



Castle Special Management Area

Public Opinion Study
Spring 2011

**Municipal District of Pincher Creek, Village of Cowley,
Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, Town of Pincher Creek,
Piikani First Nation's reservation and Fort Macleod**

The Praxis Group™

Methods

- **Population:** The study population included residents of the Municipal District of Pincher Creek, Village of Cowley, Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, Town of Pincher Creek, Piikani First Nation's reservation and Fort Macleod. The combined population for these areas is just over 18,000, broken down as follows; Municipal District of Pincher Creek = 3,309 residents (2006 census), Village of Cowley = 219 residents (2006 census), Town of Pincher Creek = 3,712 residents (2008 census), Municipality of Crowsnest Pass = 5,749 residents, 2006 census); Piikani First Nation's reservation = 2,360 residents (2008 census) and Fort Macleod = 3,072 residents (2006 census).
- **Respondent Selection:** The telephone number pool was developed from published phone lists and obtained through a list provider. A stratified random design was used to ensure each of the sub-populations had adequate representation for analysis. A target sample of 180 was set for each stratum. For sampling purposes, the Village of Cowley was included within the Municipal District of Pincher Creek's sample. Within each household a respondent over the age of 18 was randomly selected.
- **Weighting:** Since the sample selection was stratified, each case (respondent) was assigned a weight according to where they lived (case weight= stratum population/stratum sample size). Weights are used to ensure the sample is represented in its true population proportion .
- **Sample size:** A total of 774 surveys were completed between April 3 and April 12, 2011. The target sample size was achieved for all sub-populations except the Piikani First Nation's reservation where only 129 published numbers were available, resulting in a sample of 33 for this stratum.
- **Confidence:** The weighted overall sample yields a margin of error (confidence interval) of +/- 3.44%, 19 times out of 20 (95% level of confidence). The confidence interval for each sub-population is affected by sample size, percentage (% of respondents choosing a particular value) and population size. When presenting confidence intervals, the percentage (p) is typically assumed to be 50%, which is the worst case scenario. Based on the respective sample sizes, the following confidence intervals are associated with each sub-population where $p=0.5$ and the confidence level is 95% (19 times out of 20); Municipal District of Pincher Creek = +/-7.1%, Town of Pincher Creek = +/-7.13, Municipality of Crowsnest Pass = +/-7.19, Piikani First Nation's reservation = +/-16.94, and Fort Macleod = +/-7.09.
- **Survey Instrument:** The survey instrument contained the same survey questions, wording and order used in the Lethbridge/Coaldale Public Opinion Survey conducted in February 2011 by Lethbridge College's Citizen Society Research Lab. The February survey was part of an omnibus poll, whereas the current survey was a stand-alone survey.
- Respondents were provided a detailed description of the Castle Special Management area to ensure they were referencing the correct region. If there were any doubts, interviewers were able to provide additional details to the respondent to help identify the location.

Summary

The current survey provides a representative understanding of people living in close proximity to the Castle Special Management Area related to the use of this area. An identical survey was conducted of Lethbridge and Coaldale residents two months earlier. The focus of the current report is on the opinions of the residents within Municipal District of Pincher Creek, Village of Cowley, Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, Town of Pincher Creek, Piikani First Nation's reservation and Fort Macleod. However, it is worth noting, that apart from the higher levels of use by those closer to the Castle Special Management Area, there are only very slight differences between the Lethbridge/Coaldale results and those of the current survey. The comparisons are provided in Appendix B.

The vast majority of residents within the study area are familiar with the Castle Special Management Area (80%) and many use the area on a frequent basis (44% more than 3 times per year). In fact, only 12% have never visited the Castle Special Management Area.

There is a very clear expression of opinion pertaining to how the area should be used (and not used). The vast majority (over 80%) place the importance of habitat protection and watershed protection over recreational use. There is also very strong support (74%) for the area to be designated a Wildland Park. This level of support for a Wildland Park is consistent with the level of opposition to no new oil and gas developments (62%) and no commercial logging (77%).

Comparisons of opinions by the demographic groups was determined through statistical tests (Chi Square and Analysis of Variance). The findings revealed that there are statistically significant differences based on demographics. However, of greater importance than the statistical differences is that, regardless of age, political affiliation, gender, income or location of residence, the majority opinion in most cases did not change. For example, regardless of political affiliation the majority support this area being declared a Wildland Park, although the level of support does vary; Progressive Conservative - 69%, Wildrose Alliance - 67%, Liberal - 82%, and New Democrat - 89%. Throughout the report, demographic differences like this have been reported where they are statistically significant.

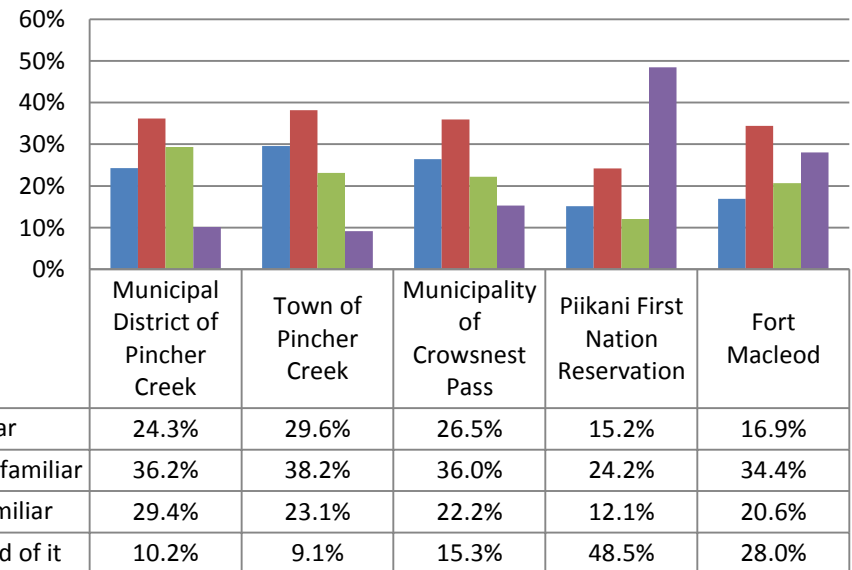
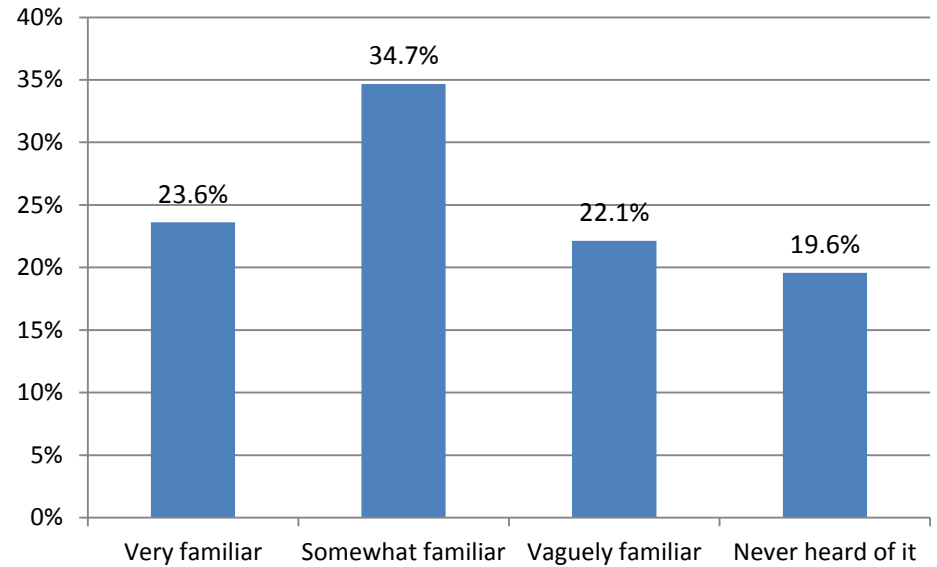
Familiarity with Area

The Castle Special Management Area is known to approximately 8 in 10 respondents living within the study area. Over 80% had at least some familiarity with the Castle Special Management Area.

Pincher Creek residents (MD and town) were the most familiar with the Castle Special Management Area (over 90% with some level of familiarity).

The residents of the Piikani First Nation reservation had the least familiarity with the Castle Special Management Area (51.5% with some level of familiarity).

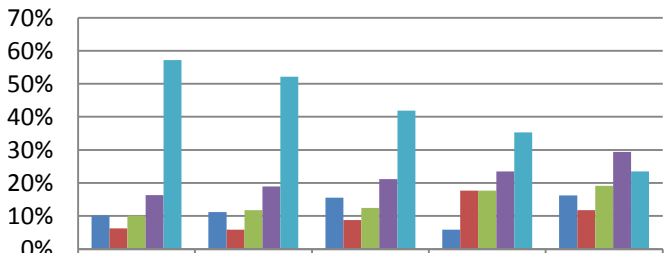
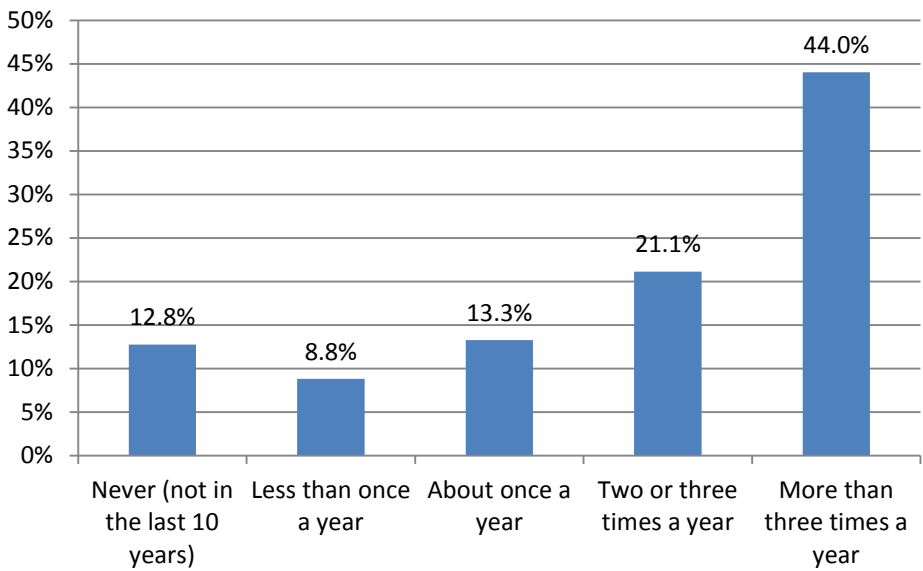
When examining the differences in response patterns between the demographics measured in the survey, age does have a bearing on the level of familiarity. More people in the 18 to 29 (51%) age range reported never having heard of the Castle Special Management Area compared to those over 30 (16%).



Visits to Castle Area

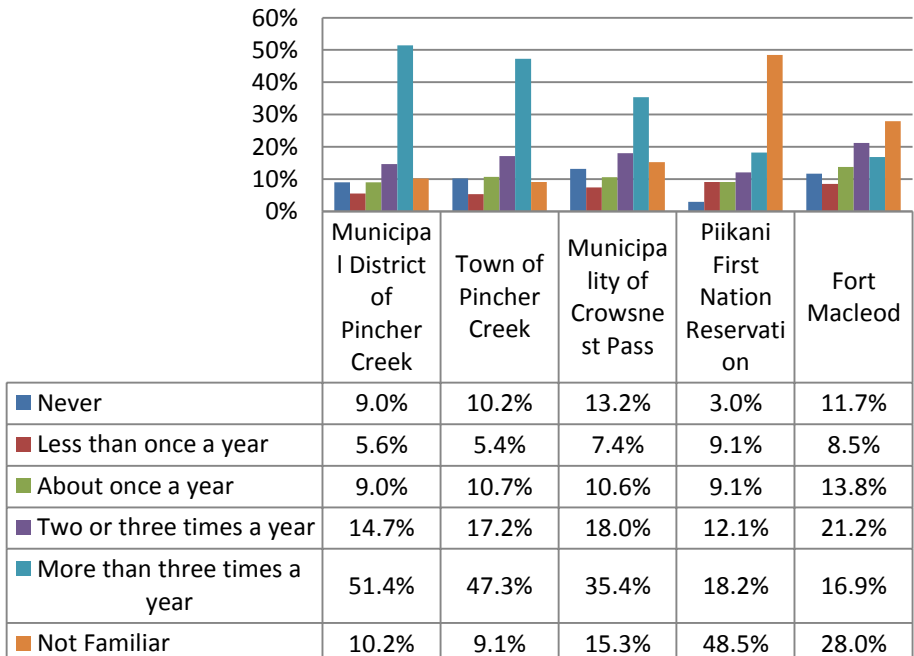
Among those familiar with the area (80.4%), almost two-thirds visit the area two or more times a year. Approximately 13% have not visited the area in the past ten years.

MD of Pincher Creek and Pincher Creek residents had the highest levels of use, while the residents of the Piikani First Nation reservation and Fort Macleod residents have the lowest use of the area.



	Municipal District of Pincher Creek	Town of Pincher Creek	Municipality of Crowst Pass	Piikani First Nation Reservation	Fort Macleod
Never	10.1%	11.2%	15.6%	5.9%	16.2%
Less than once a year	6.3%	5.9%	8.8%	17.7%	11.8%
About once a year	10.10%	11.80%	12.50%	17.70%	19.10%
Two or three times a year	16.30%	18.90%	21.20%	23.50%	29.40%
More than three times a year	57.20%	52.10%	41.90%	35.30%	23.50%

Includes those who were not asked question because "not familiar"



No New Oil or Gas Developments

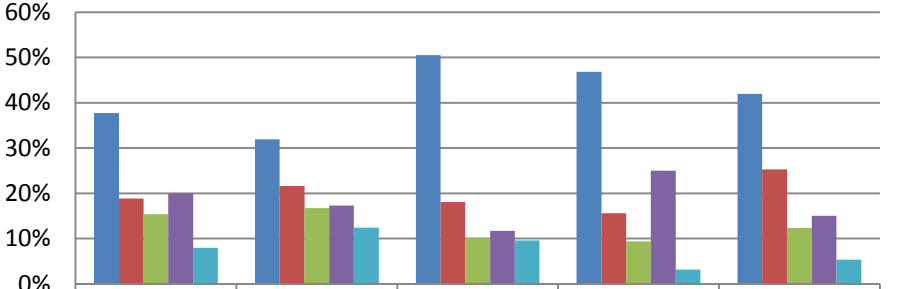
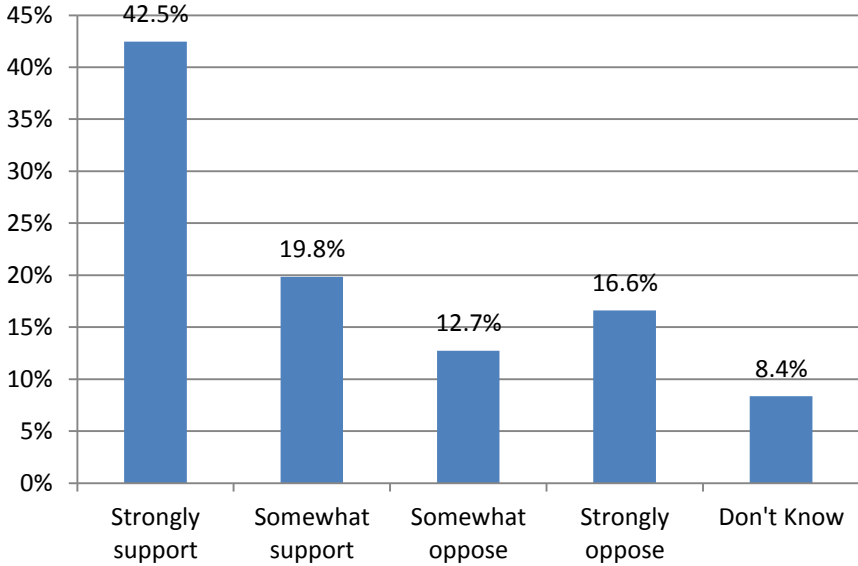
The majority (62%) reported that they either “strongly support” or “somewhat support” no new oil and gas developments.

Residents of the MD of Crowsnest Pass were the most supportive of no new oil and gas developments (69%).

Those with university education were more likely to support no new oil and gas development (73%).

Those aged 18 to 29 were more likely to support no new oil and gas development (70%).

Those with a voting preference for Wildrose Alliance showed the least support for no new oil and gas development (48%).



	Municipal District of Pincher Creek	Town of Pincher Creek	Municipality of Crowsnest Pass	Piikani First Nation Reservation	Fort Macleod
Strongly support	37.7%	31.9%	50.5%	46.9%	41.9%
Somewhat support	18.9%	21.6%	18.1%	15.6%	25.3%
Somewhat oppose	15.4%	16.8%	10.1%	9.4%	12.4%
Strongly oppose	20.0%	17.3%	11.7%	25.0%	15.0%
Don't Know	8.0%	12.4%	9.6%	3.1%	5.4%

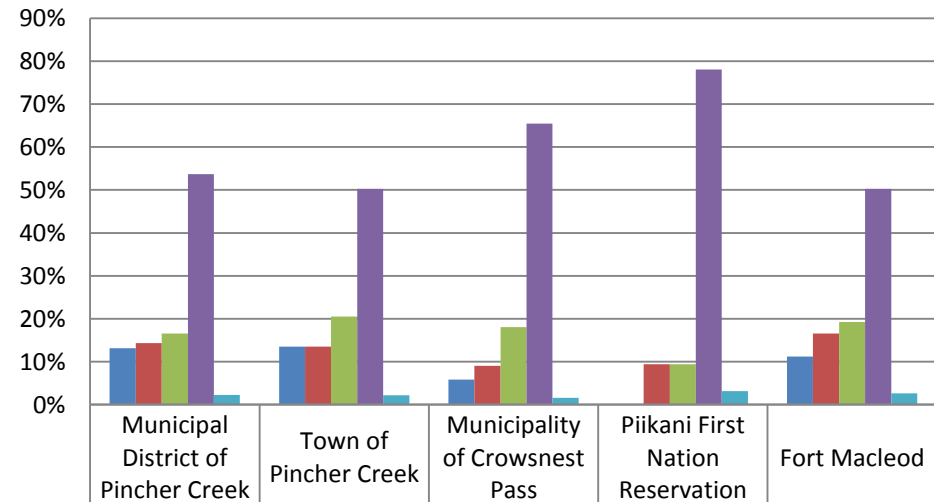
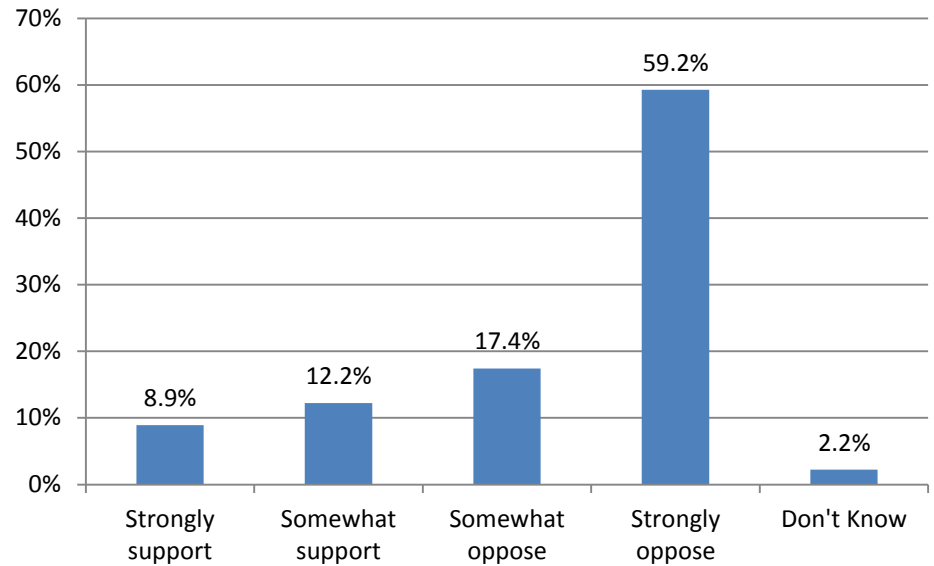
Commercial Logging

The majority (77%) reported that they either “strongly oppose” or “somewhat oppose” commercial logging (defined as new block-cut or clear cut logging, not as selective cut logging) in the Castle Special Management Area.

The Piikani First Nation’s reservation residents were the most opposed to commercial logging in this area (88% opposed).

Regardless of voting preference the vast majority oppose logging in the Castle Special Management Area; however, the lowest opposition is among Wildrose (72%) and PC (70%) supporters compared with Liberal (84%) and NDP (90%).

Younger respondents (81%) and those with a university education (83%) reported higher opposition to logging in the area.



	Municipal District of Pincher Creek	Town of Pincher Creek	Municipality of Crowsnest Pass	Piikani First Nation Reservation	Fort Macleod
Strongly support	13.1%	13.5%	5.9%	0.0%	11.2%
Somewhat support	14.3%	13.5%	9.0%	9.4%	16.6%
Somewhat oppose	16.6%	20.5%	18.1%	9.4%	19.2%
Strongly oppose	53.7%	50.3%	65.4%	78.1%	50.3%
Don't Know	2.3%	2.2%	1.6%	3.1%	2.7%

Declare Wildland Park

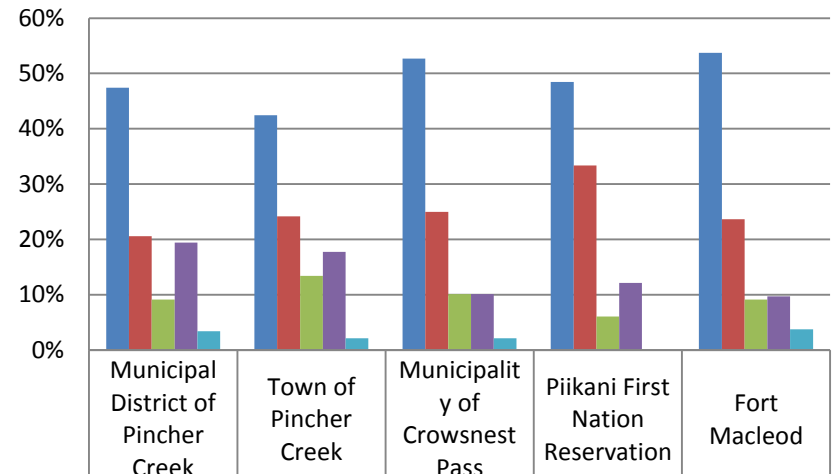
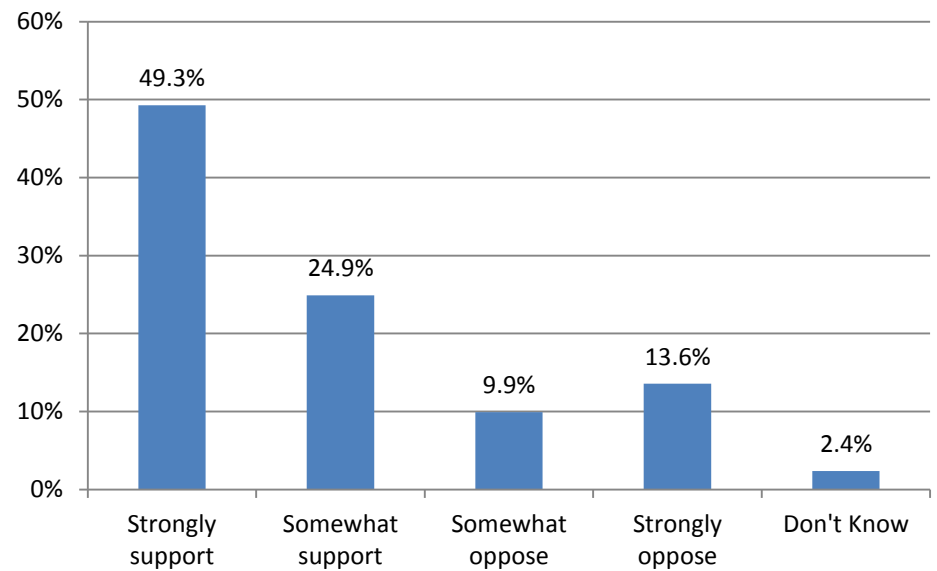
The majority (74%) reported that they either “strongly support” or “somewhat support” declaring the Castle Special Management Area as a Wildland Park (Wildland Park was defined as allowing to continue current types of recreation activities, as well as summer grazing of cattle and existing oil and gas developments but no new commercial logging, mining, nor any new oil and gas leases would be allowed).

Piikani First Nation’s reservation residents were the most supportive (82% for a Wildland Park).

Town of Pincher Creek residents were the least supportive (67% for a Wildland Park), although still a majority of support.

Younger respondents (85%) and those with a university education (82%) were more likely to support the area being declared a Wildland Park.

Regardless of political affiliation the majority support this area being declared a Wildland Park, although the level of support does vary; Progressive Conservative - 69%, Wildrose Alliance - 67%, Liberal - 82%, and New Democrat - 89%.



Strongly support	47.4%	42.5%	52.7%	48.5%	53.8%
Somewhat support	20.6%	24.2%	25.0%	33.3%	23.7%
Somewhat oppose	9.1%	13.4%	10.1%	6.1%	9.1%
Strongly oppose	19.4%	17.7%	10.1%	12.1%	9.7%
Don't Know	3.4%	2.2%	2.1%	0.0%	3.8%

Watershed Protection vs Recreational Opportunities

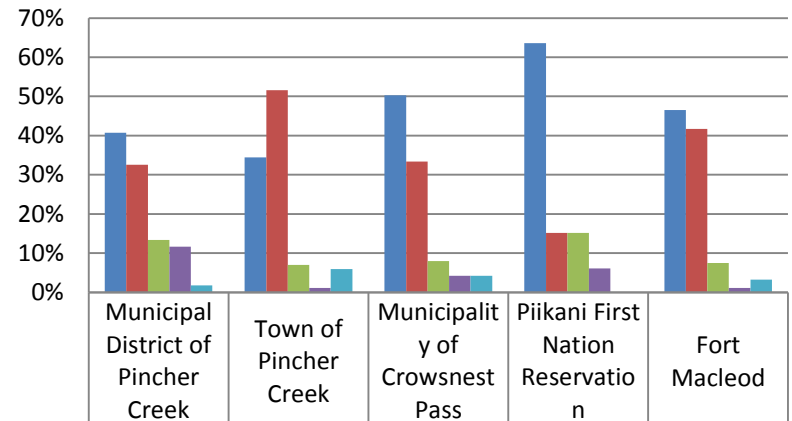
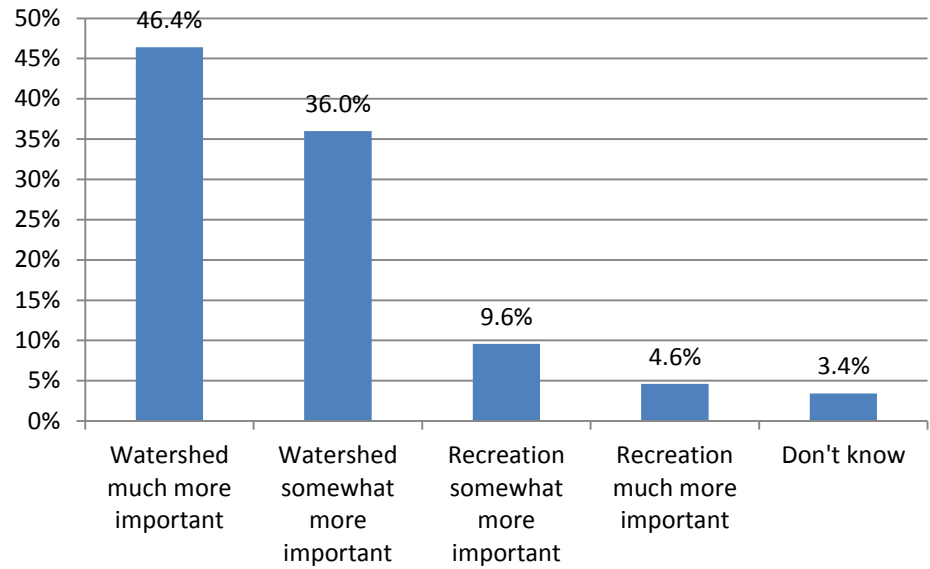
The majority (82%) reported that protecting the watershed is either “much more important” or “somewhat more important” within the Castle Special Management Area when compared to recreational opportunities.

Fort Macleod residents displayed the greatest preference for watershed protection over recreational opportunities (88% for watershed protection).

Residents of the MD of Pincher Creek displayed the smallest preference for watershed protection over recreational opportunities (73% for watershed protection), although still a substantial majority.

Regardless of political party supported, the preference for watershed protection over recreational opportunities is very high; PC 83%, Wildrose 83%, Liberal 90%, and New Democrat 87%.

There is no difference by income or age, but there is an increased preference for watershed protection among those with a university education (82%).



■ Watershed much more important	40.7%	34.4%	50.3%	63.6%	46.5%
■ Watershed somewhat more important	32.6%	51.6%	33.3%	15.2%	41.7%
■ Recreation somewhat more important	13.4%	7.0%	7.9%	15.2%	7.5%
■ Recreation much more important	11.6%	1.1%	4.2%	6.1%	1.1%
■ Don't know	1.7%	5.9%	4.2%	0.0%	3.2%

Wildlife Habitat Protection vs Recreational Opportunities

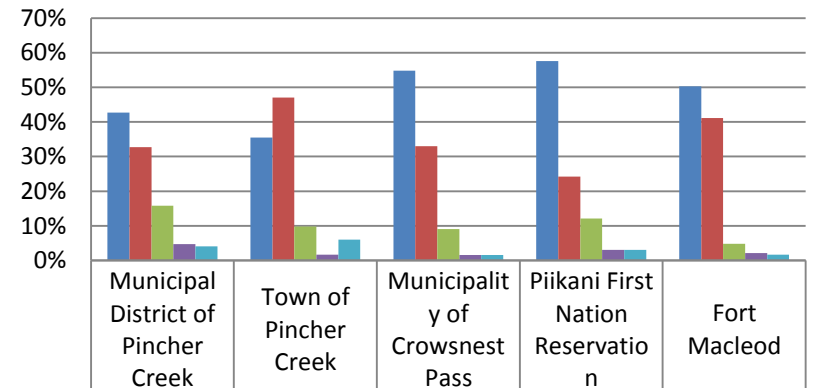
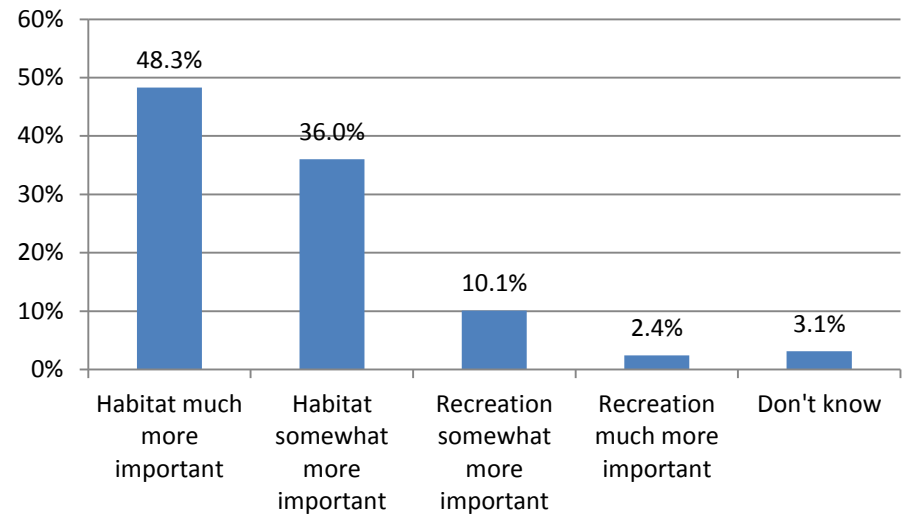
The majority (84%) reported that wildlife habitat is either “much more important” or “somewhat more important” within the Castle Special Management Area when compared to recreational opportunities.

Fort Macleod residents displayed the greatest preference for wildlife habitat protection over recreational opportunities (91%).

Residents of the MD of Pincher Creek displayed the lowest preference for wildlife habitat (75%), although still reporting the majority in favour.

Younger respondents reported the highest support for protection of habitat over recreation (92%).

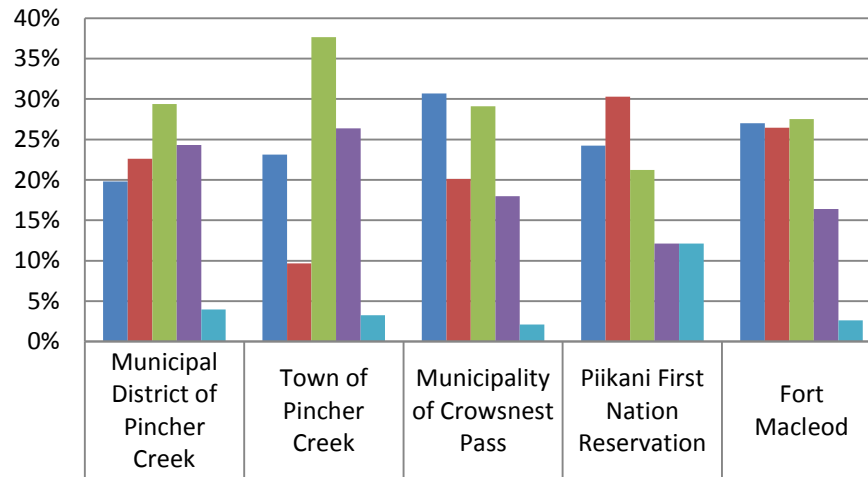
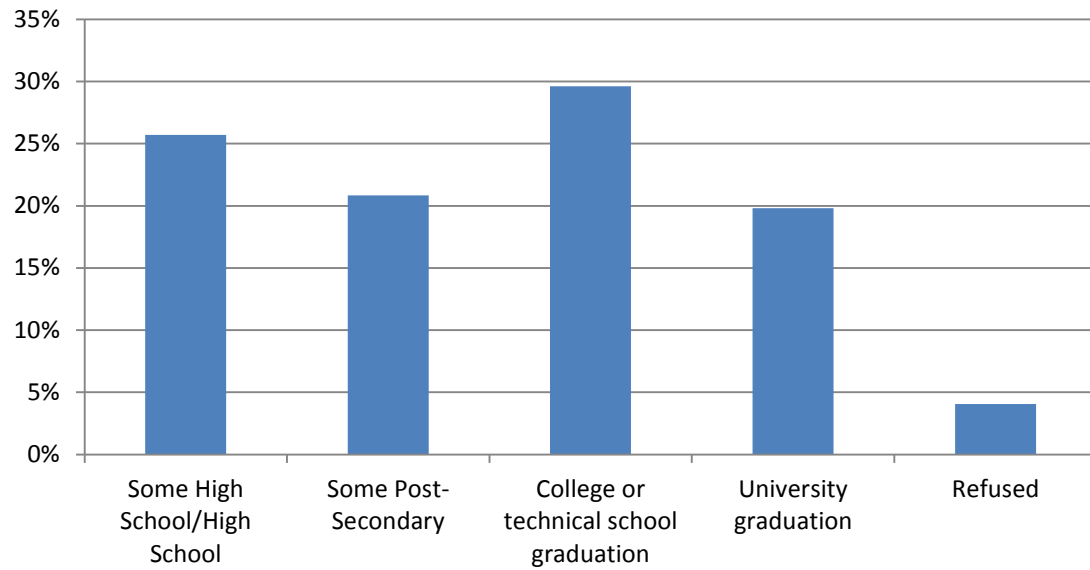
Regardless of political party the majority support wildlife habitat protection over recreational opportunities, although Wildrose (74%) and PC (80%) supporters were lower than Liberal (91%) and NDP (100%).



	Municipal District of Pincher Creek	Town of Pincher Creek	Municipality of Crownsnest Pass	Piikani First Nation Reservation	Fort Macleod
Habitat much more important	42.7%	35.5%	54.8%	57.6%	50.3%
Habitat somewhat more important	32.7%	47.0%	33.0%	24.2%	41.1%
Recreation somewhat more important	15.8%	9.8%	9.0%	12.1%	4.9%
Recreation much more important	4.7%	1.6%	1.6%	3.0%	2.2%
Don't know	4.1%	6.0%	1.6%	3.0%	1.6%

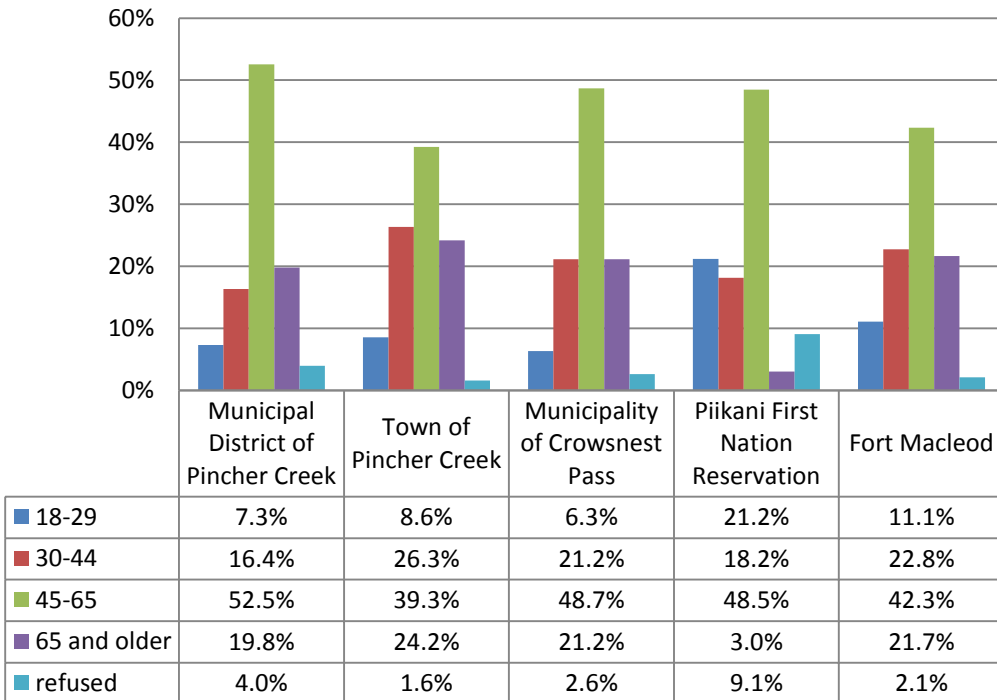
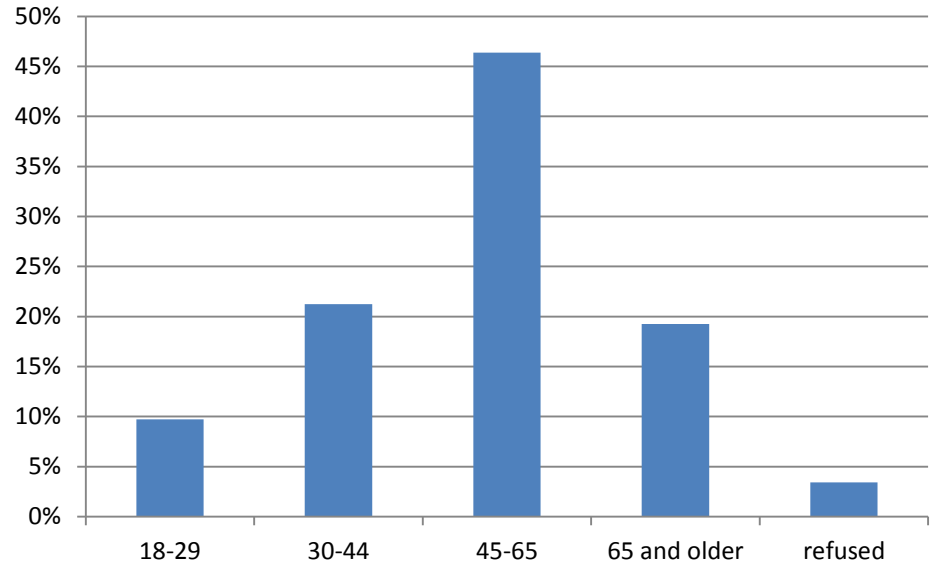
Demographics

Education

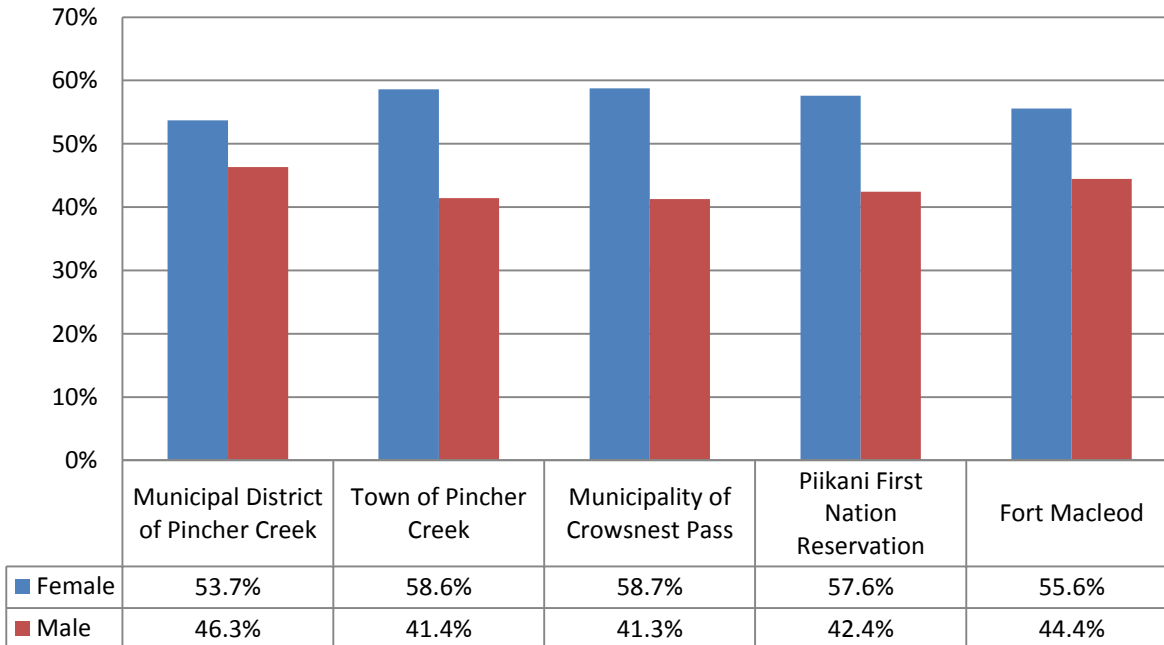
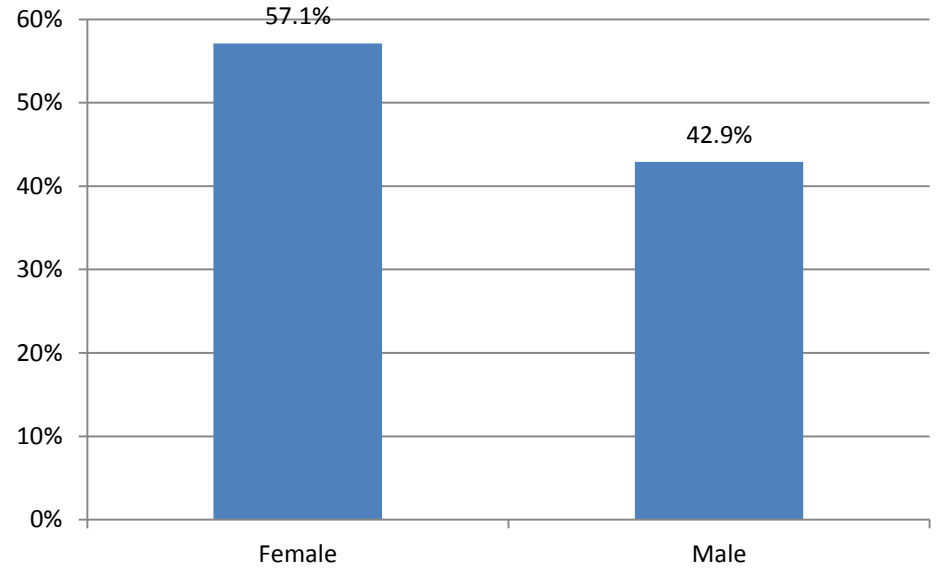


■ Some High School/High School	19.8%	23.1%	30.7%	24.2%	27.0%
■ Some Post-Secondary	22.6%	9.7%	20.1%	30.3%	26.5%
■ College or technical school graduation	29.4%	37.6%	29.1%	21.2%	27.5%
■ University graduation	24.3%	26.3%	18.0%	12.1%	16.4%
■ Refused	4.0%	3.2%	2.1%	12.1%	2.6%

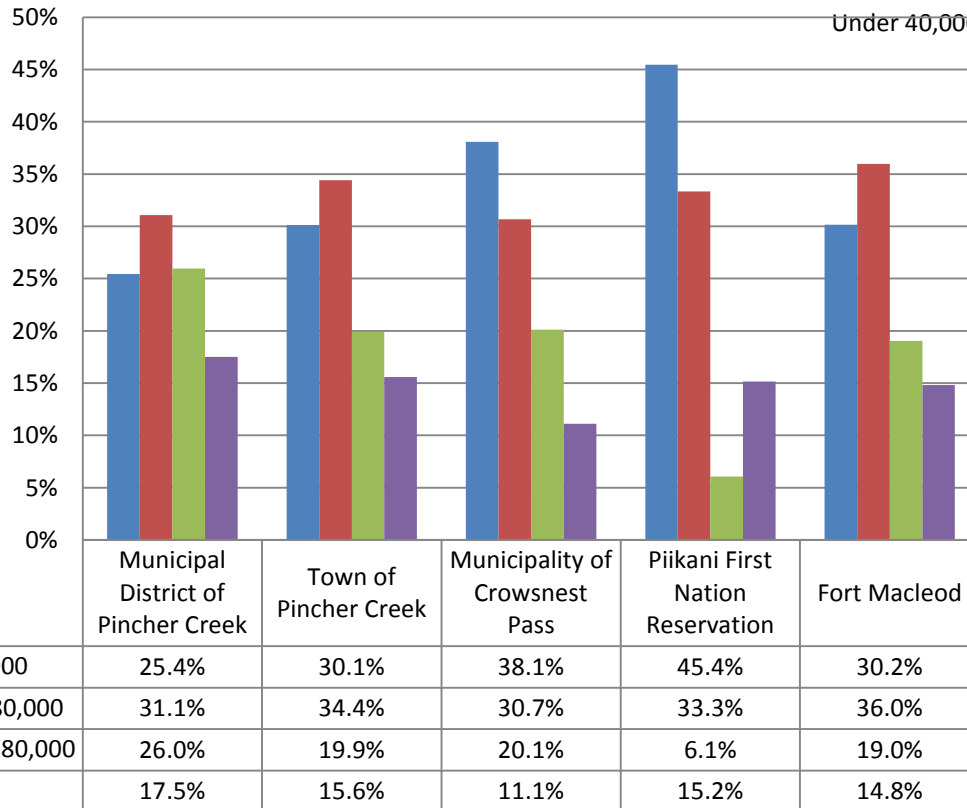
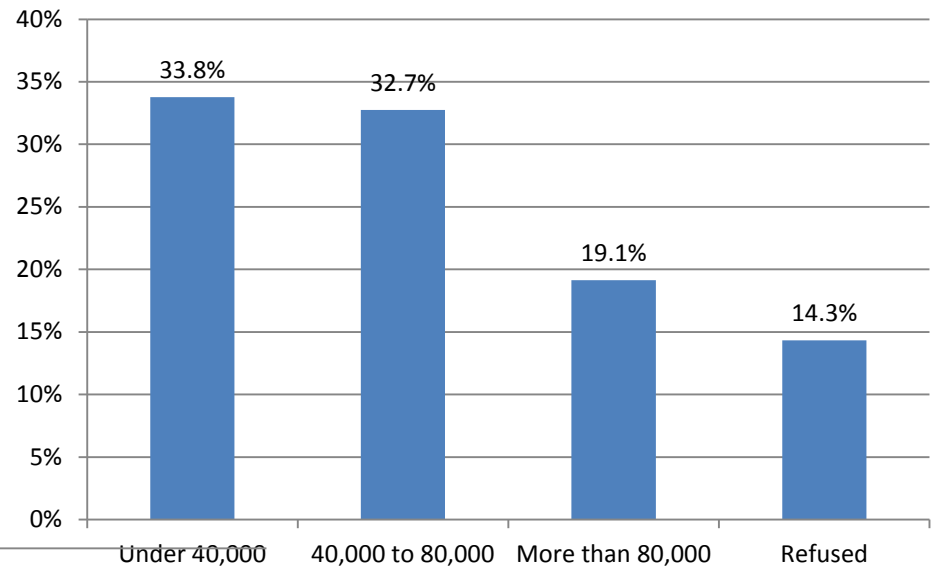
Age



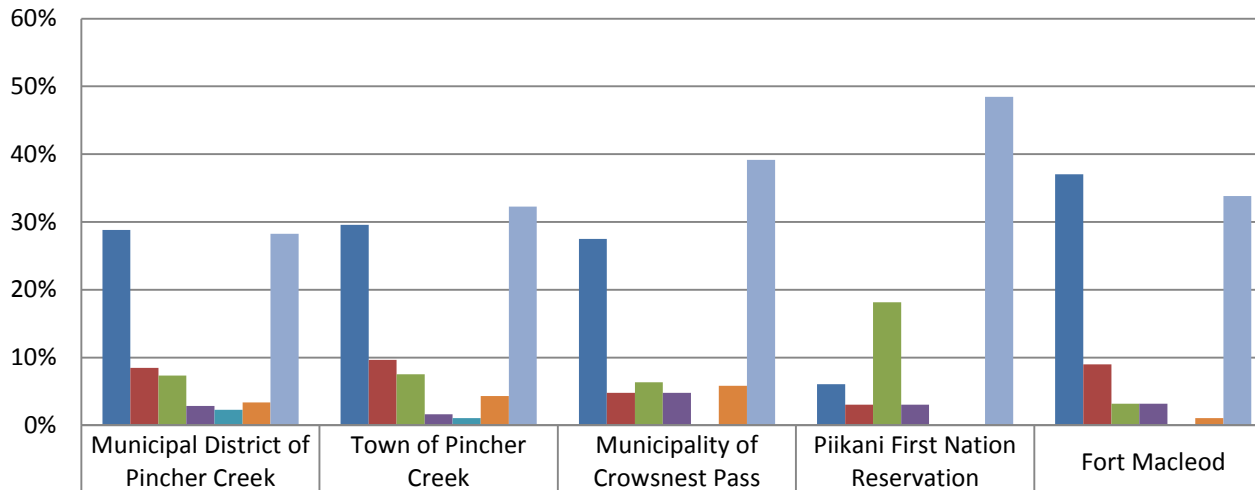
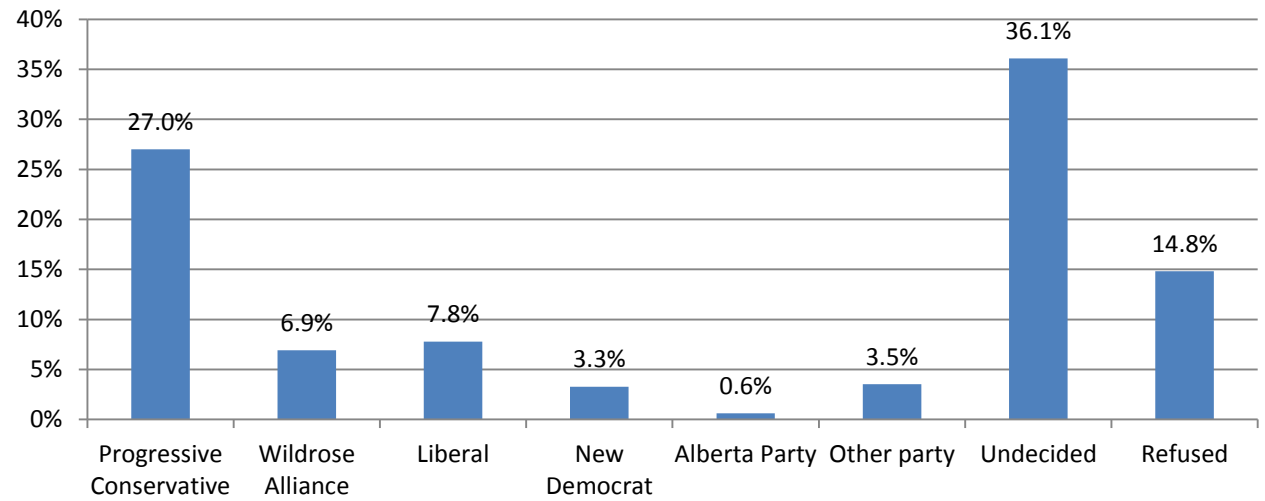
Gender



Income



Provincial Vote Intention



Party	Municipal District of Pincher Creek	Town of Pincher Creek	Municipality of Crowsnest Pass	Piikani First Nation Reservation	Fort Macleod
Progressive Conservative	28.8%	29.6%	27.5%	6.1%	37.0%
Wildrose Alliance	8.5%	9.7%	4.8%	3.0%	9.0%
Liberal	7.3%	7.5%	6.3%	18.2%	3.2%
New Democrat	2.8%	1.6%	4.8%	3.0%	3.2%
Alberta Party	2.3%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other party	3.4%	4.3%	5.8%	0.0%	1.1%
Undecided	28.2%	32.3%	39.1%	48.5%	33.8%

Appendices

- Survey instrument
- Comparisons to the Lethbridge/ Coaldale sample



Appendix A: Survey Instrument

Survey Instrument

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm with Praxis, a research firm. We are conducting a brief survey to obtain public input related to the Castle Special Management Area, which is located in the Alberta Rocky Mountain Reserve. Whether you are familiar with this area or not, your opinions are very important to the future of this area. There are only a few questions and it will take about 5 minutes. There are no sales or promotions associated with this survey and all your answers will remain anonymous.

I just want to clarify that the Castle Special Management Area is located north of Waterton Lakes National Park to about 10 km south of the Crowsnest Pass, and from the Alberta-BC border to the eastern boundary of the Forest Reserve in the Foothills.

Q1 → *In terms of your familiarity with the Castle Special Management area, would you say you are (read categories)*

mq1

Q1

- 1 = very familiar with the area → go to q2
- 2 = somewhat familiar with the area → go to q2
- 3 = vaguely familiar, have heard of it but that is all → go to q2
- 4 = never heard of it → go to q3
- 9 = refused (do not read) → go to q2

Q2→ *And on average, how often do you visit or use the Castle Special Management Area, for any purpose? (read categories)*

Q2

- 1 = never (not in the last 10 years)
- 2 = less than once a year
- 3 = about once a year
- 4 = two or three times a year
- 5 = more than three times a year
- 8 = don't know (do not read)
- 9 = refused (do not read)

→ Go to q3

Q3→ *To help protect its natural state, the province of Alberta should **not allow** any new oil or gas development projects in the Castle SMA. Please tell me how much you support or oppose **this position** (read categories 1-4)*

Q3

- 1 = strongly support
- 2 = somewhat support
- 3 = somewhat oppose
- 4 = strongly oppose
- 8 = Don't know (do not read)
- 9 = Refused (do not read)

→ Go to q4

Q4→ *The Alberta government has approved a commercial logging license that will see **new block-cut or clear-cut logging** take place later this year in the areas around Castle Falls, Beaver Mines Lake and Lynx Creek. It is **not selective logging**. Please tell me how much you support or oppose this commercial logging project inside the Castle Special Management Area? (read categories 1-4) – refer to notes if respondent requires definition.*

Q4

- 1 = strongly support
- 2 = somewhat support
- 3 = somewhat oppose
- 4 = strongly oppose
- 8 = Don't know (do not read)
- 9 = Refused (do not read)

→ Go to q5

Q5→ *If the Castle Special Management area was to be declared a Wildland Park, all of the current types of recreation activities, as well as summer grazing of cattle and existing oil and gas developments would be allowed to continue, but no commercial logging, no mining, nor any new oil and gas leases would allowed. Please tell me how much you support or oppose changing the status of the Castle Special Management area to a Wildland Park? This would not include Castle Mountain Resort, West Castle and the ski hill. (read categories 1-4)*

Q5

- 1 = strongly support
- 2 = somewhat support
- 3 = somewhat oppose
- 4 = strongly oppose
- 8 = Don't know (do not read)
- 9 = Refused (do not read)

Go to q6

Q6→ *Please tell me which of the following best represents your opinion concerning the sometimes competing demands of protecting the watershed and providing recreational opportunities within the Castle Special Management area. Would you say...?*

Q6

1 = protecting the watershed is much more important than providing recreational opportunities

2 = protecting the watershed is somewhat more important than providing recreational opportunities

3 = providing recreational opportunities is somewhat more important than protecting the watershed

4 = providing recreational opportunities is much more important than protecting the watershed

8 = Don't know (do not read)

9 = Refused (do not read)

→ Go to q7

Q7→ *Please tell me which of the following best represents your opinion concerning the sometimes competing demands of protecting wildlife habitat and providing recreational opportunities within the Castle Special Management area. Would you say...?*

Q7

- 1 = protecting wildlife habitat is much more important than providing recreational opportunities
- 2 = protecting wildlife habitat is somewhat more important than providing recreational opportunities
- 3 = providing recreational opportunities is somewhat more important than protecting wildlife habitat
- 4 = providing recreational opportunities is much more important than protecting wildlife habitat

- 8 = Don't know (do not read)
- 9 = Refused (do not read)

Appendix B: Comparisons of Lethbridge/Coaldale sample to current study

Use of the Castle Special Management Area

	Never	Less than once a year	About once a year	Two or three times a year	More than three times a year
Municipal District of Pincher Creek	10.1%	6.3%	10.1%	16.3%	57.2%
Town of Pincher Creek	11.2%	5.9%	11.8%	18.9%	52.1%
Municipality of Crownsnest Pass	15.6%	8.8%	12.5%	21.2%	41.9%
Piikani First Nation Reservation	5.9%	17.7%	17.7%	23.5%	35.3%
Fort Macleod	16.2%	11.8%	19.1%	29.4%	23.5%
Lethbridge	28.1%	18.3%	22.2%	16.4%	15.1%
Coaldale	25.9%	17.0%	18.7%	18.7%	19.6%

Support no new oil and gas developments

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't Know
Municipal District of Pincher Creek	37.7%	18.9%	15.4%	20.0%	8.0%
Town of Pincher Creek	31.9%	21.6%	16.8%	17.3%	12.4%
Municipality of Crowsnest Pass	50.5%	18.1%	10.1%	11.7%	9.6%
Piikani First Nation Reservation	46.9%	15.6%	9.4%	25.0%	3.1%
Fort Macleod	41.9%	25.3%	12.4%	15.0%	5.4%
Lethbridge	45.1%	31.1%	11.6%	5.6%	6.7%
Coaldale	40.7%	26.5%	17.7%	8.0%	7.1%

	Combined Support
Municipal District of Pincher Creek	56.6%
Town of Pincher Creek	53.5%
Municipality of Crowsnest Pass	68.6%
Piikani First Nation Reservation	62.5%
Fort Macleod	67.2%
Lethbridge	76.2%
Coaldale	67.2%
Total	73.4%

Support or opposition to logging

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't Know
Municipal District of Pincher Creek	13.1%	14.3%	16.6%	53.7%	2.3%
Town of Pincher Creek	13.5%	13.5%	20.5%	50.3%	2.2%
Municipality of Crowsnest Pass	5.9%	9.0%	18.1%	65.4%	1.6%
Piikani First Nation Reservation	0.0%	9.4%	9.4%	78.1%	3.1%
Fort Macleod	11.2%	16.6%	19.2%	50.3%	2.7%
Lethbridge	2.9%	10.0%	19.7%	59.4%	8.1%
Coaldale	3.7%	19.4%	18.5%	52.8%	5.6%
Total	3.9%	10.9%	19.2%	58.9%	7.0%

	Combined Oppose
Municipal District of Pincher Creek	70.3%
Town of Pincher Creek	70.8%
Municipality of Crowsnest Pass	83.5%
Piikani First Nation Reservation	87.5%
Fort Macleod	69.5%
Lethbridge	79.1%
Coaldale	71.3%
Total	78.1%

Establishing Castle Special Management Area as a Wildland Park

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't Know
Municipal District of Pincher Creek	47.4%	20.6%	9.1%	19.4%	3.4%
Town of Pincher Creek	42.5%	24.2%	13.4%	17.7%	2.2%
Municipality of Crowsnest Pass	52.7%	25.0%	10.1%	10.1%	2.1%
Piikani First Nation Reservation	48.5%	33.3%	6.1%	12.1%	0.0%
Fort Macleod	53.8%	23.7%	9.1%	9.7%	3.8%
Lethbridge	51.3%	30.1%	6.3%	3.9%	8.3%
Coaldale	43.4%	34.5%	7.1%	8.0%	7.1%
Total	50.5%	29.5%	6.9%	5.8%	7.3%

Combined Support	
Municipal District of Pincher Creek	68.0%
Town of Pincher Creek	66.7%
Municipality of Crowsnest Pass	77.7%
Piikani First Nation Reservation	81.8%
Fort Macleod	77.5%
Lethbridge	81.4%
Coaldale	77.9%
Total	80.0%

Watershed protection vs recreational use

	Watershed much more important	Watershed somewhat more important	Recreation somewhat more important	Recreation much more important	Don't know
Municipal District of Pincher Creek	40.7%	32.6%	13.4%	11.6%	1.7%
Town of Pincher Creek	34.4%	51.6%	7.0%	1.1%	5.9%
Municipality of Crowsnest Pass	50.3%	33.3%	7.9%	4.2%	4.2%
Piikani First Nation Reservation	63.6%	15.2%	15.2%	6.1%	0.0%
Fort Macleod	46.5%	41.7%	7.5%	1.1%	3.2%
Lethbridge	55.4%	32.2%	3.9%	0.5%	8.0%
Coaldale	40.2%	44.6%	3.6%	1.8%	9.8%
Total	52.9%	33.6%	4.8%	1.2%	7.4%

	Combined Watershed Priority
Municipal District of Pincher Creek	73.3%
Town of Pincher Creek	86.0%
Municipality of Crowsnest Pass	83.6%
Piikani First Nation Reservation	78.8%
Fort Macleod	88.2%
Lethbridge	87.6%
Coaldale	84.8%
Total	86.5%

Habitat protection vs recreational use

	Habitat much more important	Habitat somewhat more important	Recreation somewhat more important	Recreation much more important	Don't know
Municipal District of Pincher Creek	42.7%	32.7%	15.8%	4.7%	4.1%
Town of Pincher Creek	35.5%	47.0%	9.8%	1.6%	6.0%
Municipality of Crowsnest Pass	54.8%	33.0%	9.0%	1.6%	1.6%
Piikani First Nation Reservation	57.6%	24.2%	12.1%	3.0%	3.0%
Fort Macleod	50.3%	41.1%	4.9%	2.2%	1.6%
Lethbridge	53.0%	37.6%	4.7%	0.6%	4.1%
Coaldale	36.7%	52.3%	3.7%	1.8%	5.5%
Total	51.2%	38.2%	5.5%	1.0%	4.0%

Combined Wildlife Habitat	
Municipal District of Pincher Creek	75.4%
Town of Pincher Creek	82.5%
Municipality of Crowsnest Pass	87.8%
Piikani First Nation Reservation	81.8%
Fort Macleod	91.4%
Lethbridge	90.6%
Coaldale	89.0%
Total	89.4%