

Wapiti Corridor Planning Society



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Local User Groups Complete Land-Use Plan for Wapiti Corridor

Following extensive input from hundreds of users of the Wapiti Corridor – 235 square kilometres of land in the Wapiti River Valley between Pipestone Creek and the Smoky River – a Wapiti Corridor Multi-Use Plan has been completed and now awaits provincial government approval.

The plan establishes a framework for land use activities within the Corridor and is consistent with the Alberta Land-Use Framework. It was submitted to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource and Development and Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation in December by the Wapiti Corridor Planning Society (WCPS). WCPS is a volunteer organization represented by the Corridor's stakeholders, including agricultural, recreational, residential, industrial and municipal interests.

The grassroots society initiated planning in 2009, in response to the growing number and diversity of users and interest groups within the Wapiti River valley. The plan makes recommendations to balance the needs of these user-groups, enhance public safety and protect the environment over the next 50 years.

Along with creating a “road-map” for current and future use in the Corridor, the plan makes recommendations for an implementation process that consists of cross jurisdictional coordination, adaptive management and shared resourcing. The WCPS has identified the need for increased enforcement within the Wapiti Corridor, to help manage potential problems and issues associated with the increasing number of users.

The County of Grande Prairie, City of Grande Prairie and the MD of Greenview have already given the plan their support. Once the plan is adopted by the Province, the WCPS will monitor and provide feedback to user groups and to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation and the local municipalities on the success of the plan's implementation. The WCPS will also review and make updates to the plan every five years.

The Corridor is recognized as having some of the most unique topography in Alberta. It is also an important resource for the region. It serves as a water source for many, including the City of Grande Prairie; is an economic driver, with several industries located in the valley; is a major recreation area; and is home for a number of private residences.

To view the Wapiti Corridor Multi-Use Plan, visit www.wapiticorridor.ca.

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QUOTES:

WCPS Chair Jerry Bauer

The WCPS worked very hard to create a plan that would protect and sustain the unique ecology and landforms of the corridor while protecting land rights. I believe this plan achieves this, and I now look forward to its successful implementation.

County of Grande Prairie Reeve Leanne Beaupre

I am really pleased with the level of commitment the Corridor's stakeholders and the municipal governments have put into developing a land-use plan for such an important area in our region. The extensive consultation with all the user groups has resulted in a very comprehensive and visionary plan.

City of Grande Prairie Mayor Bill Given

We are pleased to see this plan go forward to the provincial government for approval. The City recognizes that the Corridor is an important feature of our region. We appreciate the effort and stakeholder consultation that went in to ensuring the plan balanced the needs of the variety of users as well as the natural environment.

MD of Greenview Reeve Dale Gervais

The MD of Greenview is pleased with the Wapiti Corridor Multi-Use Plan. It is inclusive for users, and protective of the environment and natural resources. Former Greenview Councillor Lesley Vandemark worked tirelessly with the WCPS to make this plan a reality, and we are grateful for her contributions.

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