

Phase 3 Public Workbook Summary

Draft South Saskatchewan Regional Plan



SOUTH



Table of Contents

Overview.....	2
Regional Vision.....	7
Economic Growth	8
Conserving and Maintaining the Benefits of Biodiversity.....	9
Advancing Conservation and Integrated Management of Crow Land.....	12
Supporting and Enabling Stewardship and Conservation for Private Lands.....	32
Managing Air Quality Through Continued Collaboration	34
Advancing Watershed Management	36
Strengthening Communities	39
Enhancing Recreation and Cultural Opportunities	41
Ensuring Aboriginal Peoples are Included in Land-use Planning.....	50
Next Steps.....	53

Overview

Alberta's Land-use Framework (LUF), released in December 2008, sets out a new approach to managing our province's land and natural resources to achieve Alberta's long-term economic, environmental and social goals. The LUF establishes seven new land-use regions and calls for the development of a regional plan for each. The *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* (ALSA) supports the LUF and establishes the legal basis for the development of regional plans. Regional plans reconcile provincial policies and set explicit regional outcomes and objectives.

Regional planning is part of the Government of Alberta's Integrated Resource Management System (IRMS). The IRMS supports responsible development of the province's resources and realization of its desired outcomes. The system is founded on setting and managing clear policies and cumulative outcomes (through regional plans), providing assurance and a monitoring and measurement system to measure the achievement of outcomes. The system is dynamic, collaborative and adaptive, to reflect new information. The approach considers the relationship between all the activities, natural events, and challenges facing a region, along with setting the stage for robust growth vibrant communities and a healthy environment over the next 50 years.

Regional plans are developed in consultation with Albertans. The Government of Alberta's Land Use Secretariat (LUS) oversees the development of each regional plan and is responsible for reporting and monitoring the success of the plans. LUS provides policy analysis, research and administrative support to the regional plan development process, and leads the Government of Alberta's regional plan consultations. The secretariat works with a larger regional planning team, representing Government of Alberta ministries and agencies, to develop regional plans for Cabinet approval. The draft South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) was developed over two phases of consultation starting in Fall 2009 with aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, municipalities, government, and the advice from the Regional Advisory Council.

From the October 10, 2013 release of the draft SSRP to February 28, 2014, the Government of Alberta collected feedback and input through multiple stakeholder and open house sessions in 21 cities, towns and farming communities throughout the region, in the adjoining Red Deer region, and in Edmonton. The consultation program also included an online workbook (available in hard copy), an invitation to submit written submissions and several special interest group meetings. The input and feedback collected during Phase 3 public consultation will be reviewed and considered prior to the approval of the SSRP.



Consultations

The SSRP is being developed with the input and feedback of Albertans through the following three-phase consultation process:

Phase 1: Input on the issues in the region

Phase 2: Feedback on the advice from the SSRP

Phase 3: Feedback on the draft SSRP

SSRP Phase 1 consultation public and stakeholder input sessions were conducted in 16 locations across the region between November 30 and December 10, 2009. The purpose of the input sessions was to:

- Provide the public and stakeholders with information about the South Saskatchewan regional planning process; and
- Gather input on topics in the SSRP terms of reference for developing the regional plan.

In March 2011, the SSRP Regional Advisory Council (RAC) advice and Phase 2 workbook were released. In addition to completed workbooks, written submissions were accepted up to December 21, 2012.

SSRP Phase 2 consultations were carried out between November 6 and December 6, 2012, and had two key objectives:

- Review the RAC advice with representatives of key stakeholder groups throughout 17 communities in the region, and in Edmonton, Red Deer and Drumheller, to ensure all groups had the opportunity to take part within convenient proximity to a session(s);
- Seek input and feedback on RAC's advice according to the following questions for the five key topic areas:
 1. Vision/strategic land-use principles;
 2. Healthy economy;
 3. Healthy ecosystems and environment;
 4. Healthy communities; and
 5. Land-use direction/management intent.

In October 2013, the draft SSRP and Phase 3 workbook were released. In addition to completed workbooks, written submissions were accepted up to February 28, 2014.

For **Phase 3 of the SSRP consultation** process, public and stakeholder input sessions were conducted in 21 locations across the region between November 5 and November 28, 2013. The purpose of the consultation sessions was to:

- Provide an overview of the key components of the draft SSRP, including the proposed conservation areas, provincial recreation areas and public land-use zones;
- Invite feedback on the draft plan through six discussion topics:
 1. Regional vision and outcomes;
 2. Economic growth;
 3. Biodiversity and conservation;
 4. Integrated management of public land and stewardship of private land;
 5. Advancing air and water quality and enhancing watershed management; and
 6. Strengthening communities, enhancing recreation and cultural opportunities and inclusion of aboriginal peoples.
- Provide information about the approval process and release of the final plan.

Consultation Methodology and Locations

Stakeholder sessions were conducted in each location over a five-hour time period, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. In each community venue, a series of panels providing background information about the LUF, ALSA, and a high level summary of the draft SSRP, were displayed. Government of Alberta employees were in attendance at all sessions. The LUS representative provided participants with an overview of the regional planning process and the draft SSRP with regular breaks throughout the session so that the consultant could lead group discussions according to the following set of guiding questions:

- Where do you support the draft SSRP information and why?
- Where do you have concerns and why?
- What is missing?

Public open house sessions were held between 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the same location and room as each stakeholder session and were advertised as Community Conversations. A separate report entitled Phase 3 Public Consultation Summary – Draft South Saskatchewan Regional Plan is available from the LUS in hard copy and on the LUS website, www.landuse.ab.ca.



In total, 1,571 people participated in the 21 Community Conversations (Stakeholder and Public Sessions). Many of the participants were affiliated with a stakeholder group(s) including: municipal, industrial, environmental organizations, non-government organizations, irrigation districts, agricultural organizations, economic development authorities and landowners.

Participant numbers and corresponding dates for each of the 42 Community Sessions are included below:

Date	Location	Stakeholder Participants	Public Participants	Total Participants
Tuesday, November 5	Crowsnest Pass	49	62	111
	Taber	27	29	56
Wednesday, November 6	Claresholm	19	29	48
	Milk River	22	10	32
Thursday, November 7	Canmore	23	54	77
	Strathmore	13	11	24
Tuesday, November 12	Edmonton	25	35	60
Wednesday, November 13	Calgary	86	62	148
Thursday, November 14	Lethbridge	71	285	356
Tuesday, November 19	Cardston	27	29	56
	Foremost	16	2	18
Wednesday, November 20	Airdrie	19	17	36
	Fort Macleod	18	26	44
Thursday, November 21	Drumheller	5	2	7
	Vulcan	8	8	16
Tuesday, November 26	Medicine Hat	32	29	61
	Pincher Creek	51	42	93
Wednesday, November 27	Brooks	20	6	26
	Okotoks	55	58	113
November 28, 2013	Cochrane	63	44	107
	Red Deer	70	12	82
Totals		719	852	1571

Sixteen additional stakeholder meetings were held with LUS and other provincial staff in attendance from October 17, 2013 through to February 26, 2014. These sessions were requested by the various stakeholder groups and included municipal councils, organizations and agencies. Meeting summaries were produced for attendees, and government staff reviewed all summaries as part of the Phase 3 SSRP feedback. A separate report entitled Phase 3 Stakeholder Consultation Summary – Draft South Saskatchewan Regional Plan is available from the LUS in hard copy and on the website, www.landuse.ab.ca.

One hundred and thirty-six submissions were received from 112 stakeholder groups with several groups submitting multiple times and some groups submitting joint submissions. In addition, 365 public submissions were received over the same time period.

Workbook Methodology

All Albertans were encouraged to review the draft SSRP and provide their feedback by completing either the digital or hardcopy versions of the Discussion Guide – Draft South Saskatchewan Regional Plan Workbook, A Workbook to Share Your Views with the Government of Alberta. The workbook was available for online completion from October 2013 until February 28, 2014. Hard copies were also available at several Government of Alberta offices and at the 42 public and stakeholder Phase 3 consultations. Hard copies were accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and mailed-in copies were accepted until February 28, 2014. In total, 1,529 full or partially completed workbooks were received, the majority of which were submitted electronically.

Respondents were not required to complete the entire workbook but were encouraged to fill out the portions they found important and relevant.

Quantitative Data

All of the quantitative responses were analyzed using a Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The frequencies and other descriptive and statistical measures are reported in this document. Some demographic categories had numbers too low to conduct demographic comparisons. Where the numbers allow (e.g., age categories under 65, primary residence, and working versus not working in the region), demographic comparisons have been conducted and notable differences identified. The workbook input does not constitute a random sample and, as such, the results cannot be statistically generalized to the overall population.

Qualitative Data

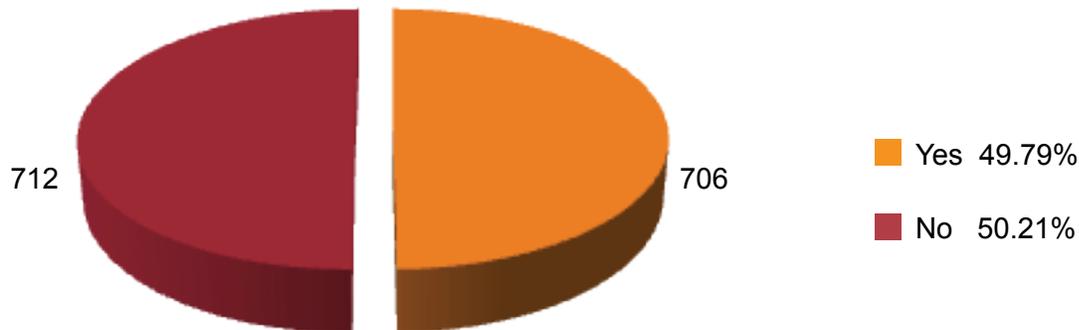
The 1,529 respondents do comprise a self-selecting sample group of persons with an interest in the South Saskatchewan Region. Input covers a wide range of interests and opinions. Both the online and the hard-copy workbook allow for coordinated, multiple responses by an individual, organization or interest group. Summary comments are categorized into themes and represent over 90 per cent of the total additional comments received for all 33 open-ended questions. They are consistently ordered from highest to lowest number of responses.





Regional Vision

1. Does the proposed regional vision reflect your personal vision and expectations for the South Saskatchewan region?



If No, what changes would you propose for the vision?

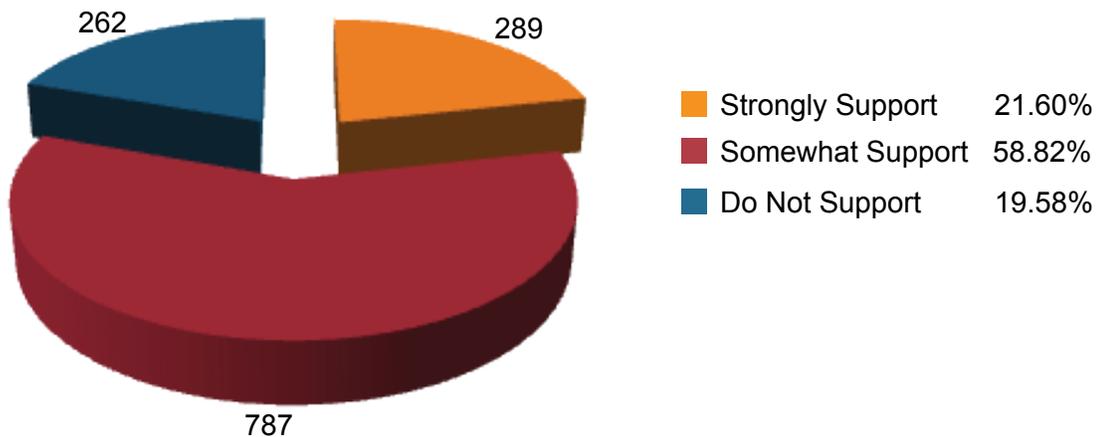
753 or 53 per cent of respondents to this question provided written comments.

- Need to protect the land, natural environment and wildlife
- Do not limit access for recreation users
- Vision is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- More focus on sustainability is required
- Better policing / enforcement of land-use is needed
- Vision must be realistic/achievable
- Need more public consultation
- Leave land use as is
- Need more respect for landowner
- Disagrees with regional plan / plan priorities
- Too much emphasis on aboriginal input
- Too many restrictions/limitations on land use
- Vision is consistent with principles employed in forest sector
- Should implement user fees for recreational land use
- Science should play a larger role in vision
- Vision statement is too long / should be condensed



Economic Growth

2. How strongly do you support or not support the suite of economic objectives and strategies for achieving a growing and diversified economy for the South Saskatchewan Region?



3. Please provide any additional comments with regards to the economic outcome – the region's economy is growing and diversified. Is there anything missing that would help to achieve this regional outcome?

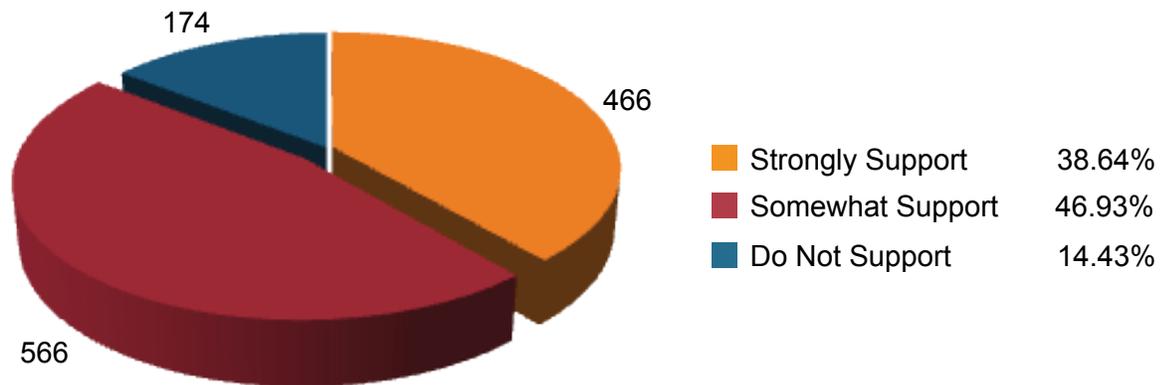
934 or 70 per cent of respondents to this question provided written comments.

- Need to protect land / natural environment / wildlife
- Objectives are vague / unclear / missing important elements
- Accessibility to tourism / recreation areas is important
- Too much emphasis on industry / development / economic growth
- Need to focus more on sustainability
- Tourism should be the main focus and should be promoted
- Land should be accessible to all user groups
- Renewable energy is important
- Better policing and enforcement of land use is needed
- Objectives should be realistic and achievable
- More public consultation is required
- Need to maintain existing resource extraction
- Need to respect property rights of landowners
- More focus on economy is required; do not limit industry development
- Support for multi-use land-use planning
- No changes are required; the region is fine the way it currently is
- Support for user fees for recreational use of land



Conserving and Maintaining the Benefits of Biodiversity

4. How strongly do you support or not support the concept of a biodiversity management framework for the region?



Why do you support?

791 or 66 per cent of respondents to this question provided written comments.

- The region's biodiversity needs to be better managed and protected
- Human impact must be balanced with maintaining the environment
- It is a good idea
- Biodiversity is good for the environment
- Key strategies and an overview are unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Connectivity between protected areas is important
- New, and an expansion to existing, areas are needed
- Accessibility to public / recreational land is important
- All user groups in the region need to be considered
- Too much focus on industry, development and growth
- Biodiversity cannot be maintained while allowing industry in the same area
- Need more of a science-based approach to biodiversity
- Recognize stewardship on private land and offer incentives to landowners
- More policing / enforcement of land use is required
- Property owners should not lose rights to their land



Why do you not support?

548 or 45 per cent of respondents to this question provided written comments.

- Opposed to closing / restricting recreational / public land
- Lack of conservation / protective efforts being made
- Overview / strategies unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Need to consider / allow all user groups in region
- Too much focus on industry / economic growth / development
- Landowners should not lose rights to their land / property
- Better policing / enforcement of land-use is needed
- Protecting biodiversity is important
- Landowners should be responsible to conserve landscape
- Government is all talk and no action / nothing will be done
- Human impact must be balanced with maintaining environment
- More conservation areas are not needed / necessary
- Need to repair environmental damage
- Industrial activity causes great damage to environment
- Cannot maintain biodiversity while allowing industry in the same area
- Connectivity between areas is important



5. Please provide any additional comments about the proposal for a biodiversity management framework for the region.

591 respondents provided written comments.

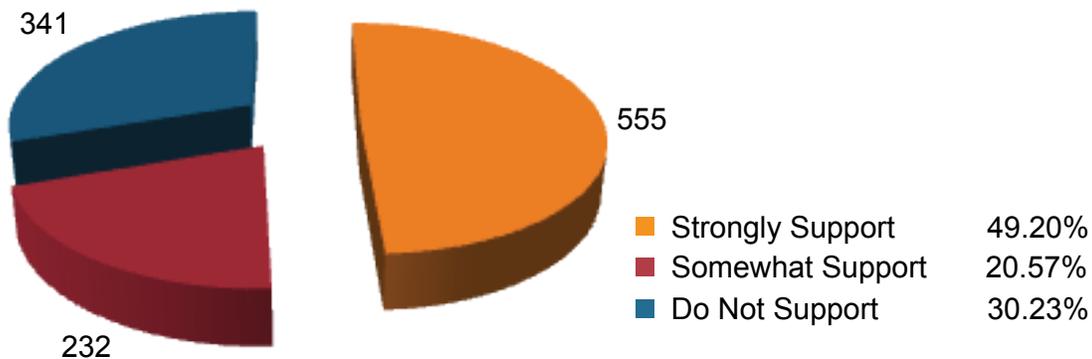
- Region's biodiversity needs to be better managed / protected
- Opposed to closing/restricting recreational areas / land
- Overview /strategies unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Need more public consultation
- Too much focus on industry / economic growth / development
- Better policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Need to consider / allow all user groups in region
- Human impact must be balanced with maintaining the environment
- Connectivity between protected areas is important
- Government is dishonest / misleading / all talk and no action
- Landowners should get tax breaks / incentives
- Need more of a science-based approach to biodiversity
- Too much reliance on voluntary action
- Industrial activity causes great damage to the environment
- Landowners should be more responsible in conserving / protecting landscape
- System currently in place is sufficient / there is no need to change things
- Biodiversity / awareness is important / needed
- Timeline for implementation of plan is too long / initiate plan now
- Need to take a practical / realistic approach



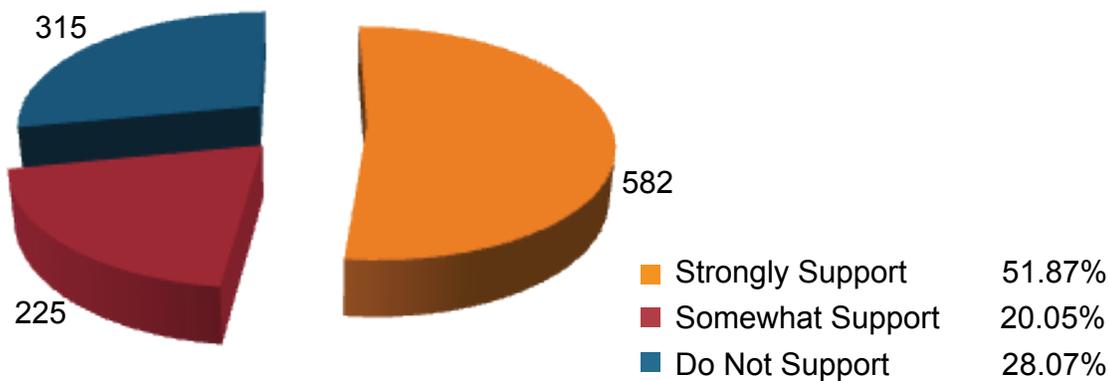
Advancing Conservation and Integrated Management of Crown Land

6. How strongly do you support or not support that the following Wildland Provincial Parks be expanded or created?

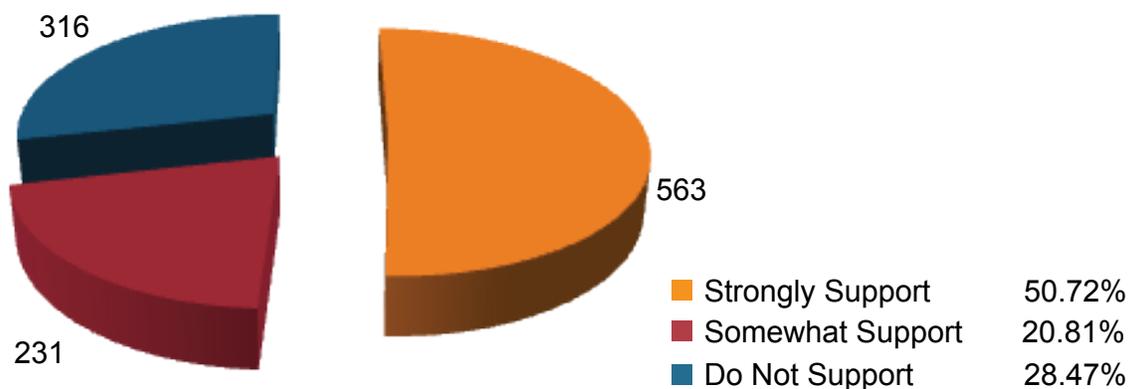
Don Getty (Expansion)



Bow Valley (Expansion)

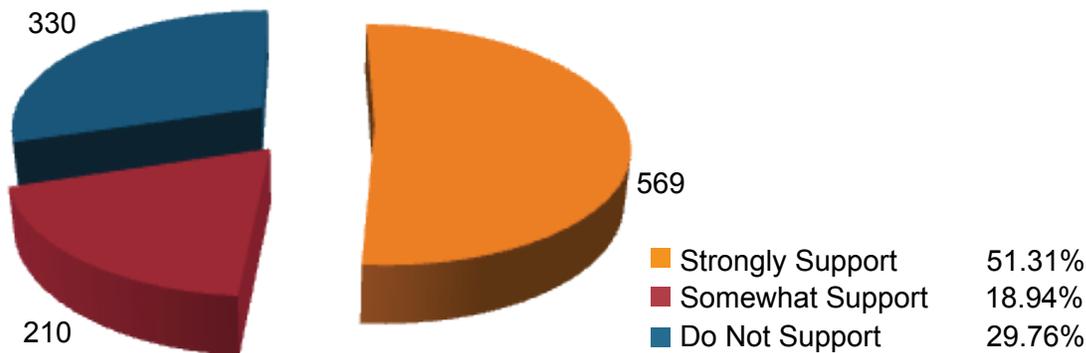


Blue Rock (Expansion)

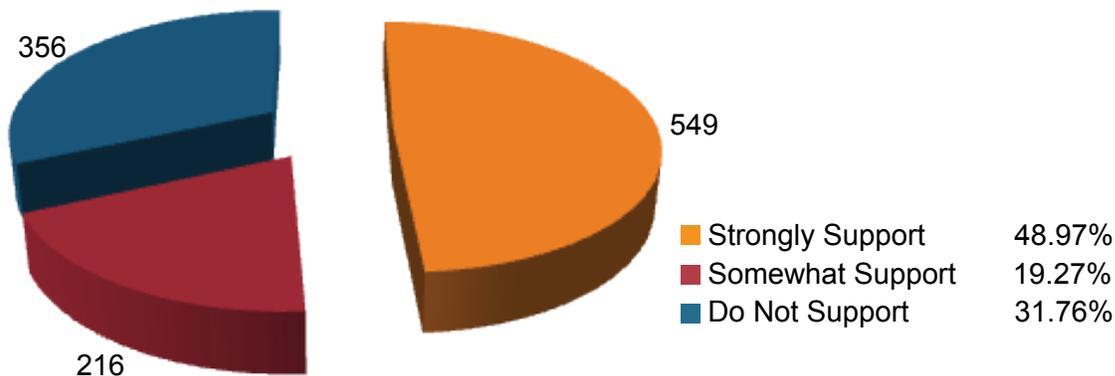




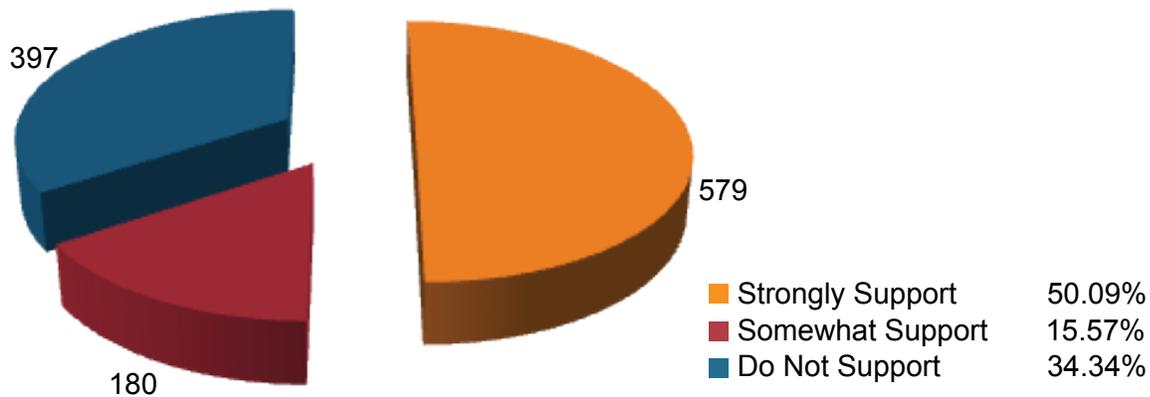
Highrock (New)



Bob Creek (Expansion)

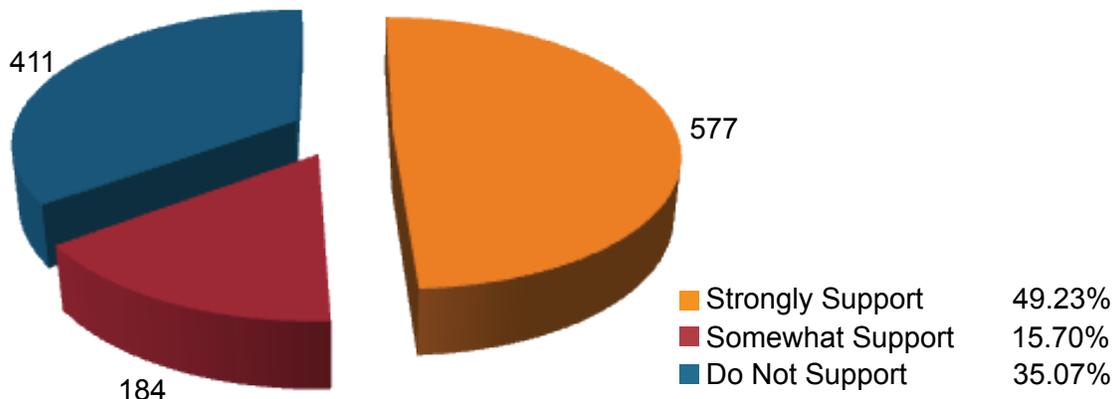


Livingstone Range (New)





Castle (New)



Why do you support?

686 respondents provided written comments.

- Protecting / conserving wildlife / environment is important
- Need more provincial parks / expanded parks / protected areas
- Need to reduce motorized recreational vehicle use
- Too much focus on industry / economic growth / development
- Will be beneficial to tourism/outdoor recreation
- Must allow hunting / low impact outdoor recreational activities
- Better policing / enforcement of land-use is needed
- Lack of conservation / protective efforts being made
- Connectivity between protected areas is important
- Overview / strategies are unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Cannot protect / conserve environment while allowing industry / recreation
- Will be beneficial to the environment /wildlife
- This is a good idea / support
- Do not want recreational activity in the region
- Opposed to closing / restricting recreational areas / land
- Industrial activity causes great damage to the environment
- Human impact must be balanced with maintaining the environment



Why do you not support?

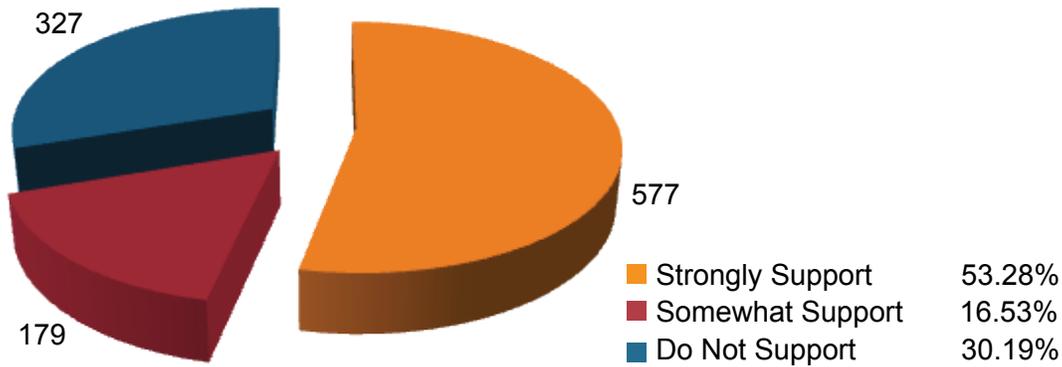
589 respondents provided written comments.

- Too many restrictions / limitations of land-use
- Expanding / developing parks is not necessary / needed
- Need larger /more areas where recreation is allowed / permitted
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Lack of conservation / protective efforts being made
- Better policing / enforcement of land-use is needed
- Motorized recreational vehicles should not be allowed in conservation areas
- Other areas that require conservation are excluded / missing from plan
- Too much focus on industry/economic growth / development
- Need to consider / allow all user groups in the region
- Connectivity is important between protected areas
- Ensure trail systems remain intact / open to the public
- Need to better educate / inform people to do their part
- Park designation will increase pressure from recreation
- Government will not honour existing land-use agreements
- Hunting should be allowed / permitted
- More public consultation is needed

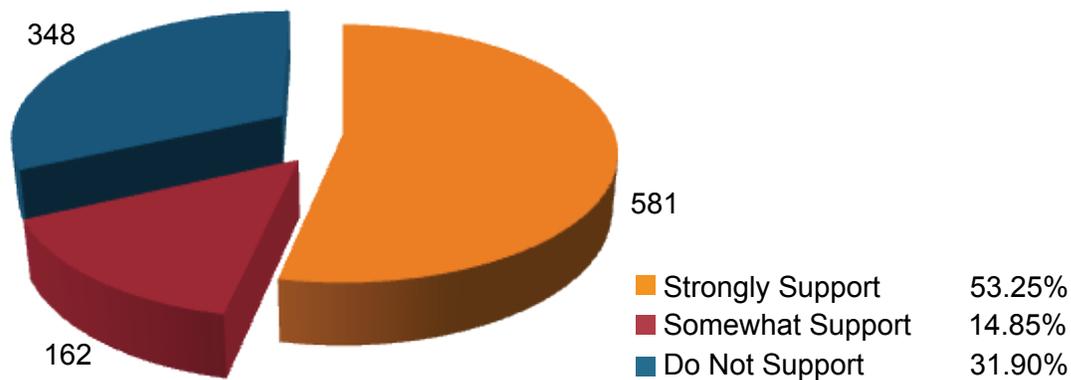


7. How strongly do you support or not support that the following Natural Areas be designated as a Wildland Provincial Park?

Beehive



Mt.Livingstone



Why do you support?

457 respondents provided written comments.

- Further / better protection of natural areas / wildlife is needed
- Will be beneficial to tourism / recreation
- Need more provincial parks in the region
- General support; this is a good idea
- Need to reduce motorized recreational vehicle impact on land
- Better /more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements



- Connectivity between protected areas is important
- Access to recreational areas is important

Why do you not support?

346 respondents provided written comments.

- Should not restrict / limit access to public / recreational land
- Expanding / developing parks is not necessary / needed
- Too many restrictions / limitations on land use
- Need more / larger protected areas
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Will reduce land available for recreational / public use
- Land should be left as is / no changes are needed
- Opposed to allowing harmful recreational activity in these areas
- Not familiar enough with proposed areas
- Environmentally damaging activity should not occur in areas
- Park designation will increase traffic in the region

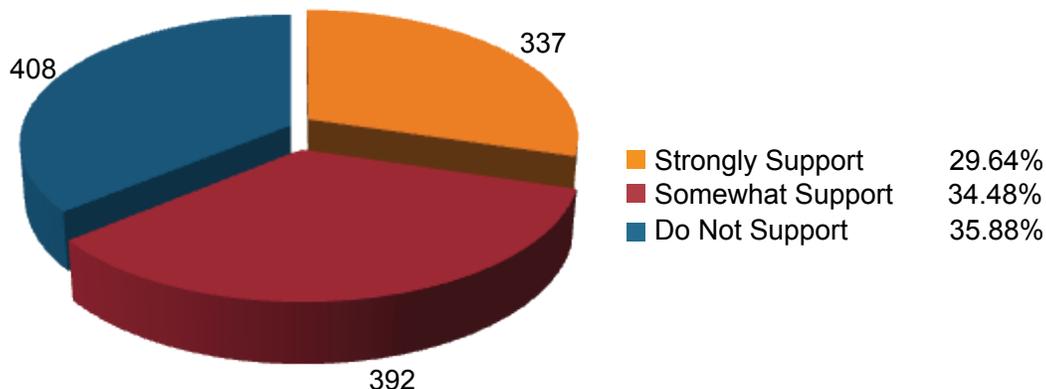
8. Please provide any additional comments about the proposed Wildland Provincial Parks in the Eastern Slopes.

460 respondents provided written comments.

- Should not restrict / limit access to public / recreational land
- Need more / larger protected areas / provincial parks
- Environmentally damaging activity should not occur in the region
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Protecting / conserving natural environment is important
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Expanding / developing parks is not necessary / needed
- Human impact must be balanced with maintaining the environment
- Connectivity between protected areas is important
- Plan will reduce land available for recreational / public use
- Too many restrictions / limitations of land-use
- Public education /awareness is needed



9. How strongly do you support or not support establishing a Public Land-use Zone – Conservation Area to address the land management needs in the lower valley areas of the south Castle?



Why do you support?

509 respondents provided written comments.

- Protecting / conserving wildlife / environment is important / needed
- Must limit / restrict recreational activity that is harmful to the environment
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Allows public access to the land for all users
- Forestry practices must not have negative impact on the environment
- Need more / expanded protected areas
- Access to recreational areas is important
- General support; this is a good idea
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Forestry is an important industry in the region
- Proposed areas should be designated provincial parks
- Connectivity between protected areas is important

Why do you not support?

539 respondents provided written comments.

- Should not limit recreational activity / public access
- Industrial activity should not be permitted in the area
- Area needs full / better / more protection
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Must limit / restrict recreational activities that are harmful to the environment
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements



- Too many restrictions / limitations of land use
- Area should be a designated provincial park
- No need to change things / leave area the way it is
- Government is misleading / all talk and no action
- Must allow forestry activities that benefit forest health
- Need more / expanded protected areas
- Public education / awareness is needed
- All user activities should be considered in the area
- Supports user fees to access recreational land

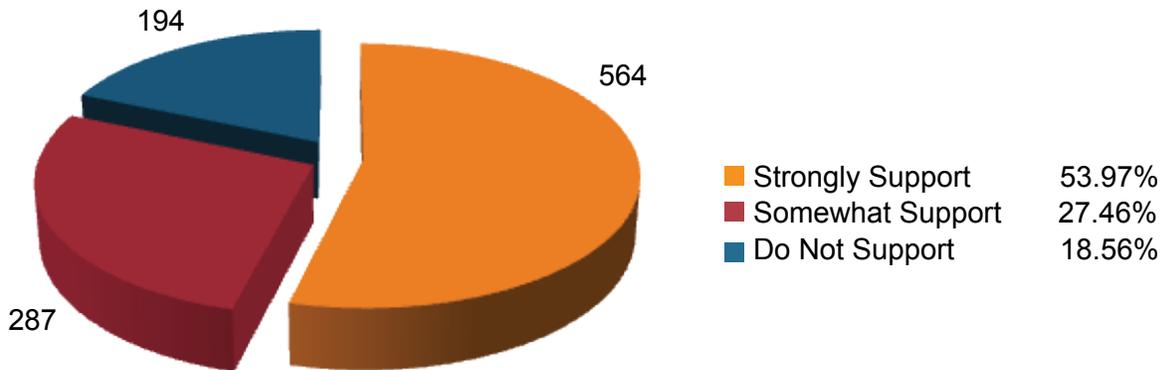
10. Please provide any additional comments about the proposed Public Land-use Zone – Conservation Area in the Castle.

463 respondents provided written comments.

- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Should not limit recreational / public access
- Area needs full / better / more protection
- Industrial activity should not be permitted in the area
- Must educate / inform public to do their part
- Restrict / limit recreational activities that are harmful to environment
- Area should be a designated park
- Need to consult with the public
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Need more / larger protected conservation areas
- Selective / enhanced forestry practices are needed / beneficial
- All user activities should be considered in the area
- Connectivity of protected areas is important
- Supports user fees to access recreational land



11. How strongly do you support or not support the establishment of a Heritage Rangeland in the Pekisko Area?



Why do you support?

505 respondents provided written comments.

- Protecting / conserving native grasslands is important / needed
- Native grasslands are becoming scarce / endangered
- Area should be free of any damaging industrial activity / development
- Ranching / grazing is important / maintains grassland health
- General support; this is a good idea
- Need more protected grassland areas
- Grasslands are important to wildlife
- Biodiversity is important
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- More focus on maintaining / improving water quality
- Will benefit the economy
- Should not restrict / limit access to public land
- More public consultation is needed
- Limit / restrict recreational activities that are harmful to the environment



Why do you not support?

267 respondents provided written comments.

- Public / recreational access should be allowed
- Grasslands need further / better / more protection
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- No changes needed / leave area as is
- Should not take property rights away from landowners
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- All user groups / activities need to be considered
- Need more protected grassland areas
- Do not want industrial / development activities in area

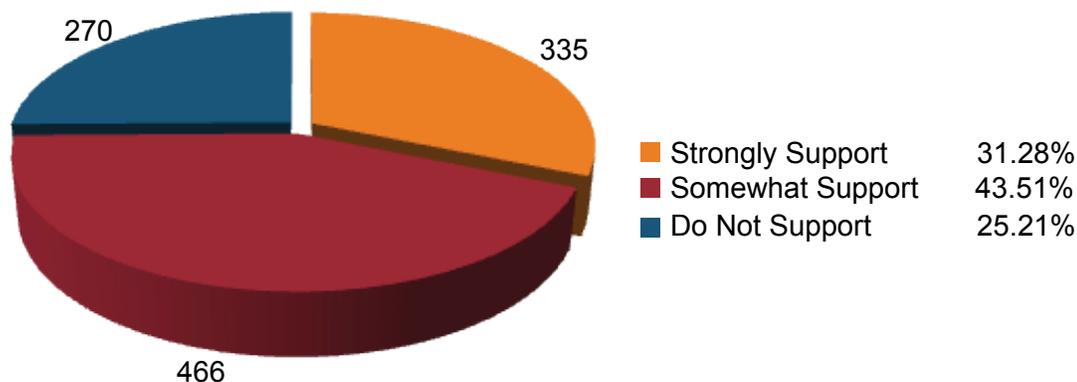
12. Please provide any additional comments regarding the proposed Pekisko Heritage Rangeland.

253 respondents provided written comments.

- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Public education / awareness is needed
- Motorized recreational activity should be allowed
- Protecting / conserving native grasslands is important / needed
- Need more protected grassland areas in region
- Overview /strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Area should be free of damaging industrial activity / development
- Should not limit access to public land
- Low impact activities should be allowed in area
- Grazing is important / maintains grassland
- Supports proposal if it meets the needs of local leaseholders



13. How strongly do you support the combination of approaches and proposed strategies in the Eastern Slopes - Green Area Public Land?



Why do you support?

514 respondents provided written comments.

- Further / more protection of wildlife / environment is needed
- Is important to allow recreation / public access in area
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Must regulate / restrict damaging recreational activity in area
- Public education / awareness initiatives are important / needed
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Should be no harmful industrial activity in area
- Is a good idea (general)
- Supports responsible land use
- Public consultation is needed
- Supports paying user fees to access recreation / services
- Plan achieves a good balance between land uses
- Plan should be put into practice as soon as possible
- No need to change things / leave area the way it is

Why do you not support?

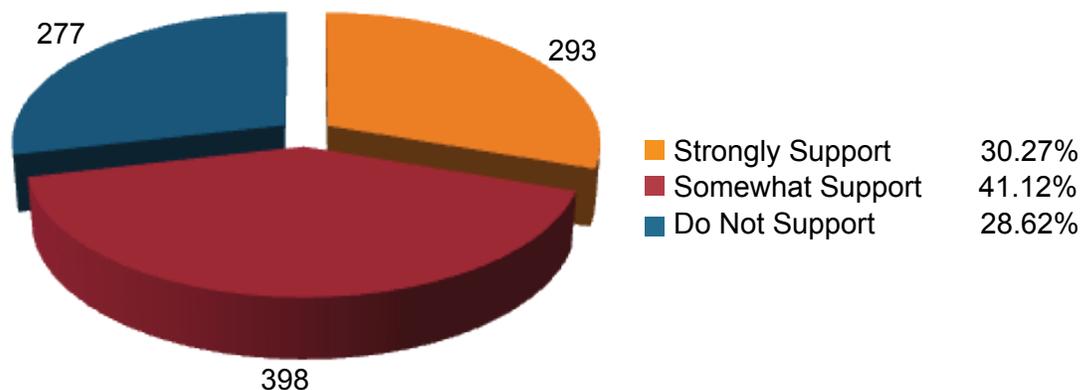
485 respondents provided written comments.

- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Is important to allow recreational activity / public access in area
- Environmentally damaging activity should not be allowed in area
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements



- Need to do more to protect / conserve the environment
- Public education / awareness initiatives are important / needed
- Should not restrict / limit access to public / recreational land
- Lack of resources / funding required to properly manage area
- Too many restrictions / limitations
- Supports paying user fees to access recreational areas
- Cannot protect environment while allowing industry in same area
- No need to change things / leave area the way it is
- Public consultation is needed
- Should allow sustainable industrial activity / resource extraction in area
- Landowners should not lose rights to their property

14. How strongly do you support or not support consolidation and expansion of Public Land-use Zones in the Green Area?



Why do you support?

342 respondents provided written comments.

- Area needs more / further protection / management
- Need more / expanded green area public land zones
- Accessibility to public/recreation areas is important
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Motorized recreational activity should not occur in area
- Supports consolidating government bodies
- Need to consider / allow all user groups
- Is generally a good idea
- Need to limit / restrict public / recreational access in area
- Public education / awareness initiatives are important / needed
- Damaging industrial activity should not occur in the region

Why do you not support?

342 respondents provided written comments.

- Should not further restrict / limit recreational / public areas
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Public education / awareness is needed / important
- More needs to be done to minimize damage to environment
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Must limit / restrict recreational activity to designated areas
- Already are enough public land areas
- No need to change things / leave area as is
- Opposed to any industrial activity in public land areas
- Should charge user fees for public / recreational use of land

15. Please provide any comments about the proposed changes in the eastern slopes to achieve the objectives and address cumulative impacts on the landscape.

320 respondents provided written comments.

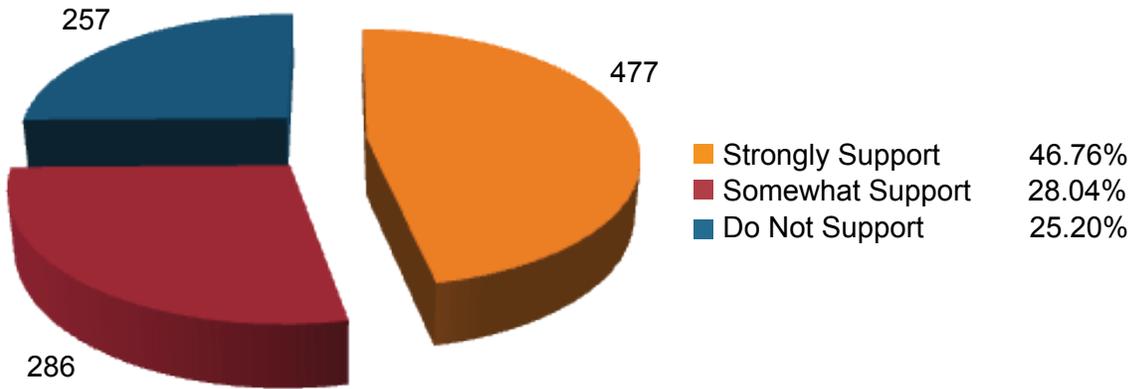
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- More needs to be done to minimize damage to / protect the environment
- Need to maintain recreational areas / trails
- Public education / awareness is needed
- Must limit / restrict recreational activity to designated areas
- Accessibility to recreational / public areas is important
- Too much focus on industry / economic development
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Should charge user fees for recreational land-use
- Public consultation is needed
- Need different trails for different uses
- Should take a more realistic / practical approach
- Government must recognize industry's attempts to mitigate environmental impact
- No need to change things / leave area as is



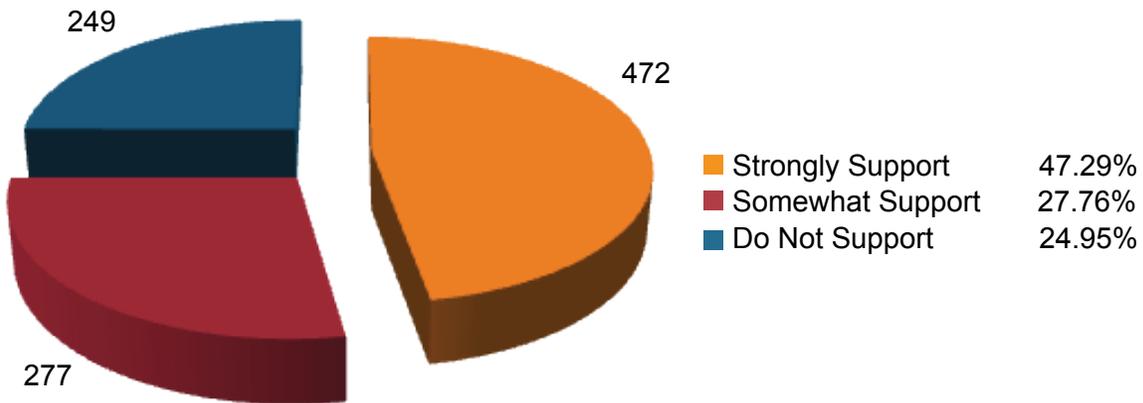


16. How strongly do you support or not support the development (working with stakeholders) of recreation and access management plans, by end of 2017, for the following areas?

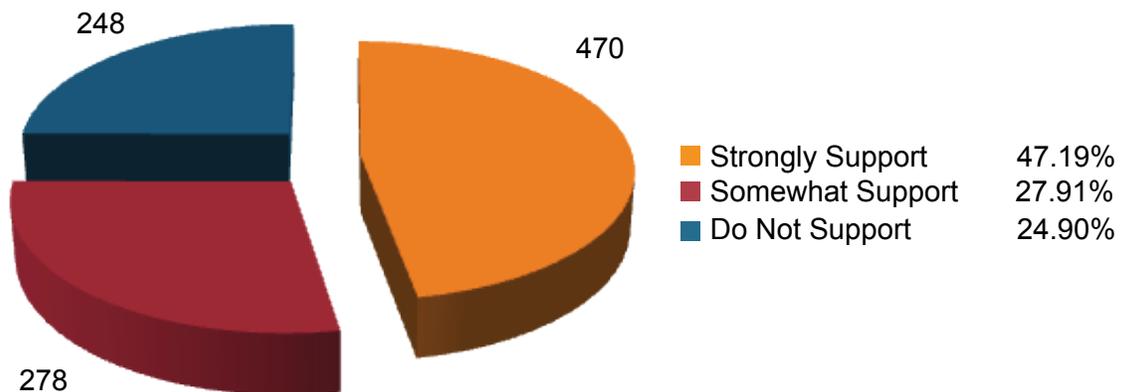
Castle



Porcupine Hills

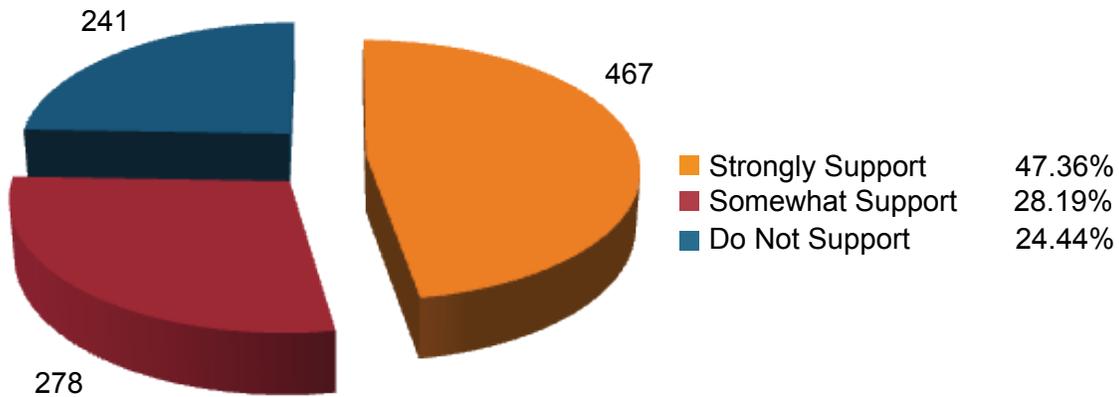


Livingstone





Willow Creek



Why do you support?

447 respondents provided written comments.

- Further / more protection of wildlife / environment is needed / important
- Public consultation is needed
- Accessibility to recreational / public areas is important
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Must limit / control recreational land use
- Need to limit environmentally damaging activities to designated areas
- It is generally a good idea
- Need to consider all user groups
- Public education / awareness is needed
- Plan should be put into practice as soon as possible
- Overview / strategy is vague / unclear / missing important elements
- Need more recreational / public areas
- Must limit / control industrial activity in area
- Should pay user fees for recreational land

Why do you not support?

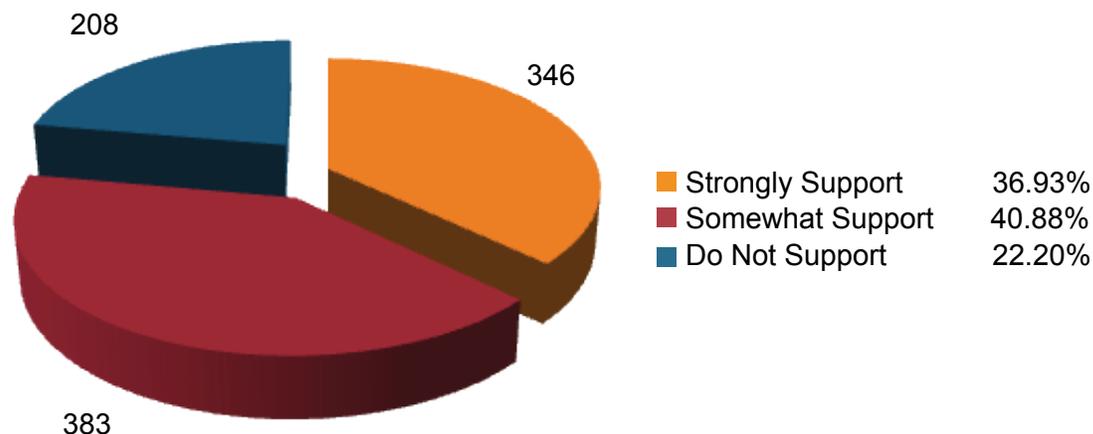
329 respondents provided written comments.

- Should not restrict / limit recreational / public access
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- More needs to be done to minimize damage to environment
- Public education / awareness is needed
- Should limit / control recreational land use



- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- No changes needed / leave the area as is
- Plan should be put into practice as soon as possible
- Too much focus on industry / economic development
- Need to consult with the public
- Not all input is valued equally / had a bad experience
- Need to consider all user groups
- Area should be a designated Wildland Park
- Government lacks resources to manage the region
- Plan objectives must be realistic / achievable
- Should have to pay user fees for recreational land use

17. How strongly do you support or not support the combination of approaches and proposed strategies in the Grasslands – White Area public land to achieve the expanded management intent to maintain intact native grasslands and species at-risk habitat?



Why do you support?

369 respondents provided written comments.

- Further / more protection of wildlife / environment is important / needed
- Should not sell public land
- Is generally a good idea
- Accessibility to recreational / public land is important
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Environmentally damaging activity should not be permitted in area
- Land stewardship is important / needed
- Grazing / ranching contributes to protecting grasslands



- Need more protected / conservation areas
- Need to respect rights of landowners
- Need to consult with the public
- Plan should be put into practice as soon as possible
- Connectivity between protected areas is important
- Area should be accessible to all user groups

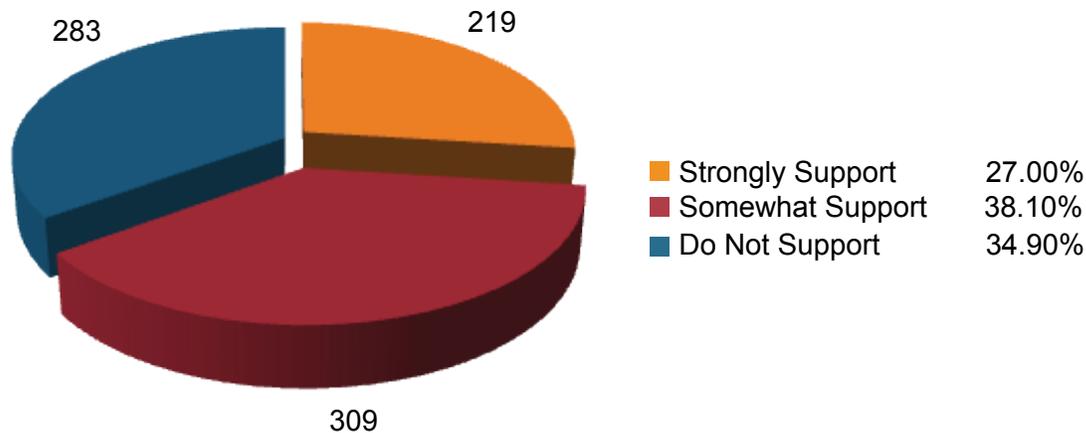
Why do you not support?

324 respondents provided written comments.

- Area needs better protection from environmentally damaging activity
- Too many restrictions / limitations of public land use
- Public land should not be sold
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Landowners should not lose rights to their property
- Public consultation is needed
- Need more protected / conservation areas
- Too much focus on industry / economic development
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Does not support (unspecified)
- Is not needed / necessary
- Public land should be available for sale
- Grazing / ranching is not beneficial to land / environment
- Plan should be put into practice as soon as possible
- Should consider incentives to responsible leaseholders



18. How strongly do you support or not support the proposed changes in sales of intact native grasslands in the White Area public land?



Why do you support?

233 respondents provided written comments.

- Public land should not be sold
- Need to maintain / conserve / protect existing public land
- Is generally a good idea
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Public consultation is needed
- Supports conversion of land when irrigation is possible
- Accessibility to public land is important
- Environmentally damaging activity should not occur in area
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Supports the sale of leased lands to private owners

Why do you not support?

268 respondents provided written comments.

- Public land should not be sold
- More / further protection of public land is needed
- Losing too much grassland / need to maintain what is left
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Too many restrictions / limitations of public land
- Accessibility to public land is important
- Leave area the way it is / no need to change things
- Need to respect property rights of landowners



- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Should sell public land if market price is reasonable
- Connectivity between protected areas is needed

19. Please provide any comments about the proposed changes in the Grasslands – White Area public land to achieve the high priority of maintaining intact native grasslands and species at-risk habitat.

251 respondents provided written comments.

- More / further protection of public land is needed / important
- Accessibility to public land is important
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Public land should not be sold
- Need to respect property rights of landowners
- Need more / expanded grassland areas in region
- Connectivity between protected areas is important
- Need to protect species at risk in area
- Is generally a good idea
- Public consultation is needed
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land-use is needed
- Landowners / should have incentives for helping protect / conserve land
- Should create wildland park in the grassland
- Plan should be implemented as soon as possible



20. Please provide any comments regarding access on White Area public land.

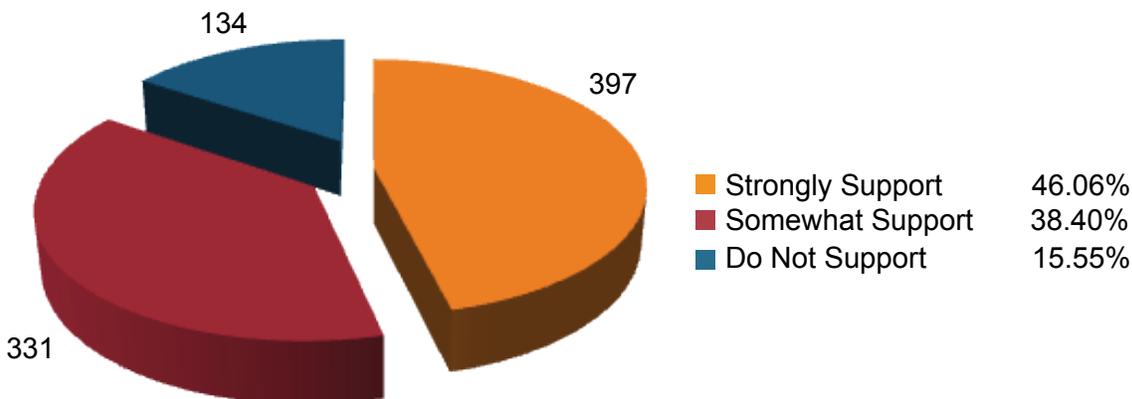
529 respondents provided written comments.

- Public land should be freely accessible to everyone
- Too much power / control of land given to leaseholders
- It is generally a good idea
- Too many restrictions / limitations of recreational land use
- Leaseholders have right to deny access to land that is harmful to environment
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Need to maintain balance between public and leaseholder rights
- More / further protection of public land is needed
- No need to change things / leave the area as is
- Hunting activity should be prohibited
- Public education / awareness is needed
- Government should control access to White Area public lands
- Public consultation is needed
- Supports paying user fee to access land
- Do not allow environmentally damaging recreational activities in area
- More focus needed protecting wildlife



Supporting and Enabling Stewardship and Conservation for Private Lands

21. How strongly do you support or not support the proposed strategies to enable stewardship and conservation for private lands?



Why do you support?

351 respondents provided written comments.

- Landowners should receive incentives / support for stewardship work
- More / further protection of land is needed / important
- Land stewardship is important / needed
- Is generally a good idea
- Supportive of voluntary participation
- Need to respect the property rights of landowners
- Public education is important / needed
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Voluntary participation will not go far enough
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Accessibility to public land is important
- Is against developing parks in the region



Why do you not support?

209 respondents provided written comments.

- Need to respect the property rights of landowners
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Voluntary efforts won't go far enough / too many people won't do their part
- Need to do more to protect / conserve the land
- Land stewardship incentives are needed
- Against providing incentives for land stewardship
- Should not restrict / limit access to public land
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Is against paying fee to access land for recreational purposes
- Does not support (unspecified)
- No need to change things / leave area as is
- Public consultation is needed

22. Please provide any comments with regards to supporting and enabling stewardship and conservation for private lands. Are there additional strategies that could be used to support and enable stewardship and conservation on private lands?

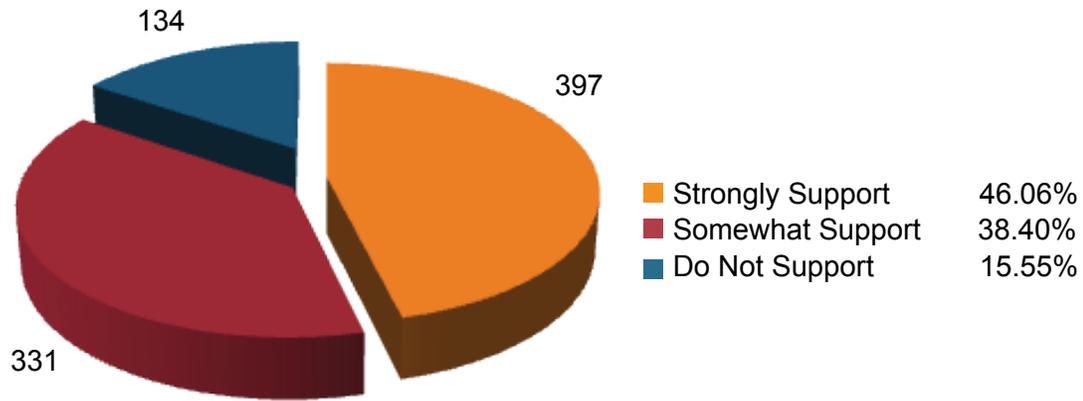
229 respondents provided written comments.

- More funding / grants / incentives for land stewardship efforts
- Need to do more to protect / conserve the land / wildlife
- Increased efforts to inform / educate the public
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Need to respect property rights of landowners
- More government co-operation is needed
- Land stewardship is important / needed
- More recognition for land stewardship efforts
- In support of voluntary participation
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Is against paying fee to access land for hunting purposes
- Is generally a good idea
- Voluntary efforts will not go far



Managing Air Quality Through Continued Collaboration

23. How strongly do you support or not support the proposed air quality management framework?



Why do you support?

283 respondents provided comments for this question.

- Air quality management is important / needed
- Clean air contributes to a healthy environment
- Is generally a good idea
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Industrial activity has negative impact on air quality
- Air quality in area is fine / clean / not polluted
- Should put plan into practice as soon as possible

Why do you not support?

131 respondents provided written comments.

- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Need to do more to protect / manage air quality / prevent air pollution
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Air quality in area is fine / clean / not polluted
- Is a waste of taxpayers' money
- Plan is not practical / realistic
- Incomplete management framework should not be put into regulation
- Should not restrict / limit access to public land
- Framework does not deal with odour issues from livestock / fowl
- Too much focus / emphasis on air management



24. Please provide any comments regarding opportunities to enhance collaboration to effectively implement the framework and management responses?

111 respondents provided written comments.

- Air quality management is important / needed
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Industry / resource extraction causes major air quality issues
- Need to educate / inform the public
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Collaborative research / studies are needed
- Public consultation is needed
- Plan should be put into practice as soon as possible
- Adequate funding is needed in order to implement plan
- No changes are needed / leave area as is

25. Please provide any comments about the proposed strategies for managing air quality.

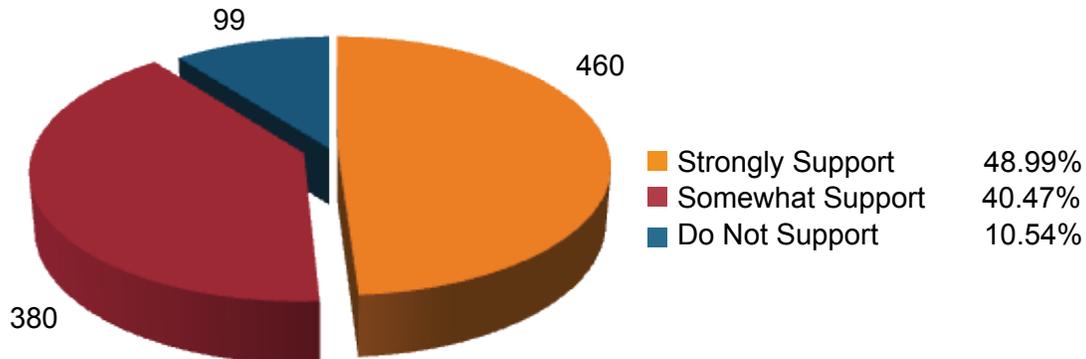
158 respondents provided written comments.

- Air quality management is important / needed
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Encourage methods that do not cause significant air pollution
- Industry / resource extraction causes major air quality issues
- Adequate government funding / support is needed
- Public education / awareness is needed
- No changes are needed / leave area as is
- Need incentives for minimizing air pollution
- Public consultation is needed



Advancing Watershed Management

26. How strongly do you support or not support the proposed surface water quality management framework?



Why do you support?

445 respondents provided written comments.

- Water quality management is important / needed
- Further / more protection of water is needed
- Water is an important / essential resource
- Accessibility to public land is important
- Is generally a good idea
- Public consultation is needed
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Should not allow industry / development in these areas
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Plan should be put into practice as soon as possible
- Doubtful that plan will be put into practice
- Public education / awareness initiatives are needed

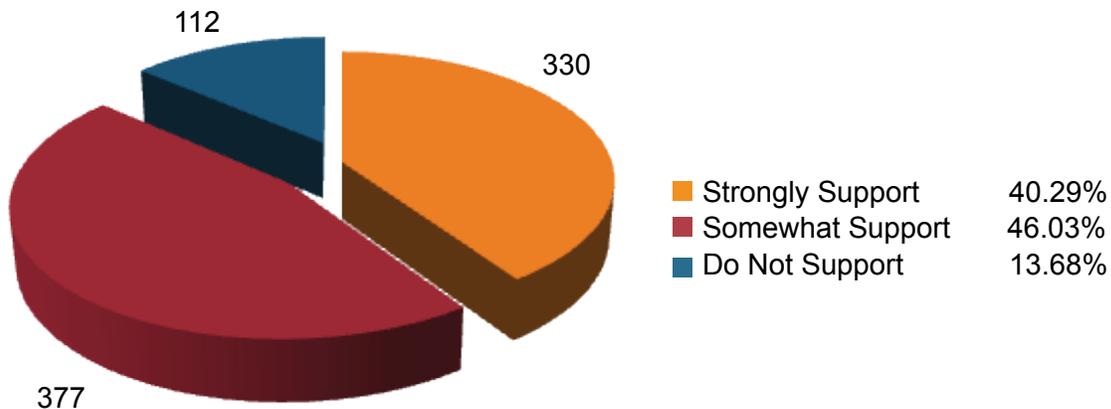
Why do you not support?

280 respondents provided comments for this question.

- Need to do more to protect / conserve water
- Should not restrict access to public land
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Too much focus on industry / agriculture
- Need more / expanded protected areas
- Area is fine the way it is / no need to change things
- Public consultation is needed



27. How strongly do you support or not support the proposed suite of strategies for managing watersheds (quality, quantity, etc.)?



Why do you support?

284 respondents provided written comments.

- Further / more protection of water is needed / important
- Accessibility to public land is important
- Water quality management is important / needed
- Is generally a good idea
- Water is an important / essential resource
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Public consultation is needed
- Better / more policing/enforcement of land use is needed

Why do you not support?

245 respondents provided written comments.

- Further / more protection of water is needed / important
- Need to expand / create more conservation areas
- Need more reservoirs to store water
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Doubtful that plan will be put into practice
- Public education / awareness is needed
- Accessibility to public land is important
- Water quality management is important / needed
- Public consultation is needed
- Public education / awareness is needed
- Should not allow development in high risk flooding areas
- Floods cannot be managed / controlled



28. Please provide any comments about the proposed suite of strategies for managing watersheds (quality, quantity, etc.).

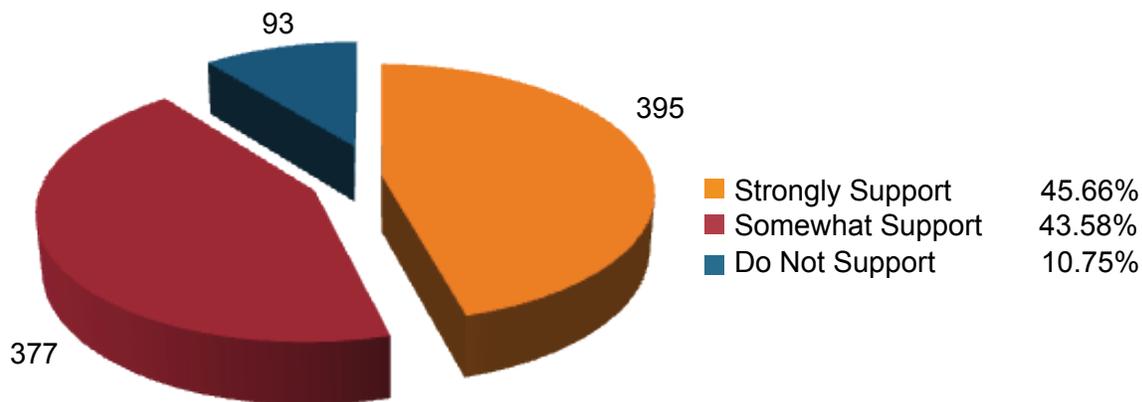
311 respondents provided written comments.

- Need to do more to protect / manage water
- Accessibility to public land is important
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Industry practices have negative impact on water
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Does not support increased dam / reservoir development
- Further research / studies would be beneficial
- Need adequate funding / support in order to implement plan
- Resource extraction should still occur in the area
- Should not allow development in high risk flooding areas
- Need to take a more science-based approach
- Need to develop more water storage reservoirs
- Public education / awareness is needed
- Public consultation is needed
- Should provide land stewardship incentives
- Need more / expanded conservation areas
- Need to address /review provincial policy / regulations
- Plan fails to address climate change



Strengthening Communities

29. How strongly do you support or not support the proposed change to the provincial land use policy guiding water and watersheds?



Why do you support?

321 respondents provided written comments.

- Should not allow development in high risk flooding areas
- More / better protection of water is needed
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land-use is needed
- Accessibility to public land is important
- Public education / awareness is needed
- Is a good idea (general)
- More must be done to mitigate flooding
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Need more focus on protecting environment / wildlife
- Stronger rules / regulations are needed
- Consult with local municipalities regarding the needs of the region
- Water is an important / essential resource
- Public consultation is needed

Why do you not support?

208 respondents provided written comments.

- Should not restrict / limit access to public land
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Public education / awareness is needed



- Need to do more to protect water
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Should not allow development in high risk flooding areas
- Need to do more to protect the environment / wildlife
- Is against leaving watershed management to municipalities
- Planning should be left up to municipalities
- Industrial activity should not occur in the area
- Need adequate funding / support in order to implement plan
- Planning should be left to the province
- Too much government influence / control
- Too much focus on flood control
- Communities need to be less economically / growth driven
- More needs to be done to mitigate flooding

30. Please provide any comments about the proposed strengthening communities strategies.

232 respondents provided written comments.

- Should not limit / restrict access to public land
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Public education / awareness is needed
- Should not allow development in high risk flooding areas
- Need to do more to protect/conservate the environment
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Municipality needs more power / control
- Is a good idea (general)
- Need to limit growth of communities
- Adequate funding / support is needed in order to implement plan
- Do not spend tax dollars on flood prevention / fixing property damage
- Environmentally damaging activity should not occur in the area
- More needs to be done to mitigate flooding
- Government is not acting in the best interests of everyone
- Public consultation is needed



Enhancing Recreation and Cultural Opportunities

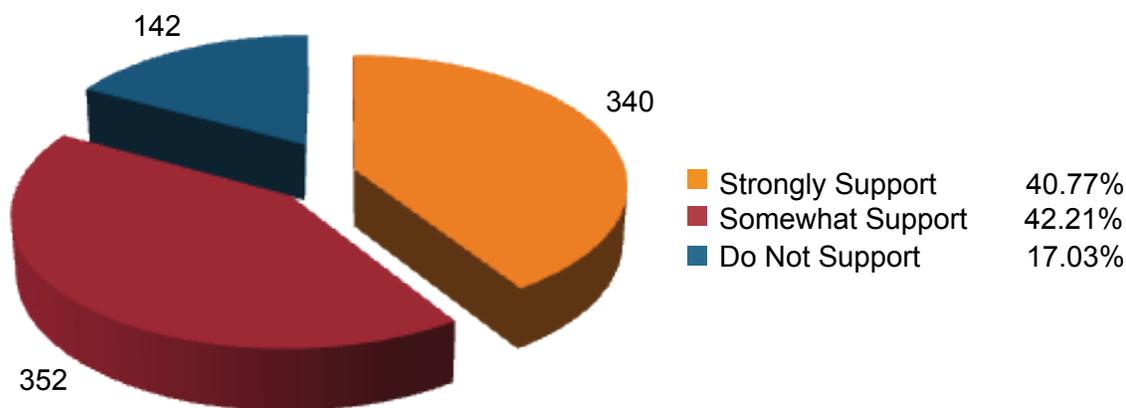
31. How strongly do you support or not support the suite of proposed strategies for enhancing recreation and cultural opportunities for Albertans in the SSRP as described below?

What's Proposed

- Manage **recreation and tourism opportunities** to ensure quality outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism experiences while minimizing environmental impacts.
- Continue to maintain locally, regionally and provincially **significant recreation and tourism features**, including sites, areas and corridors.
- Address **flood (2013) damaged** recreation and parks areas.
- Invest in **existing parks facilities** to enhance the experiences of users.
- Expand and designate **new provincial parks and provincial recreation areas** to provide recreational opportunities, contribute to tourism growth and begin to address growing recreational demand in the region (see Schedule C – SSRP Land-uses and Schedule D – SSRP Digital Map).
- Some of the recreational activities that will be provided include serviced and unserviced campgrounds, day-use areas, motorized and non-motorized staging areas and trails, and tourism opportunities.
- Create **new Public Land Recreation Areas** in the Eastern Slopes to provide managed random camping areas. See Schedule C – SSRP Land-uses and Schedule D – SSRP Digital Map).
- Through the recreation and access management planning process, additional Public Land Recreation Areas may be identified and established.
- Ensure all sites within the **provincial parks system** within the region are appropriately **classed and consolidated** to gain efficiencies in management approach.
- Continue to provide **outreach, education and enforcement** throughout the eastern slopes to promote stewardship.
- Work with aboriginal and other communities, stakeholders and partners to develop **comprehensive and integrated recreation and access management plans** for lands in the Green Area. Namely, the Castle, Porcupine Hills, Livingstone and Willow Creek areas by the end of 2017.
- Support current and future projects to identify, maintain and enhance sustainable long-term public **access to recreational water bodies**.
- In collaboration with aboriginal and other communities, stakeholders and partners, develop the **South Saskatchewan Regional Trail System Plan** to provide designated land and water trails for year-round recreation, linking communities, parks and outdoor spaces.



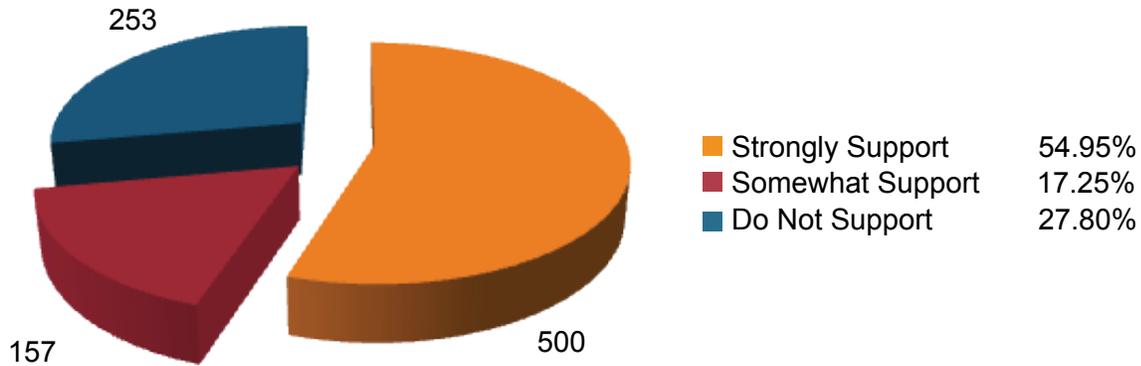
- Develop the **regional parks plan for the South Saskatchewan Region** to direct the planning and management of new and existing parks within the provincial parks system by the end of 2016. This plan will reflect the conservation, recreation and tourism values, and growing demands and changing expectations of visitors.
- Explore **legislative tool options** to help address liability concerns and facilitate continued work with trail groups and stewards in planning and managing trails.
- In concert with developers, ensure that land-based development activities are assessed to **identify and protect historic resources**.
- Ensure continued **public accessibility to information regarding historic resources** in the region.
- **Identify and designate important historic resources** in the region with municipal partners.
- Work with and support Parks Canada to inscribe **Writing-on-Stone as a Unesco World Heritage site**.



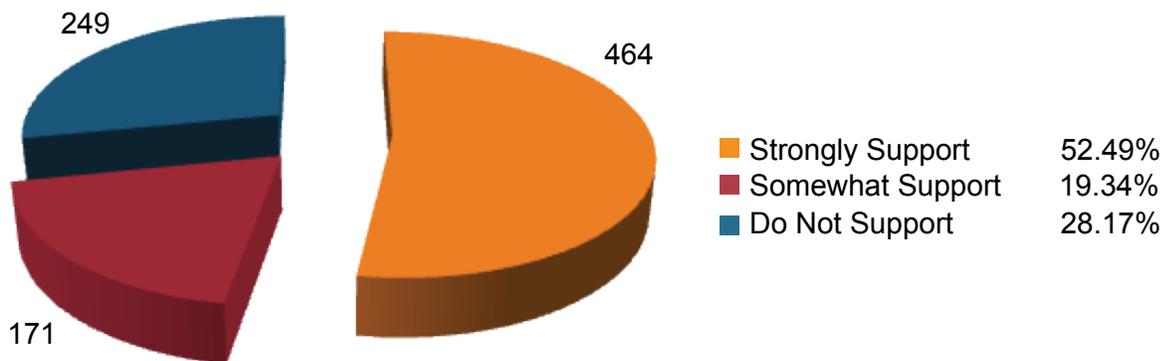


32. How strongly do you support or not support the following new or expanded parks areas?

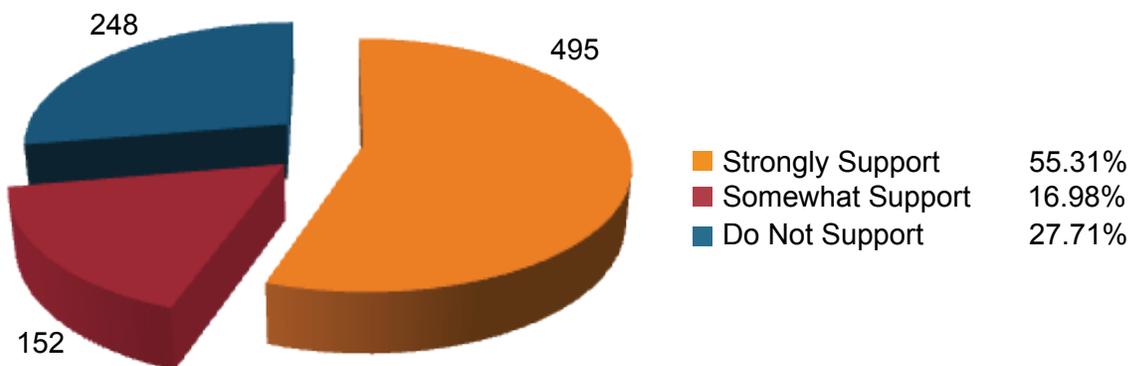
West Bragg Creek Provincial Park (Expansion)



Gooseberry Provincial Park (Expansion)

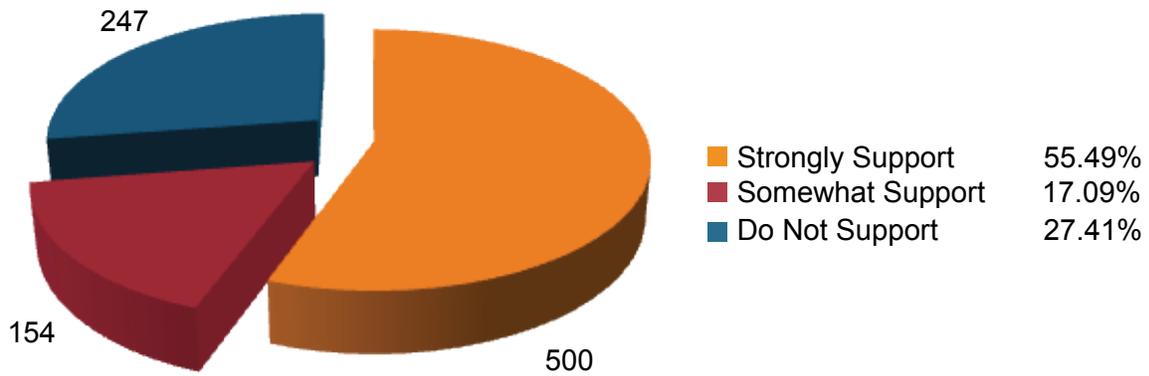


Elbow River Provincial Park (Expansion)

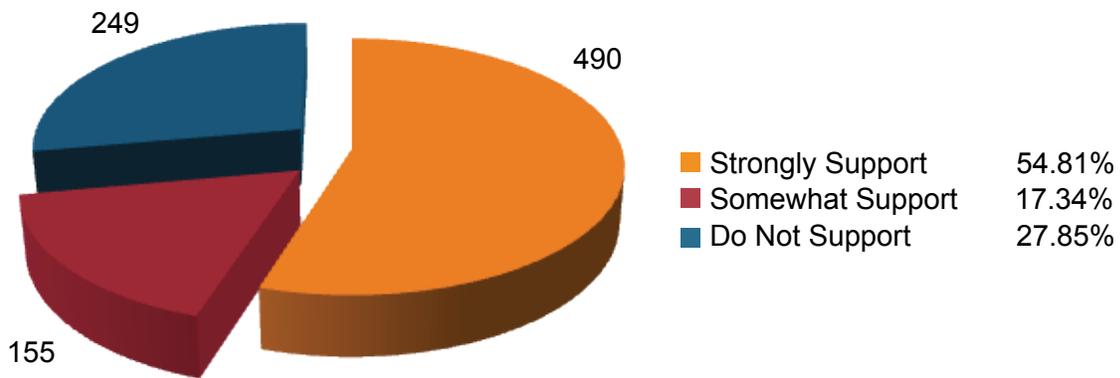




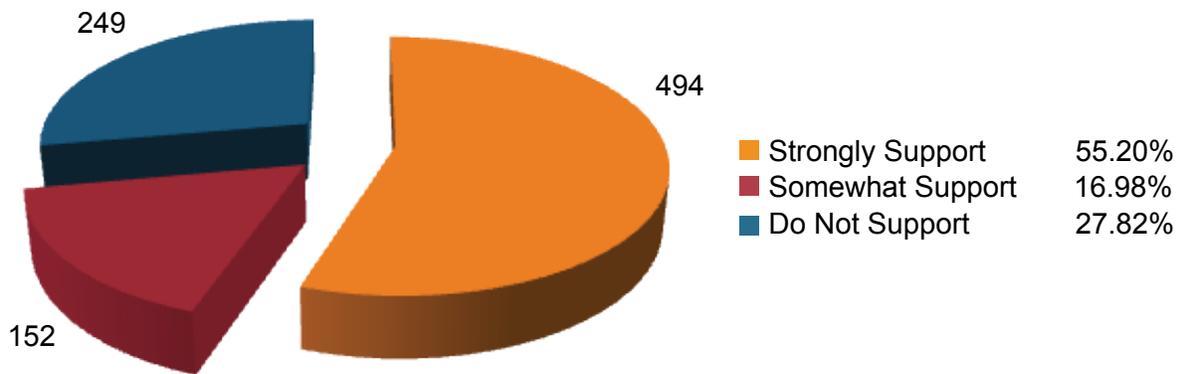
Elbow Falls Provincial Park (Expansion)



Little Elbow Provincial Park (Expansion)

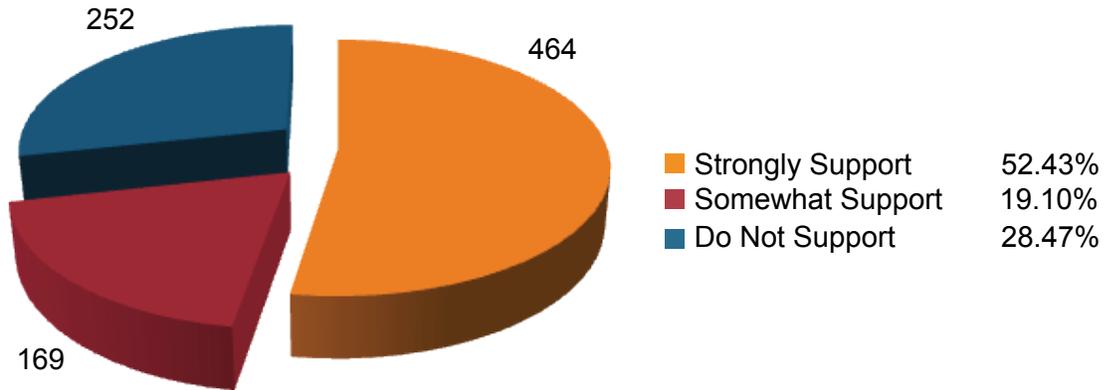


Sheep River Provincial Park (Expansion)

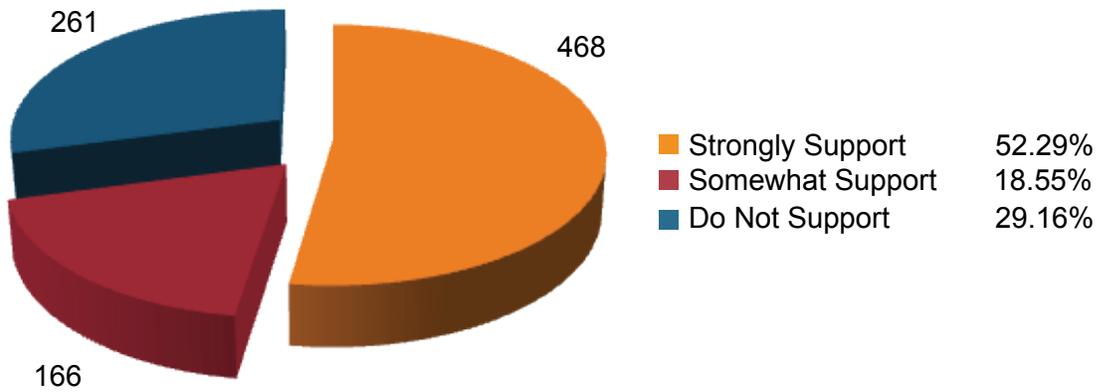




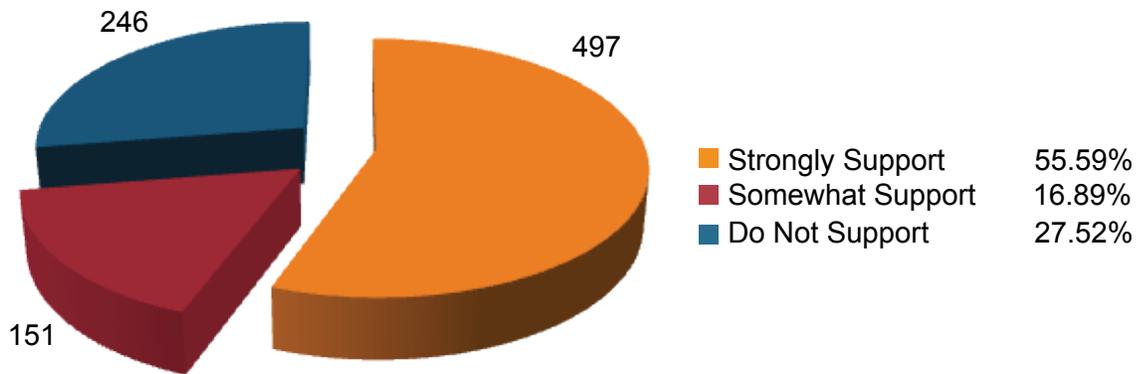
Chinook Provincial Park (Expansion)



Syncline Provincial Park (Expansion)

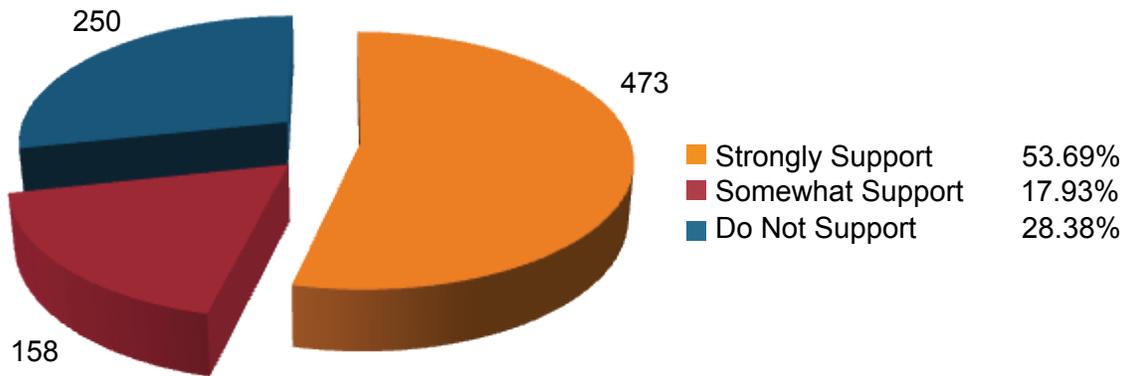


Cypress Hills Provincial Park (Expansion)

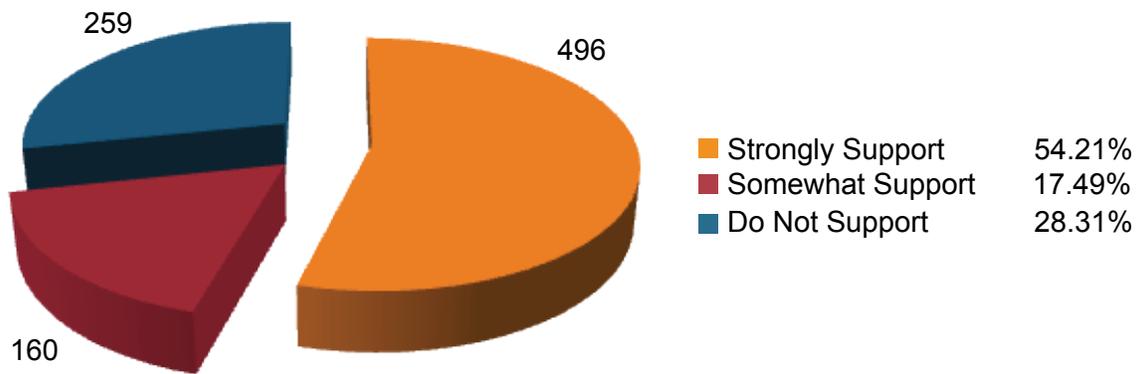




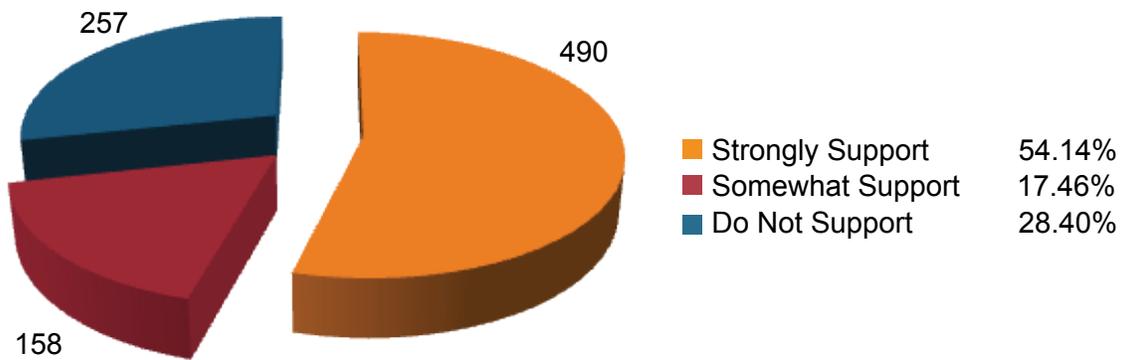
Sibbald Lake Provincial Recreation Area (Expansion)



Crowsnest Lake Provincial Recreation Area (New)



Coleman Provincial Recreation Area (New)





Why do you support the new or expanded parks areas?

470 respondents provided written comments.

- Need to develop / expand more parks
- Accessibility to public land is important
- Need more focus on protecting / conserving the environment
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Public education / awareness is needed
- Environmentally damaging activity should not occur in the area
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Is a good idea (general)
- Focus more on tourism industry

Why do you not support the new or expanded parks areas?

365 respondents provided written comments.

- Should not restrict / limit access to public land
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Environmentally damaging activity should not occur in the area
- Public education / awareness is needed
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- There are already enough provincial parks
- Need better protection / conservation of environment / wildlife
- Lack of protected / conservation areas
- More focus on improving existing parks / facilities
- No need to change things / leave the area as is
- Need adequate funding / support in order to implement plan
- Need to respect property rights of landowners



33. Please provide any additional comments about the proposed enhancement of recreational and cultural opportunities in the SSRP.

415 respondents provided written comments.

- Should not restrict / limit access to public land
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- More / expanded protected areas are needed
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Environmentally damaging activity should not occur in the area
- Further / more protection of the land / environment is needed
- Public consultation is needed / important
- Motorized recreational vehicle use should be designated to specific area
- Should expand / improve recreational trail system
- Need adequate funding / support
- Need more focus on low impact recreational activities
- Public education / awareness is needed
- Supports paying user fee for recreational access
- No need to change things / leave the area as is
- Does not support random camping

34. In addition to the provincial parks and recreation areas, the plan establishes new Public Lands Recreation Areas as shown on the maps on pages 53, 54 and 157. Are there additional areas where, over time, you would like to see infrastructure improvements developed to support random camping?

340 respondents provided written comments. All comments with at least 2 mentions are included below.

- No additional areas
- Does not support / is against random camping
- Castle region
- Ghost / Waiparous region
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Porcupine
- Calgary region
- McLean Creek areas
- All crown land (unspecified)
- Kananaskis region
- Oldman River



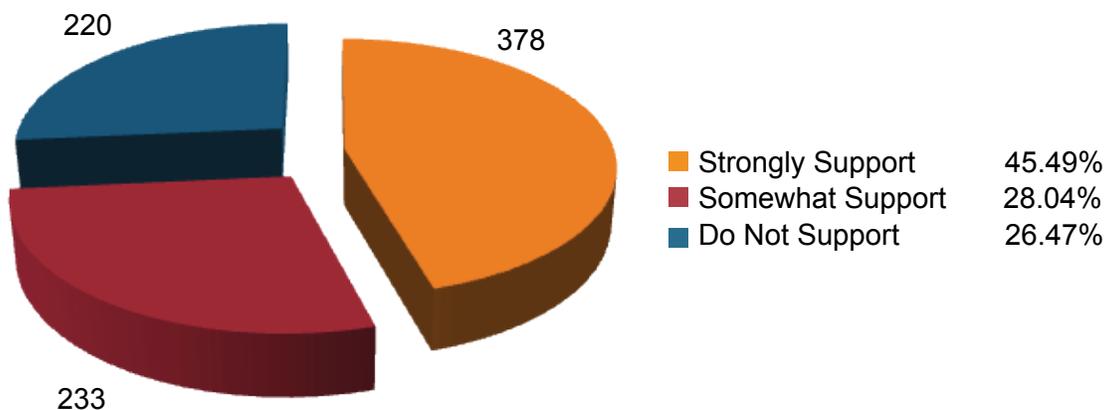
- McGillivray
- Atlas road
- Racehorse Creek
- Dutch Creek
- Little Bow
- Grassland areas
- Close to major highways
- Ware Creek area
- Bow River
- Lynx Creek
- Highwood Valley corridor
- Private land (general)
- Areas close to highly populated regions (general)
- Crowsnest Pass
- Close to rivers /bodies of water (general)
- Indian Graves
- West Sharples
- Livingstone
- Coleman



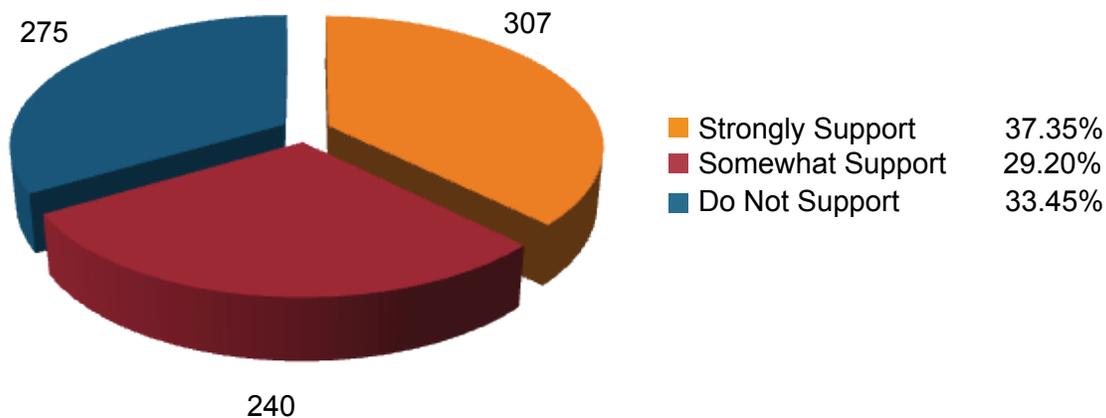
Ensuring Aboriginal Peoples are Included in Land-use Planning

35. How strongly do you support or not support each of the proposed strategies in the draft plan?

Explore and present potential new approaches to draw on the rich cultural, ecological and historical knowledge, and stewardship practices, of aboriginal communities.

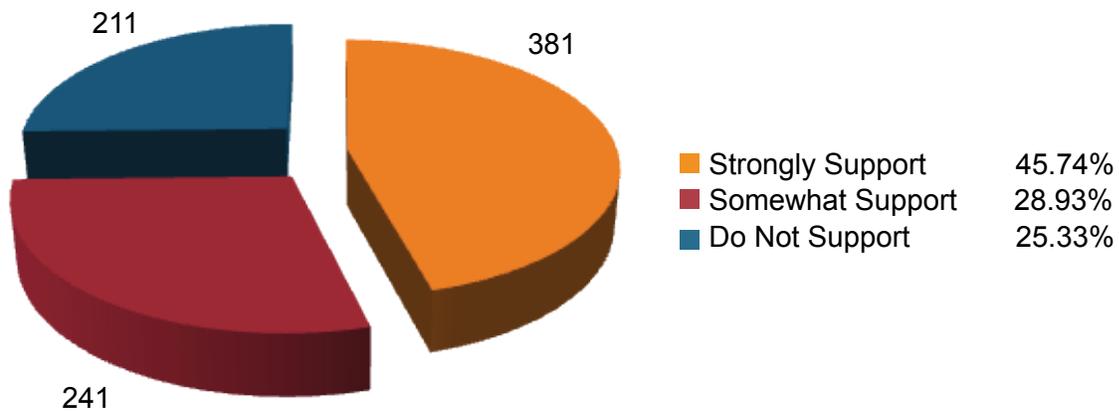


Establish a South Saskatchewan Regional Land Sub-table with First Nations who have an interest in the region.

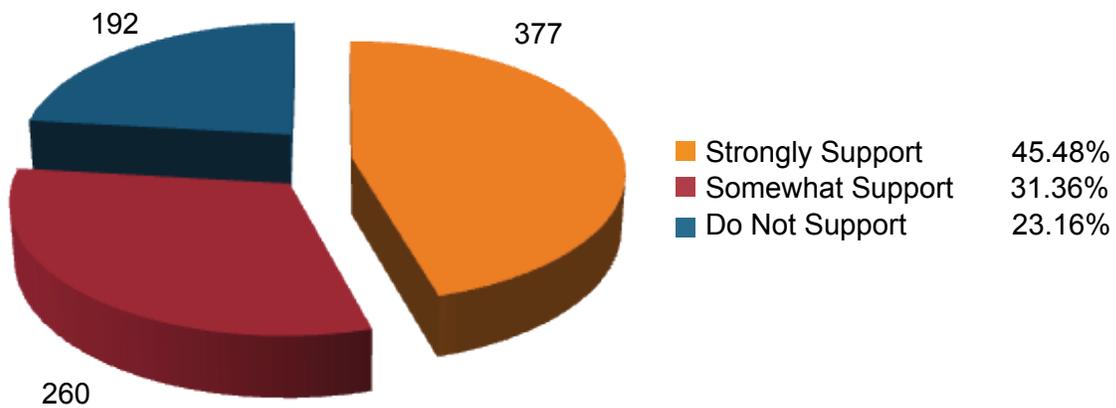




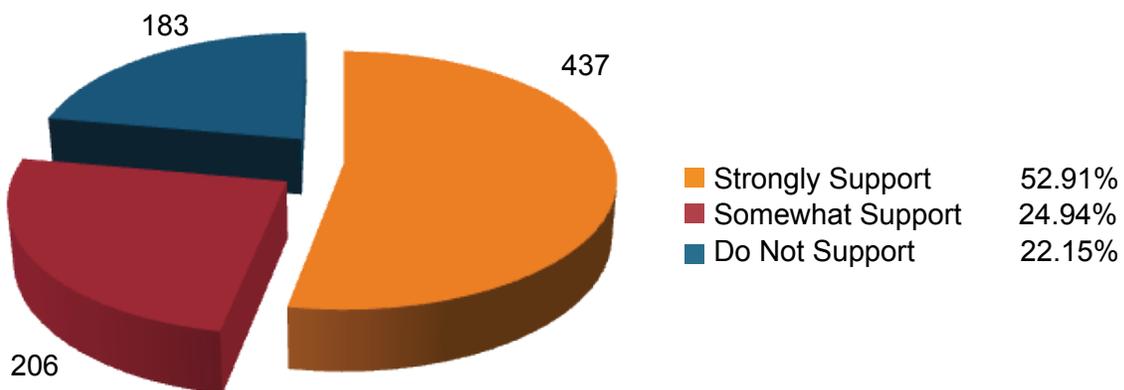
Continue First Nations involvement in watershed management planning initiatives.



Engage aboriginal peoples in initiatives to support tourism development.



Promoting the economic, social and cultural well-being of aboriginal communities.





36. Please share any additional comments regarding the proposed strategies for ensuring aboriginal peoples are included in land-use planning.

383 respondents provided written comments.

- More opportunities for consultation / input / inclusion
- Rights / needs should be between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people
- Too much emphasis / focus on First Nations people
- Aboriginal peoples do not respect their land
- Need to respect rights of First Nations people
- Government support / assistance is needed
- Is a good idea (general)
- Overview / strategy is unclear / vague / missing important elements
- Need to do more to protect the land / environment
- Accessibility to public land is important
- Responsibilities / initiatives should be handled federally, not provincially
- Should promote education to aboriginal peoples



Next Steps

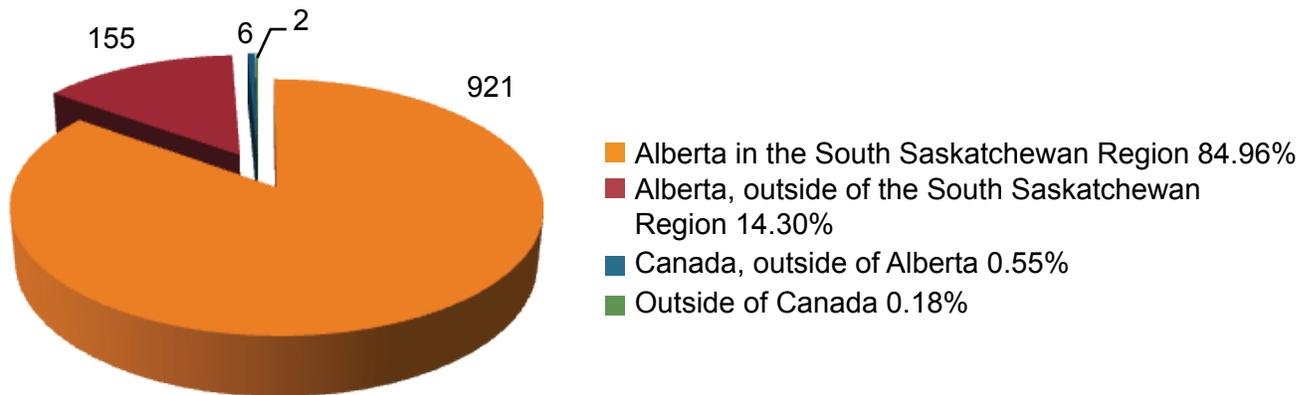
37. Please share any additional comments you may have regarding the draft South Saskatchewan Regional Plan.

609 respondents provided written comments.

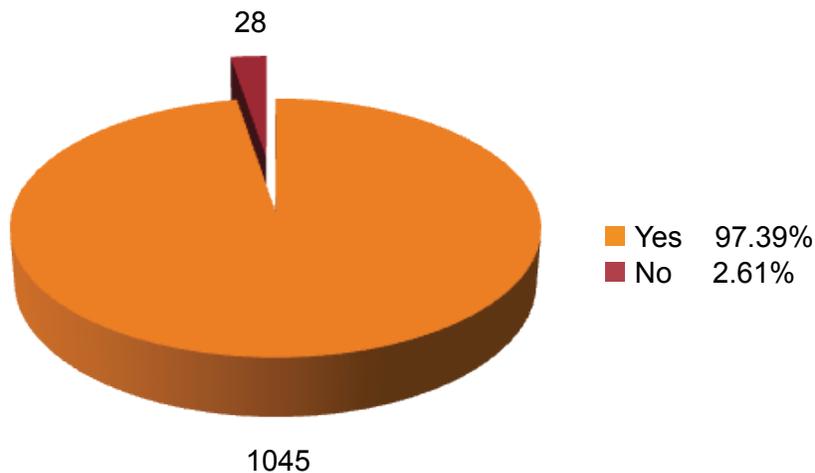
- Plan is unclear / missing important elements
- Should not restrict / limit access to public land
- Need to do more to protect / conserve the land / environment
- Better / more policing / enforcement of land use is needed
- Need to protect the land from environmentally damaging activity
- Public consultation is needed / important
- Enjoyed doing survey / thanks for the opportunity
- More / expanded protected areas are needed
- Agree with the plan / plan is a good idea (general)
- Public education / awareness is needed
- Need to consider all user groups in the region
- Too much focus on industry / economic growth
- Plan should be put into practice as soon as possible
- Doubtful that plan will be put into practice
- Adequate funding / support is needed in order to implement plan
- Need to respect property rights of landowners
- Supports paying user fee for recreational land access
- Plan tries too hard to accommodate all interests/user groups in region
- Stronger government leadership is needed
- Dissatisfied with survey structure / format
- Government is dishonest / misleading / untrustworthy
- Motorized recreational vehicle use should be designated to specific areas
- Sustainable industrial activity should occur in region
- Should expand recreational trail system



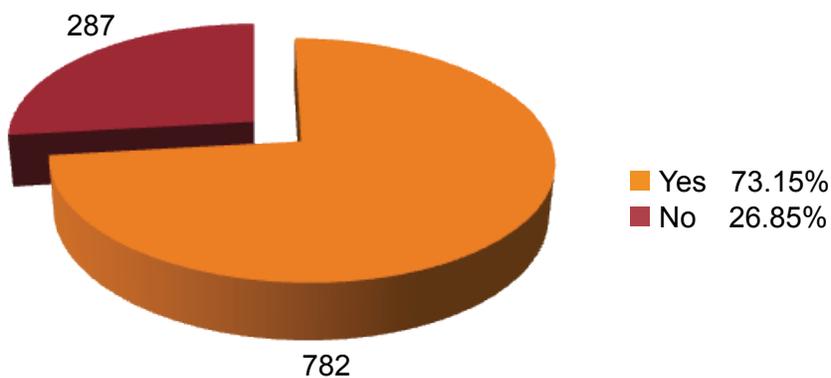
38. Where is your primary residence?



39. Do you participate in recreation and tourism experiences in the South Saskatchewan Region?



40. Do you currently work within the South Saskatchewan Region?

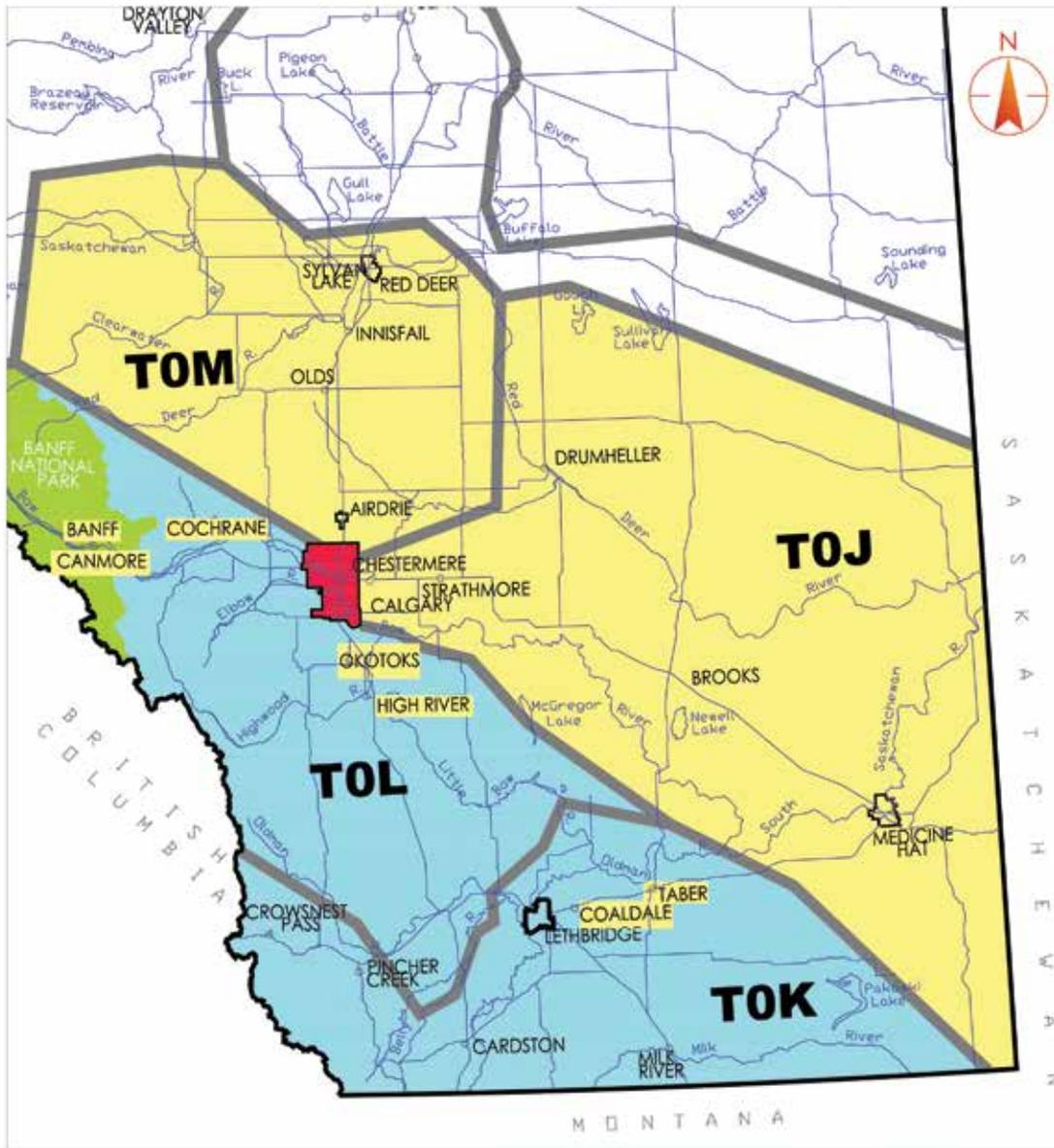




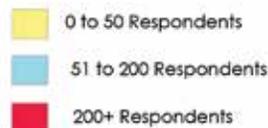
41. What are the first three digits of your postal code?

1,057 respondents provided the first three digits of their postal code.

1,057 respondents provided the first three digits of their postal code. 963 or 91 per cent of these respondents live from Red Deer south as shown in the following map.

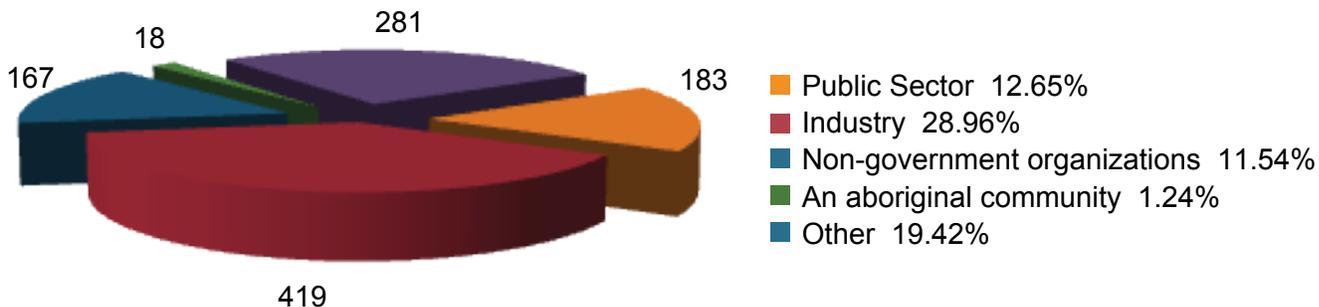


Location	Number of Respondents	Location	Number of Respondents
Airdrie	14	Okotoks	13
Banff	5	Olds	10
Brooks	9	Red Deer	8
Calgary	344	Strathmore	3
Canmore	35	Sylvan Lake	4
Coaldale	10	Taber	12
Cochrane	47	TOJ Postal Code	17
High River	5	TOK Postal Code	160
Innisfail	2	TOL Postal Code	109
Lethbridge	109	TOM Postal Code	25
Medicine Hat	22	Total	963

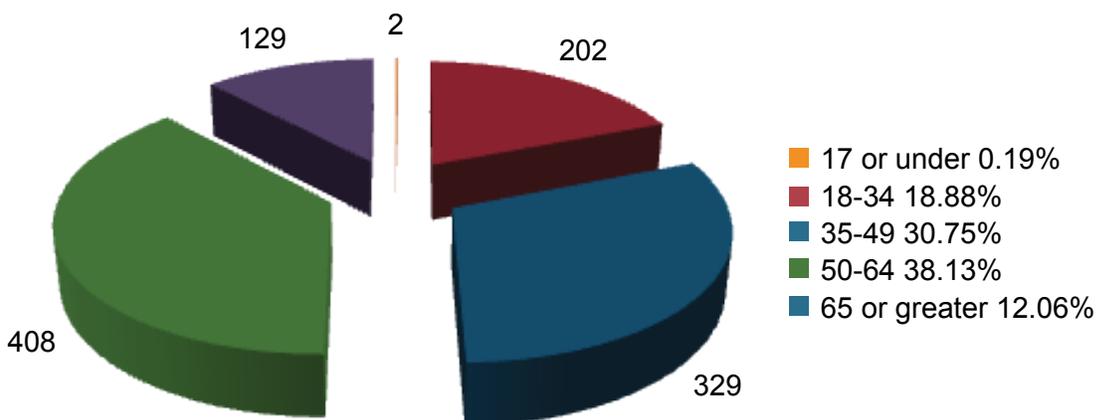




42. Are you employed by or associated with any of the following?



43. Which age group do you belong to?



44. Would you like to be added to the LUS mailing list? If so, please enter your email address below. Your email address will not be used to identify your responses to any of the workbook questions.

463 respondents provided their e-mail address and asked to be added to the LUS e-mailing list.

