

# Conservation and Stewardship Working Group Final Report

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

For the first time in human history the population of the globe reached 1 billion in 1830. Less than 200 years later the world population is 6.4 billion. It is not surprising that very significant stewardship and conservation issues have emerged and that every jurisdiction on earth is charged with balancing development with environmental protection.

A conservation and stewardship theme underscored a wide variety of previous consultations (land-use planning, setting priority land uses, growth management). The signature topic that carried this theme is the reoccurring concept of ecological goods and services. Many participants in previous consultations felt that the Government of Alberta should assume primary responsibility for conservation and stewardship, notwithstanding the fact that a conservation and stewardship ethic is practiced by many landowners, industries, businesses and other levels of government in Alberta.

In order for the Alberta LUF to define the parameters for land stewardship, in terms of corporate performance, environmental farm plans, values on ecological goods and services, as well as natural capital, it will be necessary for the Government of Alberta to develop effective policies that clearly define the roles and responsibilities of stewardship, as well as to outline policy incentives for stewardship. This calls for establishing a stewardship plan within the LUF.

Operating within the over-arching parameters set by the concept of “Ecological Goods and Services”, the Conservation and Stewardship Working Group has attempted, in this report, to identify short, medium and long-term actions and strategies, expressed in a wide range of recommendations that pertain to both private and public land.

From June 2007 through to the first part of October 2007, the Conservation and Stewardship Working Group met eight times, participated in one joint WG meeting, and committed additional hours reviewing and commenting on supporting documents as well as the results of each meeting.

First of all it became obvious that the urgency felt in Alberta for finding acceptable strategies for managing

land use in a climate of unprecedented rapid development is echoed over the globe. The working group discovered that conservation efforts in many jurisdictions in the world have not had the success necessary for sustaining ecological systems that support life on earth. This emphasizes the immense challenge as well as exceptional opportunity facing Alberta over the next few decades with regard to conservation and stewardship.

In Alberta, many groups, organizations and industries have established best management practices (BMP) to guide daily operations. This activity offers a frame of reference within which to build a conservation and stewardship plan.

The over-arching general lesson learned from reviewing experiences in other jurisdictions:

*Successful conservation and stewardship programs must be well designed, realistically resourced and thoughtfully implemented to be successful over the long term.*

Alberta, a frontier province with a vigorous pioneer legacy, has within its population both the ability and the energy to foster unique innovations in the area of conservation and stewardship. With the will of the people already in place, it remains for government to lead the way by means of effective legislation and policies, and by example.

In the spirit of developing a common starting point to serve as a compass in future meetings the CSWG formulated a specific Vision Statement:

*Alberta's lands are deliberately and effectively managed to ensure that healthy ecological systems are maintained and/or restored.*

In support of the Vision, the CSWG recommends a guiding principle:

*The intent of conservation and stewardship is to conserve and steward a perpetually sustained mosaic of natural, urban, rural and working landscapes, to ensure the provision of ecological goods and services.*

The CSWG developed three (3) over-arching goals, within which are embedded a series of strategies and actions that describe how to realize the vision.

The list of actions is not intended to be exhaustive. It is provided as ideas to help flesh out some of the goals and strategies and it is not intended to be prescriptive, nor is it intended to limit the exploration of other applicable actions, tools and programs.

Some actions were strongly endorsed by the group as a whole, and others endorsed by various portions of the group. Actions endorsed by most or all of the members are included in the main body of the report and the full list of all suggested actions, tools and programs is included in Section 5.

Beyond the recommendations found herein, many members of the Conservation and Stewardship Working Group are willing to continue participation with government in any follow up initiatives or advisory groups.

## 2.0 Introduction

The Conservation and Stewardship Working Group (CSWG) emerged out of feedback from participants at the December 2006 Provincial Land-use Framework Initiative Cross Sector Forum. Participants at the Cross Sector Forum identified conservation and stewardship as a distinct topic and suggested the need for a specific focus group.

The Minister of Sustainable Resource Development (SRD), Honourable Ted Morton, asked the newly formed CSWG to advise the government on what role conservation and stewardship could fill in the Land Use Framework (LUF).

The LUF is a Government of Alberta (GoA) initiative, supported by a multi-ministerial committee, with SRD the lead ministry. Premier Ed Stelmach identified the LUF process as an important procedure for providing input to government policy.

The CSWG is one of four focus groups working on LUF issues. The ideas and concepts, identified in this report define the role of conservation and stewardship in the LUF, and will be integrated with the ideas and concepts of the other three groups.

The extensive experience and expertise of about 30 people from rural and urban communities within a

broad provincial cross section of natural regions, provided the firm foundation upon which this report was built. These people represent the kind of individuals, organizations, industry and conservation groups that engage regularly in conservation and stewardship initiatives.

For a list of CSWG members see Appendix 6.1.

The CSWG recognizes the Government of Alberta as the primary authority responsible for enabling, facilitating, supporting, and partnering with individuals, organizations, private groups, NGOs, other levels of government, and industry to initiate and implement conservation and stewardship programs. The CSWG also recognizes the need for the necessary and direct leadership role of the Government of Alberta in ensuring that ecological systems are maintained or restored.

The challenges and opportunities associated with conservation and stewardship are complex and vary by region and by type of land use. Because conservation and stewardship mean different things to different people, the CSWG tried to develop clear definitions to explain ideas and concepts. From the diverse backgrounds of the Working Group (WG), participants learned where high level strategies are held in common and where specific action needs to be tailored for different regional issues. One of the most important discussions for this group centered on the need for structuring conservation and stewardship programs to be useful in both private and public jurisdictions.

## 3.0 Where are we now? - The Current Situation

Initial meetings focused on current land use in Alberta, and in order to put that in global context, the group studied a variety of issues and experiences from provincial, national and international jurisdictions. The sense of urgency felt in this province, to build on the current momentum and address sustainability and environmental issues, is echoed around the world. The CSWG sees the LUF process as an opportunity to explore conservation and stewardship challenges at a scale sufficient to achieve the Conservation and Stewardship (CS) vision. The following sections

introduce some of the information discussed, and how this knowledge contributes to understanding the current state of conservation and stewardship in Alberta.

### 3.1 Current Level of Activity

One presentation, “Looking Backward with Data and Looking Forward to a Sustainability Challenge” study, by Dr. Brad Stelfox, helped give a frame of reference to the current level of land use in Alberta and increased understanding of the overall context in which conservation and stewardship must operate.

It became clear that without thoughtful planning and strategic action the current level of population growth, land use and industrial development is not sustainable. The legacy of this rapid growth will affect the quality of life for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The cumulative effect of current growth, projected into the future, suggests continual conflicts as various land uses overlap within a limited land base.

Examples of land use conflicts include those between residential and recreational use of native landscapes and agricultural land; between agricultural and energy use of forest land; between traditional and modern use of all land; and between rural and urban use of agricultural land. The current level of conservation and stewardship effort in Alberta is not sufficient to keep pace with the kind of growth facing the province over the next few decades. Failure to plan and act now will result in serious loss of biodiversity, which will mean a significant reduction in the quality of life for everyone.

### 3.2 Literature Review – Learning From Others

Before exploring specific strategies and actions, the CSWG reviewed present and previous work in the province and considered other important information gleaned from national and global experiences. Initially making the effort to learn from other experiences: saved time over all, reduced the risk of recommending ineffective strategies, and expanded the platform of discussion. It is important that the LUF process continues to be aware of and draw from lessons learned.

Individual members of the CSWG were assigned reports to review and present to the group. Over 30 documents were reviewed and discussed. The review revealed good work done in Alberta and in other jurisdictions. Many organizations and industries have established best management practices (BMP) to guide daily operations.

When lessons-learned became redundant in these reports, the CSWG developed a list of 15 key examples from conservation and stewardship programs throughout the world. A full list of the documents studied is included in Appendix 6.4.

This list begins with revelations and recommendation most often mentioned. The list is a compilation captured by the facilitators from the individual reviews, and which the CSWG acknowledged as useful, but not exhaustive. This order resulted from the frequency found in the reports reviewed and doesn't necessarily reflect the priorities of the CSWG.

#### Lessons Learned

- The most successful programs are those implemented at the local level, but guided by policies and planning done at the state (province) or national level. Effective programs are those that include financial support and respect for local efforts and knowledge.
- Effective programs are those that provide a clear incentive to participants (incentive is not always financial) and those in which participation is regarded as having business or financial advantage.
- Successful conservation and stewardship programs are those that cultivate public support for the program. This includes public education on the concept that public good results from conservation and stewardship efforts on private land.
- External audits, monitoring, adaptive management and periodic reviews are key elements of successful conservation and stewardship programs.
- In order to be successful, conservation and stewardship programs must develop partnerships with a variety of interest groups, including those in the private sector.
- Developing conservation and stewardship programs that increase public involvement and interest is a long and slow process; it is important not to

underestimate the amount of time and effort required.

- It is important to focus effort on a few key areas, rather than spreading resources too thinly.
- Critical to success is building consensus among stakeholders in each conservation and stewardship program.
- Conservation and stewardship programs are more successful when multiple levels of government are involved.
- When designing conservation and stewardship programs it is important to make adjustments to fit the social context of participants.
- Before developing conservation and stewardship programs it is important to identify barriers, and particularly important to consider all barriers.
- Training program managers and developing realistic capacity for conservation and stewardship programs are key to success.
- Successful conservation and stewardship programs receive long-term, consistent and sustainable funding.
- Moving emphasis from the local level to the national level reduces effectiveness.
- Successful conservation and stewardship programs use both facilitators and coordinators.

The over-arching general lesson from this review: Successful conservation and stewardship programs must be well designed, realistically resourced and thoughtfully implemented to be successful over the long term.

### 3.3 Government of Alberta Strategic Business Plan

An additional discussion that highlighted the context for conservation and stewardship in Alberta centered on the Alberta Strategic Business Plan.

The Strategic Business Plan emphasizes the economic well-being of the province as well as the pressure on infrastructure and the relationship between these and social well-being. The CSWG recognizes the significance

of economic and social well being, and in this report shows how environmental (ecological) and cultural well-being are critical for long term economic and social health.

The Strategic Business Plan is the compass by which the Government of Alberta guides the province and in its present form does not explicitly address land use planning that includes short and long term conservation and stewardship goals.

### 3.4 Identification of Current Barriers

The CSWG created a list of key barriers in Alberta that impede the progress and success of conservation and stewardship programs and initiatives.

Both the Terms of Reference (TOR) assigned to the CSWG, and lessons-learned informed the need to identify barriers to successful conservation and stewardship programs and initiatives. Although identified barriers are expressed in many negative terms such as “a lack of ...”, “the province is missing ...”, the CSWG recognizes that the provincial government has made progress in recent years with regard to active involvement in the conservation and stewardship field. This list of barriers does not negate the importance of that work; it is simply a recognized tool used to discover where significant improvement can be made.

#### Barriers Identified:

- **Leadership:** Lack of leadership at the provincial level. In order to make conservation and stewardship an integral part of our culture, it is critical that government leaders understand and make a commitment to a conservation and stewardship ethic. This will then be reflected at the municipal, industry and citizen level where programs are effectively implemented.
- **Coordination:** Lack of coordination and communication between jurisdictions that develop and deliver conservation and stewardship programs. Improved coordination and strengthened partnerships reduce redundancy and inefficiency.
- **Timeframe:** Lack of long-term planning. Conservation and stewardship requires a long-term vision. Along with the attention given to short-term

rewards (e.g., votes/profits), it is critical that long-term plans be adopted for conservation and stewardship efforts, to ensure continuing success of short-term goals.

- **Funding:** Lack of capacity for initiating effective new conservation and stewardship programs and for enhancing current conservation and stewardship programs. This includes both human and financial resources.
- **Incentives:** Lack of incentive-based programs to encourage and/or support conservation and stewardship. Incentives are most commonly financial or tax credit based, but other incentives such as public recognition, as well as market based approaches, are also effective.
- **Public Awareness:** Lack of public awareness of the usefulness of conservation and stewardship programs. Although there is a growing interest in environmental issues in the province, the general public does not have the awareness level needed in order to understand the true value of Alberta ecosystems. This lack of public awareness influences the decisions and actions of political leaders.
- **Research:** There are gaps in our understanding of how to choose the best areas for conservation and stewardship effort. Focused research and scientific study could provide the knowledge needed to enhance current conservation and stewardship programs and make specific conservation Best Management Practices (BMP) more effective. Baseline data is critical for choosing realistic monitoring and evaluation methods.
- **Monetary Value of Ecological Goods and Services:** It is difficult to place a monetary value on ecological goods and services. Tangible benefits are generated by conservation and stewardship programs, but they are often undervalued. This is especially true for public goods that are generated by conservation on private lands.
- **Existing Legislation, Policy, Land Use Agreements and Tenures:** The government has already allocated and is committed to multiple uses on the landscape (e.g., Forestry FMAs and mineral leases). The *Public Lands Act* and *Municipal Government Act* are examples of legislation that creates barriers to conservation and stewardship programs.

## 4.0 Where do we want to be and how do we get there? Vision, Goals and Actions

The CSWG devoted significant time to discussing and debating the meaning of conservation and stewardship, and realized that there are multiple, existing definitions for conservation and stewardship. Wordsmithing a finite definition for this specific process within such a restrictive time frame became inefficient. However, the CSWG realized the need for a common starting point that could serve as a compass in future meetings. This led to a draft vision statement to serve as the guiding principle. The vision statement also helped focus recommendations with regard to conservation and stewardship.

Recognizing the inter-relationship between the quadruple bottom line concept (Economic, Social, Environmental and Cultural) and land management, the CSWG vision is:

Alberta's lands are deliberately and effectively managed to ensure that healthy ecological systems are maintained and/or restored.

In support of the Vision, the CSWG recommends a guiding principle:

The intent of conservation and stewardship is to conserve and steward a perpetually sustained mosaic of natural, urban, rural and working landscapes, to ensure the provision of ecological goods and services.

### 4.1 Goals, Strategies and Actions

The CSWG developed three (3) over-arching goals, and within them, a series of strategies and actions that describe how to realize the vision.

The CSWG realized that goals have to reflect diverse landscapes, ranging from parks and protected areas, to full working landscapes including both public and private lands. Conservation and stewardship is significant to the management of all of them, and the conservation and stewardship component of the LUF must offer a variety of strategies and actions that are useful for different landscapes.

The listings of actions under each strategy were developed by the CSWG. The listing of actions is not intended to be exhaustive, but instead is provided as additional ideas that help to flesh out some of the goals and strategies. This list was developed by CSWG in a series of relatively short brainstorming sessions and therefore is not intended to be overly prescriptive or to limit the exploration of other actions, tools and programs. The actions presented are offered as options and advice developed by a group of people who see conservation and stewardship as a key component of the LUF.

Within the time constraints some of the actions were more strongly supported than others, but the CSWG did not want to dismiss any of the ideas at this point. Instead, the actions that were endorsed by most or all of the members are included in this section and the full listing of all suggested actions, tools and programs is included in Section 5.

It was recognized by the CSWG that very challenging decisions and changes will need to be made to nurture the conservation and stewardship ethic. There will need to be trade offs from which new opportunities will emerge. Some of the actions, tools and programs listed here would require additional discussion about how these trade-offs would occur.

**Goal 1**  
**For Alberta to be a national and international leader in delivering conservation and stewardship strategies and initiatives**

**Strategies and Action to Support Goal 1**

**1.1** Align relevant provincial, federal, municipal and aboriginal policies, legislation and resources toward a cohesive conservation and stewardship vision.

Examples of actions suggested by CSWG to make Strategy 1.1 a reality:

- Embed the Conservation and Stewardship (C&S) vision into the provincial business plan.
- Develop legislation with respect to a provincial LUF.
- Embed the LUF priorities in the work plans of all appropriate departments.

- Institute a process to review current legislation to identify what is enabling or disabling C&S:
  - The *Municipal Government Act* was recognized as an example of a key piece of legislation that needs review.
  - Enhance the *Public Lands Act* and imbed restoration as a key components:
  - Recognize lands with conservation values and don't sell them (e.g., grazing lands).
  - An example of a legislative review for parks and related legislation is referenced in Appendix 6.3.1.

**1.2** Increase and improve significantly the capacity of stakeholders (industries, governments, individuals and NGOs) to contribute to conservation and stewardship in Alberta.

Examples of actions suggested by CSWG to make Strategy 1.2 a reality:

- Develop a strategy to implement the conservation and stewardship components within the LUF. The strategy should be based on consultation with stakeholders and should include:
  - Determine and/or revise powers, responsibilities, and partnerships within the policies and legislation to improve the capacity of the stakeholders.
  - Increase capacity within the planning and delivery agencies (e.g., government, NGOs).
  - Develop specific schedules, timelines, and budget.
  - Implement a monitoring strategy to ensure the long-term effectiveness of the program.
- Make increased funding available for C&S work within all departments that deal with C&S (such as enforcement, recreation management, planning, public education, monitoring, and research). Departments include those that affect land management (Alberta Environment, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Agriculture and Food, Alberta Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture, Alberta Municipal Affairs and Housing, Alberta Energy).



**1.3** Encourage increased integration, cooperation, communication and coordination through conservation and stewardship administrative bodies at provincial and regional levels, with representative stakeholder involvement (including all levels of government).

Examples of actions suggested by CSWG to make Strategy 1.3 a reality:

- Demonstrate a commitment to sustainable land management by:
  - strongly encouraging the implementation of conservation BMPs in all sectors.
  - developing a better working relationship with all stakeholders (NGOs, industry etc.).
- Improve C&S program coordination and dialogue among and within government departments, NGOs, industry and other government agencies (at regional, watershed, and natural region levels):
  - Develop and maintain an inventory of current C&S groups, programs, and initiatives and conduct a needs assessment or gap analysis.
  - Ensure compatible adjacent land uses where feasible (e.g., buffers around parks and protected areas).

**1.4** Develop and use a long term planning process to support conservation and stewardship goals.

Examples of actions suggested by CSWG to make Strategy 1.4 a reality:

- Demonstrate a commitment to sustainable land management by:
  - Develop and implement conservation plans at various scales.
  - Increase in areas dedicated to C&S (e.g., protected areas representative of the provinces natural regions and sub regions).
  - proactive planning and making the tough decisions (e.g., what happens if there is a major development request, or what happens post development).
  - implementing conservation BMPs.

- Implement monitoring to ensure the long-term effectiveness of the program.
- Develop an overall recreational strategy for the province which would support the CS vision by considering diverse recreation opportunities are available for Albertans in areas of the province where they are appropriate (such as implementing provincial recreation area designation and classification system).

## Goal 2

**To increase understanding of ecosystems through shared research and education to build public awareness and support for conservation and stewardship**

### Strategies and Actions that Support Goal 2

**2.1** Significantly increase and sustain provincial efforts toward researching, undertaking inventories and monitoring landscape elements that are essential for healthy ecosystems.

Examples of actions suggested by CSWG to make Strategy 2.1 a reality:

- Use research to help establish science-based targets and thresholds for cumulative effects on managed and natural ecosystems.
- Collect baseline data on ecosystem features that reflect our vision of sustainability.
  - This includes such factors as endangered species, areas of disturbed lands, areas of changes in land use, land management practices, subsurface and surface water resources.
  - It also includes establishment of an accessible data management system.
- Continue to research and improve conservation Best Management Practices in all industries and sectors.
- Focus and enhance research on determining the economic value of defined ecological goods and services (benefits from our landscapes).
  - This includes characteristics such as clean water (riparian issues), maintenance of habitats and biodiversity and sustainable land management.

- Focus and enhance research on determining the value of social and cultural goods and services supplied by our landscapes.
  - This includes such factors as aesthetics, recreational opportunities, and cultural sites.
- Establish science-based monitoring protocols for those features that reflect our vision of sustainable ecosystems.
  - This includes such factors as endangered species, areas of disturbed lands, areas of changes in land use, road density, land management practices, soil quality and subsurface and surface water resources.
- Establish monitoring networks to assess the effectiveness land management practices and identify ecosystem sustainability concerns.
  - This includes establishment of an accessible data management system and regular “state-of-the-environment” reporting. An example of this is included in Appendix 6.3.1..

**2.2** Design, implement and support a coordinated communications, education and engagement strategy to assist cultural change: to encourage a society that values conservation and stewardship of the natural elements that support or increase ecosystem health (integrity).

Examples of actions suggested by CSWG to make Strategy 2.2 a reality:

- Evaluate public awareness of conservation and stewardship.
  - Commit to an on-going assessment of Public Education and Outreach (PEO) to ensure the effectiveness of the program.
- Enhance and promote current successful PEO initiatives, such as the Respect the Land initiative.
- Inventory and assess the public awareness programs currently available.
- Assess current level of PEO services.
  - Work with educational institutions, organizations, and mass-media to develop a strong PEO partnership and coincident learning opportunities.

- Coordinate with industry, commercial and recreation institutions to insert C&S awareness and understanding into training and retraining
- Develop an overall education and outreach strategy on conservation and stewardship.
- Coordinate PEO initiatives in all government departments.

### Goal 3

**To significantly increase the capacity, development and deployment of policy, program initiatives and related tools necessary to address the conservation and stewardship of all ecosystems**

### Strategies and Actions that Support Goal 3

**3.1** Establish sustainable, dedicated funding (e.g., trust fund) of sufficient size to increase capacity, tools and program initiatives for conservation and stewardship.

Examples of actions suggested by CSWG to make Strategy 3.1 a reality:

- Make funds available for:
  - C&S public awareness and education campaigns.
  - C&S initiatives, especially within the volunteer sector.
  - C&S technology, research and implementation plans.
- Increase the funding for stewardship in recreation management, both within and outside of parks (examples of which could include user awareness and safety programs).
- Enable publicly generated funding to support C&S initiatives.
- Review the funding commitment every 10 years.
- Purchase and steward land or easements (see Appendix 6.3.1 for an example).
- Consider a diverse stream of funding sources (see Incentives action list on pages 16 and 17).

**3.2** Initiate a program of incentives, and where necessary, disincentives to foster and promote the maintenance of ecological goods and services on private and public land.

Examples of actions suggested by CSWG to make Strategy 3.3 a reality:

- Develop and use incentives for restoration of native landscapes as a condition of licences to operate.
- Encourage creation of a tax tool that will provide land-rich, cash-poor donors of Eco-Gifts (gifts of lands or conservation easements) with the right to sell their tax receipts (as is done in Colorado).
- Develop and use incentives for maintaining ecological goods and services on private lands (both urban and rural).
  - As an example, the On-Farm Conservation Planning Services consisting of technical/professional services provided to private landowners.
  - Build and offer a system that rewards private land managers who provide specific environmental goods and services.
- Conduct a review of current funding/incentives/subsidies/royalty rates that may impact C&S (positive and negative impacts).
- Develop and use incentives for coordination of subsurface and surface activities.
  - For example, incentives for multi-well pad drilling.
- Encourage adoption of conservation BMPs in all sectors
  - Promote market opportunities for operations that have good C&S practices in all sectors.

## 5.0 Potential Action Plans

The following tables are a complete listing of the suggested action generated by the CSWG during brief brainstorming sessions. The listing of actions is not intended to be exhaustive, but instead is provided as additional ideas that help to flesh out some of the goals and strategies.

As described in Section 4, the actions which received stronger support are listed at the top of each table, and are a repeat of the actions included in Section 4. The entire list is included here, and it is suggested that the GoA review the entire list as the CSWG did not want to lose any of the ideas they generated. Some of the ideas that did not receive strong support may need additional dialogue or consultation to see if a rewording or clarification of the action would make it a more useful action for conservation and stewardship.

In addition to the action listed here, the CSWG wanted to give readers of this report some idea of the scale of investment needed to achieve the goals and strategies and to make the actions a reality. Given the time constraints of the LUF process the CSWG was not able to have a detailed discussion of the potential size of the various actions suggested. However the CSWG thought it would be useful to provide an example of a specific program and the estimated costs for this program (See Appendix 6.3.2 for details).

The listing of potential action plans is categorized according to the barriers listed in Section 3.4 and are not organized under the specific goals and strategies listed in Section 4.0.

The following is a brief explanation of the columns following each action

1. The score in the Priorities column represents the number of people who selected that action as one of their top 5 priorities.
2. The Timeline indicates when people thought the action should be implemented:
  - S = short-term – 3 years or less;
  - M = medium-term – 4 to 6 years;
  - L = long-term – greater than 6 years.
3. For any Tool, Action or Program people did not list as one of their top 5 choices or priorities, they were then asked to indicate if they supported the action or if they had a serious objection and couldn't support it. The rationale for this was to measure the level of support the group had for each item.

**Table 1: Actions, Tools and Programs that could be established to foster and support conservation and stewardship — Specifically Related to Funding**

	Tool, Action or Program	Priority	Timeline (S/M/L)	Although not one of my top 5 priorities, this is a tool I support	I can't support /accept this tool
1	Make increased funding available for C&S work within all departments that deal with C&S (such as enforcement, recreation management, planning, public education, monitoring, and research. Departments include those that affect land management: AENV, ASRD, AAFRD, TPRC, MA&H, Energy).	8	s m l	3	1
2	Make funds available for C&S public awareness and education campaigns.	7	s m l	5	
3	On-Farm Conservation Planning Services. Technical/professional services provided to private landowners to classify, assess, and map habitat attributes and identify opportunities for integration of conservation and stewardship actions within the farm business operation (see Additional Comments #1).	6	s	5	
4	Make funds available for C&S initiatives, especially within the volunteer sector.	4	s	8	
5	Make funds available for research of new C&S technology and implementation plans.	4	s m l	7	
6	Encourage creation of a federal tax tool that will provide land-rich, cash-poor donors of Eco-Gifts (gifts of lands or conservation easements) with the right to sell their tax receipts (as is done in Colorado).	4	s m	6	1
7	Increase the funding for stewardship in recreation management, both within and outside of parks.	3	s m	9	
8	Make funds available for high conservation value area assessments (by natural region).	3	s	7	1
9	Create a separate source of funding or enable publicly generated funding to support C&S initiatives.	2	s	9	
10	Conduct a review of current funding/incentives/subsidies/royalty rates that may impact C&S (positive and negative impacts).	2	s m l	9	
11	Build and offer a system that provides reward to private land managers who provide specific environmental goods and services. (See Additional Comments #2)	2	s	8	
12	Review the funding commitment every 10 years	1	l	10	
13	Begin a C&S fund with a \$1 billion trust fund to generate \$50 million/year funding, or GoA should allocate a cash flow of \$50 million/ year for the next 10 years to C&S-related activities in Alberta.	5	s m	3	4

Tool, Action or Program	Priority	Timeline (S/M/L)	Although not one of my top 5 priorities, this is a tool I support	I can't support /accept this tool
14 Financial assistance should be made available for NGO capacity development and participation.	2		8	1
15 Dedicate revenue from environmentally destructive developments to environmental restoration and protection.	2	s m l	7	1
16 Make funds available to enable independent monitoring and state-of-the-environment reporting.	2	s	6	2
17 Review new fund development and taxation options. • Conservation bond system used in the U.S.A is an example.			10	1
18 Develop a fund-matching program among private sources, NGOs, and the GoA. • Note: such a system could infringe on First Nations land use models			8	2
19 Develop a process to enable groups & individuals from the private sector to contribute to C&S Trust Fund.			8	2
20 Use a portion of the current carbon fund for conservation of the last intact lands to secure conservation easements or lease buy-outs and compensation in the green area. Facilitate or initiate public programs for purchasing carbon offsets. • Caribou Habitat Service Market is an example of an environmental service market.	2	s m	6	3
21 Reinvest a portion of sales of public lands into C&S of other nearby lands.	1		7	3
22 Environmental Management Agreements. This tool is being used by government and industry as a proactive means of establishing environmental goals and expectations relative to development/business operations (See Additional Comments #3).	1		6	3
23 Form a Citizen Committee to Administer C&S Trust Fund.			6	4
24 Industrial corporations which are working under a “cap and trade” emissions system should purchase* “carbon offsets” from First Nation corporations holding “conservation management” forest tenures*. Industrial corporations which are destroying wetlands and critical caribou habitat should purchase “conservation offsets” from First Nation corporations holding “conservation management” forest tenures. (See Additional Comments #5)			4	5
25 Thirty percent of the “merchantable timber’ within the green area (i.e. forest lands within the Treaty 8 portion of the Boreal) and the associated “wetlands” should be reallocated to Treaty 8 First Nations, and industry/ENGOS should support the First Nations in efforts to capture “environmental service markets” related to carbon sequestration, wetlands conservation and critical wildlife habitat conservation. (See additional Comments #4)			3	6

**Table 2: Actions, Tools and Programs that could be established to foster and support conservation and stewardship — Specifically Related to Incentives**

	Tool, Action or Program	Priority	Timeline (S/M/L)	Although not one of my top 5 priorities, this is a tool I support	I can't support /accept this tool
1	Develop a public education program outlining the benefits of good stewardship.	6	s m l	6	
2	Develop and use incentives for maintaining ecological goods and services on private lands.	5	m	6	
3	Develop and use incentives for coordination of subsurface and surface activities. • For example, incentives for multi-well pad drilling	3	s m	7	
4	Develop and use incentives for restoration of native landscapes as a condition of licences to operate.	3	s m	8	
5	Develop and promote market opportunities for operations that have good C&S practices, including certification programs for: • Agriculture • Forestry • Models for other sectors	4	s m	6	1
6	Develop and use incentives to protect riparian zones, and area of protection would be dependent on type of water body.	5	s m	4	2
7	Improve monitoring and enforcement of regulations and legislation. • Enforce and monitor to protect the environment. • Have larger fines for infractions. • Zero tolerance for regulation infractions.	5	s	4	2
8	Abolish the selling of public lands with high conservation or recreation value.	5	s m	5	2
9	Encourage buy-back of any provincial leases/tenures which are located on high conservation value lands, where land use is not compatible with local ecology.	4	s m	5	2
10	Develop an eco-gift donation program to support C&S values. • Could follow the Colorado Land Trust model that involves the sale of tax receipts, or a conservation tradable tax credit program.	3	s m	7	1
11	Develop and use an incentive program to encourage environmentally-conscious consumption.	3	m	7	2
12	Create an ecological off-set program, within the context of continued population growth in the province.	2	s m	5	2
13	Develop and use incentives to encourage all recreational users to use only designated areas, including motorized and non-motorized uses.	2	m	8	2

Tool, Action or Program	Priority	Timeline (S/M/L)	Although not one of my top 5 priorities, this is a tool I support	I can't support /accept this tool
14 Conduct a review of oil and gas revenue tax system (royalties), which could provide an opportunity to fund C&S initiatives.	1	s m	9	1
15 Utilise the environmental service market approach; explore opportunities and prepare baseline data for existing programs.	1	s	9	1
16 Support market promotion for proven C&S performance or meeting environmental standards.	1	s	8	1
17 Develop and promote market opportunities for operations that have good C&S practices such as funding for farmers who reduce pesticide, herbicide use.	1	s	8	2
18 Restructure the land tenure system within the context of sustainability.	3	s	5	3
19 Create a natural heritage fund from a percentage of a royalty from all land uses in ecologically sensitive areas.	1	s	7	3
20 Develop and promote market opportunities for operations that have good C&S practices such as transferable development rights.	1	s	6	3
21 Create private long-term management capabilities for public lands.	1		4	7
22 Develop and promote market opportunities for operations that have good C&S practices such as purchase of conservation easements.			8	2
23 Develop and promote market opportunities for operations that have good C&S practices such as water quality trading rights.			7	3
24 Ensure flexibility in the time requirements to drill and operate a well.			6	4
25 Develop and promote market opportunities for operations that have good C&S practices such as payment for a percentage of the land's value if it is retired.			5	5

**Table 3: Actions, Tools and Programs that could be established to foster and support conservation and stewardship — Specifically Related to Public Education and Outreach**

	Tool, Action or Program	Priority	Timeline (S/M/L)	Although not one of my top 5 priorities, this is a tool I support	I can't support /accept this tool
1	Develop an overall education and outreach strategy on conservation and stewardship.	11	s m		
2	Enhance and promote current successful PEO initiatives, such as the Respect the Land initiative.	10	s m	2	
3	Inventory and assess the public awareness programs currently available.	9	s m	3	
4	Assess public awareness of conservation and stewardship. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commit to an on-going assessment of PEO to ensure the effectiveness of the program.</li> </ul>	7		4	
5	Assess current level of PEO services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with educational institutions, organizations, and mass-media to develop a strong PEO partnership and coincident learning opportunities.</li> </ul>	7	s m	5	
6	Coordinate PEO initiatives with initiatives in other gov't departments, particularly AENV.	7	s m	4	
7	Assess current level of PEO services, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with work and play institutions to insert C&amp;S awareness and understanding into training and retraining.</li> </ul>	6	s m	4	
8	Develop and implement an education program which presents Albertans with a clear understanding of the relationship between "Treaty Implementation" processes to reallocate lands and resources to First Nations and existing First Nations models for conservation within the large geographic areas being returned to Treaty First Nations in the NWT.			6	3



**Table 4: Actions, Tools and Programs that could be established to foster and support conservation and stewardship — Specifically Related to Research**

	Tool, Action or Program	Priority	Timeline (S/M/L)	Although not one of my top 5 priorities, this is a tool I support	I can't support /accept this tool
1	Use research to help establish science-based targets and thresholds.	7	s m l	6	
2	Incorporate current and innovative research into LUF management (including support for cumulative effects research results).	6	s m l	7	
3	Collect groundwater mapping data, increase and maintain surface water monitoring	5	s m	7	
4	Collect baseline data on endangered species and cumulative effects.	3	s m	9	
5	Research beneficial management practices.	1	s m	10	
6	Coordinate, enhance, and focus research on monetary value of ecological goods and services in Alberta.	6	s m	4	1
7	Create a system of dissemination of research findings to appropriate bodies. Establish free access to existing government databases and research.	5	s m l	5	1
8	Establish and communicate research grant programs and ensure appropriate funding is available to research bodies.	4	s m l	6	1
9	Create an accessible data management system modeled on the ILM Protocols group recommendations.	4	s m	7	1
10	Collect information on current stewardship initiatives and standards.	4	s	7	1
11	Conduct a survey on Albertans' needs and priorities with respect to C&S.	6	s	4	3
12	Update data on current developments, sub-surface, and surface leases	3	s	7	1
13	Coordinate a database of spatial data sets.	1	s	7	2
14	A C&S Centre for Excellence should be created that has broad membership and would act as a granting body (funds from an unfettered GoA grant) and would establish criteria for priority funding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All new research should advance the vision of the LUF and the C&amp;S working group. It should acknowledge cultural, recreational, indigenous, socio-economic values. While research and data may often be science-based, it should be recognised that indigenous knowledge and local experience can also provide valuable information.</li> </ul>	4	s m l	5	3

Tool, Action or Program	Priority	Timeline (S/M/L)	Although not one of my top 5 priorities, this is a tool I support	I can't support /accept this tool
15 Provide incentives to conduct varied and innovative research, for example research low-profile alternative energy sources other than biofuels.	2	s m	6	3
16 Research approvals are reviewed by a multi-stakeholder committee.	1	s	6	5
17 Create an independent body to ensure that new research is legitimate, peer-reviewed, and acceptable to all stakeholders, and to ensure that sound judgment is used in establishing the direction and end use of new research.	3	s m l	3	7

**Table 5: Actions, Tools and Programs that could be established to foster and support conservation and stewardship — Specifically Related to Research**

	Tool, Action or Program	Priority	Timeline (S/M/L)	Although not one of my top 5 priorities, this is a tool I support	I can't support /accept this tool
1	The GoA should develop legislation with respect to a provincial LUF and embed the LUF priorities in the work plans of all appropriate departments.	8	s	3	
2	Demonstrate a commitment to sustainable land management by development of conservation plans, or increased areas dedicated to C&S, or implementation of BMPs for all sectors.	7	s m	7	
3	Institute a process to review current legislation to identify what is enabling or disabling C&S. A specific example was provided by one WG member who will provide a citation or reference.	3	s m	7	
4	Implementation strategy would include development of a monitoring strategy to ensure the long-term effectiveness of the program.	2	m l	8	
5	<p>The GoA will demonstrate a commitment to sustainable land management by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the development of conservation plans</li> <li>• an increase in areas dedicated to C&amp;S (e.g., protected areas)</li> <li>• strongly encouraging the implementation of BMPs in all sectors</li> <li>• proactive planning and making the tough decisions (e.g., what happens if there is a major development request, or what happens post oil &amp; gas)</li> <li>• developing a better working relationship with all stakeholders (NGOs, industry etc)</li> </ul> <p>There is a recognition that leadership and building trust works both ways (not all government responsibility).</p>	11	s m l		1

	Tool, Action or Program	Priority	Timeline (S/M/L)	Although not one of my top 5 priorities, this is a tool I support	I can't support /accept this tool
6	<p>The GoA will, with input from affected agencies (stakeholders?), develop an implementation strategy addressing the priority areas identified in the white paper (above). The Implementation strategy will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a legislative review of C&amp;S programs to identify what is enabling or disabling C&amp;S.</li> <li>• a determination and or revision of powers, responsibilities, and partnerships.</li> <li>• capacity building within the delivery agencies to implement the LUF</li> <li>• the development of specific schedules, timelines, and budgets.</li> <li>• development of a monitoring strategy to ensure the long-term effectiveness of the program.</li> </ul> <p>(A specific example of a process to review current legislation was provided by one WG member who will provide a citation or reference.)</p>	10	s m l		1
7	<p>The GoA will develop a White Paper (situation analysis) outlining its vision, goals and objectives for a land use framework for Alberta based on the public input presently being developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• this is a short term action (within the next year if possible)</li> </ul>	7	s	1	2
8	In the short and medium term, the GoA should amend current legislation to correct inconsistencies in delivery of C&S and develop an enforcement and incentives strategy.	4	s	5	2
9	Do capacity building to implement the LUF. Examples include announcements of new partnerships, dedicated funding, and stronger legislation.	3	s m	7	1
10	Follow up consultation with GoA to implement the LUF	2	l	7	1
11	In the medium-term, develop an enforcement and incentives strategy for regulations.	2	s	7	1
12	Implementation strategy would include the development of specific schedules, timelines, and budgets.	1	s	8	1
13	A legislative review of C&S programs should be part of the implementation strategy.	1	s	7	1
14	Implementation strategy would include a determination and or revision of powers, responsibilities, and partnerships.	1	s	7	2
15	Demonstrate leadership through pro-active planning and the courage to make tough decisions.	1	s m	6	2

Tool, Action or Program	Priority	Timeline (S/M/L)	Although not one of my top 5 priorities, this is a tool I support	I can't support /accept this tool
16 Identify short-term amendments to the current legislation and fix in the short-term to help C&S.			9	1
17 Develop a working relationship with all stakeholders and GoA to work more cooperatively and in a positive manner (two-way street).			8	1
18 GoA needs to acknowledge that everyone has a role to play in leadership in C&S.			6	3
19 Create a "Land Use Council" or "Commission", populated by ENGO leaders, Provincial Treaty Organization representatives, and the C.E.O.s of "best practices" leading corporations. This Council would report to the GOA Executive Council, have the responsibility for recommending/advocating for land use management which is "sustainable" and conservation focused.			6	4

**Table 6: Actions, Tools and Programs that could be established to foster and support conservation and stewardship — Specifically Related to Coordination of Conservation and Stewardship**

	Tool, Action or Program	Priority	Timeline (S/M/L)	Although not one of my top 5 priorities, this is a tool I support	I can't support /accept this tool
1	Embed the C&S vision into the provincial business plan.	8	s	4	
2	Improve C&S program coordination and dialogue among governments at regional, watershed, and natural region levels, and among the 4 levels of government, NGOs, and industry.	6	s m l	7	
3	Develop an inventory of current C&S groups, programs, and initiatives and conduct a needs assessment or gap analysis.	4	s	8	
4	Develop a process to review measurable goals/baselines for different scales and provide feedback to a provincial C&S council.	5	s	6	1
5	Identify roles and responsibilities and process for meaningful consultation. Establish a joint decision-making process, obtain funding and resources to gather input, develop an appeal model, and provide rationale for who needs to be included in consultation.	5	s m	6	1
6	Create an arm's length C&S auditor or advisory body to conduct a review of current programs to determine what needs to be enhanced and what programs need to be created. Under the auspices of this office there should be C&S panels for policy analysis and technical review. The auditor's role is focused on reviewing current programs.	5	s m	7	1
7	Create a natural capital auditor who would focus on ecological inventories, state of the environment, impacts of policies and legislation, and the provincial business plan.	6	s m	4	2
8	Require Alberta Energy to consult other ministries, affected land users, other levels of gov't, and stakeholders prior to the sale of mineral and gas and oil permits/leases	4	s	6	3
9	The Province should commission regional studies to establish baselines and thresholds for C&S values.	3	s	7	1
10	Form multi-level regional bodies who have a coordination and oversight role, with the involvement of all 4 levels of government	4	s m	6	2
11	Conduct a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) on a 3-year basis. This would include an ability to look outside of current programs to find ways to improve the C&S activities. This is distinct from the Auditor who is focused on reviewing current programs.	3	s	7	2

Tool, Action or Program	Priority	Timeline (S/M/L)	Although not one of my top 5 priorities, this is a tool I support	I can't support /accept this tool
12 Develop or enhance existing C&S networks to enable them to become a clearinghouse for information. This would allow C&S programs in different regions are kept informed of what their counterparts are doing in other parts of the province	3	s m	6	3
13 Employ coordinators or LUF council to identify stakeholders that should be consulted in decision-making.	2	m	9	2
14 Establish a means by which existing networks, such as ASN and SFN, could be used more effectively.	1	s	9	1
15 Create structure and processes for coordinating authorities identified by Growth & Resource Management.	2	s	9	1
16 Funding should be made available for facilitators to support C&S groups and programs	2	s	9	1
17 Require that all land use plans be filed by GoA, and periodically reviewed (by LUF council).			9	2
18 Consolidate ministries of SRD, Environment, Parks, Recreation, and Culture. i.e. reconstitute Alberta Environmental Protection	2	s	3	7

**Table 7: Actions, Tools and Programs that could be established to foster and support conservation and stewardship — Specifically Related to Ecological Goods and Services**

	Tool, Action or Program	Priority	Timeline (S/M/L)	Although not one of my top 5 priorities, this is a tool I support	I can't support /accept this tool
1	Perform an extensive inventory of Alberta's landscapes looking for identification of lands and land uses compatible with preservation of ecological integrity, including: Opportunities to capitalize on public investments in, and use of, public lands through shared use of existing infrastructure (irrigation canal corridors, abandoned rail lines, unused road rights of way, utility corridors, etc.)	5	s m l	5	
2	Dedicated sustainable resources and funding for an overall recreation management plan (including user awareness and safety programs).	5	s	5	
3	Perform an extensive inventory of Alberta's landscapes looking for identification of lands and land uses compatible with preservation of ecological integrity, including: Places/areas of value for Aboriginal traditional use and cultural significant areas are identified and managed/protected to ensure these values/uses are sustained	3	s	7	
4	Invest in studies in order to gain a better understanding of how and what Albertans value in regards to the cultural, recreational, societal, historic, aesthetic, artistic and other benefits from our land and landscapes.	2	s/m	8	
5	Establish a recreation corridor, trail and recreation areas designation and classification program with sustainable and adaptive management.	3	l	7	
6	Work together and support partners and stewardship organizations engaged in recreation and tourism activities.			9	
7	An overall recreational strategy be developed for the province which would support the CS vision by considering diverse recreation opportunities are available for Albertans in areas of the province where they are appropriate.	6	s/m	3	1
8	The determination of values for ecological goods and services needs to be based on scientific evidence.	7	s m l	1	1
9	Perform an extensive inventory of Alberta's landscapes looking for identification of lands and land uses compatible with preservation of ecological integrity, including: Investing in ways of diversifying rural economies and planning for post-resource based economies	3	s m l	5	1



Tool, Action or Program	Priority	Timeline (S/M/L)	Although not one of my top 5 priorities, this is a tool I support	I can't support /accept this tool
10 GoA needs to address the liability issue faces by volunteer organizations, industry and private land owners. For example, non-profit organizations undertaking conservation and stewardship actions are liable for their actions and the insurance costs to do this are a challenge for most groups.	4	s m l	5	1
11 Perform an extensive inventory of Alberta's landscapes looking for identification of lands and land uses compatible with preservation of ecological integrity, including Places of current recreation values and established tourism operators	3	s m l	4	2
12 Conduct periodic surveys to determine value that Albertan's place on the existence of ecological goods and services	3	s	5	2
13 Perform an extensive inventory of Alberta's landscapes looking for identification of lands and land uses compatible with preservation of ecological integrity, including: Places/areas experiencing new and rapid population growth particularly in the northern part of the province.	2	s	5	2
14 Ensure the appropriate level of consultation is undertaken so that it reflects the level of studies are being undertaken. For example, for provincial level studies have consultation at the provincial level or for a study of a local water body consult at the local level.	2	s	6	2
15 Sustainable resources and funding for the development and maintenance of a province recreation corridor and trail network with appropriate support facilities (such as camping areas, washrooms, staging areas, signage, information, bridges for trails, enforcement and education) incorporating both motorized and non-motorized users.	2	s m l	6	2
16 Perform an inventory of traditional and historic trails and recreational access in the province.	2	s	6	
17 Perform an extensive inventory of Alberta's landscapes looking for identification of lands and land uses compatible with preservation of ecological integrity, including: Places/areas that have opportunities or demonstrate a need (lack adequate recreation/tourism infrastructure) for creating new recreation and tourism opportunities/operators	1	s/m	5	3
18 Displacement of recreation users to be assured of another area for use (such as a trail/area closure should include plans for managing and creating trails somewhere else of equal recreational value).			4	6

## Appendix 6.0

### 6.1 Listing of Working Group Members

First Name	Last Name	Position and Affiliation	Interested in further consultation
Ernie	Ewaschuk	Executive Director - Land Stewardship Centre	yes
Brad	Fenson	Alberta Fish & Game Association - habitat management	yes
Chris	Gervais-Rusnak	Area Supervisor - Tolko OSB High Prairie Division	yes
Jacque	Gilson	Executive Director, Sandy Cross Conservation Foundation; Director, Foothills Land Trust	yes
Margaret	Glasford	Past Chair, Alberta Stewardship Network	yes
Gordon	Harris	Director of Alberta Summer Villages Association; Mayor of S.V. of West Cove; Chairperson of Hwy 43 Waste Commission and Member of the Environmental Committee to the Minister.	yes
Linda	Jabs	Landowner/Producer	yes
Davin	Johnson	Committee Member - Alberta Environment's "Minister's Advisory Committee on Youth"	yes
John	Kolk	farmer/landowner; municipal	yes
Jim	Martin	Director - Centre for Environment	yes
Billie	Milholland	Education and Communication Coordinator - North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance	yes
Ian	Peace	President of Residents for Accountability in Power Industry in Alberta	yes
Wayne	Pettapiece	Research Scientist Emeritus, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	yes
Karissa	Potiuk	Policy Analyst - Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties	yes
Rebecca	Reeves	ParksWatch Program Coordinator - Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society	yes
Colin	Reichle	Managing Director - Alberta Professional Outfitters Society	yes
Gary	Sargent	Manager, Resource Access - Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers	
Kim	Schmitt	Industry and Government Liaison - Duck Unlimited Canada	yes
Louise	Sherren	Executive Director - Alberta Snowmobile Association	yes
Larry	Simpson	Alberta's Regional Vice President - The Nature Conservancy of Canada	yes
Shawn	Wasel	Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. - Dir. Environment/forestry/ILM	yes
Jim	Webb	Treaty 8	yes

First Name	Last Name	Position and Affiliation	Interested in further consultation
Grant	Williamson	Divisional Operations Superintendent - Ainsworth Lumber Company	yes
Brenda	Wispirski	Strathcona County - Executive Director of Beaver Hills Initiative	yes
Ron	Bjorge	GoA advisor; Sustainable Resource Development	yes
Keith	Lyseng	GoA advisor; Executive Director - Rangeland Management Branch, Sustainable Resource Development	yes
Terry	Kosinski	GoA advisor; Sustainable Resource Development	yes

## 6.2 Meeting Dates and Location

All working group meetings were held at the Capri Conference Centre, Red Deer, Alberta. There were 7 meetings and the dates for those meetings were June 26, July 12, August 1, August 22, September 10, September 24, and October 1.

## 6.3 Glossary of Terms

### *Best (Beneficial) Management Practice (BMPs)*

1. General: Any management practice that mitigates or minimizes negative effects and risks to the environment by maintaining or improving water, land and air quality and biodiversity.
2. Agricultural: Any agricultural management practice that mitigates or minimizes negative effects and risks to the environment by maintaining or improving water, land and air quality and biodiversity
3. Practices that benefit the environment while meeting or exceeding legal requirements and being practical for producers to do.

Best Practice is a management idea which asserts that there is a technique, method, process, activity, incentive or reward that is more effective at delivering a particular outcome than any other technique, method, process, etc. The idea is that with proper processes, checks, and testing, a desired outcome can be delivered with fewer problems and unforeseen complications. Best practices can also be defined as the most efficient (least amount of effort)

and effective (best results) way of accomplishing a task, based on repeatable procedures that have proven themselves over time for large numbers of people.<sup>1</sup>

### **Biodiversity**

Biological diversity: the variety of living organisms, ecosystems and ecological processes.<sup>1</sup>

### **Conservation**

1. The responsible preservation, management and care of our land, and of our natural and cultural resources.<sup>2</sup>
2. The conservation ethic is an ethic of resource use, allocation, exploitation, and protection. Its primary focus is upon maintaining the health of the natural world: its forests, fisheries, habitats, and biological diversity.<sup>1</sup>

### **Carrying capacity**

Carrying capacity is the number of individuals an environment can support without significant negative impacts to the given organism and its environment.<sup>1</sup>

### **Ecology**

1. Ecology is the scientific study of the distribution and abundance of living organisms and how the distribution and abundance are affected by interactions between the organisms and their environment.<sup>1</sup>
2. Landscape ecology examines processes and relationship across multiple ecosystems or very large geographic areas.<sup>1</sup>

## Ecological Goods and Services

1. Those elements of nature that aid or increase humanity's well being.<sup>2</sup>
2. Humankind benefits from a multitude of resources and processes that are supplied by natural ecosystems. Collectively, these benefits are known as ecosystem services.<sup>1</sup>
3. Economic and social benefits resulting from the natural processes of a healthy environment and biodiversity. These are available to all of society and essential to sustaining a healthy and prosperous way of life. They include groundwater recharge, flood and erosion control, wildlife habitat, productive soils, carbon sequestration and abundant clean air and water.<sup>2</sup>

## Ecological integrity

1. Ecosystems (natural regions) have integrity when they have their native plant and animal communities intact in sufficient diversity and abundance to survive and evolve naturally.
2. Integrity of an ecosystem encompasses three main facets
  - ability to maintain optimum operations under normal environmental conditions (healthy),
  - ability to cope with changes in environmental conditions or stress (resilient)
  - ability to continually evolve and develop (adaptable)

The concept does not exist outside of human value judgments.<sup>4</sup>

## Ecosystem

A system of living organisms interacting with each other and their environment, linked together by energy flows and material cycling.

## Environmental Offset

An environmental offset is an action taken that is designed to compensate for, or mitigate against, the environmental impact of a specific action undertaken.<sup>3</sup>

## Natural capital

Natural capital is a metaphor for the mineral, plant, and animal formations of the Earth's biosphere when viewed as a means of production of oxygen, water filter, erosion prevention, or provider of other ecosystem services. It is one approach to ecosystem valuation, an alternative to the traditional view of all non-human life as passive natural resources, and to the idea of ecological health.<sup>1</sup>

## Natural landscape

A landscape not actively being managed by man

## Stewardship

1. Stewardship is an ethic by which citizens care for our air, land, water and biodiversity as parts of a natural life-support system and collectively act to sustain and enhance it for generations to come.<sup>2</sup>
2. Environmental stewardship is the responsibility to take care of our natural resources to ensure that they are managed in a sustainable manner for current and future generations. Stewardship of the environment can include recycling, conservation, regeneration, and restoration. Stewardship is an ethic whereby citizens participate in the careful and responsible management of air, land, water and biodiversity to ensure healthy ecosystems for present and future generations.<sup>1</sup>

## Sustainable

Practices that provide a flow of goods and or services over a long period of time without degrading the environment or lowering productivity<sup>1</sup>

## Sustainability

1. Sustainability relates to the continuity of economic, social, institutional and environmental aspects of human society, as well as the non-human environment.<sup>1</sup>
2. Sustainable development: The Brundtland Commission defined sustainable development as development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."<sup>1</sup>

## Working landscape

1. A landscape actively being managed by man (e.g., agriculture, forestry, mining).

<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia

<sup>2</sup> Land use framework background material

<sup>3</sup> Environmental Protection Authority (Western Australia). 2006. Environmental Offsets. Position Statement No9.

<sup>4</sup> Kay, J.J. 1993. On the nature of ecological integrity: some closing comments. In *Ecological integrity and the management of ecosystems*. Edited by S. Woodley, J. Kay and G. Francis. St Lucie Press (CRC Press)

## 6.4 Additional Studies and Information Referenced in Action Items

Some of the actions items listed in Section 4 refer the reader to documents as examples of the action being suggested. Given the time constraints of the LUF process the CSWG did not have the time to review or discuss in detail the information contained in these reports. Therefore it should be noted that the reports referenced here have not been endorsed by the CSWG. However, the CSWG thought it would still be useful to make reference to these documents, so that the reader can easily locate additional information related to the specific action and/or to conservation and stewardship programs in general.

### 6.4.1 Specific Reports Referenced in Section 4 *Goal 1, Strategy 1.1*

Boyd, D.R. 2002. *Wild by Law: A report on laws governing Canada's parks and protected areas, and a blueprint for making these laws more effective*. POLIS Project on Ecological Governance. Victoria, B.C. Available online at <http://www.polisproject.org/PDFs/WildbyLaw.pdf>

### *Goal 2, Strategy 2.1*

Strittholt, J. et. al. 2007. *Mapping High Conservation Value and Endangered Forests in the Alberta Foothills Using Spatially Explicit Decision Support Tools*. Conservation Biology Institute, Corvallis, Oregon. (as commissioned by Limited Brands Ltd.) Available online at <http://www.consbio.org/cbi/projects/show.php?page=foothills/introfoothills.htm>

## *Goal 3, Strategy 3.1*

Reeves, R. and Walsh, H. 2007. *The State of Alberta's Parks and Protected Areas: an analysis of the challenges and opportunities for ecological integrity*. Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Northern Alberta Chapter, Edmonton, Alberta. Available online at [http://www.cpawnsab.org/factsheets/CPAWS\\_2007ParksWatchReport2.pdf](http://www.cpawnsab.org/factsheets/CPAWS_2007ParksWatchReport2.pdf)

### 6.4.2 What might it take to make the CS vision a reality on white area lands with high ecological value?

The CSWG wanted to give readers of this report some idea of the scale of investment needed to achieve the goals and strategies and to make the actions a reality. Given the time constraints of the LUF process the CSWG was not able to have a detailed discussion of the potential size of the various actions suggested. However the CSWG thought it would be useful to provide an example of specific programs and the estimated costs for these programs. It is important to highlight that the examples are just one concept put forward by individuals in the CSWG and that the CSWG did not have the time to review and/or endorse the details of the studies. Even without being able to review the details of the study, the CSWG believes that the examples provide an order of magnitude estimate of the level of effort needed to make the proposed strategies a reality.

Private land is extremely vulnerable and therefore is the focus of conservation efforts by a variety of NGOs. A specific estimate put forward by the Nature Conservancy of Canada is outlined below and provides an estimate of size of expenditures that will be needed if Alberta chooses to maintain the ecological integrity of 50% of the lands classified as being Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA). An investment of \$1.2 billion to \$1.8 billion would be required over the next 20 years in order to preserve half of the remaining ESA lands in the white area. The province can use other less costly mechanisms to conserve the ecological integrity of natural regions located in the green area, but for white areas this estimate provides an order of magnitude of the funding required for this specific activity over the next 20 years.

Table 8: Detailed Budget Table for Conservation of Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA) in the White Area

SOUTHERN WHITE ZONE SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT TO CONSERVE ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY NOT INCLUDING RESTORATION													
Southern White Summary Zone	NSR Name	Total Square Km in Sub-region	Total Crown and Private Acres off Env Sig Area	Total Private Acres ESA	Avg Price per Acre of Private Land	Scenario 1				Scenario 2			
						50% Conserved Option 1		50% Conserved Option 2		50% Conserved Option 1		50% Conserved Option 2	
						Total Acres Conserved	50% Fee Simple Acres	50% Conservation Easement Acres	Total Cost	Total Acres Conserved	50% Fee Simple Acres	50% Conservation Easement Acres	Total Cost
<b>BOREAL</b>													
	Central Mixedwood	154,595	38,184,965	649,417	202,542	\$600.00	101,271	50,635	50,635	\$ 36,457,541	25,318	75,953	\$ 24,305,027
	Dry Mixedwood	100,647	24,859,809	1,443,838	854,047		427,023	213,512	213,512	\$ 153,728,427	106,756	320,268	\$ 102,485,618
	Boreal Totals	255,242	63,044,774	2,093,255	1,058,589		528,294	264,147	264,147	\$ 190,185,968	132,074	396,221	\$ 126,790,646
<b>CENTRAL PARKLAND</b>													
	Central Parkland	53,413	13,193,011	1,840,457	1,335,901		667,950	333,975	333,975	\$ 400,770,179	166,988	500,963	\$ 267,180,119
	Central Parkland Total	53,413	13,193,011	1,840,457	1,335,901		667,950	333,975	333,975	\$ 400,770,179	166,988	500,963	\$ 267,180,119
<b>SOUTHERN FOOTHILLS</b>													
	Alpine	14,515	3,585,205	431	0								
	Subalpine	25,764	6,363,708	17,254	3,373		1,686	843	843	\$ 2,529,467	422	1,265	\$ 1,686,312
	Montane	5,986	1,478,542	466,238	235,335		117,668	58,834	58,834	\$ 176,501,342	29,417	88,251	\$ 117,667,561
	Lower Foothills	67,226	16,604,822	150,049	79,793		39,897	19,948	19,948	\$ 59,844,881	9,974	29,922	\$ 39,896,588
	Foothills Parkland	4,402	1,087,294	257,052	189,709		94,854	47,427	47,427	\$ 142,281,734	23,714	71,141	\$ 94,854,490
	Foothills Fescue	6,699	1,654,653	300,365	195,515		97,757	48,879	48,879	\$ 146,636,094	24,439	73,318	\$ 97,757,396
	Mixedgrass	958	236,626	60,000	28,019		14,009	7,005	7,005	\$ 21,014,141	3,502	10,507	\$ 14,009,427
	Foothills Totals	125,550	31,010,850	1,251,389	731,744		365,872	182,936	182,936	\$ 546,807,660	91,468	274,404	\$ 365,871,773
<b>GRASSLANDS</b>													
	Dry Mixedgrass	46,875	11,602,825	4,887,433	1,512,769		756,385	378,192	378,192	\$ 340,373,087	189,098	567,288	\$ 226,915,392
	Northern Fescue	15,348	3,790,956	1,030,432	528,902		263,451	131,725	131,725	\$ 118,552,842	65,863	197,588	\$ 79,035,228
	Mixedgrass	18,218	4,499,846	1,171,576	524,496		262,248	131,124	131,124	\$ 118,011,502	65,562	196,686	\$ 78,674,335
	Foothills Fescue	8,488	2,024,436	360,437	369,437		180,219	90,109	90,109	\$ 81,098,325	45,055	135,164	\$ 54,065,550
	Grassland Totals	88,729	21,916,063	7,449,883	2,924,603		1,462,302	731,151	731,151	\$ 658,035,757	365,575	1,096,726	\$ 438,690,505
<b>TOTAL</b>													
			129,164,698	12,614,254	6,048,836		3,024,418	1,512,209	1,512,209	\$ 1,977,999,564	766,105	2,268,314	\$ 1,199,533,043
Assumption - 20% of appraised value is paid for a no break, drain or subdivide and stock to keep healthy type Conservation Easement.													

Provincial cost per year over 20 years if partnered with private sector and cash, land and conservation easement donations are attached.

Option 1 \$44.5 million per year

Option 2 \$29 million per year

Note: Acres totals concerning environmentally significant areas (ESA's) have been provided by the province of Alberta, Alberta Natural Heritage Information Centre and include areas identified as being regional, provincial, national and internationally significant.

The estimate of cost has been prepared by the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Alberta region and is intended to provide information concerning the scale of investment required over the next 20 years if ecological integrity is to be maintained in the settled area of Alberta.

## 6.5 Materials Related to Conservation and Stewardship

### Barriers to fostering C&S

- 1 Alta Enviro Sustain Agriculture - Annual Rpt Exec Summary.pdf
- 2 Alta Enviro Sustain Agriculture - Barriers and Motivators Exec Summary.doc
- 3 Alta Enviro Sustain Agriculture - Barriers and Motivators Research.pdf
- 4 Alta Enviro Sustain Agriculture - Year in Review 2006.pdf
- 5 EPA Barriers Motivators Enviro Stewardship.pdf

### Land use C&S programmes

- 6 Australian Landcare Council
- 7 Agricultural Sustainability Recommendations 2002.pdf
- 8 Agricultural Sustainability Recommendations 2004.pdf
- 9 Australia.doc
- 10 Compendium of Sustainable Programs, Activities and References 2004.pdf
- 11 Enhancing Community Participation in NRM 2002.pdf
- 12 Landcare Chairman's Address Oct 2006.pdf
- 13 The Decade of Landcare.pdf
- 14 The Future of Land Care Paper 2001.pdf
- 15 The Importance of Landcare Coordinators and Facilitators 2001.pdf
- 16 ActionPlanMar2002FINALFINAL.pdf
- 17 Agriculture and Food Council.doc
- 18 Alberta Funding Consortium.doc
- 19 Alberta NAWMP Implementation Plan - All Birds section.pdf
- 20 American Farmland Trust.doc
- 21 Colorado Conservation Trust.doc
- 22 Ducks Unlimited 2006 Annual Report.pdf

- 23 EFPs.doc
  - 24 EGS CalgaryPresentMay907X.pdf
  - 25 EGS Final Report May 25 2005 cln.doc
  - 26 Evaluation-C&F Attitude Awareness 2001 Participant Sum.pdf
  - 27 farm-study2006 barriers to adoption.pdf
  - 28 Food Alliance Certification Program and Standards.pdf
  - 29 Fostering Sustainable Behaviour (2).doc
  - 30 Fostering Sustainable Behaviour.doc
  - 31 ILM Stewardship recommendations.pdf
  - 32 Land use policy and the agri-food industry.pdf
  - 33 Recognizing and Supporting Environmental Stewardship.pdf
  - 34 Report on the Canada-Costa Rica initiative.doc
  - 35 Review of incentive programs Final Draft Rpt wtrmrk.doc
  - 36 Review\_Report\_05-06.pdf
  - 37 Salmon Safe Farm Practice Manual.pdf
  - 38 Stewardship 101.pdf
  - 39 Water for Life.doc
- ### Recently added material
- 40 Canada's Stewardship Agenda
  - 41 agendaE.pdf
  - 42 compE.pdf
  - 43 ALCES 1 of 2.pdf
  - 44 ALCES 2 of 2.pdf
  - 45 CS\_Jurisdictional\_Focus\_Area\_Summary\_July-2007.pdf
  - 46 CS\_Jurisdictional\_Overview\_Tables\_July\_2007.pdf
  - 47 EGS Opportunities for Agriculture in Alberta\_July 12 07.doc
  - 48 Environmental Stewardship Programme Q&A.pdf
  - 49 ESA for LUF WGs July.ppt

- 50 Gary Stoneham's presentations\_For LUF WG\_July 12 07.doc
- 51 National Landcare Programme Announcement May 2007.doc
- 52 Natural Heritage Trust Announcement May 2007.doc
- 53 Observations of EU Australia MBIs\_ May 07\_Stoneham\_For LUF WG.doc
- 54 Review of incentive programs Final Draft Rpt wtrmrk.doc
- 55 Stoneham paper\_Creating Markets for EGS from Private Land\_Australia 2007.pdf
- 56 Tradable Landuse Rights.pdf
- 57 The State of Alberta's Parks and Protected Areas
- 58 CS\_Jurisdictional\_Focus\_Area\_Summary\_July-2007.pdf
- 59 CS\_Jurisdictional\_Overview\_Tables\_July\_2007.pdf
- 60 Deh Cho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement.pdf
- 61 MacKenzie Valley Resource Mgmt Plan.pdf
- 62 The Five-S Framework for Site Conservation

## 6.6 List of Specific Questions asked in TOR for CSWG

- What are the obstacles or barriers to fostering stewardship and conservation?

From Section 3.4

### Barriers Identified:

- **Leadership:** Lack of leadership at the provincial level. In order to make conservation and stewardship an integral part of our culture, it is critical that government leaders understand and make a commitment to a conservation and stewardship ethic. This will then be reflected at the municipal, industry and citizen level where programs are effectively implemented.

- **Coordination:** Lack of coordination and communication between jurisdictions that develop and deliver conservation and stewardship programs. Improved coordination and strengthened partnerships reduce redundancy and inefficiency.
- **Timeframe:** Lack of long-term planning. Conservation and stewardship requires a long-term vision. Along with the attention given to short-term rewards (votes/profits), it is critical that long-term plans be adopted for conservation and stewardship efforts, to ensure continuing success of those short-term goals.
- **Funding:** Lack of capacity for initiating effective new conservation and stewardship programs and for enhancing current conservation and stewardship programs. This includes both human and financial resources.
- **Incentives:** Lack of incentive-based programs to encourage and/or support conservation and stewardship. Incentives are most commonly financial or tax credit based, but other incentives such as public recognition, as well as market based approaches are also effective.
- **Public Awareness:** Lack of public awareness of the usefulness of conservation and stewardship programs. Although there is a growing interest in environmental issues in the province, the general public does not have the awareness level needed in order to understand the true value of Alberta ecosystems. This lack of public awareness influences the decisions and actions of political leaders.
- **Research:** There are gaps in our understanding of how to choose the best areas for conservation and stewardship effort. Focused research and scientific study could provide the knowledge needed to enhance current conservation and stewardship programs and make specific Best Management Practices (BMP) more effective. Baseline data is critical for choosing realistic monitoring and evaluation methods.
- **Monetary Value of Ecological Goods and Services:** It is difficult to place a monetary value on the ecological goods and services. Tangible benefits are generated by conservation and



stewardship programs, but they are often undervalued. This is especially true for public good that is generated by conservation on private lands.

- **Existing Legislation, Policy, Land Use Agreements and Tenures:** The government has already allocated and is committed to multiple uses on the landscape (Forestry FMAs and mineral leases). The *Public Lands Act* and *Municipal Government Act* are examples of legislation that creates barriers to conservation and stewardship programs.

- **Building on the previous consultations' options and considerations, what tools or new approaches should be established to foster and support stewardship?**

See the listing of Action in Section 5.0

- **Will these remove the barriers?**

See Section 4.1

- **What are the implications?**

See Section 4.1

- **Who should be involved and responsible to implement the strategies and actions?**

See Section 4.1

- **Do these cover a range of options (e.g., encouraging innovation; incentives and disincentives; stewardship tools; education and awareness; capacity building; evaluation/incorporation of ecological goods and services)?**

See Section 4.1

- **Do they cover both public and private lands?**

See Section 4.1

- **What are the most important priority actions or strategies?**

See Section 4.1

## 6.7 Conservation and Stewardship Working Group Final Report Comments

### CSWG Comment #1

In our break out discussion on incentives, riparian areas were identified as being important ones to be protected. Of course they are and should be addressed in the LUF, but that action did not make it into the yellow area of that action table - it was just below it. It reads 'Develop and use incentives to protect riparian zones, and areas of protection would be dependent on type of water body'. Unfortunately that wording is not very clear and wording such as 'Develop and use an effective and legislated riparian management program' would be better. I assume that is too late to add this action under Strategy 3.2 because the group has not had discussion about it. But I want to mention it as something we should have included.

I know that riparian areas are in parentheses under the 4th bullet of Strategy 2.1 but that's not giving them the emphasis that they need as key parts of watersheds, wetlands, and groundwater recharge.

I am still uneasy about including the table on p.25 with the EGS title but with the actions listed below that don't really apply to it.

In the glossary, under the definition of ecological integrity, I don't agree with the statement that 'The concept does not exist outside of human value judgments.' Ecological integrity is now used as an assessment of ecological health and there are indicators and metrics for measuring and monitoring it. This is more than a value judgment.

### CSWG Comment #2

It was a pleasure working with such a professional group - Conservation and Stewardship. My congratulations to the facilitation and keeping us on track with such short timelines. I was, however, somewhat disappointed that recreation was not discussed more in detail as far as the need for a managed approach in the province. I do believe, however, that there was at the end an understanding that organized recreation has not been addressed by the province for many years and it is an area which needs attention.

### CSGW Comment #3

Comments regarding the critical need to express a “mission” in the report

Where do we want to be? Refers to the Vision, Mission and Goals only. This sets the direction, or in our case is the recommended direction. The Mission is meant to bring more clarity to the Vision. In our case the Vision is very high...retaining ecological systems. For this vision to be effective it needs the clarity that a mission brings. In our case we describe the mosaic of landscapes and retention of the flow of EGS that they provide. We currently have our recommended mission called a guiding principal, which in this context it is not. Guiding principals are “self imposed constraints” and speak more to the “how the business or work will be undertaken”

An example is the Alberta Environmental Farm Plan’s Vision and Mission. Vision: “Agricultural producers committed to environmental stewardship.”

Mission: “To facilitate the awareness and adoption of environmental stewardship practices by Alberta farmers by continuously advancing the Environmental Farm Plan program in response to new opportunities and risks facing production agriculture”

Summary: The value and utility of articulating a mission when setting direction is something that few if any business/strategic planners would debate. The use of “guiding principal” within the fabric of the strategic plan (Collectively the Vision, Mission and Goals) it is simply inappropriate in that it reduces clarity and hence potential value and impact of our work.

Additional suggested re-wording to bring more clarity to a number of sections in our report.

#### Reworded paragraph pg 1

For the first time in human history the population of the globe reached 1 billion in 1830. Less than 200 years later the world population is 6.4 billion. Insert a sentence that brings this down to Alberta..... ie parallel stats on Alberta growth

#### Reworded paragraph pg 1

It is not surprising that very significant stewardship and conservation issues have emerged and that most international, national and local jurisdictions in the world are facing the need to balance development with environmental protection.

#### Reworded paragraph pg 1

Many participants in previous consultations felt that the Government of Alberta should assume a fundamental responsibility for conservation and stewardship of the lands ecological goods and services, notwithstanding the fact that it will require the collective efforts of landowners, industries, businesses, NGO’s and governments..

*Note: Fundamental... “one of the minimum constituents without which a thing or a system would not be what it is”.*

#### Reworded paragraph pg 1

Operating within the over-arching parameters set by the concept of “Ecological Goods and Services”, the Conservation and Stewardship Working Group has attempted, in this report, to provide strategic guidance as well as consolidate information related actions and strategies, expressed in a wide range of recommendations that pertain to both private and public land.

#### Reworded paragraph pg 1

In Alberta, many groups, organizations and industries are engaged in the development and implementation of best management practices (BMP) to guide daily operations. Beneficial management practices and systems offer a frame of reference within which to build a conservation and stewardship plan for Alberta.

#### Reworded paragraph pg 2

With the will of the people already in place, it remains for government to both lead and enable through development of effective policy, and where necessary, supporting legislation.

#### Reworded paragraph pg 4

Failure to plan and act now will result in serious loss of the ecological goods and services that the land and nature are currently providing society. The potential outcome of non action or action of inadequate scale is a significant reduction in the quality of life for everyone.

#### Reworded paragraph pg 4

As an integral part of CSWG's work involved review of current and previous work in the province and from national and global experiences. Making the effort to learn from other experiences, saved time over all; reduced the risk of...

#### Reworded paragraph pg 6

Government of Alberta guides the province and in its present form does not explicitly express a direction toward a conservation and stewardship agenda.

#### Reworded paragraph pg 6

The CSWG created a list of key barriers in Alberta that could be impeding conservation and stewardship progress.

The CSWG Terms of Reference (TOR) and lessons-learned informed the need to identify barriers to successful conservation and stewardship programs and initiatives. Identifying barriers results in expression of many negative terms such as "a lack of ...", "the province is missing ...". This is an artifact of the process and CSWG recognizes that the provincial government has made progress in recent years with regard to...

#### Reworded paragraph pg 8

In support of the Vision, the CSWG recommends the following mission:

To conserve and steward a mosaic of natural, urban, rural and working landscapes, to perpetually sustain the flow of ecological goods and services provided by nature and the land.

#### CSWG Comment #4

Re: Executive Summary:

- **Page 1 reads (suggested addition in bold and italics):** Many participants in previous consultations felt that the Government of Alberta should assume primary responsibility for conservation and stewardship, **while supporting and working cooperatively** with conservation and stewardship initiatives by many **landowners, industries, businesses, organizations, individuals and other levels of government in Alberta.** (include all stakeholders in this statement).
- **Page 1 reads (suggested addition in bold and italics):** In Alberta, many groups, organizations, individuals and **industries have established a conservation and stewardship ethic** (delete BMPs here) to guide daily operations. This activity offers a frame of reference within which to build a conservation and stewardship plan.
- **Comment:** There are not many concrete and multi-stakeholder agreed upon conservation BMPs out there in Alberta right now. This is a new and emerging field and is, at this time, subjective. Since we could not even agree to provide examples of what is BMP (like in our last meeting, not including FSC (forest stewardship council) certification as a BMP. Only one company has this certification in Alberta and they are at risk of losing it due to lack of government support and cooperation. How you have used BMPs here gives the impression that we outline some BMPs...which we do not.
- **Page 1 reads:** The working group discovered that conservation efforts in many jurisdictions in the world have not had the success necessary for sustaining ecological systems that support life on earth.
- **Comment:** I don't remember this ever being discussed. I remember looking at the SUCCESS of other jurisdictions, not the failures.
- **Comment:** I would like to see the goals in the executive summary as they are the meat of the report.

- **Page 2 reads (suggested addition in bold and italics):** Suggestion to add following Alberta, a frontier province with a vigorous pioneer legacy “**nestled in deep First Nation history**”.
- **Page 2 reads (suggested addition in bold and italics):** Some actions were strongly endorsed by the group as a whole, and others endorsed by various portions of the group. **Time did not permit the group to explore how consensus could be reached on many of the items.**
- **Comment:** Watch you don't exclude the FNs!
- Re: Goal 3.1: “Purchase and steward land or easements (see Appendix 6.3.1 for an example)”
- **Comment:** Is this from Larry because I don't see it. This should NOT be the buffer example.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1.3: Ensure compatible adjacent land uses where feasible (e.g., buffers around parks and protected areas) add: **(see Appendix 6.3.1 for an example of the why buffers are crucial for protecting the ecological integrity of Alberta's Parks)**

#### CSWG Comment #5

I think an executive summary should be short on introduction and "fluff" and try to indicate the main findings or recommendations. That is, if someone reads only the exec. summ. they at least have some idea of what it says. I thought the first 3 paragraphs could have been more concise but did not attempt to modify them. I removed several of the others that I thought we not required and then added our goals and strategies.

- Delete the two paragraphs starting with “From June 2007...” and replace it with “It has been recognized that in Alberta, many groups....”
- Delete the paragraph starting with “Alberta, a frontier province...”
- Delete the paragraph starting with “Beyond the recommendations....”

## 6.8 Reviewer Final Report Comments

### Scientist

#### Reviewer#1

The overarching goals and strategies/actions are well laid out and comprehensive. I think the group's attempt to put a budget on conservation objectives is helpful as a back of the envelope exercise, however it is not clear what the underlying assumptions of the analysis are and what the deliverables are for this budget. These figures should be reviewed and/or revised if they are to be used for budget purposes. The prioritization exercise provides feedback on a long list of specific “actions tools and programs”. However one should be careful in how the results of this exercise are interpreted. For example, on the funding side, there was more consensus on the need for increased funding for C&S, however there was less consensus on how funding might be delivered. There is a strong message in the report that the government is responsible for C&S. The actions/tools/programs around public education and use of incentives are consistent with the government leadership role. I think one gap or weaknesses is that actions related to consulting Albertans about their conservation priorities and how much they value ecological goods and services did not emerge as priorities. In order to establish thresholds and use some of the other recommended tools it is a necessary first step to determine and value conservation objectives.

### Energy

#### Reviewer #1

Please accept the following comments on the notes for the final report of the Conservation and Stewardship working group on behalf of EnCana:

- Page 8, 1.1- should this be align with as provincially as we have no ability to realign federal policy
- Page 9, 1.2- How and to whom would powers and responsibilities be revised
- Increased funding should be balanced with a realignment of mandates and provided to existing agencies.
- Page 10 top of page- buffers increase the area of the protected area or park, activities should be allowed up to the boundary under specified criteria;

- We assume that the strongest supported actions in the tables are above the double lines. This is not clear in the comments on page 12. If they are these actions should be considered first and perhaps bolded as primary supported actions.
  - We could not support actions 13, 14, 24 and 25 in the table and I think this is reflected in the smaller number of CSWG members that have indicated these as a priority.
  - When no one had it listed as a top priority or there is nothing in the priority column should the item even appear in the table?
  - Consideration and implementation of the action items contained in the tables should be reflective of the support indicated for each item by the score in the Priorities column. We would suggest changing the heading “Priority” to read “Number of Members in Support”.
- 3) The current lack of baseline data has not received enough attention or focus. Perhaps some preliminary financial evaluation and resourcing could have been attempted, similar to 6.3.2. In order for informed land-use decisions to be made, this data must be available.
  - 4) The detailed budget table following 6.3.2 is interesting if not astounding, however in this very preliminary report it appears to serve as an indicator that conservation of ecologically valuable land is financially impossible. Perhaps this is another by-product of the unbalanced makeup of the CSWG. This part should be removed.
  - 5) Barriers listed include the *Municipal Governmentt Act* (under 3.4) - the report would have benefited from providing an example, e.g., a prime example that could have been given as it is so timely across the province, is annexation.

## Water

### Reviewer #1

The report is a good start at outlining the issues of conservation and stewardship (C&S), however:

- 1) The makeup of the working group (CSWG) is neither balanced nor representative. It seems that because of the composition of the CSWG, the issues are scattered all over the place, and therefore not representative of Albertans’ opinions.

Having three representatives from the forestry industry in such a small group is not balanced. Having one representative each from First Nations, snowmobilers, outfitters: these representatives appear to have issues that were not integrated, and again perhaps not representative of Albertans.

- 2) The guiding principle appears to be fundamentally flawed and does not appear to flow logically from the Vision Statement.

“The intent of conservation and stewardship is to conserve and steward a perpetually sustained mosaic of natural, urban, rural and working landscapes, to ensure the provision of ecological goods and services.”

