

PART A - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Southern Rocky Mountain Management Plan (SRMMP) covers the Flathead, Wigwam, the east side of the Bull River and the west side of the Elk River drainages in the southeast corner of British Columbia. Consistent with government's draft Statement of Commitment to Sustainable Resource Management and related Governance Principles, the intent of the plan is to support sustainable economic development balanced with social and environmental values for the long-term health of the economy, communities and ecosystems.

Specific resource management direction is contained in Part B. Chapters in Part B are: Introduction, 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.

Sections within the Recreation chapter cover recreation access and development, and resident hunting and angling. Tourism sections are: general tourism, adventure travel, guide-outfitting and angling guiding. Conservation topics include: riparian, old growth, wildlife tree retention, wide-ranging carnivores, ungulates, ungulate winter range, species at risk, access, connectivity, fish, grassland communities, air quality and general ecosystem health.

Individual chapters and sections address the following aspects of management of the specific resource:

- 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: provides references and links to best management practices and relevant documents
- Economic benefits and opportunities
- Measures of success: parameters and trends for assessment of plan effectiveness
- Maps

The SRMMP is consistent with direction from: the 1995 East Kootenay Land Use Plan; the 1997 Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan Implementation Strategy; and the 2002 Kootenay-Boundary Higher Level Plan order. For the plan area, the SRMMP provides a one-stop shop for resource managers and operators to find all the information needed to appropriately conduct their activities. In the new results-based context, the SRMMP specifies those targets and objectives which need to be met.

The SRMMP does not limit, and is not intended to limit, ongoing Treaty negotiations between the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Treaty Council, British Columbia and Canada. The Ktunaxa Nation has been informed during the planning process. However, to date the Ktunaxa do not consider the consultation to have been meaningful or adequate.

Consideration of the Ktunaxa's interests in the plan area will occur following approval of the plan (see Part G).

Public consultation, through informal discussions and meetings, sector focus group sessions, workshops, public meetings, open houses, a 60-day public review, and the SRMMP website, has been extensive.

Considerable significant, new technical work has gone into preparation of the SRMMP. New ungulate winter range mapping and guidance are based on the extensive work of the East Kootenay Ungulate Winter Range Committee. The emphasis has shifted from species management to habitat management, and from cover requirements to forage availability. A totally new approach to wildlife connectivity has been developed, through interaction with scientific and technical experts. The emphasis has shifted from definition of wide corridors to utilization of a matrix approach, in which specific ecological elements (e.g. ungulate habitats, grizzly bear avalanche tracks, riparian zones, old growth and mature forest areas, and inoperable forest) are managed in a coordinated manner. Riparian management for the Flathead River and its major tributaries is based on flood-plain mapping ("enhanced riparian zones") as opposed to strict numerical setbacks. This approach will be extended to the other major rivers over time.

The Recreation Access and Development section provides management direction for various outdoor recreational activities, based on stakeholder negotiations.

Certainty for industry has been achieved through several initiatives. Old growth management areas (together with mature seral areas in certain Landscape Units and biogeoclimatic subzones) have been defined, allowing forest managers to plan effectively.

The new two-zone system for minerals is fully incorporated, addressing long-standing concerns of the mining sector in relation to the implications of land-use plan strategic objectives.

Community stability will be enhanced through establishment of a stable investment climate, which will encourage economic sectors to develop to their sustainable potential.

The SRMMP will be monitored and amended over time, through an advisory committee, as conditions and priorities change.