Sustainable trail management system on public lands

Trail management planning

Trail management plans can be developed to identify permitted activities on trails or within trail networks, and to identify locations for new trails. These plans consider public safety, user experiences and other public land uses. As part of the process, Indigenous communities and organizations, recreation partners and affected stakeholders have opportunities to share their experiences and concerns, as well as provide input and advice into the trail management plan.

Trail manager

The Alberta government can manage a designated trail or appoint a recreation partner as a trail manager, who is authorized under a Trail Agreement to maintain trails and trail infrastructure.

The Alberta Off-Highway Vehicle Association and the Alberta Snowmobile Association have been appointed as trail managers under the *Trails Act*. The appointment recognizes the important work the organizations have made across the province for many years. More trail managers are expected to be appointed in the near future.

Recreation funding

The province has allocated funding to support maintenance and development of safe and sustainable trails. Funding is provided to many recreation organizations to develop and maintain trails for hiking, biking and other activities. Additionally, trail managers can apply for funding for recreation management projects on public land trails through the Alberta public land trails grant program. 2 establish and manage trails while considering other land uses (e.g., forestry, energy, agriculture) to protect recreation infrastructure and minimize adverse affects. There are over 7000 kilometres

Trail agreement

A trail agreement formalizes the roles and responsibilities of the province and a trail manager for the sustainable management of provincial trails. Trail managers will be able to carry out specific types of work on provincial trails without the need for additional approvals from the province. This enables routine and timely trail maintenance.

Trail designation

Public land trails can be:

• designated under the Trails Act

Lands Act as a provincial trail

Trail designation under provincial

legislation enables the province to

of designated trails on Alberta's

to ensure public safety, improve

sustainable use and management

public land. Designated trails have rules in place for trail users

trail experiences and enable

of recreational trails. Public

recreational use.

land trails may be multi-use or

designated for a single type of

• established under the Public

designated in a public land

use zone

Alberta