

Our mission:

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

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

Action Plan

- Continue to support the development and delivery of the WildEd program
- Provide constructive input to relevant decision makers on adherence to ecological principles in regards to proposed industrial and infrastructure development
- Participate in stakeholder input to the development and management of Riversdale Resource Mine
- Monitor, educate and communicate with the community to facilitate informed discussion on land use issues through outreach activities, including e-newsletters, our website, brochure distribution, media coverage and public presentations
- Participate in stakeholder input to the development and management of Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park
- Participate in stakeholder input to the development of the Porcupine and Livingstone Linear Footprint and Recreation Management Plans
- Promote the development of ecologically sound trail systems in Crowsnest Pass in cooperation with other recreational user groups and individuals
- Support and participate in the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent activities

Objective 2: To promote wildlife connectivity in the Crowsnest Pass

Outcomes

- Inclusion of wildlife mitigation measures in future Highway 3 improvements
- Protection of seasonally important wildlife habitat adjacent to Highway 3

Action Plan

- Provide education to Crowsnest Conservation Society members, supporters and the community through our e-newsletter, our website and media coverage
- Continue to support the work of Road Watch/Miistakis and encourage CCS members through newsletters and a link on our website to participate in Road Watch activities
- Support local projects that provide mitigation measures to protect wildlife at identified hotspots along Highway 3

Objective 3:

To support measures to improve the health of the local watershed and riparian areas

Outcomes

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

Action Plan

- 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
- Participate in volunteer weed pulls and replanting events organized by other conservation groups and by the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass
- Continue to organize and participate in community clean-up events
- Work with Riversdale Resources on watershed impacts of the new mine

Program Goal # 2: PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES IN THE COMMUNITY

Objective 1: To promote awareness and enjoyment of the unique natural heritage of the Crowsnest Pass among residents and visitors

Outcomes:

- Continuation of CCS' year-round birding/nature education activities
 - Volunteer participation in community stewardship events
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- Education of members and contacts about community recycling programs
- Increased opportunities for community members and visitors to experience our local environment

Action Plan

- Continue to offer a wide variety of activities, including bird counts, hikes and workshops
 - Work in partnership with Doors Open and Heritage Committee, Crowsnest Forest Stewardship Society, and other groups in planning many of our activities
 - Continue to organize and support community clean-up activities, weed pulls and other stewardship events
 - In partnership with Wildsight, continue to offer the *Classroom with Outdoors* program to students in Grades 4-6 at Isabelle Sellon School
 - Work with community teachers to develop other outdoor education programming
 - Work with local youth groups on conservation education opportunities
 - Participate in the Chamber of Commerce Annual Life Style & Outdoor Adventure Show
 - Continue to distribute CCS' educational brochures and update as needed
 - Encourage use of an established and sustainable trail network
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