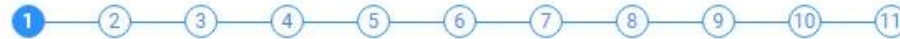




Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park Draft Management Plan Survey



1. The management plan identifies objectives and strategies to manage biodiversity, connectivity and species at risk (e.g., westslope cutthroat trout habitat). The primary objectives include:

- **Developing thresholds and targets to manage biodiversity across the landscape.**
- **Ensuring connectivity corridors are identified and maintained.**
- **Protecting, maintaining or enhancing habitat for species of concern.**

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the objectives and strategies protect biodiversity, connectivity and species at risk found in these parks?

- **See: [Management Plan](#): Section 2 (pages 32, 33 & 35)**

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

2. Clean water and healthy aquatic systems are critical to the health of humans and wildlife. The management plan states the following objectives:

- Protect the headwaters of the Oldman River Watershed.
- Maintain and enhance water quality and quantity in waterbodies in Castle Provincial Park and Castele Wildland Provincial Park.
- Protect and enhance the integrity of riparian and wetland ecosystems.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the protection of the headwaters of the Oldman River Watershed should be a high priority in the management of these parks?

- See: [Management Plan](#): Executive Summary (page vii); Section 1 (pages 4, 5, 8, 12, 13, 14, 19 & 20); Section 2 (pages 23, 24, 27, 28, 31, 36, 40 & 41); Section 6 (page 90, 94 & 100)

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

3. Although hunting is typically not permitted in Provincial Parks, page 95 of the Management Plan states:

“A broader suite of hunting opportunities is permitted within Castle Provincial Park to address the management of some species within the park and to minimize negative impacts on adjacent private land.”

To what extent do you agree or disagree that hunting should be used within the Provincial Park as an effective wildlife management tool?

- See: [Management Plan](#): Section 6 (page 95 - 97); Appendix C

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

4. In order to minimize negative environmental impacts of recreational off-highway vehicle use, page 102 of the Management Plan states that:

“The Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park have high levels of biodiversity, important headwaters that are highly susceptible to damage and critical habitat for species at risk, including genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout (a species that is subject to a federal critical habitat order). To protect these ecosystems, landscapes and water resources, recreational off-highway vehicle use will not be permitted in the Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park.” As such, recreational off-highway vehicle use will be phased out over a three to five year period to allow for adequate off-road opportunities to be developed on nearby public lands.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that a transition period is necessary for the elimination of recreational off-highway vehicle use in Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park to adjacent public lands?

- See: [Management Plan](#): Section 1 (page 19); Section 2 (pages 32 – 35); Section 6 (pages 102 & 103)

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

5. As these lands are managed under the *Provincial Parks Act*, automobile accessible random camping is not a permissible activity. In order to continue to provide rustic group camping opportunities while minimizing negative environmental impact, page 89 the Management Plan states:

“...rustic group camping areas will be identified and designated in the provincial park. These sites will be reviewed and may be relocated as the long-term strategy is developed...”

To what extent do you agree with the designation of rustic group camping areas in the provincial park?

- See: [Management Plan](#): Section 6 (pages 88 & 89); Appendix D

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

Section 2: Conservation and Protection

To strike a balance of priorities, page viii of the Management Plan states:

“Due to the complex nature of the landscape, habitats, current and traditional uses, and engaged stakeholders, Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park must be managed through a balance of diverse objectives. Conservation of the high ecological and cultural values will be the primary objective of the parks. Management of the human footprint to maintain the ecosystem, the natural processes and the visitor experience will be informed by the best available science, the most current information, and First Nations traditional ecological knowledge.”

- See: [Management Plan](#) - Jan 2017 (162 pages, 9.3 MB)

In the sections to follow, review the objectives and strategies presented and rank them for how appropriately you feel they frame the attempt at balance between the protection of natural and cultural values, the respect of indigenous rights, and the enhancement and development of recreation and tourism.

6. Review Section 2 (pages 27, 30, 32, 33, 35, 37, 38, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 50, 53, 54 & 55) of the Management Plan.

- [Castle Management Plan](#) - Jan 2017 (162 pages, 9.3 MB)

Do the objectives and strategies in this section seem an appropriate way to frame the attempt at balance between the protection of natural and cultural values, the respect of indigenous rights, and the enhancement and development of recreation and tourism?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

7. Please provide any specific comments related to the Conservation and Protection section.

- * Conservation of headwaters, connectivity, biodiversity and species at risk should be the top priorities in this region.
- * Management needs to put conservation first.
- * Elimination of forestry and any new oil and gas leases is excellent.
- * OHV phase out is critical and a two year phase out is recommended.
- * Motorized high impact recreation is not appropriate for this sensitive area and conflicts with quiet recreationalists.
- * Low-impact sustainable recreation focusing on education and stewardship should be the focus for engagement activities in the Castle Parks.
- * Elimination of automobile accessible random camping is necessary for conservation to come first.
- * Rustic group camping needs to be re-located to less sensitive areas and appropriate facilities provided.
- * Responsible and regulated backcountry hunting can be allowed but closely monitored especially in the Provincial Park.

Section 3: First Nations

8. Review Section 3 (pages 60 & 61) of the Management Plan.

- [Castle Management Plan](#) - Jan 2017 (162 pages, 9.3 MB)

Do the objectives and strategies in this section seem an appropriate way to frame the attempt at balance between the protection of natural and cultural values, the respect of indigenous rights, and the enhancement and development of recreation and tourism?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

9. Please provide any specific comments related to the First Nations section.

- * It is positive to look at a new cooperative relationship with First Nations and Metis communities.
- * Need to focus on education, awareness and respect for Aboriginal culture, communities and traditional land rights with non-Aboriginal audiences.

Section 4: Tourism and Community

10. Review Section 4 (pages 65, 67 & 69) of the Management Plan.

- [Castle Management Plan](#) - Jan 2017 (162 pages, 9.3 MB)

Do the objectives and strategies in this section seem an appropriate way to frame the attempt at balance between the protection of natural and cultural values, the respect of indigenous rights, and the enhancement and development of recreation and tourism?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

11. Please provide any specific comments related to the Tourism and Community section.

*tourism should support a conservation first management priority.

*tourism in the Castle parks should not be focus on infrastructure.

*tourism should have a minimal footprint in the park.

*tourism should be nature-based and support low impact quiet recreation.

*the tourism base should be centered in adjacent communities to reduce impact and support local economies.

Section 5: Visitor Services

12. Review Section 5 (pages 73, 75, 79, 81 & 83) of the Management Plan.

- [Castle Management Plan](#) - Jan 2017 (162 pages, 9.3 MB)

Do the objectives and strategies in this section seem an appropriate way to frame the attempt at balance between the protection of natural and cultural values, the respect of indigenous rights, and the enhancement and development of recreation and tourism?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

13. Please provide any specific comments related to the Visitor Services section.

- * visitor services and programming should be consistent with conservation objectives.
- * visitor services and programming should encourage sustainable low-impact nature based activities that connect people to nature and to the cultural history of the region.

Section 6: Outdoor Recreation and Healthy Living

14. Review Section 6 (pages 86, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103 & 104) of the Management Plan.

- [Castle Management Plan](#) - Jan 2017 (162 pages, 9.3 MB)

Do the objectives and strategies in this section seem an appropriate way to frame the attempt at balance between the protection of natural and cultural values, the respect of indigenous rights, and the enhancement and development of recreation and tourism?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

15. Please provide any specific comments related to the Outdoor Recreation and Healthy Living section.

* The main objectives for outdoor recreation in the Castle Parks should be to connect people with nature in sustainable ways.

* Management of recreational activities should be in alignment with that objective.

Section 7: Research, Monitoring and Adaptive Management

16. Review Section 7 (pages 107 - 108) of the Management Plan.

- [Castle Management Plan](#) - Jan 2017 (162 pages, 9.3 MB)

Do the objectives and strategies in this section seem an appropriate way to frame the attempt at balance between the protection of natural and cultural values, the respect of indigenous rights, and the enhancement and development of recreation and tourism?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

17. Please provide any specific comments related to the Research, Monitoring and Adaptive Management section.

* Research and monitoring are critical to support conservation objectives for the region.

* These need adequate funding and support.

* Adaptive management is necessary based on monitoring data to ensure protection of vital ecological values such as protection of headwaters, species at risk, connectivity and biodiversity.

Section 8: Provincial Park Zoning Framework

18. Review Section 8 (pages 111 - 113) of the Management Plan.

- [Castle Management Plan](#) - Jan 2017 (162 pages, 9.3 MB)

Do the objectives and strategies in this section seem an appropriate way to frame the attempt at balance between the protection of natural and cultural values, the respect of indigenous rights, and the enhancement and development of recreation and tourism?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

19. Please provide any specific comments related to the Provincial Park Zoning Framework section.

* Zoning should be done with caution to put conservation as the top priority.
* Zoning should be done using the precautionary principle and be adapted accordingly based on data to achieve conservation objectives for the region.
* Facility zones should be located outside of threatened westslope cutthroat trout habitat.

20. Section 4 (page 65) of the Management Plan indicates that a long term capital investment plan will be developed.

- [Castle Management Plan - Jan 2017 \(162 pages, 9.3 MB\)](#)

We would like your preliminary input on the types of facilities and services that you would like to see in the park. Please identify your support for the following services and facilities in Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park.

Please check all facilities and services that you support:

- Additional camping opportunities
- Full serviced campground opportunities in the park
- Provision of visitor service facilities within the park such as a visitor centre
- Small scale fixed roof accommodation
- Others

20a. You've chosen 'Others', please identify your support for other services and facilities that were not listed.

*need to consider the cumulative impact of any development |

*provide additional camping opportunities with minimal footprint/impact

196

*visitor service needs to focus on nature and cultural education and stewardship

21. Please provide any additional comments on the draft management plan:

- * Thank you for protecting this important area.
- * Management needs to put conservation as the top priority.
- * Headwaters protection is critical.
- * Biodiversity, species at risk and connectivity need to be closely monitored, restored and recovered in the region.
- * Low impact sustainable nature-based recreation needs to be the focus.
- * The OHV phase out is necessary for the health of the region and phase out should occur within two years.
- * Nature-based recreation and tourism infrastructure should be supported in adjacent established communities.
- * Visitor services should focus on education, cultural awareness and stewardship.
- * Any new zoning or facilities need to be in line with the conservation objectives of the management plan and have minimal footprint and consider cumulative impacts.
- * Elimination of automobile accessible random camping is supported with new designated sites and facilities.