



Three Sisters Campground Redevelopment

In 2013 heavy rains in southern Alberta caused flooding along the Bow River that resulted in damage to facilities in the Kananaskis Region including the Three Sisters campground. As a result of flood damage, Alberta Parks proposed to remove Three Sisters campground infrastructure and establish a day use facility at the site.

Decision

Based on further assessment and feedback received through public consultation, Alberta Parks has decided to not move forward with the Proposal to redevelop the campground into a day use area. Instead, Alberta Parks will restore Three Sisters Campground to pre-flood condition.

Summary of What We Heard

Online Consultation

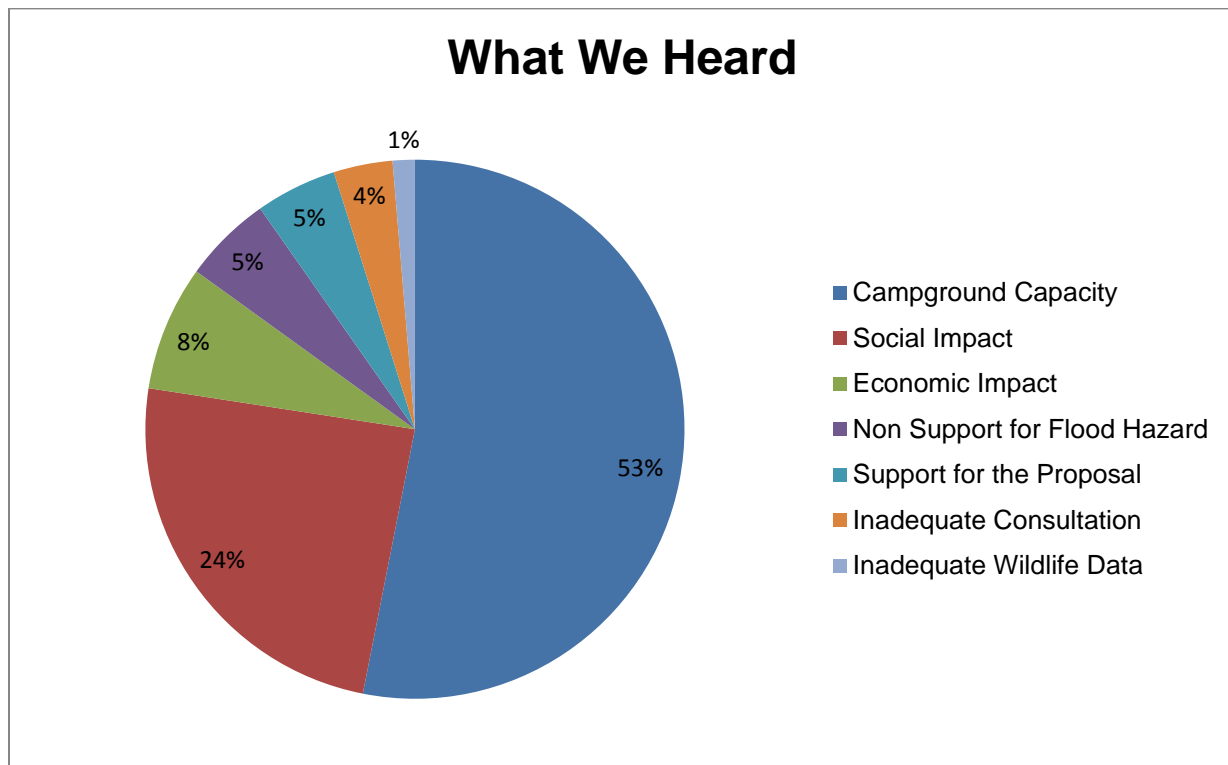
Alberta Parks conducted public consultation from November 14, 2016 to February 13, 2017. Initially Alberta Parks conducted online consultation for the standard 60 days. In response to public feedback, the consultation period was extended for an additional 30 days to February 13th.

Public comments included the following topics:

- Campground Capacity
- Social Impact
- Economic Impact
- Non-Support for Flood Hazard
- Inadequate Consultation
- Inadequate Wildlife Data
- Proposal Support

Figure 1 provides information on the proportion of comments on 180 entries.

Figure 1: What We Heard during Public Consultation



Note: * The percentage in the pie chart indicates the proportion of comments out of a total of 180 comments received from the public through the website or direct email to the consultation contact. Color in the pie chart corresponds to the comment topic in the legend. Topics in the legend correspond to Table 1.

Table 1 provides information on the public comments and responses received during the consultation period online or direct email.

Table 1: Public Feedback and Alberta Parks Responses

Topic	What We Heard	Alberta Parks Response
Campground Capacity	Alberta Parks should be building more campgrounds, not closing them. Alberta needs more campground capacity.	Alberta Parks provides numerous camping opportunities throughout the front country and backcountry in the Kananaskis Region. Through recent Government of Alberta infrastructure funding announcements, Alberta Parks is in the process of planning and implementing an increase in campground opportunities throughout the region.

Topic	What We Heard	Alberta Parks Response
Social Impact	The Three Sisters Campground provides a sense of community for Dead Man's Flats. It's part of the social fabric.	Alberta Parks respects the social connection that Dead Man's Flats residents and Bow Valley locals have to Three Sisters Campground. That is one of the reasons why Alberta Parks has chosen to restore the campground to pre-flood condition.
Economic Impact	The removal of the campground will impact business in Dead Man's Flats.	Alberta Parks respects the economic impact that the campground closure may have on businesses in Dead Man's Flats. That is one of the reasons why Alberta Parks has chosen to restore the campground to pre-flood condition.
Non-Support for Flood Hazard	The hazard from future floods is not substantial enough to close the campground.	Flooding at Three Sisters Campground is influenced by the Bow River and Pigeon Creek. The M.D. of Bighorn mitigation on Pigeon Creek may potentially reduce the effects of future flood on the campground. In addition, Alberta Parks has committed to the Bow River campground densification project that increases campground infrastructure in the flood zone. In order to treat this flood issue equally, it should not be one of the main reasons for closing Three Sisters campground.
	Remove all the hazard trees and open the campground.	In order to ensure a 'duty of care' in the facility zone, Alberta Parks is committed to addressing tree hazard in the campground regardless of the alternative. Alberta Parks hired an arborist in March 2017 and scheduled to remove the hazard trees prior to the migratory bird window starting April 15. A second assessment will occur in the Fall 2017 with subsequent hazard tree removal as necessary. Alberta Parks will continue to monitor the tree hazard in this campground.
Wildlife	Three Sisters Campground has been around for many years. How can it be important to wildlife? Is there enough data to support closing it?	Alberta Parks is reviewing options for reducing human/wildlife conflict in the campground other than full closure. Mitigation measures include fencing, vegetation removal, community stewardship program and temporary closures. A site-specific wildlife study will be implemented to monitor movement and potential conflict during operation.
Inadequate Consultation	Alberta Parks did not adequately engage the residents of Dead Man's Flats. Many people found out about the Proposal just before the consultation was slated to close in January.	<p>Alberta Parks has a standard 60-day public input period to seek input on changes to the parks system from interested park users. This redevelopment proposal went out for comment on November 14, 2016. ParkNews subscribers were notified at that time of the consultation. Members of the public may sign up for ParkNews to be notified of opportunities for input.</p> <p>Alberta Parks recognized the requirement for more direct engagement on this proposal with local residents and stakeholders in the Bow Valley. As a result, Alberta Parks extended the public input period for an additional 30 days to February 13, 2017. Alberta Parks hosted a public session on February 1, 2017 to provide information on Proposal and seek feedback.</p>

Information Session

Alberta Parks hosted an information session on the Proposal on February 1, 2017 at Elevation Place in Canmore. The session was conducted from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Alberta Parks estimates approximately 53 people attended the session; as the venue was an open public space, participants counts did not occur at a specific entry or exit point.

The venue included five stations based on the topics indicated from feedback received during the first 60 days of public consultation.

Stations included:

- Proposal Information
- Wildlife
- Flood Hazard
- Campground Capacity
- Public Consultation

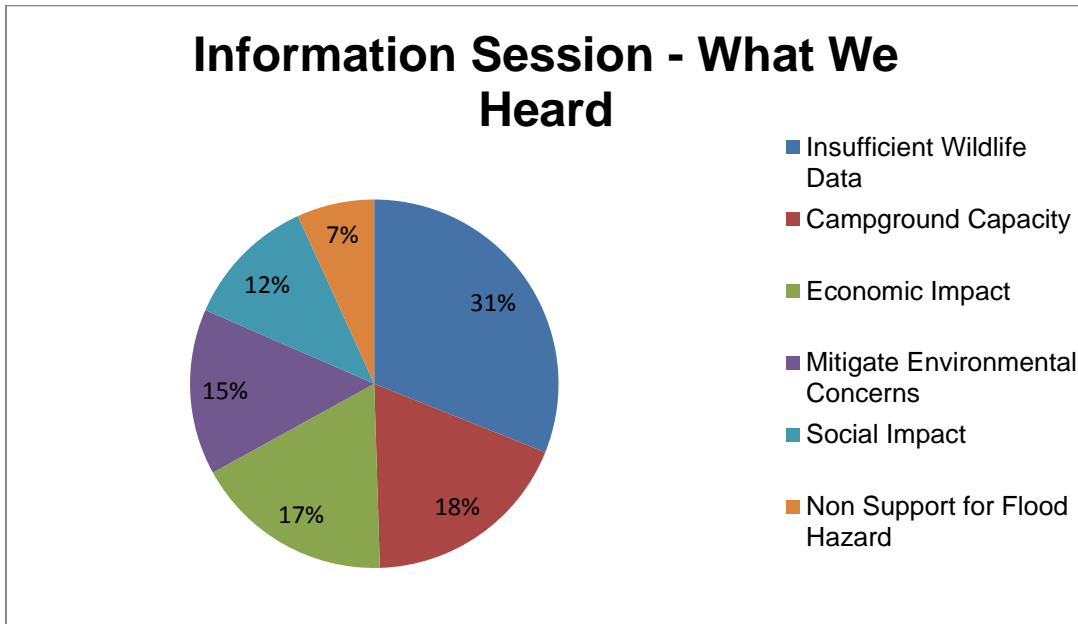
Alberta Parks facilitators recorded comments from the public they interacted with. In addition, participants were welcomed to fill out a comment form or sticky note at the public consultation station.

Public comments at the information session included the following topics:

- Insufficient Wildlife Data
- Campground Capacity
- Economic Impact
- Mitigate Environmental Concerns
- Social Impact
- Non Support for Flood Hazard

Figure 2 provides information on the comments received during the information session.

Figure 2: What We Heard during the Information Session



Note: * The percentage in the pie chart indicates the proportion of comments out of a total of 62 received from the public as a result of the information session (either in person or direct email to the consultation contact). Color in the pie chart corresponds to the comment topic in the legend.

Alberta Parks appreciates all stakeholder feedback. The engagement has been valuable in understanding Albertans passion for recreational opportunities in Kananaskis Country.