



Crowsnest Conservation Society

Strategic Plan 2026

Vision:

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

- We work together with community partners to ensure a healthy 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.

Program Goal I:

CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Objective A:

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 and practices.
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 (e.g., coal mining, logging), development plans, and activities 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. Promote the development and monitoring of ecologically sound trail systems in Crowsnest Pass in cooperation with other recreational user groups and individuals
6. Support and participate in the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent activities

Objective B:

To promote the resiliency of wildlife populations in the Crowsnest Pass.

Outcomes

1. North/south movement of wildlife is maintained or improved with future Highway 3 development
2. Seasonally important wildlife habitat adjacent to transportation corridors is protected.
3. Wildlife connectivity in the areas adjacent to and within the Crowsnest Pass is maintained.
4. Active partnerships and collaborations with like-minded groups and organizations.

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 decision makers for proposed industrial, infrastructure, and resource development on adherence to ecological principles.
4. Wildlife resiliency, including habitat, breeding and wintering ranges, and connectivity in the areas adjacent to and within the Crowsnest Pass is maintained.

Objective C:

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 for 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 II:

**CULTIVATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND PRACTISES THROUGH
ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION**

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

Outcomes:

1. Community members are informed about and understand how human activities can impact the natural environment.
2. Community residents and visitors have increased appreciation for and knowledge about how environmental and conservation values are and could be applied in our community.

3. Increased participation of youth and community members in environment- and conservation-focused educational events.
4. Educators and other community leaders consider environmental and conservation values when planning and conducting their activities.
4. Active partnerships and collaborations with like-minded groups and organizations.

Action plan:

1. Engage with local youth on environmental ~~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 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

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

Outcomes:

1. Community residents will have increased appreciation of the value of the headwaters and the need to protect them.
2. Community members will understand how personal practices can reduce their environmental footprint.

3. Community residents and visitors will have an increased understanding of best practices related to waste management, water management and recycling.
4. Increased volunteer participation in community stewardship events
5. Partnerships for advocacy and collaboration are mobilized towards sustainable practices and solutions.

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.
5. Identify and nurture relationships with other organizations to build a more sustainable community.