



Crowsnest Conservation Society

Strategic Plan 2022

Vision:

The Crowsnest Conservation Society envisions and works towards a Crowsnest Pass where:

- We work together with community partners to ensure a health future for the natural environment and the people who live in it.
- Wildlife can live and move within a healthy landscape.
- A range of recreational activities coexists with users and wildlife in a respectful and sustainable manner.
- Private and public decisions about land development are made with the long term needs of environment, wildlife, and sustainable community as key factors.
- People celebrate our rich unique natural heritage.

Mission:

Crowsnest Conservation Society is a charitable organization based in Crowsnest Pass, Alberta, devoted to working together with community partners to ensure a healthy future for the natural environment and the people and wildlife that live in it.

Slogan:

Valuing and connecting people and nature for a healthy future in the Crowsnest Pass and beyond

Program Goal # 1:

CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Objective 1:

To support integration of ecologically sensitive practices in decisions on use of private and public lands in and adjacent to Crowsnest Pass

Outcomes

1. Implemented/improved environmental protection for key natural areas
2. Inclusion of conservation principles in future community and economic development
3. Reduction of human/wildlife conflicts

Action Plan

1. Provide constructive input to relevant decision makers on adherence to ecological principles in regard to proposed industrial, infrastructure, and resource development
2. Participate in stakeholder input in surveys or to established committees or organizations regarding development that may have effects on environmental, wildlife, or community sustainability
3. Monitor resource extraction proposals, development plans, and activities, particularly related to coal, for possible effects on environmental, wildlife, or community sustainability
4. Monitor or support the monitoring by other groups of the cumulative effects of industrial, infrastructure, and resource development on environmental, wildlife, or community sustainability
5. Facilitate public education and informed community discussion on land use issues using a variety of outreach methods, media coverage, and public events
6. Continue to support educational initiatives for children and the public that increase appreciation for and knowledge of our natural environment, in cooperation with other groups or through our own programs
7. Promote the development and monitoring of ecologically sound trail systems in Crowsnest Pass in cooperation with other recreational user groups and individuals
8. Support and participate in the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent activities

Objective 2:

To promote the resiliency of wildlife populations in the Crowsnest Pass, including habitat, breeding and wintering ranges, and connectivity

Outcomes

1. North/south movement of wildlife is maintained or improved with future Highway 3 development
2. Protection of seasonally important wildlife habitat adjacent to transportation corridors
3. Maintain wildlife connectivity in the areas adjacent to and within the Crowsnest Pass

Action Plan

1. Provide education to Crowsnest Conservation Society members, supporters and the community through various media and events
2. Support local projects that provide mitigation measures to protect wildlife at identified hotspots along transportation corridors
3. Provide constructive input to relevant decision makers on adherence to ecological principles for wildlife resiliency in regard to proposed industrial, infrastructure, and resource development

Objective 3:

To maintain and improve the health of the watershed and riparian areas through the application of conservation principles to community and economic development

Outcomes

1. Decreased prevalence of invasive plant species within and adjacent to the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass with particular attention to riparian areas
2. Increased presence of native trees, shrubs and grasses in riparian areas
3. Support the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass' ongoing riparian restoration program
4. Protection from development in wetland areas
5. Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity in our local watersheds, including native fish populations of Westslope Cutthroat and Bull trout

Action Plan

1. Work with groups such as the Oldman Watershed Council, Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, Trout Unlimited, Cows and Fish, Chamber of Commerce, and industry organizations to advocate for watershed conservation
2. Participate in volunteer weed pulls and replanting events organized by other conservation groups and by the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass
3. Continue to organize and participate in community clean-up events
4. Engage with all prospective mine companies on watershed impacts due to mining activities

Program Goal # 2:

CULTIVATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES THROUGH ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

Objective 1: To encourage participation in community stewardship activities that will lead to a personal commitment to stewardship of the environment.

Outcomes:

1. Year-round opportunities for environmental and nature-based learning
2. Active partnerships and collaborations with like-minded groups and organizations
3. Increased opportunities for members and volunteers to learn about environmental stewardship through experiences in our local environment

Action Plan:

1. Continue to offer a wide variety of activities, including bird counts, hikes and workshops
2. Work in partnership with the Doors Open and Heritage Committee, Crowsnest Forest Stewardship Society and other groups in planning many of our educational activities
3. Continue to organize and support community clean-up activities, weed pulls and other stewardship events
4. Encourage use of an established and sustainable trail network
5. Develop partnerships with Indigenous communities and other regional organizations.

Objective 2: Engage with all segments of our community to increase awareness and knowledge about conservation values that can be applied to our community

Outcomes:

1. Community residents and visitors have increased appreciation for and knowledge about how conservation values are and could be applied in our community.
2. Increased participation of youth and community members in conservation- focused educational events.

3. Educators and other community leaders consider conservation values when planning and conducting their activities.

Action plan:

1. Engage with local youth on conservation education opportunities
2. Work with community educators to develop and support other outdoor education programming
3. In partnership with Wildsight, continue to offer the *Classroom with Outdoors* program to students in Grades 4-6 at Isabelle Sellon School
4. Continue to distribute CCS' educational brochures at public events such as the Community Markets and the Chamber of Commerce annual Lifestyle and Outdoor Adventure Show.
5. Facilitate informed discussion with community residents and visitors through outreach activities such as e-newsletters, our website, media releases and public presentations.

Objective 3: To promote a more sustainable community through environmental best practices in the use of our resources.

Outcomes:

1. Community residents and visitors will have increased appreciation of and knowledge about community recycling programs
2. Community residents and visitors will have an increased understanding of best practices related to waste and water management
3. Increased volunteer participation in community stewardship events

Action Plan:

1. Advocate for community and regional initiatives that demonstrate best practices in the use of our resources, such as water use monitoring and regional composting.
2. Support sustainable community initiatives such as recycling and composting,
3. Encourage stewardship practices by youth, residents, and visitors.
4. Create and distribute CCS educational brochures which promote recycling and other sustainable practices.

