

Sustainable Outdoor Recreation

What We Heard Report

Overview

Government of Alberta is committed to improving how outdoor recreation is managed across all Crown lands to ensure there is a range of sustainable recreation opportunities for Albertans now and into the future.

Purpose of engagement

The objectives of engagement were to gather feedback to:

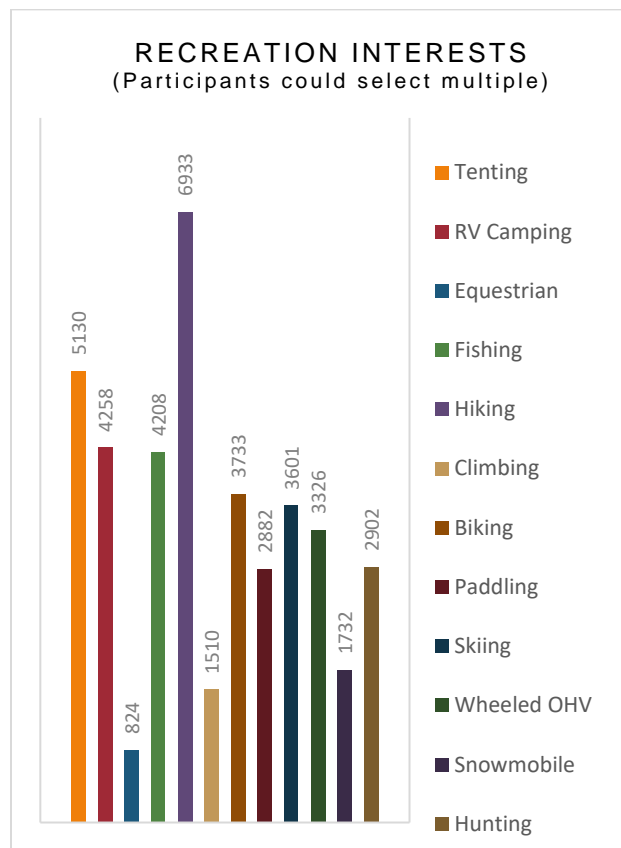
- Improve the delivery of services across government for recreational users on provincial Crown land.
- Better understand public priorities for recreation management on provincial Crown land.
- Identify ways government can further develop, collaborate and maintain partnerships.
- Identify suggestions about how to improve responsible recreation on Crown lands.

Engagement summary

Engagement on sustainable outdoor recreation was completed between November 26, 2020 and January 15, 2021. The engagement included an online public survey, online ideas board, targeted discussions with key stakeholders and consultation with Indigenous peoples.

8,194 Albertans participated in the online public survey, representing a diverse range of interests and demographics:

- 74% visit Crown land more than five times/year
- 58% from southern Alberta, 52% from urban and 48% from rural communities based on postal code
- Identified age (48% over 45 years of age), gender (59% male), and income (40% under \$100,000 annual household income)



Over 30 stakeholder groups were invited to participate, including:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alberta Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Alberta Bicycle Association Alberta Bowhunters Association Alberta Camping Association Alberta Equestrian Federation Alberta Fish and Game Association Alberta Hiking Association Alberta Off Highway Vehicle Assoc. Alberta Outfitters Association Alberta Professional Outfitters Society Alberta Recreation and Parks Assoc. Alberta Snowmobile Association Alberta TrailNet Alberta Trail Riding Association Alberta Whitewater Association | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alberta Wilderness Association Alpine Club of Canada Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Cross Country Alberta Climbers Access Society of Alberta Bighorn Backcountry Standing Committee Recreation Advisory Group Castle-Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Kananaskis Trails Advisory Group Outdoor Recreation Coalition of Alberta Paddle Alberta Society Trails 4 Tomorrow United Riders of Crowsnest Club Willmore Wilderness Foundation Y2Y Conservation Initiative |
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Learn about engagement opportunities at [Alberta.ca/Public-Engagement.aspx](https://alberta.ca/Public-Engagement.aspx)

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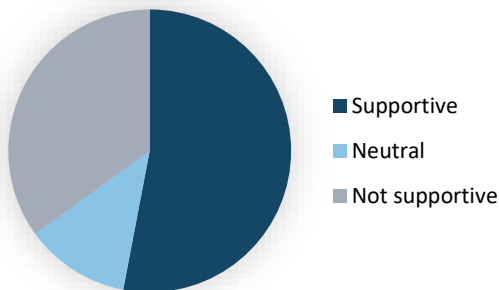
What We Heard

The following topics were presented to obtain respondents' feedback.

1. *Funding for the Delivery of Services - Support for User-Based Fees and Alternatives*

Respondents generally supported the concept of user-based fees.

SUPPORT FOR USER-BASED FEES



Alternatives for funding raised by respondents included:

- redistribution of current budget collected through taxes;
- use of corporate, carbon or industry taxes, sales or fuel taxes; and
- use of enforcement fees

2. *Priorities for Recreation Management - User-Based Fees Application & Implementation*

Respondents supported applying fees based on the type of activity and intensity of use while ensuring considerations to individual's ability to pay. Respondents ranked development and maintenance of recreation areas and trails and protection of the environment as the top two areas for new funds to be invested. Stakeholder groups were asked for information about the fee amount and application to specific activity types. Stakeholder groups that participated felt strongly that funds raised from fees should directly support sustainable recreation.

3. *Partnerships for Sustainable Recreation*

Respondents described values related to partnerships and the importance of the role recreation user groups, volunteer organizations, Indigenous communities and municipal governments play in being partners to support sustainable recreation.

4. *Suggestions for Sustainable Recreation*

Respondents provided suggestions for sustainable recreation within the survey and on the ideas board. From votes received on the ideas board, a summary of the top voted suggestions related to sustainable recreation in participants words were:

- “ - Increase enforcement;
- Expand number and size of parks and don't close or delist;
 - Random camping and OHV are having too big of an impact;
 - Public lands should be held in trust, are crucial to healthy, viable watershed ecosystems, and not for private sale or development;
 - Fees and provincial offence funds should go back to public lands not general revenue;
 - Base investments on usage data and trends – stop devaluing non-motorized users;
 - Should be funded by public money; and
 - Make trail development and maintenance possible ”

Many suggestions also included ideas around enhanced education programs and mandatory training. For more information about existing responsible recreation education resources to use and share, visit: www.alberta.ca/outdoor-recreation-resources.aspx.

Future Opportunities

Additional engagement opportunities will follow. To subscribe to received updates, visit: www.alberta.ca/alberta-crown-land-vision.aspx. To learn about active engagement opportunities, visit Alberta.ca/Public-Engagement.aspx. For questions, contact: OutdoorRecreation@gov.ab.ca.