

HUMAN USE MANAGEMENT REVIEW



March 3, 2015

Consultation Summary, Final Recommendations and
Implementation Plan

Stakeholders were selected to represent a broad spectrum of voices from the community including key partner organizations, relevant Provincial departments, expertise to share, key landowners, and participant involvement and interest in the issue. It's also important to note that while participants were selected to represent their organizations, at the same time most were also trail users and encouraged to bring that knowledge and perspective to the process as well.

Workshop output

Over the course of the three workshops, the stakeholder group reviewed recommendations from past processes and reports focused on addressing aspects of human use in the Bow Valley; essentially reviewing the work done over the past 15 years. The results of this review, along with individual input from the stakeholder group members, culminated in a package of recommendations which were then shared with the public (described below).

Early on in the process, both the Project Steering Team and the Stakeholder Group identified that input from the community on the draft recommendations was necessary and essential. Successful implementation of the recommendations will require participation from the community, therefore understanding what the community has to say on these issues will be a key component of success.

Public Engagement and Presentation of Recommendations

Public engagement

The following were the key components of the public engagement strategy:

1. an online survey advertised in the Rocky Mountain Outlook, on the Town of Canmore website, and through targeted emails to key community leaders (including key people in the biking, trail running, skiing and dog walking communities);
2. meetings with key community members including dog walking companies and dog owners;
3. an open house at Elevation Place (December 3, 2014) ; and
4. an open house in conjunction with Wildsmart's December speaker event (December 9, 2014).

Participation in the engagement was unprecedented – a total of 525 people responded to the survey.

- An equal number of men and women responded.
- Activities represented included hiking, biking (road and mountain), trail running, walking, dog walking, horseback riding, climbing, snowshoeing, skiing (cross country and touring), camping and fishing.
- The majority of respondents were 56-70, followed closely by the 26-45 age category.
- While the majority of respondents were permanent residents, there was also good representation from semi-permanent residents and some visitors.

Survey feedback was both narrative (and therefore qualitative) and quantitative. And with 525 participants, the survey responses represent a huge body of information which we can refer to, to help inform the development and implementation of the recommendations moving forward. We will continue to refer to and consider this large reserve of community feedback where appropriate as we refine and implement key recommendations.

Key themes expressed during public engagement

The following represents a summary of some of the key overarching themes expressed by the community during the public engagement. As we move forward with implementation of the recommendations, we recognize it will be important to consider these issues and the ways in which these items can be addressed.

Passion! The community is clearly passionate about this issue. People took an incredible amount of time and effort to respond to the survey, confirming these issues are very important.

Recognition that this is **hard work**, but important, therefore we should do it.

Conflict and disagreement regarding the nature of the problem (is there a problem?) and conflict between user groups. Most of the recommendation categories (with the exception of education) included collections of people with opposing opinions.

An expressed **desire for measurability of efforts and communication** of the information decisions are based on.

There's a recurring sentiment expressed in each user group that **it's ok to be off trail in wildlife corridors so long as you're behaving responsibly**.

A concern that we have **too many rules**, and concerns about adding more rules, especially if we're unable to enforce existing rules.

People are **concerned about development**. But while acknowledging this, it's also unrealistic to expect we can close Canmore to development. And even if we could, there are forces beyond our control

which will still result in more and more people coming to the Bow Valley to recreate. Therefore there is a need to address the development question in a balanced and realistic way.

While there is an appetite for action, **there is still a skepticism** that needs to be addressed (e.g. it won't work, do we know if there's a problem?, off leash dogs are fine, fruit trees are fine, we should be able to use all the trails, other people don't listen and they break all the rules except for me). Therefore there's a strong need for better communication and sustained ongoing commitment to education and information.

A concern regarding **loss of freedom to explore**. Therefore it's essential to communicate that we're not trying to stop people from enjoying the landscape around Canmore, but rather to encourage enjoyment of it in appropriate ways while also directing people to where it is appropriate to explore.

Strong desire for **fiscal responsibility** with attention to how/if implementation of the recommendations may impact taxes.

Recognition that while the Town of Canmore is leading this initiative, it **should be a collaborative effort** including Alberta Parks, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, key landowners and key partners.

The following pages present a summary of what we heard from the community on each the eight recommendation categories.

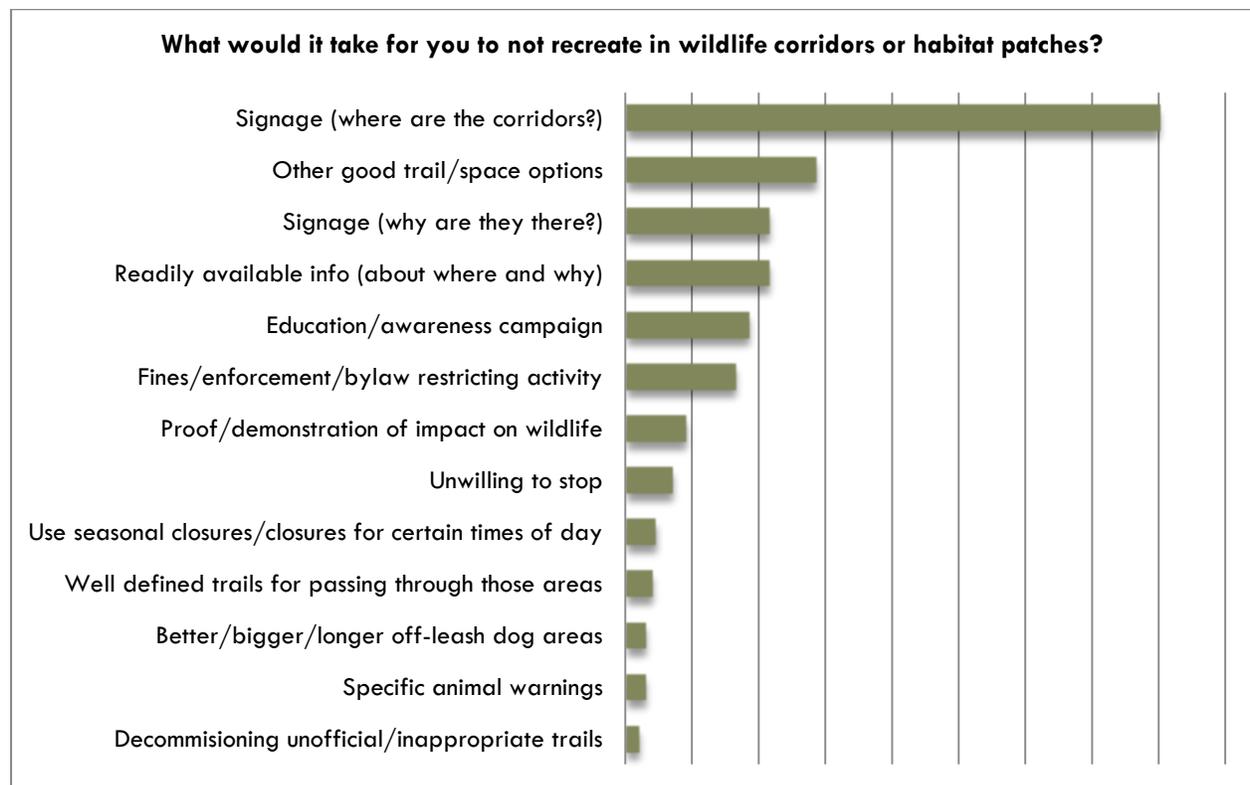
What we heard on Knowledge of wildlife corridors and habitat patches

The community expressed an amazing amount of general awareness regarding the presence of wildlife corridors and habitat patches – 98% of respondents stated they were aware Canmore is surrounded by these important areas.

The majority of respondents were also confident they could locate these areas on a map, however these numbers declined significantly when asked if they could be located while outside on the landscape.

Some key themes emerged when respondents were asked “If you currently recreate in wildlife corridors or habitat patches, what would it take to change your behaviour to not recreate in those areas” – **signage** in appropriate locations with key information as to why (i.e. the desire to know the rationale) and the availability of good **alternative locations** for the desired activity:

- Signage that explains WHY and WHERE they are is essential and should be clear in terms of what is and isn't allowed in corridors, which is currently a point of confusion.
- Options – offer people alternatives.
- Some good suggestions regarding different options for closures – such as dusk-dawn closures during certain seasons.
- Information – people want to know where the corridors/patches are, why they're important and why we're asking people to stay on designated trails and behave appropriately while in them.
- When asked this open question, fewer people suggested enforcement type actions.



What we heard on Education

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Residents and visitors to Canmore are informed and empowered to live responsibly with wildlife and exposed to key information.

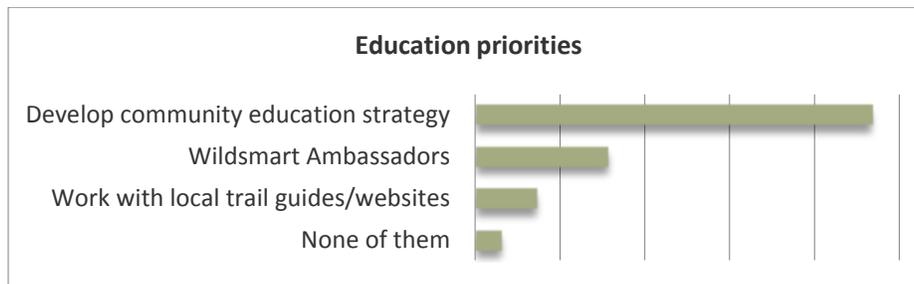
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop a community education strategy to promote appropriate human use (topics could include responsible trail use, appropriate landscaping, responsible dog ownership).
2. Expand and support Wildsmart Wildlife Ambassador program.
3. Contact authors of local trail guides/trail websites to request promotion of official trails only.

THEMES

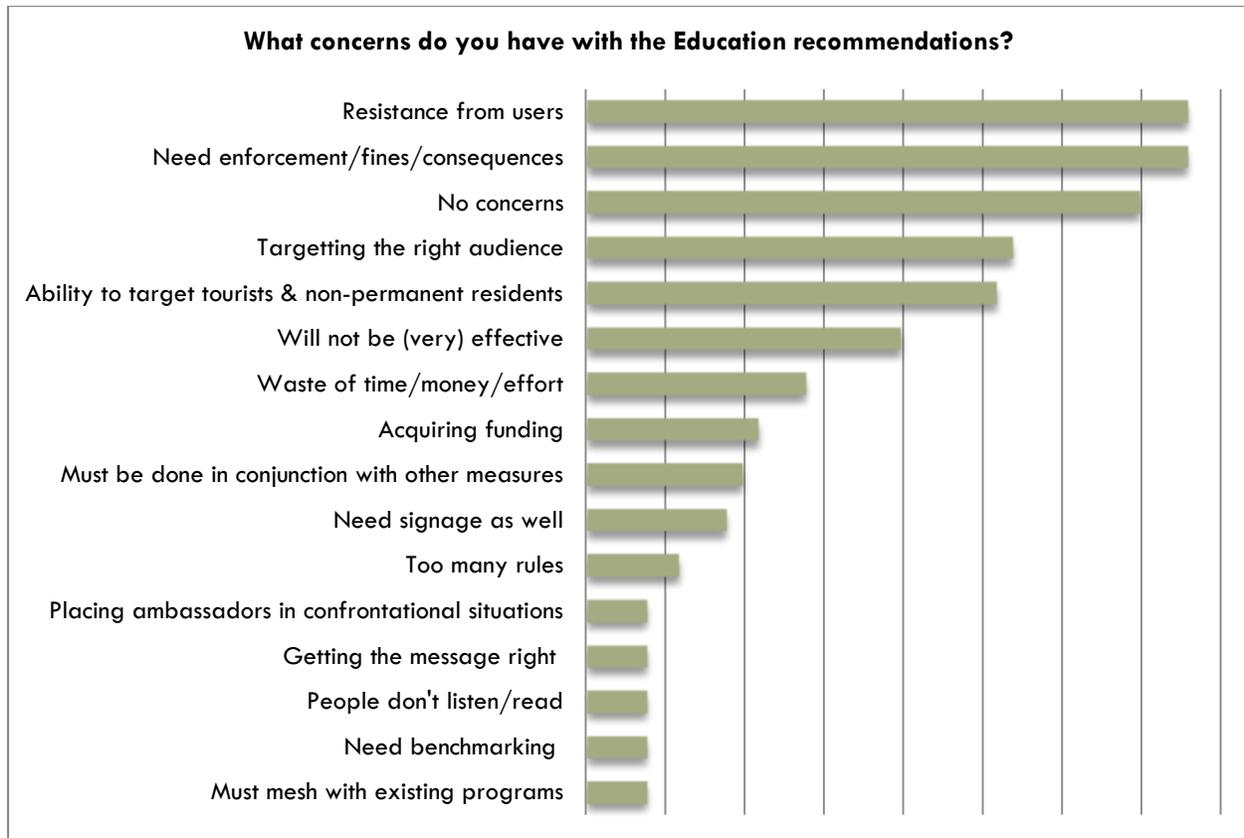
- There was good support for all the proposed recommendations under the category of education.
- There is an expressed desire for information regarding not just the location of wildlife corridors and habitat patches, but also why these areas are important and how human use impacts wildlife.
- There are obvious linkages between efforts to increase education/awareness and signage and enforcement initiatives.
- Effort must be made to reach all audiences – permanent residents, semi-permanent residents and visitors.

PRIORITIES



- Clear support for Wildsmart – they are a key partner in any education strategy, including the use of Wildsmart Ambassadors.
- Contacting authors of trail guides and blogs will be challenging to do in an effective way, but the response to this question highlights the importance of getting key information to non-residents as well.

CONCERNS



- Concerns about resistance, therefore education plan must be designed with this in mind.
- Education should also link with enforcement activities and people need to understand the consequences of non-compliance.
- A large number of people had no concerns with the suggested education initiatives.
- Reaching the right audience with the right information is key to success.
- Significant concerns that education programs are effective and fiscally responsible.

GEMS

“When people take responsibility themselves for something, the measures are more likely to be respected and enforced, and more people may come to respect the rules because they hear about them through friends who are involved and see the efforts their friends are making.”

“Stewardship creates connection. Connection is what it’s all about!”

"Education strategy, but make it real. Be honest about the consequences of human/wildlife conflict. Deliver the program so that folks think beyond themselves and their daily dog walk. Zion National Park has a good example of honest park messages with vivid photos and candid messaging that I feel could be effective here. Stay away from typical park messaging and stagnant media lines and put forth catchy phrases. For example: thinking of walking your dog of leash in this wildlife area, think again - then list the number of human/wildlife encounters in the area, trail photos of cougars hunched in the bush, wildlife officers destroying bears..."

What we heard on Trails

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Trails in the Bow Valley are properly located, maintained, provide high quality recreational opportunities and offer a great user experience.

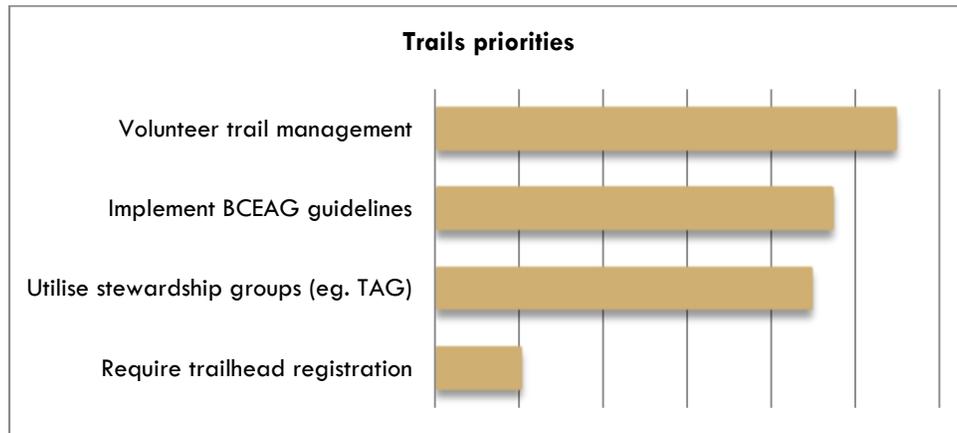
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Utilize groups like the Trails Advisory Group to identify trail work and develop a plan for completion.
2. Continue to implement the Bow Corridor Ecosystem Advisory Group Guidelines regarding trail location, design and decommissioning.
3. Encourage and establish volunteer trail management and stewardship initiatives for trail restoration and maintenance.
4. Require registration on key trails (e.g. the Highline Trail).

THEMES

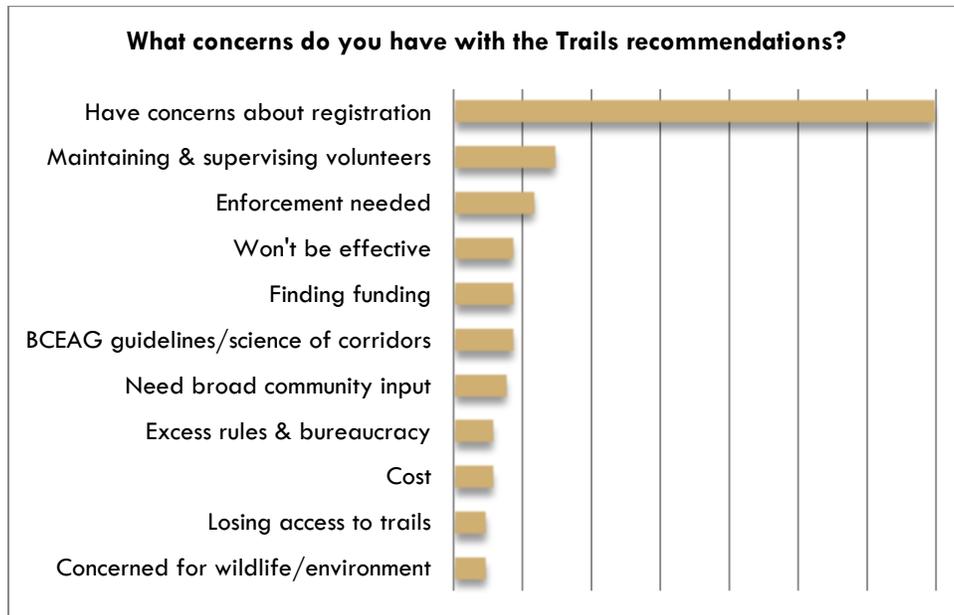
- There was a good level of support for each of the trail recommendations with the exception of trail registration.
- Consider other tools for trail management, such as separation of users, one way trails, and seasonal closures.

PRIORITIES



- There is a strong appetite by the public to participate, evidenced by the high level of support for volunteer trail management. There's an opportunity to harness that energy through stewardship groups as part of implementation phase.
- Support for ongoing implementation of BCEAG guidelines when it comes to trails; also recognized need to consider issues such as trail density in the planning.
- Definite interest in re-invigorating the Trails Advisory Group – there's lots of work to be done!

CONCERNS



- Concerns about registration, therefore low probability of success with this initiative.
- While volunteer programs can be successful, they must be well managed.
- An ongoing trail program requires sustainable funding.
- People are fearful of losing trails, in particular to development.
- There are concerns around the multi-use nature of many of our trails.

GEMS

“No more planning - focus on implementation.”

“Educate the community; engage the community in maintaining trails and creating appropriate options; provide good way finding to send people in the direction you would like them to go. Don't create a militaristic police state!”

“I believe that you can identify the heck out of wildlife patches, corridors, boundaries etc. but if you don't address people's need to recreate in useful and generous ways, people will walk past the sign no matter how big or innovative it is.”

What we heard on Signage

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Provide adequate signs on the landscape to provide way finding and explain closed areas; clear signage enables navigation on designated routes and communicates closed areas (where and why).

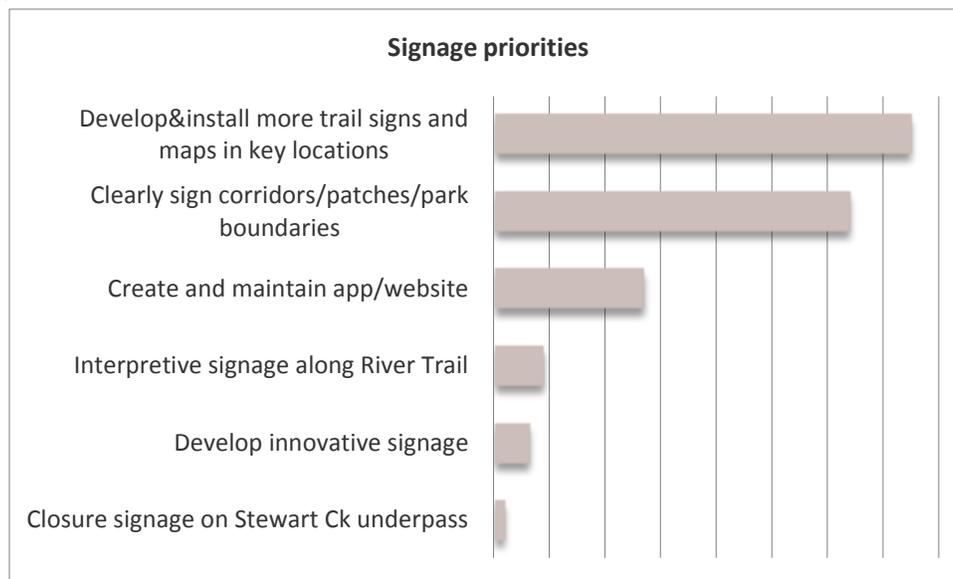
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop and install more trail signs and maps in key locations (e.g. wildlife corridor boundaries).
2. Create and maintain an app or website for trail condition, hazard and closure reporting for the Canmore area.
3. Clearly sign or identify corridors, habitat patches and park boundaries.
4. Install closure signage on both sides of Stewart Creek wildlife underpass.
5. Develop innovative signage such as large cut outs of carnivores to remind people these species use these areas.
6. Develop interpretive signage along the River Trail (the central section in town) with information about human use and wildlife.

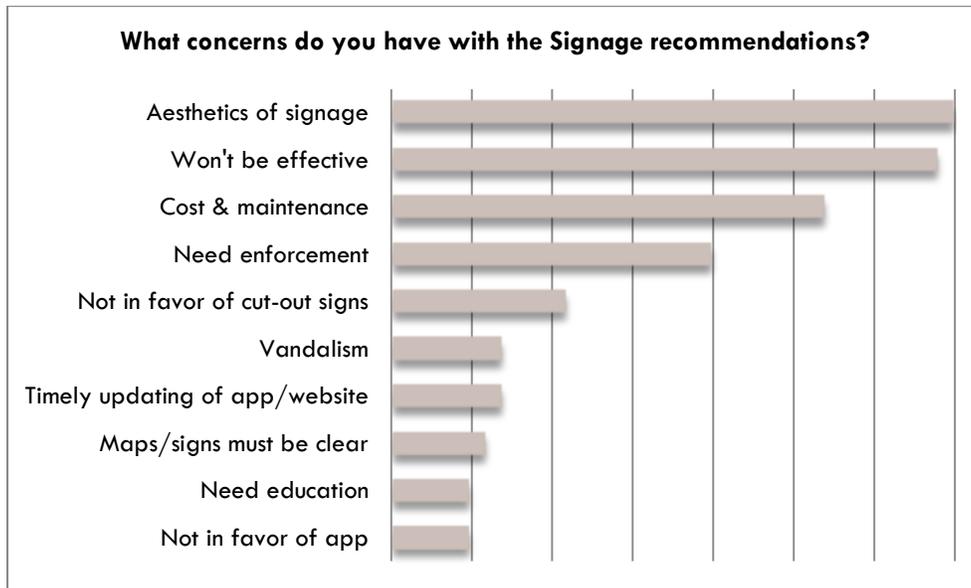
THEMES

- There's clear support for more signage in appropriate, key locations. However also concerns regarding "signage pollution".
- There's interest in an app however only if there's commitment to regular updates.
- While it didn't score high in terms of priorities, signage at the Stewart creek wildlife underpass is an easy win to implement with AESRD.
- Little support for the innovative signage idea.
- Coordination with Alberta Parks and AESRD is essential when considering signage.

PRIORITIES



CONCERNS



- Respondents expressed concern that there will be too many signs on the landscape, and are concerned also about the look (*i.e.* the aesthetics) of the signs.
- Concern regarding the effectiveness of signage, therefore we need to get the message right.
- Cost – it's easy to spend a lot of money on signs, therefore messaging, materials and installation need to be carefully considered.

GEMS

“MARK THE DARNED CORRIDORS! Heck, mark the edge of the dog park!”

“Clearly sign or identify corridors, habitat patches and park boundaries. Like, CLEARLY.”

“Let's get the basics done first, focus on the few good approaches that will make a difference.”

“It's been shown that signage alone has a 20% (approx) chance of deterrence. Whereas signage with education increases that to more than 40% (approx). We need to get people talking about it, so it becomes as common place as recycling.”

What we heard on Dogs

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Dog owners are informed about how to live responsibly with wildlife and inappropriate behaviour is discouraged.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Investigate the need and feasibility of more opportunities for dog owners, e.g. more dog parks.
2. Reconsider the boundaries of Quarry Lake Dog Park to accommodate a swimming area for dogs (if ecologically appropriate).
3. Develop an education campaign focused on responsible dog ownership e.g. responsible pet owner video/pamphlet; I Heart my Pet rewards program; Off leash ambassador program; distribute responsible pet owner info with licensing or through vet clinics, pet food stores, SPCA).
4. Develop a Responsible Pet Owner Bylaw.
5. Increased enforcement in wildlife corridors.
6. Consider establishing no dog areas either seasonally or permanently.
7. Increase fines for off leash dogs.

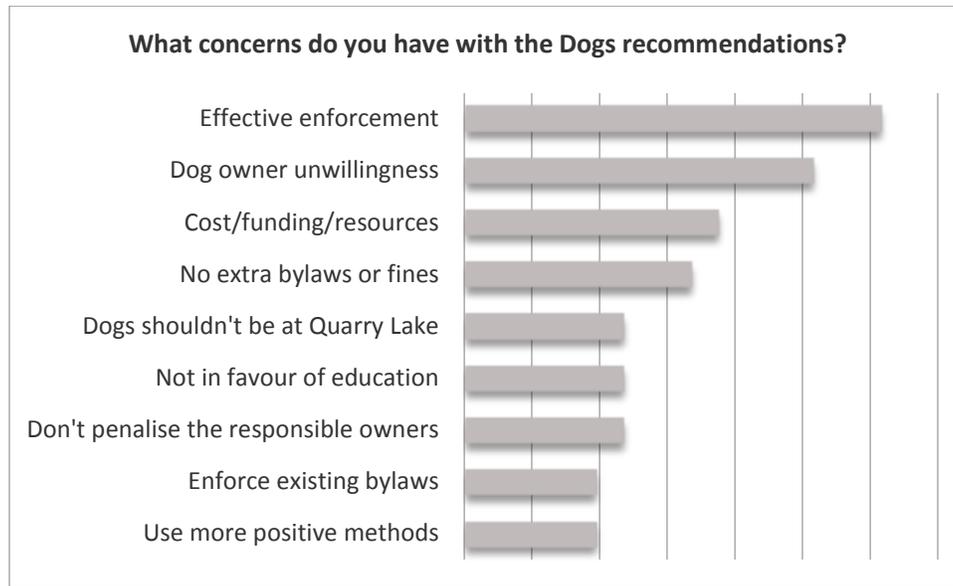
THEMES

- There is an interest in considering additional opportunities for dog owners (e.g. place to swim dogs, place to ski with dogs, additional parks).
- Mixed reaction to expanding Quarry Lake dog park.
- Although not a quantitative analysis, general sense is that there are strong opinions on both sides – more dog enforcement vs no additional dog enforcement.
- Some support for the idea of no dog areas or seasonal or temporal closures so long as other options are available.
- Support for Responsible Pet Bylaw (but likely only after other initiatives are tried first).
- Some support for increased fines (but again, perhaps only after other initiatives are tried first).
- There is strong support and appetite from the dog community to help work on this issue. Great opportunity to harness this energy to work on implementing initiatives.

PRIORITIES



CONCERNS



- Concern that we will not have effective or adequate enforcement.
- Perceived resistance from this user group regarding implementation of initiatives.
- Concerns regarding sustainable funding of these initiatives.

GEMS

“Please initiate a cross country ski trail where we are allowed to take our dogs skiing with us.”

“I suspect a lot of people will not use the wildlife corridors as much for their dogs if they have real alternatives.”

“First, a clear visible barrier that delineates where the off leash park starts and finishes would be great.”

“If the town approaches the issue recognizing the important need for off leash walking and helps increase access in specific areas at specific times, I predict most dog owners will comply.”

*Administration also received an additional report from a keen dog owner who further engaged 33 other dog owners specifically about dog issues. The summary report provides further understanding of the needs of dog owners, their concerns and their desire to work collaboratively to find solutions. The report is available from Town of Canmore Planning Department and will be useful in helping to inform the dog recommendations as we move forward with implementation.

What we heard on Enforcement

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

The necessary resources are provided to enable enforcement that supports the other objectives. (Recognition that other initiatives will be most successful if supported by enforcement activities.)

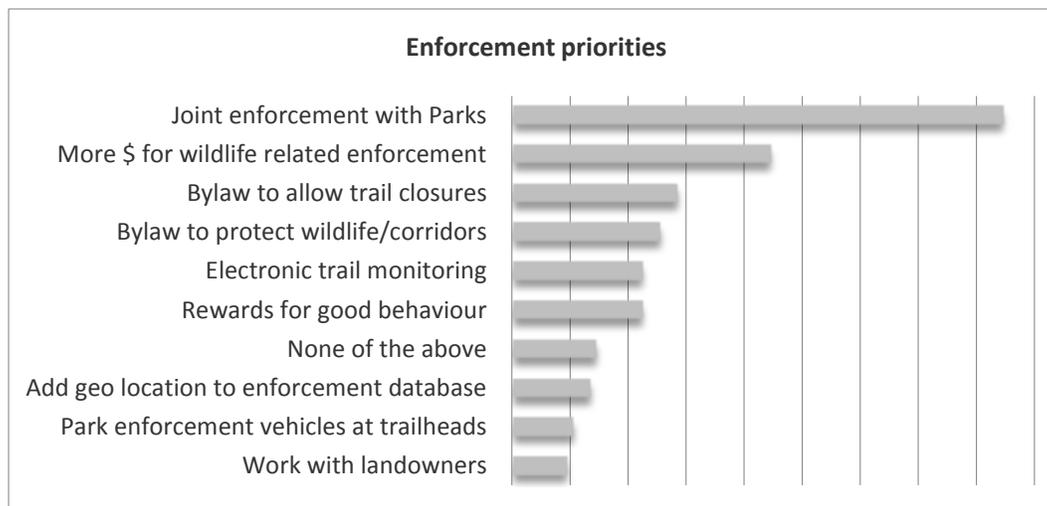
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Allocate more financial resources to Town of Canmore bylaw services for wildlife related enforcement.
2. Fund a joint enforcement position/agreement with Town of Canmore bylaw and Alberta Environment or Parks to enforce “rules” in corridors and habitat patches.
3. Investigate amending Town of Canmore bylaw(s) to allow trail closures on Town of Canmore property to reduce human use in wildlife corridors.
4. Investigate developing a stand-alone Town of Canmore bylaw for protection of wildlife and wildlife corridors.
5. Install electronic trail monitoring at key locations using remote cameras.
6. Develop a “Rewards for good behaviour” program.
7. Update Town of Canmore enforcement occurrence database to link complaint and enforcement action with geographic location.
8. Park enforcement vehicles at trailheads (to increase the sense of enforcement presence to users).
9. Investigate opportunities to work with landowners to participate in enforcement type initiatives.

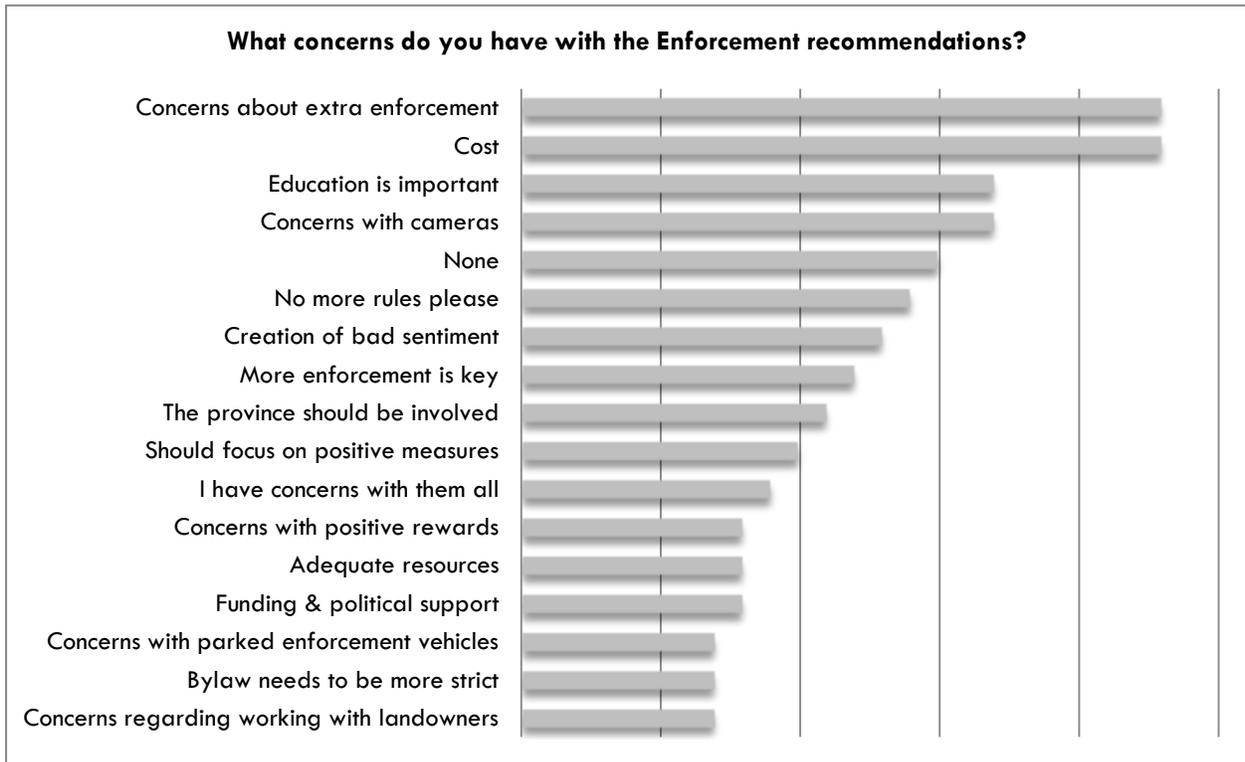
THEMES

- The community is divided regarding enforcement – equal amounts of people are in favour of more enforcement vs those who are concerned about additional enforcement.
- There’s support for focusing on positive enforcement, and also concern about the creation of bad sentiment with over-enforcement.
- The need for consistency and collaboration was expressed – between Town of Canmore Bylaw Services, Alberta Parks and AESRD.

PRIORITIES



CONCERNS



- More enforcement vs no more enforcement. There is support from the community for both points of view.
- There should be careful consideration of the financial cost of any additional enforcement.
- In order for enforcement to be effective, it must be coupled with education.
- Privacy concerns with the use of remote cameras.

GEMS

“Currently, people think the leash law is not real or with purpose. Kind of like jay walking. It is accepted to break the law. Those who have been fined feel they had bad luck and are not the norm.”

“Do not over-enforce. The key is to educate and gain voluntary compliance, and where necessary to fine abusers.”

“The focus should be creating permanent change amongst users! Use more enforcement and positive rewards (ie. giving out coffee cards) to "responsible" users.”

What we heard on Vegetation/attractant management**GUIDING PRINCIPLE**

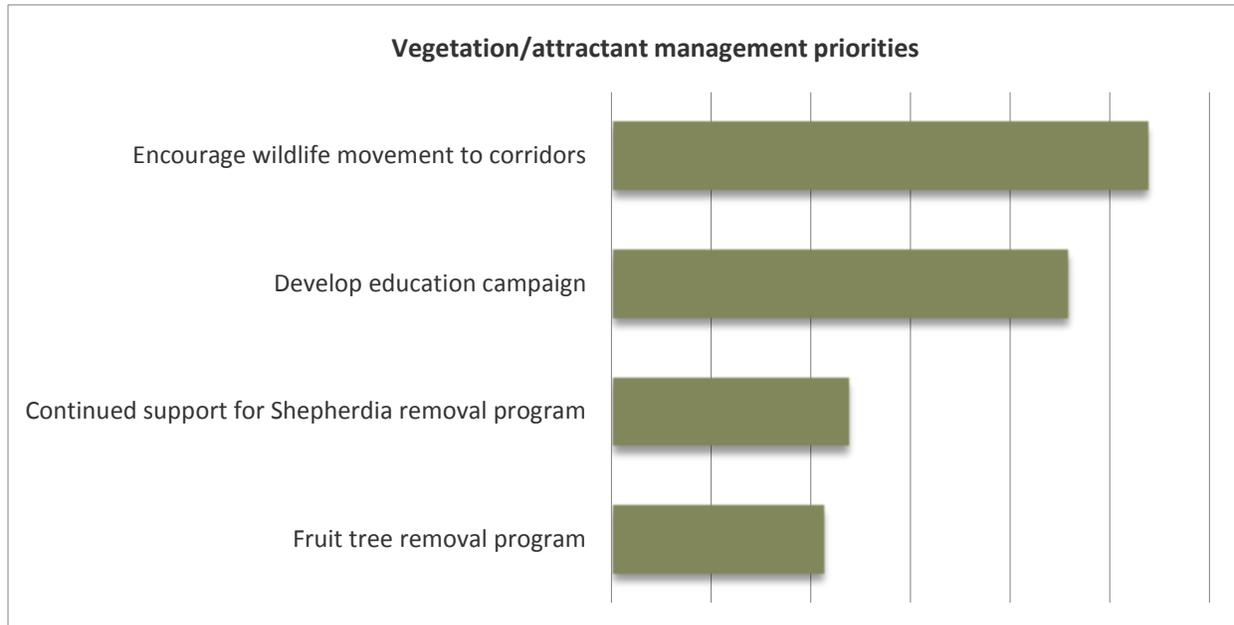
Long term commitment to managing vegetation / attractants.

RECOMMENDATIONS

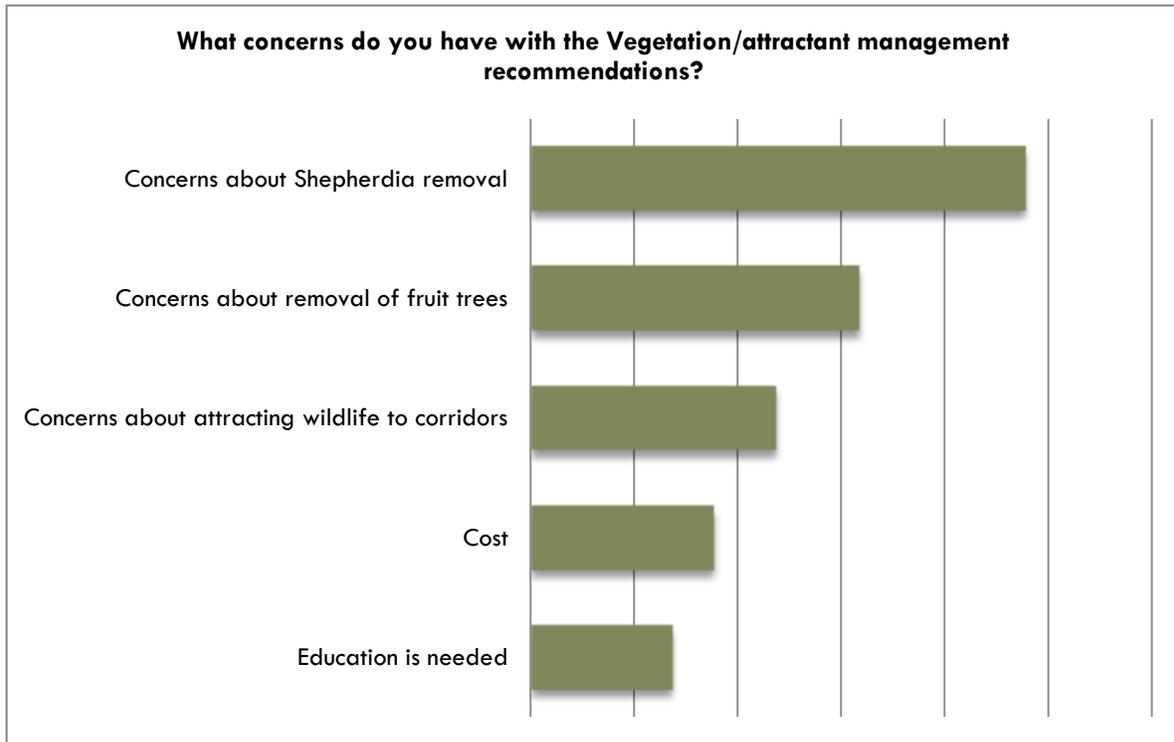
1. Develop an education campaign for appropriate landscaping/attractant management.
2. Continued support for Shepherdia (Buffalo berry) removal program.
3. Create a program to encourage fruit tree removal within the townsite.
4. Encourage wildlife movement to and through corridors by making these areas attractive to wildlife.

THEMES

- Respondents generally supported education, Shepherdia removal, and fruit tree removal.
- While encouraging wildlife movement appeared to have the most support, it's likely the most complex to implement, therefore an approach may be to focus on the other initiatives first while considering additional landscape manipulation (e.g. reducing turf areas in town, active hazing, continuing feral rabbit program) with the assistance of other key stakeholders (Alberta Parks and AESRD).
- People want to be able to grow local food responsibly.
- People are not interested in blanket solutions, suggesting that certain areas seem to be more appropriate for limiting attractants than others.
- Support for programs like the one in Banff where residents can get vouchers to replace vegetation they remove.

PRIORTIES

CONCERNS



- Some people are not in support of Shepherdia removal – uneasy with landscape manipulation, concerns about need for ongoing maintenance, and loss of berries for birds. “Leave nature alone”.
- Concern over loss of property rights with removal of fruit trees (people feel they have the right to have them and that gardening isn’t a crime).
- Illustrates the need for discretion with a program such as this (e.g. voluntary?, priority being interface areas?).

GEMS

“Keep wildlife out of town (Fencing, hazing, removal of attractants ----- like bunnies!). Elk and deer should not be tolerated inside the built up areas.”

“I like gardens / growing my own food... we need to find good compromises.”

“Encouraging fruit tree removal infringes on my right to grow my own food on my own property. If I am negligent and rotting fruit creates a wildlife attractant, then that is an issue but responsible gardening is NOT a crime.”

What we heard on Research and Monitoring

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Ensure functionality of the corridors and habitat patches, research and monitoring is ongoing, coordinated and accessible.

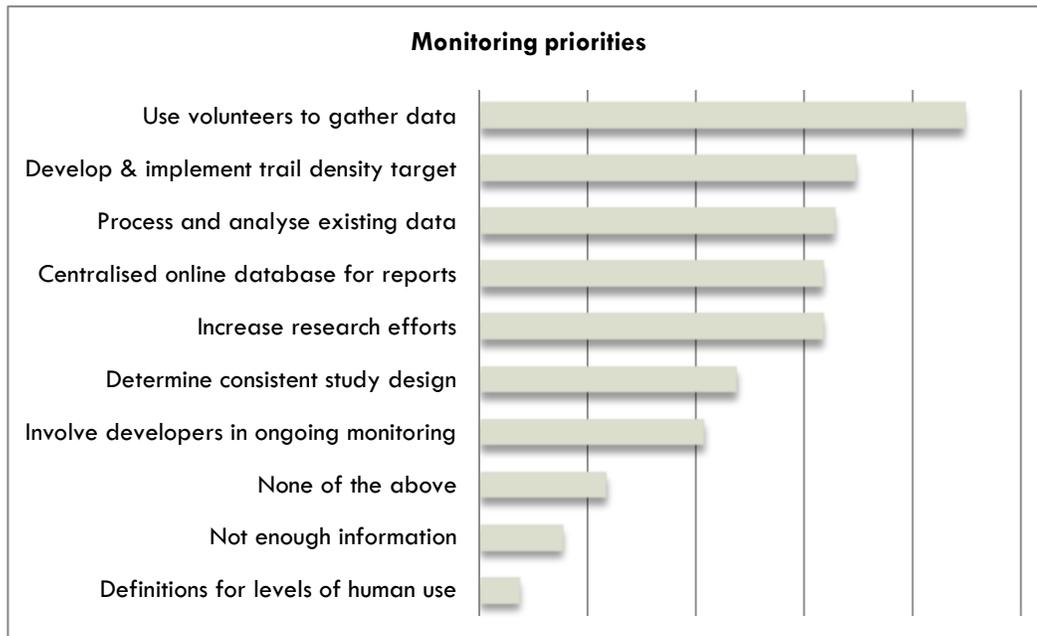
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Establish a centralized accessible online database for monitoring reports.
2. Process and analyze existing data from the Bow Valley related to human use.
3. Increase the research effort related to monitoring human use in wildlife corridors and habitat patches (e.g. trail counters, STRAVA).
4. Develop definitions for low versus high levels of human use.
5. Determine a consistent study design for monitoring in the Valley and a mechanism to require its use.
6. Develop and implement a trail density target(s) – may be different for different areas, different species and different times of the year.
7. Use volunteers to gather data on wildlife, human use, and the effectiveness of trail management techniques.
8. Involve developers in ongoing monitoring.

THEMES

- Some evidence of survey fatigue by this point, and this section was challenging for people without some understanding of the issue, but never the less, feedback was useful.
- Concerns expressed about developers performing monitoring therefore a desire to ensure data is gathered in an unbiased way.
- The Biosphere Institute is an ideal fit for hosting information.
- Many of the research and monitoring recommendations are ideally suited for BCEAG to implement.

PRIORITIES



- Again, demonstrated appetite to help – people are interested – opportunity for citizen science with the right organizations.

CONCERNS



- Concerns regarding developer involvement in monitoring.
- Concerns regarding the necessity for and value of more monitoring.

GEMS

“Another study? I am all for science but instead of constantly deferring to study, how about some simple action?”

“I feel that the town already knows current human and wildlife use and should spend more time acting on the data already obtained as opposed to collecting more.”

What we heard on Miscellaneous

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Remaining recommendations that didn't fall into any of the other categories.

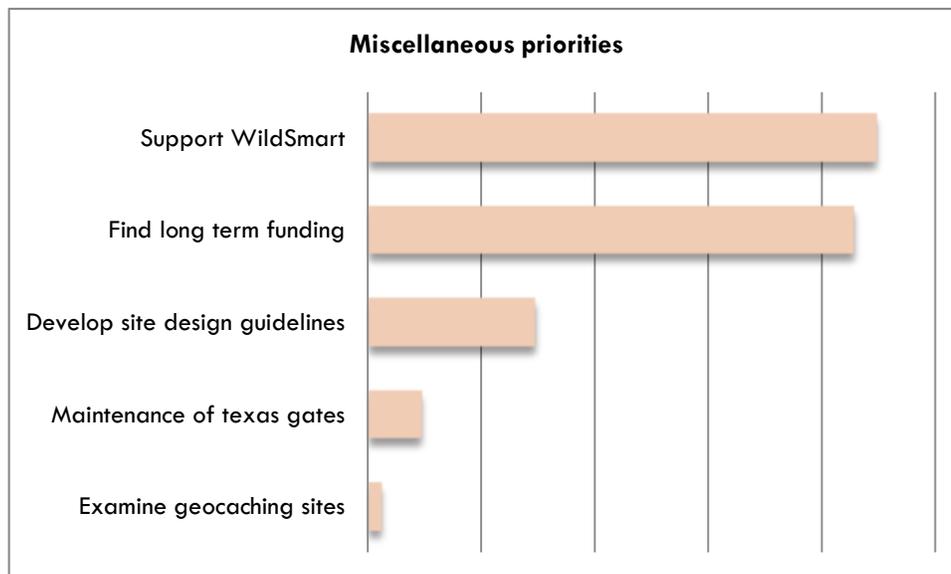
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Investigate a source of stable, long term funding to facilitate implementation of these recommendations.
2. Bow Valley WildSmart should be supported and continue to operate to promote public education and assist with trail designation, design and use.
3. Develop a "Site design Guidelines" document for new development which would include such things as placement of amenities (e.g. benches, tables, garbage receptacles), lighting standards, orientation and placement of buildings, hours of operation, landscaping.
4. Review local geocaching sites to determine if locations are inappropriate and if so, request removal or relocation to appropriate locations.
5. Coordinate regular maintenance of texas gates into/out of town, especially in winter.

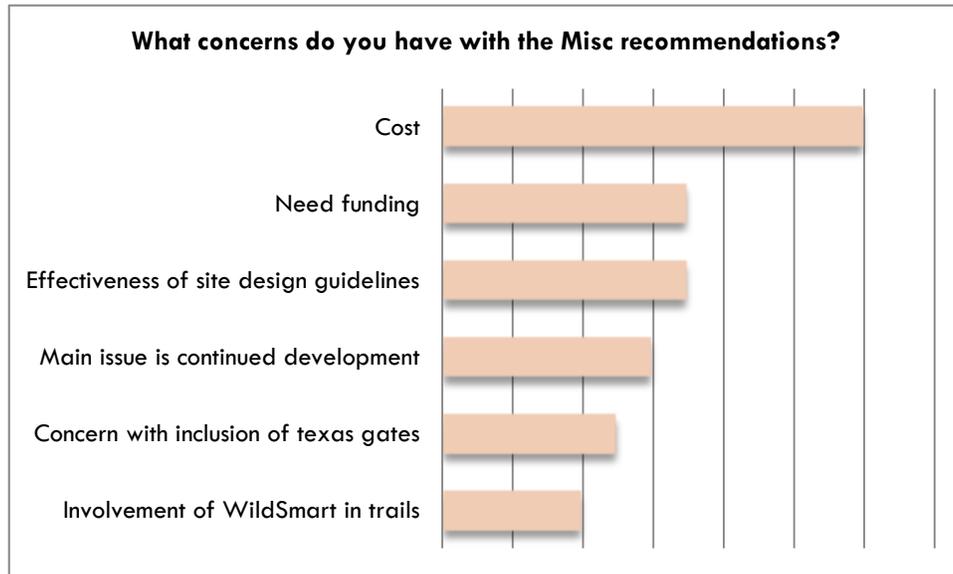
THEMES

- Support for Wildsmart!
- Sustainable funding for addressing the issues effectively, but must be fiscally responsible.

PRIORITIES



CONCERNS



- Again, strong desire for subsequent programming and initiatives to be fiscally responsible.
- People love Wildsmart, but were concerned about the suggesting they'd be designing trails which is not part of their mandate. This was an error in the way the survey was written which caused some misunderstanding – Wildsmart will not be asked to manage trails.

GEMS

“WildSmart. It's a fantastic program. Great brand recognition in the community, proven track record. Keep supporting and improving it.”

“Wildsmart is by far one of the best programs we have and it could be greatly expanded to service this community better.”

“The other recommendations are of much less importance than a unified and consistently funded Town and Provincial approach to education programs, human monitoring, consistent data collection and enforcement.”

Summary

Illumination of barriers

One of the key intents of the survey was to tease out the possible barriers to the recommendations as expressed by the community. Responses, in particular the narrative responses, were an opportunity for the community to tell us what they liked, and more importantly, didn't like, about the initiatives. This information will be essential to further development and refinement of the recommendations.

Response to the recommendations clearly illustrated the opposing nature of views within the community on certain issues (*i.e.* enforcement, dogs, attractant management). As such it's reasonable to anticipate both support and opposition to many of the proposed initiatives. This highlights the need for finer grained engagement moving forward, and the results of the survey will be a useful tool in this process.

There also appears to be an underlying skepticism in the community – some people don't believe there's a problem, are skeptical of efforts to define the problem, and skeptical their behaviour may impact wildlife. This is an important issue to address. One way to do so may be to accept and communicate honestly that while we'll likely never have all the information, this should not prevent us from making reasonable management decisions now based on what we **do** know (*i.e.* acceptance of scientific uncertainty while adopting an adaptive management approach).

Did the public response align with stakeholder thinking

With the exception of a couple of items, the community was generally aligned with stakeholder group in terms of priorities and levels of support for the recommendations. For some of the more complex issues there was a disconnect (*e.g.* landscape manipulation and Shepherdia removal) and for some of the simpler issues (*e.g.* maintenance of Texas gates), but generally what we heard from the public aligned with stakeholder group discussions. There was also little support for a trail registration system (concerns over management and effectiveness), therefore this initiative is not recommended at this time given community support and participation would likely be low.

The public also perceived the maintenance of the Texas gates and geocache monitoring to be lower priorities, however these are relatively easy and low cost initiatives to implement and so are ranked higher in the proposed implementation plan (presented below).

Next steps

The engagement summary and proposed implementation plan will be presented to Canmore Town Council on March 3, 2015. It will include the summary of the community consultation and the recommendations (presented as the implementation plan) reflecting input from the stakeholder group and the community.

Moving forward, the Town of Canmore is committed to implementing key HUMR recommendations in 2015 – money is committed to HUMR in our 2015 budget and implementation is further identified in our 2015 business plan. We're committed to leveraging the funding we do have with that of other partnering organizations which will not only allow us to do more work, but to do it collaboratively. The HUMR process has enabled further conversation on these issues, established a sense of purpose, created a renewed enthusiasm and illuminated potential community resources to do this work.

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY/IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	KEY STEPS	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME				BUDGET
					2015	2016	2017	2018	
EDUCATION									
Develop a community education strategy to promote appropriate human use.	High	Collaborate with Wildsmart to determine messaging and engagement strategy	Town of Canmore	Wildsmart Alberta Parks and AESRD Canmore Business and Tourism Alberta Conservation Association	Initiate discussions in 2015 Potential rollout in late 2015	ongoing			Part of \$75,000
Expand and support Wildsmart Wildlife Ambassador program.	Med	Initiate discussions with Wildsmart	Town of Canmore	Wildsmart	Initiate discussions 2015	2016 implementation			No budget required at this time
Contact authors of local trail guides/trail websites to request promotion of official trails only.	Low	-			Not recommended as it will be very difficult to capture all authors, blogs etc. -not a good use of our resources at this time.				-
TRAILS									
Utilize groups like the Trails Advisory Group (TAG) to identify trail work and develop a plan for completion.	High	Collaborate with TAG to determine trail work Coordinate work with Open Space and Trails Plan (OSTP)	Town of Canmore	TAG	2015	ongoing			Part of HUMR 2015 \$75,000 and OSTP 2015 \$25,000
Continue to implement the Bow Corridor Ecosystem Advisory Group Guidelines regarding trail location, design and decommissioning.	High		Town of Canmore	TAG	ongoing				No budget required at this time
Encourage and establish volunteer trail management and stewardship initiatives for trail restoration and maintenance.	Medium	Initiate discussions with TAG and key community	Town of Canmore	TAG Alberta Parks and AESRD		2016 and ongoing			No budget required at this time

Human Use Management Review

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	KEY STEPS	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME				BUDGET
					2015	2016	2017	2018	
		members		Friends of Kananaskis					
Require registration on key trails (e.g. the Highline Trail).	Low	-			Not recommended at this time				-
SIGNAGE									
Develop and install more trail signs and maps in key locations (e.g. wildlife corridor boundaries) which clearly identify corridors, habitat patches and park boundaries.	High	Determine key locations Determine key information and sign design Installation	Town of Canmore	Alberta Parks and AESRD Friends of Kananaskis Some private landowners Alberta Conservation Association TAG	2015	ongoing			Part of HUMR 2015 \$75,000 and OSTP 2015 \$25,000
Install closure signage on both sides of Stewart Creek wildlife underpass.	High	Installation	AESRD	Alberta Parks AESRD	2015				Part of HUMR 2015 \$75,000 and/or Prov
Create and maintain an app or website for trail condition, hazard and closure reporting for the Canmore area.	Medium	-	Town of Canmore	TBD		2016			No budget required at this time
Develop interpretive signage along the River Trail (the central section in town) with information about human use and wildlife.	Low	Possibly implement if other after priority initiatives and if necessary	Town of Canmore			2016 or later			No budget required at this time
Develop innovative signage such as large cut outs of carnivores to remind people these species use these areas.	Low	-			Not recommended				-
DOGS									
Investigate the need and feasibility of additional opportunities for dog owners, e.g. more dog parks.	High	Confirm needs: Additional fencing? Expand Quarry Lake off leash area? Improvements at 1A dog park?	Town of Canmore	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Other key landowners	consideration in 2015	Implementation in 2016 or later			No budget required at this time

Human Use Management Review

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	KEY STEPS	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME				BUDGET
					2015	2016	2017	2018	
Reconsider the boundaries of Quarry Lake Dog Park to accommodate a swimming area for dogs (if ecologically appropriate).	High	Discuss with AESRD Pilot in conjunction with dog community?	Town of Canmore	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation AESRD	2015				Part of HUMR 2015 \$75,000 and OSTP 2015 \$25,000
Develop an education campaign focused on responsible dog ownership e.g. responsible pet owner video/pamphlet; I Heart my Pet rewards program; Off leash ambassador program; distribute responsible pet owner info with licensing or through vet clinics, pet food stores, SPCA).	High	Work with dog community to develop program	Town of Canmore	Dog community	2015	ongoing			Part of HUMR 2015 \$75,000
Consider establishing no dog areas either seasonally or permanently.	Med	Consider closures with AB Parks and AESRD	Town of Canmore	Alberta Parks AESRD		2016 and ongoing			No budget required at this time
ENFORCEMENT									
Strategic initiatives and joint enforcement with Town of Canmore Bylaw, Alberta Environment and Alberta Parks.	High	Discussions with AESRD and Alberta Parks	Town of Canmore	Alberta Parks AESRD	2015				No budget required at this time
Develop a "Rewards for good behaviour" program.	High	Initiate discussions with Town of Canmore Bylaw	Town of Canmore		Initiate discussions in 2015	Potential rollout in late 2016			Part of HUMR 2015 \$75,000
Update Town of Canmore enforcement occurrence database to link complaint and enforcement action with geographic location.	High	-	Town of Canmore		2015				No budget required at this time
Investigate amending Town of Canmore bylaw(s) to allow trail closures on Town of Canmore property to reduce human use in wildlife corridors.	Medium	Initiate discussions with Bylaw Possible drafting of Bylaw amendment	Town of Canmore		2015 discussions	Potential rollout in 2016			No budget required at this time
Allocate more financial resources to Town of Canmore bylaw services for wildlife related enforcement.	Low	Determine needs and cost of additional seasonal staff	Town of Canmore		2015 discussion	2016 implementation if going forward			No budget required in 2015, but budget TBD if implemented in 2016

Human Use Management Review

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	KEY STEPS	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME				BUDGET
					2015	2016	2017	2018	
Increased enforcement in wildlife corridors.	Low	Linked to item 1 above			-				-
Increase fines for off leash dogs.	Low	-			Determine if required after other initiatives are tried first				-
Investigate developing a stand-alone Town of Canmore bylaw for protection of wildlife and wildlife corridors.	Low	-			Determine if required after other initiatives are tried first				-
Develop a Responsible Pet Owner Bylaw.	Low	-			Determine if required after other initiatives are tried first				-
Install electronic trail monitoring at key locations using remote cameras.	Low	-			Determine if required after other initiatives are tried first				-
Park enforcement vehicles at trailheads (to increase the sense of enforcement presence to users).	Low	-			Bylaw Services currently does this and will continue this practice in conjunction with other operational needs				No budget required at this time
Investigate opportunities to work with landowners to participate in enforcement type initiatives.	Low	Communicate to the community this option is available to landowners Secure agreements	Town of Canmore		Bylaw Services currently does this and will continue this practice as requested				No budget required at this time
VEGETATION/ATTRACTANT MANAGEMENT									
Develop an education campaign for appropriate landscaping/attractant management.	Med	-	Town of Canmore	Wildsmart	2015	ongoing			No budget required at this time
Create a program to encourage fruit tree removal within the townsite.	Med	-	Town of Canmore	Wildsmart	2015	ongoing			Part of HUMR 2015 \$75,000
Continued support for Shepherdia (Buffalo berry) removal program.	Med	-	Town of Canmore	AESRD	2015	ongoing			Existing funding
Encourage wildlife movement to and through corridors by making these areas attractive to wildlife.	Low	Collaboration with Alberta Parks and AESRD	Town of Canmore	Alberta Parks and AESRD	Discussions in 2015/16				No budget required at this time
RESEARCH AND MONITORING									
Establish a centralized accessible online database for	High	Collaborate with	Town of	Biosphere Institute	2015	ongoing			No budget required at

Human Use Management Review

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	KEY STEPS	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME				BUDGET
					2015	2016	2017	2018	
monitoring reports.		Biosphere Institute Determine process to ensure reports are shared with Biosphere	Canmore						this time
Process and analyze existing data from the Bow Valley related to human use.	Med	-		Alberta Parks and AESRD	2015	ongoing			No budget required at this time
Increase the research effort related to monitoring human use in wildlife corridors and habitat patches (e.g. trail counters, STRAVA).	Med	-	Town of Canmore	Alberta Parks Friends of Kananaskis		2016			TDB
Develop definitions for low versus high levels of human use.	Med	-	Town of Canmore	BCEAG		2016			TBD
Determine a consistent study design for monitoring in the Valley and a mechanism to require its use.		-		Academic institutions		2016			TBD
Develop and implement a trail density target(s) – may be different for different areas, different species and different times of the year.	Med	-		BCEAG		2016			TBD
Use volunteers to gather data on wildlife, human use, and the effectiveness of trail management techniques.		Initiate discussions	Town of Canmore	Alberta Parks Friends of Kananaskis		2016 and ongoing			TBD
Involve developers in ongoing monitoring.		Continue discussions with development community	Town of Canmore		ongoing				
MISCELLANEOUS									
Investigate a source of stable, long term funding to facilitate implementation of these recommendations.	High	Look at funding models from other communities	Town of Canmore		Research and consider options in 2015 and then ongoing				No budget required at this time
Bow Valley WildSmart should be supported and continue to operate to promote public education and assist with trail designation, design and use.	High	-			2015	ongoing			
Coordinate regular maintenance of texas gates into/out of town, especially in winter.	High	-		Alberta Transportation and Volker Stevin	2015	ongoing			External budget
Accountability and reporting	High	Reporting back on	Town of		annually				No budget required at

Human Use Management Review

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	KEY STEPS	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME				BUDGET
					2015	2016	2017	2018	
		initiatives including key metrics and indicators of success	Canmore						this time
Develop a "Site design Guidelines" document for new development which would include such things as placement of amenities (e.g. benches, tables, garbage receptacles), lighting standards, orientation and placement of buildings, hours of operation, landscaping.	Med	Develop Draft Site Guidelines Policy Consult with Development community on draft policy Policy approval (?)	Town of Canmore		Initiate in 2015 and then ongoing				No budget required at this time
Review local geocaching sites to determine if locations are inappropriate and if so, request removal or relocation to appropriate locations.	Med	Establish a process to inform Alberta Parks of inappropriate sites		Alberta Parks AESRD	2015 and ongoing				No budget required at this time