



## DECISION TO NOT INCLUDE YAMNUSKA LANDS IN BOW VALLEY WILDLAND PROVINCIAL PARK AS PART OF LAND EXCHANGE AROUND DEAD MAN'S FLATS WITH THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIGHORN

### What We Heard

Focused consultation with the affected First Nations, facilitated by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) and local area stakeholders occurred over the winter of 2010. An open 60-day public consultation on the exchange was also conducted from October 1 to November 29, 2010. There were 15 public responses to the proposal received during that period. Supplementary discussions on modifications to the proposal were further conducted with directly affected stakeholders in the summer of 2012 and with First Nations in the spring of 2013. This valuable feedback was analyzed and grouped by theme below.

All of the comments were supportive of the acquisition of lands around Dead Man's Flats to be added to Bow Valley Wildland Provincial Park, but many expressed concern over having to remove lands in the Yamnuska area in order to complete the exchange. Several respondents also expressed their concerns with the future light industrial designation proposed by the MD of Bighorn and brought attention to the existing landfill adjacent to the Yamnuska area as an example of what they perceived to be negative impacts of development in the area.

These and other considerations are addressed in the responses included below.

What We Heard	Response
Why are we removing one part of the Wildland Park in order to gain another? The paradox of sacrificing one site of valued protected land to enhance another was considered a significant issue by a number of respondents.	When the proposed exchange was first considered in 2004, the previously disturbed gravel pit was still in a period of reclamation. Since that time the area has regrown and has become part of the critical wildlife habitat. Removing this portion of the park would have a significantly negative impact on wildlife.
This is a special place, perhaps not as sensitive as the area around Dead Man's Flats, but is at the base of an iconic Alberta mountain (Yamnuska). Future paintings will no longer be possible if any other type of usage other than wildland takes place.	The Yamnuska area has significant recreation and tourism values associated with the scenic view scape. Change in use, particularly light industrial developments, would likely have significant impact on existing and potential recreation and tourism experiences.

<p>The area is being managed well and used by responsible recreationalists. How will this site be managed differently than other industrial sites in the area, e.g. garbage from landfill, cut fences and OHV use? Disturbance from new operations will be experienced well beyond its footprint.</p>	<p>Managing recreational and commercial impacts on the environment is a concern throughout the Bow Valley. The Bow Corridor Ecosystem Advisory Group (BCEAG), which is comprised of municipal, provincial and federal land managers, will continue to share and coordinate advice and strategies between the various land managers. Opportunities to minimize, mitigate and where possible resolve these issues will continue to be a goal of this collaborative group, however, each land manager is responsible for their land base and will decide how to manage those lands.</p>
<p>Why isn't the intent of the approved 1998 BCEAG Wildlife Corridor and Habitat Patch Guidelines being followed?</p>	<p>The Guidelines is a document that provides information and advice to land managers and decision makers. The Guidelines were updated in 2012 and have been endorsed by most land managers, including TPR, in the valley for consideration in planning and development.</p>
<p>Specific comments supported efforts to restrict public access and recreation, including camping, hunting and fishing, in this area by means of regulation, fencing and enforcement.</p>	<p>Pending the outcome of the lands surrounding the Dead Man's Flats community, wildlife fencing may be considered in the future by Alberta Parks, MD of Bighorn and ESRD in order to mitigate increased residential and recreational use on the corridor.</p> <p>In terms of existing Alberta Parks' facilities, limited access to the river would still be available, but due to the wildlife considerations and flooding vulnerability Three Sisters Campground has been proposed to be converted to a day use area. This site would still include day use infrastructure in some of the existing facility area such as tables for picnicking and formalization of the boat launch (for non-motorized craft).</p>
<p>There were some individual concerns expressed at the level and type of development in the Dead Man's Flats community. Some issues associated with the exchange and the plans for future development were identified, including the</p>	<p>Land use management direction and requirements are under the jurisdiction of the Municipal District of Bighorn and will require consideration through standard municipal planning such as the Municipal</p>

environmental impacts of the servicing and residential development such as sewage ponds.

Development Plan and Area Structure Plan processes.