

Southern Rocky Mountain Management Plan Focus Group Summary

Forestry Sector Focus Group Sessions I & II: Summary of Issues

March 4 & April 22 in Cranbrook

1. Timeline

Time frame is too short to address all KBLUP issues.

2. Boundary expansion

Boundary expansion is supported in the case that the plan reduces or maintains existing timber access constraints and costs. Boundary expansion is not supported in the case that the plan increases timber access constraints and/or costs.

3. Draft socio-economic analysis and plan review

Industry should have the opportunity to review the draft socio-economic analysis and plan with adequate time to comment.

4. Forest management objectives

Licensees require:

- defined access to timber over a 20 year time frame. Require an economic spatial exercise to demonstrate harvesting feasibility.
- scientifically based constraints.
- maximized access to timber without compromising environmental values.
- provisions for variance of guidelines where justified to allow for good forest management.
- certainty of land use.

5. Recreation access management

- Legislated and signed closures, and enforcement is required. It is not an industry responsibility to enforce non-motorized use.

- The Recreation Management Strategy is not intended to impact industry however industry predicts that costs of forest management in RA2 zones will increase, and in the case that road deactivation is conducted, industrial access may be impacted.
- Industry will not be deactivating roads for recreation access management purposes.

6. Wildlife habitat

- Access management and wildlife regulations should reflect management objectives.
- Wildlife inventory should be conducted to establish the base case, and management objectives and guidelines should be updated accordingly.
- Funding should be identified for ongoing wildlife monitoring.
- Rare and endangered species mapping needs to be reviewed to confirm that species do occur in the landscape units where they are named.
- Identified Wildlife Guidelines require review and refinement.
- Plan must have the flexibility to incorporate new research and update management accordingly.

7. Settlement and communities

- Flathead international border crossing should remain closed.

8. Noxious weeds

- Noxious weeds should be addressed.

9. Old Growth Management Areas

- Forest industry should have input into the development of OGMA management objectives.
- OGMA's may need adjustment over time, so flexibility should be built into the Landscape Unit objectives.
- Industry wants to review the Biodiversity Algorithm methodology.

10. Legislation

- If there is a separate sustainability act, the plan should be included under that act.

11. Implementation and Monitoring Committee

- Require mechanism(s) for incorporating new information over time, and to provide the flexibility needed for adaptive management.

12. Riparian management and Backcountry River Corridor designation

- Riparian areas and Backcountry River Corridors should be defined on an ecological basis, as opposed to using a straight line corridor of fixed width.
- The Bull, Elk, Flathead and Wigwam River Corridors are roaded and developed.
- The Bull River Corridor width of 500m extends to the operability line and is more extensively developed than the other river Corridors. Suggest removing the designation from the Bull River, and continue the status quo use of Forest Practices Code Riparian Management Guidelines. These effectively provide for management of the river corridor with the exception of Visual Quality Objectives. Since Visual Quality Objectives have already been modified on the Bull River they should be removed.
- In the case that the Backcountry River Corridor designation is to be kept, it is critical to retain flexibility in terms of harvesting and management activities in Corridor.

13. Visual Quality Objectives

- KBLUP-Implementation Strategy Scenic Areas Map requires modification to include areas which are visible from the highway and/or communities, but greater than 12 km distance.
- The Scenic Areas Map needs to be reviewed and commented on by industry.
- Contingency Visual Quality Objective wording could be taken from the Moyie LRUP.

14. Water Quality

- Operational Local Area Agreements are a useful tool for stream management.

Mining and Petroleum Focus Group Sessions I & II: Summary of Issues

March 6 & 23, 2002 in Cranbrook

1. Timeline: time frame is too short to address all KBLUP issues.

2. Transparency of process: is required.

3. Plan must be implemented and enforced.

4. Best available science must be used for developing guidelines.

5. Plan review

Sector should have the opportunity to review sections of the plan that concern subsurface resources before the draft is posted on the web.

6. National park proposal

- Industry asks that the Province provide an official position in terms of the Park decision as soon as possible.
- The park proposal is a serious concern to industry as it ties into the Yellowstone to Yukon connectivity concept.
- Park recommendations should be vetted through this process. If a park is established outside this process, government will undermine the SRMMP and industry/government working relationships.
- Concerned that in the effort to address park's conservation interests, the SRMMP guidelines could be made so onerous that the area becomes economically inoperable. SRMMP guidelines must be flexible enough to allow the mining industry to flourish.

7. Boundary expansion

- Potential negative impacts from inclusion in the plan area are:
 - 1) Clarifying KBLUP objectives may reduce site specific flexibility.
 - 2) Industry is faced with uncertainty in regard to the outcome of a new planning process which is unpalatable since industry is lacking trust in government land use planning processes due to experience with the CORE process.
- Potential benefits of inclusion in the plan area are certainty of land use; and consolidation and simplification of operating rules.

8. Socio-economic analysis

- Assumptions from CORE regarding job losses must be revisited and reconciled to build trust with industry. Results should be applied to this plan to determine effectiveness of the planning model.

9. Subsurface resources sector objectives for the plan include:

- Simplification and clarification of regulation. The status quo is not working due to overlapping constraints. Require clear definition of: the interest being managed for; the guideline itself; and the area to which guidelines apply.
- Certainty of land use, based on Liberal government perspective.
- Stream-lined regulation.
- Access to the resource. The value of mineral deposits should be recognized; and the commitment of the Liberal government to maintaining non-park areas as “open for business” should be re-enforced.
- Flexibility in management guidelines to address specific conditions.

10. Prescriptive versus results-based approach

- Use a results-based approach because a prescriptive approach relies on absolute knowledge of each unit, which we don't have. The lack of information lends itself to conservatism on the part of regulators.
- Rules however do provide certainty for operators.

11. Enhanced Resource Development Zones (ERDZ's) for coal

- Coal ERDZs are incomplete and in some areas, incorrect. They only represent about 40% of the known resource. Instead of using existing ERDZ's, define management units based on the known coal resource and ranking (Bob Morris' report), and then consider ERDZ in this context.
- Best economic use determination should be addressed.
- Recognize that zone designations have an economic impact, as they can act as a deterrent to mineral development investment.

12. Old Growth Management Areas

- Industry needs to be informed of the location of existing Old Growth Management Areas.
- Management guidelines should provide flexibility to accommodate subsurface exploration and development.
- Old Growth Management Areas may become more of an issue for mining in the future i.e. high elevation inoperable areas are favored for establishing Old Growth Management Areas, and for mineral exploration.

13. Recreation access management

- Concerned that industry will be indirectly affected by recreational access zoning.
- Zoning creates conflict because recreational motorized access is not permitted and industrial motorized is. Public perception that restricted areas are off-limits for everybody which makes it uncomfortable for industry users and could create artificial barriers to exploration.
- Opposed to any further designation limiting motorized access.
- Reclamation should not be required or carried out. Roads should be treated as assets not liabilities.
- Roads should never be exclusive-use for commercial recreation.
- For existing zoning (Recreation Management Strategy), legislated and signed closures, and enforcement is required, since it is not industry's responsibility to enforce non-motorized use.
- For oil and gas, new roads have to be managed. Gates have the benefit of protecting equipment, but in case of recreational road closure, it should not be industry's responsibility to enforce.
- In the case that oil and gas exploration is successful, road access becomes basically permanent.
- Recreational activity tends to be problematic for industry. Users object to exploration activities. Consider potential impacts of Trans Canada Trail proposal.
- Must use clear language in brochures publicizing Recreation Management Strategy stating that this area is part of the available land base for industrial mining and forestry activity.
- Trans Canada Trail. Plan must be comprehensive and provide certainty in terms of land use, with effective public relations so that the Trail and other recreational use can be established in a positive multiple-use context.

14. Industrial access management

- Alberta Energy Co. would like some direction in the plan.
- Industry already assesses their road impacts and only construct roads where there is an economic benefit i.e. cheaper than helicopter.
- Industrial access must consider seasonal constraints.
- Mining industry requires "protection" for roads. Conflicting messages from Bennett and Tembec on the future of road deactivation. Many other related issues since MOF will be divesting itself of roads.

15. Two Zone System

- Industry may be ensured access, however if terms of access are too onerous, area will be operationally inaccessible.
- Require an appeal process in mine permitting process

16. Connectivity Workshop

- Scientists familiar with mining and energy interests should be represented at these kinds of workshops.
- Connectivity workshop minutes use loaded terms e.g. extinction in reference to wolf population. Term has a high probability of being misinterpreted in review by the public.

17. Mineral potential mapping

- Mineral potential map is flawed and should be rectified for use in the plan. Project Team recommends that industry submit concerns around mineral potential mapping to the Geological Survey. SRMMP will provide for access to the resource without improved mapping and is aware of reservations in regard to mapping. And in the case that the Geological Survey decides to re-do mineral potential mapping, the plan will use it.

18. Backcountry River Corridor

- Industrial activity will continue within the corridor however visuals from the river viewpoint and permanent access are the key concerns.
- Bull River Corridor is already roaded and developed.
- Develop management guidelines that allow industrial activity and flexibility. Will placer mining be permitted?
- Prefer to use status quo i.e. Forest Practices Code Riparian Management Guidelines.

19. Implementation and Monitoring Committee

- Require opportunity to re-visit issues and update plan. Recommend a standing committee to review plan on a periodic basis.

Commercial Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Focus Group Session: Summary of Issues

March 27, 2002 in Fernie

1. Plan must be legislated and enforced**2. Boundary**

Plan boundary should be expanded to a watershed basis.

3. Timeframe

Timeframe is too short for considering of the range of issues.

4. National park proposal

CPAWS national park proposal is opposed, however Parks Canada involvement in the area is beneficial in terms of gaining non-motorized use designations for LU 18.

5. Land use certainty and security

B.C. guide outfitting is an established, world-renowned business with large investment in territory and facilities. Land use certainty and security are needed to protect and encourage investment.

6. Trapping industry

Trapping industry should be recognized in this plan.

Uniqueness of this area

This area's uniqueness is characterized by its outstanding wilderness and wildlife values, which exist in close proximity to the population base. The plan should recognize uniqueness and regulate use to protect it.

8. Recreation access management

- Recreation access management is critically important for protecting wilderness and wildlife values. Generally the less access, the better, especially off the main trunk roads. "Wilderness roads", i.e. abandoned roads, do not provide for wilderness values: old roads must be either closed or reclaimed.

- ATV use of reclaimed roads needs to be addressed.
- Access Management Areas (AMA's) should be implemented.
- Recreation Management Strategy should be legislated and enforced.
- Commercial motorized tours and public motorized use are negatively impacting wildlife populations within critical habitat areas, which needs to be addressed on a site specific basis

9. Crown Land Tenures

- Environmental base-case document should establish existing wildlife inventory prior to the allocation of any further increase in commercial recreation use.

Carrying capacity studies for purpose of providing tenure application evaluation criteria must be conducted prior to issuing additional tenure. Environmental and recreational (physical and social) carrying capacity must be addressed.

- Method for allocating tenures should be consistent between backcountry resource sectors, i.e. guide outfitters and commercial recreation applicants. Suggestions for consistent methods include
 - (1.) allocating commercial recreation "territories" using an open bidding system based on the guide outfitting model.
 - (2.) requiring that applicants conduct socioeconomic and environmental analyses of their proposed uses for evaluation by the tenure administration agency.
 - (3.) agency development and use of application evaluation criteria based on comprehensive carrying capacity information.

Incompatible activities should not overlap. Examples of incompatible uses include:

- (1) backcountry llama trekking, which threatens native wildlife populations with potential for disease transfer.
- (2) commercial motorized tours and public motorized use, which are negatively impacting wildlife populations within critical habitat.

- Protect "quality of experience" by assessing carrying capacity and effectively regulating use. More exclusivity enhances benefits and conserves values. Economic benefits and environmental risks associated with the range of local activities must be identified, and tenure applications evaluated accordingly.

- Note that the illegal cabin at Tunnel Creek is being used commercially.

10. Wildlife Habitat

Huckleberry patches at Sand, McDermid and Iron Creeks should not be permitted to be commercialized due to resulting wildlife-human use conflict.

- Fire maintained ecosystem management is needed on Wigwam Flats, Sheep Mountain, and the Galton north-south sheep corridors.
- As related to harvesting impacts, forest companies should consult with relevant guide outfitters for site specific wildlife information, and address connectivity; roadway visual buffers, and road deactivation in planning cut block layout.
- Domestic sheep and llama trekking threaten native wildlife populations with potential for disease transfer.
- Rare and endangered Tailed frog habitat needs to be addressed at Couldrey Creek.

11. Fisheries resource

- Angling guide use is depleting the Elk River Cutthroat trout due to ineffective fishery regulation. Imperative that situation be addressed as soon as possible.

12. MOF Recreation Sites

- Sale of sites is likely to negatively impact guide outfitting.

13. Range use permits.

- Livestock should be removed from certain areas because of: conflict between livestock, bears and wolves; existing environmental damage from livestock over-use (e.g. Bull River-McDermid Creek and Goat Haven high elevation sites); and the spread of noxious weeds by livestock.
- Remove livestock from an area in the Galton Range.

- Any expansion of range permits outside of currently permitted areas would be a concern.

14. Private Land

- Dominion Government Coal Block should be included in plan because of access issues.
- Lower Flathead International border crossing should not be re-opened.

Recreational Hunting and Fishing Focus Group Session:**Summary of Issues**

March 27, 2002 in Fernie

1. Plan must be legislated and enforced.**2. Land use certainty**

Plan should provide land use certainty in terms of rights to hunt, fish and trap.

3. National park proposal

Proposed park is strongly opposed.

4. Recreation access management:

RMS should be implemented and enforced.

5. Wildlife habitat

Wildlife habitat must be protected in the plan. Critical habitat in Brule and Boivin Creeks needs to be addressed.

6. Fisheries resource

- Angling guide over use on the Elk and Wigwam must be addressed. Wild cutthroat trout population is in decline.
- Fishing and guiding license revenue should be used to fund fisheries resource inventory.
- Seeking opportunity to fish for bull trout.

Unguided recreation (public tourist and local resident)

Gravelled trails and signed trails attract too many users and result in impacts to environment and wildlife. Socher's trail should not be allowed. Confine unguided tourist activities to specific front country areas.

Commercial recreation

Do not encourage increased commercial recreation in Landscape Unit 18.

- Address carrying capacity and allocation of public and commercial recreation. Restrictions excluding the public from certain areas would be unacceptable.

9. Water quality and riparian areas

- Heavy guiding angling use is impacting riparian areas: washroom facilities are needed along the Lower Elk River.

10. Fire maintained ecosystem restoration

- Restoration should be continued on Wigwam Flats and Sheep Mountain.

11. Wildlife trees

- More wildlife trees are needed.

12. Settlement and communities

- In the Flathead Valley, settlement should not be allowed.
- Permanent backcountry facilities for commercial recreation must be minimized.
- Elk Valley private land development is impacting grizzly bear and elk north-south migration, and needs to be addressed.

Montana Focus Group Session: Summary of Issues

April 8, 2002 in Kalispell, Montana

Purpose of meeting with Montana resource interests is to identify cross border resource management interests, information and concerns.

1. Kootenai National Forest

- Kootenai National Forest covers the Montana portion of the Wigwam River drainage.
- The Ten Lakes area is a designated Scenic Area and the surrounding forest has wilderness designations. The international border is accessible from the U.S. by roads that come into close proximity of the border at several sites, including Frozen Lake. Frozen Lake is also road accessible from B.C..
- Kootenay Forest secondary roads are zoned for motorized or non-motorized use. The road to the Scenic Area is non-motorized in summer, but winter motorized use is allowed.
- There is no commodity activity currently in the area.
- Major residential and industrial development is proposed for Eureka and is presently on hold. Future pressures as the result of development in the Wigwam drainage are expected.
- Bighorn sheep: One of only two native bighorn sheep herds in this part of Montana frequents Woods Ranch 1500-acre Wildlife Management Area, and is potentially threatened by a herd of domestic sheep close the border in British Columbia.
- Bull trout fishery: The Wigwam River and Grave Creek are premiere bull trout habitat. Concerns exist regarding B.C. fisheries activity.
- Wide ranging carvnivores: The grizzly bear is protected in Montana due to concern over the population's health, and the Wigwam drainage provides prime habitat. Other species of concern in this area include lynx, wolf and fisher.

2. Glacier National Park

- Glacier National Park is located on the east side of the Flathead River in Montana. The area around the northern Montana Flathead River is referred to as the North Fork (of the Flathead River).
- The area of the park that borders B.C. is designated wilderness; all species in the North Fork use the transboundary habitat.
- Flathead River water quality and bull trout habitat must be protected.
- Potential B.C. mining impacts on critical B.C. Flathead wildlife habitat.

- Activities in close proximity to the border such as timber harvesting, road access and fire suppression are of concern.
- Definition of forest health from an ecosystem-based perspective may differ from the commercial forestry perspective.
- Conservation issues are most prevalent in terms of the shared boundary. Historically, Glacier park staff have emphasized management designations on the U.S. side of the border, such as the Flathead Wild and Scenic River designation, and the National Park and the National Forest Plans.
- Glacier park supported the establishment of the Southern Rocky Mountain Conservation Area.

3. Flathead National Forest

- Flathead National Forest is located on the west side of the Flathead River in Montana. The area around the north Montana Flathead River is referred to as the North Fork.
- There is a grizzly bear management focus in Management Area 11: the lands are multiple-use, but all decisions where there are concerns or conflicts favor the bears.
- Recreation is generally dispersed, and toward the primitive end of the Recreation Opportunities Spectrum.
- Recreation access maps are provided at the National Forest front desk. Off-road motorized use is not allowed in National Forests.
- Tenures: guide-outfitter activity is very minimal; commercial recreation is limited to one exclusive use tenure for commercial snowmobiling; and there are two commercial rafting permits in the North Fork. Commercial rafting use is capped at historic levels plus a small envelope for growth.
- Commercial angling guide activity is limited partly by the relatively poor fishing experience in the North Fork.
- No oil and gas leases, or mining-related activities are currently ongoing in the area.
- Access management parameters to address Grizzly bear habitat management include open road densities, total road densities, and security corridors; and were based on the South Fork bear study recommendation for seasonal closures.
- Fire suppression. Fuel buildup in this area tends to be high, so fires are hard to extinguish. And because of private land proximity, fires are extinguished. There is concern over fires starting in B.C..
- Bull trout and water quality issues. In Montana, the Flathead Wild and Scenic River designation stipulates that no activities can be approved unless they protect or enhance the river.
- Westslope cutthroat trout. A pure-strain westslope cutthroat trout population spawns in an unknown tributary in B.C., which should be addressed.
- Motorized access. Concerned about snowmobile encroachment at Frozen Lake from B.C..

4. Flathead International Border Crossing

Official position will be clarified, however local Customs opinion is that since 9/11 it would be too expensive to open the border.

East Kootenay Residents Land Use Coalition Focus Group Session: Summary of Issues

April 11, 2002 in Fernie

1. Plan must be legislated and enforced.
2. National park proposal is strongly opposed.
3. Ongoing processes should not impact the Recreation Management Strategy.
4. Transparency of process is needed. More effective information sharing is critical to the integrity of the process.
5. Lack of trust in the Project Team.
6. Input to the process must be from broad sector representation. Keep nested processes either strictly technical or open them up to all interest groups.
7. Existing recreational opportunity should be maintained.
8. Existing ungulate winter range guidelines require improvement.

Environmental Interests Sector Focus Group I: Summary of Issues

April 11, 2002 in Fernie

1. Plan must legislated and enforced**2. Timeframe**

Timelines are too short to address site specific issues.

3. Boundary

Boundary should be expanded to a watershed basis.

4. Flexibility

Flexibility must be built into the SRMMP to accommodate future change.

5. Commercial recreation

Backcountry recreation planning is a high priority.

6. Transparency of process

Issues expressed in Focus Group sessions should be made publicly available.

7. Protection of public interest

An independent, secure, professional civil service is needed to protect public interests.

8. Regional biodiversity and wildlife habitat

- A single vision for conservation is needed for the area between Banff/Jasper National Parks and the International Peace Park (Glacier National Park and Waterton Lakes National Park).
- Environmental Risk Assessment needs to be completed and made publicly available. Environmental benchmarks must be established at the landscape level to measure effectiveness of the plan.
- Cumulative impacts of motorized use on wildlife must be addressed.
- Wildlife inventory and target population numbers are needed.
- Aquatic environment is missing from the discussion.

9. National park proposal

- Survey method used to measure Elk Valley support for a national park was ineffective because residents were hindered in their ability to express support.
- The proposed national park would provide economic benefits locally.
- The socio-economic analysis component of SRMMP must consider CPAWS proposal to provide Tembec with \$23-25 million for upgrades to their mill.
- CPAWS national park proposal is fully supported by this group. Final SRMMP document must state that the park option was not an option, as this is a built-in bias in the process.
- Protected areas: disagree with lack of landscape representation and cap on protected areas.

Environmental Interest Sector Focus Group II: Summary of Issues

April 30, 2002 in Cranbrook

1. Wildlife habitat

- New mapping and research are being addressed for ungulates and carnivores in phase 1: plan should address requirements for other species in phase 2.
- Funding for long term wildlife research should be identified in this plan.
- Management objectives should be based on the best available science.

2. Recreation access management

- Recreation Management Strategy must be legislated and enforced with significant penalties.
- Overland motorized use should not be permitted in the entire RMS area, except for snowmobiles under conditions of sufficient snow cover.
- Detailed delineation for RA2 winter and summer, needs to be resolved.
- Access Management Areas and Coordinated Access Management Plans should be implemented.
- Areas of intensive non-motorized recreation use should be identified on winter mapping.
- Commercial recreation wildlife guidelines should apply to both commercial and public use.
- Critical wildlife ranges and denning sites should be mapped.
- Wildlife staff should be authorized to implement closures and restrictions based on new scientific information.
- For helicopter access, landing sites, flight paths and frequency should be defined and future use should not expand beyond these limits.

3. Backcountry River Corridor

- designation on the Upper Elk, Flathead, Wigwam and Bull Rivers should be implemented.

4. Old Growth Management Areas:

- should be deployed to support biodiversity objectives, and should not be placed in the non-contributing land base unless there is benefit to connectivity values.
- should be established by expert opinion based on most recent information, rather than through the use of algorithms.

Agriculture Focus Group: Summary of Issues

April 16, 2002 in Jaffray

1. Plan must legislated and enforced**2. National park proposal**

National park proposal is strongly opposed.

3. Existing livestock grazing

Plan should identify and accommodate existing grazing.

4. Grazing opportunity

Access to Crown grazing over time has been eroded by regulation to the point that ranching is losing sustainability and profitability. The following factors are reducing grazing opportunity and need to be addressed in the plan:

- Livestock exclusion from grazing units in the Wigwam, Flathead and lower Elk drainages.
- Grass seeding cutblocks is no longer being done.
- Ingrowth. Suggestions for addressing in-growth are:
 - (1) allowing a longer window prior to establishing free growing to provide greater interim grazing opportunity;
 - (2) increasing post and rail allotment from ingrown stands;
 - (3) encouraging christmas tree management to provide harvesting opportunity for christmas trees while increasing forage;
 - (4) burning older, severely suppressed stands.

5. Recreation access management

- ATV's and snowmobiles need to be restricted to roads only. Overland (trail) use is not acceptable.
- Motorized recreation is not compatible with Crown grazing and ranching.

6. Commercial recreation

- Commercial recreation planning; carrying capacity and compatibility of uses need to be addressed. E.g. Overlapping Crown grazing, guide outfitting and an ATV commercial recreation tenure is not working in Bull River. ATV use is not compatible with grazing and guide outfitting.
- Bull River Guest Lodge is attracting European tourists to range areas. This is raising concerns regarding potential introduction of foot-and-mouth disease.

7. Noxious weeds

- Weed management needs to be based on managing access and managing disturbed sites (i.e. grass seeding).

8. Predator control

- Bull River livestock grazing patterns and calf survival are currently impacted by predators. This needs to be addressed.

9. Agricultural Land Reserve

Plan should identify ALR lands and accommodate potential future agricultural use of these lands.

8. Riparian Areas

Important for livestock and can be managed to protect riparian habitats. Evidence of livestock does not equate to damage to the ecosystem.

9. Christmas tree industry

The Christmas tree industry is in decline in the East Kootenay's because of regulations limiting harvest. Industry is seeking access to harvest trees in areas of ingrowth; and areas planned for burning, slashing and spacing.

Local Government Focus Group: Summary of Issues

April 25, 2002 in Sparwood

1. Plan must be legislated and enforced.**2. National Park Proposal**

- Local residents do not support National Park establishment in the Flathead Valley, as they wish to retain flexibility and control over the area locally.

3. Recreation access management

- RMS must be implemented and enforced.
- Overland motorized use should not be permitted throughout the RMS area.
- Costs and benefits of activities should be evaluated, and benefits must outweigh costs before accommodation is made for the activity. One example is ATV use, which potentially could be accommodated through the designation of a specific area.
- More detailed planning is needed to resolve motorized and non-motorized use conflicts in the Wilson Creek area (a.k.a. Cummings Creek).
- Land use certainty and effective regulation should be provided to enable communities to use the backcountry for economic development, while at the same time practicing sound environmental stewardship.
- For future commercial recreation development to expand to its potential, appropriate zoning needs to be provided. RMS lacked adequate commercial representation and may be biased toward public recreation.

4. Wildlife Habitat

- Conservation of wildlife values must be addressed.
- Wildlife resource information should be made available for reference for local planning processes.

5. Fisheries

- Angling guide over-use on the Elk and Wigwam Rivers is causing the decline of the fishery. Guiding licenses need to be limited and more judiciously allocated; guide outfitter tenure allocation and regulation should be used as a model.

6. Carrying Capacity

- Conduct carrying capacity studies to address natural systems and social experience. Top priorities for carrying capacity studies are 1. community watersheds; and 2. domestic watersheds.

7. Backcountry River Corridor

- Designation should be implemented on the Elk, Wigwam, Bull and Flathead Rivers to ensure no motorized use.

8. Old Growth

- Plan should acknowledge the importance of the Cedar Valley/Island Lake privately owned old growth. This old growth is highly valued by Elk Valley residents and the possibility for a potential Crown-private land swap should be considered for this parcel. A mechanism is needed for long term protection of old growth on private land.

9. Commercial Recreation

- Criteria for evaluating commercial recreation applications are needed and should be developed based on Provincial Stewardship Principles.
- Social and environmental carrying capacities must be determined, and the supply of backcountry ecotourism limited accordingly, to protect the product and the underlying resource.
- Official Community Plans should be brought into the application review process.
- Commercial recreation tenures have a connotation of exclusivity. Existing local operators currently recognize public access rights, however future non-local applicants may not. Non-exclusive rights must be emphasized, and then adhered to by the tenure holder.

10. Settlement and communities

- Private land is limiting access to the backcountry for commercial recreation.
- Settlement planning needs to be collaboratively addressed by local and provincial governments.

11. Plan implementation and monitoring team

- Plan must be implemented, and provide mechanisms for incorporating change and flexibility.
- Method for linking LWBC commercial recreation tenure administration to strategic direction provided in SRMMP needs to be addressed.
- Locally elected government input to provincial planning processes represents broad public interests, as opposed to special interests.
- Dialogue between broad sector interests and local and provincial government through the Recreation Management Strategy has been effective for addressing issues. Ongoing communication is needed.

First Nations Focus Group: Summary of Issues

April 26, 2002 in Grasmere

1. Protocol

Recognition of government to government relationship with First Nations needs to be clearly established. Appropriate protocol for communications should be developed. First Nations request that in regard to government planning processes, dialogue begin with them first to determine how to build the plan. Currently, there is no agreement by First Nations to participate in this process.

2. Timelines are too tight for meaningful consultation.

Meaningful consultation requires relationship building over a long period of time, as well as a commitment to resources for educating the community.

3. Representation

Ktunaxa Kinbasket Treaty Council Land and Resources do not represent First Nations interests; community members represent themselves.

4. Treaty negotiations

Treaty negotiations are undermined by this plan, since government is not willing to address these same issues at the treaty table.

Tourism Sector Focus Group: Summary of Issues

May 1, 2002 in Fernie

1. Recreation access management

- Licensing and identification is needed for all motorized users including ATV's and motorized bikes.
- Designated areas should be identified for motorized recreational off-road use. Use terms to label the area which will encourage respectful use of the environment i.e. "Challenge" as opposed to "Sacrifice" or "Play" areas.
- Overland motorized use should not be permitted, and this needs to be enforced.
- Public education must be provided so that the reasons for non-motorized use designations are well understood.

2. Boundary

- SRMMP boundary needs to be expanded to include complete watersheds as a minimum area for planning.

3. Assessment of tenure applications for commercial recreation

- In assessing new commercial recreation proposals consider: carrying capacity and "quality of experience"; compatibility of uses; and certainty and consistency for existing tenure holders. LWBC should not fast track commercial recreation applications but rather assess them more thoroughly to avoid undermining existing businesses.
- Criteria for evaluating the applicant's ability to deliver the most effective economic use of the land need to be developed. LWBC should attempt to achieve a match of interest and territory, and then ensure that proposals are economically viable.
- Commercial recreation operators should seek partnerships to utilize existing backcountry infrastructure.
- Guide outfitter and range tenure allocation methods should be used as models.
- Prior to issuing new commercial recreation tenures, local interests should be consulted to determine potential impacts.
- Existing established commercial recreation businesses are seeking opportunities to convert leases to fee simple ownership. If these opportunities are provided, long term planning and investment will be accommodated.
- Certainty on rules and territory, and consistency within the tourism sector are needed, (one example of inconsistency is in the relative costs of leasing Crown land and the taxation of private land).

4. Address “quality of experience” in SRMMP as follows:

- Conduct carrying capacity research;
- Consider compatibility of activities;
- Provide certainty on rules and territory, and consistency within the tourism sector;
- Carry out a tourism development strategy;
- Protect viewscapes from highways and lakes;
- Provide tourism sector with new opportunities and expansion opportunities, once the “limits of acceptable change” are determined.
- Protect wildlife values by addressing connectivity and habitat management issues (especially in-growth).
- Provide education, and an arbitration and mediation process. Use enforcement as last resort.
- Keep the unique wilderness and wildlife qualities of this area at the forefront, and protect the qualities through regulation.
- Provide a forum for ongoing dialogue between resource users, tourism and local economic development for the purpose of addressing issues and future results based Forest Practices Code objectives.

5. Commercial over use on the Elk River

Existing guiding legislation can be more effectively applied as follows:

- maintain and review guide records;
- limit number of allowable guide assistants;
- tax Canadian out-of-province guides through B.C. business licensing;
- increase license fee;
- require proof of insurance.