

From: Davies, Heather J ENV:EX
To: "james.gordon@pc.gc.ca"
Subject: FW: For review: draft SC Minutes
Date: Friday, March 3, 2017 9:25:00 AM
Attachments: BC-Can SC Minutes Feb 15 2017 DRAFT v2.0.docx

Hi James,

I have received a few changes back from David on the Minutes. There is a chance we may still receive additional comments from Jim or Wes but likely not.

Thanks,

Heather

Page 002 to/à Page 005

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12;s.16;s.13

From: [Davies, Heather J ENV:EX](#)
To: ["james.gordon@pc.gc.ca"](mailto:james.gordon@pc.gc.ca)
Subject: RE: SC Minutes
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 4:27:00 PM
Attachments: BC-Can SC Minutes Feb 15 2017 DRAFT v1.0 (HD and KM edits).docx

Hi again, James,

So, unfortunately, I still have not heard back any comments from our executive yet on the minutes but figured that at this point I would at least send you back the suggested edits from Ken and I. However, there may still be further (but likely very minor if any) edits coming from David, Jim or Wes.

Thanks,
Heather

From: Davies, Heather J ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 11:12 AM
To: 'james.gordon@pc.gc.ca'
Subject: RE: SC Minutes

Hi James,

Sorry for the delay. We were just waiting to see if Jim had any comments to add before getting back to you. I will follow-up on that again now.

This is definitely not your usual Victoria winter ☺.

Happy Monday!

Heather

From: james.gordon@pc.gc.ca [<mailto:james.gordon@pc.gc.ca>]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:52 AM
To: Davies, Heather J ENV:EX
Subject: SC Minutes
Hi Heather,

I know things are crazy for you right now but I'm wondering if you could give me a quick ETA on your comments on the draft minutes that I can pass on up the line?

PS: Snow again! I think everyone was pulling my chain when they told me of Victoria winters...lol

Thanks!
James

James Gordon, MBA

Project Manager / Proposed Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve

Parks Canada / Government of Canada

Chargé de projet / Projet de réserve d'aire marine nationale de conservation du Détroit de Georgia Sud

Parcs Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

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Time to Connect / Un bon temps pour se rapprocher

Page 008 to/à Page 011

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12;s.16;s.13

From: james.gordon@pc.gc.ca
To: [Davies, Heather J](#) ENV:EX; [Morrison, Ken](#) ENV:EX
Subject: Draft Minutes - Confidential
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 12:01:13 AM
Attachments: BC'óCanada Minutes Feb 15 2017 DRAFT v1.0.docx

Hi Ken and Heather,

I meant to send these earlier but I'm afraid I was overtaken by the day so I apologize for the late email. This is a rough draft for your review for accuracy and language and I will edit as needed after we meet tomorrow morning.

Best,
James

James Gordon, MBA

Project Manager / Proposed Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve

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James

James Gordon, MBA

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Time to Connect / Un bon temps pour se rapprocher

From: james.gordon@pc.gc.ca
To: [Davies, Heather J ENV:EX](#)
Cc: Francine.Mercier@pc.gc.ca; lisa.joe@pc.gc.ca
Subject: Steering Committee - Final Package
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017 1:04:32 PM
Attachments: [Canada-BC Steering Committee TOR Signed.pdf](#)
[Draft Minutes Dec 16th. 2013 SC meeting.docx](#)
[ip-protected-areas-framework-so compressed.pdf](#)
[NR BCParks SouthOkangan Jan27 compressed.pdf](#)
[South Okanagan Consultation Summary compressed.pdf](#)
[Overview Map Jan 23 Revised compressed.pdf](#)
[Agenda SC Feb 15 2017 February 9 2017 final.docx](#)
[SSG Stakeholder Update for Feb 15 SC mtg Final Feb 9 2017.docx](#)
[SSG FN update for Feb 15 SC mtg final Feb 9 2017.docx](#)
[Concept Initial Outline for SSG NMCAR v4.0 Jan 26.docx](#)

Hi Heather,

Here is the final package for the Steering Committee. Please distribute. I will also add these files to the meeting invitation.

Thanks for all your help,

James

James Gordon, MBA

Project Manager / Proposed Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve

Parks Canada / Government of Canada

Chargé de projet / Projet de réserve d'aire marine nationale de conservation du Détroit de Georgia Sud

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AGENDA
Canada/British Columbia Steering Committee Meeting
February 15th, 2017
1:00pm – 5:00pm PST

Meeting Location: Executive Boardroom, 5th floor, 2975 Jutland Road, Victoria, BC

Attendees for B.C.: Wes Shoemaker (co-chair), Deputy Minister of Environment; Jim Standen, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Environment

Invited for B.C.: David Ranson, Ken Morrison, Heather Davies

Attendees for Canada: Rob Prosper (co-chair), Vice President, Protected Areas Establishment and Conservation Directorate; Pat Thomsen, Executive Director, Pacific and Mountain Parks

Invited for Canada: Kevin McNamee; Helen Davies; Lisa Joe; James Gordon (note taker)

Introductions

Meeting Objectives

- Provide update on Federal/Provincial priorities
- Conclude what is needed to reboot Steering Committee
- Discuss status and path forward on Southern Strait of Georgia NMCAR
- Initial discussion on re-launch of South Okanagan project

Federal/Provincial Priorities

- Environment
- Protected areas
- Indigenous Peoples

Steering Committee

- Approval of Minutes from last meeting (December 16th, 2013) (attached)
- Role
- Membership (See Annex item 1)
- Collaborative consultation (See Annex item 2)

Southern Strait of Georgia NMCAR

- Project updates
 - First Nations (attached)
 - Stakeholders (attached)
- Draft Concept Table of Contents (attached)
- Next Steps

South Okanagan

- Project background (attached)
 - Intentions Paper: Protected Areas Framework for BC's South Okanagan
 - Consultation Summary: Protected Areas Framework for BC's South Okanagan
 - South Okanagan Protection Concept: News Release and Overview Map
- Path Forward

Other Business

Next Steering Committee conference call or meeting date

Page 016 to/à Page 017

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THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT THE CANADA-BRITISH COLUMBIA ACTION PLAN

FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL PARK RESERVE AND NATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION AREA RESERVES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0 Background

On October 3, 2002, Canada released its *Action Plan to Protect Canada's Natural Heritage* regarding the establishment of new national parks and national marine conservation areas. The plan calls for, among other things, the creation of three new national park reserves and two new national marine conservation area (NMCA) reserves in British Columbia over the next five years.

The first of these areas was established on May 2, 2003, when Canada and British Columbia signed a national park establishment agreement creating Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada. Subsequently, British Columbia announced in its Throne Speech of February 2003, its interest in exploring with Canada the potential of establishing a new national park reserve in the Okanagan area, which is within the Interior Dry Plateau Natural Region of the National Park System.

On October 9, 2003, Canada and British Columbia entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), to be known as the Canada-British Columbia Action Plan, regarding the establishment of a new national park reserve in the Okanagan area, and two NMCA reserves in British Columbia. As previously confirmed in the establishment agreement for the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, this MOU provides for Canada's completion of a feasibility study for an NMCA reserve in the southern Strait of Georgia.

Further, in accordance with an agreement signed by Canada and British Columbia on July 12, 1988, the MOU provides for the completion of work to establish an NMCA reserve in the marine waters surrounding Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve of Canada. As part of this work, Canada must consult with local communities, stakeholders, Aboriginal people and other persons on an interim management plan. In addition, Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation must negotiate an agreement regarding the cooperative establishment, operation and planning of the proposed NMCA reserve prior to its formal establishment.

2.0 Purpose of the Steering Committee

This Steering Committee, which for brevity shall hereafter be referred to as the Canada-British Columbia Action Plan (CBCAP) Steering Committee, has as its primary purpose to oversee the completion of the feasibility studies for the proposed national park reserve in the Okanagan area and the proposed NMCA reserve in the southern Strait of Georgia. It will also assist in defining the process for consulting the provincial government and stakeholders on the interim management plan for the proposed NMCA reserve at Gwaii Haanas.

The feasibility studies will be cognisant of, and the members of the CBCAP Steering Committee will pay particular attention to, the following:

- the environmental, social and economic implications of the establishment of the proposed Okanagan national park reserve and Strait of Georgia NMCA reserve;
- the national and provincial significance of the natural and cultural resources of the proposed reserves;
- the data provided by British Columbia concerning the mineral and other natural resource potential of the proposed reserves; and
- the impact on access to land (including the mineral and other natural resources on or under that land) adjacent to or in the vicinity of the proposed reserves that may be affected by their establishment as a national park reserve or NMCA reserve.

These above provisions do not apply to the interim management planning phase for the proposed Gwaii Haanas NMCA reserve.

3.0 Roles and Responsibilities

During the course of completing the two feasibility studies and the interim management plan, the specific roles and responsibilities of the CBCAP Steering Committee shall include the review and approval of analyses and/or proposals regarding:

- the study area boundaries for the proposed national park reserve in the South Okanagan and the proposed NMCA reserve in the southern Strait of Georgia;
- the terms of reference to guide each of the feasibility studies in the South Okanagan and the southern Strait of Georgia;
- the consultation processes for the public, all levels of government, Aboriginal people and stakeholders, recognizing that a special consultation process for Aboriginal

people will likely be necessary given governments' fiduciary responsibilities and the emerging cooperative management agreement with the Haida Nation:

- boundary options for the proposed national park reserve and NMCA reserve that ensure the protection of representative ecosystems and landscape and seascape features while maintaining ecological integrity, as well as resource management options, including a zoning plan, for the proposed NMCA reserves;
- initiatives to minimize the long term disruption of, to mitigate any adverse economic impacts on, and to maximize the benefits to, the social and economic fabric of the surrounding regions and communities that may result from the establishment of the proposed reserves as a national park reserve or NMCA reserve;
- management options demonstrating how existing land uses, including tourism activities, recreation, grazing, hunting, fishing and guide outfitting, can be accommodated when the proposed reserves are established as a national park reserve or national marine conservation area reserve;
- identification of all existing land uses, including tourism activities, recreation, grazing, hunting, fishing and guide outfitting, that must be modified or terminated before the proposed reserves are established under the *Canada National Parks Act* or the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act*, and proposals on the means to redress the holders of the tenures that are to be modified or terminated; and
- new opportunities for tourism, resort development and recreation associated with the establishment of the proposed reserves as a national park reserve or NMCA reserve.

3.1 The Two Feasibility Studies

Based on the above, the Steering Committee can consider suitable financial or other arrangements that will be required to enable British Columbia to participate in the completion of the feasibility studies in a timely and efficient manner.

Upon completion of the above technical tasks for the two feasibility studies, including their initial phases of public consultation and the development of options for the establishment of the proposed reserves, the CBCAP Steering Committee will review:

- a report on all consultations undertaken with relevant federal and provincial departments, ministries and agencies, affected First Nations, local governments, local communities and other persons to seek their views on, and to determine their support for, the establishment of the proposed reserves; and
- the options developed for the establishment of the proposed reserves and determine which of those options will be recommended for further development and consultation.

Upon completion of the feasibility studies, and full consultation on the recommended option, the CBCAP Steering Committee will review a final report on the outcomes of the studies and the public consultation. If the Steering Committee supports the establishment of one or both of the proposed reserves as a national park reserve or an NMCA reserve, the Steering Committee members will recommend to their respective ministers that they negotiate an agreement or agreements to establish the proposed reserves as a national park reserve or an NMCA reserve, as applicable.

3.2 The Gwaii Haanas Interim Management Plan

In accordance with the MOU and the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act*, Canada will develop an interim management plan setting out management objectives and a zoning plan and undertake consultations with relevant federal and provincial departments, ministries and agencies, affected Aboriginal people, local governments, local communities and other persons. Consistent with the 1993 Canada – Haida Agreement, Canada will develop and implement a process to develop the interim management plan in cooperation with the Council of the Haida Nation. Canada will keep the Steering Committee apprised of this process.

The Steering Committee will assist in coordinating the input of comments from relevant federal and provincial departments and agencies on drafts of the interim management plan. Upon completion of the interim management planning process, the CBCAP Steering Committee will review a final draft of the proposed interim management plan, including an analysis of the results of public consultation.

4.0 Composition and Operating Guidelines

Membership of the CBCAP Steering Committee shall consist of four members, two from each of Canada and British Columbia:

Representing Canada:

Nik Lopoukhine
Director General, National
Parks Directorate
Parks Canada Agency

Gaby Fortin
Director General, Western
and Northern Canada
Parks Canada Agency

Representing British Columbia:

Gordon Macatee
Deputy Minister, Ministry of
Water, Land and Air Protection

Chris Trumpy
Deputy Minister,
Ministry of Sustainable Resource
Management

The operating guidelines for the CBCAP Steering Committee are as follows:

- the Steering Committee will be co-chaired by the Director General, National Parks, Parks Canada Agency and the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection;
- the Park Establishment Branch (PEB) of the Parks Canada Agency will serve as the Secretariat to the Steering Committee and will make all necessary arrangements for Steering Committee meetings;
- the Steering Committee will adopt its own rules and procedures, as appropriate;
- a quorum will occur only if representation from both governments is present;
- at the members' discretion, they may choose to assign an alternate to represent them during a meeting of the Committee;
- the Steering Committee will meet on an as-required basis and it may meet via conference call or face-to-face, with at least one meeting a year being face-to-face;
- each member of the Committee may, at their discretion, have members of their staff attend the meetings;
- a written Record of Decisions and Requested Actions will be prepared immediately following each meeting by the PEB; this Record of Decisions and Requested Actions, following approval of the two co-chairs, will be distributed to all members of the Steering Committee and staff as appropriate; and
- the Steering Committee will adopt procedures to facilitate the review and approval of various activities or proposals that may need immediate resolution and for which the timing does not coincide with scheduled meetings or teleconferences.

5.0 Communication and Coordination

The Steering Committee will need to be cognisant of the ongoing requirements for communication and coordination, and existing arrangements for such, with parties external to the Steering Committee process. Specifically, such communication and coordination efforts will be required for:

- existing and historical relationships with federal and provincial government departments and agencies, Aboriginal people and stakeholders arising from other ongoing projects and initiatives; and
- government agencies that have specific regulatory responsibilities in these areas, in particular, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Transport Canada, as well as the Islands Trust and several agencies within the government of British Columbia that are not represented on the Steering Committee.

5.1 Existing and Historical Relationships

The Steering Committee acknowledges that Parks Canada staff, especially in the respective Field Units and provincial ministry staff, has already established communications, consultation and information sharing processes with many of the various constituencies that will be affected by these proposals. These staff will need to be fully involved in further developing these relationships and for building consensus towards the establishment of new protected areas.

5.2 Other Government Agencies

Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Transport Canada will continue to have key statutory and regulatory responsibilities in the management of NMCAs. Although they are not represented on the Steering Committee, they will need to be fully engaged in the management structure and decision making processes designed for the respective NMCA projects. Similarly, there are agencies within the government of British Columbia that will have key roles in the planning for and implementation of these projects and will need to become fully engaged as circumstances warrant.

5.3 Project Specific Management Structures

It is anticipated that each of the three studies will require project-specific working groups. The requirements for coordination and communication among the CBCAP Steering Committee and the three project-specific steering committees, and their working groups, will be determined on a case by case basis as the studies unfold. Canada has put in place an executive position, known as the NMCA Establishment Coordinator, to coordinate Parks Canada's efforts to establish the Strait of Georgia and Gwaii Haanas NMCAs.

6.0 Other Considerations

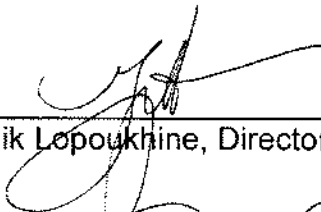
The CBCAP Steering Committee will serve as the forum for discussions between Canada and British Columbia for the purpose of continuing cooperation in the development and implementation of a shared vision for Canada's Pacific coastal region as set out in section 3.3 of the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada Agreement, and as originally set out in the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy Memorandum of Understanding.

Thus, the CBCAP Steering Committee will be mindful during its deliberations of four other understandings between Canada and British Columbia, that are either currently in effect or being negotiated, that have a bearing on the work of this Committee:

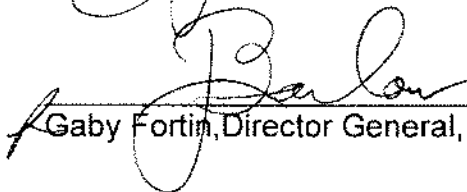
- the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy Memorandum of Understanding signed on July 12, 1995;
- the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada Agreement signed on May 9, 2003;
- the draft Pacific Marine Protected Areas Framework and the final agreement once it comes into effect; and
- the draft Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Implementation of Canada's Ocean Strategy on the Pacific Coast of Canada and the final agreement once it comes into effect.

Approved on December 9, 2004 by:

For Canada:



Nik Lopoukhine, Director General, National Parks, Parks Canada



Gaby Fortin, Director General, Western & Northern Canada, Parks Canada

For British Columbia:



Gordon Macatee, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection



Chris Trumpy, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Canada – B.C. Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve South Okanagan – Lower Similkameen National Park Reserve Feasibility Assessments December 16, 2013

Canada – B.C. Steering Committee:

Rob Prosper, Vice President, Protected Area Establishment and Conservation, Parks Canada

Lori Halls, Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Parks and Conservation Service,

Wes Shoemaker, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, British Columbia

Allan Lidstone, Director, Resource Management Objectives, Stewardship Division, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (by phone)

Invited for B.C.:

Brett Hudson, Planner, BC Parks, Ministry of Environment

Invited for Canada

Helen Davies, Coastal B.C. Field Unit Superintendent

Laani Uunila, Acting Manager, Marine Area Establishment

Krista Royle, Project Manager, Southern Strait of Georgia NMCAR Establishment Initiative

Marcia Morash, Gulf Islands National Park Reserve Superintendent

Documents Distributed

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes from April 10, 2013 Steering Committee meetings
- Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve Project Update

Administration:

The draft minutes of the April 10, 2013 Steering Committee meeting were approved without revision.

Southern Strait of Georgia

Project Update:

General

Krista Royle has been appointed as the Project Manager for the Southern Strait of Georgia NMCAR Establishment Initiative.

Stakeholder Consultation

Laani Uunila provided an update on stakeholder consultation since the April 10, 2013 Steering Committee meeting. Consultations with industry stakeholders and tenure holders have continued. Parks Canada staff met with the Western Marine Community Coalition in July and the Commercial Fishing Caucus in August. This past summer, letters were sent to approximately 750 residential tenures in the NMCA concept area providing information about the project and seeking feedback. Letters were also sent prior to Christmas to all shellfish aquaculture tenure holders soliciting their feedback on the proposal and the proposed boundary.

Decision:

Parks Canada will proceed with organization of a workshop for industry stakeholders to learn from marine industries with experience working in a marine protected area context elsewhere in Canada (e.g. Saguenay-St. Lawrence).

For the next Steering Committee meeting, the project team was directed to propose a model for future multi-stakeholder consultation for the feasibility assessment, recognizing that different approaches will be required for different interests, due to the nature and extent of concerns identified.

Need to research what additional tanker traffic related to Kinder Morgan expansion means for this proposal.

Economic Assessment

Laani Uunila provided an update on the economic assessment. A first draft of the economic assessment prepared by Gardner Pinfold Consultants has been received by the project team. The team is reviewing the draft and will provide comments back to the contractors, who will then prepare a revised draft for circulation. Parks Canada has committed to industry stakeholders that they will have an opportunity to comment on the draft economic assessment and their comments will be appended to the final report.

Decision:

Once a revised draft of the economic assessment is complete, it will be circulated to appropriate staff of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations for review. BC representatives will be given an opportunity to brief relevant Ministers on the report before it is released for industry stakeholder comment.

The economic assessment will be distributed to industry representatives as a draft report. Industry will have time to comment on the report and the development of a final report will be an iterative process.

First Nations

Laani Uunila provided an update on the status of consultations with First Nations. On Feb. 28, 2013, 26 participants representing 14 First Nations attended a First Nations-only workshop to discuss the feasibility assessment. First Nations do not support a decision on feasibility at this time. First Nations have articulated a number of pre-requisites for feasibility including: Federal recognition of Douglas Treaties; community consultations; a workshop to explore Parks Canada's working relationship with other First Nations; the establishment of a technical working group; and direct involvement in any decision on feasibility.

Parks Canada has had three meetings with Aaron Reith, as recommended by the workshop participants, to discuss next steps towards formation of a First Nations technical working group or working groups to advance consultation on the feasibility assessment. Letters will be sent in the New Year to all 19 First Nations thanking them for their participation to date and outlining next steps. (Update: these letters were sent before Christmas).

Decision:

Parks Canada will proceed with organization of a workshop for First Nations to learn from other First Nations with experience working with Parks Canada elsewhere (e.g. Gwaii Hanaas, Kluane National Park).

Letters will be sent to First Nations inviting their participation in these workshops and in the formation of a technical working group for the feasibility assessment. The structure of the technical working group has not been determined, but may be similar to one formed for the development of a management plan for the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.

Preliminary Concept

The Project Team was directed to begin working on a draft "preliminary concept" for a potential NMCA Reserve, to provide more detail about how various marine activities would be managed under a NMCA Reserve, governance models and boundary. The preliminary concept will be used as the basis for further dialogue with marine industry stakeholders, First Nations, and others. A draft preliminary concept is targeted for completion in Spring 2015 with a Feasibility Assessment report targeted for Fall, 2015.

Other Business

South Okanagan Lower Similkameen National Park Reserve Feasibility Assessment Update

BC reported that the Province has recently received a number of letters from stakeholders in the area in support of BC re-engaging in the feasibility assessment, including resolutions from local governments, chambers of commerce and tourism associations.

BC confirmed that there has been no change in provincial direction that BC is not considering a national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen at this time.

Parks Canada reported that the Canada-BC Marine Protected Area Strategy has been approved by the Government of Canada, and is scheduled to be presented to the BC cabinet early in the New Year.

Next Meeting:

A Steering Committee or conference call or meeting will be organized for early June 2014, once the workshops for industry stakeholders and First Nations have been completed.

INTENTIONS PAPER

Protected Areas Framework for British Columbia's South Okanagan



Introduction

British Columbia's South Okanagan region is a special place. It contains significant diversity and uniqueness of plants and animals, and is home to 30% of B.C.'s red-listed wildlife species and 46% of blue-listed species. Situated at the northernmost tip of the Great Basin Desert and representing a dry arid landscape that is not only unique to British Columbia, but to Canada, it is aptly named the "pocket desert". This area is important to First Nations and contains sacred cultural and traditional use sites such as Spotted Lake and the White Lake basin and many other significant cultural, recreational and ecological sites. It is also an area that is facing intense development pressure and increasing population. For these reasons, the provincial government has created a number of protected areas as recommended in the Okanagan-Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan, and the Federal Government chose to focus on the area for a potential new national park reserve.

Through the development of the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen Feasibility Assessment, which commenced in 2003 and was facilitated by Parks Canada, the interests of the various stakeholders and the public surfaced. Subsequent to this, in 2014, the Province undertook efforts to explore local interests through a series of meetings with stakeholders, community interests, and the Okanagan Nation. The purpose of the 2014 discussions was to move away from the debate about the specific merits of a national park reserve and instead examine the underlying interests as a means to identify the most appropriate tools for meeting those interests. Throughout these meetings, a number of recurring themes emerged:

- Protection of cultural values, cultural sites, and traditional activities by First Nations
- The use of the lands for interpretation, education and greater awareness of aboriginal culture
- The expansion of tourism, particularly the growth in aboriginal tourism, and to expand tourism opportunities throughout the year
- The protection of species at risk, important conservation values, and maintenance of corridors for species migration as a result of climate change
- A variety of existing and new recreation opportunities in appropriate locations
- The protection of ranching and existing grazing tenures, and
- The protection of other tenured uses such as helicopter training use

As a result of discussions with stakeholders, community interests, and the Okanagan Nation, the provincial government has come to better understand various interests and has developed a proposed land protection framework for the South Okanagan that it hopes will address these interests both today and into the future. In arriving at this land protection framework proposal, the Province has been guided by the following principles:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Additional protection will be beneficial | <i>Additional protection measures will benefit the area. Currently, while protection from BC Parks, Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service), First Nations, local governments, private landholders, conservation organizations, and others exists, this area does not have the coordinated protection needed to address the uniqueness and richness of the ecosystems, and the large number of species at risk that are present.</i> |
| 2. Management is shared with First Nations | <i>First Nations are committed to conservation in this area and further collaboration must be explored. To be effective, it should involve the planning and ongoing management incorporating traditional ecological knowledge and traditional cultural use. Cultural tourism must be considered in protecting these areas as it represents an exciting opportunity that could become a significant draw for visitors.</i> |
| 3. Existing uses are recognized | <i>Protection measures will result in a collective broad array of recreation opportunities, even if some uses must be allocated to certain areas through access management. For tenure holders, tenures will continue under the same terms and conditions and be subject to existing management policies. Changes would only occur if the tenure holder consents.</i> |
| 4. Respect for private land holders | <i>Privately owned lands will be respected. Any future private land acquisitions that may occur will only be on a willing seller/willing buyer basis and only as land availability and budgets allow.</i> |
| 5. Tourism is actively promoted | <i>The area has outstanding beauty that residents and visitors will experience. New protected area establishment will come with support to encourage prospective visitors to consider the recreation opportunities that the South Okanagan has to offer. Promoting cultural tourism in protected areas could be a particular emphasis.</i> |

The intent of this paper is to seek feedback from stakeholders and individuals on the proposed land protection framework.

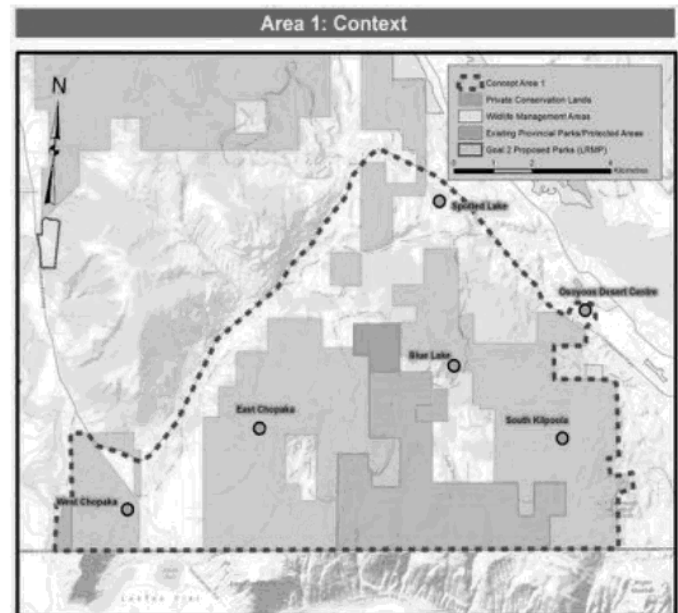
Proposed Land Protection Framework

For the purposes of the land protection framework, the areas being considered for future protected area designations have been broken out into three main components (see full context map on page 6):

Question 1: Are the appropriate areas captured in the overall land protection framework?

Area 1:

Portions of the area west of Osoyoos towards the Similkameen River, and south of Highway 3 to the U.S. border including the Osoyoos Desert Centre, Spotted Lake and the South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area sites of East and West Chopaka and South Kilpoola (excluding privately held lands). This is the most southern of the three areas. It encompasses the southern portion of the South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area, forming a triangle with Spotted Lake approaching its northern tip, and all contained within the boundary of Highway 3 and south to the U.S. border.



Proposal: It is the view of the Province that this area, in conjunction with Area 3, would be worthy of consideration by Parks Canada for inclusion in a South Okanagan National Park Reserve. Should this area not be designated as national park reserve, the Province would recommend that Crown lands in this area be established as a conservancy under the *Park Act*.

Rationale: Area 1 contains some of the highest biodiversity in the region, and as such is of high conservation value. It is also home to unique features such as the Pocket Desert (showcased at the Osoyoos Desert Centre). Tenures in this area are not as numerous as they are in Area 2, but there is a large component of private land and land held by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. National park reserve status would confer an appropriate level of protection on available Crown lands and future land acquisitions (if achievable) for area biodiversity while also bringing the desired tourism marketing benefits to the region. As a precondition to this recommendation, the Province would ensure that all existing tenures continue unimpeded. Should designation as national park reserve not occur, establishment as a provincial conservancy is recommended in recognition of the interests of the Okanagan Nation.

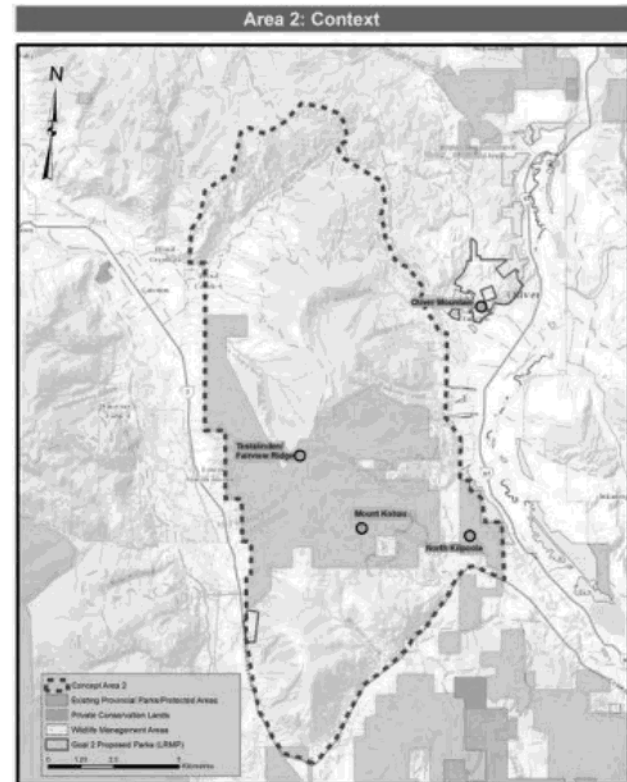
Question 2: Are there any adjacent lands of particular conservation, recreation or cultural heritage value that should be included in Area 1?

Question 3: Are there any special considerations that should be taken into account in establishing additional protection for Area 1?

Area 2:

Portions of the area west of Oliver towards the community of Cawston, and north of Highway 3 to the southerly extent of the White Lake Grasslands Protected Area (excluding privately held lands). This is the largest of the three areas. It encompasses the northern portion of the South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area, capturing existing protected area sites such as North Kilpoola and Mount Kobau, as well as tracts of Crown provincial land that are situated north towards the Testalinden Ridge and the Fairview/Cawston Road.

Proposal: The Province is recommending that Crown lands in Area 2 be established as a conservancy under the provincial *Park Act*.



Rationale: This portion of the region is the most intensively used for both ranching and recreation purposes and a conservancy designation has the necessary flexibility to ensure existing uses can continue while environmental and First Nation cultural values are protected. Use of the conservancy tool will also support the inclusion of the Okanagan Nation in the active management of the protected area. Through the creation of an associated management plan and a collaborative management agreement with the Okanagan Nation, the development and promotion of cultural tourism opportunities by the Okanagan Nation will be encouraged to the benefit of the entire region.

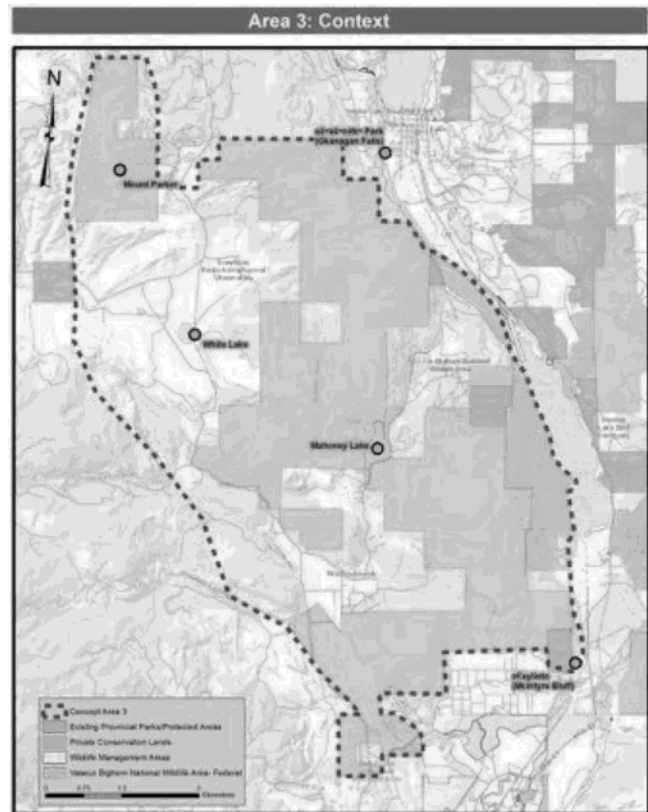
Question 4: Are there any adjacent lands of particular conservation, recreation or cultural heritage value that should be included in Area 2?

Question 5: Are there any special considerations that should be taken into account in establishing additional protection for Area 2?

Area 3:

Portions of the White Lake basin area south of the community of Okanagan Falls and including areas in the vicinity of Vaseux Lake (excluding privately held lands). This is the most northern of the three areas, encompassing all of the White Lake Grasslands Protected Area and portions of Provincial Crown land in the vicinity. It lies west of Highway 97, southwest of the town of Okanagan Falls.

Proposal: For this portion of the region, the Province is recommending that the Federal government be approached about possible designation as part of a South Okanagan National Park Reserve. Should this area not be designated as national park reserve, B.C. would look to protect Crown lands in this area as a conservancy, and manage the area in close partnership with the Okanagan Nation.

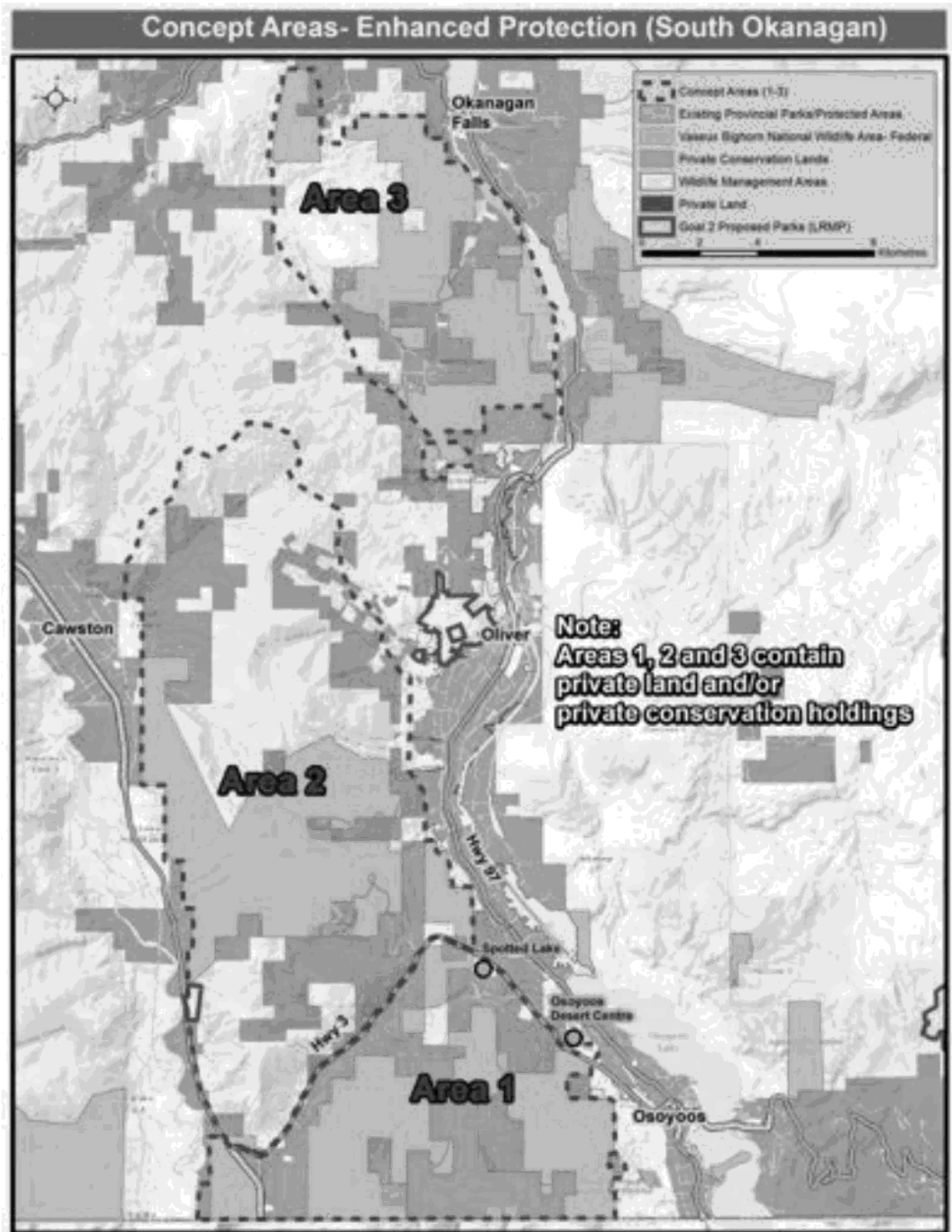


Rationale: There are presently a number of federal land holdings in the Vaseux Lake area which are managed by the Canadian Wildlife Service. While the protections afforded by a provincial conservancy designation and national park reserve status would both be sufficient to protect the unique features of Area 3, it is the presence of the federal holdings, along with the desire for additional tourism marketing potential, which implies supporting designation as national park reserve. As a precondition to this recommendation, the Province would look to ensure that all existing range tenures continue unimpeded. Should designation as national park reserve not occur, establishment as a provincial conservancy is recommended in recognition of the interests of the Okanagan Nation.

Question 6: Are there any adjacent lands of particular conservation, recreation or cultural heritage value that should be included in Area 3?

Question 7: Are there any special considerations that should be taken into account in establishing additional protection for Area 3?

Context Map:



Next Steps

This paper describes a proposed land protection framework for the South Okanagan. Upon completion of a 60 day consultation period, BC Parks will compile and review the feedback received. This feedback will then be publicly posted in the form of a consultation report along with final land designation recommendations.

This land protection framework proposal will then be further refined and submitted to Government for review and approval. Subject to receiving approval, legislation to support the designation of some or all of the elements of the framework intended for designation through provincial legislation would be prepared and submitted for consideration in 2016.

Glossary of Protected Area Types:

Class A Park: The majority of the provincial parks in the system are Class A parks. These parks are lands dedicated to the preservation of their natural environments for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public. Development in a Class A park is limited to that which is necessary for the maintenance of its recreational values. Activities such as grazing, hay cutting and other uses (except commercial logging, mining or hydroelectric development) that existed at the time the park was established may be allowed to continue.

Class A parks can be established by two means. They can be established by order in council under the *Park Act* or by inclusion in a schedule to the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*. Presently, most Class A parks are established by inclusion in schedules to the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

Conservancy : Conservancies are Crown lands set aside for:

- (a) the protection and maintenance of their biological diversity and natural environments;
- (b) the preservation and maintenance of social, ceremonial and cultural uses of First Nations;
- (c) the protection and maintenance of their recreational values; and
- (d) development or use of natural resources in a manner consistent with the purposes of (a), (b) and (c) above.

The conservancy designation explicitly recognizes the importance of these areas to First Nations for social, ceremonial and cultural uses. Conservancies provide for a wider range of low impact, compatible economic opportunities than Class A parks, however, commercial logging, mining and hydroelectric power generation, other than local run-of-the-river projects, are prohibited. These economic opportunities must still not restrict, prevent or hinder the conservancy from meeting its intended purpose with respect to maintaining biological diversity, natural environments, First Nations social, ceremonial and cultural uses, and recreational values.

Conservancies can be established by two means. Conservancies can be established by order in council under the *Park Act* or by inclusion in a schedule to the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

Presently, all conservancies are established by inclusion in schedules to the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

Protected Area: Protected areas are established by order in council under the *Environment and Land Use Act*. The *Environment and Land Use Act* is a broad piece of legislation which empowers a land use committee of Cabinet to ensure that all aspects of the preservation and maintenance of the natural environment are fully considered in the administration of land use and resource development.

Protected areas generally have one or more existing or proposed activities that are not usually allowed in a park (e.g., proposed industrial road, pipeline, transmission line or communication site). Allowable activities and management direction are determined by specific provisions and any special conditions when the area is established as well as relevant sections of the *Park Act* and *Park, Conservancy and Recreation Area Regulation* as identified in the order in council.

Protected area designations under the *Environment and Land Use Act* are by order in council.

Ecological Reserve: Ecological reserves are established for ecological purposes, including the following:

- Areas suitable for scientific research and educational purposes associated with studies in productivity and other aspects of the natural environment;
- Representative examples of natural ecosystems in British Columbia;
- Examples of ecosystems that have been modified by human beings and offer an opportunity to study the recovery of the natural ecosystem from modification;
- Areas where rare or endangered native plants and animals in their natural habitat may be preserved;
- Areas that contain unique and rare examples of botanical, zoological or geological phenomena.

The legislation is very restrictive and all extractive activities are prohibited and recreational use is discouraged. As such, ecological reserves are considered to be areas most highly protected and least subject to human influence. Ecological reserves can be established by two means: (i) by order in council under the *Ecological Reserve Act* or (ii) by inclusion in schedules to the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

National Park (National Park Reserve): National parks are a country-wide system of representative natural areas of Canadian significance, protected under federal legislation. By law, they are protected for public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment, while being maintained in an unimpaired state for future generations. National parks are established to protect and present outstanding representative examples of natural landscapes and natural phenomena that occur in Canada's 39 natural regions, as identified in the National Parks System Plan. National parks protect the habitats, wildlife and ecosystem diversity representative of - and sometime unique to - the natural regions. National park reserves are areas set aside for the purpose of a National Park pending settlement of any outstanding aboriginal land claims. During the interim period the *National Park Act* applies.

Providing Comment on this Policy Intention Paper

To provide comment on designation options being explored by the Province, please visit <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/protected-areas-framework-s-okanagan.html> and fill out the seven question survey (the same questions that appear in this paper). The feedback received will be used in further considerations for the South Okanagan.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this proposal and forwarding your comments.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US ONLINE:
WWW.ENV.GOV.BC.CA/BCPARKS/PLANNING/PROTECTED-AREAS-FRAMEWORK-S-OKANAGAN.HTML



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2017ENV0006-000175
Jan. 27, 2017

Ministry of Environment

Proposal for South Okanagan land protection to move forward

OSOYOOS – The Province has announced that planning discussions to achieve the objectives outlined in the Province’s proposal to protect lands in the South Okanagan are moving forward with the support and participation of the Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band and Osoyoos Indian Band, which are the three Okanagan Nation communities most affected by the proposal.

The Province’s proposal was presented in an intentions paper issued in August 2015, seeking public feedback on how land may be protected in the South Okanagan. The Ministry of Environment carefully reviewed the feedback received from the public engagement, which drew more than 3,400 submissions. From there, the ministry engaged directly with the three Okanagan Nation communities regarding the priorities identified in the plan.

The plan addresses three distinct areas in the region:

- Area 1 – Portions of the area west of Osoyoos towards the Similkameen River, and south of Highway 3 to the U.S. border including the Osoyoos Desert Centre, the lands around Spotted Lake, and portions of the South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area sites of East and West Chopaka and South Kilpoola.
- Area 2 – Portions of the area west of Oliver towards Cawston, and north of Highway 3 to the southerly extent of the White Lake Grasslands Protected Area.
- Area 3 – Portions of the White Lake basin area south of Okanagan Falls and including areas in the vicinity of Vaseux Lake.

The plan describes objectives for these three distinct areas. Area 2, will be targeted for protection as a conservancy under provincial legislation, the Park Act. The remaining two areas, Area 1 and Area 3, will be the subject of discussion among the Province, the three Okanagan Nation communities and Parks Canada for possible inclusion in a South Okanagan National Park Reserve (NPR). If these areas do not prove feasible as a NPR then the Province is prepared to open discussions with the three Okanagan Nation communities, to protect these areas using the tools under the Park Act.

The Province will continue to work closely with the three Okanagan Nation communities in a government-to-government process to further develop details of the plan, and will seek to engage with the federal government, along with the three Okanagan Nation communities, around the potential for NPR designation specific to areas 1 and 3.

A number of factors will be considered when developing the final plan, including Okanagan First Nation values and cultural sites, protection of species at risk, recreational users and protection of ranching and existing grazing tenures.

Quotes:**Mary Polak, Environment Minister –**

“I look forward to continue working with the area First Nations to ensure lands in the South Okanagan are protected. I know the South Okanagan is a unique area that holds a special place for many people, and I am pleased plans are moving forward to protect this beautiful region for future generations.”

Linda Larson, MLA for Boundary-Similkameen –

“I’m pleased the proposal for South Okanagan is moving forward, and that protecting this special region is a priority. Thank you to British Columbians who took the time to let us know what values were most important to them. The South Okanagan is a unique area that encompasses many features, including geographic and cultural values, as well as recreation and tourism opportunities.”

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Ministry of Environment
250 953-3834

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

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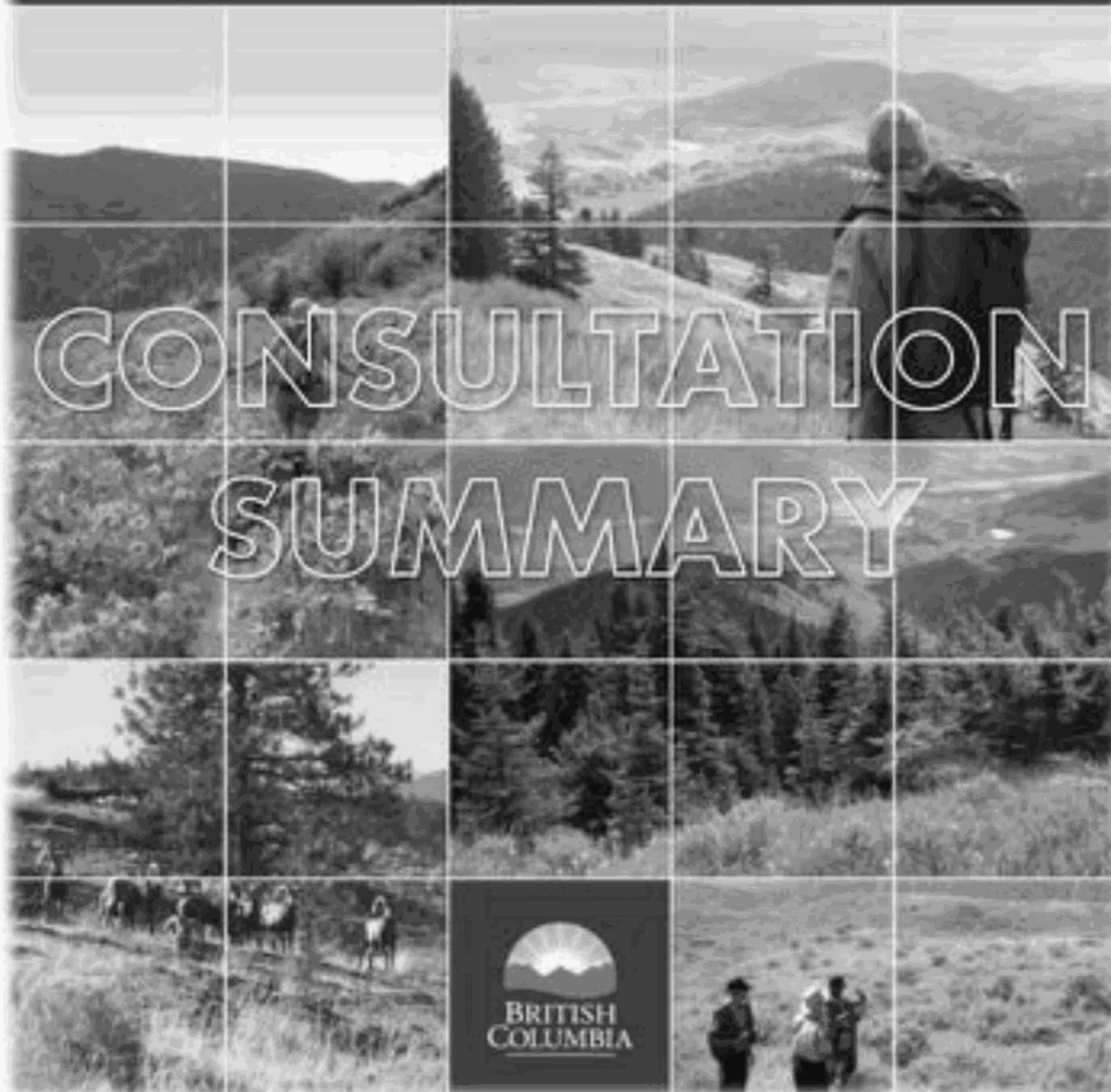
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INTENTIONS PAPER

Protected Areas Framework for British Columbia's South Okanagan

CONSULTATION SUMMARY



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1.0 Introduction

British Columbia's South Okanagan region is a special place. It contains significant diversity and uniqueness of plants and animals, and is home to 30% of B.C.'s red-listed wildlife species and 46% of blue-listed species. Situated at the northernmost tip of the Great Basin Desert and representing a dry arid landscape that is not only unique to British Columbia, but to Canada, it is aptly named the "pocket desert". This area is important to First Nations and contains sacred cultural and traditional use sites such as Spotted Lake and the White Lake basin and many other significant cultural, recreational and ecological sites. It is also an area that is facing intense development pressure and increasing population.

2.0 Background

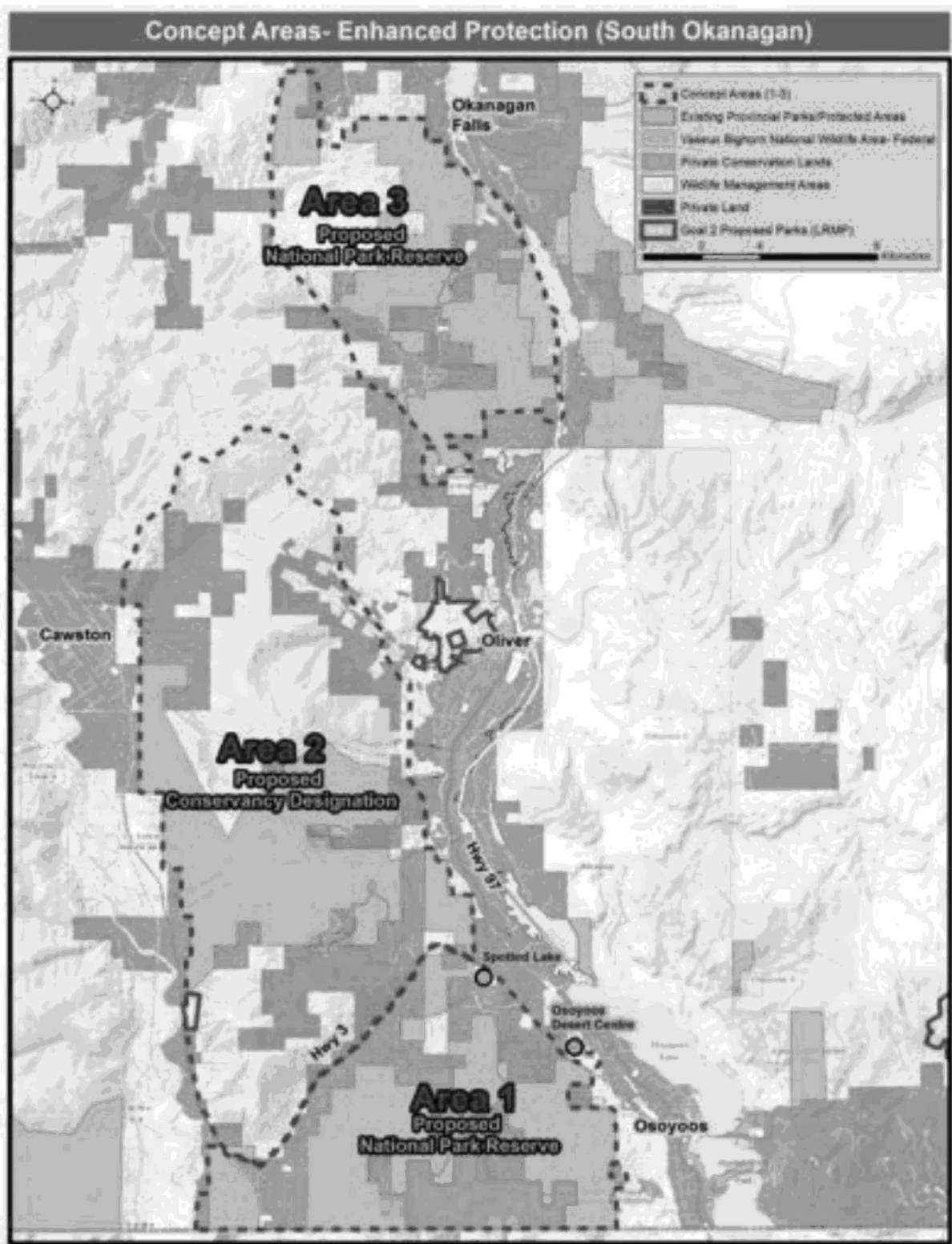
Following the recommendations of the Okanagan-Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan, which was approved by the provincial government 2001, there were a number of protected areas established in the South Okanagan. Shortly thereafter, the Federal Government chose to focus on the area for a potential new national park reserve. In October 2003, Canada and BC signed a Memorandum of Understanding to study the feasibility of establishing a National Park Reserve (NPR) in the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen area. Consultations during the feasibility study indicated that the NPR proposal was controversial among area residents. In January 2011, the BC Government announced that the Province would not be proceeding with the proposed establishment of the NPR at this time.

Area residents continue to be very interested in issues of environmental protection, tourism and recreation opportunities and economic development in the region. Many residents consider that future protection measures would help meet some of these interests. Others feel that future protection measures are not necessary in the South Okanagan.

In November 2014, Minister Polak met with First Nations, area stakeholders and community leaders to initiate a dialogue on land use objectives for the South Okanagan area, including environmental protection, tourism development and outdoor recreation to fully explore the various interests at play in the region, and then begin to collaboratively identify possible solutions.

On August 13, 2015 an Intentions Paper proposing how land might be protected in the South Okanagan was released for public feedback for an 81 day comment period (ending on October 31, 2015). The Intentions Paper identified three areas for potential protection. The intended audience of the Intentions Paper was that of the *general public* and its distribution was not intended as to be a formal referral to local, regional, provincial or federal government agencies nor entities which hold tenure/legal interest over the Crown landscape discussed.

Areas 1 and 3 were suggested for potential inclusion in a national park reserve, and **Area 2** was suggested as a provincial conservancy. The conceptual areas of the proposed designations were regarded as 'soft' boundaries. Private lands were not included and would only be considered for future park designation under a willing buyer - willing seller scenario. No lands would be expropriated.



In arriving at this land protection framework proposal, the Province was guided by the following principles:

- 1. Additional protection will be beneficial** *Additional protection measures will benefit the area. Currently, while protection from BC Parks, Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service), First Nations, local governments, private landholders, conservation organizations, and others exists, this area does not have the coordinated protection needed to address the uniqueness and richness of the ecosystems, and the large number of species at risk that are present.*
- 2. Management is shared with First Nations** *First Nations are committed to conservation in this area and further collaboration must be explored. To be effective, it should involve the planning and ongoing management incorporating traditional ecological knowledge and traditional cultural use. Cultural tourism must be considered in protecting these areas as it represents an exciting opportunity that could become a significant draw for visitors.*
- 3. Existing uses are recognized** *Protection measures will result in a collective broad array of recreation opportunities, even if some uses must be allocated to certain areas through access management. For tenure holders, tenures will continue under the same terms and conditions and be subject to existing management policies. Changes would only occur if the tenure holder consents.*
- 4. Respect for private land holders** *Privately owned lands will be respected. Any future private land acquisitions that may occur will only be on a willing seller/willing buyer basis and only as land availability and budgets allow.*
- 5. Tourism is actively promoted** *The area has outstanding beauty that residents and visitors will experience. New protected area establishment will come with support to encourage prospective visitors to consider the recreation opportunities that the South Okanagan has to offer. Promoting cultural tourism in protected areas could be a particular emphasis.*

3.0 Purpose of the Consultation Summary

This consultation summary presents the feedback and public comment that was received on the intentions paper from August 13th through October 31st, 2015. Where feasible, the consultation summary provides an overview of recurring themes/sub-themes that were prevalent in the submissions received. The summary also provides context on the modes/methods by which many of the responses were received by the Ministry of Environment.

It is important to note that the comment process was not designed to be a statistically valid opinion poll or other measure about whether more people support or oppose the concept of a national park reserve in the area. This feedback process was intended to reveal some of the specific issues and themes that people feel are important to consider when contemplating additional land protection measures in the South Okanagan.

While some excellent input was received regarding the advantages and disadvantages of national park reserve designation and overview/positional statements on this matter were commonly provided, this consultation summary places its main focus and analysis on the seven question structure (detailed in Section 4.0 below) that was presented in the Intentions Paper.

In addition, this report does not reflect the outcomes of consultation with the member bands of the Okanagan Nation Alliance. A separate consultation process is ongoing with those First Nations, the outcomes of which will be reflected in any final land use recommendations that may be made.

4.0 Summary of Input Received

BC Parks provided an on-line comment form with seven questions for people to respond to related to the Intentions Paper. The questions were:

- 1: Are the appropriate areas captured in the overall land protection framework?**
- 2: Are there any adjacent lands of particular conservation, recreation or cultural heritage value that should be included in Area 1?**
- 3: Are there any special considerations that should be taken into account in establishing additional protection for Area 1?**
- 4: Are there any adjacent lands of particular conservation, recreation or cultural heritage value that should be included in Area 2?**
- 5: Are there any special considerations that should be taken into account in establishing additional protection for Area 2?**
- 6: Are there any adjacent lands of particular conservation, recreation or cultural heritage value that should be included in Area 3?**
- 7: Are there any special considerations that should be taken into account in establishing additional protection for Area 3?**

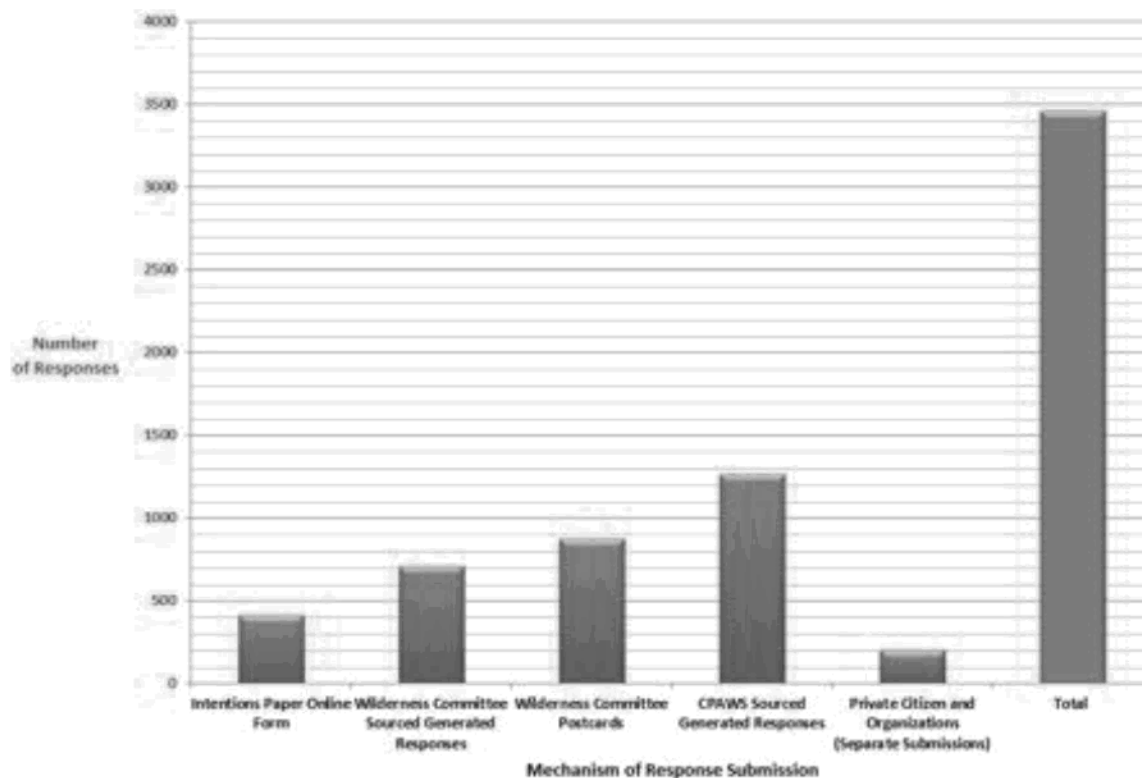
4.1 Who We Heard From

BC Parks received 3,460 responses related to the Intentions Paper. Only a small percentage (12% or 411 individual submissions) of the responses received were from the online form provided on the Intentions Paper/BC Parks website.

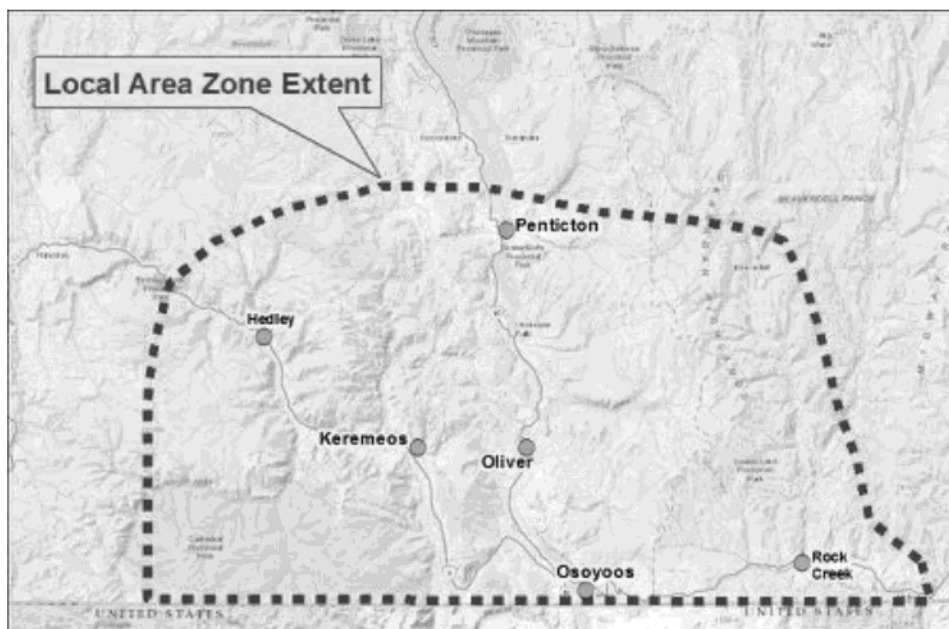
BC Parks received 3,049 other submissions, consisting of emails and letters sent to the Minister, to BC Parks, or to the office of the local Member of the Legislative Assembly. The submissions that were not from the on-line comment form website often did not respond specifically to the questions asked in the on-line comment form, but rather provided the respondent's views on a range of topics related to the proposed protection framework.

Many submissions outside of the online questionnaire were facilitated through the websites of the Wilderness Committee and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Committee (CPAWS), who both hosted web sites that enabled people to submit comments on the proposal. A total of 1,265 submissions originated from the CPAWS website and 707 originated from the Wilderness Committee website. In addition, 873 postcards were received utilizing template language provided by the Wilderness Committee. Private citizens sent in 167 submissions (primarily through email) and these were not associated with the mechanisms provided by the Wilderness Committee and CPAWS. There were 37 formal letter submissions received from organizations (see Appendix 1).

A summary and breakdown of the number of responses and identifier/mechanism by which it was received is presented below:

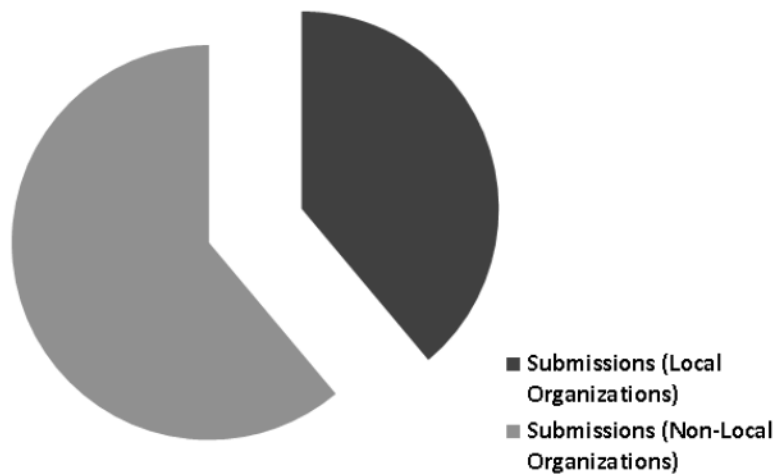


It was necessary to make a determination of the geographical area that constituted representation of the 'local area' zone, this aided in sorting organizations that responded with feedback. A local area zone was determined and is depicted below.



The online submission format was not designed to capture the locality of respondents. However, of the 411 respondents from the on-line submission, only 33 volunteered the location of their residence, and all of these 33 residences were within local area zone. Further analysis of the other forms of submissions (emails) indicated an additional 198 respondents were identified as local, bringing the total identified local respondents to 231. A total of 15 organizations were identified as local (see Appendix 1). The vast majority of other submissions did not contain the respondent's place of residency.





4.2 What We Heard

This section summarizes the main themes/sub-themes that emerged from the submissions BC Parks received on the Intentions Paper. As mentioned earlier, the Intentions Paper and its suggested protection framework elicited a high degree of opinion that was outside the scope of the Intentions Paper including a number of submissions that either supported all areas becoming national park reserve or no areas needing further protection. . Nevertheless, broader theme areas are outlined based on submissions.

4.3 Main Themes

Main themes and topic areas that were sourced from the online form and other submission mechanisms are expanded below. In instances where the data was sufficiently structured to allow for further analysis of whether there was preference for a specific outcome then there is quantification/weighting represented. This quantification typically took the form of “frequency” as the specific theme or topic was mentioned enough to gain a perspective of its importance to respondents.

Connectivity

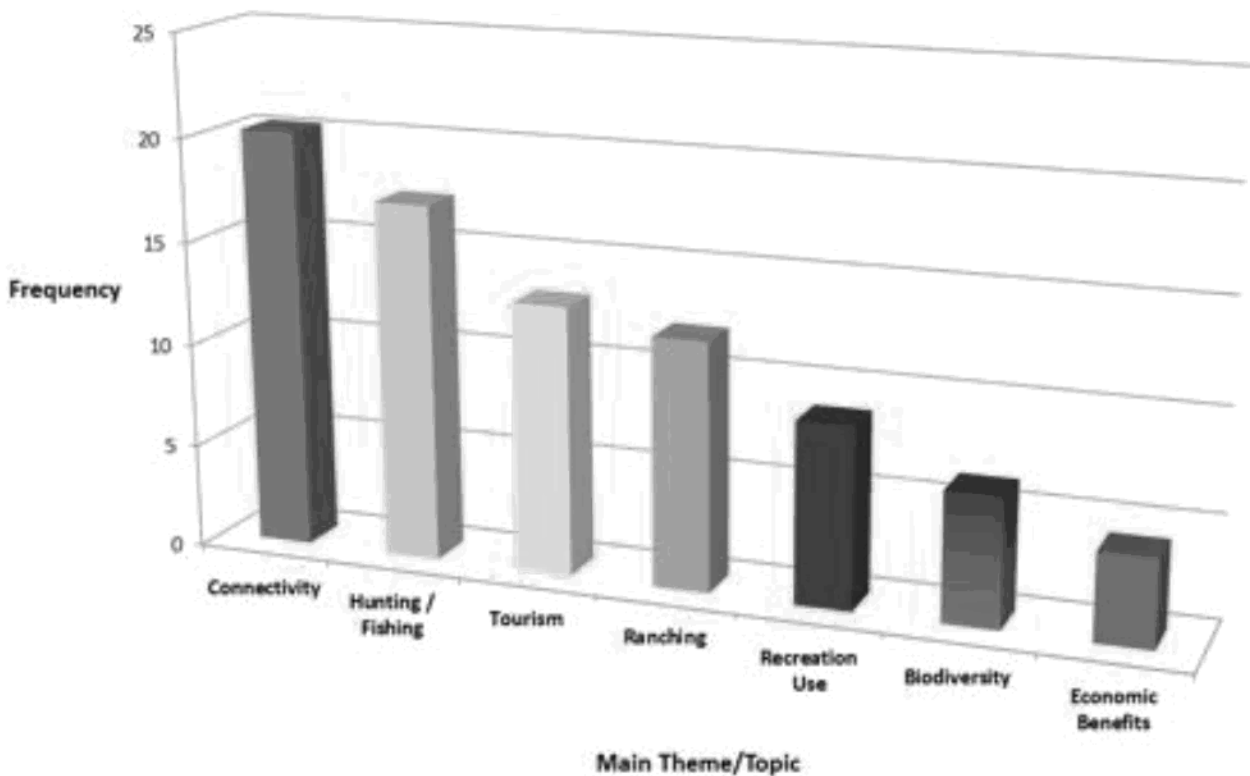
This theme focused on a need to ensure connectivity between not only the 3 areas identified, but also with the remaining natural landscape and other conservation holdings outside of protected areas. Connectivity also was raised frequently in the context of expanding protection to adjacent areas (such as Vaseux Lake).

Hunting and Fishing

Recreation use in the form of hunting and fishing was identified as important for many in the South Okanagan and this issue was identified frequently in the many of the submissions.

Tourism

Tourism was identified as a key attribute to the South Okanagan and its correlation to parks and protected areas was particularly significant.



Ranching

The focus of comments involving this theme highlighted the importance of ranching and grazing in the South Okanagan as both an economic benefit, but also an effective land management tool. Grazing was referenced in some submissions as being a threat to biodiversity and overall landscape impacts.

Recreation Use

This is a prevalent theme that covers a wide range of issues such as non- motorized and motorized used, types of activities (hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, camping etc.) and access to popular destinations within the 3 concept areas and the modes upon which many of these destinations are reached.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity was commonly mentioned in the context of the need to preserve and protect the remaining biodiversity of the South Okanagan. While other submissions pointed out that the areas have a high level of biodiversity that exists today, because of current land management practices.

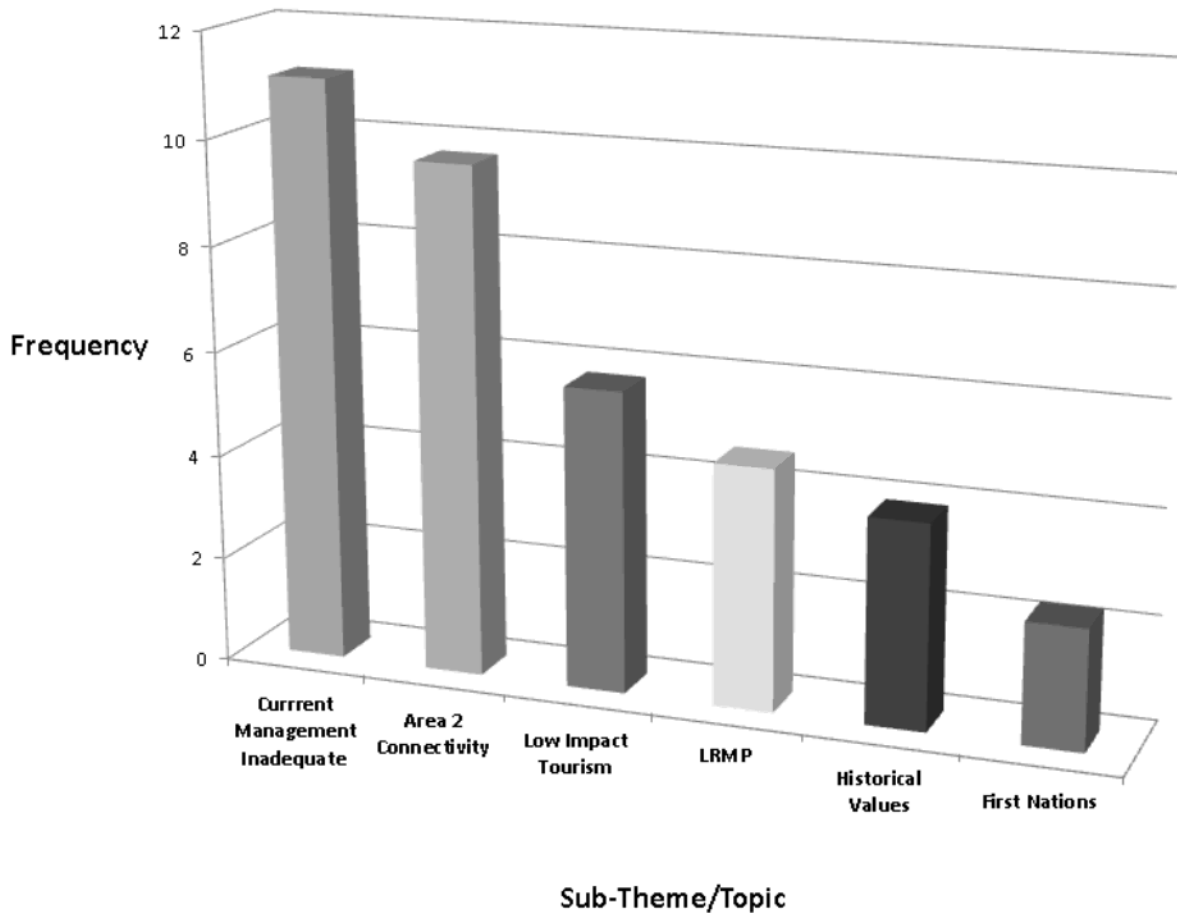
Economic Benefits

Associated typically with the subject of tourism, the economic benefit of enhanced protection (i.e., national park reserve designation) was outlined in most submissions that focussed on the desire for federal involvement in parks management. In contrast, economic benefit was also a factor in those submissions that stressed current tenures (e.g., ranching, forestry, and mining) which forms a foundation of current economic benefit to the South Okanagan.

4.4 Sub-Themes

A number of sub-themes were sourced from email submissions as well as the online form submissions. These sub-themes focussed on matters such as following:

- ❖ Existing management of the Crown land base was inadequate and that improved management could be explored (but not necessarily as National Park Reserve).
- ❖ That connectivity with Area 2 was critical- especially at it relates to the gap in protection/conservation between Area 2 and Area 3.
- ❖ Low impact tourism plays a factor in ensuring protection of species and habitat of the South Okanagan.
- ❖ To follow the recommendations of the LRMP (e.g., creation of Class A parks and establishment of Goal 2 sites such as Oliver Mountain).
- ❖ Historical values are high in the South Okanagan and should be better protected, maintained and promoted.
- ❖ First Nations use and access to the land forms an important aspect of land management in the South Okanagan.



4.5 Overall Protection Framework

This section is particularly relevant to the feedback received from Question 1 in the survey (which asked if the appropriate areas were captured in the overall land protection framework). Some respondents stated that no additional protection is warranted in the area. Other respondents felt that some additional protection would be beneficial, but a national park reserve would not be the right tool to achieve that in the south Okanagan. These writers were concerned with the potential loss of access to the land and its resources for local people, for both resource development and recreation such as hunting and off-road vehicle use. Repeatedly, the strategic direction provided for protected areas and the Crown land base through the OSLRMP was mentioned. Respondents who referred to the LRMP cited that the process was a balanced, consensus driven approach to land management and should be fully implemented.

Additional respondents felt that a national park is necessary to adequately protect the many rare and endangered species and ecosystems found in this area, and would be a benefit to the local tourism economy. Comparisons were cited to other communities that border or lie within the boundaries of national parks in Canada (e.g. Banff, Revelstoke). The vast majority of respondents in this category

conveyed that Area 2 should be included as part of a national park reserve designation, and a smaller percentage felt that connectivity between Area 2 and Area 3 was necessary.

Other respondents indicated that the proposed model of enhanced protection utilizing a combination of NPR and conservancy was not nearly adequate and that additional areas, outside the scope of the proposed framework must be investigated (e.g., Vaseux Lake and surrounding lands)- see the Additional Areas section.

5.0 Concept Areas 1, 2, and 3: Considerations for Proposed Designations

An analysis of the range of considerations that were received each concept area (Areas 1, 2 and 3) was conducted and generalized feedback is represented in the following three diagrams.



**Greater certainty for
resource interests
(e.g., mining)**

**The federal government
has the necessary
resources to manage this
area as NPR**

**Ranching interests
are respected and
maintained over the
long term**

**Recognizes and
accommodates for
First Nations
interest/opportunities**

AREA 2

Proposed Provincial Conservancy

**Conservancy better
serves and reflects
local interests**

**Hunting, fishing
and existing access
provisions remain**

**Largely respects the
recommendations of
the LRMP**

**Tourism can be
beneficial but does
negatively affect
biodiversity**

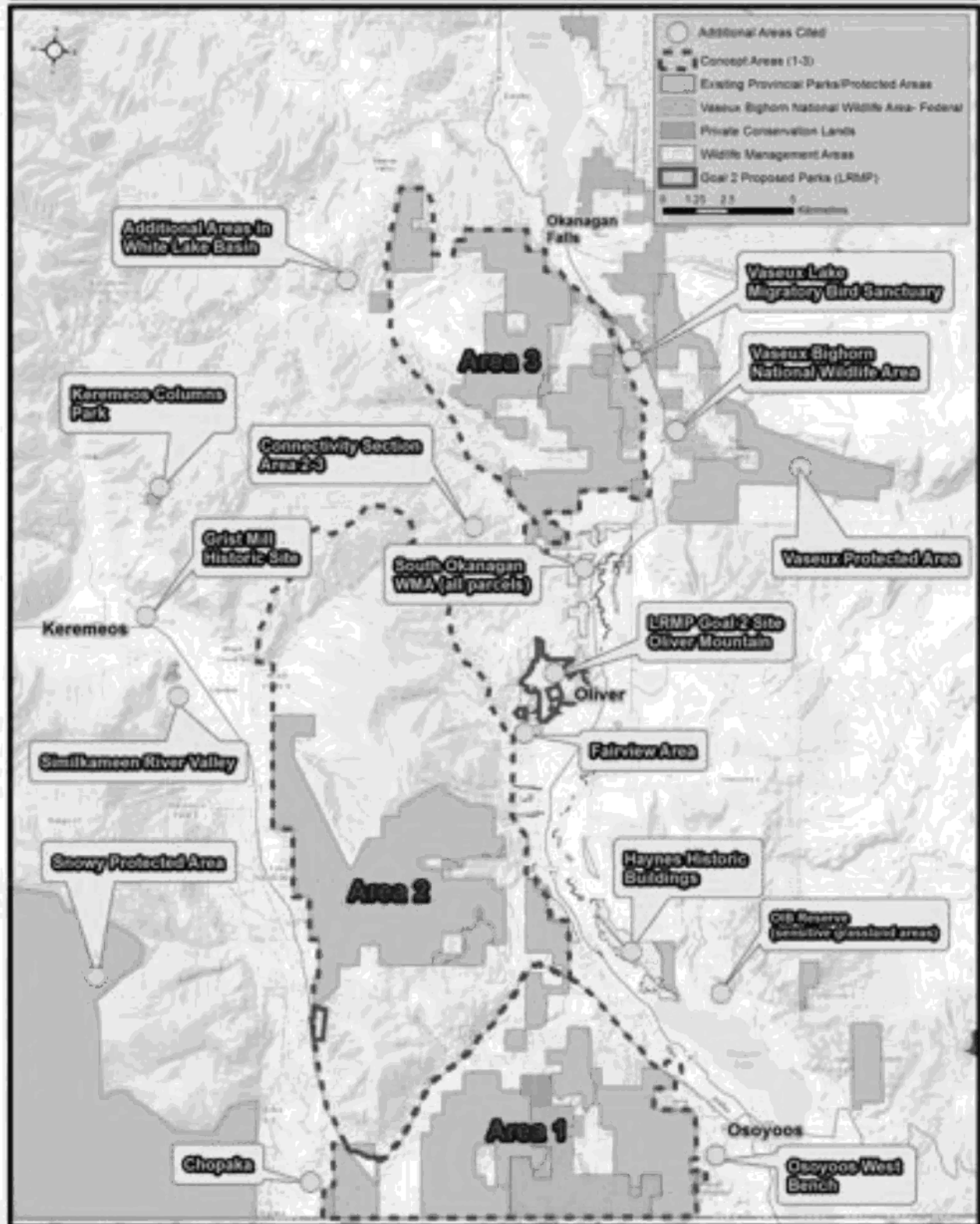
**Existing provincial resources
unable to effectively
manage a conservancy with
such high ecosystem values**



6.0 Additional Areas/Geographical Areas of Interest

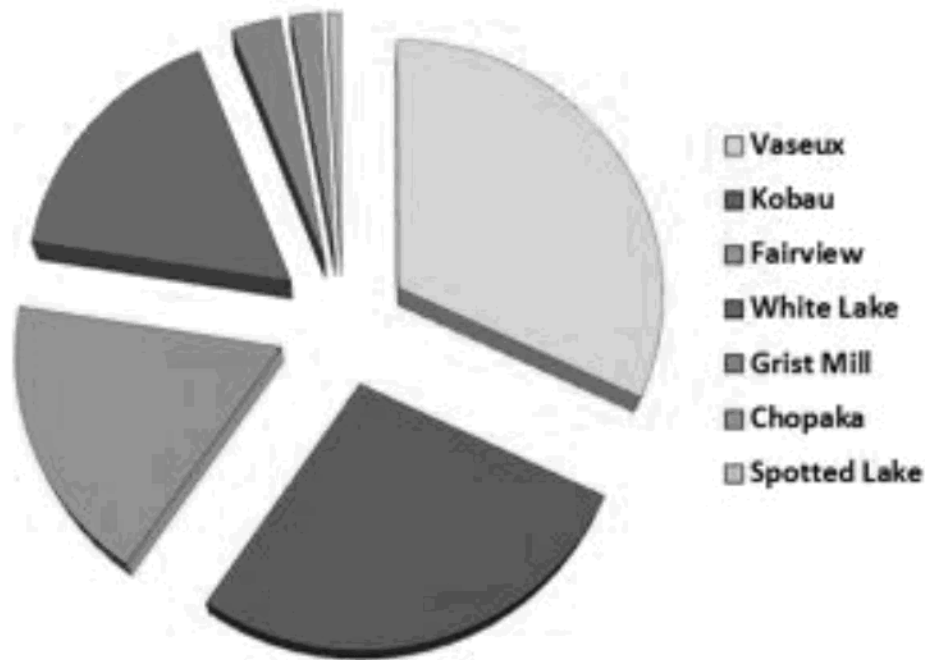
When soliciting feedback on each respective concept area, there were several adjacent locations or geographical areas of interest that the public cited should be included in the consideration of enhanced protection. The various locations are illustrated below (note: these are geographical sites of interest outside of the 3 Area structure).

Additional Areas Cited- Enhanced Protection (South Okanagan)



Analysis of the online form data suggested the main areas of interest (sites mentioned by frequency) in the submissions were as follows. Of note, other forms of submissions (emails, formal letters) followed a similar identification of specific areas.

Areas of Interest - Frequency Mentioned (Online Form)



Additional areas cited in the emails and formal letters highlighted the following sites/geographical areas:

- **Oliver Mountain**
- **South Okanagan Wildlife Management Area**
- **Adjacent areas of the Similkameen River valley (adjacent to Area 1 and Area 2)-**
- **Vaseux Protected Area, Vaseux Lake, Vaseux Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Vaseux-Bighorn National Wildlife Area**
- **Areas of the Osoyoos Indian Reserve that retain intact grasslands and Antelope-Brush habitat**
- **Private conservation lands (leased to the Province) in the area of Vaseux Lake**

7.0 Conclusions and Next Steps

The 81 day public comment period that was associated with the Ministry of Environment's release of the Intentions Paper generated 3,460 responses. While a small percentage of the respondents (members of the public, organizations, affiliations, business interests etc.) chose to submit comments via the online form, a much larger percentage utilized different mediums (e.g., post cards, direct emails, formal letters) in which to convey their interests/recommendations for enhanced protection in the South Okanagan. The comments received varied in detail and presentation, and, while some respondents directly followed the seven question format outlined in the Intentions Paper, the majority of submissions used the release of the Intentions Paper as a platform to reinforce perspectives on the question of whether the South Okanagan was a suitable candidate for a national park reserve.

While all responses were appreciated, the purpose of the Intentions Paper was to solicit public feedback regarding the protected area framework proposal within the paper, one which is intended to reflect as best as possible the wide ranging interests of all interested groups and individuals; the original 2010 national park reserve proposal is not being reconsidered. Given the purpose of the Intentions Paper, submissions focused on the 2010 proposal (either supporting or opposing) weighed far less in the analysis process than responses focused on the questions in the Intentions Paper. In addition, the *quantity* of responses was factored less in the analysis than the *quality* of the information, concerns, suggestions and ideas raised in the context of the seven questions.

The questions posed within the Intentions Paper respecting the protected area concept were drafted to seek qualitative information to help the Province consider impacts (positive and negative) of protected area designations and to identify the types of issues that enhanced protection measures would need to consider before implementation. As the process was open-ended for responses, there were no appropriate controls in place, nor was the framework designed to determine overall support or opposition, and therefore the input cannot be considered as a poll.

Despite the deviation from what the Intentions Paper was originally designed to present and elicit, the feedback revealed many common themes and geographical areas of concern that greatly aided the Ministry of Environment in better understanding the interests of those passionate about protection in the South Okanagan. Numerous areas were suggested as requiring some form of enhanced protection and many of those sites were focused in the Vaseux Lake area, areas bordering existing sites of the South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area, and within the White Lake Basin. While other sites were presented as having a strong historical connection to the South Okanagan, such as the Haynes Ranch buildings (east of the Okanagan River), the Grist Mill near Keremeos and the iconic Fairview town site at the base of Oliver Mountain.

The Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (OSLRMP) factored heavily in many responses, with comments focussed on respecting existing land use commitments (such as access, recreational activities, commercial tenures) and pointing out that there remain outstanding recommendations from the OSLRMP that government should consider for implementation (e.g., Goal 2

park establishment). The decision to create a proposed conservancy designation for Area 2 as presented in the Intentions Paper was influenced by these previous land use commitments.

The Province has been, and will continue to be, in discussions with member bands from the Okanagan Nation Alliance (in particular, the Penticton Indian Band, the Osoyoos Indian Band and the Lower Similkameen Indian Band) on potential protection measures and land management that is collaborative and respects First Nation interests and values in the area. The Province will continue to engage with First Nations to better understand their interests prior to any final decisions.

Next Steps

Any new or enhanced land protection measures in the South Okanagan will require approval by Government. The information gathered through this process will help to inform any decisions by the Minister of Environment with respect to what, if any, mandate to seek. Cabinet direction will also determine what, if any, role federal designations may play in any future protection plan for the South Okanagan.

Next Steps: Next steps in the process will include:

- The Minister of Environment considering the findings of this process and develop a report for Cabinet.
- Continuing engagement with member bands of the Okanagan Nation Alliance to further understand First Nation values and interests in the area. Discussions will include how collaborative management can be accomplished.
- Identifying any interim protection measures that should be considered in the short to medium term.

Appendix 1: List of organizations with formal submissions (local and non-local)

ORGANIZATION
LOCAL AREA ZONE
Osoyoos Wildlife Federation
Penticton Outdoors Club
Okanagan Similkameen Stock Association
South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program
BC Wildlife Federation – Okanagan Region
Osoyoos Town Council
Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association
South Okanagan Naturalists Club
Oliver Tourism Association
Speak Up for Wildlife Foundation
South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Network
Destination Osoyoos Development Society
Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society
The Nature Trust of BC
Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory (NRC Canada)
NON LOCAL
North Okanagan Naturalists Club
Kootenay Mountaineering Club
Guide Outfitters Association of BC
Ancient Forest Alliance
BC Great Blue Heron Society
Central Okanagan Naturalists Club
Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – BC Chapter
Wilderness Committee
Nature Canada
Sierra Club of BC
Grasslands Conservation Council of BC
Association of Mineral Exploration of BC
Friends of Ecological Reserves
Group of Concerned Scientists
BC Wildlife Federation
Elders Council for BC Parks
Burke Mountain Naturalists
Alberni Valley Outdoor Club
BC Nature
Grand Forks Wildlife Association

Appendix 2: Summary of feedback from organizations (local and non-local)

Local Organizations

Name: Osoyoos Wildlife Federation

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position:

If No, then key reasons for position: Loss of local control and federal jurisdiction is a major concern

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Concerns over First Nations and federal government co-management

Name: Penticton Outdoors Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: More resources available under federal control

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Lake, Fairview Townsite

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Merge into one large NPR

Name: Okanagan Similkameen Stock Association

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: Follow recommendations of the LRMP

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: N/A

Name: South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): N/A

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Insufficient consultation timelines and process. More clarity is required.

Name: BC Wildlife Federation – Okanagan Region

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: Follow recommendations of the LRMP

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Too much commercialization and tourism under NPR

Name: Osoyoos Town Council

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Benefits area in general

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Haynes homestead, Spotted Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Better protection and tourism potential

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: South Okanagan Naturalists Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Significant ecological benefits over existing protection

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Connection between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Oliver Tourism Association

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Increased tourism benefits

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Speak Up for Wildlife Foundation

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Needed to protect ecosystem and species

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Not specifically stated but conveys a large land area is needed

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: Yes

Comments: Under the proviso that there be no hunting, no grazing and no helicopter training.

Name: South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Network

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Greater landscape level protection is needed

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: South Okanagan WMA, Vaseux Lake, Vaseux Bighorn NWA, Osoyoos West Bench, Snowy Protected Area, Oliver Mountain, Old Fairview Townsite, Connectivity between Area 2 and 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Destination Osoyoos Development Society

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Diversified tourism and economy, federal funding is necessary

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Oliver Womens Institute

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Better protection of unique values

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: High ecosystem values, landscape connectivity

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Oliver Mountain

Connectivity between Area 2 and 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: The Nature Trust of BC

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Must exclude lands held by TNT BC

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Mapping should be revised to exclude TNT BC holdings

Name: Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Increased protection would benefit area

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Mapping should be revised to exclude DRAO land holdings and interest areas

Non-Local Organizations

Name: North Okanagan Naturalist Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Increased protection for habitat for rare/endangered species

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments:

Name: Kootenay Mountaineering Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Benefit ecological diversity and non-motorized use

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Guide Outfitters Association of BC

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: Loss of hunting opportunities

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection:

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Should an NPR be established then guide outfitters territories should be purchased at fair market value or properly compensated.

Name: Ancient Forest Alliance

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Enhanced protection is needed

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Similkameen River, Vaseux Lake, OIB lands- under agreement, Okanagan River.

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: BC Great Blue Heron Society

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Protection of cultural, environmental values and revenue to surrounding communities

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Central Okanagan Naturalists Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3):

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Protection of the environment, enhanced visitation/economy

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Similkameen Valley, Snowy Protected Area, connectivity between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: N/A

Name: The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Environmental protection and economic benefit

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Lake, Fairview Historic Site

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Recreational benefits and increased protection

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: East side of Vaseux Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Increased protection is needed (climate change, biodiversity, First Nations values, tourism, recreation, and socio-economic benefits)

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Connectivity section between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Wilderness Committee

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Biodiversity, species at risk and habitat

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Lake Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Vaseux PA, Vaseux Bighorn NWA, Oliver Mountain, and South Okanagan WMA, Connectivity between Area 2 and 3, Snowy, Fairview Townsite, Haynes Ranch buildings, Grist Mill, private lands south of Vaseux Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Nature Canada

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Species protection and increased habitat protection

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: Yes

Comments: N/A

Name: Grasslands Conservation Council

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Higher level of active land management

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Connectivity between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Association of Mineral Exploration British Columbia

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): N/A

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Mineral tenures must be compensated and further clarity is required on the process of addressing current mineral claims and interests

Name: Friends of Ecological Reserves

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Economic and environmental benefits

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Connectivity between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR and Mahoney Lake ER should not be transferred to federal jurisdiction and should remain as an ecological reserve under provincial control.

Name: Declaration of Support (24 Scientists and Land Managers)

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Special significance and existing protection is inadequate

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Osoyoos West Bench, east side of Vaseux Lake, Oliver Mountain

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: BC Wildlife Federation

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: Key holdings purchased using HCTF funds, provincial park designation offers the best protection while allowing for hunting, hiking and camping.

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Provincial park designation is the most appropriate tool to serve the public interest

Name: Elders Council for Parks

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Special area that deserves a more collaborative and better coordinated protection regime

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Lands east of Vaseux Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: Yes

Comments: N/A

Name: Burke Mountain Naturalists

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Unique area that requires protection of species at risk

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Bighorn National Wildlife Area, connectivity between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Alberni Valley Outdoor Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Greater protection of biodiversity

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: BC Nature

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Species at risk and habitat protection is enhanced

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Fairview site, Osoyoos Desert Centre, east side of Vaseux Lake, Vaseux Bighorn NWA.

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Grand Forks Wildlife Association

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: Only benefits a handful of people

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: N/A

From: [Davies, Heather J ENV:EX](#)
To: ["Francine.Mercier@pc.gc.ca"](mailto:Francine.Mercier@pc.gc.ca); ["james.gordon@pc.gc.ca"](mailto:james.gordon@pc.gc.ca)
Subject: FW: Agenda review
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017 11:01:00 AM
Attachments: [NR_BCParks_SouthOkanagan_Jan27.pdf](#)
[Overview_Map_Jan_23_Revised.pdf](#)

Will try sending attachments again in two emails as I just tried sending them to you both now... and was told the file was too big. Here are 2 of the 4 docs.

-----Original Message-----

From: Davies, Heather J ENV:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 10:58 AM
To: 'Francine.Mercier@pc.gc.ca'; 'james.gordon@pc.gc.ca'
Subject: RE: Agenda review

Hello Francine and James,

Here are the attachments related to SO that we would like to include for the meeting. If it would be possible to still modify the agenda at this time, they could simply be listed as follows:

South Okanagan

- Project Updates:
- Intentions Paper: Protected Areas Framework for British Columbia's South Okanagan
- Consultation Summary: Protected Areas Framework for British Columbia's South Okanagan
- January 27, 2017 BC Ministry of Environment New Release: Proposal for South Okanagan land protection to move forward
- South Okanagan Protection Concept Areas: Overview Map
- Path Forward

Cheers,
Heather

-----Original Message-----

From: Francine.Mercier@pc.gc.ca [<mailto:Francine.Mercier@pc.gc.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 4:24 AM
To: Davies, Heather J ENV:EX; james.gordon@pc.gc.ca
Subject: Re: Agenda review

Not a problem Heather -- we had some time crunches with the modified Annex to the agenda so if you don't mind getting that today instead, we don't mind either ;)!

By the did you want to modify the agenda to include reference to these items? Might as well get everything done at once right?

Cheerr,

Francine

Original Message

From: Davies, Heather J ENV:EX
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 6:38 PM
To: james.gordon@pc.gc.ca; francine.mercier@pc.gc.ca
Subject: Re: Agenda review

???Hello Francine and James,

I have just been advised to include some background materials on the SO area for the SC meeting. Unfortunately, I had to go home early today (due to the snow) and will likely not be able to access the materials that I will be sending until tomorrow but they will include: Intentions Paper, Consultation Summary, the most recent news release and a map of the the three concept areas being considered in the SO. I will send along the individual materials to you both for including in the overall meeting materials as soon as I can access them.

thanks,

Heather

From: james.gordon@pc.gc.ca <james.gordon@pc.gc.ca>
Sent: February-08-17 2:43 PM
To: Davies, Heather J ENV:EX
Subject: Fw: Agenda review

FYI...

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.
From: Francine Mercier <Francine.Mercier@pc.gc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 2:10 PM
To: James Gordon
Subject: Agenda review

Sonia has confirmed with Rob that he will look at it this hour...

F.

Francine Mercier

Gestionnaire de l'établissement des aires marines par intérim, Direction de l'établissement des aires protégées Parcs Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
30 rue Victoria (PC-03-B), 3-42, Gatineau, QC J8X 0B3 francine.mercier@pc.gc.ca / Tél. : 819-420-9170

A/Manager Marine Area Establishment, Protected Areas Establishment Branch Parks Canada / Government of Canada
30 Victoria Street (PC-03-B), 3-42, Gatineau, QC J8X 0B3 francine.mercier@pc.gc.ca / Tel: 819-420-9170

Un bon temps pour se rapprocher / Time to Connect

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2017ENV0006-000175
Jan. 27, 2017

Ministry of Environment

Proposal for South Okanagan land protection to move forward

OSOYOOS – The Province has announced that planning discussions to achieve the objectives outlined in the Province’s proposal to protect lands in the South Okanagan are moving forward with the support and participation of the Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band and Osoyoos Indian Band, which are the three Okanagan Nation communities most affected by the proposal.

The Province’s proposal was presented in an intentions paper issued in August 2015, seeking public feedback on how land may be protected in the South Okanagan. The Ministry of Environment carefully reviewed the feedback received from the public engagement, which drew more than 3,400 submissions. From there, the ministry engaged directly with the three Okanagan Nation communities regarding the priorities identified in the plan.

The plan addresses three distinct areas in the region:

- Area 1 – Portions of the area west of Osoyoos towards the Similkameen River, and south of Highway 3 to the U.S. border including the Osoyoos Desert Centre, the lands around Spotted Lake, and portions of the South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area sites of East and West Chopaka and South Kilpoola.
- Area 2 – Portions of the area west of Oliver towards Cawston, and north of Highway 3 to the southerly extent of the White Lake Grasslands Protected Area.
- Area 3 – Portions of the White Lake basin area south of Okanagan Falls and including areas in the vicinity of Vaseux Lake.

The plan describes objectives for these three distinct areas. Area 2, will be targeted for protection as a conservancy under provincial legislation, the Park Act. The remaining two areas, Area 1 and Area 3, will be the subject of discussion among the Province, the three Okanagan Nation communities and Parks Canada for possible inclusion in a South Okanagan National Park Reserve (NPR). If these areas do not prove feasible as a NPR then the Province is prepared to open discussions with the three Okanagan Nation communities, to protect these areas using the tools under the Park Act.

The Province will continue to work closely with the three Okanagan Nation communities in a government-to-government process to further develop details of the plan, and will seek to engage with the federal government, along with the three Okanagan Nation communities, around the potential for NPR designation specific to areas 1 and 3.

A number of factors will be considered when developing the final plan, including Okanagan First Nation values and cultural sites, protection of species at risk, recreational users and protection of ranching and existing grazing tenures.

Quotes:**Mary Polak, Environment Minister –**

“I look forward to continue working with the area First Nations to ensure lands in the South Okanagan are protected. I know the South Okanagan is a unique area that holds a special place for many people, and I am pleased plans are moving forward to protect this beautiful region for future generations.”

Linda Larson, MLA for Boundary-Similkameen –

“I’m pleased the proposal for South Okanagan is moving forward, and that protecting this special region is a priority. Thank you to British Columbians who took the time to let us know what values were most important to them. The South Okanagan is a unique area that encompasses many features, including geographic and cultural values, as well as recreation and tourism opportunities.”

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Ministry of Environment
250 953-3834

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

Page 080

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From: [Davies, Heather J ENV:EX](#)
To: ["Francine.Mercier@pc.gc.ca"; "james.gordon@pc.gc.ca"](#)
Subject: FW: Agenda review
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017 11:01:00 AM
Attachments: [ip-protected-areas-framework-so.pdf](#)
[South Okanagan Consultation Summary.pdf](#)

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30 rue Victoria (PC-03-B), 3-42, Gatineau, QC J8X 0B3 francine.mercier@pc.gc.ca / Tél. : 819-420-9170

A/Manager Marine Area Establishment, Protected Areas Establishment Branch Parks Canada / Government of Canada
30 Victoria Street (PC-03-B), 3-42, Gatineau, QC J8X 0B3 francine.mercier@pc.gc.ca / Tel: 819-420-9170

Un bon temps pour se rapprocher / Time to Connect

INTENTIONS PAPER

Protected Areas Framework for British Columbia's South Okanagan



Introduction

British Columbia's South Okanagan region is a special place. It contains significant diversity and uniqueness of plants and animals, and is home to 30% of B.C.'s red-listed wildlife species and 46% of blue-listed species. Situated at the northernmost tip of the Great Basin Desert and representing a dry arid landscape that is not only unique to British Columbia, but to Canada, it is aptly named the "pocket desert". This area is important to First Nations and contains sacred cultural and traditional use sites such as Spotted Lake and the White Lake basin and many other significant cultural, recreational and ecological sites. It is also an area that is facing intense development pressure and increasing population. For these reasons, the provincial government has created a number of protected areas as recommended in the Okanagan-Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan, and the Federal Government chose to focus on the area for a potential new national park reserve.

Through the development of the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen Feasibility Assessment, which commenced in 2003 and was facilitated by Parks Canada, the interests of the various stakeholders and the public surfaced. Subsequent to this, in 2014, the Province undertook efforts to explore local interests through a series of meetings with stakeholders, community interests, and the Okanagan Nation. The purpose of the 2014 discussions was to move away from the debate about the specific merits of a national park reserve and instead examine the underlying interests as a means to identify the most appropriate tools for meeting those interests. Throughout these meetings, a number of recurring themes emerged:

- Protection of cultural values, cultural sites, and traditional activities by First Nations
- The use of the lands for interpretation, education and greater awareness of aboriginal culture
- The expansion of tourism, particularly the growth in aboriginal tourism, and to expand tourism opportunities throughout the year
- The protection of species at risk, important conservation values, and maintenance of corridors for species migration as a result of climate change
- A variety of existing and new recreation opportunities in appropriate locations
- The protection of ranching and existing grazing tenures, and
- The protection of other tenured uses such as helicopter training use

As a result of discussions with stakeholders, community interests, and the Okanagan Nation, the provincial government has come to better understand various interests and has developed a proposed land protection framework for the South Okanagan that it hopes will address these interests both today and into the future. In arriving at this land protection framework proposal, the Province has been guided by the following principles:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Additional protection will be beneficial | <i>Additional protection measures will benefit the area. Currently, while protection from BC Parks, Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service), First Nations, local governments, private landholders, conservation organizations, and others exists, this area does not have the coordinated protection needed to address the uniqueness and richness of the ecosystems, and the large number of species at risk that are present.</i> |
| 2. Management is shared with First Nations | <i>First Nations are committed to conservation in this area and further collaboration must be explored. To be effective, it should involve the planning and ongoing management incorporating traditional ecological knowledge and traditional cultural use. Cultural tourism must be considered in protecting these areas as it represents an exciting opportunity that could become a significant draw for visitors.</i> |
| 3. Existing uses are recognized | <i>Protection measures will result in a collective broad array of recreation opportunities, even if some uses must be allocated to certain areas through access management. For tenure holders, tenures will continue under the same terms and conditions and be subject to existing management policies. Changes would only occur if the tenure holder consents.</i> |
| 4. Respect for private land holders | <i>Privately owned lands will be respected. Any future private land acquisitions that may occur will only be on a willing seller/willing buyer basis and only as land availability and budgets allow.</i> |
| 5. Tourism is actively promoted | <i>The area has outstanding beauty that residents and visitors will experience. New protected area establishment will come with support to encourage prospective visitors to consider the recreation opportunities that the South Okanagan has to offer. Promoting cultural tourism in protected areas could be a particular emphasis.</i> |

The intent of this paper is to seek feedback from stakeholders and individuals on the proposed land protection framework.

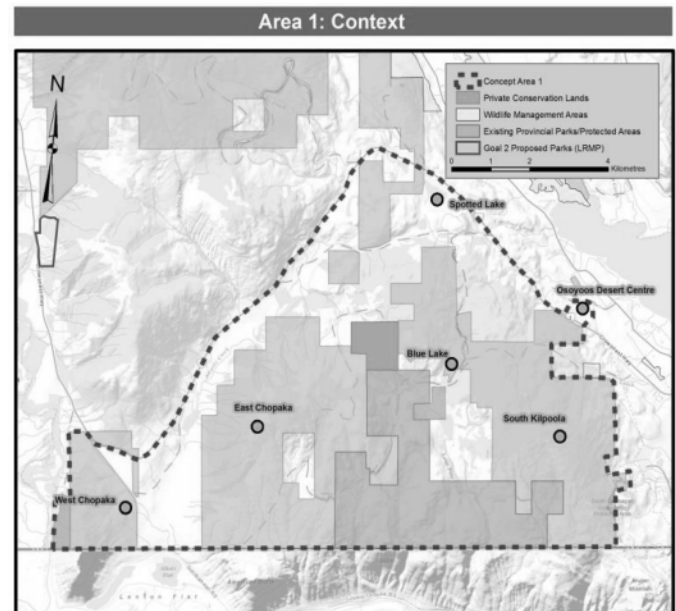
Proposed Land Protection Framework

For the purposes of the land protection framework, the areas being considered for future protected area designations have been broken out into three main components (see full context map on page 6):

Question 1: Are the appropriate areas captured in the overall land protection framework?

Area 1:

Portions of the area west of Osoyoos towards the Similkameen River, and south of Highway 3 to the U.S. border including the Osoyoos Desert Centre, Spotted Lake and the South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area sites of East and West Chopaka and South Kilpoola (excluding privately held lands). This is the most southern of the three areas. It encompasses the southern portion of the South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area, forming a triangle with Spotted Lake approaching its northern tip, and all contained within the boundary of Highway 3 and south to the U.S. border.



Proposal: It is the view of the Province that this area, in conjunction with Area 3, would be worthy of consideration by Parks Canada for inclusion in a South Okanagan National Park Reserve. Should this area not be designated as national park reserve, the Province would recommend that Crown lands in this area be established as a conservancy under the *Park Act*.

Rationale: Area 1 contains some of the highest biodiversity in the region, and as such is of high conservation value. It is also home to unique features such as the Pocket Desert (showcased at the Osoyoos Desert Centre). Tenures in this area are not as numerous as they are in Area 2, but there is a large component of private land and land held by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. National park reserve status would confer an appropriate level of protection on available Crown lands and future land acquisitions (if achievable) for area biodiversity while also bringing the desired tourism marketing benefits to the region. As a precondition to this recommendation, the Province would ensure that all existing tenures continue unimpeded. Should designation as national park reserve not occur, establishment as a provincial conservancy is recommended in recognition of the interests of the Okanagan Nation.

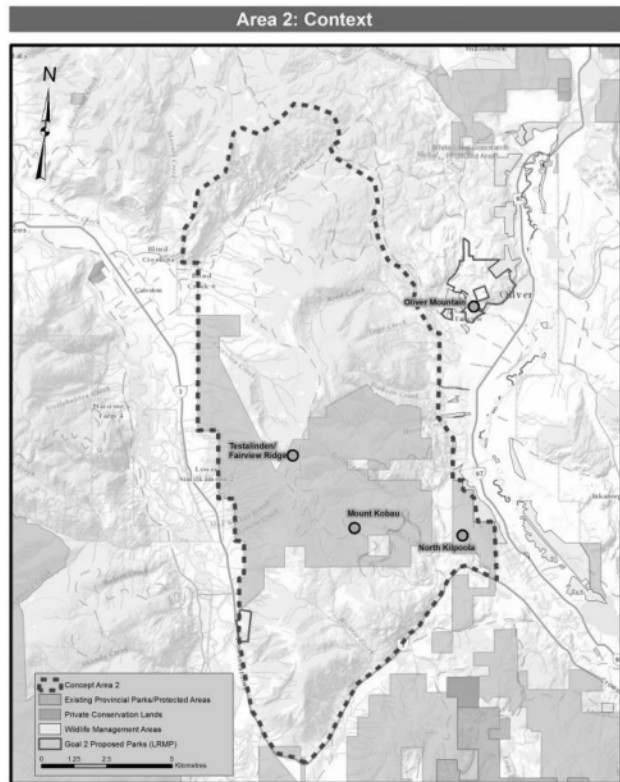
Question 2: Are there any adjacent lands of particular conservation, recreation or cultural heritage value that should be included in Area 1?

Question 3: Are there any special considerations that should be taken into account in establishing additional protection for Area 1?

Area 2:

Portions of the area west of Oliver towards the community of Cawston, and north of Highway 3 to the southerly extent of the White Lake Grasslands Protected Area (excluding privately held lands). This is the largest of the three areas. It encompasses the northern portion of the South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area, capturing existing protected area sites such as North Kilpoola and Mount Kobau, as well as tracts of Crown provincial land that are situated north towards the Testalinden Ridge and the Fairview/Cawston Road.

Proposal: The Province is recommending that Crown lands in Area 2 be established as a conservancy under the provincial *Park Act*.



Rationale: This portion of the region is the most intensively used for both ranching and recreation purposes and a conservancy designation has the necessary flexibility to ensure existing uses can continue while environmental and First Nation cultural values are protected. Use of the conservancy tool will also support the inclusion of the Okanagan Nation in the active management of the protected area. Through the creation of an associated management plan and a collaborative management agreement with the Okanagan Nation, the development and promotion of cultural tourism opportunities by the Okanagan Nation will be encouraged to the benefit of the entire region.

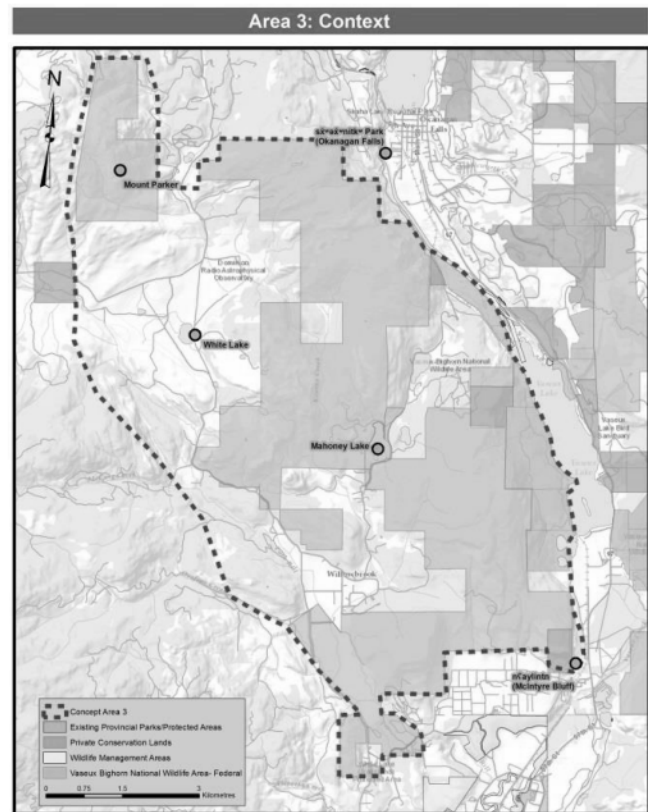
Question 4: Are there any adjacent lands of particular conservation, recreation or cultural heritage value that should be included in Area 2?

Question 5: Are there any special considerations that should be taken into account in establishing additional protection for Area 2?

Area 3:

Portions of the White Lake basin area south of the community of Okanagan Falls and including areas in the vicinity of Vaseux Lake (excluding privately held lands). This is the most northern of the three areas, encompassing all of the White Lake Grasslands Protected Area and portions of Provincial Crown land in the vicinity. It lies west of Highway 97, southwest of the town of Okanagan Falls.

Proposal: For this portion of the region, the Province is recommending that the Federal government be approached about possible designation as part of a South Okanagan National Park Reserve. Should this area not be designated as national park reserve, B.C. would look to protect Crown lands in this area as a conservancy, and manage the area in close partnership with the Okanagan Nation.

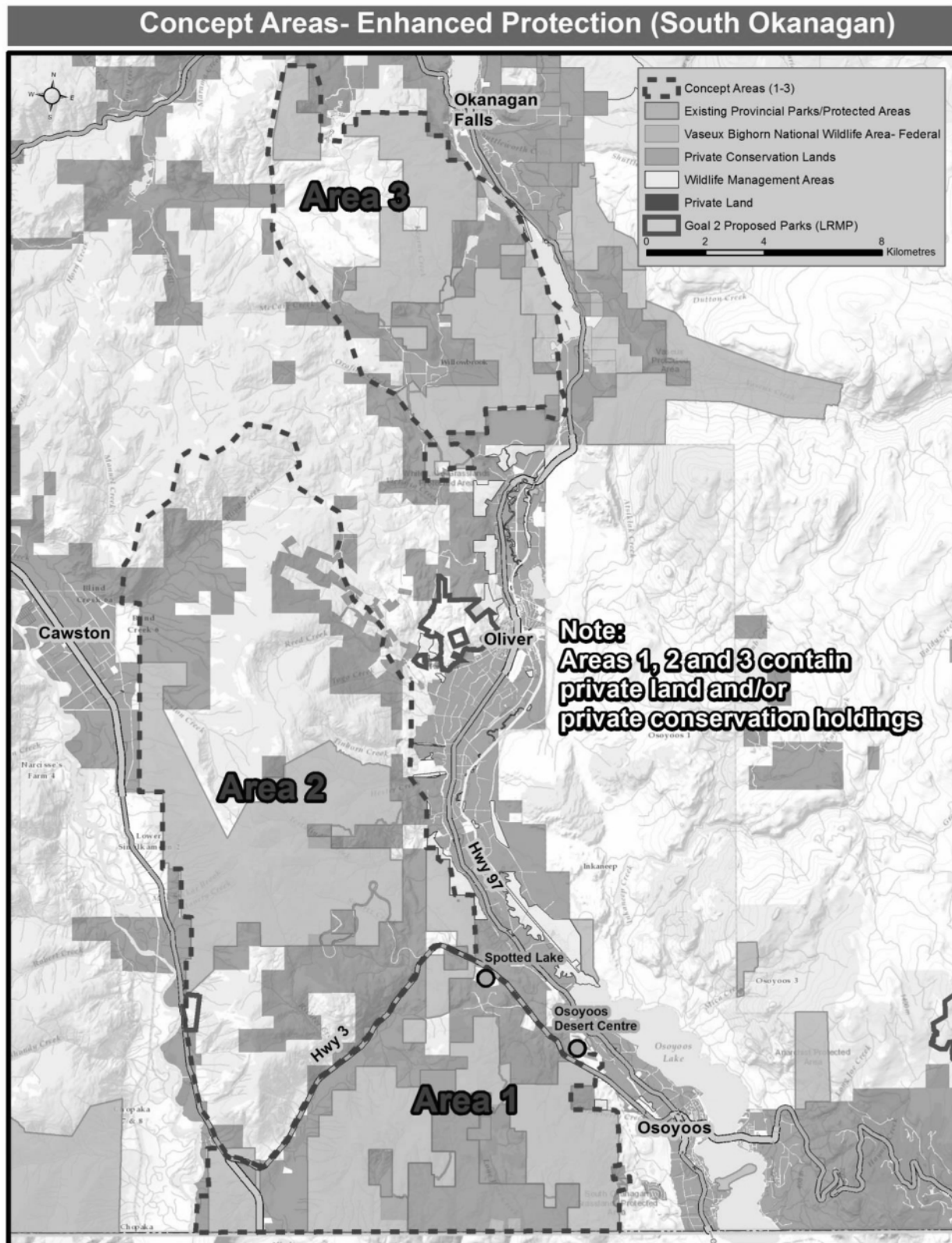


Rationale: There are presently a number of federal land holdings in the Vaseux Lake area which are managed by the Canadian Wildlife Service. While the protections afforded by a provincial conservancy designation and national park reserve status would both be sufficient to protect the unique features of Area 3, it is the presence of the federal holdings, along with the desire for additional tourism marketing potential, which implies supporting designation as national park reserve. As a precondition to this recommendation, the Province would look to ensure that all existing range tenures continue unimpeded. Should designation as national park reserve not occur, establishment as a provincial conservancy is recommended in recognition of the interests of the Okanagan Nation.

Question 6: Are there any adjacent lands of particular conservation, recreation or cultural heritage value that should be included in Area 3?

Question 7: Are there any special considerations that should be taken into account in establishing additional protection for Area 3?

Context Map:



Next Steps

This paper describes a proposed land protection framework for the South Okanagan. Upon completion of a 60 day consultation period, BC Parks will compile and review the feedback received. This feedback will then be publicly posted in the form of a consultation report along with final land designation recommendations.

This land protection framework proposal will then be further refined and submitted to Government for review and approval. Subject to receiving approval, legislation to support the designation of some or all of the elements of the framework intended for designation through provincial legislation would be prepared and submitted for consideration in 2016.

Glossary of Protected Area Types:

Class A Park: The majority of the provincial parks in the system are Class A parks. These parks are lands dedicated to the preservation of their natural environments for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public. Development in a Class A park is limited to that which is necessary for the maintenance of its recreational values. Activities such as grazing, hay cutting and other uses (except commercial logging, mining or hydroelectric development) that existed at the time the park was established may be allowed to continue.

Class A parks can be established by two means. They can be established by order in council under the *Park Act* or by inclusion in a schedule to the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*. Presently, most Class A parks are established by inclusion in schedules to the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

Conservancy : Conservancies are Crown lands set aside for:

- (a) the protection and maintenance of their biological diversity and natural environments;
- (b) the preservation and maintenance of social, ceremonial and cultural uses of First Nations;
- (c) the protection and maintenance of their recreational values; and
- (d) development or use of natural resources in a manner consistent with the purposes of (a), (b) and (c) above.

The conservancy designation explicitly recognizes the importance of these areas to First Nations for social, ceremonial and cultural uses. Conservancies provide for a wider range of low impact, compatible economic opportunities than Class A parks, however, commercial logging, mining and hydroelectric power generation, other than local run-of-the-river projects, are prohibited. These economic opportunities must still not restrict, prevent or hinder the conservancy from meeting its intended purpose with respect to maintaining biological diversity, natural environments, First Nations social, ceremonial and cultural uses, and recreational values.

Conservancies can be established by two means. Conservancies can be established by order in council under the *Park Act* or by inclusion in a schedule to the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

Presently, all conservancies are established by inclusion in schedules to the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

Protected Area: Protected areas are established by order in council under the *Environment and Land Use Act*. The *Environment and Land Use Act* is a broad piece of legislation which empowers a land use committee of Cabinet to ensure that all aspects of the preservation and maintenance of the natural environment are fully considered in the administration of land use and resource development.

Protected areas generally have one or more existing or proposed activities that are not usually allowed in a park (e.g., proposed industrial road, pipeline, transmission line or communication site). Allowable activities and management direction are determined by specific provisions and any special conditions when the area is established as well as relevant sections of the *Park Act* and *Park, Conservancy and Recreation Area Regulation* as identified in the order in council.

Protected area designations under the *Environment and Land Use Act* are by order in council.

Ecological Reserve: Ecological reserves are established for ecological purposes, including the following:

- Areas suitable for scientific research and educational purposes associated with studies in productivity and other aspects of the natural environment;
- Representative examples of natural ecosystems in British Columbia;
- Examples of ecosystems that have been modified by human beings and offer an opportunity to study the recovery of the natural ecosystem from modification;
- Areas where rare or endangered native plants and animals in their natural habitat may be preserved;
- Areas that contain unique and rare examples of botanical, zoological or geological phenomena.

The legislation is very restrictive and all extractive activities are prohibited and recreational use is discouraged. As such, ecological reserves are considered to be areas most highly protected and least subject to human influence. Ecological reserves can be established by two means: (i) by order in council under the *Ecological Reserve Act* or (ii) by inclusion in schedules to the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

National Park (National Park Reserve): National parks are a country-wide system of representative natural areas of Canadian significance, protected under federal legislation. By law, they are protected for public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment, while being maintained in an unimpaired state for future generations. National parks are established to protect and present outstanding representative examples of natural landscapes and natural phenomena that occur in Canada's 39 natural regions, as identified in the National Parks System Plan. National parks protect the habitats, wildlife and ecosystem diversity representative of - and sometime unique to - the natural regions. National park reserves are areas set aside for the purpose of a National Park pending settlement of any outstanding aboriginal land claims. During the interim period the *National Park Act* applies.

Providing Comment on this Policy Intention Paper

To provide comment on designation options being explored by the Province, please visit <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/protected-areas-framework-s-okanagan.html> and fill out the seven question survey (the same questions that appear in this paper). The feedback received will be used in further considerations for the South Okanagan.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this proposal and forwarding your comments.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US ONLINE:
WWW.ENV.GOV.BC.CA/BCPARKS/PLANNING/PROTECTED-AREAS-FRAMEWORK-S-OKANAGAN.HTML



INTENTIONS PAPER

Protected Areas Framework for British Columbia's South Okanagan



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1.0 Introduction

British Columbia's South Okanagan region is a special place. It contains significant diversity and uniqueness of plants and animals, and is home to 30% of B.C.'s red-listed wildlife species and 46% of blue-listed species. Situated at the northernmost tip of the Great Basin Desert and representing a dry arid landscape that is not only unique to British Columbia, but to Canada, it is aptly named the "pocket desert". This area is important to First Nations and contains sacred cultural and traditional use sites such as Spotted Lake and the White Lake basin and many other significant cultural, recreational and ecological sites. It is also an area that is facing intense development pressure and increasing population.

2.0 Background

Following the recommendations of the Okanagan-Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan, which was approved by the provincial government 2001, there were a number of protected areas established in the South Okanagan. Shortly thereafter, the Federal Government chose to focus on the area for a potential new national park reserve. In October 2003, Canada and BC signed a Memorandum of Understanding to study the feasibility of establishing a National Park Reserve (NPR) in the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen area. Consultations during the feasibility study indicated that the NPR proposal was controversial among area residents. In January 2011, the BC Government announced that the Province would not be proceeding with the proposed establishment of the NPR at this time.

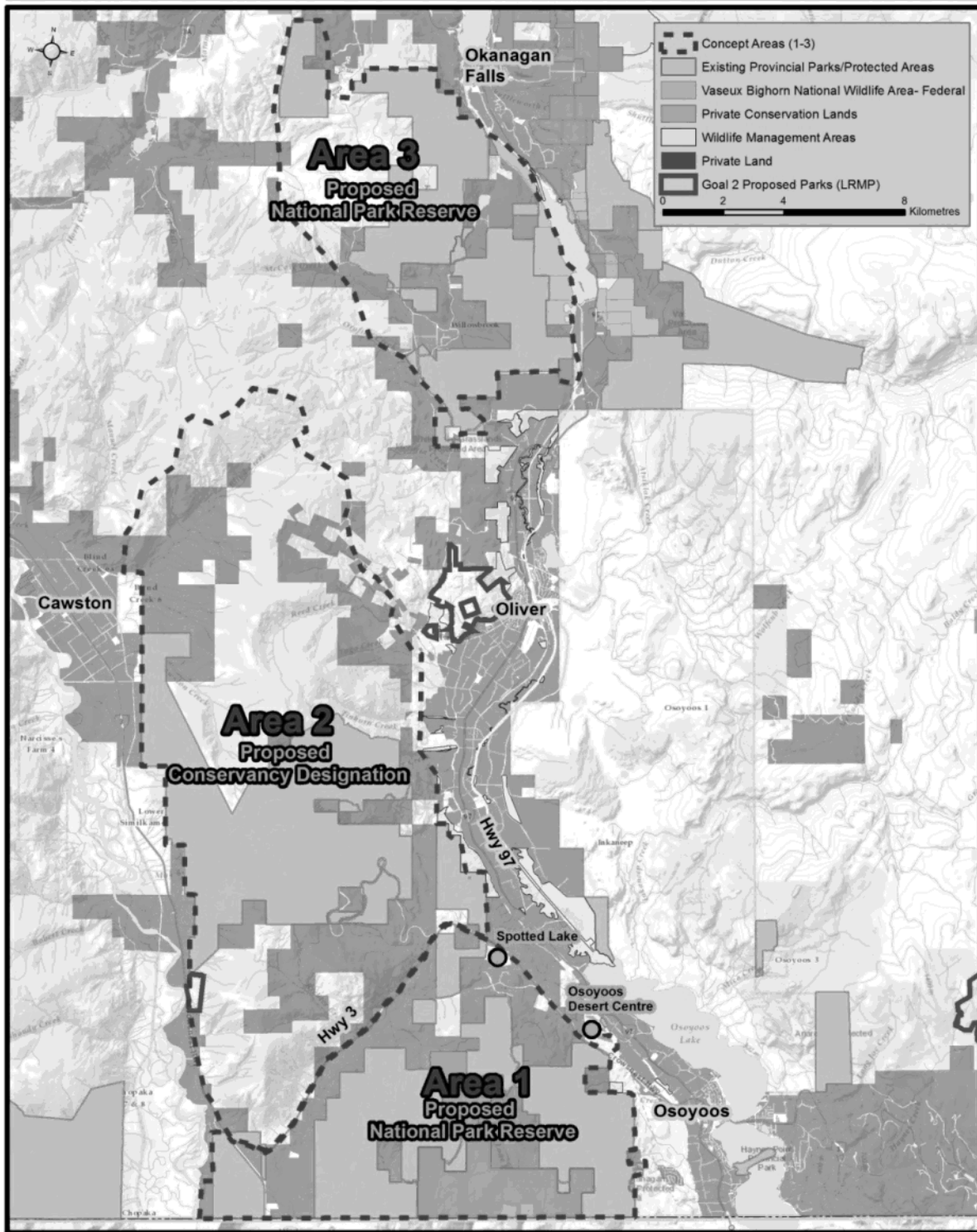
Area residents continue to be very interested in issues of environmental protection, tourism and recreation opportunities and economic development in the region. Many residents consider that future protection measures would help meet some of these interests. Others feel that future protection measures are not necessary in the South Okanagan.

In November 2014, Minister Polak met with First Nations, area stakeholders and community leaders to initiate a dialogue on land use objectives for the South Okanagan area, including environmental protection, tourism development and outdoor recreation to fully explore the various interests at play in the region, and then begin to collaboratively identify possible solutions.

On August 13, 2015 an Intentions Paper proposing how land might be protected in the South Okanagan was released for public feedback for an 81 day comment period (ending on October 31, 2015). The Intentions Paper identified three areas for potential protection. The intended audience of the Intentions Paper was that of the *general public* and its distribution was not intended as to be a formal referral to local, regional, provincial or federal government agencies nor entities which hold tenure/legal interest over the Crown landscape discussed.

Areas 1 and 3 were suggested for potential inclusion in a national park reserve, and **Area 2** was suggested as a provincial conservancy. The conceptual areas of the proposed designations were regarded as 'soft' boundaries. Private lands were not included and would only be considered for future park designation under a willing buyer - willing seller scenario. No lands would be expropriated.

Concept Areas- Enhanced Protection (South Okanagan)



In arriving at this land protection framework proposal, the Province was guided by the following principles:

- 1. Additional protection will be beneficial** *Additional protection measures will benefit the area. Currently, while protection from BC Parks, Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service), First Nations, local governments, private landholders, conservation organizations, and others exists, this area does not have the coordinated protection needed to address the uniqueness and richness of the ecosystems, and the large number of species at risk that are present.*
- 2. Management is shared with First Nations** *First Nations are committed to conservation in this area and further collaboration must be explored. To be effective, it should involve the planning and ongoing management incorporating traditional ecological knowledge and traditional cultural use. Cultural tourism must be considered in protecting these areas as it represents an exciting opportunity that could become a significant draw for visitors.*
- 3. Existing uses are recognized** *Protection measures will result in a collective broad array of recreation opportunities, even if some uses must be allocated to certain areas through access management. For tenure holders, tenures will continue under the same terms and conditions and be subject to existing management policies. Changes would only occur if the tenure holder consents.*
- 4. Respect for private land holders** *Privately owned lands will be respected. Any future private land acquisitions that may occur will only be on a willing seller/willing buyer basis and only as land availability and budgets allow.*
- 5. Tourism is actively promoted** *The area has outstanding beauty that residents and visitors will experience. New protected area establishment will come with support to encourage prospective visitors to consider the recreation opportunities that the South Okanagan has to offer. Promoting cultural tourism in protected areas could be a particular emphasis.*

3.0 Purpose of the Consultation Summary

This consultation summary presents the feedback and public comment that was received on the intentions paper from August 13th through October 31st, 2015. Where feasible, the consultation summary provides an overview of recurring themes/sub-themes that were prevalent in the submissions received. The summary also provides context on the modes/methods by which many of the responses were received by the Ministry of Environment.

It is important to note that the comment process was not designed to be a statistically valid opinion poll or other measure about whether more people support or oppose the concept of a national park reserve in the area. This feedback process was intended to reveal some of the specific issues and themes that people feel are important to consider when contemplating additional land protection measures in the South Okanagan.

While some excellent input was received regarding the advantages and disadvantages of national park reserve designation and overview/positional statements on this matter were commonly provided, this consultation summary places its main focus and analysis on the seven question structure (detailed in Section 4.0 below) that was presented in the Intentions Paper.

In addition, this report does not reflect the outcomes of consultation with the member bands of the Okanagan Nation Alliance. A separate consultation process is ongoing with those First Nations, the outcomes of which will be reflected in any final land use recommendations that may be made.

4.0 Summary of Input Received

BC Parks provided an on-line comment form with seven questions for people to respond to related to the Intentions Paper. The questions were:

- 1: Are the appropriate areas captured in the overall land protection framework?**
- 2: Are there any adjacent lands of particular conservation, recreation or cultural heritage value that should be included in Area 1?**
- 3: Are there any special considerations that should be taken into account in establishing additional protection for Area 1?**
- 4: Are there any adjacent lands of particular conservation, recreation or cultural heritage value that should be included in Area 2?**
- 5: Are there any special considerations that should be taken into account in establishing additional protection for Area 2?**
- 6: Are there any adjacent lands of particular conservation, recreation or cultural heritage value that should be included in Area 3?**
- 7: Are there any special considerations that should be taken into account in establishing additional protection for Area 3?**

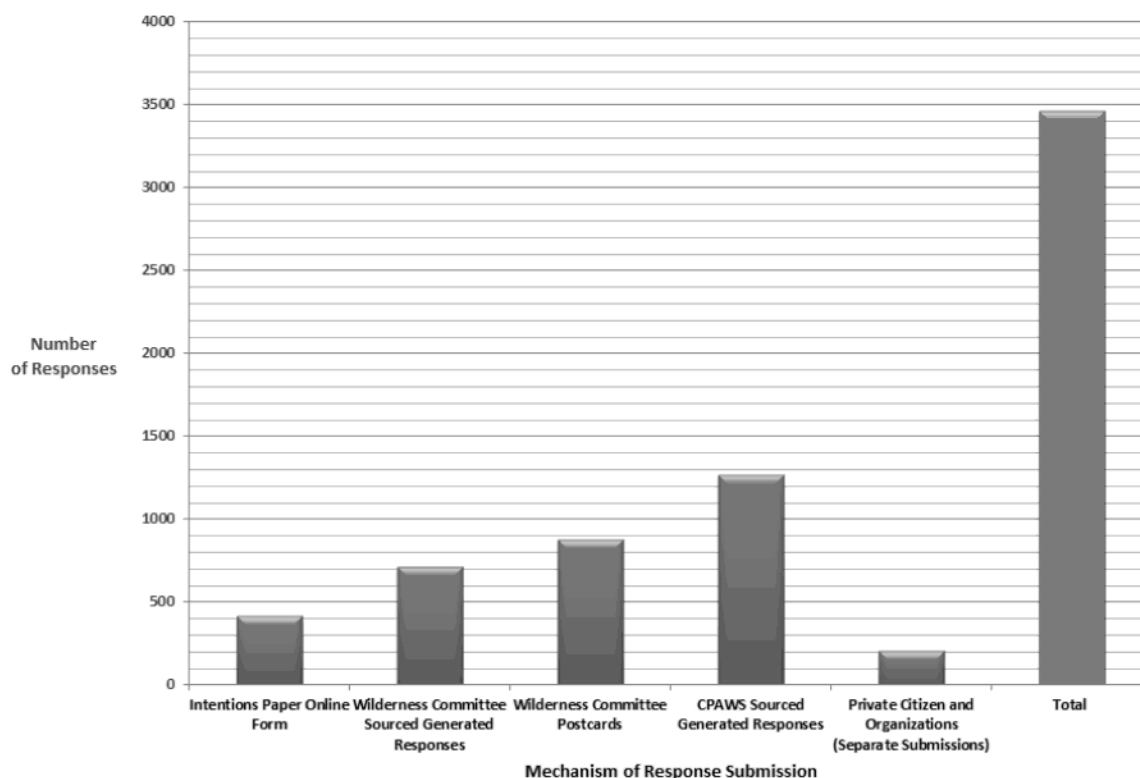
4.1 Who We Heard From

BC Parks received 3,460 responses related to the Intentions Paper. Only a small percentage (12% or 411 individual submissions) of the responses received were from the online form provided on the Intentions Paper/BC Parks website.

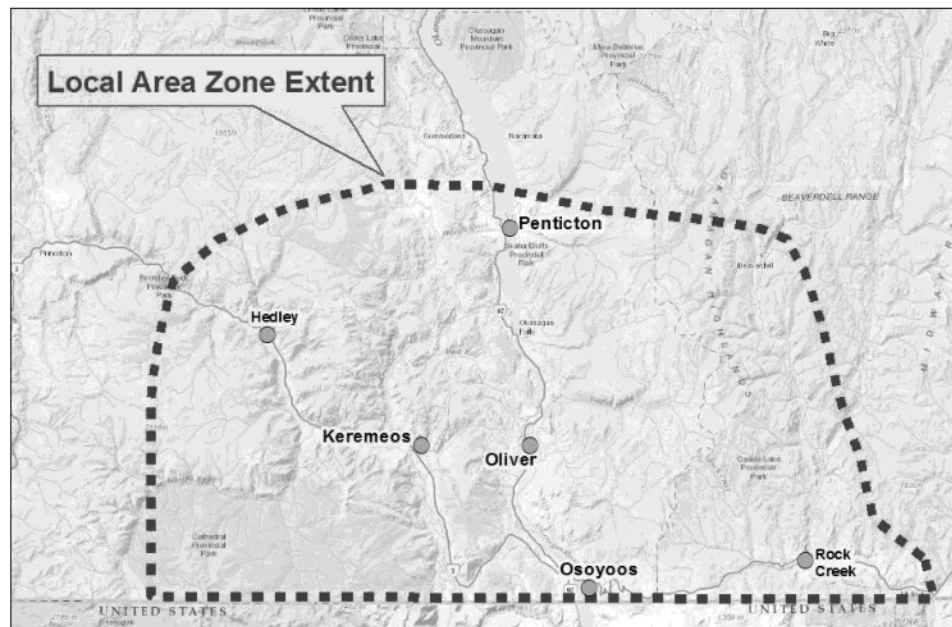
BC Parks received 3,049 other submissions, consisting of emails and letters sent to the Minister, to BC Parks, or to the office of the local Member of the Legislative Assembly. The submissions that were not from the on-line comment form website often did not respond specifically to the questions asked in the on-line comment form, but rather provided the respondent's views on a range of topics related to the proposed protection framework.

Many submissions outside of the online questionnaire were facilitated through the websites of the Wilderness Committee and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Committee (CPAWS), who both hosted web sites that enabled people to submit comments on the proposal. A total of 1,265 submissions originated from the CPAWS website and 707 originated from the Wilderness Committee website. In addition, 873 postcards were received utilizing template language provided by the Wilderness Committee. Private citizens sent in 167 submissions (primarily through email) and these were not associated with the mechanisms provided by the Wilderness Committee and CPAWS. There were 37 formal letter submissions received from organizations (see Appendix 1).

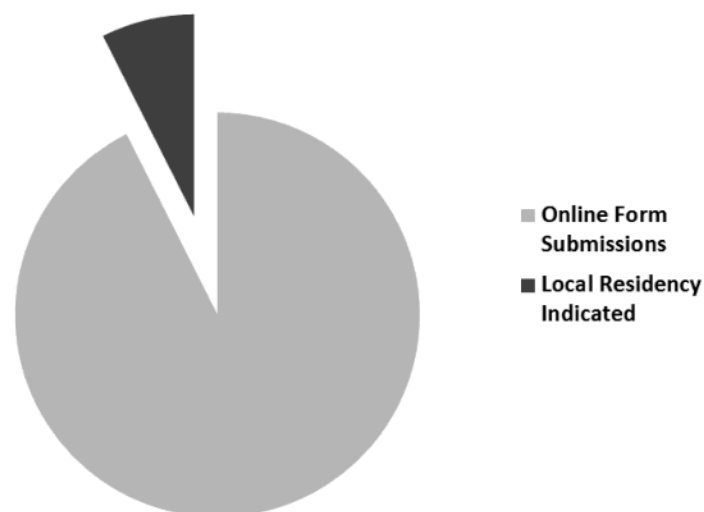
A summary and breakdown of the number of responses and identifier/mechanism by which it was received is presented below:

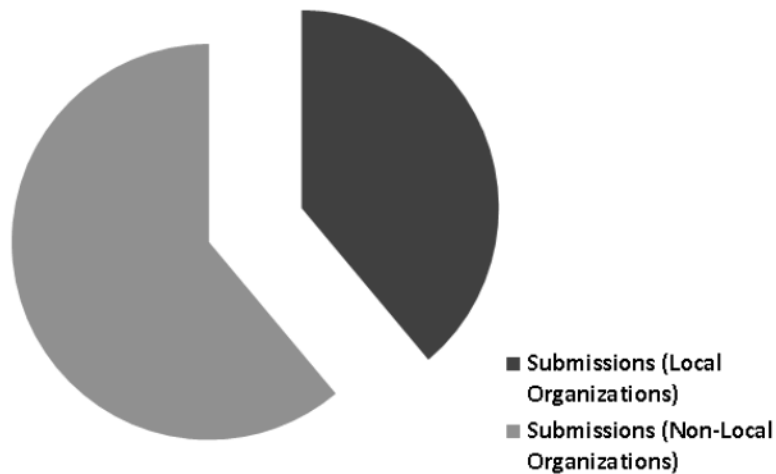


It was necessary to make a determination of the geographical area that constituted representation of the 'local area' zone, this aided in sorting organizations that responded with feedback. A local area zone was determined and is depicted below.



The online submission format was not designed to capture the locality of respondents. However, of the 411 respondents from the on-line submission, only 33 volunteered the location of their residence, and all of these 33 residences were within local area zone. Further analysis of the other forms of submissions (emails) indicated an additional 198 respondents were identified as local, bringing the total identified local respondents to 231. A total of 15 organizations were identified as local (see Appendix 1). The vast majority of other submissions did not contain the respondent's place of residency.





4.2 What We Heard

This section summarizes the main themes/sub-themes that emerged from the submissions BC Parks received on the Intentions Paper. As mentioned earlier, the Intentions Paper and its suggested protection framework elicited a high degree of opinion that was outside the scope of the Intentions Paper including a number of submissions that either supported all areas becoming national park reserve or no areas needing further protection. . Nevertheless, broader theme areas are outlined based on submissions.

4.3 Main Themes

Main themes and topic areas that were sourced from the online form and other submission mechanisms are expanded below. In instances where the data was sufficiently structured to allow for further analysis of whether there was preference for a specific outcome then there is quantification/weighting represented. This quantification typically took the form of “frequency” as the specific theme or topic was mentioned enough to gain a perspective of its importance to respondents.

Connectivity

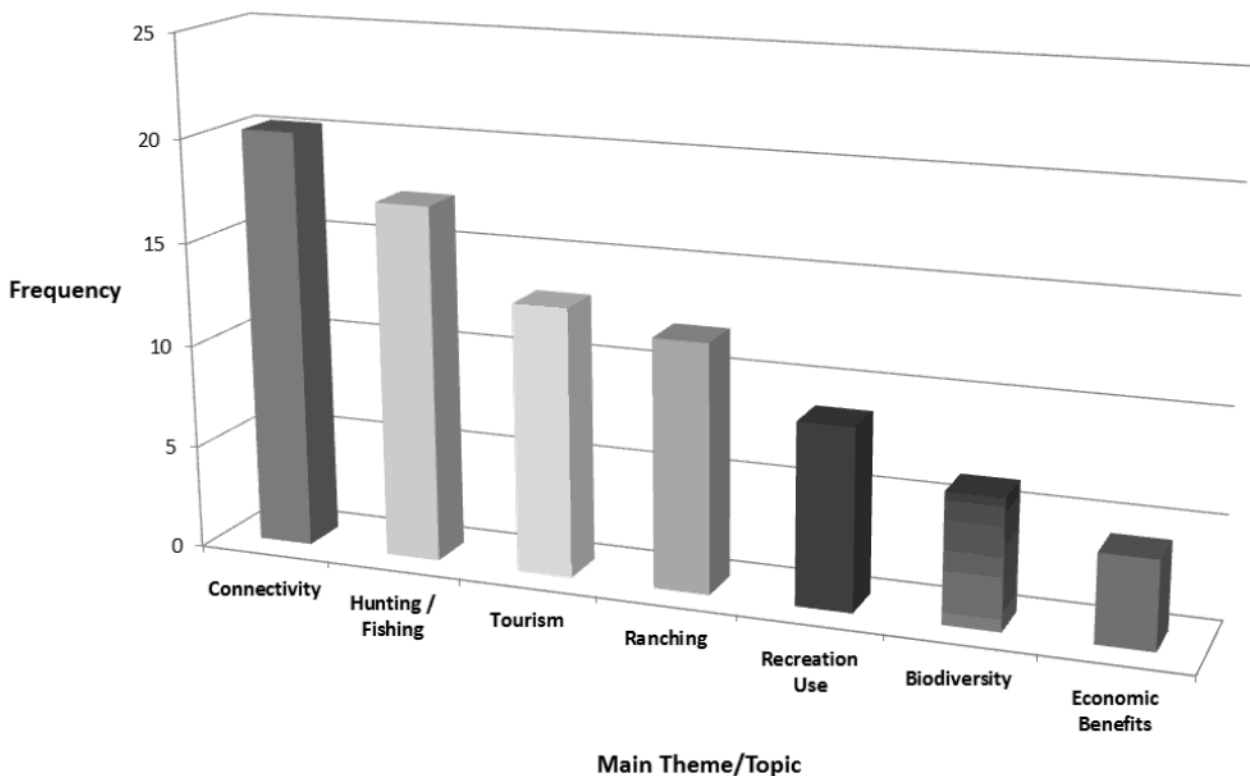
This theme focused on a need to ensure connectivity between not only the 3 areas identified, but also with the remaining natural landscape and other conservation holdings outside of protected areas. Connectivity also was raised frequently in the context of expanding protection to adjacent areas (such as Vaseux Lake).

Hunting and Fishing

Recreation use in the form of hunting and fishing was identified as important for many in the South Okanagan and this issue was identified frequently in the many of the submissions.

Tourism

Tourism was identified as a key attribute to the South Okanagan and its correlation to parks and protected areas was particularly significant.



Ranching

The focus of comments involving this theme highlighted the importance of ranching and grazing in the South Okanagan as both an economic benefit, but also an effective land management tool. Grazing was referenced in some submissions as being a threat to biodiversity and overall landscape impacts.

Recreation Use

This is a prevalent theme that covers a wide range of issues such as non- motorized and motorized used, types of activities (hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, camping etc.) and access to popular destinations within the 3 concept areas and the modes upon which many of these destinations are reached.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity was commonly mentioned in the context of the need to preserve and protect the remaining biodiversity of the South Okanagan. While other submissions pointed out that the areas have a high level of biodiversity that exists today, because of current land management practices.

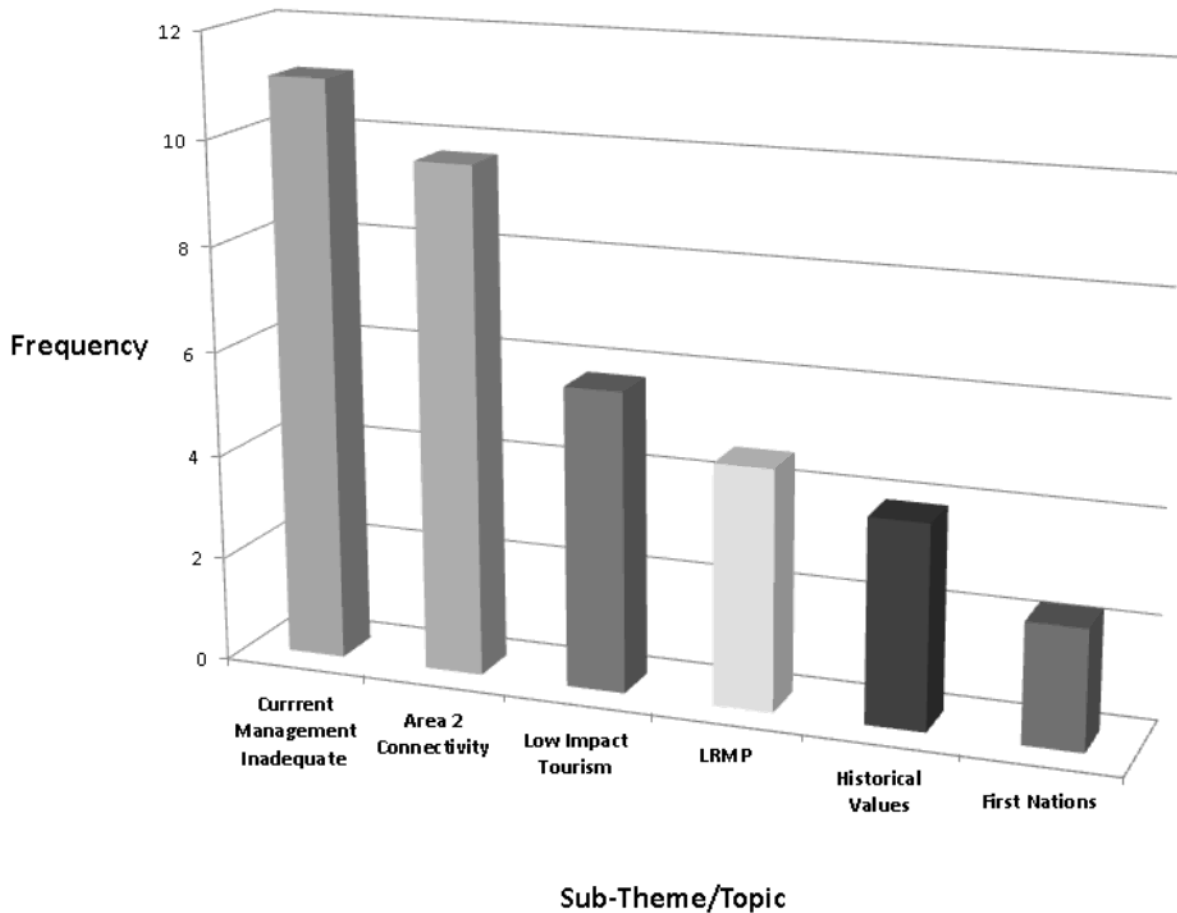
Economic Benefits

Associated typically with the subject of tourism, the economic benefit of enhanced protection (i.e., national park reserve designation) was outlined in most submissions that focussed on the desire for federal involvement in parks management. In contrast, economic benefit was also a factor in those submissions that stressed current tenures (e.g., ranching, forestry, and mining) which forms a foundation of current economic benefit to the South Okanagan.

4.4 Sub-Themes

A number of sub-themes were sourced from email submissions as well as the online form submissions. These sub-themes focussed on matters such as following:

- ❖ Existing management of the Crown land base was inadequate and that improved management could be explored (but not necessarily as National Park Reserve).
- ❖ That connectivity with Area 2 was critical- especially at it relates to the gap in protection/conservation between Area 2 and Area 3.
- ❖ Low impact tourism plays a factor in ensuring protection of species and habitat of the South Okanagan.
- ❖ To follow the recommendations of the LRMP (e.g., creation of Class A parks and establishment of Goal 2 sites such as Oliver Mountain).
- ❖ Historical values are high in the South Okanagan and should be better protected, maintained and promoted.
- ❖ First Nations use and access to the land forms an important aspect of land management in the South Okanagan.



4.5 Overall Protection Framework

This section is particularly relevant to the feedback received from Question 1 in the survey (which asked if the appropriate areas were captured in the overall land protection framework). Some respondents stated that no additional protection is warranted in the area. Other respondents felt that some additional protection would be beneficial, but a national park reserve would not be the right tool to achieve that in the south Okanagan. These writers were concerned with the potential loss of access to the land and its resources for local people, for both resource development and recreation such as hunting and off-road vehicle use. Repeatedly, the strategic direction provided for protected areas and the Crown land base through the OSLRMP was mentioned. Respondents who referred to the LRMP cited that the process was a balanced, consensus driven approach to land management and should be fully implemented.

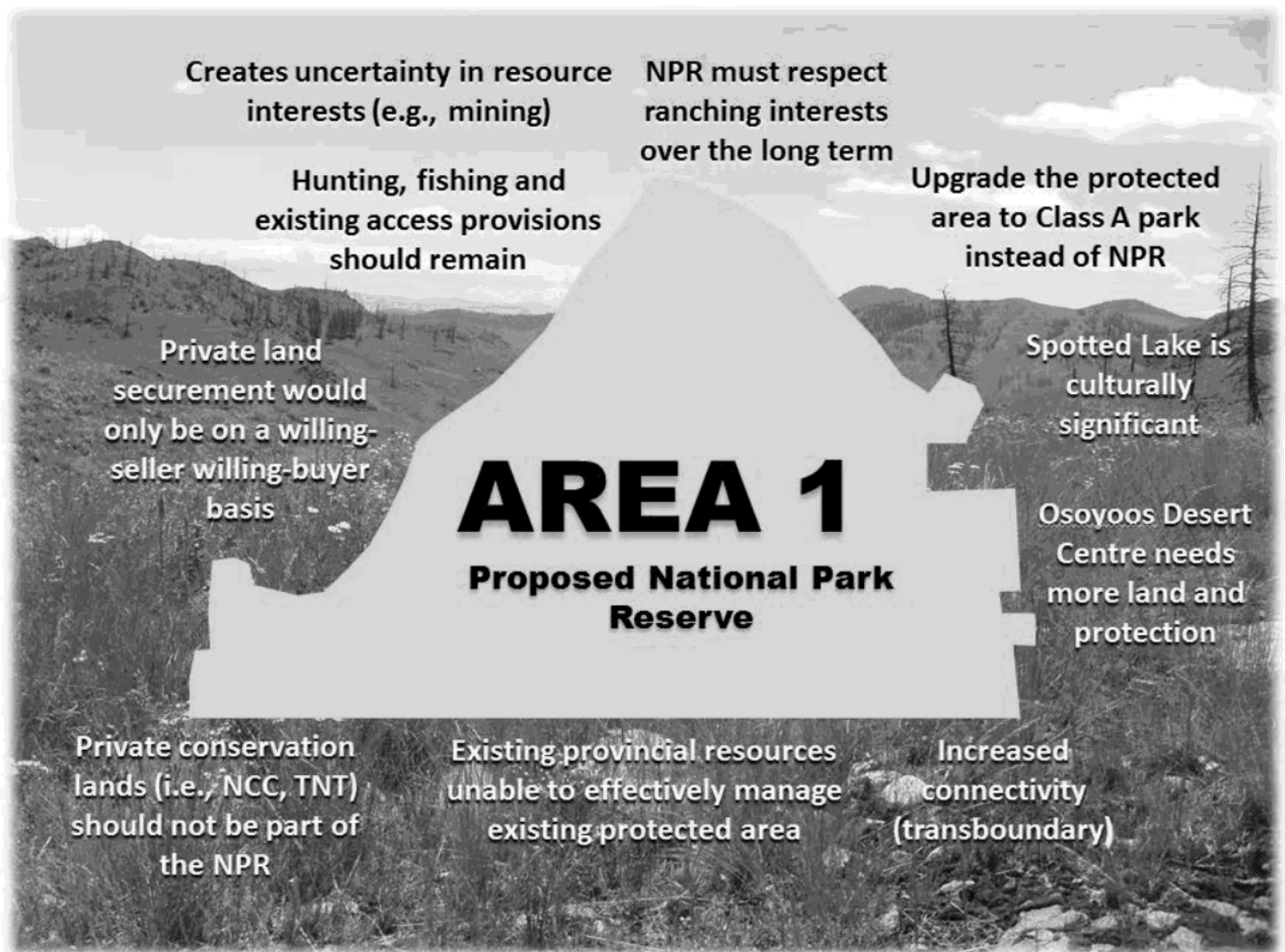
Additional respondents felt that a national park is necessary to adequately protect the many rare and endangered species and ecosystems found in this area, and would be a benefit to the local tourism economy. Comparisons were cited to other communities that border or lie within the boundaries of national parks in Canada (e.g. Banff, Revelstoke). The vast majority of respondents in this category

conveyed that Area 2 should be included as part of a national park reserve designation, and a smaller percentage felt that connectivity between Area 2 and Area 3 was necessary.

Other respondents indicated that the proposed model of enhanced protection utilizing a combination of NPR and conservancy was not nearly adequate and that additional areas, outside the scope of the proposed framework must be investigated (e.g., Vaseux Lake and surrounding lands)- see the Additional Areas section.

5.0 Concept Areas 1, 2, and 3: Considerations for Proposed Designations

An analysis of the range of considerations that were received each concept area (Areas 1, 2 and 3) was conducted and generalized feedback is represented in the following three diagrams.



**Greater certainty for
resource interests
(e.g., mining)**

**The federal government
has the necessary
resources to manage this
area as NPR**

**Ranching interests
are respected and
maintained over the
long term**

**Recognizes and
accommodates for
First Nations
interest/opportunities**

AREA 2

Proposed Provincial Conservancy

**Conservancy better
serves and reflects
local interests**

**Hunting, fishing
and existing access
provisions remain**

**Largely respects the
recommendations of
the LRMP**

**Tourism can be
beneficial but does
negatively affect
biodiversity**

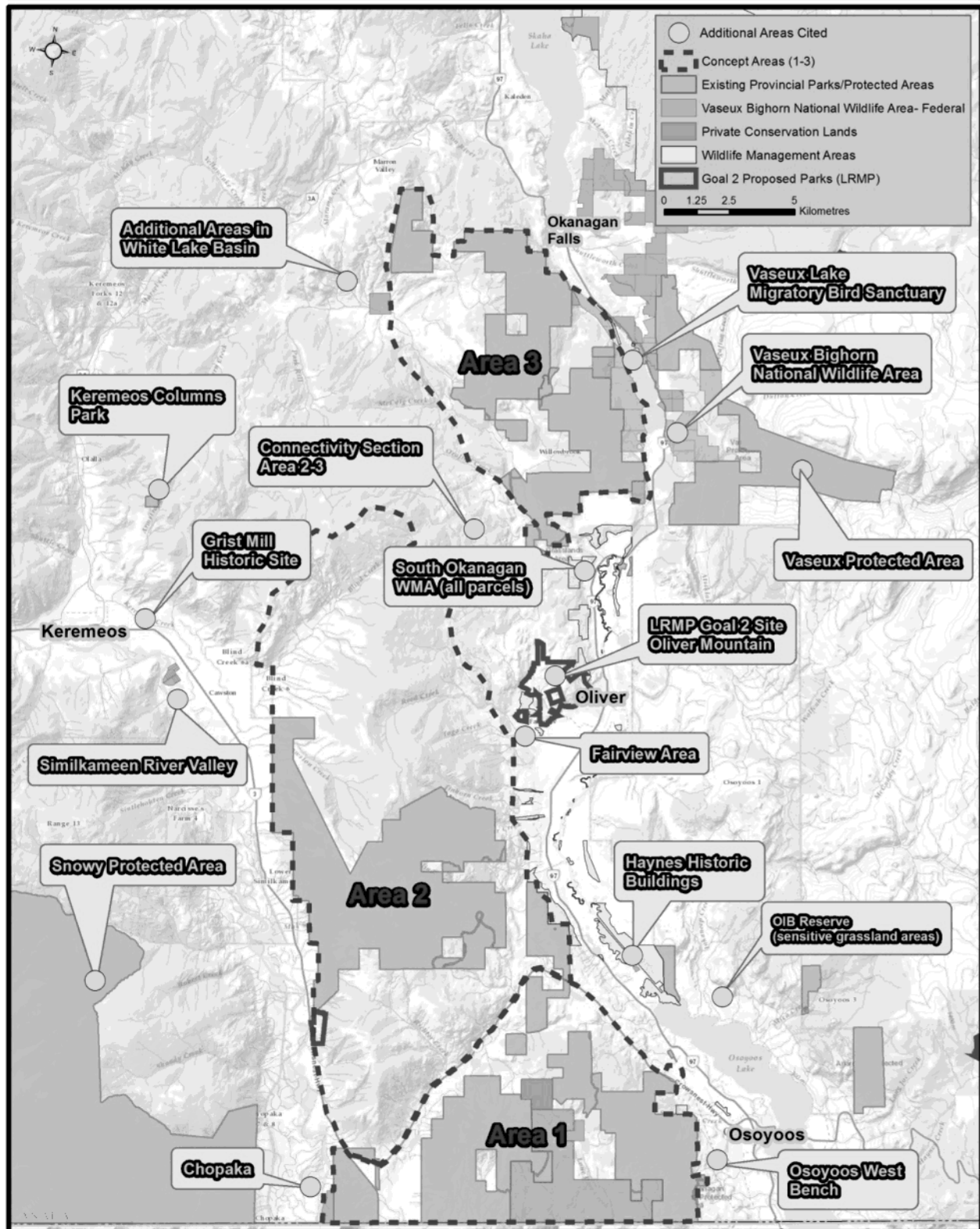
**Existing provincial resources
unable to effectively
manage a conservancy with
such high ecosystem values**



6.0 Additional Areas/Geographical Areas of Interest

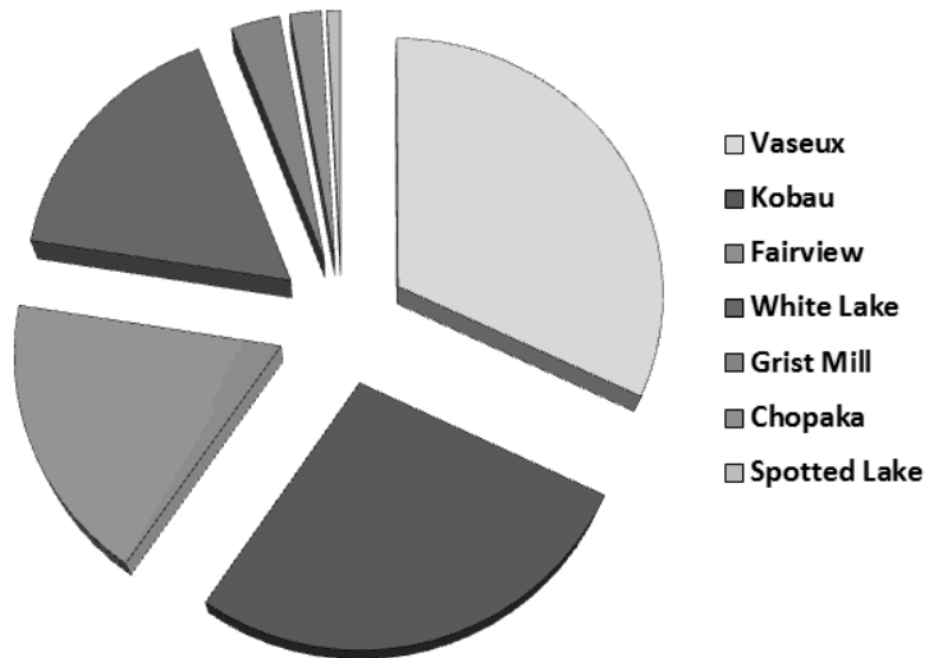
When soliciting feedback on each respective concept area, there were several adjacent locations or geographical areas of interest that the public cited should be included in the consideration of enhanced protection. The various locations are illustrated below (note: these are geographical sites of interest outside of the 3 Area structure).

Additional Areas Cited- Enhanced Protection (South Okanagan)



Analysis of the online form data suggested the main areas of interest (sites mentioned by frequency) in the submissions were as follows. Of note, other forms of submissions (emails, formal letters) followed a similar identification of specific areas.

Areas of Interest - Frequency Mentioned (Online Form)



Additional areas cited in the emails and formal letters highlighted the following sites/geographical areas:

- **Oliver Mountain**
- **South Okanagan Wildlife Management Area**
- **Adjacent areas of the Similkameen River valley (adjacent to Area 1 and Area 2)-**
- **Vaseux Protected Area, Vaseux Lake, Vaseux Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Vaseux-Bighorn National Wildlife Area**
- **Areas of the Osoyoos Indian Reserve that retain intact grasslands and Antelope-Brush habitat**
- **Private conservation lands (leased to the Province) in the area of Vaseux Lake**

7.0 Conclusions and Next Steps

The 81 day public comment period that was associated with the Ministry of Environment's release of the Intentions Paper generated 3,460 responses. While a small percentage of the respondents (members of the public, organizations, affiliations, business interests etc.) chose to submit comments via the online form, a much larger percentage utilized different mediums (e.g., post cards, direct emails, formal letters) in which to convey their interests/recommendations for enhanced protection in the South Okanagan. The comments received varied in detail and presentation, and, while some respondents directly followed the seven question format outlined in the Intentions Paper, the majority of submissions used the release of the Intentions Paper as a platform to reinforce perspectives on the question of whether the South Okanagan was a suitable candidate for a national park reserve.

While all responses were appreciated, the purpose of the Intentions Paper was to solicit public feedback regarding the protected area framework proposal within the paper, one which is intended to reflect as best as possible the wide ranging interests of all interested groups and individuals; the original 2010 national park reserve proposal is not being reconsidered. Given the purpose of the Intentions Paper, submissions focused on the 2010 proposal (either supporting or opposing) weighed far less in the analysis process than responses focused on the questions in the Intentions Paper. In addition, the *quantity* of responses was factored less in the analysis than the *quality* of the information, concerns, suggestions and ideas raised in the context of the seven questions.

The questions posed within the Intentions Paper respecting the protected area concept were drafted to seek qualitative information to help the Province consider impacts (positive and negative) of protected area designations and to identify the types of issues that enhanced protection measures would need to consider before implementation. As the process was open-ended for responses, there were no appropriate controls in place, nor was the framework designed to determine overall support or opposition, and therefore the input cannot be considered as a poll.

Despite the deviation from what the Intentions Paper was originally designed to present and elicit, the feedback revealed many common themes and geographical areas of concern that greatly aided the Ministry of Environment in better understanding the interests of those passionate about protection in the South Okanagan. Numerous areas were suggested as requiring some form of enhanced protection and many of those sites were focused in the Vaseux Lake area, areas bordering existing sites of the South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area, and within the White Lake Basin. While other sites were presented as having a strong historical connection to the South Okanagan, such as the Haynes Ranch buildings (east of the Okanagan River), the Grist Mill near Keremeos and the iconic Fairview town site at the base of Oliver Mountain.

The Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (OSLRMP) factored heavily in many responses, with comments focussed on respecting existing land use commitments (such as access, recreational activities, commercial tenures) and pointing out that there remain outstanding recommendations from the OSLRMP that government should consider for implementation (e.g., Goal 2

park establishment). The decision to create a proposed conservancy designation for Area 2 as presented in the Intentions Paper was influenced by these previous land use commitments.

The Province has been, and will continue to be, in discussions with member bands from the Okanagan Nation Alliance (in particular, the Penticton Indian Band, the Osoyoos Indian Band and the Lower Similkameen Indian Band) on potential protection measures and land management that is collaborative and respects First Nation interests and values in the area. The Province will continue to engage with First Nations to better understand their interests prior to any final decisions.

Next Steps

Any new or enhanced land protection measures in the South Okanagan will require approval by Government. The information gathered through this process will help to inform any decisions by the Minister of Environment with respect to what, if any, mandate to seek. Cabinet direction will also determine what, if any, role federal designations may play in any future protection plan for the South Okanagan.

Next Steps: Next steps in the process will include:

- The Minister of Environment considering the findings of this process and develop a report for Cabinet.
- Continuing engagement with member bands of the Okanagan Nation Alliance to further understand First Nation values and interests in the area. Discussions will include how collaborative management can be accomplished.
- Identifying any interim protection measures that should be considered in the short to medium term.

Appendix 1: List of organizations with formal submissions (local and non-local)

ORGANIZATION
LOCAL AREA ZONE
Osoyoos Wildlife Federation
Penticton Outdoors Club
Okanagan Similkameen Stock Association
South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program
BC Wildlife Federation – Okanagan Region
Osoyoos Town Council
Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association
South Okanagan Naturalists Club
Oliver Tourism Association
Speak Up for Wildlife Foundation
South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Network
Destination Osoyoos Development Society
Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society
The Nature Trust of BC
Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory (NRC Canada)
NON LOCAL
North Okanagan Naturalists Club
Kootenay Mountaineering Club
Guide Outfitters Association of BC
Ancient Forest Alliance
BC Great Blue Heron Society
Central Okanagan Naturalists Club
Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – BC Chapter
Wilderness Committee
Nature Canada
Sierra Club of BC
Grasslands Conservation Council of BC
Association of Mineral Exploration of BC
Friends of Ecological Reserves
Group of Concerned Scientists
BC Wildlife Federation
Elders Council for BC Parks
Burke Mountain Naturalists
Alberni Valley Outdoor Club
BC Nature
Grand Forks Wildlife Association

Appendix 2: Summary of feedback from organizations (local and non-local)

Local Organizations

Name: Osoyoos Wildlife Federation

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position:

If No, then key reasons for position: Loss of local control and federal jurisdiction is a major concern

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Concerns over First Nations and federal government co-management

Name: Penticton Outdoors Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: More resources available under federal control

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Lake, Fairview Townsite

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Merge into one large NPR

Name: Okanagan Similkameen Stock Association

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: Follow recommendations of the LRMP

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: N/A

Name: South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): N/A

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Insufficient consultation timelines and process. More clarity is required.

Name: BC Wildlife Federation – Okanagan Region

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: Follow recommendations of the LRMP

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Too much commercialization and tourism under NPR

Name: Osoyoos Town Council

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Benefits area in general

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Haynes homestead, Spotted Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Better protection and tourism potential

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: South Okanagan Naturalists Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Significant ecological benefits over existing protection

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Connection between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Oliver Tourism Association

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Increased tourism benefits

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Speak Up for Wildlife Foundation

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Needed to protect ecosystem and species

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Not specifically stated but conveys a large land area is needed

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: Yes

Comments: Under the proviso that there be no hunting, no grazing and no helicopter training.

Name: South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Network

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Greater landscape level protection is needed

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: South Okanagan WMA, Vaseux Lake, Vaseux Bighorn NWA, Osoyoos West Bench, Snowy Protected Area, Oliver Mountain, Old Fairview Townsite, Connectivity between Area 2 and 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Destination Osoyoos Development Society

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Diversified tourism and economy, federal funding is necessary

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Oliver Womens Institute

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Better protection of unique values

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: High ecosystem values, landscape connectivity

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Oliver Mountain

Connectivity between Area 2 and 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: The Nature Trust of BC

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Must exclude lands held by TNT BC

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Mapping should be revised to exclude TNT BC holdings

Name: Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Increased protection would benefit area

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Mapping should be revised to exclude DRAO land holdings and interest areas

Non-Local Organizations

Name: North Okanagan Naturalist Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Increased protection for habitat for rare/endangered species

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments:

Name: Kootenay Mountaineering Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Benefit ecological diversity and non-motorized use

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Guide Outfitters Association of BC

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: Loss of hunting opportunities

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection:

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Should an NPR be established then guide outfitters territories should be purchased at fair market value or properly compensated.

Name: Ancient Forest Alliance

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Enhanced protection is needed

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Similkameen River, Vaseux Lake, OIB lands- under agreement, Okanagan River.

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: BC Great Blue Heron Society

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Protection of cultural, environmental values and revenue to surrounding communities

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Central Okanagan Naturalists Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3):

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Protection of the environment, enhanced visitation/economy

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Similkameen Valley, Snowy Protected Area, connectivity between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: N/A

Name: The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Environmental protection and economic benefit

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Lake, Fairview Historic Site

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Recreational benefits and increased protection

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: East side of Vaseux Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Increased protection is needed (climate change, biodiversity, First Nations values, tourism, recreation, and socio-economic benefits)

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Connectivity section between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Wilderness Committee

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Biodiversity, species at risk and habitat

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Lake Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Vaseux PA, Vaseux Bighorn NWA, Oliver Mountain, and South Okanagan WMA, Connectivity between Area 2 and 3, Snowy, Fairview Townsite, Haynes Ranch buildings, Grist Mill, private lands south of Vaseux Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Nature Canada

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Species protection and increased habitat protection

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: Yes

Comments: N/A

Name: Grasslands Conservation Council

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Higher level of active land management

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Connectivity between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Association of Mineral Exploration British Columbia

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): N/A

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Mineral tenures must be compensated and further clarity is required on the process of addressing current mineral claims and interests

Name: Friends of Ecological Reserves

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Economic and environmental benefits

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Connectivity between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR and Mahoney Lake ER should not be transferred to federal jurisdiction and should remain as an ecological reserve under provincial control.

Name: Declaration of Support (24 Scientists and Land Managers)

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Special significance and existing protection is inadequate

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Osoyoos West Bench, east side of Vaseux Lake, Oliver Mountain

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: BC Wildlife Federation

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: Key holdings purchased using HCTF funds, provincial park designation offers the best protection while allowing for hunting, hiking and camping.

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Provincial park designation is the most appropriate tool to serve the public interest

Name: Elders Council for Parks

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Special area that deserves a more collaborative and better coordinated protection regime

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Lands east of Vaseux Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: Yes

Comments: N/A

Name: Burke Mountain Naturalists

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Unique area that requires protection of species at risk

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Bighorn National Wildlife Area, connectivity between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Alberni Valley Outdoor Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Greater protection of biodiversity

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: BC Nature

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Species at risk and habitat protection is enhanced

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Fairview site, Osoyoos Desert Centre, east side of Vaseux Lake, Vaseux Bighorn NWA.

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Grand Forks Wildlife Association

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: Only benefits a handful of people

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: N/A

From: [Davies, Heather J ENV:EX](#)
To: ["james.gordon@pc.gc.ca"](mailto:james.gordon@pc.gc.ca)
Cc: ["Francine.Mercier@pc.gc.ca"](mailto:Francine.Mercier@pc.gc.ca); ["lisa.joe@pc.gc.ca"](mailto:lisa.joe@pc.gc.ca)
Subject: RE: Last Draft Agenda for Final Comment
Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 11:23:00 AM

You bet. I have not heard back from my exec yet on whether I should provide anything more on SO.

From: james.gordon@pc.gc.ca [mailto:james.gordon@pc.gc.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 11:02 AM
To: Davies, Heather J ENV:EX
Cc: 'Francine.Mercier@pc.gc.ca'; 'lisa.joe@pc.gc.ca'
Subject: RE: Last Draft Agenda for Final Comment
Hi Heather,

Further to this, if you do gather additional information for SO can you send it to us as well and we can make sure our side has it in advance also.

Best,
James

James Gordon, MBA

Project Manager / Proposed Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve

Parks Canada / Government of Canada

Chargé de projet / Projet de réserve d'aire marine nationale de conservation du Détroit de Georgia Sud

Parcs Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

2220 Harbour Road/ 2220 chemin Harbour
Sidney, B.C. /C.B. V8L 2P6
Telephone/Téléphone 250-654-4013
Cellular / Cellulaire s.22

Time to Connect / Un bon temps pour se rapprocher

From: "Davies, Heather J ENV:EX" <Heather.Davies@gov.bc.ca>
To: "'lisa.joe@pc.gc.ca'" <lisa.joe@pc.gc.ca>, "'james.gordon@pc.gc.ca'" <james.gordon@pc.gc.ca>
Cc: "'Francine.Mercier@pc.gc.ca'" <Francine.Mercier@pc.gc.ca>
Date: 08/02/2017 09:59 AM
Subject: RE: Last Draft Agenda for Final Comment

Looks good to me. I like the way you have created the annex and included the suggested options and detailed pros/cons and have pulled the questions out of the FN engagement update.

On the SO piece, I wonder if the Province should be providing any background materials on this (such as the Intentions Paper, which is public or some other updated materials to support the discussion). I will check in with my

ADM on this as I had not initially been preparing to see it as a formal item on the agenda.

Thanks for your work on this and for sharing with me!

Cheers,
Heather

From: lisa.joe@pc.gc.ca [<mailto:lisa.joe@pc.gc.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 9:37 AM
To: james.gordon@pc.gc.ca
Cc: Francine.Mercier@pc.gc.ca; Davies, Heather J ENV:EX
Subject: Re: Last Draft Agenda for Final Comment

Hello James,

Fantastic work! However, I don't think that the Chiefs will have a problem with electing a Chair and a Co-Chair. I was also wandering what kind of questions should I anticipate to be asked from the Steering Committee representatives? It would be helpful to know what kind of discussion will take place.

Have a good morning.

P'gaaltunaat / Lisa Joe
First Nations Coordinator
Protected Areas Establishment Branch | Direction de l'établissement des aires protégées
Parks Canada | Parcs Canada
2220 Harbour Road/ 2220 chemin Harbour
Sidney, B.C. /C.B. V8L 2P6

Telephone | Téléphone 250-654-4005
Cell | Cellulaires 22
Facsimile | Télécopieur 250-654-4014

Conserve, Restore and Connect with Nature | Conserver, restaurer et se rapprocher de la nature

From: James Gordon/NOTES/PC/CA
To: Francine Mercier/NOTES/PC/CA@PC, Lisa Joe/NOTES/PC/CA@PC, Heather.Davies@gov.bc.ca
Date: 08/02/2017 05:50 AM
Subject: Last Draft Agenda for Final Comment

Hi All,

Here is the latest version of the Agenda with the edits to the Annex as we discussed last Friday. Please review asap so Kevin can review before Heather's 3:00pm deadline.

[attachment "Agenda_SC_Feb 15 2017 draft February 7 2017 v 2.0.docx" deleted by Lisa]

Joe/NOTES/PC/CA]

Also, here are the remaining documents for the meeting with the dates corrected to the 15th.

[attachment "Canada-BC Steering Committee TOR_Signed.pdf" deleted by Lisa Joe/NOTES/PC/CA]
[attachment "Concept Initial Outline for SSG NMCAR v4.0_Jan 26.docx" deleted by Lisa
Joe/NOTES/PC/CA] [attachment "Draft Minutes_Dec_16th. 2013_SC meeting.docx" deleted by Lisa
Joe/NOTES/PC/CA] [attachment "SSG FN update for Feb 15 SC mtg_final.docx" deleted by Lisa
Joe/NOTES/PC/CA] [attachment "SSG Stakeholder Update for Feb 15 SC mtg_final.docx" deleted by
Lisa Joe/NOTES/PC/CA]

Best,
James

James Gordon, MBA

**Project Manager / Proposed Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area
Reserve**

Parks Canada / Government of Canada

**Chargé de projet / Projet de réserve d'aire marine nationale de conservation du Détroit de Georgia
Sud**

Parcs Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

2220 Harbour Road/ 2220 chemin Harbour

Sidney, B.C. /C.B. V8L 2P6

Telephone/Téléphone 250-654-4013

Cellular / Cellulaire s.22

Time to Connect / Un bon temps pour se rapprocher

From: [Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX](#)
To: [Shoemaker, Wes ENV:EX](#); [Crebo, David GCPE:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Fwd: For policy/ regional review: Statement News Release on South Okanagan proposal
Date: Friday, January 27, 2017 8:12:52 AM
Attachments: NR E South Okanagan Statement DRAFT - 00037.docx
ATT00001.htm

FYI.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "MacDonald, Jamie (EC)" <jamie.macdonald@canada.ca>
To: "Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX" <Martina.KapacdeFrias@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fw: For policy/ regional review: Statement News Release on South Okanagan proposal

Martina - we're going to release a supportive statement when your parks release goes live. Really happy to hear this news! (don't circulate this one - not quite final, but will be close)

All the best,
Jamie



TWEET

.@ParksCanada welcomes invitation to discuss new national park in BC's South Okanagan. (link)

News Release

For Immediate Release

Minister McKenna welcomes invitation to discuss new national park reserve in BC's South Okanagan

January 27, 2017

Ottawa, Ontario

Parks Canada Agency

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, today issued the following statement regarding the Province of British Columbia's decision to move forward to protect lands in the South Okanagan, including an invitation to Parks Canada to discuss the possibility of a new national park reserve:

"The Government of Canada of Canada is committed to preserving our national parks and expanding the system of protected areas. We welcome the opportunity to discuss the potential for a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan with the Province of British Columbia and local Okanagan Nation communities, and renewing the work on this important national conservation initiative.

"A new national park reserve would provide an opportunity to protect one of Canada's iconic natural and cultural landscapes and share this unique and inspiring landscape with Canadians and visitors from around the world.

It would also bring us a step closer to establishing a system of national parks that represents each of Canada's 39 distinct natural regions and contribute to reaching Canada's 17 per cent biodiversity land target by 2020, in collaboration with the Provinces, Indigenous groups and other key partners."

Parks Canada was not a party to the development of the province's protected areas plan for the South Okanagan, nor involved in its public review. The Agency looks forward to future discussions.

- 30 -

Contacts

Caitlin Workman
Office of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change
819-991-1441
caitlin.workman@canada.ca

Media Relations
Parks Canada Agency
855-862-1812
pc.media@pc.gc.ca

From: [Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX](#)
To: [MacDonald, Jamie \(EC\)](#)
Subject: Re: For policy/ regional review: Statement News Release on South Okanagan proposal
Date: Friday, January 27, 2017 8:20:45 AM

Thanks Jamie!

The announcement will go live today at 1pm our time.

Best, M

> On Jan 27, 2017, at 8:05 AM, MacDonald, Jamie (EC) <jamie.macdonald@canada.ca> wrote:

>

> Martina - we're going to release a supportive statement when your parks release goes live. Really happy to hear this news! (don't circulate this one - not quite final, but will be close)

>

> All the best,

> Jamie

>

>

>

> <NR E South Okanagan Statement_ DRAFT - 00037.docx>

From: [Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX](#)
To: [Polak, Mary ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Fwd: For policy/ regional review: Statement News Release on South Okanagan proposal
Date: Friday, January 27, 2017 8:32:30 AM
Attachments: NR E South Okanagan Statement DRAFT - 00037.docx
ATT00001.htm

Begin forwarded message:

From: "MacDonald, Jamie (EC)" <jamie.macdonald@canada.ca>
To: "Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX" <Martina.KapacdeFrias@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: **Fw: For policy/ regional review: Statement News Release on South Okanagan proposal**

Martina - we're going to release a supportive statement when your parks release goes live. Really happy to hear this news! (don't circulate this one - not quite final, but will be close)

All the best,
Jamie



TWEET

.@ParksCanada welcomes invitation to discuss new national park in BC's South Okanagan. (link)

News Release

For Immediate Release

Minister McKenna welcomes invitation to discuss new national park reserve in BC's South Okanagan

January 27, 2017

Ottawa, Ontario

Parks Canada Agency

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, today issued the following statement regarding the Province of British Columbia's decision to move forward to protect lands in the South Okanagan, including an invitation to Parks Canada to discuss the possibility of a new national park reserve:

"The Government of Canada of Canada is committed to preserving our national parks and expanding the system of protected areas. We welcome the opportunity to discuss the potential for a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan with the Province of British Columbia and local Okanagan Nation communities, and renewing the work on this important national conservation initiative.

"A new national park reserve would provide an opportunity to protect one of Canada's iconic natural and cultural landscapes and share this unique and inspiring landscape with Canadians and visitors from around the world.

It would also bring us a step closer to establishing a system of national parks that represents each of Canada's 39 distinct natural regions and contribute to reaching Canada's 17 per cent biodiversity land target by 2020, in collaboration with the Provinces, Indigenous groups and other key partners."

Parks Canada was not a party to the development of the province's protected areas plan for the South Okanagan, nor involved in its public review. The Agency looks forward to future discussions.

- 30 -

Contacts

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caitlin.workman@canada.ca

Media Relations
Parks Canada Agency
855-862-1812
pc.media@pc.gc.ca



Polak, Mary ENV:EX

From: Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 8:32 AM
To: Polak, Mary ENV:EX
Subject: Fwd: For policy/ regional review: Statement News Release on South Okanagan proposal
Attachments: NR E South Okanagan Statement_ DRAFT - 00037.docx; ATT00001.htm

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