

Wapiti Corridor Planning Society



Feedback Received at the November 22, 2012 Public Open House:

On Thursday, November 22 2012, the Wapiti Corridor Planning Society hosted an Open House Meeting at the TEC Centre at Evergreen Park. The purpose of this meeting was to present the multi-use plan to the public to obtain feedback prior to its submission to the Province.

Attendance and Affiliation

88 people were in attendance at this meeting. On the attendance sheet, people were asked to list their affiliation with the Wapiti Corridor. 71 of the 88 attendees listed their affiliation. Some people may have listed more than one affiliation. The affiliation results are as follows:

Affiliation Type	Number
Agriculture	1
Business Related	6
Board Member	4
Community Group	22
First Nation	2
Grazing Lease Holder	3
Government	8
Land Owner	1
Personal	6
Recreation	1
Resident	18
TOTAL	74

Public Feedback Survey Results

Attendees were also provided the opportunity to fill out a voluntary Public Feedback Survey. 29 of the 88 attendees commented on this survey. Respondents may have provided more than one answer per question, or respondents may not have answered the question. Questions 1 and 2 were closed ended questions, and questions 3 through 5 were open ended. The results are on the following page.

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Question 1: How did you find out about the public open house meeting?

Method	Number
Word of Mouth	12
Radio	10
Newspaper	8
Email	4
Magnet Sign	3
Mail-out	3
Facebook	1
Other	1
Television Advertisement	1
Webpage	1

Most respondents were notified of the public open house meeting by word of mouth. Respondents also identified that the radio and newspaper were the next most common ways of meeting notification. Email, magnet signs, mail-outs, the internet and television were less commonly noted as a means of notification.

Question 2: Please indicate what group(s) you belong to.

Group	Number
Recreation	11
Agriculture	10
Resident	10
Community Group	7
Aboriginal	2
Landowner	1
Trapper	1
Government	0
Industrial/Commercial	0

The majority of respondents indicated that they participate in recreational pursuits, are involved in agriculture and/or reside in the corridor. A large proportion of respondents are also involved in community groups within the corridor. Those having aboriginal interests, trapping rights and own land are also groups that stakeholders belong to.

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Question 3: What do you like most about the plan?

Response	Number
Appropriate land uses proposed / sound planning work	21
Lots of public input	5
Proposed enforcement	2

Respondents were pleased with the amount of planning work undertaken to create the multi-use plan. Respondents are also happy with the amount of public input that went into creating the plan, and agree with the proposed enforcement mechanisms.

Question 4: Is there anything in the plan you would like to see changed?

Response	Number
No motorized trails allowed	5
Additional access points needed	3
Grazing leases not be included in plan (subarea 3)	3
Ways to control uses	3
Protect natural areas	2
Allow motorized trails	1
Boundary change	1
Keep non-motorized away from motorized uses	1
More detail needed	1
More enforcement needed	1
More scientific research needed	1
Provincial designation for land	1
Safe crossings for animals	1
Tree planting to replace Mountain Pine Beetle trees	1

Answers to question 4 varied; however, 5 respondents indicated that they would like to see no motorized trails allowed in the corridor, and specifically north of the Wapiti River, and at the Old Bezanson Townsite. Respondents also indicated that additional access points are needed to accommodate water access. Grazing lease holders in subarea 3 have indicated that they do not wish to have their land included in the plan. Also, respondents would like to see the plan preserve and restore natural areas, enable mechanisms to protect animals, reduce conflicting uses, and provide more in depth scientific detail.

Question 5: Is there anything else you would like the Board to consider as they finalize the plan?

Response	Number
Board manage implementation	5
Manage motorized use in the corridor	5
Increase access points	3
More input needed	2
Apply for provincial grants	1
Decrease access points	1
Location of proposed bypass road	1
Provide timelines	1
Remove grazing lease land (subarea 3)	1
Share meeting information with public	1

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Respondents indicated that they would like to see the Wapiti Corridor Planning Society board members manage implementation of the plan, and to manage motorized use in the corridor. Respondents would also like to see an increase in access points for emergency and recreational purposes, and would like the Board to consult further with Aboriginal groups. Respondents also identified that they would like the Board to apply for provincial grants, decrease the number of motorized access points, be involved in the planning process for the location of the proposed bypass road, to remove the grazing lease land in subarea 3 from the plan, provide timelines to the public and share the open house meeting information with the public.

Additional Feedback

Additional verbal feedback received by meeting attendees included:

- A stakeholder would like the planned License of Occupation Road to be put on the Subarea 4 map between the Weyerhaeuser sites to the County's long term gravel lease.
- When Alberta Transportation twins Highway 40, a stakeholder would like to see a pedestrian and horse user passageway (ie. a large culvert) installed under Highway 40 north of the bridge. This passageway would permit the safe crossing of people between subareas 4 and 5.
- A stakeholder would like the existing fence and road on the west side of Range Road 65 extended 380 feet to reduce off highway vehicle trespassing onto the landowners land.
- Three individuals with two residences off of Range Road 65 west in the Dunes West area are currently experiencing a lot of trespassing on their private land by off highway vehicles. The Wapiti Corridor plan is proposing a future off highway vehicle staging area nearby. The individuals would like fencing to be provided to keep off highway vehicles off of their property, particularly if a staging area is created nearby.
- A stakeholder suggested that we recommend that the area of the Wapiti Corridor north of the Wapiti River be added back into the "prime protection zone" for Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (AESRD). This would primarily make AESRD responsible for forest fire protection on the crown land in the Dunes.
- The model airplane club is excited about the possibility of the gravel leases east of Highway 40 becoming recreational sites. They would like to become part of the development, and would like the development to permit the take-off and landing of both land and float planes
- The Peace Area Riding for the Disabled (PARDS) group would like the proposed east bypass road to be built south of Evergreen Park rather than north of it. If the road is built north of Evergreen Park, it would isolate horse activities because the area would be bisected by the road.
- It was suggested by a former Sustainable Resource Development employee that the area north of the Wapiti River be changed from the County of Grande Prairie to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (AESRD) having primary fire control and protection responsibility for the land. If the area fell under AESRD responsibility, it would be easier to obtain Fire Smart funding from the province.
- Three grazing lease holders talked to Board members, and made it clear they would like the following changes made to the plan:
 - a) All lands east of Bear River should be deleted from the plan;
 - b) Any grazing leases on the border of the plan's area should be deleted from the plan; and
 - c) Consider recommending a Provincial Park between the grazing lease west of Bear Creek and the proposed area of trails for off highway vehicles. The park could help protect the area and also act as a buffer between the grazing leases and the off highway vehicle users.