

PART B – MANAGEMENT PLAN

B.1.0 INTRODUCTION

B.1.1 Plan Area/Geography

The Southern Rocky Mountain Management Plan area (the "plan area" or "SRMMP area") lies within the Continental and Border Ranges of the Canadian Rocky Mountains. It includes the Canadian portions of the Flathead River and Wigwam River drainages, as well as the west side of the Elk River drainage and the east side of the Bull River drainage (Maps B.1.1). The plan area extends from the B.C./Montana border north to the southern boundary of Heights of the Rockies Provincial Park. The SRMMP is a Provincial Crown land plan; no Federal lands, private lands, or protected areas are included. The plan area has a total area of 362,819 ha and includes 9 Landscape Units and a portion of one other (Table B.1.1).

Recognizing that activities outside of the plan area may influence the SRMMP, a larger area, including the complete Elk and Bull River drainages and provincial parks, was considered for resource evaluation purposes. This "resource evaluation area" has a total area of 748,938 ha within the Rocky Mountain Forest District, and encompasses 16 complete Landscape Units (Table B.1.1).

Table B.1.1: Summary of Planning Area

| | Landscape Units | Total Area (ha) for Landscape Units | Plan area (i.e. Crown non-park area) (ha) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| SRMMP Area | C14-C18, C23-C26, part of C27 | 441,099 | 362,819 |
| Resource Evaluation Area | 14 -28, 38 | 748,938 | |

Source: Cranbrook Forest District PCRS Reports by Landscape Unit

The plan area is unusual in its wide variety of significant resource values. These include wild-land attributes and remote landscapes, diverse and contiguous natural habitats and world-renowned populations of fish and wildlife. High conservation, scenic and recreation values of the land and waters of the plan area contribute to the quality of life for residents, and are spurring the current dramatic growth in tourism-related industries. Known subsurface resources include natural gas, minerals and coking coal; coal deposits are hosted by the same coal-bearing formation as that occurring at the coal mines that underpin the economy of the plan area. Forestry, agriculture, trapping and other resource-related activities contribute to a diversified economy. These values collectively drive the need for a comprehensive, integrated management plan.

Maps:

B.1.1 Overview

E.1.1 Overview

B.1.2 Planning Context and Process

In November of 2001 the B.C. government decided to rescind the Environment and Land Use Act Order-In-Council that created the former Southern Rocky Mountain Conservation Area. Kootenay regional staff of the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) were directed to develop a new plan with a balanced approach for resource management in the Southern Rocky Mountain area. The plan endeavours to balance economic, social and environmental values for the long-term health of the economy, communities and ecosystems.

The SRMMP area is larger than the previous Conservation Area, which utilized the current forest-operability line as its boundary and did not include most of the operable forest land-base (generally lower-elevation lands). The SRMMP, on the other hand, includes all operable and inoperable forest lands.

Three planning cells in the Rocky Mountain Trench, covering Sheep Mountain and Wigwam Flats, which were part of the Conservation Area, have been deleted from the SRMMP, and will be included in a separate planning process.

Plan context

The SRMMP is a landscape-level strategic plan for resource management on provincial Crown lands. The SRMMP has been written so that its contents can be incorporated into a larger Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP) at a future date.

As a landscape-level plan, the SRMMP is intended to be consistent with the Cabinet-approved strategic regional land-use direction for the area:

- East Kootenay Land Use Plan (EKLUP, 1995);
- Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan Implementation Strategy (KBLUP-IS, 1997);
- Kootenay-Boundary Higher Level Plan (KBHLP, 2002).

The first two provided policy direction, while the third established Resource Management Zones and legal Objectives for forest development under the Forest Practices Code of BC Act (FPC). The SRMMP also incorporates and builds on these broader-level plans, and is intended to provide a "one-stop shop" for clear land and resource management direction in the area; in effect it replaces all these broader-level plans for the SRMMP area.

For the plan to be successful in its overall goal of balancing economic, social and environmental values, the intent statements and resource objectives should be considered and implemented in an integrated manner.

Plan scope

In addition to the requirement of consistency with broader-level plans, there are several bounds on the scope of the SRMMP planning exercise that are consistent with its overall

context and mandate. Background on some of this material can be found in Appendices 10.0 and 11.0. For example, the SRMMP will:

- be consistent with provincial draft Statement of Commitment to Sustainable Resource Management and related Governance Principles (see Appendix 6.0)
- recognize and balance resource values and uses
- consult with First Nations
- seek input from stakeholders and the public
- support sustainable economic development
- be accountable
- provide the basis for consistent decision-making in the area and create land-use certainty
- be clear and easy to implement
- help to reduce regulation
- respect existing tenures and rights in the plan area

In addition, it is recognized that certain activities outside the plan area will influence resources and their management within the plan area, but these are out of the control of the SRMMP and must await further landscape-level planning before integration can occur.

It is important to recognize that, for the plan to be effective, all resource users will need to respect and work with other users of the landbase.

First Nations consultation

The SRMMP area lies within the traditional territory of the Ktunaxa Nation, which includes Kinbasket peoples (“Ktunaxa”). The Ktunaxa are in Stage 4 of the 6-stage Treaty Process.

The Ktunaxa have been informed of the SRMMP process through:

- Meetings (presentation to Ktunaxa Kinbasket Treaty Council (“KKTC”) at their request; cross-cultural workshop; KKTC-MSRM staff meetings)
- SRMMP Public Open Houses
- KKTC staff participation on the Interagency Liaison Group (IALG)
- KKTC staff participation on the SRMMP Project Team
- Copies of maps and the Public Review draft provided to KKTC office
- Written correspondence, telephone calls, email
- Publicly-accessible website
- Discussion with, and input from, KKTC staff.

The Ktunaxa do not consider that consultation, as of August 2003, on the SRMMP has been meaningful or adequate.

Meaningful consultation with the Ktunaxa will be pursued as described in Section B.2.0 and Part G.

Stakeholder and public consultation

The SRMMP process is intended to be open and transparent, and to rely on extensive consultation with the public and stakeholder groups.

Key components of the consultation process included:

- Open Houses (Appendix 13.0)
- Public Meetings (Appendix 13.0)
- Multi-stakeholder workshops for the Recreation Management Strategy (RMS) (Appendix 17.0)
- Technical meetings of the East Kootenay Ungulate Winter Range Committee (Appendix 8.0)
- Connectivity workshops and technical meetings (Appendix 7.0)
- Website information including the Background Report, Public Review Draft and comment-submission link
- Focus Group meetings (Appendix 14.0)
- Sixty-day period for public comments on the Public Review Draft (Appendix 16.0)

Focus Groups were sector-based, and included environmental, subsurface resources, forestry, agriculture, local government and community economic development, commercial guide-outfitting, recreational hunting and fishing, and tourism interests, as well as Montana interests and the East Kootenay Residents' Land Use Coalition. Meetings with Focus Groups were intended to provide the Project Team with advice, information and perspectives on resource management issues and to update various groups on plan goals and progress.

Interagency consultation

To ensure that government agencies were kept informed and allowed the opportunity for input, an Interagency Liaison Group (IALG) was established. This group included staff of the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Treaty Council, and senior regional representatives of government agencies (Appendix 15.0), including: Land and Water BC, the Ministries of Energy and Mines, Forests, Water, Land and Air Protection and Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Parks Canada, the Regional District of East Kootenay, and Alberta government. The IALG met periodically with the SRMMP and Recreation Management Strategy Project Teams (Appendix 15.0).

Socio-economic and environmental assessments

An independent socio-economic and environmental assessment (SEEA) of the plan was undertaken as part of the SRMMP (see Appendix 19.0). It examines the projected impacts of the plan on various sectors and values.

Separate socio-economic and environmental base-cases were developed, describing the pre-SRMMP situation. Similarly, a socio-economic assessment and environmental risk assessment of the Public Review Draft (February, 2003) were generated.

Plan outline

The main body of the SRMMP (the remainder of Part B) is divided into chapters based on resource values and issues. The main chapter headings are: First Nations, Subsurface Resources, Forestry (Timber), Agriculture and Range, Trapping, Recreation, Tourism, Conservation, Water, Visual Landscapes, Heritage and Paleontological Resources, and Communities, Settlement and Infrastructure. Several of the chapters are sub-divided into resource-specific sections.

Each chapter or section contains basic information needed by resource managers. The mandatory provisions, namely Resource objectives, have been made easily identifiable. More detailed and background information on many issues and resource values, including descriptions of Best management practices, can be found in the appendices.

Chapters or sections are comprised of:

- Issues
- Intent: an expression of management policy that provides context for reviewing plan effectiveness as well as ongoing and proposed resource activities
- Resource objectives: spatial, measurable and mandatory direction; establishes the requirements for results-based regulation
- Best management practices: guidance relevant to operational activities; either located in Appendix 5.0, or in separate documents (latter in italics with links where available)
- Economic benefits and opportunities
- Measures of success: parameters for assessment of plan effectiveness
- Maps

Part C contains information on plan review and monitoring, while Part D covers operational implementation.

Technical maps necessary to implement plan direction are listed in Part E and will be available online or in the Cranbrook MSRM office. Other maps used in preparation of the plan and/or considered important for background information are contained in Appendix 1.0.

Part F includes definitions that apply to Resource objectives and intent statements. Either a definition is provided for a word or phrase or the source document is named. The exception to this is in Section B.7.1 where definitions that apply to recreation access and development are presented within the section.

Part G provides an outline of the process of review and revision of the SRMMP to consider the interests and concerns of the Ktunaxa Nation in the plan area.

