



# Crowsnest Conservation Society Strategic Plan

March 28, 2014 Update

**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 measures to improve the health of the local watershed and riparian areas**

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**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
- Establishment by the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass of a long term 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 tourism and fish and game organizations to advocate for watershed conservation
- Work with the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass to achieve the objectives of the *Maintaining and Restoring Crowsnest River Riparian Areas* project, including organizing and participating in volunteer weed pulls and replanting efforts
- Find funding to further develop and sustain the Streamkeepers program in Crowsnest Pass
- Monitor the progress of the Crowsnest River Meander and Floodplain Restoration Project, and collaborate with Trout Unlimited, Alberta Conservation Association, Nature Conservancy of Canada and Alberta Fish and Game on future plans
- Continue to participate in community cleanup events related to water

**Objective 2:**

**To support development that is economically and ecologically sustainable in the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass and adjacent areas**

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**Outcomes**

- Inclusion of conservation principles in future community and economic development

**Action Plan**

- Monitor municipal development proposals presented at municipal Subdivision and Development Authority meetings; inform our members, contacts and stakeholders who may be affected by decisions made

- Consult with community decision makers to recommend adherence to ecologically sensitive development principles
- Increase public awareness of development issues through the distribution of CCS information brochures, through the Crowsnest Conservation Society (CCS) e-newsletter and on our website
- Provide information and education to the community, and facilitate informed debate on the potential environmental impacts of proposed economic development projects

### **Objective 3:**

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

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##### **Outcomes**

- Reduction of human/wildlife conflicts
- Legislated environmental protection for key natural areas, including the Castle Special Place

##### **Action Plan**

- Participate on municipal and other committees with multiple stakeholders to establish guidelines for the respectful coexistence of all users and wildlife on public lands
- Continue to find funding and volunteers to support the CCS BearSmart program
- Continue to participate in the ongoing process to support and promote the Castle Special Place Conceptual Proposal
- Promote the development of ecologically sound trail systems in Crowsnest Pass through a cooperative initiative among recreational user groups and individuals
- Provide input into and monitor the progress of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan under the Alberta Government's Land Use Framework
- Communicate with the community to facilitate discussion on land use issues through outreach activities, including e-newsletters, our website, media coverage and public presentations
- Monitor, educate and respond to resource issues through e-newsletters, our website and media coverage
- Participate in the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent activities

### **Objective 4: To promote wildlife connectivity in the Crowsnest Pass**

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##### **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
- Participate with community members and groups to develop consensus on mitigation measures, and promote joint recommendations

- 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 bighorn sheep and other wildlife at identified hotspots along Highway 3, with particular attention to the sheep at Emerald Lake
- Monitor reports of grain dumping

<b>Program Goal # 2: PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES IN THE COMMUNITY</b>
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**Objective 1: To promote awareness and enjoyment of the unique natural heritage of the Crowsnest Pass among residents and visitors**

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**Outcomes:**

- Continuation of CCS' year-round birding/nature education activities
- Increased volunteer participation in community stewardship events
- Support for continued development of the Crowsnest Pass Walking Trail system
- Education of members and contacts about community recycling programs

**Action Plan**

- Continue to offer a wide variety of activities, including bird counts, hikes and workshops
- Work in partnership with Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation, Doors Open and Heritage Committee, Nature Alberta, and other groups in planning many of our educational activities
- Continue to organize and support community cleanup activities, weed pulls and other stewardship events
- Work in partnership with local groups on initiatives to develop and improve recreational trails in and around the Crowsnest Pass
- 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 Styles Show
- Continue to distribute CCS' educational brochures and provide updates as needed