are critical. Similarly, coordination with Alberta Transportation is necessary to ensure that future road upgrades, signage and pull-out areas support access to the Livingstone recreation system.

Recreation Opportunity Concept Maps

Figures 8 – 10 outline the intent to enhance the management of outdoor recreation in the planning area and **are representative of current state** at the time of plan approval. They should be referred to as information maps only representing concepts and strategic direction and are a summarized visual representation of the management intent and specific direction laid out within Sections 5.1 and 5.3. These maps are not regulatory nor legally binding in nature and the current year Public Land Use Zone Map (Section 5.4) should be consulted.

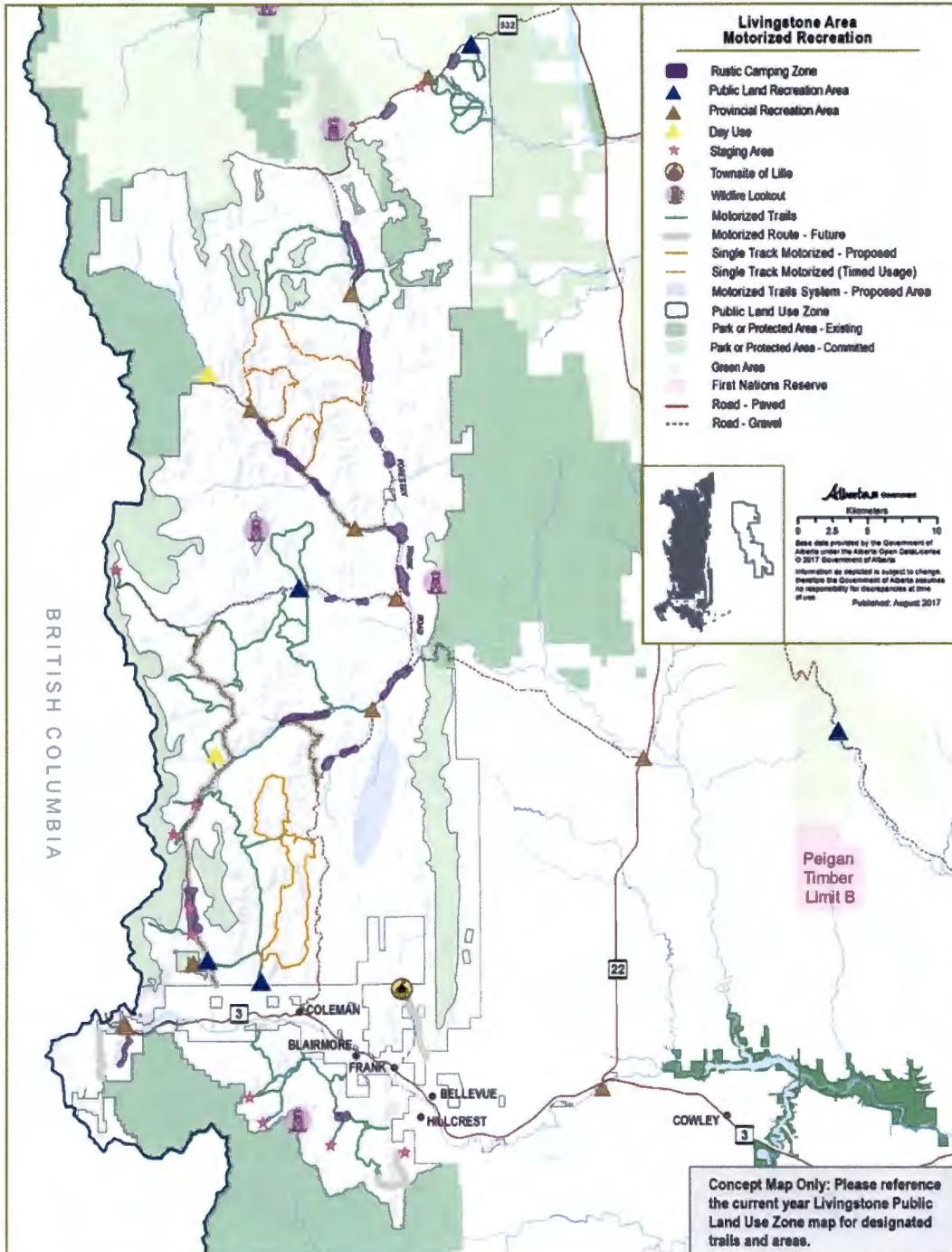


Figure 9: Livingstone Summer Recreation Opportunity Map - Motorized

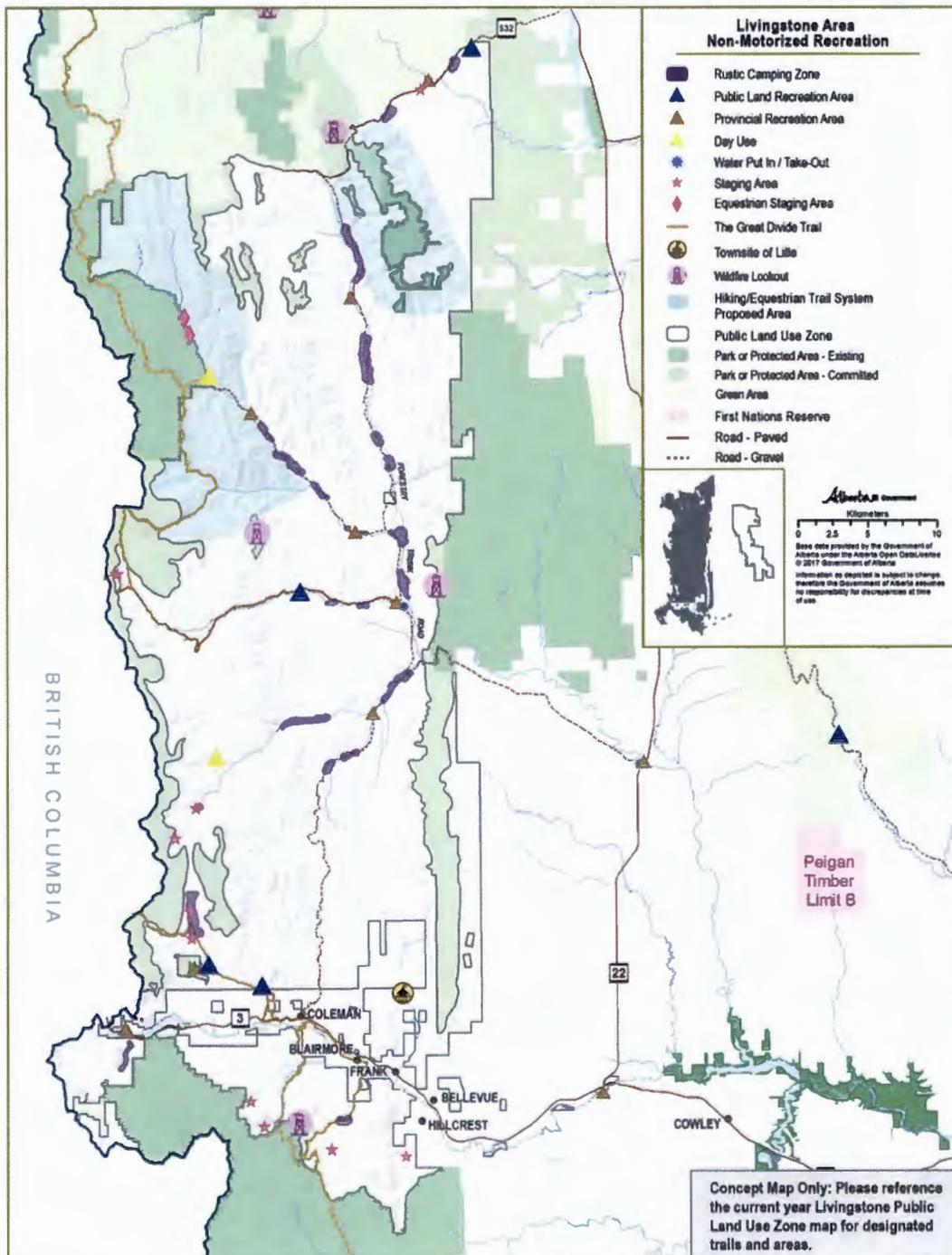


Figure 10: Livingstone Summer Recreation Opportunity Map – Non-Motorized

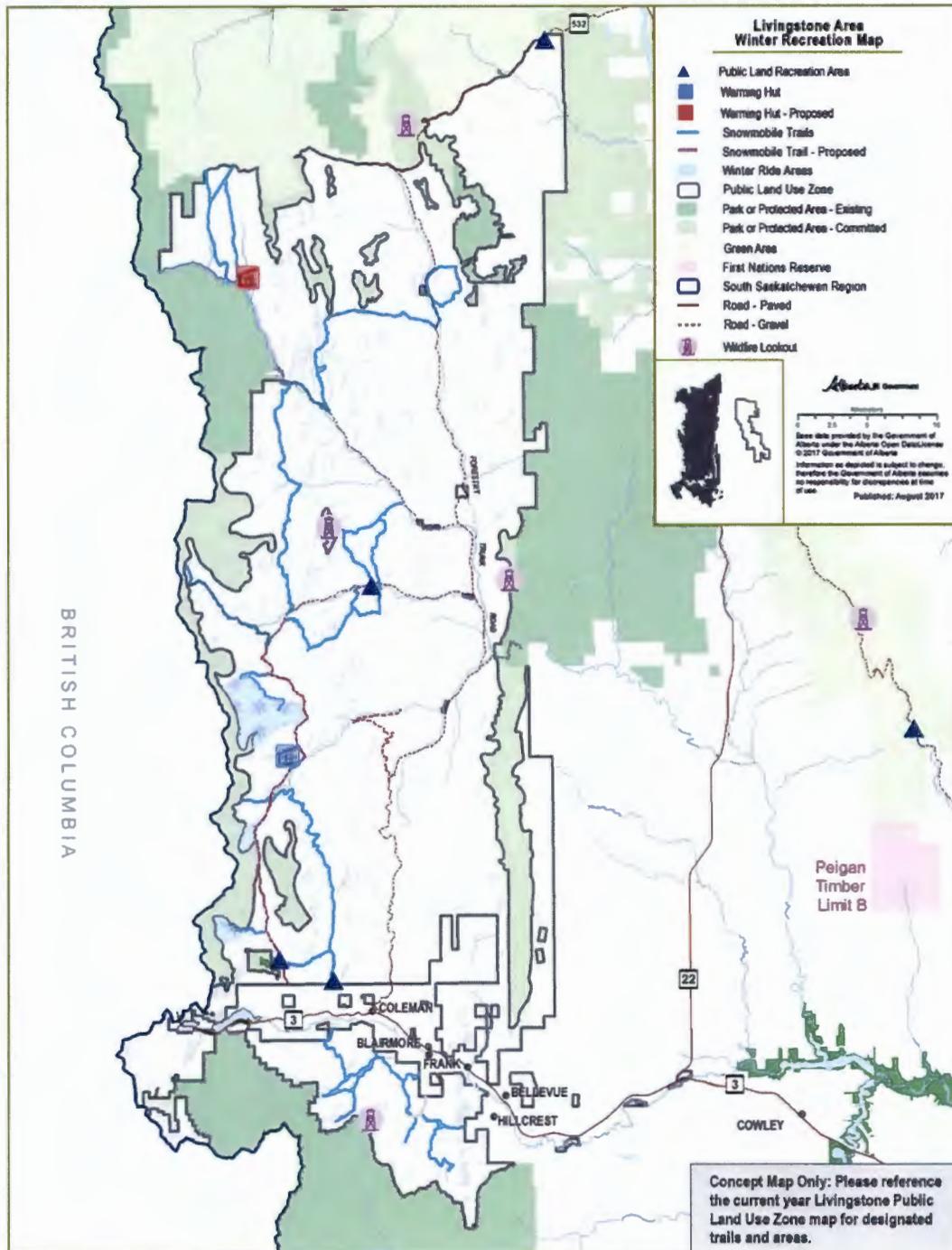


Figure 11: Livingstone Winter Recreation Opportunity Map

5.1.1 Crowsnest Recreation Management Unit

Management Intent

The Crowsnest Recreation Management Unit has historically experienced heavy recreational use and will continue to provide a full range of four-season recreation activities and tourism experiences in the future. A significant feature of the Recreation Management Unit is that it includes the interface with the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass. Recreation users will have access to a range of amenities and services (many of which are pre-existing and located within the municipality) and, in the future, to a well-developed recreation infrastructure system on public land in the surrounding areas. Inter-connected trail systems will expand visitor experiences and connect communities, scenic or cultural sites, and tourism features. Natural, local, Indigenous, and other cultural and historical interpretation opportunities will be promoted. More specifically, the following will be pursued:

- Provide an assortment of four-season recreation opportunities in close proximity to the Highway 3 corridor and the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass.
- Concentrate recreation infrastructure and amenities within this Recreation Management Unit and design recreation facilities to withstand high intensities of use.
- Enable the development of appropriate nature-based tourism opportunities.
- Accommodate both motorized and non-motorized recreation activities through winter and summer while ensuring enough separation between conflicting uses.
- Formalize hiking trails to well-known destinations and features.
- Provide continued support for winter cross-country ski trail systems managed by partners.
- Provide a large variety of options for day trips and excursions.
- Provide recreation experiences for all ages and abilities.
- Enable opportunities for unique recreation activities (e.g., OHV obstacle and skill-testing area for new and experienced riders, adventure races) where appropriate.

Given the significant potential for expanded recreation opportunities, the Government of Alberta will work with the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass to explore developing an interconnected recreation infrastructure system that promotes economic diversification, environmental sustainability, and improves quality of life and experiences for residents and visitors. Several locations within this Recreation Management Unit are unsuitable for recreation development due to wildlife habitat sensitivities and will be avoided.

Connectivity

The Crowsnest Recreation Management Unit presents a unique opportunity in providing the setting for connected and diverse trails systems for both summer and winter use. This area contains two staging areas — the Atlas and McGillivray areas under Public Land Recreation Area designation, as well the Satoris and York Creek staging areas. The Recreation Management Unit also contains numerous trail connections from the local municipalities into the Public Land Use Zone, desirable connections to the Castle Parks for winter and non-motorized trails, connections north into the adjacent Dutch-Oldman Recreation Management Unit, as well as trail connections to British Columbia. It also contains portions of the most significant hiking trail in the region – the Great Divide Trail. The Government of Alberta will encourage trail development that connects trail networks within the region.

5.1.2 Livingstone Range Recreation Management Unit

Management Intent

The area has high scenic values and draws a variety of non-motorized users including hikers, equestrian users, hunters and anglers. Water-based recreation along the Livingstone and Oldman Rivers is also popular. Given the area's natural landscape and habitat values, the focus of this Recreation Management Unit will be on non-motorized backcountry recreation experiences. As fishing and hunting are popular in this area, provision will be made for a limited number of designated motorized trails to support these activities.

Few recreation facilities are anticipated within the area in the immediate future. Existing roads and staging areas will remain in place. If recreational demand and use grows in future years, an assessment on the need for staging areas and formalized non-motorized trails will be undertaken. Similarly, no formalized connectivity with the Bob Creek Wildland Provincial Park is currently envisioned. Non-motorized connections may be explored in the future. A limited number of rustic camping zones may be considered in the future to support non-motorized activities.

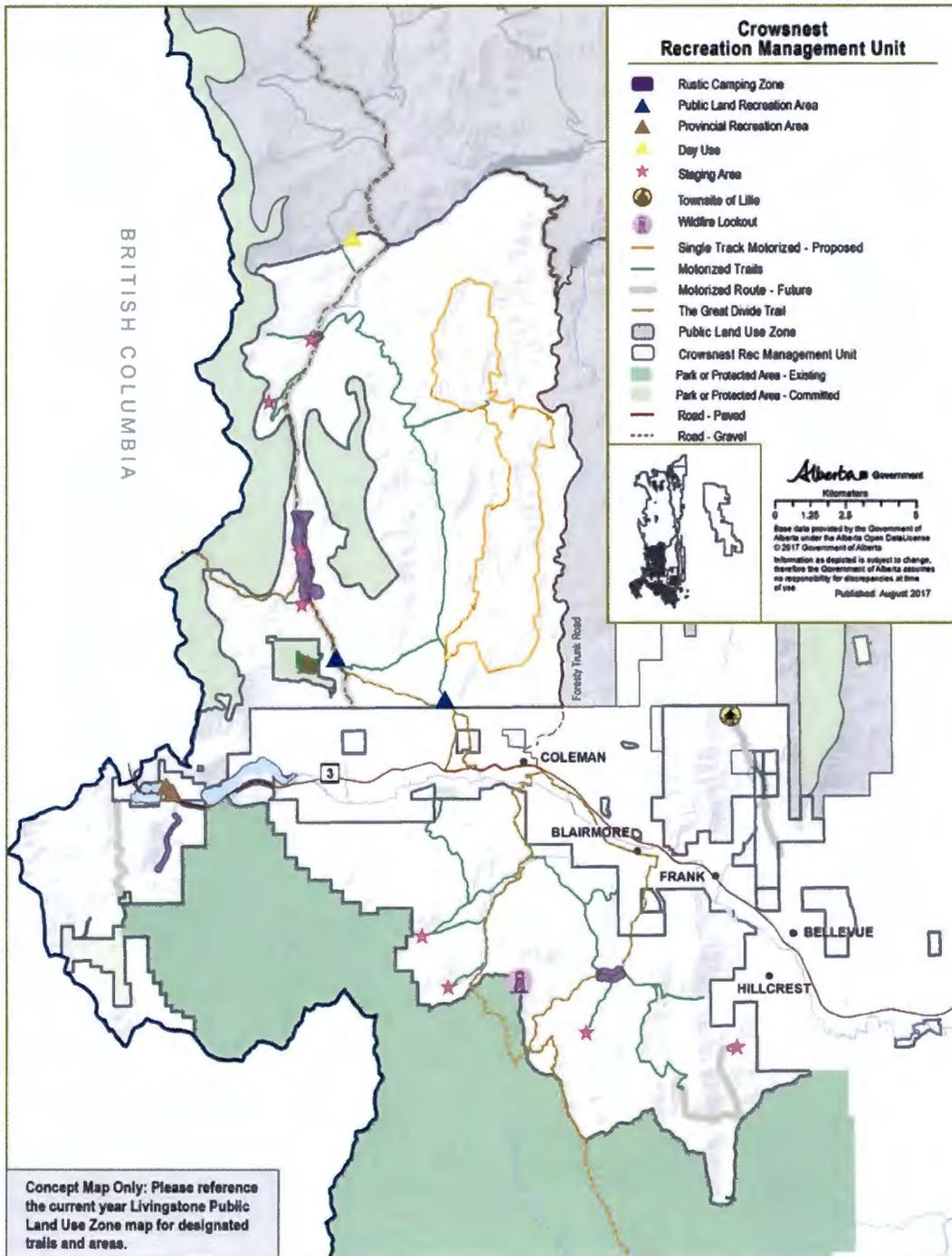


Figure 12: Crowsnest Recreation Management Unit Opportunity Map

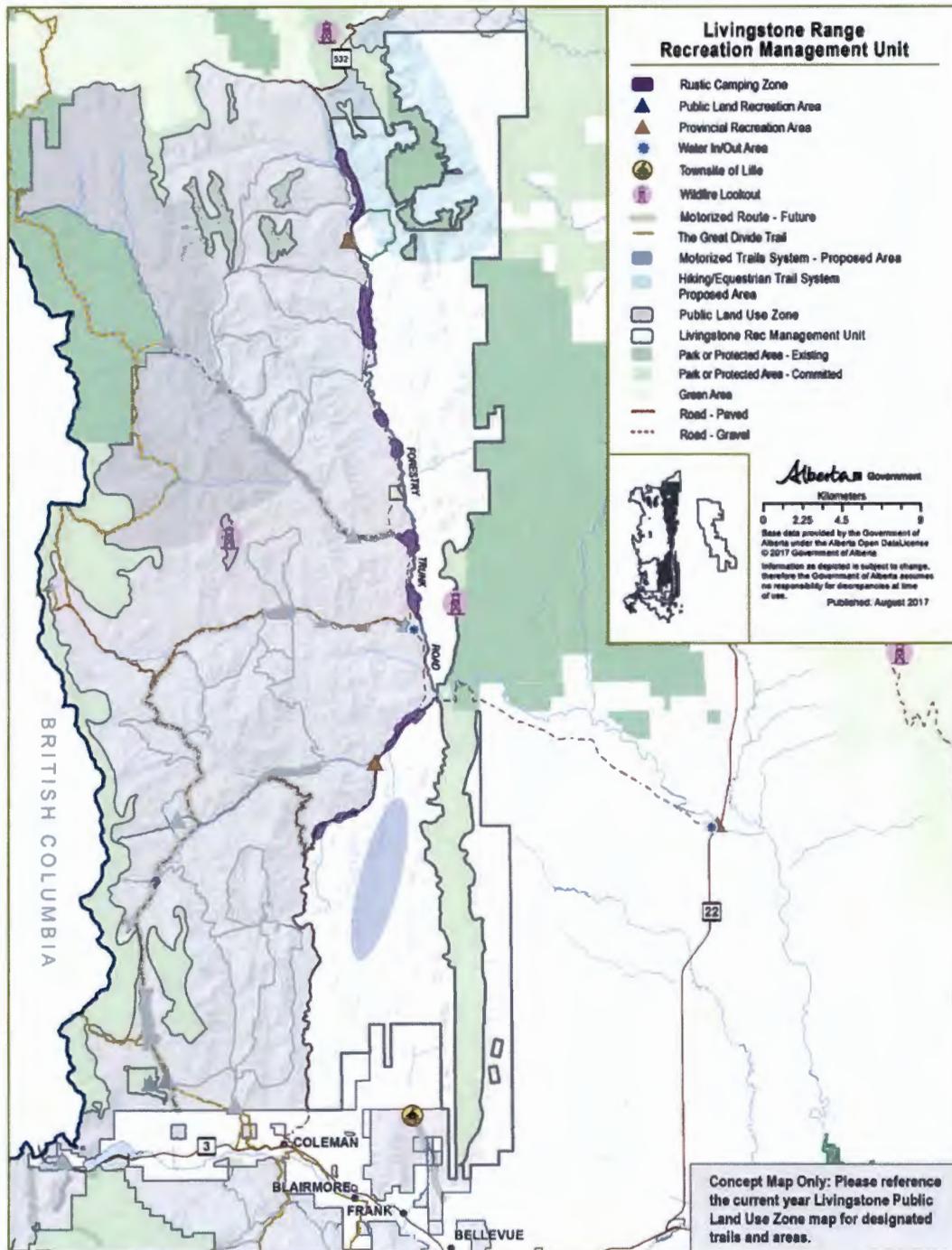


Figure 13: Livingstone Range Recreation Management Unit Opportunity Map

5.1.3 Dutch-Oldman Recreation Management Unit

Management Intent

This Dutch-Oldman Recreation Management Unit is comprised of several watershed basins: Racehorse Creek, Dutch Creek, Hidden Creek, Upper Oldman River and other minor drainages. The overall management intent is to provide opportunities for rustic motorized camping and motorized recreation at designated locations and on designated trails (winter and summer) supported by necessary staging areas. Non-motorized forms of recreation can occur throughout the entirety of this Recreation Management Unit. Appropriate and compatible forms of nature-based tourism (e.g. guiding, outfitting) that utilize existing infrastructure could be accommodated. Staging areas for equestrian and hiking use will be provided, focused near the Beehive Natural Area.

The area offers important opportunities for motorized recreation that support a variety of skill levels for riders. As trails are upgraded to promote sustainability, providing a varying level of technical challenge within trail systems will be incorporated into detailed trail design. A limited amount of highly technical motorbike or single track trails may be designated. These single track trails will be situated on suitable terrain and with appropriate timing restrictions. Within the Hidden Creek drainage, recreation infrastructure will be reduced to address known resource concerns, including westslope cutthroat trout. Few OHV designated trails and rustic motorized camping opportunities will be offered.

Improved opportunities for summer and winter OHV use and rustic motorized camping will be provided in the lower Racehorse, Dutch Creek, the Upper Oldman and remaining minor drainages. The focus of this activity will be in the central portion of the Recreation Management Unit with limited trails that connect to BC or allow for effective connectivity of the network along the western portion of the area. Motorized access will be routed away from the Crown of the Continent area unless providing connectivity to neighboring trail systems.

The west side of the Recreation Management Unit is important for snowmobilers, providing some of the highest quality snowmobile areas in the province, as well as connectivity to well-known snow areas in BC. Random ride areas and routes for snowmobilers have been identified. (Figure 13: Livingstone Winter Motorized Trails and Areas).

During summer use, the western portion immediately adjacent to the proposed High Rock Wildland Park will be focused towards non-motorized uses including backcountry hiking, hunting, fishing etc. Limited summer motorized trails will be included on the western portion to allow for staging areas for non-motorized activities.

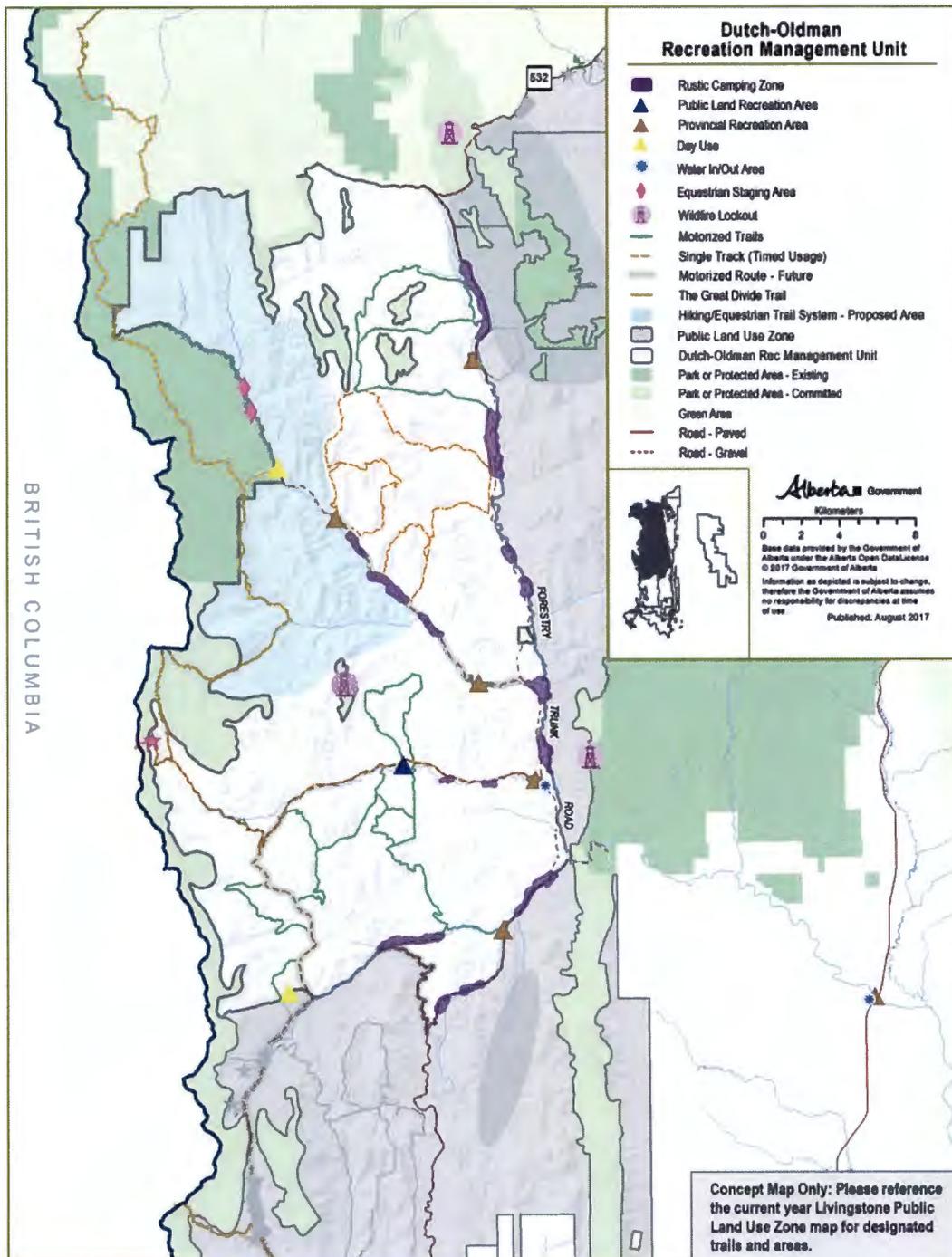


Figure 14: Dutch–Oldman Recreation Management Unit Opportunity Map

5.1.4 Willow Creek Recreation Management Unit

Management Intent

The Willow Creek Recreation Management Unit is a popular day use and camping area supporting a variety of recreation opportunities. Within a half-day's driving distance from Calgary and communities to the south, the area provides year-round opportunities, including rustic motorized camping at designated camping zones. The area will allow continuation of motorized recreation using the designated trails.

Existing equestrian use will be supported, by upgrading staging areas with specific amenities required for riders to access Pekisko Heritage Rangeland and Mount Livingstone Natural Area. There is significant opportunity for enhanced hiking trails that lead around and into the Mount Livingstone Natural Area and Bob Creek Wildland Provincial Park, with staging and access originating within the Willow Recreation Management Unit. The potential for development of these trails will be explored with partners.



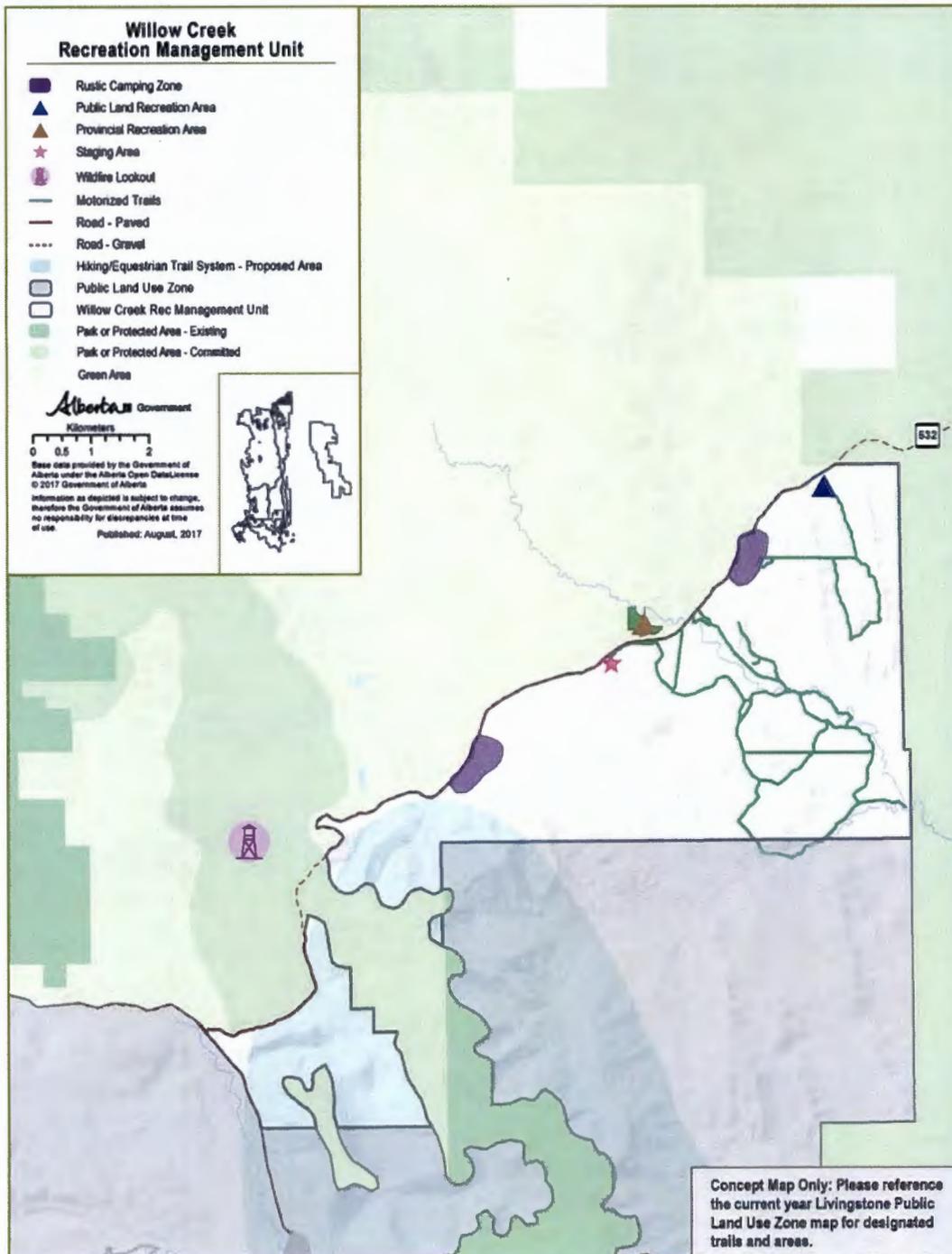


Figure 15: Willow Creek Recreation Management Unit Opportunity Map

5.2 Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Unit

Background

Porcupine Hills provides a unique combination of vistas, varied topography and vegetation that makes the area attractive for a number of recreational activities. The southern areas are easily accessible from nearby Lethbridge, and major highways including Highway 22 and Highway 520 provide excellent transportation to the Public Land Use Zone. While most activity happens in the summer season due to unreliable and early melting snowpack, the area is enjoyed year round for day use and overnight activities. Hunting is a significant activity within the area. Scenic gravel roads also currently exist, including Skyline Road, Beaver Creek Road, and East and West Trout Creek Roads.

Portions of the Porcupine Hills have experienced heavy recreational use such as random camping and motorbiking. These activities have had a significant affect on the lands and require enhanced management including improved trail location design, reduction in motorized access as per the draft Land Footprint Management Plan, and compliance in order to remain sustainable for the long term. The Public Land Use Zone is surrounded by private landowners and is also used extensively for logging and ranching. Given the close proximity of private landowners around these public lands, there is a need to respect private property along the boundaries of the Public Land Use Zone. The area also contains a high amount of fescue grassland and springs, as well as provides important wildlife habitat for ungulates (mountain sheep, elk, deer, moose, etc.).

The Porcupine Hills are an important area for First Nations. The area is currently used by First Nations for exercising Treaty Rights, gathering of medicinal plants and other resources as well as containing sites of cultural or historical significance. Respect for First Nations traditional land use will be integrated in management decisions and ongoing conversations with area First Nations will help ensure that potential affects from the designated recreation infrastructure system are mitigated.

Management Intent

The overall management intent for the recreation system in the Porcupine Hills is to provide opportunities that take advantage of the high scenic values and interesting and unique terrain for formalized and dispersed non-motorized trails, day use as well as camping. The focus will be on providing a rustic and natural visitor experience, without significant modifications to the landscape. A designated motorized recreation trail system will provide experiences for OHV users, focusing on families, casual riders and shorter distance rides. Similarly, rustic motorized camping will be within designated zones and Public Land Recreation Areas.

In the north portion of the Porcupine Hills, minimal motorized access (with appropriate staging) will be maintained to allow access for recreation, including hunting, day use, hiking and dispersed recreation. Non-motorized activity will be a priority with the area south of Highway 520 having a trail network designated for higher density motorized use. The designated trail system

will make use of existing trails where environmentally feasible to limit development of new infrastructure on undisturbed land, especially avoiding disturbance on native grasslands.

Within the southernmost portions of the Porcupine Hills (Figure 18: Porcupine Hills Recreation Opportunity Map) non-motorized users will be permitted to access the area and formalized trails may be considered in the future for hiking and equestrian use. Staging areas that support access for non-motorized use will be established in the area near Beaver Creek and will enable hiking, mountain biking and equestrian access in the southern portion of Porcupine Hills.

Winter Motorized Trails

Porcupine Hills rarely has enough snowpack to permit the establishment of winter motorized trails. Should the snowpack be adequate, recreationists may use the designated summer trails in the Porcupine Hills for snowmobiling. Within the Porcupine Hills, snow and/or ice bridges are not feasible and existing bridges must be used.

Nature-based Tourism, Viewpoints and Scenic Features

Existing developed tourism opportunities are limited within the Porcupine Hills; however, the surrounding area currently promotes ranching heritage through commercial trail riding, working ranch vacations, and B & B lodging which celebrate the cowboy culture. These ventures are encouraged to continue to use the Porcupine Hills trails and staging areas to support their businesses. Additionally, opportunities may exist for Indigenous tourism. Tourism operations that align with the draft Recreation Management Plan, draft Land Footprint Management Plan, and South Saskatchewan Regional Plan will be encouraged to locate their activities to this area.

Special Events and Commercial Activities for Recreational Purposes

A variety of special events have occurred in this area in the past, including car rallies, motorbike events, and dog trials. Future applications for commercial special events must demonstrate alignment with this Plan, including assessing and mitigating for potential impacts to biodiversity, wildfire risk, and other land uses in the area. A maximum of two commercial special events per year may be permitted off the designated trail network in Porcupine Hills, subject to conditions such as timing restrictions, requirements for reclamation, approval of racecourse, and others that the approval authority may deem necessary. Considerations for adjacent landowners will be required for all events.

Recreation Opportunity Concept Maps

Figure 15 indicates the strategic intent of enhancing the management of outdoor recreation in the planning area and **are representative of current state** at the time of plan approval. They should be referred to as information maps only representing concepts and strategic direction and are a summarized visual representation of the management intent and specific direction laid out within Sections 5.1 and 5.3. These maps are not regulatory nor legally binding in nature and the current year Public Land Use Zone Map (Section 5.4) should be consulted when recreating within the Public Land Use Zones.

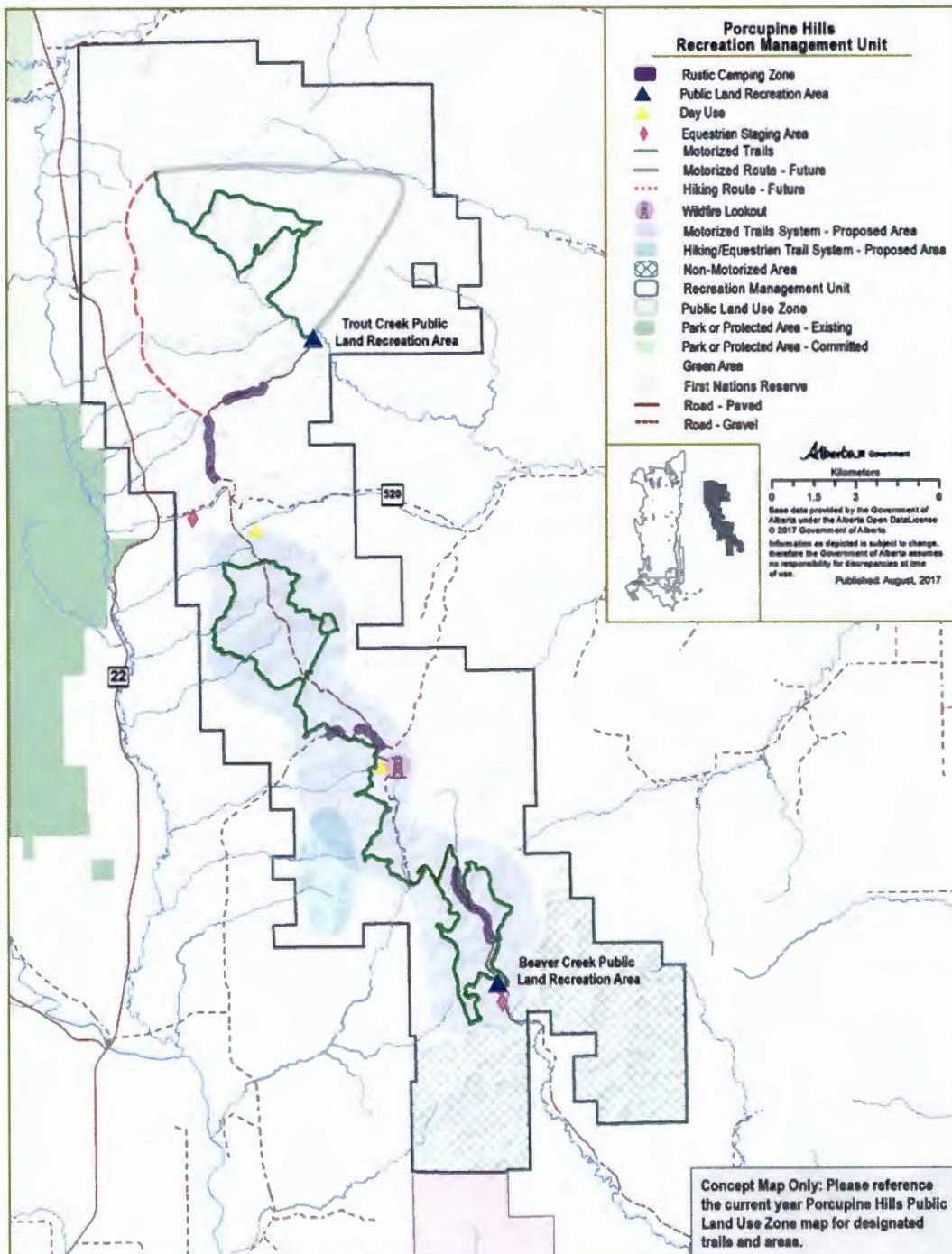


Figure 16: Porcupine Hills Recreation Opportunity Map

5.3 Recreation Management Unit Strategies and Actions

In addition to the overarching strategies and actions identified in Section 4, the following area-specific strategies and actions have been identified by stakeholders and Government of Alberta staff as important to enhancing or maintaining the outdoor recreation system into the future. These actions will be pursued subject to availability of partnerships and prioritization of resources.

Table 14: Recreation Management Unit Specific Strategies and Actions

Crowsnest Recreation Management Unit			
	Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
Trails and Staging Motorized	Establish a single track motorcycle area along the Forestry Trunk Road as shown in Figure 12. This network will be established in an area that is sustainable for heavy use and built in collaboration with users.	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division
	Develop and maintain a snowmobile trail connection between the Cataract Creek Public Land Use Zone and the Atlas area within the Livingstone as well as into the Crowsnest Pass.	Short Term and Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division and Snowmobile Groups
	Winter random riding areas will be identified for snowmobile use. Proposed areas include, but not limited to, Dean's Peak and Window Mountain.	Short Term and Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division
	Development of family-oriented OHV riding areas around McGillivray Creek and Atlas areas to support youth, family, and new riders.	Medium Term	AEP, Operations Division
Trails and Staging Non-motorized	Identify non-motorized trail networks that connect the region's parks and protected areas with the Livingstone Public Land Use Zone.	Short-Medium Term	AEP, Operations Division and Parks Division
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider viability and desirability of enabling public access to the Ptolemy Caves. Maintain non-motorized access through Castle Park to the North York Creek plane crash site within Castle Provincial Park. 		
	Designate the Great Divide Trail, Crowsnest Mountain, Window Mountain Lake and other trails in the area.	Short-Medium Term	AEP Operations Division, Trail Groups
	Designate popular summer hiking trails around the Crowsnest Pass to encourage wider use.	Short-Medium Term	AEP, Operations Division
	Explore options to develop and designate enhanced cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, skijoring or ski touring trails around the Crowsnest Pass; in particular, in and around the Alison/Chinook area.	Short-Medium Term	AEP, Operations Division, Trail Groups
	Enable mountain bike clubs and other interested parties to develop and upgrade mountain bike trails in the Crowsnest Pass and other appropriate areas.	Ongoing	Interested clubs and organizations

Trails and Staging	Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
Camping	<p>Establish new Public Land Recreation Areas within the Livingstone Public Land Use Zone for enhanced management of current high use camping and staging areas. For Crowsnest Recreation Management Unit, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McGillivray Creek, • Atlas 	Short Term	AEP, Policy and Planning Division
Dutch – Didman Recreation Management Unit			
	Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
Trails and Staging Motorized	Explore placement with local user groups and Alberta Parks of a winter safety shelter between Racehorse Creek and Cataract Creek (to the north) along the designated snowmobile network within the Public Land Use Zone or within Honeymoon Provincial Recreation Area.	Short-Medium Term	AEP Operations Division and/or Parks Division
	Maintain the existing Racehorse Creek Safety Shelter for snowmobilers use in partnership with the local clubs.	Ongoing	Snowmobile Groups
	Develop and maintain a snowmobile trail connection between the Cataract Creek Public Land Use Zone and the Atlas area within the Livingstone.	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division and Snowmobile Groups
Trails and Staging Non-motorized	Maintain non-motorized access to Window Mountain within the proposed High Rock Wildland Provincial Park including appropriate staging.	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division. Parks Division
	Formalize the Great Divide Trail to secure the route long term.	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division
	Upgrade staging and trails into the Beehive Natural Area for equestrian and hiking use.	Medium Term	AEP, Operations Division
	Identify non-motorized trail networks that connect regional Parks and Protected Areas (i.e. Kananaskis Country), and with British Columbia.	Medium-Long Term	AEP, Operations Division
Camping	Establish new Public Land Recreation Area for enhanced management of the high use area of Caesar's Flat.	Short Term	AEP, Policy and Planning Division
Livingstone Range			
	Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
Trails and Staging Motorized	Determine feasibility of upgrading motorized access along Daisy Creek to address environmental concerns, including trail rerouting, trail upgrading and bridge placement prior to permitting motorized access.	Short-Medium Term	AEP, Operations Division
Trails and Staging Non-motorized	Designate non-motorized trails for access to the Livingstone Range and develop staging areas where appropriate.	Medium-Long Term	Trail Groups
Other Recreation Activities	Monitor existing water recreation put in/take out sites; upgrade or close as required to maintain environmental values and promote positive experiences.	Long Term	AEP, Operations Partners

Willow Creek			
	Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
Trails and Staging Non-motorized	Explore options for formalization and expansion of hiking and mountain biking trails into nearby areas.	Medium Term	AEP, Operations Division
	As resources permit, upgrade existing staging areas in the Recreation Management Unit to support equestrian use. Enhanced amenities may include hitching rails, corral structures, etc.	Medium Term	AEP, Operations Division
	Maintain access from Willow Creek to public lands and parks and protected areas to the north and south for hiking and equestrian use.	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division
Camping	Establish a new Public Land Recreation Area for management of the high use area known as Stimson Creek.	Short Term	AEP, Policy and Planning Division
Porcupine Hills			
	Strategy/Action	Timeline	Lead
Trails and Staging Motorized	Establish a motorized loop in the North Porcupine Hills to allow for hunting access, non-motorized staging and dispersed recreation.	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division
	Establish a limited designated summer OHV trail system focused on shorter rides.	Short Term	AEP, Operations Division
Trails and Staging Non-motorized	Maintain recreational access to the Porcupine Hills as a destination for individuals, families and visitors for low intensity recreation use.	Ongoing	AEP, Operations Division
	Look for opportunities for developing hiking, equestrian and mountain bike trails in the north Porcupine Hills, that are connected to the proposed staging and camping areas (e.g. the trail informally known as the 'north ridge walk').	Medium Term	AEP, Operations Division
Camping	Establish new Public Land Recreation Areas within the Porcupine Hills Public Land Use Zone for enhanced management of high use areas at Beaver Creek and Trout Creek.	Short Term	AEP, Policy and Planning Division

5.4 Public Land Use Zone Maps

Maps will be prepared that provide important information for recreational users within the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills Public Land Use Zones. Official Public Land Use Zone maps are primarily intended to identify the designated motorized trail network and supporting facilities (trailheads, staging areas, designated camping zones, areas with restrictions including target shooting, and public roads). These maps serve as notice of the designated motorized network and should be considered the authority for recreational users (as developed).

The Public Land Use Zone map will be available on Government of Alberta websites as well as through digital and hard copy distribution. In addition to maps, information about the recreation system and user requirements will be shared through kiosks, signs, education materials, and smart phone applications.

Summer Public Land Use Zone maps will be reviewed and updated before May 1 and winter maps will be reviewed and updated before November 1 of each year. They may also be updated to reflect changes to infrastructure or in response to other activities or changes to the landscape. The process for reviewing and updating the Public Land Use Zone map will be developed within a year of plan approval and will consider stakeholder and First Nations input.

As the mapping of key features and designation of trails is an integral part of recreation management planning, certain major changes, either individually or cumulatively, may prompt a fulsome review of this Plan, as indicated in Section 6.3. Should a proposed trail route, desired recreation opportunities or other recreation management activity differ from the Recreation Management Plan, Alberta Environment and Parks will determine if that action requires a partial or full review of the plan.

6.0 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Measuring performance enables monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the implementation progress as well as the effectiveness of the plan. This valuable information guides decision-making and supports continuous improvement towards achieving plan outcomes. A **performance management** system will outline how outcomes are realized through plan implementation, review and reporting. Consistently measuring performance helps better understand the impacts of plans and programs on people, the economy and the environment. Having a dedicated and systematic performance management system also enhances collaboration with partners and the overall delivery of services to Albertans.

6.1. Monitoring

Monitoring performance means monitoring whether strategies and actions have been applied, as well as the progress towards achieving the outcomes – the effectiveness of the plan overall. Alberta Environment and Parks, led by Policy and Planning Division, will track plan implementation annually.

Monitoring Plan Outcomes

Measuring progress towards outcomes entails longer-term monitoring and data collection as progress towards a specified end or desired condition could take years to be realized. A monitoring strategy will be developed within a year of plan approval by the Alberta Environment and Parks in collaboration with all agencies responsible for implementation and subject matter experts, including First Nations, local stakeholders and advisory groups.

A monitoring strategy will:

- define the purpose and scope of monitoring,
- identify relevant metrics to be monitored,
- specify sources and methods of data collection,
- set out a plan for future monitoring throughout Livingstone and Porcupine Hills (including timing), and
- clarify roles and responsibilities.

A performance metric framework will be populated to contain the specific details for each metric, including: relevance, data collection frequency or availability, reporting frequency, data sources and data storage. A standard performance metric framework is under development by Alberta Environment and Parks and will be used for the draft Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan monitoring strategy.

Performance will be measured in the areas of experience, enforcement, education and sustainable engineering, as they relate to the desired environmental, social and economic conditions the draft Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan aims to achieve. Performance measures will be selected and finalized during plan implementation when the monitoring strategy is developed.

Experience – This provides information on the recreational users' experience while engaged in activities within the Public Land Use Zones. A Recreation Use and Experience Survey may be used and include (but not limited to): information about demographics, user satisfaction with their experience and desired activities, and the infrastructure they use. A longitudinal survey completed every five years could provide the necessary information if organized and conducted on a regional scale.

Enforcement – This provides information about the degree to which users comply with any rules and regulations that are in effect within the Public Land Use Zones. One measure may be the number of tickets issued compared to the number of interactions. Positive changes in behaviours should result in fewer tickets and be reflected in the ratio of tickets to interactions, regardless of the number of officers on the ground. This data can be provided through annual reporting from the Alberta Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General.

Education – This provides information on how well informed recreational users are about opportunities and requirements within the Public Land Use Zones. One example of how to measure this is to have questions in the Recreation Use and Experience Survey that would measure the respondent's level of awareness on key topics such as: rules and regulations, safety information (such as BearSmart), and other general information deemed important for recreationists to know. A longitudinal survey completed every five years by Alberta Environment and Parks could provide the necessary information if organized and conducted on a regional scale.

System Sustainability – This provides information on the status and condition of the recreation system relative to the protection of environmental, social, and economic values (e.g., trails, crossings, staging areas, etc. that will be retained and trails that will be retired) within the Public Land Use Zones. Examples of measures include: the number of kilometres of upgraded and maintained designated trails (both motorized and non-motorized), the number of recreation sites managed (trailheads, staging areas, rustic camping areas), the number of approved water-crossings built/maintained, and Indigenous sites and values protected. Resources necessary to accomplish these measures would also be tracked. This data would be collected annually from reporting completed by an advisory group or from land managers' records.

Carrying Capacity

There are many performance measures and frameworks that have been used in other jurisdictions to help inform carrying capacity (**recreational, infrastructure and environmental**). Developing carrying capacity is a complex and resource intensive process. During the development of the monitoring strategy, measures that can provide the data, and be used to build a foundation for a future carrying capacity framework, will be identified and given a higher priority. Methods, such as a longitudinal survey on recreation use and experience, are proposed to obtain information about recreational use in high demand areas (e.g. staging areas, trails) and to develop a baseline. Over time, carrying capacity will be better defined and **triggers** and limits identified.

While approaches to carrying capacity are being developed, qualitative metrics will be applied to identify where carrying capacity may be exceeded and further management actions are required in order to limit damage and/or access. Some examples could include:

- Monitoring environmental degradation
- Monitoring user conflict between and within user group types
- Identification and retirement/reclamation of unusable trails or infrastructure
- Addressing public safety concerns
- Identifying facilities that are at capacity or over utilized consistently during a season

6.2 Evaluation

Evaluation is the systematic assessment of the design, implementation or results of a plan for reporting, learning, making adjustments to priorities, or decision-making. In order to assess the effectiveness of plan implementation, performance metric data and information needs to periodically undergo a rigorous analysis and interpretation to determine the extent to which the plan is achieving the intended outcomes. The efficiency with which resources are used and results or outputs achieved needs to also be examined. The relevance of the plan, in light of current priorities, also needs to be included as part of evaluation.

The tool for tracking data and information will be the performance metric framework, which will be critical for determining how effective the plan has been in achieving outcomes of the draft Recreation Management Plan as well as strategies and actions during the implementation. Regular reporting on the draft Land Footprint Management Plan metrics will provide the data to determine whether the draft Recreation Management Plan (through trail designation and the reclamation of historic unnecessary or unsustainable trails) is meeting the motorized access limits in the draft Land Footprint Management Plan and other requirements related to recreation and footprint.

6.3 Reporting and Plan Review

The results of evaluation and changes arising from implementation need to be shared broadly. Alberta Environment and Parks will use various mechanisms to communicate plan progress, including reports that speak directly to the plan, and communications that address more specific aspects of the plan. Reports will provide evidence that progress is being made towards achieving the outcomes and will adequately communicate progress on metrics.

At least once every 10 years following plan approval, a review will be undertaken which will include a thorough evaluation of plan effectiveness, efficiency, and relevance. This could result in the plan being amended, replaced, renewed, or repealed. Reporting on progress towards achieving strategic outcomes will be undertaken following the 10-year review.

Plan reviews can also be triggered by the ongoing review of the performance metrics. If the plan is meeting the expected strategies, no further action is required until the 10-year review. Should analysis of the performance metrics show that the plan is not meeting expected outcomes, a review of the poorly performing component may be conducted or a revision of the plan in its entirety can be initiated. Other considerations that might trigger a plan revision may include:

- Significant impacts to the planning area attributable to natural disturbances such as flood, wildfire, climate change effects, etc.
- Changes to the Public Land Use Zone maps are not in alignment with the plan.
- New government policy or statutory changes have significant implications for the plan.

7.0 APPENDICES

Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

Acronyms:

AEP: The department of Alberta Environment and Parks

C&T: The department of Alberta Culture and Tourism

Terms:

Carrying Capacity¹ – the ability of something to accommodate a level of use. There are three types:

Recreational² - where the level of use of a trail or area exceeds what is socially acceptable in aspects such as crowding and conflict. The threshold for recreational carrying capacity is dependent on factors such as number of people, perception of type of location, personal crowding preference. For example, backcountry users might feel that seeing two or three people is reaching the threshold of capacity but front-country users might feel that seeing 15 or 20 people is reaching the threshold of capacity.

Infrastructure³ - where the amount and condition of facilities and/or infrastructure such as bathrooms, signs, and parking are able to meet the needs of users.

Environmental⁴ – determined by the threshold where the biophysical factors cannot withstand the level of use and creates changes to the ecosystem.

Commercial Purpose (see also Recreational Purpose) – means a use or activity undertaken.

(i) with an intention that the use or activity may produce an economic benefit, whether for the person or persons that undertake the use or activity or for a charity or other person, or

(ii) in connection with the business of the person or persons that undertake the use or activity.

Day Use Site – a site where travellers can stop to rest and relax, enjoy the area or engage in specific activities that are offered at that location. Day use sites are not available for overnight use.

1 Stankey et al. (1985). *The limits of acceptable change system for wilderness planning* (General technical report INT-76). Ogden: UT: USDA Forest Service.

2 Manning, R. E. (2007). *Parks and carrying capacity: Commons without tragedy*. Island Press, Washington.

3 Needham, M.D., Ceurvorst, R. L. and Tynon, J.F. (2013). "Toward an approach for measuring indicators of facility carrying capacity in outdoor recreation areas." In *Journal of Leisure Research*, 45(3), 345-366.

4 Stankey et al. (1985). *The limits of acceptable change system for wilderness planning* (General technical report INT-76). Ogden: UT: USDA Forest Service.

Designated Trail⁵ - means, through regional and sub-regional planning process or through a regional management plan, an area or linear disturbance (trail) identified for a specific activity or activities. Trails are mapped, signed, and maintained. Trails that are mapped through the Alberta Environment and Parks Public Land Use Zone maps are designated trails.

Disposition⁶ - means any instrument executed pursuant to this Act, the former Act, The *Provincial Lands Act*, RSA 1942 c62, or the *Dominion Lands Act* (Canada), RSC 1927 c113, whereby

1. any estate or interest in land of the Crown, or
2. any other right or privilege in respect of land of the Crown that is not an estate or interest in land, is or has been granted or conveyed by the Crown to any person, but does not include a grant.

Extreme Use Trails⁷ - specific trail uses that involve competition or an element of danger.

Green Area⁸ - the unsettled portion of the province, primarily forest lands not available for agricultural development other than grazing.

Indigenous Peoples – for the purposes of the present document, “Indigenous Peoples” means “aboriginal peoples of Canada” within the meaning of Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. For the reasons stated in the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (2014), the focus on conversation with the region’s Aboriginal peoples has been with First Nations. All First Nations in the planning area adhered to a Treaty, under which they hold treaty rights within the meaning of Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982.

Limit (Land Disturbance Limit) – a management threshold that establishes a maximum amount of land disturbance that may occur in a given area in order to prevent undesirable change in the condition of a given landscape. It can be described specific to types of disturbance, for example linear or non-linear footprint, and is based on an assessment of environmental, social and economic priorities in a given area. It may be used in focused areas where it is necessary to take active steps in footprint management to address one or more key drivers for the area in either a proactive or responsive manner. Examples include meeting federal requirements (e.g. caribou range plans), addressing key regional plan outcomes, to meet or respond to specific biodiversity management framework indicators.

Motorized Access - means access for any recreational activity that uses a motor vehicle as defined in the *Traffic Safety Act* as: (i) a vehicle propelled by any power other than muscular power, or (ii) a moped, but does not include a bicycle, a power-assisted bicycle, an aircraft, an implement of husbandry or a motor vehicle that runs only on rails.

Nature-based Tourism⁹ - tourism that is undertaken largely or solely for the purpose of enjoying natural attractions and engaging in outdoor activities, whether for relaxation, discovery or adventure (e.g., camping, bird watching, trail riding, downhill skiing, hunting, mountain biking, motorized recreation, etc.).

5 Draft - Trails Administration Procedure

6 The *Public Lands Act* (2000) Alberta Queens Printer (e)

7 Government of Alberta. 2009. Alberta Recreation Corridor and Trails Classification System

8 Government of Alberta (2017) South Saskatchewan Regional Plan.

9 As defined within the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan

Near Stream Motorized Access - refers to Open or Restricted Motorized Access that falls within 100 m of a stream on highly erodible soils.

Objective - is a concrete statement describing what is to be achieved or accomplished. Objective statements provide direction for planning, for evaluating plans and for guiding projects and actions. Objectives should be written so that they can be evaluated at the conclusion of a project to determine if they were achieved. A well-worded objective will be Specific, Measurable, Attainable/Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound (SMART).

- **Specific** - the statement should indicate what should be accomplished. It should be phrased using action words like “design,” “sell,” “build,” “implement”.
- **Measurable** – the statement should clearly state what will be achieved and when it will be achieved. If you can measure the goal, you can determine if you have accomplished it. If the objective is accomplished, the project is a success.
- **Acceptable** – does everyone in the organization agree that the goal is necessary and desirable? Is the objective acceptable to managers and KEY stakeholders?
- **Realistic** – this means the goal can be accomplished, but it may be challenging. Is the goal/objective achievable?
- **Time bound** – an objective should specify a deadline and time horizon.

Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) - means a motor vehicle used for cross-country travel on land or water but does not include snow vehicles or boats.

Open Motorized Access - is general public access including permitted access for motorized recreation on designated trails, as well as established public/municipal roads and any industrial access that does not meet the criteria for Restricted Motorized Access.

Outcome¹⁰ - the likely or achieved short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention's outputs Broad in perspective and scope.

Outdoor Recreation¹¹ - all those things that a person or group chooses to do in an outdoors setting in order to make their leisure time more interesting, more enjoyable and more personally satisfying so as to enhance social functioning, assist in individual and community development and improve quality of life.

Performance Management - is a progressive method for measuring both plan performance and effectiveness that weaves throughout the entire planning process – it is not a stand-alone or external system.

Principles¹² - the fundamental basis that clarifies institutional values and perspectives, serves as a guide for making decisions and taking action, and help to provide a common understanding and nomenclature for everyone involved in the planning and management process.

¹⁰ <http://www.oecd.org/development/peer-reviews/2754804.pdf>

¹¹ Adapted from Recreation as defined within the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan

¹² Adapted from Principles of Recreation Resource Planning. Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals.

Provincial Recreation Areas (PRAs) - established under the *Provincial Parks Act*, provincial recreation areas are managed to support outdoor recreation and tourism as the primary intent. They often provide access to lakes, rivers, reservoirs and adjacent Crown land. Provincial recreation areas support a range of outdoor activities in natural, modified and man-made settings.

Public Land (see also Green Area; Vacant Public Land) – “public land” means land of the Crown in right of Alberta; *Public Lands Act*.

Public Land Recreation Area (PLRA) – a delineated area on public land established under the Public Land Administration Regulation (PLAR) that is intended for recreational purposes including camping, staging or day use. Activities within a PLRA are regulated through the Public Land Administration Regulation.

Public Land Use Zones (PLUZs) - an area designated under the Public Lands Administration Regulation that enables the management of public activities on the landscape.

Random Camping Sites – are motorized camping areas which exist in a natural (unmaintained) state, that typically offer no amenities, and in which campers need to be self-sufficient. Random camping is an unregulated activity that has occurred at “random” dispersed locations throughout the Public Land Use Zones, wherever people are able to find or establish vehicle access, with virtually no restrictions or rules to govern this activity.

Recreation Infrastructure System – the entirety of all designated motorized trails, designated non-motorized trails, undesignated non-motorized trails, staging and day use areas, camping areas (zones, Public Land Recreation Areas, etc.) as well as any supporting infrastructure (such as water crossings and shelters) and amenities (such as information kiosks, and garbage facilities).

Recreational Purpose (see also Commercial Purpose) – means a use or activity, including without limitation the following, that is undertaken for a purpose other than a commercial purpose:

- (i) hunting as defined in the *Wildlife Act*;
- (ii) camping;
- (iii) fishing;
- (iv) boating;
- (v) nature study, including viewing, drawing and photography;
- (vi) staging for air travel including hang-gliding and hot-air ballooning, but not including air travel by aerodromes within the meaning of the *Aeronautics Act* (Canada);
- (vii) human-powered travel, including hiking, swimming, underwater diving, snorkelling, skiing, snowshoeing, skating and sliding;

(viii) animal-powered travel, including dog-sledding, horseback riding, carting and tracking;

(ix) the use of any conveyance.

Restoration¹³ – the process of restoring site conditions as they were before the land disturbance.

Restricted Motorized Access - industrial or commercial access under disposition (primarily forestry, energy and mining, and grazing allotment holders) to access allocated resources.

Rustic Camping Zone – refers to a defined location (i.e., a designated area that is shown on a Public Land Use Zone map) where vehicle assisted (motorized) camping can occur. Camping zones are un-serviced and provide limited or no amenities (i.e., they offer a rustic camping experience).

Rustic Motorized Camping – camping with a recreational vehicle (RV) or camping unit that is designed to be carried on or towed behind a motorized vehicle within a designated area having limited or no services or amenities.

Threshold¹⁴ – “has the meaning given to it in a regional plan and may include a limit, target, trigger, range, measure, index or unit of measurement.”

Traditional Land Use¹⁵ – Alberta recognizes that First Nations may engage in customs or practices on the land that are not listed in Section 35 Treaty rights but are nonetheless important to First Nations (“traditional uses”). Traditional uses of land include burial grounds, gathering sites, and historical or ceremonial locations and do not refer to proprietary interest in the land. First Nations’ traditional use information can help greater inform Crown consultation and serve to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts. Alberta will consult with First Nations when traditional uses have the potential to be adversely impacted by land and natural resource management decisions.

Trail¹⁶ - a travel way established either through construction or use which is passable by at least one or more of the following : foot traffic, livestock, watercraft, bicycles, in-line skates, wheelchairs, cross-country skis, off-road recreation vehicles such as motorcycles, snowmobiles, ATVs, and 4-wheel drive vehicles.

Triggers - triggers are the basis for evaluating a changing condition, at which point a management response is initiated. Triggers may be developed to guide proactive and early management responses to avoid undesirable consequences. Exceedances of triggers or targets do not necessarily signal a real or meaningful change, but may provide an early opportunity to examine an indicator to determine what the trends are and what management response may be desired to mitigate foreseen negative impacts.

¹³ Glossary of Reclamation and Remediation Terms Used in Alberta 7th Edition, 2002.

¹⁴ *Alberta Land Stewardship Act*, 2009.

¹⁵ Government of Alberta (2013). *The Government of Alberta's Policy on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management*. Edmonton, AB.

¹⁶ National Trails System, National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, retrieved www.nps.gov/nts/nts_faq.html

Snow Vehicle¹⁷ - means a motor vehicle designed and equipped to be driven exclusively or chiefly on snow or ice or both.

Staging Area - may also be referred to as a trailhead, is an access point to a trail or trail system that is supported by public facilities which may include: vehicle (and trailer) parking area, OHV unloading ramp, signs, kiosk, garbage receptacles, toilets, hitching posts for horse, etc.

Tourist - a person who takes an overnight trip, or a same-day trip of more than 40 km (one-way) outside of their home community.

Vacant Public Land¹⁸ - means a vacant disposition area or other land that is under the administration of the Minister and that is not the subject of a formal disposition.

Vision¹⁹ - a “**vision statement**” is a picture of your planning area in the future; it is your inspiration and the framework for your strategic planning.

Visitors (see also Tourist) – a person who takes an overnight trip, or a same-day trip of more than 40 km (one-way) outside of their home community.

¹⁷ Public Land Administration Regulation.

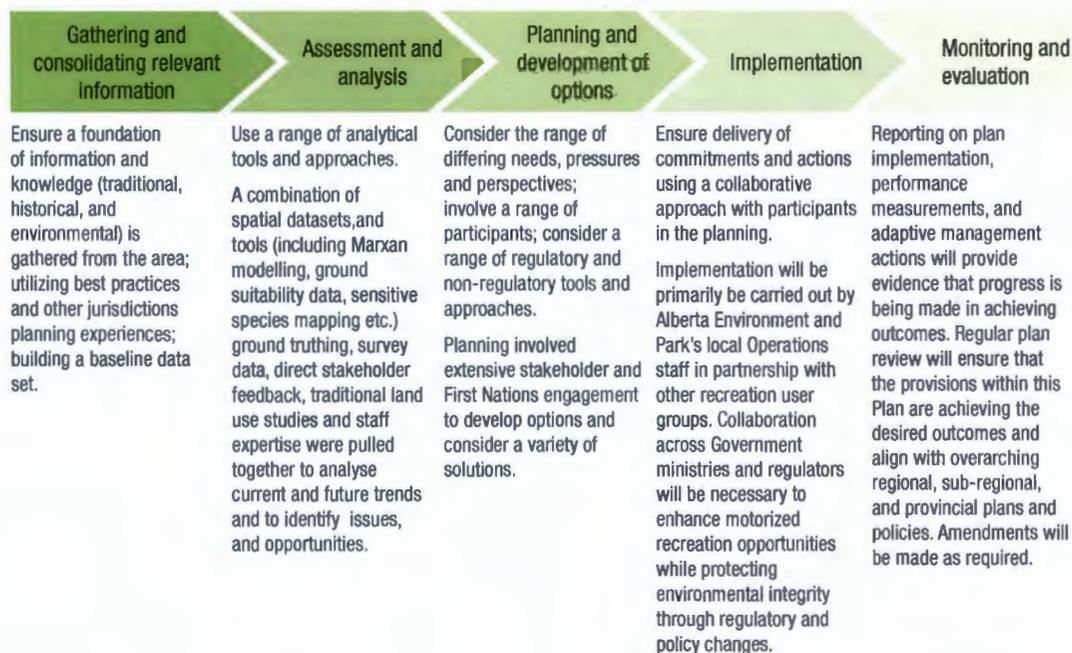
¹⁸ *Public Lands Act*: Public Lands Administration regulations. (2011). Canada Gazette Part II, 1(1)(gg)

¹⁹ Defining and Incorporating Principles within Public Land Use Policy.

Appendix B: Planning and Public Engagement Process

The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (pg. 136) outlines an integrated planning system in which key steps would enable an efficient and effective planning process for all sub-regional planning activities.

The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan sets a standard for future sub-regional planning in the South Saskatchewan region – including recreation and footprint planning. The following graphic outlines the process in the development of the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan.



Engagement Overview

In March 2015, the planning processes for the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint and Recreation Management Plans began. The initial planning stage engaged local users, stakeholders, municipalities and First Nations to:

- Identify key areas of interest,
- Look at management alternatives and techniques, establish a common language,
- Understand the multiple use landscape, and
- Develop relationships with stakeholders in the planning area.

During this initial planning stage, the Footprint and Recreation Project Teams worked cooperatively to engage stakeholders and build a foundation of area knowledge. A stakeholder list of over 800 was developed and over 48 meetings and workshops were held with stakeholders, landowners, industry and community partners; and over 20 meetings were held with Treaty 6 and Treaty 7 Nations including field and site visits to add to the traditional ecological knowledge necessary to respect First Nations Treaty and Aboriginal rights.

Initial conversations highlighted three areas of comment:

1. Planning and the Planning Process:

- Being authentically engaged and involved in the process.
- Building relationships and trust.
- Making connections to existing management plans, recovery plans, municipal plans, biodiversity management framework, etc.
- Transparency.
- Timely process and understanding what's next; consistent across province.
- Understanding governance, approval processes for plans and activities, zoning that might be involved, etc.
- Questions about what the plans will look like, what they will do, how things may/will change for users and industry, what data is being used and being able to manage into the future.

2. Managing the Landscape:

- Managing the landscape so ecosystem function is maintained/intact – considering biodiversity, connectivity, adjacent land.
- Understanding how current activities are affecting adjacent landowners, wildlife, emergency services, etc.
- Looking at watersheds, forest management, grazing and industrial activities – current and proposed.
- Having enforcement staff on the landscape.

3. Stewardship and Cultural Identity:

- The importance of education in changing stewardship ethic and understanding the cultural and environmental significance of the area.
- Building capacity with the younger generations; education system and onsite youth activities.
- Having the ability to complete a full traditional land use study of the area – field work with elders, oral history and paper.
- A willingness to help with activities – education, trail work, monitoring, training.
- Understanding how Public Land Use Zones will affect recreation, traditional uses and access.

After the initial planning stage, the Footprint and Recreation Management Planning Project Teams branched off to focus attention on the planning scale/focus/needs to address assessment, analysis and preparation of the separate draft plans.

In May 2017, the Southwest Alberta Recreation Advisory Group (SARAG) was formed to review and provide recommendations on various components of a draft Recreation Management Plan. The advisory group was comprised of representatives from sectors including municipalities, equestrian, landowners, grazing, winter and summer motorized use, hunting and fishing, guides and outfitters, non-governmental organizations, and industry. The group had an advisory role to Alberta Environment and Parks who were responsible for decision-making. After the completion of the Recreation Management Plan public consultation process, the advisory group was disbanded. The Southwest Alberta Recreation Advisory Group met six times from June 2017 – <insert date here>. Stakeholder engagement will continue to support implementation of the plan.

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Alberta Environment and Parks. Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Planning Southwest Alberta Recreation Advisory Group (SARAG) Participant Notes and Comments. 2017.

Checklist of what PHC wants in the LFMP and RMP

Based on long-standing involvement in the processes to develop them, the Porcupine Hills Coalition will be reviewing the draft Land Footprint Management Plan and Recreation Management Plan to ensure that they include the following:

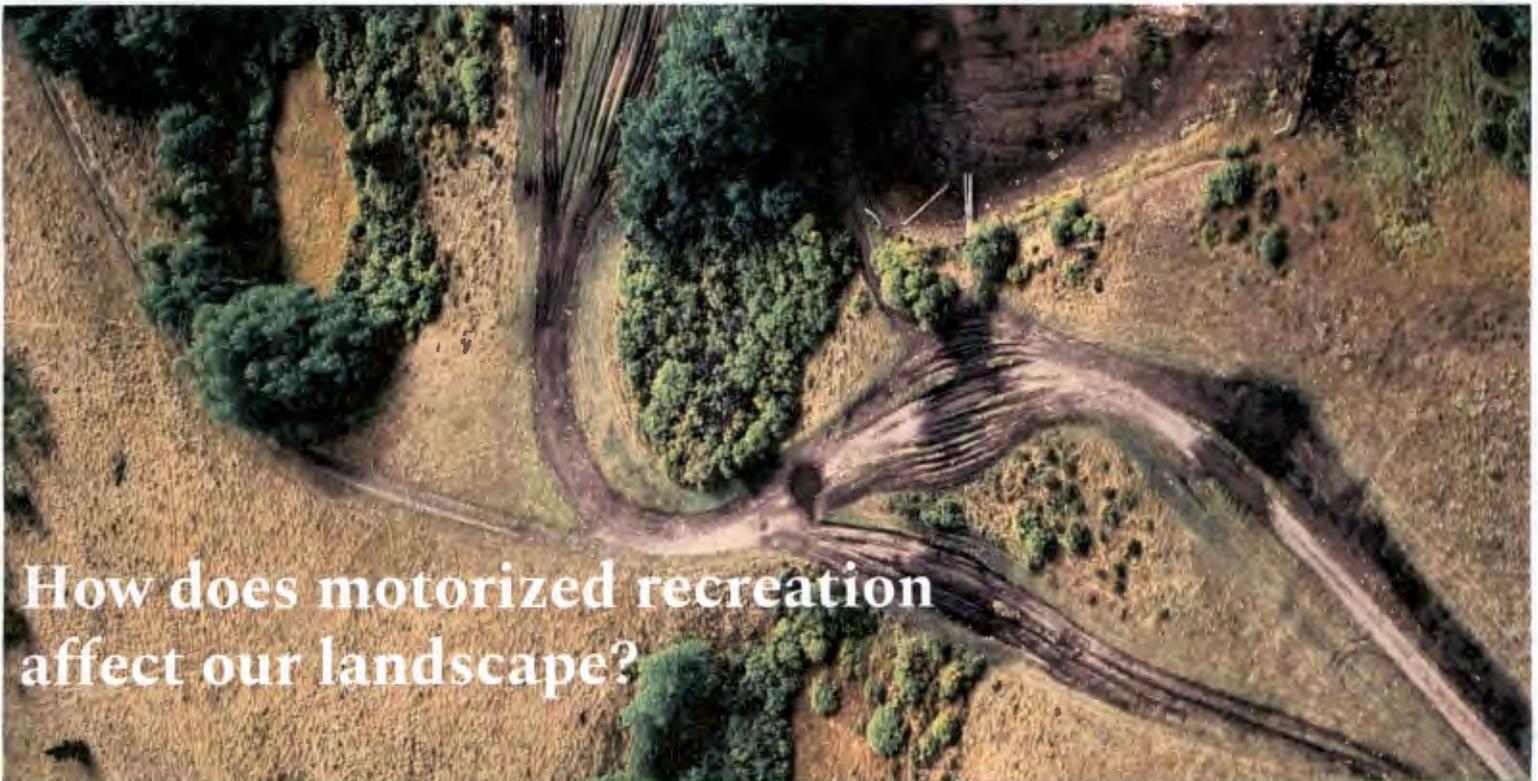
- The plans direct actions towards headwaters protection, biodiversity maintenance, restoring intact natural landscapes and responsible use of public lands by all users.
- A Public Land Use Zone is established to allow for restrictions and conditions on access and for effective enforcement.
- There are clear, science-based limits on density and locations of routes accessible to motorized vehicles and conditions on use (e.g. vehicle type, seasonal closures) that address land, water, wildlife and social sensitivities.
- The Recreation Management Plan is consistent with the goals and direction provided by the LFMP and reflects the values of Albertans. This means the following:
 - A variety of recreational activities are accommodated (e.g. hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, birdwatching, hunting, fishing, backpacking, horseback riding, scenic driving and trail-riding, vehicle-based camping) proportional to public interest in these activities and in a way that minimizes ecological and social impact.
 - Appropriate recreational infrastructure is provided for, including well-designed front-country recreation facilities (campgrounds, picnic areas, parking areas, sanitary facilities) and well-engineered trails for motorized and non-motorized use.
- The plans respect existing agricultural, industrial or other agreements on public lands that are being carried out in a sustainable manner consistent with the direction in the plans.
- Use and quiet enjoyment of private lands neighbouring on public lands is respected.
- There is a commitment and strategy to inform current and potential users of access restrictions and recreation opportunities and to encourage stewardship of public lands by all users.
- There is provision to restore existing disturbed land in areas closed to motorized access.
- There is provision for adequate enforcement of access restrictions.
- There is a commitment and strategy to monitor indicators of ecological health and adjust management as warranted.

Table 12: Recreation Setting and Activities by Recreation Management Unit

Recreation Setting	Front-Country to Mid-Country	Backcountry	Mid-Country to Backcountry	Mid-Country	Mid-Country to Backcountry
Summer Motorized Trails e.g. quads, side by sides, dirt bikes, trucks, 4x4	Yes	Limited	Yes^	Yes	Yes
Snow Vehicle Trails	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Summer Non-Motorized Activities hiking, equestrian, mountain biking.	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Winter Non-Motorized Activities e.g. snowshoeing, skiing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Motorized Special Events	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Limited (no more than 2 per year)
Non-motorized and Other Special Events e.g. endurance races, festivals	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Backcountry Camping	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rustic Motorized Camping (in designated areas)	Yes	Limited	Yes	Yes	Yes

* Provision will be made for dedicated, engineered mountain biking trails in the Crowsnest RMU

^ Motorized activity will avoid the Continental Divide and proposed wildland parks which will be focused more backcountry and non-motorized activities.



How does motorized recreation affect our landscape?

The impacts Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) have on our landscapes are serious. The Science is Clear.

“The mere presence of OHV is a greater determinant of the degree of associated negative environmental effects than varying levels of OHV use.”¹

“Impacts from OHV use can be expected to be **severe and long-lasting** in sensitive areas.”²

“OHV use across all seasons causes a **disproportionate** level of impact and damage compared to non-motorized recreational activities, such as hiking, biking, and horse riding.”³

“Even when OHV trail use is limited ... Impacts are often **irreversible**, and any natural **recovery is either slow or, nonexistent.**”⁴ OHV trails affect water quality, disturb wildlife, increase erosion, increase wildfire risks and introduce invasive species.

¹(Foltz 2006, Olive and Marion 2009) in Ecological Responses to Human Activities in Southern Alberta. Government of Alberta, 2017.

^{2,3,4} Ecological Responses to Human Activities in Southern Alberta. Government of Alberta, 2017.



What land uses do Southern Albertans value?

The two most supported uses for public lands in the Municipal District (MD) of Pincher Creek were: **enforcing appropriate use of public lands and setting aside land in an undisturbed state for habitat protection.**¹

Residents said the best parts about living in the MD of Pincher Creek were: **The beautiful scenery, friendly people/community minded, the peaceful, quiet rural lifestyle and agriculture.**²

Residents rated the following values their highest priorities: **Protecting the natural environment, conserving and protecting water resources, practicing sustainable agriculture, and maintaining natural wildlife and fish populations.**³

Residents in the Southern Slopes also rated the following environmental values most highly: **maintaining healthy and fully functioning ecosystems; conserving ecological diversity; sustaining wildlife habitat; saving native fescues and grasslands; maintaining the productivity and viability of the land; and protecting water resources.**⁴

89% of South Saskatchewan residents prefer **non-motorized** to motorized recreation on public lands. Only **6%** of **ALL Albertans** participate in OHV use. And only **2%** of South Saskatchewan residents.⁵

^{1,2,3,4} Southwest Alberta Sustainable Community Initiative, The Praxis Group, 2012.

⁵ The Praxis Group, 2015.



The Impact of Linear Disturbance

The Linear footprint consists of human-made linear features. The most common human-made linear footprints on Alberta's landscape are **roads, railways, pipelines, seismic-exploration trails, transmission lines, and recreational trails.**¹

In the Southern Slopes, **recreational trails are by far the biggest linear disturbance.** There are **4,053km** of cutline and recreational trails in the Porcupine Hills/Livingstone. The average trail density is **2.28km/km²**. This is almost **4xs** the the threshold for many sensitive species.²

Linear Features allow increased human access to remote areas, which in turn increases pressures on wildlife. Recent studies have shown that grizzly bear survival is **reduced in areas of high road density.**³

OHV trails also cause extensive damage to vegetation and introduce invasive species to fragile ecosystems. Damage is **irreversible** and recovery of native vegetation is **slow or nonexistent.**⁴

Roads and trails cross watercourses **3,990xs** in the region. **The highest trail densities are in the Crowsnest Watershed, Dutch Creek and Beaver Creek.**⁵ Multiple creek crossings exacerbate erosion and sedimentation and increase drainage density in headwater streams. Threatened aquatic species are also affected; Bull trout were **50% less** likely to be found where road density was greater than **0.4 km/km².**⁶ Linear density in the PH/LV is over **5xs** greater than this threshold.

^{1,4,6} Ecological Responses to Human Activities in Southern Alberta. Government of Alberta, 2017.

^{2,5} Update on Land Footprint Management Planning Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Ryan van der Marel Environment and Parks October 5, 2016 ³ Schwartz et al. 2010a, Boulanger and Stenhouse 2014 Arp and Simmons, 2012. In Ecological Responses to Human Activities in Southern Alberta. Government of Alberta, 2017.

The Southwest Alberta Regional Advisory Group



Public consultation for the planning of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan began in **2010**. There have been **dozens** of meetings between stakeholders and Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP). Recreational users in the Porcupine Hills were surveyed by AEP in summer **2015**. Public information sessions and consultations occurred in **Blairmore, Chain Lakes, Calgary and Pincher Creek, Lethbridge**.

The **Southwest Alberta Recreation Advisory Group** was composed of: municipalities, landowners, ranching community, the Blackfoot Confederacy, winter and summer Off-Highway Vehicle groups, winter and summer non-motorized recreationists, equestrian, Fish and Game, guides and outfitters, non-government organizations, Forestry, Oil & Gas, Mining and recreational vehicles.

In **2015** the **Southwest Alberta Recreation Advisory Group** was convened to consult the government on the plans. **EVERY stakeholder group** was represented and had **proportionate** input into the plans. This group met with Alberta Environment and Parks **5xs**. They also provided input into draft recreational trails for the region.



What is land use planning and who contributes to it?

“The **Land-use Framework (LUF)** introduced in **2008** provides a blueprint for land-use management and decision-making to address mounting pressures on Alberta’s land and resources. It also establishes a provincial vision of Albertans working together to respect and care for the land as a foundation for our environmental, economic and social well-being.”¹ **This process was initiated by the previous provincial government and is being carried out by the current.**

“**Regional plans**, developed with the input and feedback from Albertans, establish a long-term vision for the region, set the desired economic, environmental and social outcomes and objectives for the region using a cumulative effects management approach, and align provincial policy at the regional level to balance Alberta’s outcomes.”²

The Linear Footprint Plan will manage the impact of linear features on Alberta’s Landscape. The **LFP** should also protect watershed integrity and biodiversity.

The Recreation Management Plan will enable world class recreation opportunities through partnerships among users, stakeholders and governments.

Stakeholders of all types, **including motorized recreationists**, were consulted multiple times during the planning process between **2014 and now**. Groups and individuals had numerous opportunities to consult on drafts and give input on the **Linear Footprint Plan** and the **Recreation Management Plan** for Porcupine Hills and the Livingstone Range.³

^{1,2} Alberta Environment and Parks, Land-Use Planning Progress Report, 2014.

³ Alberta Environment and Parks, Engagement Summary, Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint Management Plan & Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan, 2016.



Accountability on Alberta's Southern Slopes

Other activities on public land in Southern Alberta are subject to regulatory land use oversight. Recreational OHV use is not.

Ranchers require **grazing permits and leases**. Forestry companies require **Forest Management Agreements**. Industrial development require **Impact Assessments**. Hunters and anglers require **licenses**. Outfitters and hunting guides require **permits**.

These stakeholders are held **accountable** for their treatment of the Southern Eastern Slopes.

Off-Highway Vehicle use is only increasing, the impacts are serious and they cannot continue to go unchecked.

“OHV use across all seasons causes a **disproportionate** level of impact and damage compared to non-motorized recreational activities, such as hiking, biking, and horse riding.”¹

OHV registrations in Alberta increased from **80,614** to **149,804**² from 2004 to 2016. OHV trails have significant negative effects on our environment and landscape. However, only **6%** of the population participate in OHV use but these activities have consequences for **ALL** Albertans.³

OHV users should be held accountable for their actions.

¹Ecological Responses to Human Activities in Southern Alberta. Government of Alberta, 2017.

²Alberta Transportation, 2017.

³The Praxis Group, 2015.

MD OF PINCHER CREEK

April 16, 2018

TO: Reeve and Council
FROM: Roland Milligan, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Code of Conduct Bylaw No. 1281-17

1. Origin

Requirement for a Code of Conduct for Councillors.

2. Background

With the changes to the *Municipal Government Act*, Municipalities must establish a code of conduct bylaw that governs the conduct of Councillors.

Bylaw No. 1281-17 was drafted last fall and presented at the September 25, 2017 Policy and Plans meeting, where the direction was provided to postpone discussions until after the election.

3. Recommendation

That the report from the Interim Chief Administrative Officer, dated April 16, 2018 regarding Bylaw No. 1281-17, being the Code of Conduct Bylaw, be received;

And that Council discuss the Bylaw and provide further suggestions or direction.

Respectfully Submitted,



Roland Milligan

Bylaws — council and council committees

145 A council may pass bylaws in relation to the following:

- (a) the establishment and functions of council committees and other bodies;
- (b) procedures to be followed by council, council committees and other bodies established by the council.

RSA 2000 cM-26 s145;2015 c8 s15

Composition of council committees

146 A council committee may consist

- (a) entirely of councillors,
- (b) of a combination of councillors and other persons, or
- (c) subject to section 154(2), entirely of persons who are not councillors.

1994 cM-26.1 s146

Division 1.1 Codes of Conduct

Bylaws — codes of conduct

146.1(1) A council must, by bylaw, establish a code of conduct governing the conduct of councillors.

(2) A code of conduct under subsection (1) must apply to all councillors equally.

(3) A council may, by bylaw, establish a code of conduct governing the conduct of members of council committees and other bodies established by the council who are not councillors.

(4) A councillor must not be disqualified or removed from office for a breach of the code.

(5) The Minister may make regulations

- (a) respecting matters that a code of conduct established under subsection (1) must address;
- (b) respecting the date by which councils must establish a code of conduct under subsection (1);
- (c) respecting sanctions to be imposed for a breach of a code of conduct established under subsection (1);

- (d) respecting matters that a council must take into consideration in establishing a code of conduct under subsection (1) or (3), or both;
- (e) respecting implementation of a code of conduct established under subsection (1) or (3), or both;
- (f) respecting any other matter the Minister considers necessary or advisable to carry out the intent and purpose of this Division.

2015 c8 s16

Division 2 Elections, Appointments and Ward System

Election of councillors

147(1) Subject to Division 5, councillors other than a chief elected official are to be elected in accordance with the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

- (2) The election is to be by a vote of the electors of the whole municipality unless the municipality is divided into wards, in which case section 148 applies.

1994 cM-26.1 s147

Division of municipality into wards

148(1) Unless otherwise provided for in a bylaw under this section, when a municipality is divided into wards,

- (a) only an elector who is resident in the ward may vote for a councillor in that ward, and
 - (b) councillors are elected for each ward.
- (2) A council may by bylaw
- (a) divide the municipality into wards and establish their boundaries,
 - (b) in the case of wards established for a municipal district or a specialized municipality, change the number of wards and their boundaries,
 - (c) give each ward established or changed a name or number, or both,
 - (d) state the number of councillors to be elected for each ward established or changed, and



Province of Alberta

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR
ELECTED OFFICIALS REGULATION**

Alberta Regulation 200/2017

Extract

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Alberta Queen's Printer
Suite 700, Park Plaza
10611 - 98 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2P7
Phone: 780-427-4952
Fax: 780-452-0668

E-mail: qp@gov.ab.ca
Shop on-line at www.qp.alberta.ca

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(no amdt)

ALBERTA REGULATION 200/2017

Municipal Government Act

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ELECTED
OFFICIALS REGULATION**

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Code of conduct contents

1 The code of conduct each council is required to establish governing the conduct of its councillors pursuant to section 146.1 of the Act must be consistent with the Act and any regulations made under the Act and, at a minimum, include the following topics:

- (a) representing the municipality;
- (b) communicating on behalf of the municipality;
- (c) respecting the decision-making process;
- (d) adherence to policies, procedures and bylaws;
- (e) respectful interactions with councillors, staff, the public and others;
- (f) confidential information;
- (g) conflicts of interest;
- (h) improper use of influence;
- (i) use of municipal assets and services;
- (j) orientation and other training attendance.

Complaints

- 2** A code of conduct must establish a complaint system including
- (a) who may make a complaint alleging a breach of the code of conduct,
 - (b) the method by which a complaint may be made,
 - (c) the process to be used to determine the validity of a complaint, and
 - (d) the process to be used to determine how sanctions are imposed if a complaint is determined to be valid.

Bylaws

- 3** If any matter required to be included in a code of conduct is addressed in a separate bylaw, the contents of that bylaw shall be incorporated by reference into the code of conduct.

Establishing code of conduct

- 4(1)** When establishing a code of conduct, council shall consider sections 3 and 153 of the Act.
- (2)** A council must establish a code of conduct within 270 days from the date section 16 of the *Municipal Government Amendment Act, 2015* comes into force.

Sanctions for breaching code of conduct

- 5** If a councillor has failed to adhere to the code of conduct, sanctions may be imposed including any of the following:
- (a) a letter of reprimand addressed to the councillor;
 - (b) requesting the councillor to issue a letter of apology;
 - (c) publication of a letter of reprimand or request for apology and the councillor's response;
 - (d) a requirement to attend training;
 - (e) suspension or removal of the appointment of a councillor as the chief elected official under section 150(2) of the Act;
 - (f) suspension or removal of the appointment of a councillor as the deputy chief elected official or acting chief elected official under section 152 of the Act;

- (g) suspension or removal of the chief elected official's presiding duties under section 154 of the Act;
- (h) suspension or removal from some or all council committees and bodies to which council has the right to appoint members;
- (i) reduction or suspension of remuneration as defined in section 275.1 of the Act corresponding to a reduction in duties, excluding allowances for attendance at council meetings.

Requirement to fulfil duties

6 A code of conduct or any sanctions imposed under a code of conduct must not prevent a councillor from fulfilling the legislated duties of a councillor.

Review of code of conduct

7 Each council must review and update its code of conduct and any related bylaws that have been incorporated by reference into the code of conduct in accordance with section 3, at least once every 4 years starting from the date when the code of conduct is passed.

Coming into force

8 This Regulation comes into force on the coming into force of section 16 of the *Municipal Government Amendment Act, 2015*.

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
BYLAW NO. 1281-17**

A Bylaw of the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 in the Province of Alberta, to establish Councillor Code of Conduct.

WHEREAS the citizens and the taxpayers of the municipality have the right to be served by a Council committed to conducting its service in an ethical and professional manner. It is important that there not be, nor appear to be, any conflict between the private interests of each Councillor and his/her duty to the public;

AND WHEREAS the purpose of this Code of Conduct shall be to uphold these principles governing the conduct of Councillors, so Councillors maintain the highest standards while faithfully discharging their duties.

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9, duly assembled, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. **THIS BYLAW MAY BE CITED AS “COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT BYLAW NO. 1281-17”.**
2. **CONDUCT OF COUNCILLORS**

The Councillors of the municipality, when acting as a Councillor, shall abide and adhere to the following principles that form this Code of Conduct, by signing Schedule “A” attached to this bylaw, and shall:

- a. govern individual conduct in accordance with the requirements set out in the *Municipal Government Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26, or any other Act of the Government of Canada or the Province of Alberta, and the bylaws and policies approved by the Councillors of the municipality;
- b. treat fellow Councillors, administration and the public with respect, concern, and courtesy;
- c. demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity and honesty in order to foster the public trust and confidence in the municipality;
- d. communicate and work with fellow Councillors in an open and honest manner promoting a spirit of cooperation by listening and respecting those opinions that may differ;
- e. recognize when interacting with the public, no individual authority exists except where explicitly authorized by a Council resolution, bylaw, or policy;
- f. recognize when interacting with the press, individual Councillors do not speak for the municipality except where explicitly authorized by a Council resolution, bylaw or policy;
- g. recognize an individual Councillor cannot exercise individual authority over the municipality;
- h. recognize, when interacting with the Chief Administrative Officer, the lack of authority vested in a Councillor to direct the Chief Administrative Officer, except where explicitly authorized by a Council resolution, bylaw, or policy;
- i. direct any comments regarding staff performance, to the Reeve who shall communicate those matters to the Chief Administrative Officer, recognizing that the Chief Administrative Officer is the only employee of the Council;
- j. not use the position of Councillor to benefit one’s self or any other individual apart from the interest of the municipality, and avoid placing one’s self in a position where there may be a real, or perceived conflict of interest or apprehension of bias;
- k. not use or attempt to use the municipality’s funds, property, or information, for the personal benefit of the Councillor, or for the personal gain or benefit of any other individual;
- l. not accessing municipal buildings, other than for the purpose of picking up a Council or committee package, or download same. Access to Council members is limited to the South end of the Administration Building;
- m. devote time, thought, and attention to the duties of a Councillor so effective and knowledgeable decisions can be made on behalf of the citizens and taxpayers;

- n. develop and evaluate goals and policies through Council, to meet the needs and expectations of the public;
- o. attend Council orientation and ongoing training to foster a better understanding of a Councillor's duties and obligations;
- p. protect privileged information learned during the course of the duties of a Councillor, and preserve the confidentiality of information provided to them, concerning confidential matters of the municipality;
- q. not use confidential information to advance the personal, financial, or private interests of one's self or any other individual;
- r. not surrender the responsibilities and obligations of a Councillor to any other person, group, or organization;
- s. disclose to Council any behavior or activity that may qualify as corruption, abuse, fraud, bribery, or conflict of interest as identified by the *Municipal Government Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26, or any other Act of the Government of Canada or the Province of Alberta, or the bylaws and policies of the municipality;
- t. the Council will endeavor to make decisions based on objective criteria and information available regarding an allegation made under this bylaw;
- u. the Council shall fully disclose the nature and applicable information regarding an allegation of a breach of this bylaw to the Councillor, in question, in a timely manner.

3. HEARING PROCESS

The Council, when considering an alleged breach of this bylaw shall provide sufficient opportunity for the Councillor, who is the subject of the allegation, to address Council.

4. BREACH OF BYLAW NO. 1281-17

If, in the opinion of a majority of the members of Council, a Councillor breaches any of the principles found in this Code of Conduct, courses of action taken by Council, may include, but are not limited to:

- a. requiring the Councillor to provide a verbal apology to the impacted individual, organization, or Council as a whole; and/or
- b. requiring the Councillor to provide a written apology provided to the impacted individual, organization, or Council as a whole, and in any case, placed in the personnel file of the Councillor; and/or
- c. removing the Councillor from Council Committees; and/or
- d. dismissing the Councillor from a position of Reeve, Deputy Reeve or Chairperson of a Council Committee; and/or
- e. issuing a directive to the Councillor to attend 3rd party educational training on ethical and respectful conduct, at the expense of the municipality.

A decision to apply one or more of the actions detailed above requires a simple majority of Council directing the Councillor to do all or some of those actions.

All discussions surrounding allegations and substantiated violations of this bylaw shall be conducted at an In Camera meeting of Council only, with the information being kept in confidence under the appropriate sections of the *Municipal Government Act* and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Read a first time this _____ day of _____, 20__

Read a second time this _____ day of _____, 20__

Read a third time and finally passed this _____ day of _____, 20__

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

Schedule "A"
Bylaw 1281-17

I recognize that I have a responsibility to assure that ethical standards are understood and met so that the public will have confidence in the integrity of the Council. In recognition of my commitment as a Councillor of the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9, I promise that I will:

- a. govern my conduct in accordance with the requirements set out in the *Municipal Government Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26, and/or any other Act of the Government of Canada or the Province of Alberta, as well as the bylaws and policies duly approved by the Council of the municipality;
- b. treat fellow Councillors, administration and the public with respect, concern, and courtesy;
- c. demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity and honesty in order to foster the public trust and confidence in the municipality;
- d. communicate and work with fellow Councillors in an open and honest manner promoting a spirit of cooperation by listening and respecting those opinions that may differ with mine;
- e. recognize, when interacting with the public, no individual authority exists except where explicitly authorized by a Council resolution, bylaw, or policy;
- f. recognize when interacting with the press, individual Councillors do not speak for the municipality except where explicitly authorized by a Council resolution, bylaw or policy;
- g. make no attempt to exercise individual authority over the municipality;
- h. recognize, when interacting with the Chief Administrative Officer, the lack of authority vested in a Councillor to direct the Chief Administrative Officer, except when explicitly authorized by a Council resolution, bylaw or policy;
- i. direct any comments regarding staff performance to the Reeve who shall communicate those matters to the Chief Administrative Officer, recognizing that the Chief Administrative Officer is the only employee of the Council;
- j. not use the position of Councillor to benefit myself or any other individual apart from the interest of the municipality, and avoid placing myself in a position where there may be a real, or perceived conflict of interest, or apprehension of bias;
- k. not use or attempt to use the municipality's funds, property, or information, for my personal gain or benefit, or for the personal gain or benefit of any other individual;
- l. not access the municipal buildings, other than to pick up my Council or Committee Agenda Package, or to download the same.
- m. devote time, thought, and attention to the duties of a Councillor so effective and knowledgeable decisions can be made on behalf of the citizens and taxpayers;
- n. develop and evaluate goals and policies, through Council to meet the needs and expectations of the public;
- o. attend Council orientation and training;
- p. protect privileged information learned during the course of my duties as Councillor, and preserve the confidentiality of information provided to me concerning confidential matters of the municipality;
- q. not use confidential information to advance the personal, financial, or private interests of myself or any other individual;
- r. not surrender the responsibilities and obligations of a Councillor to any other person, group or organization;
- s. disclose to Council any behavior or activity that may qualify as corruption, abuse, fraud, bribery, or conflict of interest as identified by the *Municipal Government Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26, or any other Act of the Government of Canada or the Province of Alberta, or the bylaws and policies of the municipality;
- t. recognize that any allegation that may be made against me in my capacity as a Councillor does not remove my right to a fair and unbiased hearing before Council.

Witness to the Signature of Councillor

Councillor

Signed this ___ day of _____, 20__