



Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir: Land Use Plan Recommendations Report

Submitted by the Joint Land Use Advisory Committee
January 2023

This document is advice to the Government of Alberta. This advice considered existing Government of Alberta policies and information provided by Government of Alberta staff. The Government of Alberta's views and intentions may not necessarily coincide with the recommendations of the SR1 Joint Land Use Advisory Committee.

Commonly Used Terms and Acronyms:

AI

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

EPA

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

FNLUAC

First Nation Land Use Advisory Committee

FPT

Alberta Forestry, Parks and Tourism

IAAC

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Impacted Jurisdiction

Referring to a location including, but not limited to lands under Municipal, Provincial or Federal control.

NRCB

Natural Resources Conservation Board

Operator

The Government of Alberta's delegated department responsible for the ongoing operation of the plan area.

Plan/Planning Area

The area within the Project Development Area that the Land Use plan applies to.

Project Development Area

The footprint of the entire Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir project site.

SR1

Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir

TEC

Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors

The Advisory Committee

Joint Land Use Advisory Committee

Utility Right-Of-Way

Also known as a type of easement, legally grants an individual, company or municipality the right to use a portion of the landowner's private property.

Additional Definitions- Specific to the Recommendations (As per the Joint Lands Use Advisory Committee)

Active Transportation

Active transportation is any self-propelled, human-powered mode of transportation, such as walking or bicycling.

AT Lands

Are Crown lands and include SR1 Lands and all other lands purchased by Alberta Transportation as part of the land acquisition activities required to support the SR1 project.

Berm Pathway

Is part of the Pathway and described in Recommendation 7.

East Parking

Is the proposed parking area near the Outlet Lands.

Grazing Lands

Are all or part of the AT Lands that fall north of the berm and diversion channel.

Hwy 22 Parking

Is the proposed parking area on AT Lands near the east side of Hwy 22.

Kamp Kiwanis Lands

Are part of AT Lands that were previously part of Kamp Kiwanis.

North-South Corridor

Is part of the Pathway and described in Recommendation 7.

Outlet Lands

Are part of the SR1 Lands that lie downstream of the Low Level Outlet.

Pathway

Proposed pathway through AT Lands and consists of the Berm Pathway, North-South Corridor, and West Pathway.

Multi-Use

Is the ability to use all or a portion of Project Infrastructure and/or project land for both Operations and Public Use.

South Lands

Part of AT Lands falling south of the diversion channel, east of Hwy 22, north of the Elbow River and west of the Outlet Lands.

SR1 Lands

Are part of AT Lands that are required to support the SR1 project and are specifically identified in the Joint Land Use Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

West Parking

Refers to the proposed parking area west of Hwy 22.

West Pathway

Is part of the Pathway and described in Recommendation 7.

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MESSAGE FROM THE JOINT LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Springbank area has fostered a strong network of people, wildlife and landscapes over generations. From First Nations and Metis to pioneers and ranchers, the history of Springbank is rich and diverse. The SR1 project, a complex undertaking for flood management and mitigation, will present new challenges and opportunities for this region and change the landscape forever.

The Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir (SR1) is located in an area with natural, cultural, community and environmental significance, adjacent to one of the largest metropolitan areas in Canada. The SR1 project lands are in Springbank but also fall in the crossroads of Bragg Creek and Cochrane, forming a key connection point for schools and residents. A project of this magnitude will be a permanent generational project and must consider a vision for current and future public needs while respecting the Springbank community and recognizing the primary use of the site for flood mitigation to protect downstream river communities.

The Joint Land Use Advisory Committee (The Advisory Committee) was created in April 2022 as a result of a decision on the SR1 project made by the Natural Resources Conservation Board, upon its review of the project's application by the Alberta Government. The Government of Alberta invited affected First Nations, landowners, community associations, and recreational groups to come together as part of this joint committee to engage in a land use planning process for the SR1 project area. These discussions included current and future use of the lands and efforts to mitigate negative impacts. A separate Indigenous advisory committee was also established, with its members being formally invited to participate in both advisory committees.

SR1 is first and foremost a project to mitigate the impacts of severe flooding from the Elbow River on the City of Calgary. Secondary land use opportunities discussed by The Advisory Committee included multiple recreational, cultural, and educational uses for the public. Given that SR1 is designed to retain flood water only temporarily, the state of the SR1 lands over time will depend largely on flood size, flood frequency, and operational management. There is the potential for significant sediment deposition and remediation requirements of the land post-flooding. Therefore, the active land use will depend on the flooded footprint, state and safety of the land post-flood, and the effectiveness of land use management processes.

The vision, passions, and interests of The Advisory Committee regarding the proposed land use within SR1 has resulted in a series of recommendations that are meant to contribute to positive and long lasting environmental and social outcomes providing direct community benefits and continuing regional connectivity.

Key recommendations of the Advisory Committee were developed using a framework that include:

- Incorporate a regional vision for protecting the natural environment, integrating SR1 with adjacent lands, and providing direct recreational benefits to the community*
- Preserve, dedicate, and integrate natural areas and river access for use by the public and wildlife*
- Provide regional connectivity and recreational benefits through multi-use pathways and Active Transportation corridors*
- Support grazing opportunities as a continuation of the historical use of the lands, to maintain the health of the grassland when not flooded, and as a fire suppression tool*
- Recognize the cultural and historical aspects of the lands*

There are challenges associated with SR1, highlighted by The Advisory Committee in their recommendations which include:

- The SR1 project's unusual footprint and shape necessitated that additional lands were acquired outside the project's Plan/Planning Area. These extraneous lands and their future land use not only directly contribute to the impact of SR1 on the community but also, with careful planning and management, provide significant integrated value opportunities for natural areas and public river access.*
- Management of the land use planning activities fall within the jurisdiction of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) while the current ownership of the lands fall under Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors. The Advisory Committee notes its concern regarding potential conflicts between how the two agencies will reconcile and manage the vision, outcomes and intentions of the recommendations developed by The Advisory Committee.*

The Advisory Committee's recommendations reflect, to the extent possible, consideration for the challenges of operating the dry reservoir while providing regional, community and public benefits, and maintaining public safety in an area of environmental significance. The uncertainty, variability and extent of flood events and operations on the SR1 lands creates a material degree of uncertainty when defining detailed future land use. To mitigate this uncertainty, there is an acknowledgement that public use may need to be restricted at times to protect public safety and enable essential SR1 operations. The unique nature of the project will necessitate an adaptive approach to land management and land use plans may need to be amended over time, in consultation with stakeholders.

The SR1 lands were acquired to address intermittent flooding activity from the Elbow River in the City of Calgary. While acknowledging their primary objective, they also present a tremendous and valuable recreational opportunity. It is critical to include community and regional recreational benefits as part of a broader, integrated land use planning vision together with operations by identifying and integrating considerations for the environment, watershed management, wildlife and traditional use. We recognize that the development and promotion of recreational opportunities must be carefully and responsibly managed. Any potential negative effects and long-lasting impacts of the SR1 and land use must be balanced and mitigated with community benefits, enhanced regional connectivity, and environmental protection.

The Advisory Committee would like to thank EPA for the opportunity to collaborate with them in respectful and earnest dialogue. Each individual on The Advisory Committee, representing an organization, community, or recreation group provided important inputs and ideas into this document. We hope that this recommendations document creates the foundation for comprehensive guiding principles for these lands into the future.

*Submitted by the Joint Land Use Advisory Committee
January 2023*

OVERVIEW

The Southern Alberta flood of 2013 was a devastating event both socially and economically for many Albertans. It was the most significant flood on record in Alberta and statistically, has been estimated to be slightly greater than a 1:200-year flood. The flood was the costliest (approximately CAD \$6 billion) natural disaster in Canadian history, until the 2016 fires in Fort McMurray. The flood tragically resulted in five deaths and forced the evacuation of over 80,000 people (one of the largest evacuations in Canadian history).

Following the 2013 flood, the Government of Alberta carried out an assessment of mitigation strategies to reduce the risk of future floods. The Southern Alberta Flood Recovery Task Force was established and six potential locations were identified. After review and assessment of the options, the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir (SR1) was selected as the preferred option to mitigate flooding along the Elbow River and to function in tandem with other flood mitigation measures within the region. Engineering and construction of the project is managed by Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC) while land use planning for the plan/planning area is being completed by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) Two regulators, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) provided oversight and final direction for the project.

The SR1 project consists of the engineering and construction of numerous infrastructure components including a diversion structure placed within the Elbow River which, during flood conditions, directs a portion of the flood waters via a diversion canal into the off-stream reservoir. The off-stream reservoir uses the natural terrain, in addition to an earthen berm to contain and hold flood waters, until a controlled release back into the Elbow River can occur once active flood conditions have subsided. The reservoir will only contain post flood event waters and will not contain a permanent water body.

AREA AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project development area is within the Elbow River watershed and part of the larger Bow River basin. The site lies within the Foothills portion in transition with the Rocky Mountains – part of the Foothills Parkland Subregion of Alberta.

The project location lies approximately fifteen (15) kilometers west of the City of Calgary city boundary, the land use planning area is within rural Rocky View County amongst farmsteads, ranches, and a variety of mixed-use agricultural operations. Local transportation

infrastructure includes the TransCanada Highway #1 which is located approximately one kilometre to the north of the SR1 Lands; provincial Highway #22 which intersects the project area and various secondary highways, local township and range roads further connecting the community, including Springbank Road which traverses the reservoir. Springbank and Redwood Meadows are the closest communities offering residential development. The Springbank community is located approximately three (3) kilometres east of the SR1 lands and is home to four (4)

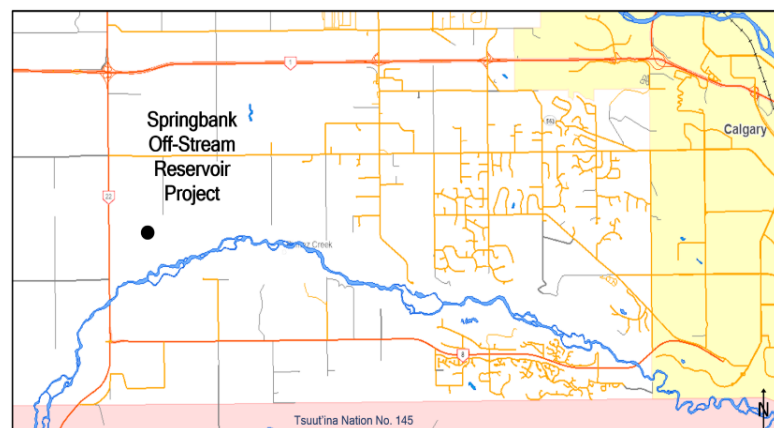


Figure 1: Project Location

schools; playing fields; a recreation centre; senior centre and Calaway Park, the largest outdoor amusement park in western Canada. The Tsuut'ina Nation is the closest First Nation community whose northern-most border is located less than a half kilometre south of the project development area.

The Elbow River plays an important role for surface water flow and in regional surface water-groundwater interactions. The Elbow River provides a drinking water source to approximately one in six Albertans. Along with the Elbow River and throughout the project footprint, there are various wetlands and several small, naturally occurring waterbodies in the project development area. Runoff contributions to these water bodies are intermittent and result in fluctuating water levels. A creek known as Unnamed Creek runs through the project development area will be incorporated into the dry reservoir to receive released water from the low-level outlet works. Wetlands mostly occur along drainages and are often found adjacent to the Elbow River. The Elbow River is rated as primarily good fish habitat providing spawning, overwintering, and rearing habitats.

The Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir project development area contains winter ungulate habitat, allowing wildlife connectivity across the landscape and has a high potential for biodiversity. The project development area overlaps with Wildlife Management Units 212 and 312, and Fur Management Zone 8. With the mixture of grassland, shrubs, and mixed forest, the project development area provides habitat for many bird species during summer breeding and foraging, spring and fall stopovers for migrating birds, and habitat for winter resident species.

Maps identifying the overall plan location and its various planned infrastructure components are found in Appendix E of this document.

PROJECT APPROVAL CONDITIONS

The following two regulatory bodies provided direction to the Government of Alberta regarding development of the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir land use plan:

Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB)

The Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) approval conditions including the formation of a Joint Land Use Advisory Committee (the Advisory Committee) to discuss and recommend land use planning, firearms use in the plan area and renaming of the site. The conditions also state that The Advisory Committee will be dissolved on the completion of the land use plan or at the discretion of the Operator- in this case the Operator will be Alberta Environment and Protected Areas.

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) provided additional project approval conditions specific to the land use planning process. This included the formation of a First Nations Land Use Advisory Committee to work collaboratively on the land use planning process and ensuring their Treaty rights and traditional uses are adhered to. Members of the First Nations Land Use Advisory Committee participated in The Advisory Committee meetings and provided additional information for The Advisory Committee recommendations. The First Nations Land Use Advisory Committee will have their own specific recommendations in a separate submission.

Guiding Principles and Direction for Future Land Use Planning

The Guiding Principles and Direction for Future Land Use document, developed early in project planning by Government of Alberta department staff, was a condition requirement before the overall project approval was granted. This document was intended to provide a framework to the Government of Alberta in the development and implementation of future land use of the SR1 planning area. The draft land use plan will outline the details of proposed land uses for the planning area and is to be based upon the principles outlined in the document. Following the set of conditions set out by IAAC, two distinct land use functions intended for the plan area were identified. These defined land uses include the following:

Primary Land Use: Flood Mitigation

Land use is to be managed for the primary purpose of providing temporary storage of water for flood mitigation to communities and infrastructure downstream of the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir. Land use activities that limit or otherwise affect the operation or functioning of the reservoir for its primary use, including the ability to fill to full capacity, retain, and release water back to the Elbow River, will not be allowed. Any secondary uses cannot conflict with the primary use. Safety (public and operations staff) is the overriding factor for all land use decisions.

Secondary Land Uses

In light of the primary use (flood mitigation), public safety in an area of environmental significance is the overriding factor in permitting any secondary use. Secondary uses include First Nations exercise of Treaty rights and traditional land use, non-motorized recreation, and grazing as part of vegetation and habitat management while respecting the environmental sensitivity of the area.

First Nations Traditional Land Use

First Nations' traditional activities, including the exercise of Treaty rights such as hunting, will be consulted on and supported by access.

Other Secondary Land Uses

Other uses and activities will be considered where they align and are compatible with the overarching management intent of flood mitigation, First Nation traditional use, and the draft guiding principles. In general, only uses and activities that have a minimal impact on the land will be allowed, therefore the availability of surface dispositions will be limited.

Non-motorized recreational access (e.g.: hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing) may be permitted in some areas in accordance with approved land uses. Vegetation and habitat management, as well as any post-flood remediation actions, will be in compliance and consistent with the regulatory approvals for the reservoir. Issuing of agricultural dispositions (e.g. grazing permits only) may be used as a tool for managing and maintaining the grassland landscape (including for fire suppression) as required and as determined by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas.

JOINT LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE)

As outlined in the NRCB decision condition, the primary purpose of the Government of Alberta’s engagement with the Joint Land Use Advisory Committee (The Advisory Committee) was to develop recommendations for consideration in the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Land Use Plan. All engagement efforts are aimed to raise awareness and understanding of the project, including opportunities for the public, directly affected stakeholders, local and Indigenous communities while providing a forum to share their values, interests, scientific expertise, and wisdom to contribute to the Land Use Plan. The approach taken also aimed to ensure continuity and coordination of engagement activities between internal governmental ministries, including TEC and EPA. Ultimately, the work of this committee is to support the ecological, cultural and social inclusion and sustainability values for the project area and for enabling the exercise of Treaty rights and traditional uses.

Committee Terms of Reference

A Terms of Reference (TOR) document was developed and approved by committee membership to guide the development of recommendations associated with the plan area. The TOR also established the purpose and scope of the work; identified the expected goals and objectives, related responsibilities and accountabilities for participants.

Committee Membership

A diverse roster of stakeholders was identified and contacted by EPA; who sought support and participation in the land use planning project. The Advisory Committee included representatives from Indigenous communities, local municipal governments, non-governmental organizations, local landowners and other stakeholders (Table 1). As directed by IAAC conditions, EPA extended invitations to members of the First Nations Land Use Advisory Committee (Appendix D) to attend and participate in the Advisory Committee meetings. The Advisory Committee was formed in April 2022.

Invitations to participate went out to numerous community contacts, with the following organizations and individuals accepting and/or participating on the Advisory Committee. (Table 1)

Organization/Representing	Member
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers	Benjamin Misener Beau Cleland (Alternate)
Bow River Basin Council	Mike Murray Steve Meadows (Alternate)
City of Calgary	Frank Frigo Megan van Ham (Alternate)
First Nations Land Use Advisory Committee Members	(Refer to Appendix D)
Foothills Ojibway Society	Chief Jim O’Chiese
Ktunaxa Nation Council	Katherine Morris
Land Owner	Lee and Diana J. Drewry
Land Owner	Scott and Marsha Wagner
Land Owner	Philip R. Copithorne
Land Owner	John Robinson
Land Owner	Brian J. Copithorne
Metis Nation of Alberta Region 3	Lawrence Gervais
Metis Nation of British Columbia *	Lissa Dawn Smith
Outdoor Recreation Coalition of Alberta	Alf Skrastins

	Connie Simmons (Alternate)
Rocky View County	Dominic Kazmierczak Jessica Anderson (Alternate)
Springbank Community Association	Karin Hunter Jan Erisman (Alternate)
Springbank Community Planning Association	Gloria Wilkinson Ena Spalding (Alternate)
Springbank Trails and Pathways Association	Edmond Wittstock Ronda Rankin (Alternate)
*Metis Nation of British Columbia has asked Metis Nation of Alberta- Region 3 to represent Metis values and needs at the Advisory Committee table and would not formally be participating.	

Table 1: Joint Land Use Advisory Committee Membership

Editorial Team

In addition to participating on the Advisory Committee, EPA asked for volunteers to be part of a smaller team to assist with a number of elements in preparing this final recommendations report. It was important that members of the Editorial Team (Table 2) did not 'represent' their organization but as they proceeded with their tasks they considered the discussions, priorities and values of all members of the Advisory Committee.

The five person Editorial Team was responsible for:

- Review and comment on the Table of Contents for this report.
- Prepare an introductory section reflecting on process, recommendations and priorities.
- Review and edit the draft recommendations for clarity.
- Present edited draft recommendations and the introductory section during a committee meeting.
- Review and edit this draft recommendations report.

Several extra meetings, additional discussions and time was necessary by the Editorial Team to ensure details were reviewed and fully reflected the discussions of the Advisory Committee as a whole.

Organization/Representation	Member
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers	Benjamin Misener
Land Owner	Lee Drewry
Springbank Community Association	Karin Hunter (Chair)
Springbank Community Planning Association	Ena Spalding
Springbank Trails and Pathways Association	Edmond Wittstock

Table 2: Editorial Team Members

LAND USE PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The land use plan recommendations prepared by the Advisory Committee have been developed to represent the various activities, opportunities and general management intent that could be explored within the plan area with the development of the land use plan. Through numerous discussions, additional adjacent opportunities have been offered for consideration. Throughout the development of these recommendations, EPA supported the general

process by organizing and facilitating committee and the Editorial Team meetings and coordinating administrative tasks.

The exercise of Treaty rights within the plan area was identified as an important theme; however, it was determined that recommendations specific to Treaty rights or other activities practiced by First Nations would be more appropriately provided by the First Nations Land Use Advisory Committee. As such, The Advisory Committee's recommendations do not reflect proposed uses specific to First Nations or the exercise of Treaty rights.

As noted later in this document, although the TOR for this recommendations report was written to specifically address the Plan/Planning Area, to recognize and mitigate the impact of SR1 on the community. The Advisory Committee strongly felt that the recommendations needed to be integrated and transitioned with adjacent Crown lands. Some of the final recommendations therefore also include recommendations for Crown lands that are AT Lands but physically fall outside the boundary of the Plan/Planning Area.

Recommendation Development Process

The process to develop this final Recommendations Report took approximately eight (8) months and countless hours of volunteer time and effort by its members. The process consisted of five basic steps used to reach the final report stage, as detailed in Figure 2 below. This process included participation at various meetings and discussions to: introduce the project; assembly of the key project themes; development of draft recommendations framed by these themes; participation in group polling to determine level of the Advisory Committee consensus throughout the various iterations of the draft recommendations and finally the development of this recommendations report. A table identifying the Advisory Committee and Editorial Team meeting schedules are located in Appendix A.

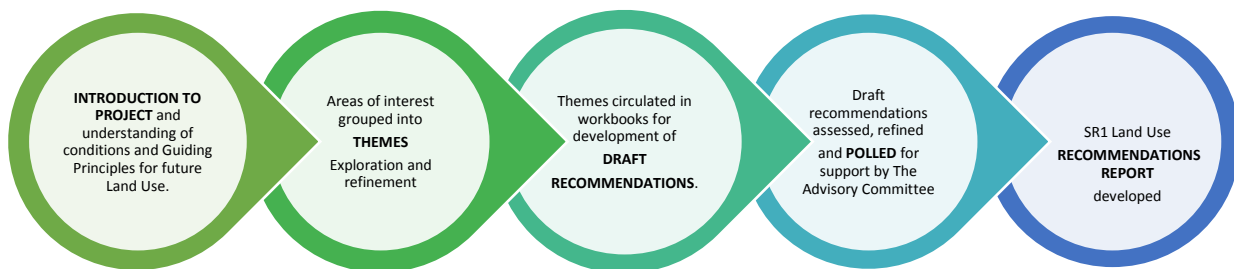


Figure 2: The Advisory Committee Recommendation Development Process.

The introductory meeting facilitated by EPA was held in April 2022, which began the formal process introducing the representative members and outlining the key conditions set forth by IAAC and the NRCB. During this meeting a key component of the overall process for the committee- the Terms of Reference, was finalized.

A collaborative meeting for both The Advisory Committee and the First Nations Land Use Advisory Committee was held in Calgary in May 2022. At this meeting, presentations were given by Alberta Government subject matter experts providing information on topics and portfolios including: wildlife management and hunting; recreation management; First Nations access and Treaty rights; water management, dam operations; and rangeland/grazing management. These presentations included opportunities for all participants to ask questions and seek a better understanding of the various elements associated with this project.

Following this meeting, a workbook was provided to the Advisory Committee to identify and document various key areas of interest- the results of which were then categorized into specific themes. A follow-up meeting was held in July 2022 where small break out sessions were facilitated by EPA to identify and explore the workbook themes. These themes were then tested by polling the Advisory Committee to evaluate their accuracy by discussing the results during the meeting. These discussions resulted in the development of the initial set of draft recommendations. Throughout the process, the recommendations are structured similarly, beginning with a simple statement describing what is proposed and what action is needed or change desired. The rationale section speaks to why the recommendation is proposed and what problem/opportunity will be addressed by the recommendation. The considerations section includes descriptions of how the recommendation could be implemented, as well as concerns or issues that should be addressed prior to and during implementation.

The draft recommendations developed by the Advisory Committee were circulated to various Government of Alberta staff representing departments who manage the identified theme areas. These subject matter experts reviewed each initial draft recommendation and provided their comments and offered adjustments to ensure alignment with current operational procedures, regulations and legislation. All revisions and supporting rationale provided by the government internal review were captured and noted within the document and shared with the Advisory Committee members.

In September 2022, The Advisory Committee met again to discuss the additional information the subject matter experts provided and further refine the draft recommendations. At this point, an initial polling activity took place to identify the level of support. This polling was a cursory look at the information in order to focus conversations during the rest of the meeting. During the rest of the meeting, participants were divided into two facilitated break-out groups to further discuss the draft recommendations and initial polling results. Due to limited time to fully explore the draft recommendations, an additional meeting was held in October 2022 to complete the previous discussions. At this meeting, EPA asked for interested members to volunteer to participate on the Editorial Team. Once formed, the Editorial Team assisted with the final review of the draft recommendations and the refinement of this document.

In November 2022, a meeting facilitated by the Editorial Team and supported by EPA was held to provide an opportunity for a final review and offer any revisions to the draft recommendations. A second meeting was held in December 2022 to complete a last review of the draft recommendations, which also included a review of newly developed recommendations which evolved from the previous Advisory Committee meeting. In December 2022, EPA initiated a polling exercise to document support for each recommendation. Once final polling was completed in January 2023, these results were gathered and have been inserted into this recommendations report for the Editorial Team to review. Final review of the recommendations report was completed by the Advisory Committee before final submission to the Government of Alberta.

Committee Consensus Polling – Identifying level of support

During the initial stages of developing the draft recommendations, the Advisory Committee members were asked by EPA to provide their level of support by selecting one of four categories: Support; Support with Reservations; Not Support and Need More Information. Recognizing achieving consensus amongst a large and diverse group is not expected, identifying a level of support for each recommendation helped to identify areas in need of further discussion and refinement as a group, in order to identify any outstanding concerns and improve the level of support moving forward. Development of the final recommendations also used group polling in December 2022; however, the four categories of support were further refined into six levels of support in order to obtain a greater understanding of level of support. Information detailing the process of polling categories are found in Appendix C.

LAND USE RECOMMENDATIONS- CONSENSUS RESULTS

As introduced above in the process description, themes were developed through discussions with the Advisory Committee members to help organize and group recommendations to assist polling. The following land use themes provided the framework for drafting the following recommendations. In turn, these recommendations were reviewed and revised by the Advisory Committee. Polling responses for each of the recommendations was provided by ten (10) Committee members. The responses and any comments indicating non-support are included below. The complete set of recommendations inclusive of rationale, considerations and assessments is found in Appendix B of this document.

In order to provide clarity, many recommendations have also been presented in a map which provides a spatial reference to support the written description. This map also serves to show relationships between various recommendations presented in this document. This map is found in Appendix E of this document.

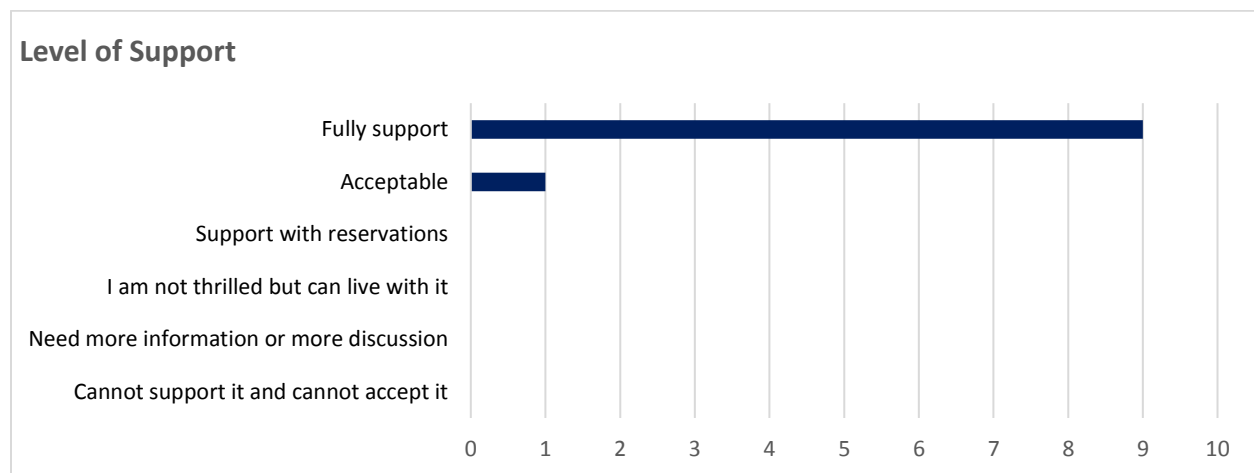
Theme 1: Water Management

The following recommendation considers the conservation and protection of water resources within the project area. For clarity, this does not include the water operations infrastructure of the project which will have separate and specific guidelines developed.

Recommendation 1

Develop water quality and quantity monitoring and reporting in the area naturally draining to, through, and from the project site, including water quality impacts to habitat, groundwater-surface water interactions and increased sedimentation from and in the Elbow River.

The Advisory Committee consensus poll result:



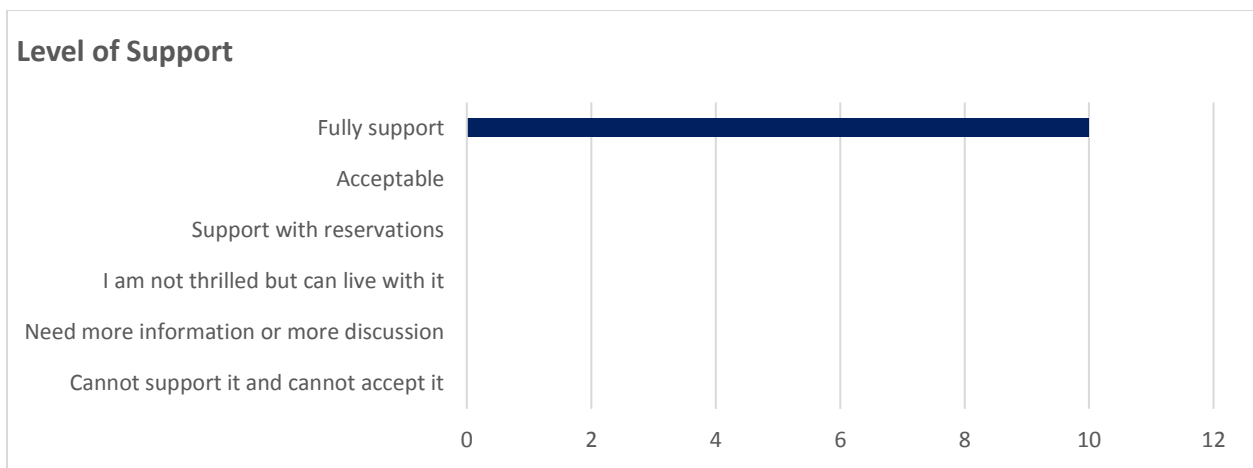
Theme 2: Ecological Values

The following recommendations consider the conservation and protection of the ecosystem of the project area, including biodiversity, native flora and fauna (including native grasslands), and the ecosystem services that the area offers.

Recommendation 2

Proactively manage grassland and riparian habitats to re-establish and preserve ecological function after construction and before, during and after flooding events, including fire hazard management practices.

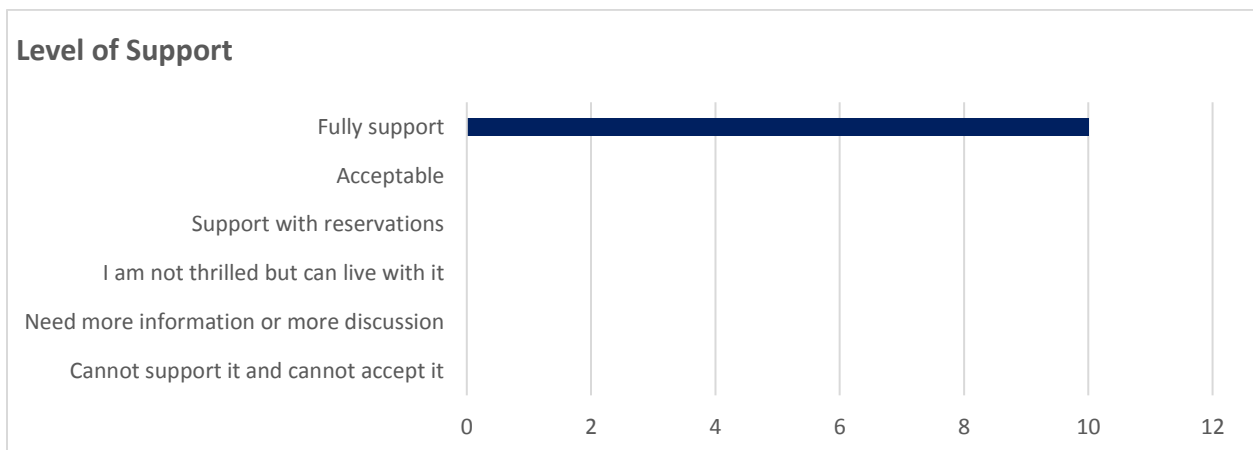
The Advisory Committee consensus poll result:



Recommendation 3

Conserve, restore and sustain native vegetation within the project area over time.

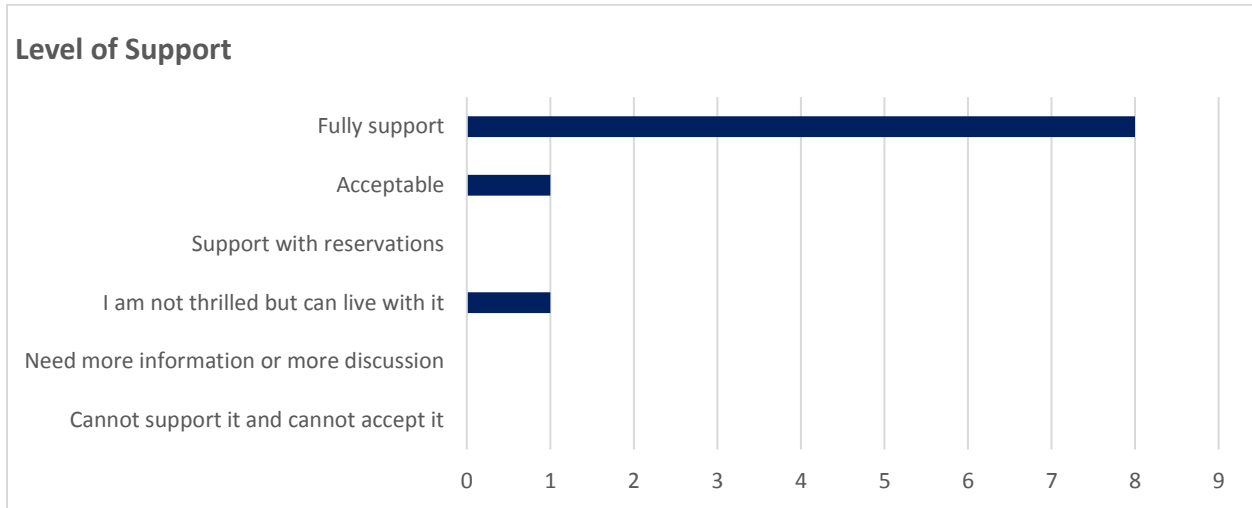
The Advisory Committee consensus poll result:



Recommendation 4

Livestock grazing to continue on the Grazing Lands as a fire suppression tool and to support vegetation and agricultural management.

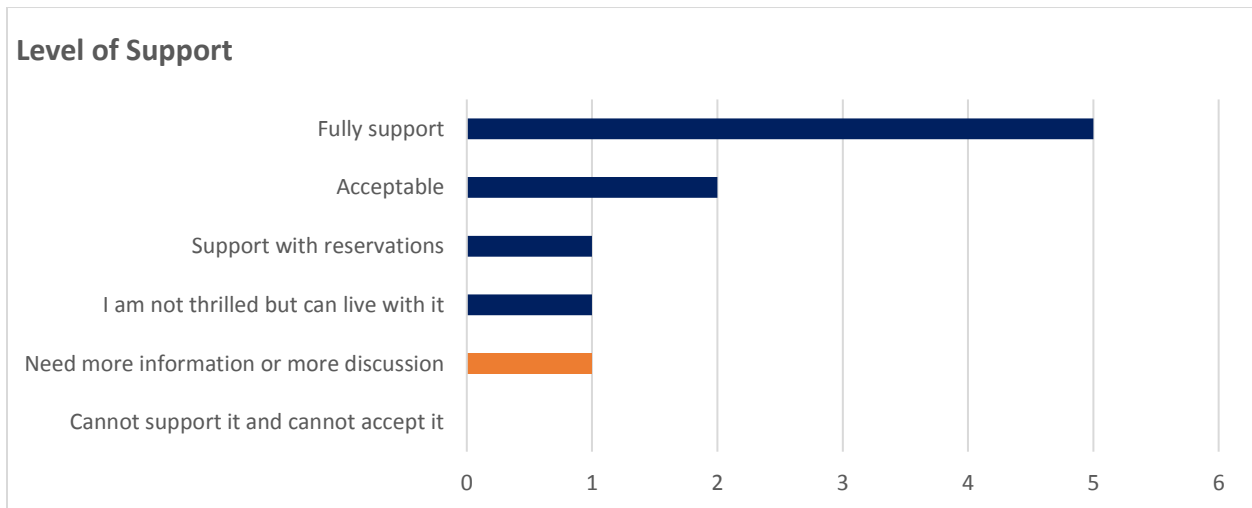
The Advisory Committee consensus poll result:



Recommendation 5

Identify, confirm and map wildlife corridors that intersect in AT Lands and adjacent private lands, to enhance or, at minimum, maintain these corridors to support sustainable wildlife populations and conserve wildlife habitat.

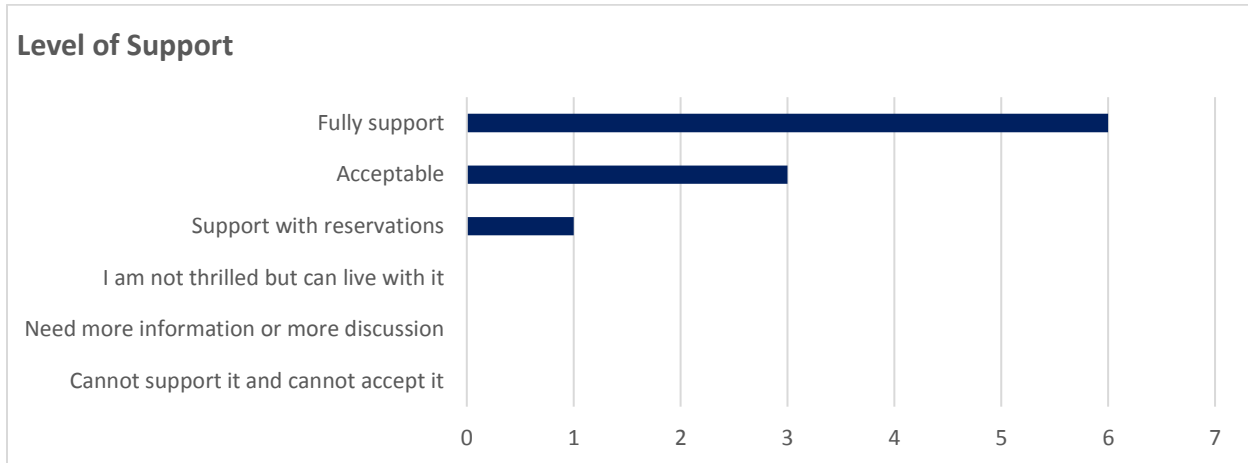
The Advisory Committee consensus poll result:



Recommendation 6

Employ tools (e.g. Crown Land Reservation Holding) to publicly identify ecological management and conservation intent and provide locations where monitoring reports are available (regarding AT Lands).

The Advisory Committee consensus poll result:



Theme 3: Vision for Recreation Management, Public Access and Human Connectivity

The following recommendations consider public access to the project area; appropriate and permitted recreational activities, and which tools can be implemented to regulate activities and mitigate potential user conflicts and public safety concerns.

Recommendation 7

Provide regional people connectivity by facilitating public access through the AT Lands with the development of non-motorized designated trails/pathway(s) and Multi-Use of Project Infrastructure (the “Pathway”) as follows:

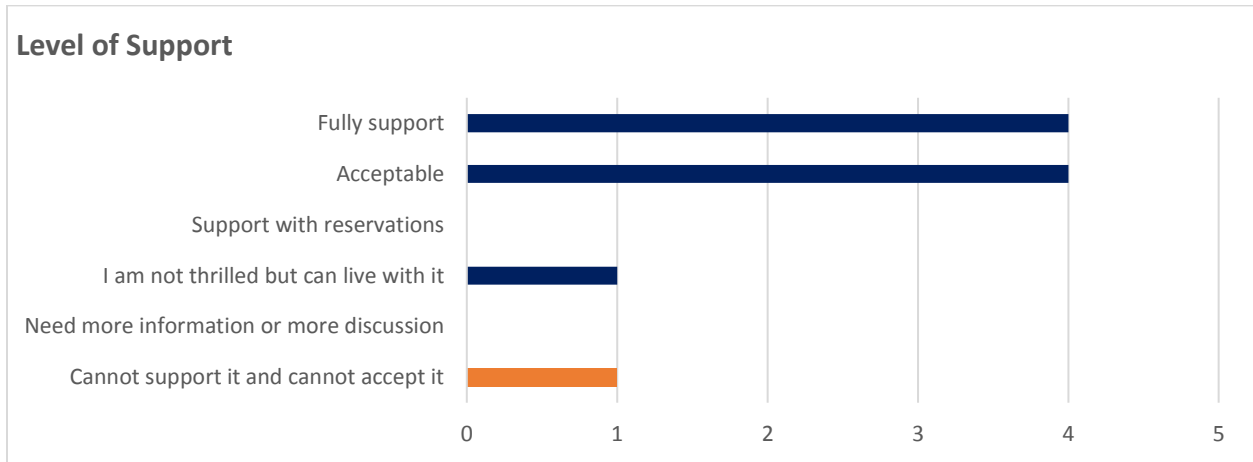
7A Multi-use of the maintenance road for a public pathway running east-west along the top of the earthen berm and along the diversion channel, from Hwy 22 to the eastern boundary of SR1 Lands including crossing the eastern low level outlet. (“Berm Pathway”)

7B Retain/assign a north-south pathway corridor along the eastern boundary of SR1 Lands from the eastern point of the Berm Pathway north to a point on Springbank Road, for the future construction of pathway by others. (“North-South Corridor”)

7C Provide multi-use along the south and east sides of the diversion channel, bridge infrastructures and existing berms to extend the Berm Pathway westwards under Hwy 22, and follow the diversion channel south across the Elbow River to the southern boundary of SR1 Lands. (“West Pathway”)

(Please note: This recommendation may have elements that fall outside of the prescribed land use plan project area.)

The Advisory Committee consensus poll result:



Summary of comment regarding non-support:

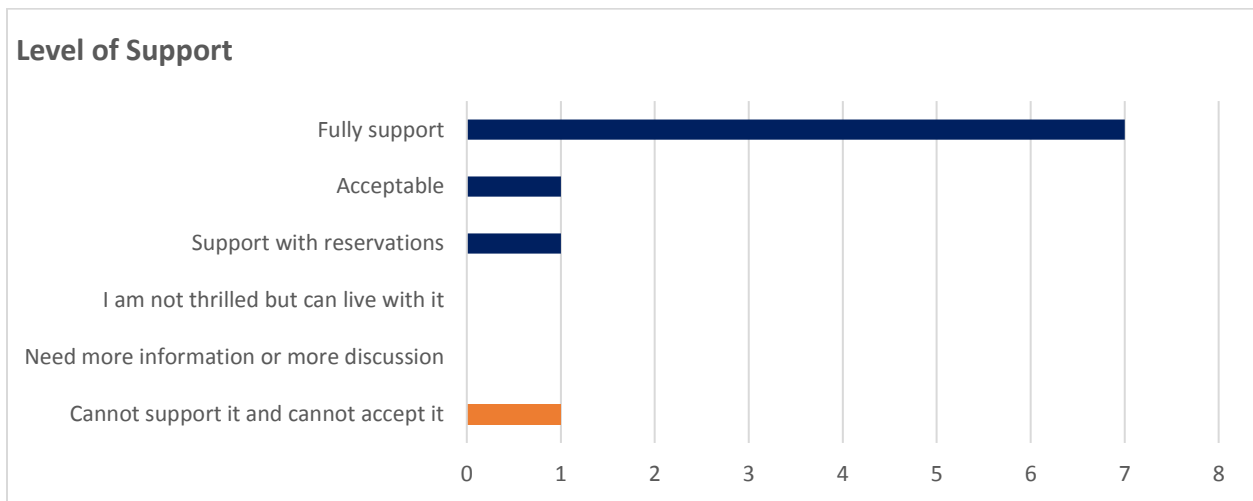
- No comment provided.

Recommendation 8

Retain the AT Lands located south of the berm and diversion channel system down to the northern shore of the Elbow River and lying east of Highway 22 and west of the eastern boundary of the project area (the "South Lands"), and furthermore provide public access.

(Please note: This recommendation may have elements that fall outside of the prescribed land use plan project area.)

The Advisory Committee consensus poll result:



Summary of comment regarding non-support:

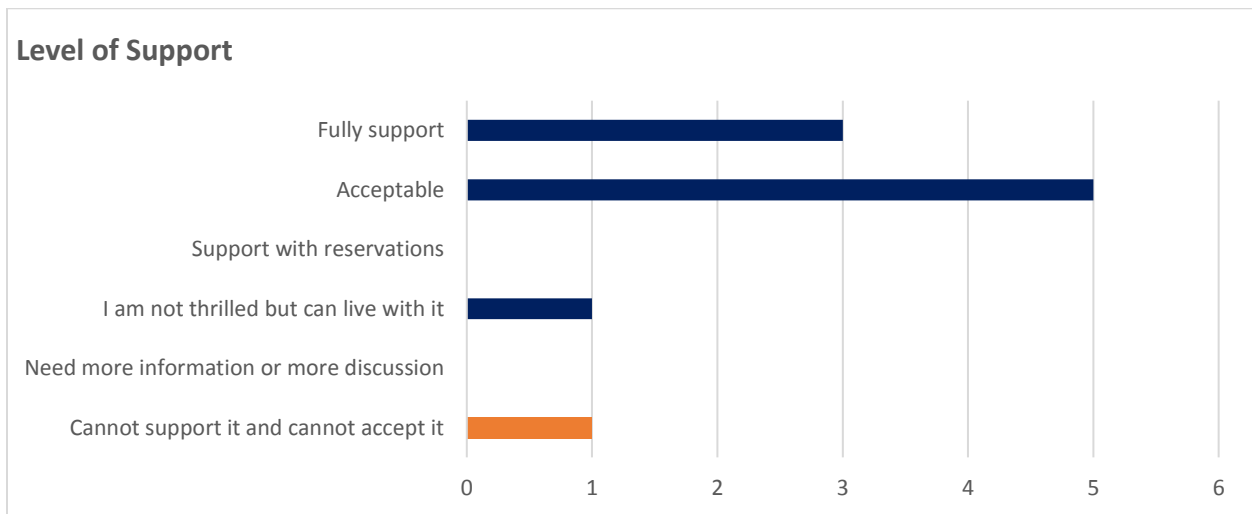
- Concern expressed with incompatibility of the various proposed uses- grazing, hunting and recreation.

Recommendation 9

Provide public access to the natural area at the extreme southeastern corner of the SR1 footprint, near the low-level outlet and the Unnamed Creek channel including the land extending through to the Elbow River (the “Outlet Lands”).

(Please note: This recommendation may have elements that fall outside of the prescribed land use plan project area.)

The Advisory Committee consensus poll result:



Summary of comment regarding non-support:

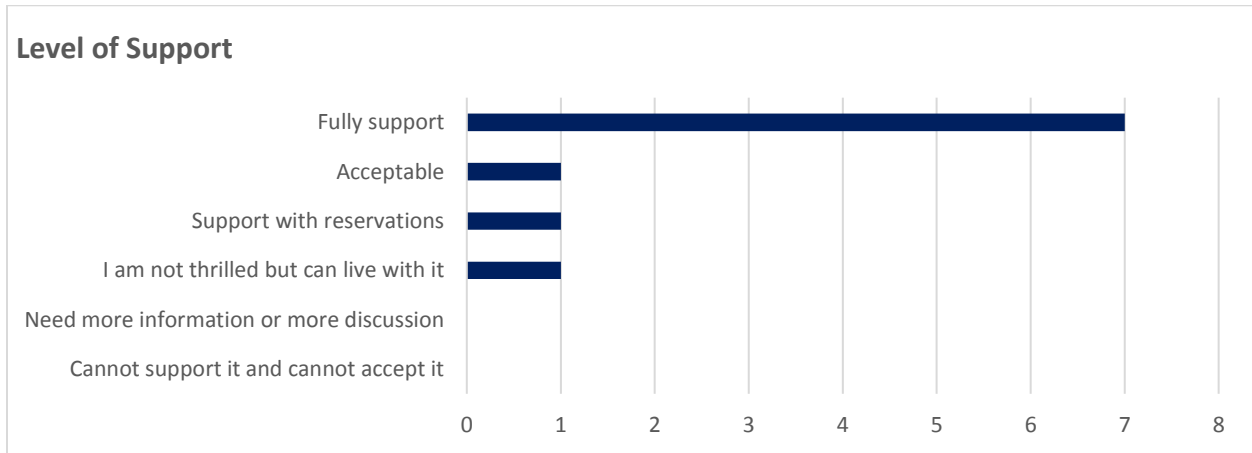
- Proposed activities perceived not to be compatible with First Nation’s use, grazing and hunting.

Recommendation 10

Retain the Kamp Kiwanis Lands as Crown lands due to their environmental value, and explore opportunities for regional active transportation networks, and public infrastructure such as parking lots, staging areas, camping, and other public access.

(Please note: This recommendation may have elements that fall outside of the prescribed land use plan project area.)

The Advisory Committee consensus poll result:



Recommendation 11

Provide year-round public access to facilitate public use as follows:

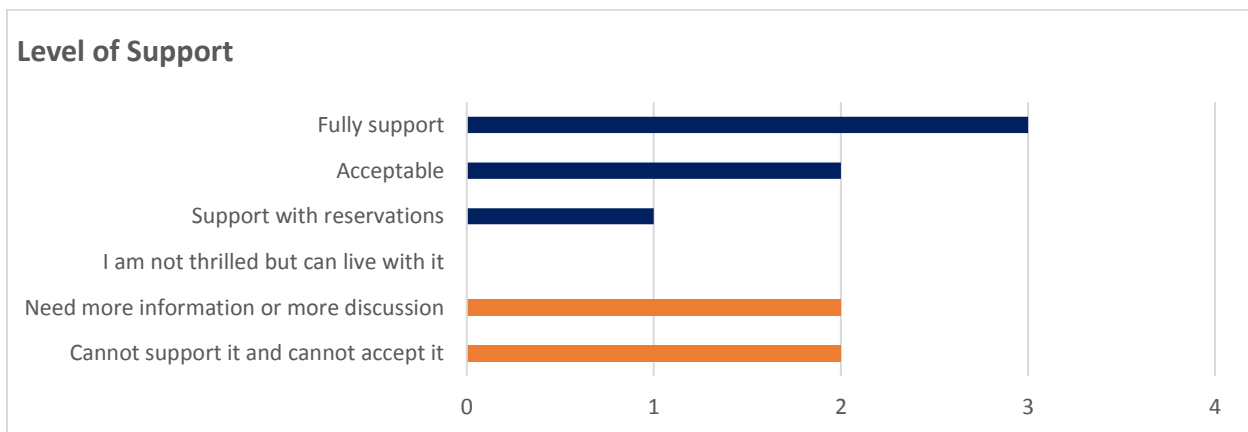
11A Provide a multi-use parking area near the eastern boundary of the South Lands for SR1 operations, public access to the Pathway, public access to the South Lands, and public access to the Outlet Lands. ("East Parking")

11B Provide a parking area for future parking development just east of Hwy 22 for public access to the Pathway, and public access to the South Lands. ("Hwy 22 Parking")

11C Provide a parking area west of Hwy 22 for future parking development for public access to the Pathway and South Lands. ("West Parking")

(Please note: This recommendation may have elements that fall outside of the prescribed land use plan project area.)

The Advisory Committee consensus poll result:



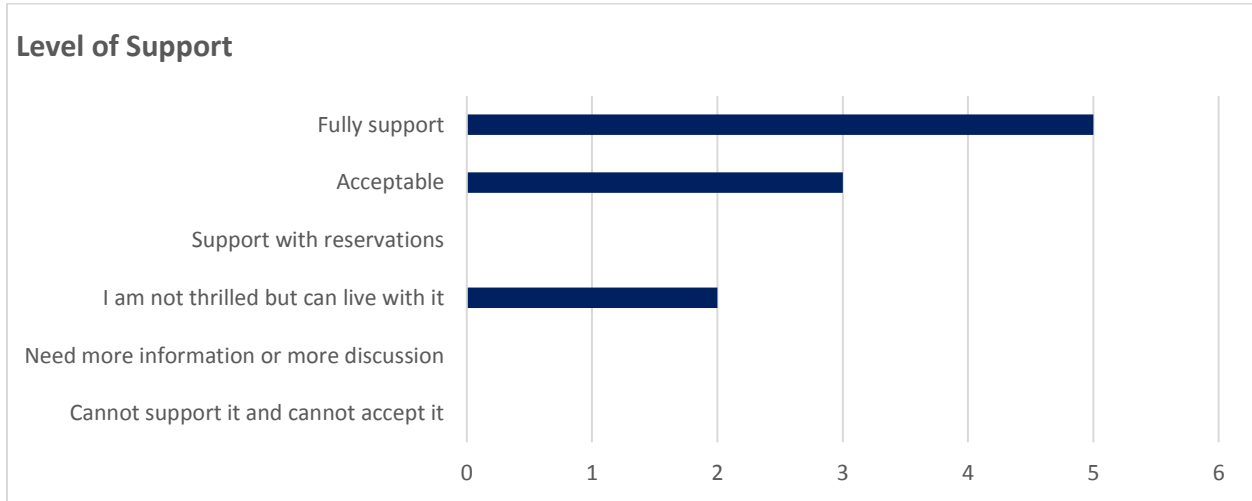
Summary of comments regarding non-support:

- Concern expressed with development of parking impacting ecology of site.
- Concern expressed regarding adjacent road infrastructure and their operation.

Recommendation 12

Permit the responsible use of bicycles and pedal-assist bicycles along designated trails/pathways.

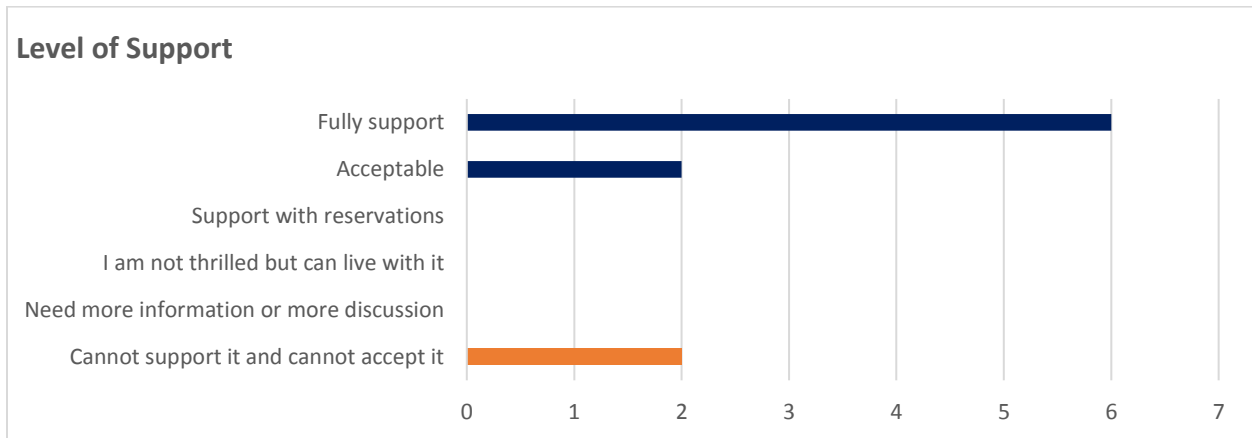
The Advisory Committee consensus poll result:



Recommendation 13

Adjust the Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) boundaries to include the entire project area within WMU 212.

The Advisory Committee consensus poll result:



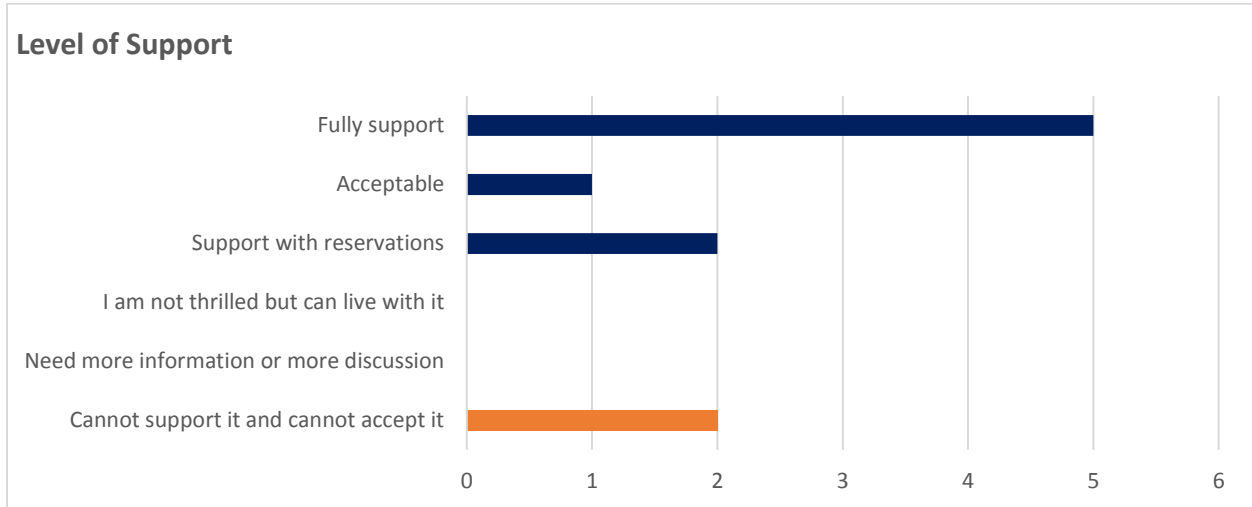
Summary of comments regarding non-support:

- Indicated preference for no hunting to occur in plan area.
- Concern expressed that the site is too small to support incompatible uses- hunting and recreation safely.

Recommendation 14

Continue to allow hunting activities as permitted under the Wildlife Act, WMU Regulations and Treaty rights.

The Advisory Committee consensus poll result:



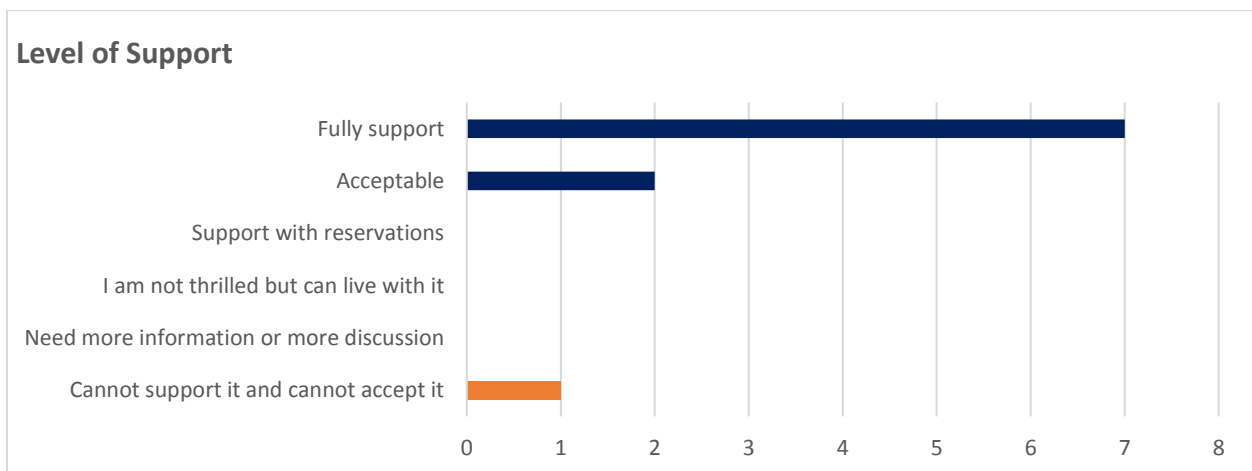
Summary of comments regarding non-support:

- Concern expressed that hunting should not be considered- neighbours in close proximity.
- Concern expressed that the site is too small to support incompatible uses- hunting and recreation safely.

Recommendation 15

Restrict the non-hunting recreational use of firearms and weapons according to WMU 212 Regulations.

The Advisory Committee consensus poll result:



Summary of comment regarding non-support:

- The site location is too small and too close to populated communities to support incompatible uses such as hunting and recreational uses.

Theme 4: Natural and Cultural History and Public Education

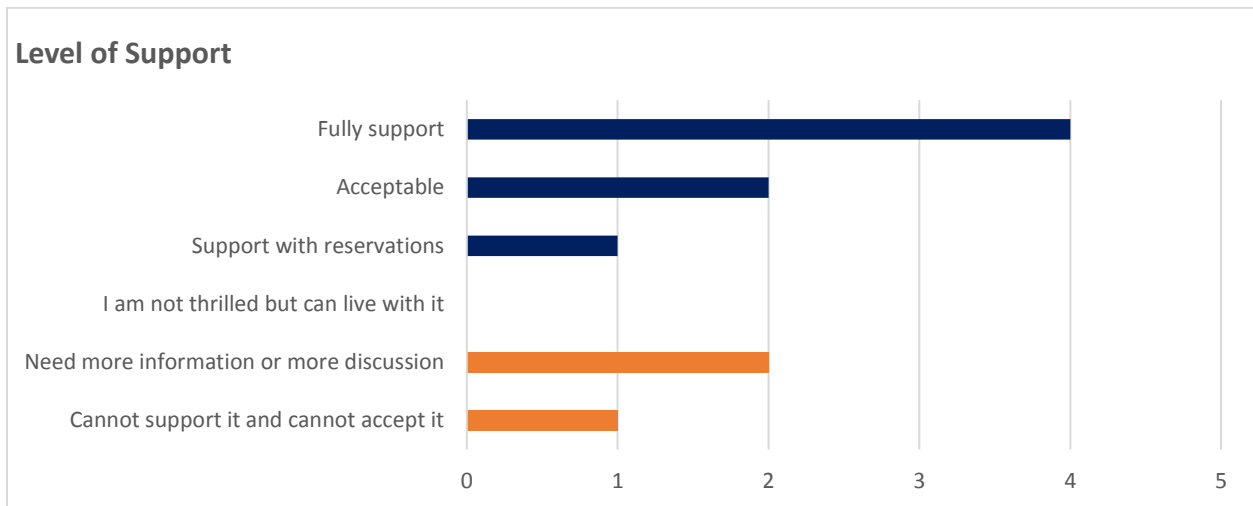
The following recommendations consider opportunities for recognizing and preserving natural, cultural and historical attributes of the area and encompass public education within the project area on the topics of ecological, cultural, and historical values.

Recommendation 16

Retain a small portion of AT Lands to enable limited public access around the bluffs containing sandstone outcroppings that are adjacent to Hwy 22 (the "Bluffs"), to recognize a point of cultural and natural area significance, for future opportunities.

(Please note: This recommendation may have elements that fall outside of the prescribed land use plan project area.)

The Advisory Committee consensus poll result:



Summary of comment regarding non-support:

- Concern expressed concern with regard to reasonable access to the site.

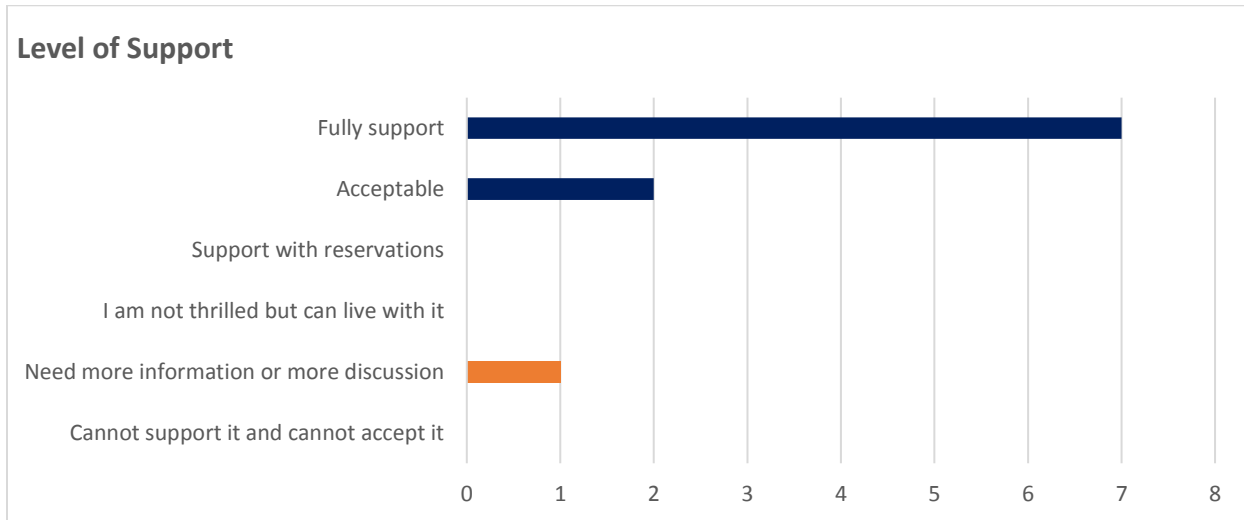
Recommendation 17

Fund a government budget and provide a framework to advance identification of cultural and historical areas of significance, in collaboration with the Springbank Historical Society, with the objective to optimize and stage specific projects and educational opportunities and to fulfill the following condition outlined by the NRCB:

“Work with the Springbank Historical Society to document the history of the lands in the PDA and to cooperate with the GOA to develop appropriate plaques or signage.”

(Please note: This recommendation may have elements that fall outside of the prescribed land use plan project area.)

The Advisory Committee consensus poll result:



ADJACENT CROWN LAND OPPORTUNITIES

During the development of the land use recommendations, a few adjacent Crown lands were identified as offering potential opportunities in alignment with those identified within the land use plan area. These lands include:

- An area located between the plan area and Highway 22 identified as “The Bluffs”;
- The lands where the former Kamp Kiwanis was located immediately west-north-west of the Highway 8/Highway 22 traffic circle; and
- The lands located south of the plan area specifically located between the dam’s earthen berm and the northern edge of Elbow River and immediately east of Highway 22 toward the south end of Range Road 35 road allowance at the Elbow River.

These immediately adjacent Crown lands were identified by some members of The Advisory Committee to offer material public and recreational opportunities and also hold both environmental and watershed management significance, and were therefore flagged for additional consideration. Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors have previously acquired these lands to support the construction of the off-stream reservoir functional dam elements.

The members of The Advisory Committee recognize that at this time, all of these Crown lands are technically located outside of the land use plan area and do not fall within the defined land use plan boundaries. It is further understood that these Crown lands are subject to review and assessment independent from the land use planning project. Recognizing that there are integrated opportunities for potential public and recreational use, enhanced environmental and watershed protection, and cultural and historical preservation/education and awareness aspects for Crown lands immediately adjacent to the defined land use plan area, recommendations for review of these Crown lands have also been included for consideration.

ONGOING COMMUNICATION AND MONITORING

The Advisory Committee identified that there is a need to manage the relationship between land use planning with infrastructure accessibility, and ultimate ongoing operations of the SR1 project. The understanding is that the land use plan will help inform, guide and align with future operational planning and activities, including identification of public access and recreational use. Elements related to the ongoing operation of the non-infrastructure elements of the plan area were also identified in the recommendations. These elements include the overall monitoring of the site and communication between the operator, impacted jurisdictions, and the public during regular operations, flood events, post flood events or whenever significant changes affect the plan area.

It is understood that public safety and development of safety procedures is paramount to the operation of the plan area and that seasonal closures during flood season, closure during and after any flood event and maintenance activities will be undertaken by the Provincial operator when necessary. Finally, The Advisory Committee feels strongly that in the event a flood occurs requiring the use of the dry reservoir, revisiting the land use plan should be considered to evaluate, validate and/or adjust the original land use plan as necessary over time.

SUMMARY

The members of the Joint Land Use Advisory Committee, The Advisory Committee, submit this document, the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Land Use Plan Joint Land Use Advisory Committee Recommendations Report (January 2023), to the Government of Alberta describing The Advisory Committee's process, outlining the 17 recommendations developed and identifying additional opportunities for recreational activities for Crown lands in the adjacent area.

There is a tremendous opportunity before this government to leverage the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir project footprint, infrastructure and adjacent acquired lands to create lasting and positive environmental, social and cultural impacts for future generations of Albertans.

We trust that the planning team will review this information with an open mind and sincerely consider this report in the development of the land use plan and in decisions regarding the excess lands acquired.

APPENDIX A: COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

The Joint Land Use Advisory Committee were invited to attend and actively participate in a variety of meetings. Due to post-pandemic comfort levels and to accommodate participants’ schedules and the diverse locations regarding residences and work, meetings were offered online via Zoom web hosting technology. A collaborative meeting with the First Nations Land Use Advisory Committee was held on May 25, 2022. This format was in-person with additional provision for attendance via online using two-way cameras and microphones.

In addition to the regular Advisory Committee meetings, on October 26, 2022 the newly assigned Editorial Team comprised of five Advisory Committee members; had their initial kick off meeting with EPA staff to discuss next steps and the process of preparing the group recommendations into a final Recommendations Report format. Over the course of refining the draft recommendations, members of the Editorial Team maintained contact with one another through email, and occasional in-person conversations to review progress. Review and group editing contributions to the various documents was encouraged and documented via Google Docs.

Dates and details of the Joint Land Use Advisory Committee meetings included:

Meetings	Date	Format	Topic
Meeting 1	April 20, 2022	Online	Project introduction, review of Committee Terms of Reference
Meeting 2	May 25, 2022	In person and online offered	Collaborative Meeting with First Nations Land Use Advisory Committee
Meeting 3	July 6, 2022	Online	Committee meeting- full
Meeting 4	September 20, 2022	Online	Committee meeting- full
Editorial Team	October 26, 2022	Online	Editorial Team kick off meeting
Meeting 5	October 12, 2022	Online	Committee meeting- full
Meeting 6	November 23, 2022	Online	Full committee- review of Recommendations Report
Meeting 7	December 14, 2022	Online	Full committee- review of Recommendations Report continuation
Meeting 8	January 31, 2023	Online	Delivery of Recommendations Report to GOA leadership

Table 3: The Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

APPENDIX B: LAND USE PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations have been developed by the Joint Land Use Advisory Committee (JLUAC) for consideration by Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) in preparation of the SR1 Land Use Plan. Rationale, considerations and measures of success have also been provided to support the development of each recommendation.

The following four (4) themes were used to categorize the land use recommendations:

1. **Water Management** which considers the conservation and protection of water resources within the project area. For clarity, this does not include the water operations infrastructure of the project which will have separate and specific guidelines developed.
2. **Ecological Values** which considers the conservation and protection of the ecosystem of the project area, including biodiversity, native flora and fauna (including native grasslands), and the ecosystem services that the area offers.
3. **Vision for Recreation Management, Public Access and Human Connectivity** which considers public access to the project area appropriate and permitted recreational activities, and which tools can be implemented to regulate activities and mitigate potential user conflicts and public safety concerns.
4. **Natural and Cultural History and Public Engagement** which considers opportunities for recognizing and preserving natural, cultural and historical attributes of the area and encompass public education within the project area on the topics of ecological, cultural, and historical values.

Please note: Recommendations of First Nations' access and the exercise of Treaty Rights within the Project area will be developed by the First Nations Land Use Advisory Committee.

Theme 1: Water Management

Recommendation 1:

Develop water quality and quantity monitoring and reporting in the area naturally draining to, through, and from the project site, including water quality impacts to habitat, groundwater-surface water interactions and increased sedimentation from and in the Elbow River.

Rationale:

- Source water protection is crucial.
- Water is Life.
- The Elbow River Watershed is a source of drinking water for hundreds of thousands of Calgarians, Tsuut'ina Nation, Redwood Meadows and Rocky View County residents.
- The Elbow is a tributary to the Bow River, which is used as a water supply by many other communities located further downstream from Calgary.
- According to the City of Calgary's Source Water Protection Plan, "maintaining the Elbow River's source water quality is of particular importance since it has been identified as more vulnerable to water quality deterioration."
- Groundwater supports many individual dwellings.
- Source water quality management would be supported by keeping the lands south of the dam for conservation and public use considerations.
- Maintaining water quality is critical for fish and aquatic species viability and habitat.
- Chemical spills and inadvertent releases within the natural catchment of the project, including roadway drainage that may run off to the site, are a hazard to the environment and would cause water quality issues.

Considerations:

- Consider water quality impact for fish and aquatic species. This should include monitoring of water quantity and temperature.
- The Elbow River will maintain its current water quality under the Elbow River Watershed Management Plan and the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP). As human activity increases in the designated areas there may need to be new guidelines to ensure adherence to these plans.
- Consider recommendations in Chapter 6 of the Elbow River State of the Watershed Report:
 - *Identify opportunities for water quantity monitoring in the Elbow River headwaters including on the main stem or tributaries.*
 - *Determine site-specific instream flow needs (IFNs) for key reaches in the watershed using holistic site-specific field observations.*
 - *Document and understand the effect of current and future changes in land use and climate on water resources in the watershed.*
 - *There is uncertainty in predicting the likelihood of extreme events in a changing world and watershed management should reflect this uncertainty through decisions that prioritize flexible and adaptive solutions, emphasizing the precautionary principle.*
- The City of Calgary works with watershed partners for source water monitoring, will share their monitoring data with the Government of Alberta (GOA).
- Source water wells are protected; homes and businesses in the area rely on the source water.
- Emergency procedures need to be developed for spills including communication protocols for prompt reporting.
- Consider the potential for algae growth in stagnant water prior to release, and how to manage release back into the Elbow River.

What does success look like to you?

- Regular water quality and quantity monitoring and reporting of the Elbow River, the reservoir and all outlets to document baseline water quality. This monitoring shall establish a baseline and occur before, during and after flooding.
- Monitoring shows consistently high quality of water within the site, prior to release and leaving the site.
- Strategies for containment, *in-situ* treatment and management of unforeseen water quality events are to be considered and prepared.
- Springbank residents shall continue to have access to high quality ground water similar to prior to the SR1 project, and can continue to use well water as a source of drinking water.
- Current source water quality is maintained to support fish habitat, other native aquatic species and wildlife.

How do we know we are doing this right?

- Regular water testing and monitoring of the area.
- Open and honest communication regarding well-level changes.
- Drinking water and groundwater is high quality and not contaminated.
- Water quality results and fish monitoring are ongoing.
- River water quality is acceptable.

Theme 2: Ecological Values

<p>Recommendation 2: Proactively manage grassland and riparian habitats to re-establish and preserve ecological function after construction and before, during and after flooding events, including fire hazard management practices.</p>
<p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Active management post construction to restore site to baseline level.● Active management pre- and post-flooding is necessary to protect and enhance the grassland and riparian ecosystems and their ecological functions.● Supports source water protection.● Supports sustainable populations of native vegetation and wildlife, and their habitats.● Limits human-caused disturbance outside flood periods and ensures that land users are not damaging the land/ecosystem.● Monitoring and Active management will be required post-flood events for dust suppression, physical interventions such as debris removal, sediment management, pumping out standing water, fish relocation, native vegetation planting and watering.● Assess fire risk potential and develop mitigation plans.
<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ongoing management and monitoring of grasslands and riparian areas.● Routine invasive species management.● Restrict access to the land following a flood event for the safety of users, and to allow the land to recover. Assess site conditions and continue to limit access with markers, signs, or fencing as may be required.● No public motorized use shall be permitted, on or off roads (including no OHVs or ATVs).● Flood events of different scales will have varying effects, such as sediment deposition.● Vegetation plans shall be in place to implement when the reservoir is filled to 25%, 50%, 75% and 100%.● Develop plans for timely revegetation and seeding with native plants where sedimentation alters plant viability.● Identify process to identify and relocate any fish stranded in the reservoir during drainage operations.● Proactively monitor airborne sediment/dust. Add native windbreaks to slow the movement of airborne sediment/dust that will remain after a flooding event (air quality concern).● Opportunities to collaborate or partner with local environmental and watershed groups and First Nations following a flood event (e.g., weeding, replanting, etc.).● Link grazing management and fire management together for management of biomass.
<p>What does success look like to you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● A healthy, functioning sustainable grassland ecosystem that supports wildlife in the area and is not unduly impacted by competing human uses.● The reclaimed land post construction will appear similar to the existing topography and vegetation growth.● Allow the land to rest as required when stressed.● Approved public uses to continue in the areas that were not flooded and are not needed for operations or repairs to the project area.● Native prairie vegetation is sustained to the fullest possible extent, and invasive species propagation is suppressed.● Grassland is managed to address fire safety concerns.● Wildlife continues to thrive.

How do we know we are doing this right?

- Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is within a low to moderate risk range, and consistent with the AQHI of the region (City of Calgary and surrounding area). There was a condition on air quality in the NRCB decision as follows:
 - To better understand post flood Project impacts on air quality and public health, the Board requires that, as a condition of approval, the Operator shall, in addition to air monitoring commitments, conduct continuous monitoring of PM2.5 and total suspended particulate levels and meteorological conditions for a minimum 16-month period post-flood at the proposed Calaway Park air monitoring station during the period when the park is open to the public, and at the Springbank community air monitoring station. All monitoring stations must be capable of sending automatic alerts to the Operator when air concentrations exceed designated alert levels so that any exceedance events, if confirmed to be attributable to Project activities, can be mitigated in a timely manner.
- Periodic monitoring against baseline study through inspections measuring habitat health. Initial study shall define the indicators of habitat health.
- Sustainable ecosystem over time.
- Landscape is restored to the baseline established prior to a flood event.
- Clear signage and boundaries to protect affected areas. Users will respect restrictions and not be trespassing across flooded areas or areas that are under repair.
- Plant inventories indicate grassland is maintained in a healthy and resilient state.

Recommendation 3:

Conserve, restore and sustain native vegetation within the project area over time.

Rationale:

- Native vegetation is ecologically sustainable and supports wildlife.
- Active management post construction, pre and post flooding is necessary to protect and enhance the grassland and riparian ecosystems and their ecological functions.
- Limit human-caused disturbance outside flood periods and ensure that land users are not damaging the land/ecosystem.

Considerations:

- Ongoing management and monitoring of grasslands and riparian areas.
- Monitor trends in native vs introduced and invasive species to assist management.
- Restrict access to the land following a flood event for the safety of users, and to allow the land to recover. Assess site conditions and limit access according to these conditions, rather than having an established timeline for public access following a flood event.
- Infrastructure such as markers, signs, fencing may be required to restrict public access.
- No public OHV/ATV use shall be permitted on or off roads.
- Develop plans for timely revegetation where sedimentation alters vegetation viability.

What does success look like to you?

- A healthy, functioning and sustainable grassland ecosystem that supports wildlife in the area and is not unduly impacted by competing human uses.
- Grassland and native prairie grassland is sustained to the fullest possible extent, and invasive species

<p>propagation is suppressed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Construction is limited to the smallest possible footprint to enable survival of the native ecosystems surrounding the project.
<p>How do we know we are doing this right?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Periodic monitoring against baseline study through inspections measuring habitat health. ● Initial study shall define the indicators of habitat health. ● Clear signage and boundaries to protect affected areas. Users will not be trespassing across flooded areas or areas that are under repair. ● Vegetation inventories indicate grassland is maintained in a healthy and resilient state. ● Landscape reflects typical native vegetation.

<p>Recommendation 4: Livestock grazing to continue on the Grazing Lands as a fire suppression tool and to support vegetation and agricultural management.</p>
<p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grazing is an effective tool for vegetation management on Grazing Lands and will enhance the grasslands when properly managed. ● Grazing will also mitigate fire risk and the impact of climate change, support carbon sequestration, and help maintain a healthy grassland ecosystem. ● Grazing is one of the historical uses of this land and has co-existed sustainably with wildlife. ● Grazing will support local food production. ● Grazing permits can also be used as a tool to manage public access to grazed lands, as Permit holders have the right to refuse public access.
<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concern with conflict between livestock and public access, stocking density, overgrazing and propagation of invasive species. ● Public access shall be reasonably restricted on grazing areas. ● Do not graze riparian areas, and manage them for invasive species. ● Appropriate external and potential internal fencing is required to control livestock. ● Shall review availability and responsibility of reliable water source to support grazing. ● Shall protect the Elbow River and watershed from grazing activities. ● Shall consider implications of unpredictable flooding events in developing appropriate terms for leasing. ● Consider sustainability of wildlife such as elk and wildlife corridors with fencing and grazing operations. Time may be required post flooding for grassland repair, recovery, and reseeding to become established. ● Annually review range health and stocking densities and adjust as needed. ● Consideration for bison grazing, however, associated bison fencing requirements must meet Regulatory approvals. The introduction of bison may therefore be impractical. ● Fencing must not impede water flow during flooding events and any debris collected by fencing during flooding events must be removed.
<p>What does success look like to you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A healthy, functioning sustainable grassland ecosystem supports wildlife in the area and is not unduly

impacted by competing human uses, including grazing.

- Grazing is used as a tool to control vegetation and for fire suppression, with healthy livestock without stressing vegetation.
- Health of habitat is enhanced by grazing and coexists with wildlife activity in area.
- Nutrient balance is maintained.
- Local water quality and quantity is maintained.
- Ranchers/Permit holders will have a good working relationship with the operator of the lands and Indigenous Peoples.

How do we know we are doing this right?

- Demand for grazing permits continues.
- Public users are respectful, safely co-exist and livestock and wildlife remain healthy.
- The grassland ecosystem is robust and healthy. Native vegetation grows in the area, and non-native invasive species are carefully managed. The native grasses would return, the carbon would continue to be captured, and the wetlands shall be protected from public use.
- Little to no impacts from grazing (trailing, pugging and hummocking in wetlands and riparian areas, overgrazing, etc.).
- Periodic vegetation assessments by qualified biologists.
- Regular monitoring against baseline studies of habitat health indicators and wildlife activity.
- Safety of all users, including wildlife, and grazing livestock in the area, shall be a priority.
- New planting/seeding and recovery period shall be implemented in a timely manner following any flood event.
- Grazing management shall be allocated and implemented in conjunction with a provincial range agrologist.
- Terms are clearly defined and effective (provincial legislation) for the grazing permit(s) in this area – grazing period, public use/access in the area, unique restrictions on grazing before and following a flood event.
- Wildlife corridors are preserved.
- Grazing does not negatively impact the environment, e.g., water quality dimensions (from animal waste).

Recommendation 5:

Identify, confirm and map wildlife corridors that intersect in AT Lands and adjacent private lands, to enhance or, at minimum, maintain these corridors to support sustainable wildlife populations and conserve wildlife habitat.

Rationale:

- Recognize and preserve natural wildlife movement through the area and facilitate wildlife movement across the AT Lands and new infrastructure. The area shall maintain or improve wildlife movement and habitat connectivity.
- Concern over wildlife populations being pushed out of the area to the west by construction or flooding events.
- Wildlife is adaptive and will continue to use the area; however, it is the site operator's responsibility to ensure that they continue to have corridors and available habitat to do so.
- Establish/replace wetlands and wildlife access within the AT Lands to support wildlife and waterfowl habitat, and potentially grazing livestock per NRCB conditions following Alberta Wetland Policy
- Grazing and wildlife can and do co-exist together under appropriate oversight.

Considerations:

- Shall require a wildlife monitoring plan with reports made available to the public.
- Maintain safe wildlife passage/connectivity through the area and project infrastructure, year-round.
- Sustainable wildlife populations will provide hunting opportunities, as permitted by Treaty Rights and any identified hunting regulations.
- Habitat and corridor restoration may be required following a flood event.
- Ensure wildlife passage and roadway safety are considered along adjacent roads.
- Consider wildlife patterns of use relative to agriculture and use of adjacent lands.
- Fencing must meet Regulator’s requirements to enable wildlife passage.
- Ensure First Nations engagement and their input is considered relative to wildlife management.
- Engage First Nations to support monitoring of wildlife.
- Provide signage, clear maps to educate and reduce the risk of human-wildlife conflict, public use impacts on the wildlife corridor, and potential trespassing and poaching onto privately owned adjacent lands.
- Consider a plan for pet management (no off leash/maintain under control) to avoid harassment of wildlife and livestock.
- Show wildlife corridors and how to identify bear/cougar activity on a map, as part of public education.
- Monitor and assess animal-vehicle road collision incidents in the surrounding area.

What does success look like to you?

- Conservation and restoration of the environment and wildlife corridors to support local wildlife.
- Healthy and sustainable wildlife populations in the area.
- Sustained or enhanced species diversity, health and density without increasing human-wildlife conflicts.
- The elk herds and other species will continue to move amongst grazing livestock.
- First Nations observations are positive.
- Wildlife corridor maps are posted and any dangerous animal activity identified in a timely manner to avoid conflicts.
- Effective pet management with few complaints and effects mitigated.
- Animal-vehicle road collisions in the area have not increased.

How do we know we are doing this right?

- Use trail cameras to collect data on wildlife use and off-trail or illegal public use within the area.
- Stable population counts for wildlife in the area; specifically, big game species such as elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, moose, and grizzly bears.
- The GoA shall have measurements of key wildlife species prior to construction and post construction to determine impact. Ideally, these measurements reflect similar and sustainable populations.
- Periodic wildlife reviews by biologists (with support from reports by First Nations, public users, citizen scientists) show sustained populations.

Recommendation 6:

Employ tools (e.g. Crown Land Reservation Holding) to publicly identify ecological management and conservation intent and provide locations where monitoring reports are available. (regarding AT Lands)

<p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public education and transparency. ● Active conservation of ecological processes and functions. ● Develop a map of wildlife corridors for public education. ● Treaty Rights will also apply.
<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Manage all of the land within the project area, not isolated areas of land. ● Integrate management plans with adjacent provincial lands and consider adjacent private lands. ● The provincial land outside the reservoir will not flood, and therefore, those natural ecosystems will be maintained.
<p>What does success look like to you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crown Land Reservation Holding provides appropriate description of land use intent and associated supporting policies. ● A healthy, functioning sustainable grassland and wildlife ecosystem, with public use as reflected by the intent in Crown Land Reservation. ● Construction and flood recovery activities to enable survival of the native ecosystems within and surrounding the project.
<p>How do we know we are doing this right?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alignment of site activities with Crown Land Reservation intents. ● Clear signage and use boundaries to protect sensitive ecosystems.

Theme 3: Vision for Recreation Management, Public Access and Human Connectivity

<p>Recommendation 7:</p> <p>Provide regional people connectivity by facilitating public access through the AT Lands with the development of non-motorized designated trails/pathway(s) and Multi-Use of Project Infrastructure (the “Pathway”) as follows:</p> <p>7A Multi-use of the maintenance road for a public pathway running east-west along the top of the earthen berm and along the diversion channel, from Hwy 22 to the eastern boundary of SR1 Lands including crossing the eastern low level outlet (the “Berm Pathway”)</p> <p>7B Retain/assign a north-south pathway corridor along the eastern boundary of SR1 Lands from the eastern point of the Berm Pathway north to a point on Springbank Road, for the future construction of pathway by others (the “North-South Corridor”)</p> <p>7C Provide multi-use along the south and east sides of the diversion channel, bridge infrastructures and existing berms to extend the Berm Pathway westwards under Hwy 22, and follow the diversion channel south across the Elbow River to the southern boundary of SR1 Lands (the “West Pathway”) –</p> <p><i>Please note: This recommendation may have elements that fall outside of the prescribed land use plan project area.</i></p>
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Rationale:

- This is a very active regional cycling area with no option but to use busy major roads adjacent to the AT Lands.
- AT Lands are a prime opportunity to provide direct benefits to the communities impacted by SR1 and address a high public need for pathways and river access. This has been identified by community and Rocky View County recreation surveys. <https://www.rockyview.ca/Portals/0/Files/Recreation/Recreation-and-Parks-Master-Plan-2021.pdf>
- The Trans Canada Trail (TCT) ends at Cochrane and a realigned route from Cochrane to Bragg Creek with the Pathway through AT Lands is supported by TCT and Alberta TrailNet. The North-South Corridor would provide an eastern bypass for cyclists using Hwy 22 and the overpass at Hwy 1.
- The West Pathway running under Hwy 22 and west/south along the west drainage channel would provide safe public and cyclist crossing of Hwy 22 and bypass the heavily used traffic circle at Hwy 8. West Bragg Creek has an extensive trail network proposed to connect to the TCT and TCT is proposed to extend westward from Bragg Creek to Kananaskis.
- Public lands provide an excellent opportunity to provide low-cost access to Alberta's natural and river areas in support of stated Provincial efforts to develop recreation and tourism opportunities.
- Public access could be restricted during flooding events as required.
- The ability to use all or a portion of Project Infrastructure for both Operations and Public Use (the "Multi-Use") particularly the maintenance access road for the Berm Pathway as public pathways is both practical, cost effective, and can be designed for integrity and safety. It also provides extensive consolidation of disturbances and minimizes the public infrastructure footprint.
- Proactively providing designated pathway corridors through public lands enables safe public use, effective passage, and encourages regional connections for additional staged pathway developments by recreational groups, which are already being planned.

Considerations:

- Future assessment of the type of specific activity, alignment and access points for public use along the pathway.
- Project operations and public safety must be prioritized.
- Assess opportunities to leverage and optimize project infrastructure as multi-use for public benefits during the extensive periods outside a flooding event.
- Flooding events may be rare; however, public safety concerns may require some restrictions to public access to portions of pathways and public access during those times. A plan for public restrictions shall be developed in advance for quick implementation.
- To address potential overuse of areas, recreational activity may be introduced in a staged manner and monitored to manage activity levels. A communications strategy, which must include Springbank residents, could identify how (or if) to appropriately publicize or introduce new recreation opportunities.
- Dam safety – ensure that the dam/berm remains intact. Recreation activity shall not cause damage to infrastructure or erosion of berm slope. Any components of the water infrastructure that will not permit public access should be identified and safeguarded.
- Consider a plan for signage to include education, temporary closures and enforcement to encourage responsible public use (i.e., to stay on designated trail).
- Consider engagement of community and recreational groups to integrate and extend pathway corridors with other regional pathway networks.
- Consider and mitigate impacts of public use on AT Lands that are adjacent to private lands (i.e., trails should not dead end at or run adjacent to fence lines with private lands).
- Pathway location shall be sustainable and not interfere with grazing activities or wildlife corridors including migratory elk. In addition, pathway locations should also be sensitive to First Nations cultural practices and rare species locations.
- The North-South Corridor could provide gentle curves and undulations to blend more naturally into

landscape.

- Consider engaging volunteer pathway user groups in regular maintenance and clean-up activities.
- Regulatory considerations: Non-motorized use only, no motorized use.
- Prepare plan to restrict public access when necessary during flooding events.

What does success look like to you?

- Safe and unrestricted government operations during any flooding activity.
- Preserving key natural areas and maintaining the natural beauty of the area, while allowing public access through responsible non-motorized recreational use.
- Provide regional connectivity to TCT and surrounding communities with a well-used integrated trail system through AT Lands allowing local and regional use.
- Improved cycling experience by transfer of cycling activity off major roads.
- Reduced cyclist/motorist conflict on Springbank Road and Hwy 22.
- Local communities use the pathways.
- Minimal conflicts with wildlife and wildlife movement in corridors.
- Encourages development by other organizations of additional regional pathways including TCT.
- Trails and public corridors are respected by the public and used to an acceptable intensity, with minimal adjacent erosion or damage to project infrastructure.
- Limited security concerns and nuisance issues.

How do we know we are doing this right?

- User assessments and safety statistics are favourable.
- Ongoing evaluation of the land conditions to meet the legislation under the SSRP and ERWP legislation and satisfaction in the experiences of recreational users.
- Responsible use of pathways by the public with low levels of local community complaints.
- The Crown officers assigned to the area will note that public use activities are non-motorized.
- Area is used responsibly.
- Reduction in the risk profile for cyclists and/or pedestrians using both Highway 22 and Springbank Road.
- Additional pathways are constructed linking other areas.
- Visitors will continue to see a natural landscape with a paved trail blending.
- Positive impact on quality of life and active living opportunities for Albertans.

Recommendation 8:

Retain the AT Lands located south of the berm and diversion channel system down to the northern shore of the Elbow River and lying east of Highway 22 and west of the eastern boundary of the project area (the "South Lands"), and furthermore provide public access.

Please note: This recommendation proposes improvements located outside the current SR1 land use planning area.

Rationale:

- This land was purchased by AT as part of necessary land acquisition activities for the SR1 project but falls outside the prescribed boundaries for the SR1 project itself.
- The South Lands have high conservation value. They serve as a key wildlife area and wildlife corridor, and

careful integration and protection is required. The South Lands are part of a greater integrated natural area and ecosystem along the Elbow River.

- They are also part of an important watershed with the Elbow River providing water for the City of Calgary. Keeping the area natural offers watershed management protection and benefits for downstream users including the City of Calgary and Rocky View County residents through crown management and protection of natural riparian areas.
- The South Lands are close to the City of Calgary and its western communities, and offer year-round public access to the Elbow River.
- Supports community and Rocky View County recreation surveys showing a demand for more public river access.
- The lands that lie under the reservoir area itself provide limited recreational value due to operational flooding, seasonality, silt accumulation and necessity of ecological restoration post-flood event. However, river access provided in the South Lands is rare and very desirable to the region for the public and wildlife.
- The South Lands are currently owned publicly, by the Province of Alberta; and should be retained as public land, for the benefit of Albertans.

Considerations:

- Given their location near flood zones and flooding operations, these natural lands have limited development value but have very high ecological and public value.
- Protection of multiple wetlands in the area and water for wildlife shall be a priority.
- Livestock grazing will not be permitted on these lands.
- Need to adhere to the SSRP, which legislates preservation of riparian areas and native grasslands.
- Public access will need to be carefully managed to protect wildlife corridors, wildlife activity, and protect both the public and the ecosystem. Initial public access shall be limited strictly to day use and no campfires will be permitted.
- As provincial lands, trails could be developed over time through a trail planning process.
- Long-term planning is needed with potential staging of public use to ensure river and floodplain health and sustainability.
- These lands contain resident and migratory elk herds, and possibly rare native species which will need to be identified and protected.
- These lands provide cultural significance to First Nations and Treaty Rights must be respected.

What does success look like to you?

- Public users treat crown land responsibly, and access to the crown land improves the quality of life for Albertans (that live, work, or play in and around SR1).
- Area gets a reputation for responsible conservation, sustainability and water management, but having quality access and education opportunities.
- Creation of a significant public natural area within 20 km of the city of Calgary for future generations of Albertans to enjoy!
- Working with partnerships, agencies and other community groups to develop and provide access from a nearby long-term regional pathway connection from Cochrane to SR1 and Bragg Creek, and along the Elbow River east from Highway 22 all the way to Calgary on the north side of the river.

How do we know we are doing this right?

- Tourism and lifestyle activity in the region increases.
- Responsible public use does not impact sustainable wildlife populations and conservation of natural history.
- Reclamation efforts post flood creating the return channel will not be visible.

- Number of users shall be continuously monitored and assessed.
- Measurable preservation of natural environment (wetlands, grasslands) - # of acres protected.
- Respect Treaty Rights and Culture and cooperate in education opportunities.

Recommendation 9:

Provide public access to the natural area at the extreme southeastern corner of the SR1 footprint, near the low-level outlet and the Unnamed Creek channel including the land extending through to the Elbow River (the “Outlet Lands”).

Please note: This recommendation proposes improvements located outside the current SR1 land use planning area.

Rationale:

- This area was previously used for private irrigation and is now located within the SR1 footprint.
- The Outlet Lands are identified to continue operating as a drainage channel.
- It is a beautiful natural area adjoining the Elbow River and should remain accessible to the public when safe to do so.
- Public access could be restricted to the Outlet Lands during a flood event and subsequent water release, (Note: This is similar to the situation immediately downstream of the Glenmore Dam in the City of Calgary).
- Public access at the Outlet Lands would integrate with public access at the South Lands and support a vision of public access and pathways along the north side of the Elbow River.

Considerations:

- The Outlet Lands are part of SR1 Lands and will remain public lands.
- Consider continuity of public access along north side of Elbow River.
- Consider public access via East Parking.
- Ensure public safety and public access before and after flooding events.
- Consider modifications to the area by SR1.
- Consider any potential impact on wildlife, cultural sensitivity and rare species.
- Respect First Nations concerns.

What does success look like to you?

- The public will have continued access to the lands below the low-level outlet.
- Continuity of public access to Elbow River along SR1 footprint.
- Opportunity to extend or connect with public access trails to the east in the future.

How do we know we are doing this right?

- The land is maintained in a natural state and enjoyed by the public.
- Wildlife corridors are maintained.
- Number of users should be measured and assessed for appropriate limitations, if needed.

Recommendation 10:

Retain the Kamp Kiwanis Lands as Crown lands due to their environmental value, and explore opportunities for regional active transportation networks, and public infrastructure such as parking lots, staging areas, camping, and other public access.

Please note: This recommendation may propose improvements located outside the current SR1 land use planning area.

Rationale:

- These are part of AT Lands and have previous infrastructure that could be repurposed to provide, integrate with and enhance public use in the area
- These lands are within a flood risk area and are not suitable for development
- These lands have high environmental value as a riparian forest, contains wildlife habitat and connectivity, and is within the alluvial aquifer of the Elbow River.
- SR1 infrastructure near the Elbow River could provide opportunities to be integrated with a corridor for the West Pathway.
- A review and decision on the use of these lands for public use must be made before existing infrastructure is destroyed or potentially sold.
- There may also be significant cultural and historical public significance.

Considerations:

- Plans for the Kamp Kiwanis Lands have not yet been disclosed.
- Significant infrastructure exists that should be inventoried and evaluated for alternative public use.
- There could also be an opportunity to relocate and repurpose existing buildings off site for other public use.
- Opportunities may exist for a corridor for the West Pathway.
- Consideration must be made for First Nations cultural significance.

What does success look like to you?

- Existing Infrastructure is repurposed rather than destroyed.
- Public use is enhanced with links to a pathway corridor.
- An assessment identifies opportunities.

How do we know we are doing this right?

- A decision on the use of these lands is made before existing infrastructure is destroyed.

Recommendation 11:

Provide year-round public access to facilitate public use as follows:

11A Provide a multi-use parking area near the eastern boundary of the South Lands for SR1 operations, public access to the Pathway, public access to the South Lands, and public access to the Outlet Lands (the "East Parking")

11B Provide a parking area for future parking development just east of Hwy 22 for public access to the Pathway, and public access to the South Lands (the "Hwy 22 Parking")

11C Provide a parking area west of Hwy 22 for future parking development for public access to the Pathway and South Lands (the “West Parking”).

Please note: This recommendation proposes improvements located outside the current SR1 land use planning area.

Rationale:

- Public success requires consideration and development of public access points and some degree of parking for users.
- Provide access to the land via public parking or staging areas (at either end of the pathway system) that could be staged in actual development to manage any congestion concerns and public activity levels.
- Public access to the project area improves safety of users by taking them away from major highway traffic.
- An additional parking area should also be considered on the west side of Hwy 22

Considerations:

- Some encounters with wildlife may occur. Locations of wildlife corridors need to be considered to avoid conflict.
- Other public infrastructure may be required: garbage containers, signage, access for emergency vehicles, potentially washroom/port-a-potty.
- Consider maintenance plan for any recreation-related infrastructure and pathways as opportunities for joint community volunteer engagement
- Need cameras and/or enforcement officers on the land to address trespassing, garbage, illegal camping, poaching and other non-compliant activities.
- Consideration for intensity of use in the area, to monitor and accommodate number of users appropriately
- This is not meant to be a meeting area to drop off cars and go elsewhere. Appropriate parking area design with some type of monitoring or cameras may be necessary. (Note that parking along Hwy 22 near Camp Hope does not appear to have this issue.)
- Identify specific access and parking area(s) as part of future development. (Please see map following Recommendation 7)

What does success look like to you?

- A beautiful accessible, integrated and functional riverfront recreational area with pathways that provide regional connectivity between communities and recreation areas.
- Continuous protected natural areas with river access along the river floodplains from Calgary to Bragg Creek.
- Provides responsible and sustainable public river access.
- The parking lots are well-managed and maintained, and connected to pathways but are used for local public use and not as gathering points to stage activities elsewhere.
- Access, enjoyment, and value of adjacent private landowners is maintained.
- Safe access points in and out of the area that are no longer along busy roads or highways.
- Limited impacts to the natural environment and minimal impacts to wildlife corridors.
- The public will have access to the South Lands, as well as the Pathway, and Outlet Lands.
- Garbage, port-a-potty as needed to support volume and intensity of users.

How do we know we are doing this right?

- The Crown officers know the standards to uphold, and the public will receive ongoing education.
- Monitoring of parking patterns and pathway usage.

- Pedestrian traffic is moved off the highway.
- Visitors will see a landscape like the current one.
- Measurement of habitat health, wildlife impacts, and landowner complaints will not increase.
- Use assessment of impact when combined with other land uses will be acceptable.
- Garbage and debris are well managed.

Recommendation 12:

Permit the responsible use of bicycles and pedal-assist bicycles along designated trails/pathways.

Rationale:

- Cycling to be restricted to designated trails to limit conflict and damage with ecosystems and wildlife
- E-bike technology and bike performance continues to evolve. E-bikes are becoming very popular and should be accommodated. E-bikes offer people with various abilities to engage in rides that they would not have considered in the past.
- Throttle-control e-bikes, which are more powerful and have potential for dangerous speed and operations, shall not be permitted.
- Pedal-assist bikes, which must be pedaled, generate less power, thus providing fewer public safety concerns, will be permitted.

Considerations:

- Initial pathway development will be used by both cyclists and pedestrians, including disabled users. Some trails could be developed in the future and restricted to “bikes or pedestrians only” to avoid impacts to other users. Consider experiences in West Bragg Creek and leverage their management and best practices
- Continuous improvements in E-bike technology may require some reassessment.
- All bikes must remain on designated trails.
- Consider signage to highlight the risk of cyclists in the area and use the area at their own risk.
- Bike share programs are not to be considered.

What does success look like to you?

- Families use pathways
- Cyclists respect pedestrians and speeds are well managed.
- Off-roading with E-bikes does not occur
- Well-signed trails that encourage responsible bike use on the designated trails provided in project lands and in the surrounding area.
- Safe and well designed and constructed pathways incorporating appropriate surfacing, width, and slopes for cyclists

How do we know we are doing this right?

- Spot checks of E-bike usage for compliance
- No evidence of off-trail cycling use
- Use statistics and surveys to determine usage of the area

Recommendation 13:

Adjust the Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) boundaries to include the entire project area within WMU 212.

Rationale:

- Having two WMUs with different regulations across the relatively small project area is confusing.
- WMU 212 western boundary currently extends to Hwy 22 and permits only the use of archery and primitive weapons.
- Including the SR1 Lands west of Hwy 22 into WMU 212 will reduce potential confusion and reduce the safety risk associated with high-powered firearms to surrounding landowners on these lands.

Considerations:

- Concern about types of weapons that can be used. WMU 212 Regulations stipulate no high-powered weapons use.
- Regulations for WMU 212 (2022):
 - Archery only (bow and arrow) season for antlered and antlerless deer - Sept 1 – Nov 30
 - Archery only (bow and arrow) season for Antlered and Antlerless Elk – Sept 1 – Nov 30
 - Primitive weapon season (muzzle loader, shotgun, crossbow, bow and arrow) for Antlerless Elk – Dec 1 – 20 (Mon to Fri only) and Jan 1 - 20
- Some of the SR1 Lands west of Hwy 22 will continue to be treated similarly to private lands under a Utility Right- Of-Way and require permission for hunting. Without clear fence lines or signage, the boundary may be difficult to recognize, as it does not follow existing features. Install signage to make hunting boundaries clear within the SR1 area.
- Restrict the recreational use of firearms in SR1 project area, as per Recommendation 12.

What does success look like to you?

- A single WMU for all the AT Lands, with regulations that best suit the collective uses of this land.
- Safety of all users and adjacent landowners.
- Continued hunting opportunities and reduced impacts to surrounding landowners.

How do we know we are doing this right?

- Successful use by hunters.
- Few to no landowner conflicts or reported offenses by hunters.

Recommendation 14:

Continue to allow hunting activities as permitted under the *Wildlife Act*, WMU Regulations and Treaty Rights.

Rationale:

- The reservoir lands are relatively small for the use of firearms and weapons, especially considering firearm use setbacks from roadways (Highway 22, Springbank Road, several Range Roads, dwellings etc.)
- Use of firearms and weapons may not be compatible with other uses, such as public pathways,

<p>grazing permits, and recreation, or with Indigenous Peoples exercising Treaty Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There are landowner residences on the periphery and near the reservoir lands. ● Hunting for game species is permitted and regulated under the <i>Wildlife Act</i>. ● Safety concerns for adjacent landowners and users.
<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indigenous Peoples have access to the land for the exercise of Treaty Rights, including hunting. ● Hunting for game species (e.g., elk) is regulated under the <i>Wildlife Act</i>. Shooting of non-game species (e.g., ground squirrels) is not. ● Consider development of a map that shows where hunting activities are allowed and any setbacks from infrastructure, and privately owned land. ● Trespassing and use of adjacent private lands are a concern and appropriate signage and messaging will be required for hunting activities ● Increased Fish and Wildlife control/enforcement is needed, especially in the early years (as people become familiar with the area). ● May need to consider initial public education re new public uses in area
<p>What does success look like to you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recreationalists and landowners have opportunities for safe and enjoyable experiences. ● Hunting opportunities are provided, as they always have been on these lands, while respecting other users. ● No increase in trespass or weapons complaints in relation to reservoir site use or wider area. ● Stable wildlife counts.
<p>How do we know we are doing this right?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hunters adhere to regulations ● User conflicts are low and reported offenses are low, ● Wildlife counts remain healthy.

<p>Recommendation 15: Restrict the non-hunting recreational use of firearms and weapons according to WMU 212 Regulations.</p>
<p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The reservoir lands are a relatively small area for the safe use of firearms and weapons, especially considering firearm use setbacks from roadways (Highway 22, Springbank Road, several Range Roads etc.) ● Use of firearms and weapons may not be compatible with other uses, such as public pathways, grazing permits, recreation, or with Indigenous Peoples’ exercising Treaty Rights. ● There are landowner residences on the periphery and near the reservoir lands. ● Recreational firearm restrictions should be balanced with hunting regulations
<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indigenous peoples have access to the land for the exercise of Treaty Rights, including hunting. ● Assess implications of WMU 212 regulations on non-indigenous hunting.

- Hunting for game species (e.g., elk) is regulated under the *Wildlife Act*. Shooting of non-game species (e.g. ground squirrels) is not.
- Recreational shooting (target shooting, etc.) shall not be permitted, as target shooting is noisy for surrounding residents and others using the area.
- Consider whether grazing permits are compatible with potential hunting activity.
- Public access/trespass- review use in document
- Consider use of signage to identify private lands.

What does success look like to you?

- Respect hunting rights permitted by regulations.
- Recreationalists and landowners have opportunities for safe and enjoyable experiences.
- No increase in trespass or weapons complaints in relation to reservoir site use or wider area.

How do we know we are doing this right?

- Non-indigenous hunting opportunities are allowed, with consideration given to the type of weapons allowed.
- Recreational hunting adheres to WMU regulations.
- User conflicts are low and reported offenses are low.
- Wildlife counts remain healthy.

Theme 4: Natural and Cultural History and Public Education

Recommendation 16:

Retain a small portion of AT Lands to enable limited public access around the bluffs containing sandstone outcroppings that are adjacent to Hwy 22 (the "Bluffs"), to recognize a point of cultural and natural area significance, for future opportunities.

Please note: This recommendation proposes improvements located outside the current SR1 land use planning area.

Rationale:

- This area has unique natural features and cultural significance with an opportunity for public interest and education about:
 - pre-contact use by First Nations and cultural significance
 - use by settlers
- The bluffs are fragile but adjacent to a busy highway. Additional discussions are necessary with Gov't and First Nations to determine the best way to preserve and recognize them over the long term.
- The Bluffs are also a natural lookout point in the area.
- Signage could also provide additional information such as regulatory information about the area and permitted activities.

Considerations:

- Portions of the land are ecologically sensitive and will not sustain/support extensive public use.

- Incorporate environmental education given their sensitivity in consultation with the Elbow River Watershed Partnership's water educators [Youth Education Home | Elbow River Watershed Partnership (erwp.org)] and specialists at Fish Creek Provincial Park Environmental Learning Centre [Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre - Fish Creek Provincial Park | Alberta Parks]
- Further investigation required to identify specific cultural and historical significance.
- Consider as a potential lookout point with historical plaques and maps of flood control features.
- Safe access from Highway 22 and parking are concerns.
- Consider limited public access and integrate this potential point of interest with public use of the SR1 area while offering educational opportunities and connectivity to the trail/pathways.

What does success look like to you?

- Preservation of a unique natural and cultural feature for future opportunities.
- Recognize the need to respect the natural features, reflect on their history, and provide educational opportunities.
- Enable future limited public access.
- Safety measures are successfully incorporated.
- Alignment with First Nations.

How do we know we are doing this right?

- Interim preservation of Bluffs footprint and immediate area for public education.

Recommendation 17:

Fund a government budget and provide a framework to advance identification of cultural and historical areas of significance, in collaboration with the Springbank Historical Society, with the objective to optimize and stage specific projects and educational opportunities and to fulfill the following condition outlined by the NRCB:

“Work with the Springbank Historical Society to document the history of the lands in the PDA and to cooperate with the GOA to develop appropriate plaques or signage.”

Please note: This recommendation may propose improvements located outside the current SR1 land use planning area.

Rationale:

- The history of the AT Lands is intertwined with that of the First Nations and the early settlers of the Springbank Community.
- The AT lands comprise a material portion of the Springbank Community.
- The Springbank Community is significantly affected by the SR1 project’s construction and operations.
- The area provides a big geographic footprint for education projects which requires understanding the outcome and future direction of the recommendations to develop specific education recommendations.
- Specific recognition and education opportunities include First Nation and settler contributions, watershed, wildlife corridors, ecosystem importance, and regional flood control and operations.

Considerations:

- The cost of the recommendation shall be borne by the government.

- The objective, available tools, and specific location of recognition, preservation, education needs to be identified.
- Clarify objectives and criteria for potential projects and educational opportunities.
- Opportunities to collaborate and integrate project(s) with Springbank Historical Society, the Springbank Community and First Nations.
- Identify types of projects and how to prioritize
- Consider appropriate locations for projects and their relationship to the greater Springbank area and whether these should fall inside or outside of the project area.
- Collaboration with the Springbank Historical Society will be required.
- Assessment and priority of specific projects remains as work in progress.
- Incorporate outcome of JLUAC land use recommendations, as appropriate.
- The timeline on this recommendation needs to be discussed with the Springbank Historical Society and may be delayed until project construction is complete so that the lands can be assessed for optimal location of education and public works.

What does success look like to you?

- Process identified and activated to identify cultural, historical, and educational opportunities.
- Collaboration between groups, government and community stakeholders to generate and align specific projects.
- Projects will provide meaningful long-term opportunities for education.
- Projects will contribute positively to the community identity of the greater Springbank area.
- Both the public and the greater-Springbank area community will be educated on the history of the area, the project, and its community impact.

How do we know we are doing this right?

- Plan is supported by community groups, and where appropriate, Indigenous peoples.
- Monitor activity around education sites and adjust as necessary for protection of the sites.
- Community surveys are positive.

APPENDIX C: CONSENSUS MODELS - LAND USE RECOMMENDATIONS

Four Level Model

During initial review of the draft recommendations, The Advisory Committee used a four (4) level model to assist with defining broad ideas and concepts into more defined recommendations. Recommendations that received low levels of support were revisited and discussed by The Advisory Committee to determine the key components which prevented a confident degree of support. This model stimulated open group discussion and led to well thought out decisions and recommendations to be made throughout the development of theming and rationale.

Options	Level of Support
1. Support 2. Support with reservations	Support
3. Do not support 4. Need more information	Non-Support

Table 4: Four Level Model

Six Level Model

The Advisory Committee employed a six-level model to facilitate its discussions and describe individual member organization support for each of the Final Recommendations. In this approach, Advisory Committee members are not simply responding “for” or “against” a decision; but have the option to situate themselves on a scale that lets them express their individual option more clearly. This model facilitates defining key issues underlying levels of non-support and aids in focusing the discussion and in finding areas of concern. The consolidated level of support from each stakeholder or advisory group organization is provided for each recommendation for consideration.

Options	Level of Support
1. Full support 2. Acceptable 3. Support with reservations 4. I am not thrilled, but can live with it	Support
5. Need more information or more discussion 6. Cannot support it and cannot accept it	Non-Support

Table 5: Six Level Model

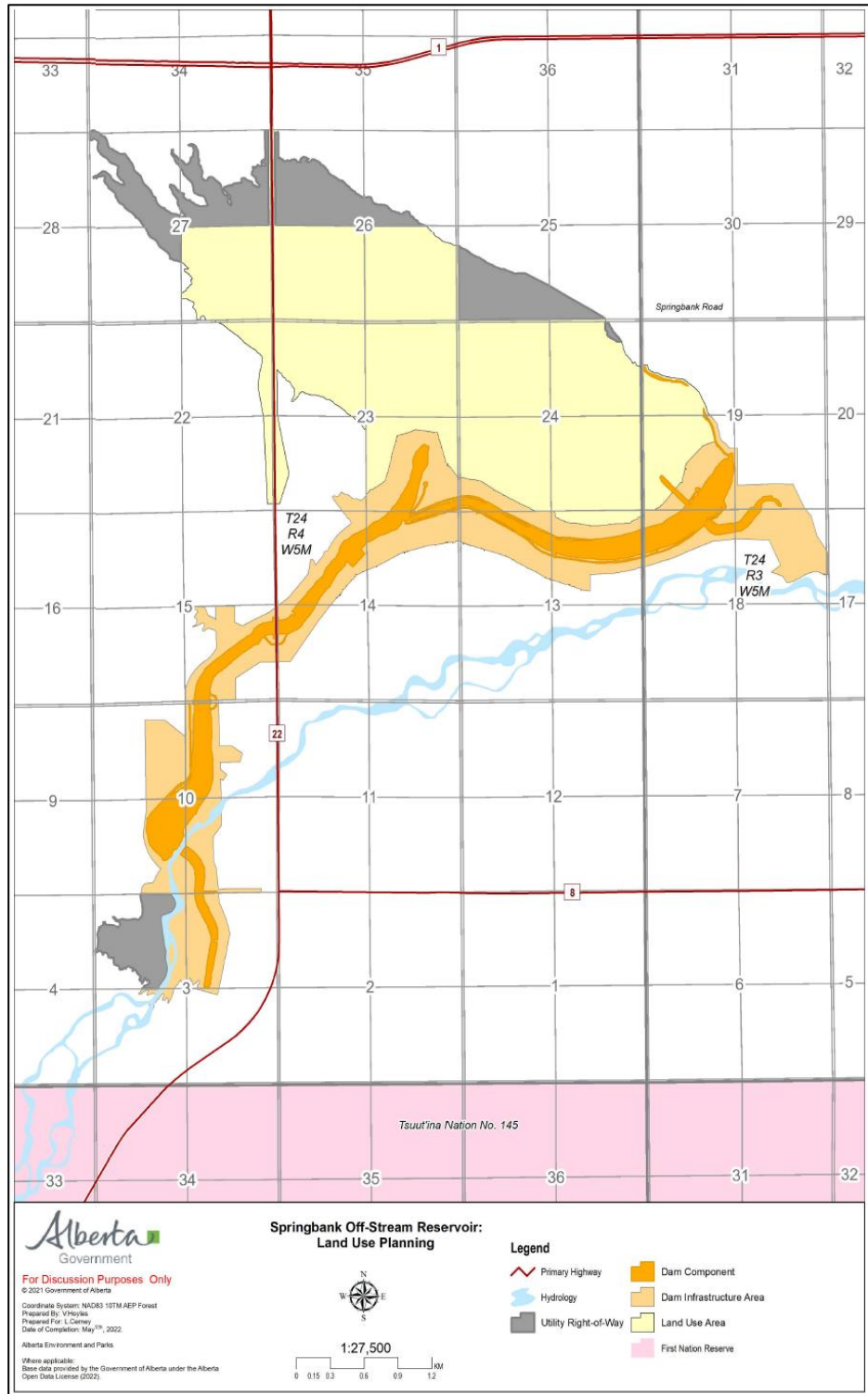
APPENDIX D: FIRST NATIONS LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

Invited Member	Nation Representing
Ira Provost	Piikani Nation
Mike Oka JJ Shade (Alternate)	Blood Tribe
Richard Sparvier Cedric Solway (Alternate)	Siksika Nation
Violet Meguinis Declan Starlight (Alternate)	Tsuut'ina Nation
Bill Snow Cathy Arcega (Alternate)	Stoney-Nakoda Nation (Bears paw Tribe)
Bill Snow Conal Labelle (Alternate)	Stoney-Nakoda Nation (Chiniki Tribe)
Bill Snow Chris Goodstoney (Alternate)	Stoney-Nakoda Nation (Goodstoney Tribe)
Carol Wildcat Danny Bellerose (Alternate)	Ermieskin Cree Nation
Shaleigh Raine Melanie Daniels (Alternate)	Louis Bull Tribe
Kaylyn Buffalo Kyra Northwest (Alternate)	Samson Cree Nation
Andrew Scott Ashlee Gladeau (Alternate)	O'Chiese First Nation
Jocelyne Goodrunning	Sunchild First Nation
Jodie Currie Jocelyne Rabbit (Alternate)	Montana First Nation

Table 6: First Nations Land Use Advisory Committee Members Invited to Participate

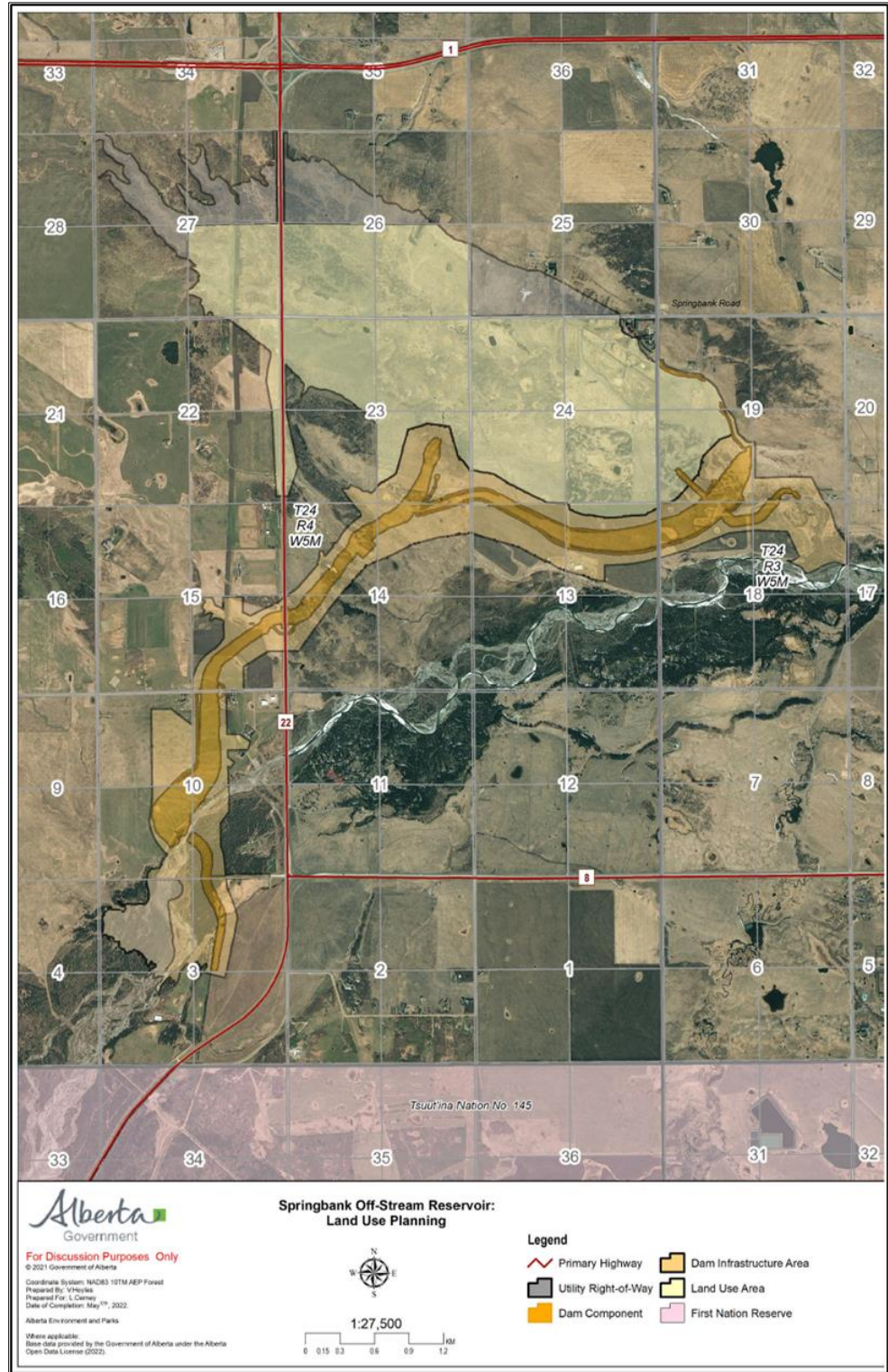
APPENDIX E: MAPS

Map 1: Government of Alberta, Land Use Planning (without aerial image)



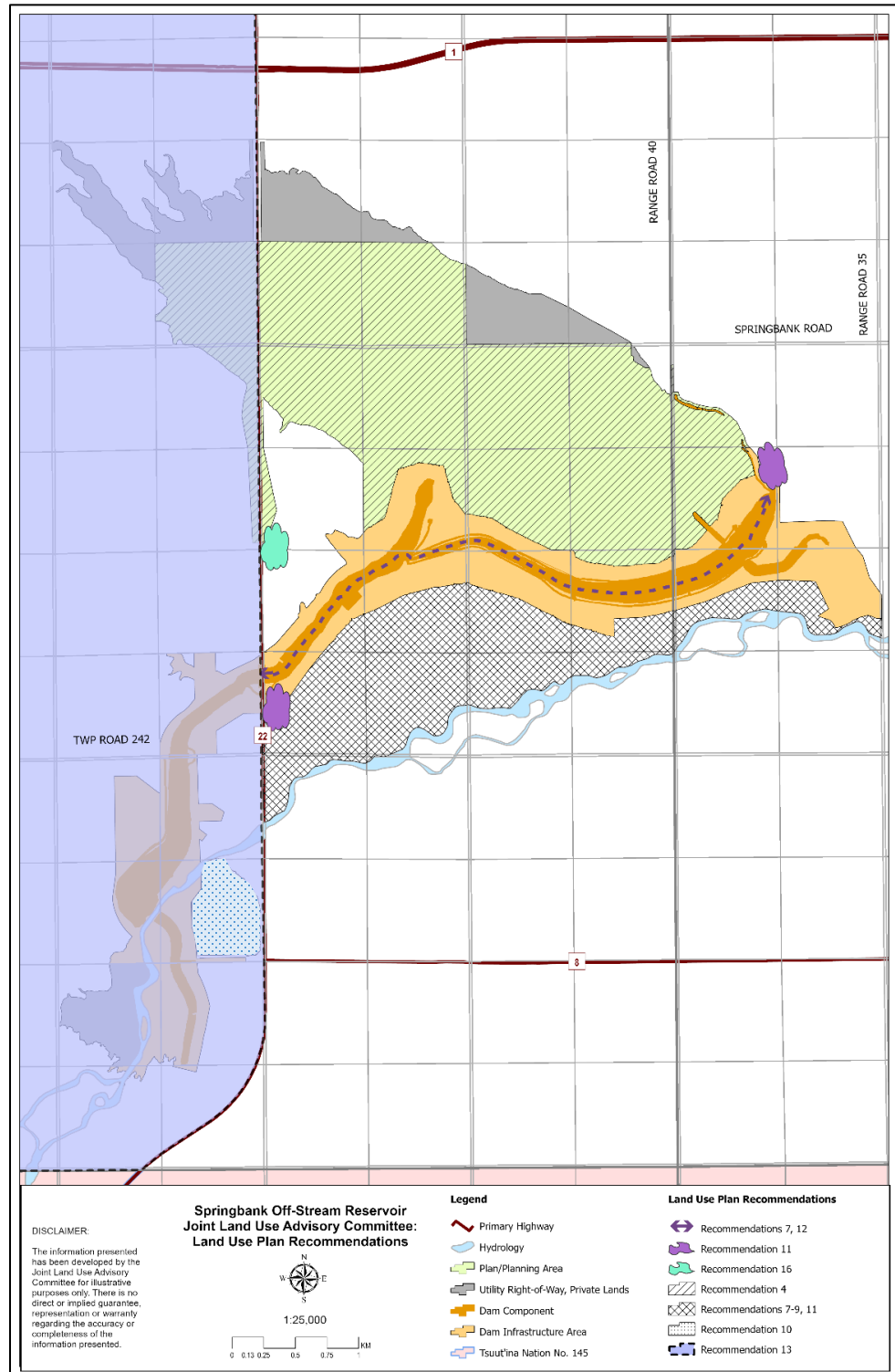
Map 1: Government of Alberta, Land Use Planning (without aerial image)

Map 2: Government of Alberta, Land Use Planning (with aerial image)



Map 2: Government of Alberta, Land Use Planning (with aerial image)

Map 3: The Joint Land Use Advisory Committee Land Use Plan Recommendations



Map 3: The Joint Land Use Advisory Committee- Land Use Plan Recommendations