

Southern Foothills Community Stewardship Initiative

Results from the First Round of Community Forums Held January 24-27, 2011

Forum Raw Data – Grouped by Coding Category

EV & EV - Environmental values & ecological values:

- Making a livelihood off the land – requires water, forage, good maintenance
- Everyone who uses the land needs to respect it – messes are hard to fix
- Preservation of fescue and riparian area threatened by oil and gas and increased population
- Preservation of fescue and riparian area threatened by oil and gas and increased population
- Cataract Creek a Lost Creek
- IMPORTANT: nature of fescue grassland: rich in services when healthy
- Ranching economy helps to keep grassland intact
- Culture that knows how to steward it.
- AWARENESS RE IMPORTANCE OF FESCUE GRASSLAND: need personal connection; make it about WATER
- City needs to understand impact on their water that is filtered in grassland
- No run off out of a healthy field when it rains
- WATER is major key issue
- VALUES: Biodiversity, habitats
- Healthy watershed is the foundation
- Need to see tie between ecological goods and services and healthy, viable communities
- Water quality
- Native grassland water quality
- Native grass – wildlife and sustainability for next generation
- Concern re fragmentation from too many people, over use, disrespect of environment
- Water issues involving damming
- Water quality – irrigation
- Need to see the landscape in large pieces, not fragments
- Create a vision for the future and work backward in order to set priorities sustainability for short and long term planned / managed development for integrated ecological integrity and economic
- Water: water closest to the source is the most fragile and in need of preservation
- Restoration and preservation of watershed systems Sustainable use and respect for land. Eg. Selective logging, no fragmentation
- Protection of nature, wildlife, landscape and scenery, of eastern slopes
- Watershed protection

- Every decision should increase water quality and quantity
- Manage and enforce biodiversity. Development decisions need to value what is valuable: water, soil, air
- Inventory and manage water quantity; preserve clean water; tie water consumption to water availability
- Maintain ecological integrity and wildlife connectivity; value ecological goods and services
- Plan must protect the landscape and watershed
- Manage all users with goal of maintaining integrity of the whole
- Manage resource extraction to protect water, wildlife habitat etc.
- Manage the area to prioritize protection of the watershed
- Ensure water quality and quantity for all downstream and upstream users
- Protect headwater health
- Economics: need to develop economic measures that include ecological goods and services in estimates of economic value of land → Ecological accounting. This is a first step to reconsidering how we define GDP.
- Water
- Concerns re Little Bow
- Water, air
- Importance of contiguous Highwood for fisheries
- Concern re sedimentation in the Highwood
- Surface disturbance that affects the watershed
- Protecting groundwater recharge areas
- Minimize surface disturbance
- Watershed connectivity
- Conservation
- Sustainable use
- Quality and quantity of water
- Quality of life: less odour, noise, clean air
- Biodiversity: native grass, agriculture, wildlife resources
- Ecology leads to a happy economy
- Choices to make for healthy grassland, water
- Grassland protection
- Beauty and function of landscape to be preserved
- Need to persuade people to use appropriate grass species for water conservation; drought tolerant varieties
- Water supply
- Water contamination
- Need healthy land and water for healthy people
- Stop fragmentation
- Managed development, stop the urbanization, fragmenting land uses
- Government needs to refocus; sustainability
- Maintain our LOVE OF THE LAND AND LOVE OF THE LIFESTYLE
- Governing based on protection and sustainability not on convenience
- Preservation techniques of water: rain barrels, responsible water use, reuse of water
- Native grasslands sustain biodiversity
- Day to day respect for the native grass and wildlife

- Biodiversity index needs to be maintained despite increased industrialization
- Watershed, watershed, watershed
- All part of the watershed work as part of a common ecosystem
- Air Quality of concern
- Water Quality of concern

- Protection of the NATURAL landscape – grasslands habitat!
- Beef and cattle health and therefore food chain health dependant on natural grassland
- Foodshed
- Water Quality: Agricultural Chemicals, Oil and gas
- Water Conservation: All levels
 - Fishery
 - Wildlife habitat
- Fragmentation (want less)
- Natural Spaces for spiritual, mental renewal
- Governing based on protection and sustainability not on convenience
- Wide Open Spaces: visually remarkable proof of ecological history
- Preservation techniques of water: rain barrels, responsible water use, reuse of water
- Balance of demands on resources
- Setting appropriate carrying capacity
- Comprehensive understanding of stewardship
- Need ecological benchmarks
- Lack of connection with land
- Restoration: prevention given priority over restoration/reclamation
- Population growth of concern.
- Land is still significantly “native” landscape.
- If we save wildlife we save community
- Maintain prosperity. Keep it non-commercial. Keep people that care.
- Need to manage watersheds better.
- Unwilling to accept limits to growth
- Native fescue
- Water quantity and quality
- Limits to development → Loving it to death.
- Fish and wildlife. Biodiversity
- Ecosystem health
- Maintaining integrity of landscape
- Water quality and quantity
- Not taking into account cumulative effects
- Native prairie does not handle too much use.
- Learn about conserving resources
- Need to worry more about water quality as its not treated like it is in the city
- The relative lack of development important here
- Spaces between people
- Natural Capital important
- Native grassland. Once it is gone it can never be replaced
- Fresh air

- Grass
- Clean stream for fishing
- Natural spaces
- Limited and restricted development
- Trees
- Water
- Cumulative impact
- Water: keep it clean
- Natural corridors
- Fragmentation of concern
- Water: Is there enough to go around? Keep it in good shape.
- Need tolerance of large predators and refuges for them that are not fragmented by human activity
- Wildlife
- Issue with overgrazing native grassland
- Fragmentation: Land cut up by roads, well sites, residences, makes it hard for biodiversity (all species) to be sustained.
- Minimize change from natural, minimize risk
- Low population density
- High Quality of life – slow pace and strong connection to natural environment
- Rough fescue grasslands – a rare plant community that if we don't protect here it will be gone
- Place where we still have all the pieces and processes of the ecosystems to sustain itself to use if we act intelligently.(eg. Grizzly bears, wolves)
- Maintain intact nature
- Native fescue grassland and habitat
- Water quantity –headwaters are water towers
- Wildlife (value)
- Water (value)
- Water
- Diversity (all parts of the puzzle)
- Water a shared responsibility
- Grass: integrity of agricultural land in a sustainable manner = water
- Water
- Water / diversity of ecological goods and services
- Fragmentation – rural residential development
- Restoration issues
- Encourage stewardship
- Ecological illiteracy
- Cumulative effects
- Privilege to live here; concern that without taking long term view we will not preserve what we have
- Open spaces
- Bush encroachment → Code changed from PS: public safety
- Fragmentation
- Need to sell importance of watershed to people downstream – Lethbridge and beyond
- Preserving integrity of area – land and water

- Functionality and capacity of ecosystem
- Water
- Intact ecosystem
- Need to make a living while taking care of landscape.
- Weather change and snow (Climate Change?)
- Need to shift from development to environment (at all levels)
- Fragmentation a major issue
- Preservation
- Wildlife
- Water, creeks, ponds
- Water towers working → Changed Code from ED: economic development (impacts)
- Fragmenting: need to stop. Need to get all groups to work together to have stronger voice
- Carrying capacity necessary: Setting limits to growth / use
- General non-consideration of cumulative effects
- Grass does not grow back. Need to educate all of the public
- Maintaining land owners on the land that are stewards of the land; responsible to maintain water etc.
- Need to maintain uses that allow for sustainability of landscape
- Prevention and preservation over restoration and reclamation
- Water: Supply and quality. Generation use. Studies show more groundwater being used than is being replaced.
- Government paradigm shift needed from economic development to stewardship of all resources; need government receptive to creative solutions including new technology.
- Piecemeal approach to land use activities
- If ranches can't remain viable; risk to ecological integrity

MI – More information needed:

- Studying grazing intensity and water quality connection
- Don't know long term effect of watershed from logging
- Need to know carrying capacity for homes, roads, wells, cities
- SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL CARRYING CAPACITIES
- Need to see tie between ecological goods and services and healthy, viable communities
- Too large an area for study – too many diverse uses
- Huge concern-need a water analysis
- Understanding in order to plan appropriately
- Landscape values are outdated
- Water mapping needs to be a major important undertaking
- Oil and pipeline pollution is difficult to prove
- Water quantity and quality needs to be monitored and valued
- Water management – mapping groundwater – knowledge of relationship between ground and surface water
- Need the picture in mind, not just my “rights” to subdivide
- Identify carrying capacity and limits to the extent the natural resources allow otherwise development will override what this region is about
- Ground water mapping

- Geology
- Ecological goods and services placed on the land so they know how much to pay for any application
- Surface and groundwater monitoring and mapping needs to be a major undertaking to evaluate quantity and quality.
- Inventory and manage water quantity; preserve clean water; tie water consumption to water availability
- No understanding of ramifications to the watershed by some industries in the area. Users need to have an understanding of the watershed.
- Need a plan that is based on science
- Water: Supply and quality. Generation use. Studies show more groundwater being used than is being replaced.
- Why isn't study area extended?
- Sustainability, appropriate use, measured
- Cumulative impacts in context of concern and challenge
- Population growth study to protect the agricultural necessity of land
- How do we understand watershed quality before it is in crisis?
- What is the health of the watershed now?
- Tracking groundwater important
- Wide spread information and education needed
- World economic drivers/influences

MP – Meaningful participation:

- To have an impact, group needs to work with Calgary Regional Plan: Can't have resistance to Calgary initiative – actually initiated by the MDs.
- Grassroots planning that may impact how gov't. Proceeds
- Action for Agriculture identifies with the issues and would like to partner in something like this
- Air quality is of concern. "Flaring" & venting health concern are ignored and informed comments are marginalized
- Values will be confirmed by completing this process
- The necessity for more planning that actually involves citizens, citizens' groups, municipalities, interest groups – to work together on problems that affect them in their communities. – ie water development – not industry dominating the conversation
- Want to maintain integrity of land through stewardship
- Multiple stakeholder groups to manage each area
- Community interest-community leadership eg. Foothills Land Trust
- **Sadness:** Will this be effective? Will our voices be heard? Done this before
- Honest consultation needed not spin or sales
- Stewards of the land: we do not have a legal RIGHT to use the land as we see fit.
- Local decision making is essential
- Ineffective provincial government in implementing / listening to community views; always economics over environment
- Honest consultation needed not spin or sales

- Need feedback from grassroots
- Land Use Plan – Living Plan/Document that has bottom up inputs □ advocacy
- How do we raise a collective vision acceptable to all?
- Bottom up/ grass roots
- Advocacy and lobbying

LK – Local knowledge:

- Land users; land owners
- Local decision making is essential
- Maintaining land owners on the land that are stewards of the land; responsible to maintain water etc.

DG – Dissatisfaction with government:

- Used to have wardens living there – now barely a presence. Recreational use need to be policed better
- Cataract Creek a Lost Creek
- No support from gov't. to deal with issues
- There is an economic incentive to fragment land- We need an economic incentive not to fragment
- Government policy should maintain scenic integrity of the countryside
- Economy: spend more and tax more is not the direction. Spend less and do more needs to be a new direction.
- Transparency about water availability could help all
- Water quantity and quality needs to be monitored and values
- Loss of recognition of farming lifestyle and respect for the land
- Not feeling heard that water and land are not a commodity to be exploited
- Water licenses
- Ensure sustainable farming not like feedlot alley
- Watershed – over allocated- If we don't look at water as the baseline, we're all in trouble
- Transparency of ERCB: how do we cultivate this cultural value?
- Concern re causes-major lack of leadership
- Betrayal
- Heartbreak and abuse
- Politicians too removed from landscape
- Variety/inconsistent political initiatives: 22 transportation route and Y to Y initiative
- No plan for area that we like: Alberta Multiple ABUSE policy
- Government addicted to the revenues
- No mechanism for making choices

- Agriculture being pushed out
- Politics: decrease in voter turnout
- Need to overhaul water legislation and policy
- Lack of transparency with government process
- Lack of political leadership and lack of initiative to protect
- What are the ethics / morals that inform protection of area and how do they differ from “business as usual”?
- Business sector taking over
- Business as Usual” concerning
- Economic model based on growth concerning
- Recognition that we need to do things differently
- Not a real push for sustainable energy (solar, run of river) in a decentralized way
- We’ve devalued agriculture □ This leads to fragmentation
- Sadness: Will this be effective? Will our voices be heard? Done this before.
- All land uses have no coordinated effort. Each governing body operated independently.
- Lack of enforcement
- Fragmentation -tends to interrupt and destroy the loyalty people feel towards stewardship of their land
- Confidence in Government-without this, any of our priorities are moot
- better environmental stewards (farmers and ranchers) need to have a value placed on what they are doing
- Governing with a vision, long term outlook
- Follow-up
- Concern over the precedence that development opens. Since no longer pristine, once one person
- Government needs to refocus; sustainability
- Where does sub – division need to stop before we use up all the land?
- Why ATV and recreational use is free reign?
- Governing based on protection and sustainability not on convenience
- There has to be a stop to fragmentation of the land especially selling of land for purposes outside of agriculture
- Out of control use of land for personal “utopian” acreages
- Political leadership: Less Business \$\$ Lobby and more “Community” centred thinking
- Provincial progressive leadership initiative (PC party leadership race?)
- Allocation, overuse (game licenses)
- Change of direction is needed
- Inadequate, obsolete amount of data, legislative decision making frameworks
- Approval processes are driven by economics
- Best practices are not enough
- No thresholds have been established
- Need to set thresholds
- Lack of capacity to enforce rules
- Best practices not enough

- 4 year term of government means short –term planning horizon
- Setting thresholds
- Government does not look at big picture
- Lack of direction from local government to deal with land use issues
- Government: Need to look at the big picture now and down the line. Future not now. What will this area look like in the future?
- View that government can take it and don't have to pay you
- Government paradigm shift needed from economic development to stewardship of all resources; need government receptive to creative solutions including new technology.
- Ineffective provincial government in implementing / listening to community views; always economics over environment
- Moral leadership

PS - Paradigm shift:

- Government paradigm shift needed from economic development to stewardship of all resources; need government receptive to creative solutions including new technology.

BU - Business as usual approach:

- Approval processes are driven by economics
- Industrial interests trump everything
- Frontier mentality
- Frontier mentality – no limits to growth
- Economics over environment
- General non-consideration of cumulative effects
- Piecemeal approach to land use activities
- Emphasis on “rights” rather than on “responsibilities”

RE - Regulation and enforcement:

- Used to have wardens living there – now barely a presence. Recreational use need to be policed better
- Quad users need to respect water / grass but are useful to keep trails open for people on horseback
- Need manage all user groups – recreation
- Logging companies seem uncontrolled
- Recognize demand on land will increase – need regulation
- Combination of EDUCATION AND LEGISLATION
- regulation – logging, mining, and oil industry
- Logging disruption – uncontrolled industry
- Tighten up regulation for all industry
- Ways to control and promote protection in the eastern slopes
- Watershed – over allocated- If we don't look at water as the baseline, we're all in trouble

- Give stewards of the land the power to look after it
- Declaring the land for its ecological integrity, eg. Water, recreation, ranching
- Too much subdividing going on, should slow this down
- Low impact recreation
- Lack of enforcement
- Changing regulations
- Challenge of managing/limiting growth
- Need for management plan with teeth for regulation and enforcement
- Need plans, controls, and incentives
- Need to overhaul water legislation and policy
- Manage and enforce biodiversity. Development decisions need to value what is valuable: water, soil, air
- Need a land-use plan and process that is accountable and enforced
- Watershed preservation: Coal bed methane and fracking: both use water for industry
- Recreation = Wreckreation
- Change of direction is needed
- Inadequate, obsolete amount of data, legislative decision making frameworks
- Need to set thresholds Work at right scales: landscape scale with local initiatives
- Lack of capacity to enforce rules
- Need limits
- Best practices not enough
- Lack of ecological benchmarks
- Setting thresholds
- Carrying capacity necessary: Setting limits to growth / use
- Certain times of year are not good for certain types of recreation. Should consider restriction.

SP - Strategic planning (better planning):

- Try to contain development so it doesn't lead to more fragmentation – plan development
- cre lawns!! Water use?
- To have an impact, group needs to work with Calgary Regional Plan: Can't have resistance to Calgary initiative – actually initiated by the MDs.
- Calgary Regional Plan focused on deliberate use of water in the area
- Could encourage people to settle in nodes
- Nodes would conserve water and control of spread of population which will be another million people in 30 years
- Deal with multiuse issues. Suggestion: prioritize use in special areas
- All user groups need to cooperate in building a unified plan – recreation – logging – livestock
- Short term gain? Long term gain?
- Southern Alberta's population supposed to double in 50 years
- Calgary Regional Planning group: Nanton town councillors: Gwen Smith and Bill Szabon

- Everyone should stay involved and stay in plan
- Smaller separate developments as opposed to cluster developments
- The development shouldn't exceed the area
- Importance for proper balance between industry and the landscape
- Proactive vs. Reactive development
- Concern with dev. plan: Millarville without water: Golf Course and 429 homes
- Lacking overall plan
- Ability to make choices and develop management plan with teeth
- Lack of planning
- Creeping from Calgary
- No vision or foresight
- Landscape conversations like this aren't happening where they should happen
- Protagonists: Urban Sprawl, Oil Industry- main threat
- Creeping urban sprawl is a concern
- Concern about Q20: test rules for subdivision
- Development land credits need to be developed and used. This will help agriculture.
- Urban Sprawl
- Maintain proper balance between conservation/business/farm/urban sprawl
- Managed growth
- Healthy balance between development and ecosystem
- Proactive development rather than reactive
- Calgary continues to grow
- ALSA: Alberta Land Stewardship Act
- Protecting watershed – shortages everywhere need to be careful in planning
- Look at the landscape and (maybe) limit the land uses to prevent destruction – we cannot do everything everywhere
- Dominant land use – ideas would support or not take away from the dominant land use. Eg. Declaring the land for its ecological integrity, eg. Water, recreation , ranching
- Have to manage the increase in population - density management and plan where it goes
- Area can be designated open for hay or other – protect land and put development on a small part
- Too much subdividing going on, should slow this down
- Concerned about development of the Foothills – too many people in the area, not sustainable
- Strengthen the tools for planning in the SFCSI
- Energy, land management
- Want less housing subdivision (Millarville)
- How to manage many uses
- Multiple stakeholder groups to manage each area
- Challenge of managing/limiting growth
- Having a plan

- Control Development/human population
- Whole landscape
- Watershed – over allocated- If we don't look at water as the baseline, we're all in trouble
- Declaring the land for its ecological integrity, eg. Water, recreation , ranching
- Have to manage the increase in population - density management and plan where it goes
- Area can be designated open for hay or other – protect land and put development on a small part
- Water management helps to decide where to develop or on less productive land
- Concerned about development of the Foothills – too many people in the area, not sustainable
- The necessity for more planning that actually involves citizens, citizens' groups, municipalities, interest groups – to work together on problems that affect them in their communities. – ie water development – not industry dominating the conversation
- More power to the people to protect our communities and not have all decision making dominated by industry
- How to manage many uses
- Multiple stakeholder groups to manage each area
- Challenge of managing/limiting growth
- Having a plan
- No mechanism for making choices
- Concern about Q20: test rules for subdivision
- Development land credits need to be developed and used. This will help agriculture.
- Maintain proper balance between conservation/business/farm/urban sprawl
- Protecting watershed – shortages everywhere need to be careful in planning
- Dominant land use – ideas would support or not take away from the dominant land use. Eg. Declaring DOMINANT USE AS the land for its ecological integrity, eg. Water, recreation, ranching
- Have to manage the increase in population - density management and plan where it goes
- Area can be designated open for hay or other – protect land and put development on a small part
- Concerned about development of the Foothills – too many people in the area, not sustainable →
- Strengthen the tools for planning in the SFCSI ??
- Energy versus land management
- Ranching and development
- How to manage many uses
- Need for management plan with teeth for regulation and enforcement
- Lack of political leadership and lack of initiative to protect area
- No mechanism for making choices
- ALSA and LUF regional watershed plans SSRP great opportunity for this work to feed into larger regional planning process
- Business sector taking over
- All communities are connected – watersheds know no boundaries
- Recognition that we need to do things differently
- Contradiction between people wanting to move here from city and the infrastructure required for that

- Population constantly worried about subdivision
- Fit in with dominant land use: eg. If water production is the dominant use then maybe oil and gas isn't (and visa versa)
- Urbanization with no vision or foresight
- All land uses have no coordinated effort. Each governing body operated independently.
- Residential and industrial development fragmenting ranch lands
- Need process: coordinating: come up with a solution
- Education: Engaging in planning development that is proactive not reactive
- Centralized living? Centralized cattle?
- Recycling of water
- Umbrella organization for the protection of the watershed
- Water trust: Calgary Regional Partnership –can sell water- take money and reinvest
- Uncontrolled development
- Organize, managed development
- Follow-up
- Secondary use, initial development has unintended consequences. Ie. Recreation
- Concern over the precedence that development opens. Since no longer pristine, once one person
- Can't allow everything everywhere all the time
- Have to make choices
- Long Range Planning
- Need to reaffirm Foothills MDP
- Urgent need to get it right! Impact of our land uses
- Need balanced growth that preserves this area
- Need the right kind of development
- Need long term view
- Challenge: acreages, growing population, city wants more filtered water
- Relationship of land uses to water production
- Manage growth intelligently
- Cap on growth Okotoks affecting High River water management
- Organized planning: we are facing a health crisis
- Need Leadership: need to coordinate our various levels of government to all provide leadership and an "Action Plan."
- Ranch land and farmland needs to be used as ranch and farmland
- Where does sub – division need to stop before we use up all the land?
- There has to be a stop to fragmentation of the land especially selling of land for purposes outside of agriculture
- Minimize our interference in the natural ecosystem
- Umbrella organization for the protection of the watershed
- Cautious Development
- How do we raise a collective vision acceptable to all?
- Have to make choices
- Need ecological benchmarks
- Not taking into account cumulative effects
- Lack of a vision for the future

- Uncontrolled development
- Population growth
- Need watershed thinking linked to dominant use
- No thresholds have been established
- 4 year term of government means short –term planning horizon
- Lack of ecological benchmarks
- Setting thresholds
- Need government, conservation groups, MDs to protect this area → Longview south to US border
- Carrying capacity necessary: Setting limits to growth / use
- Lack of direction from local government to deal with land use issues
- Land use planning must be rationale and defensible
- Type of development allowed in sensitive areas (Micrex Magnetite mining)
- Ineffective provincial government in implementing / listening to community views; always economics over environment
- Piecemeal approach to land use activities

LA - Landscape aesthetics:

- Maintaining natural beauty
- Power line through undisturbed area of concern
- Scenery beauty
- Want to preserve beauty of area. Don't want to see the big power line come through
- Beauty – scenic quality
- Beauty – scenic quality
- Scenery
- Scenery
- Need designated viewsapes
- Beauty (value)
- Stunningly beautiful landscape that needs to be looked after
- Scenery
- Tranquility → Changed Code from SV: social values
- Isolation (value)
- Freedom (value)
- Sense of timelessness

TW - Traditional ways:

- Need hunter for grass – too many deer and elk affects grazing
- More wildlife in this area than the 1960s, also closer to town – moose, elk
- Difficult to get tags to hunt
- Disconnected with city users of land
- Frustration with short hunting seasons
- Is hunting considered a useful land management tool (especially by hunters in Calgary)? Or is it more of a social event?
- More clear cutting now

- Cattle producers know the carrying capacity of land. Drought or other factors change this
- Scenic value – recreation within reason – logging disruptions
- Hang on to heritage: keep strong values
- Maintain our LOVE OF THE LAND AND LOVE OF THE LIFESTYLE
- LOVE OF OUR VIEWSHED especially down Cowboy Trail
- Preservation of Agricultural land
- Protection of healthy ag. Land
- Wide Open Spaces: visually remarkable proof of ecological history
- The more than superficial natural beauty of the landscape
- Consideration for heritage / history
 - Decline of ranching and lifestyle
 - Cowboy culture / history –ranching lifestyle
 - Heritage
 - Cows
 - Freedom to run
 - Need to keep ranch families on the land to keep it as ranch/farm land
 - Need to make a living while taking care of landscape.
 - Need to preserve the agricultural area
 - Culture/history/ranching lifestyle
 - Maintain rural communities – stewardship
 - Maintain rural community – stewardship efforts
 - Viable agriculture
 - Human pressures – recreation, industrial, agricultural uses
 - Need to keep ranch families on the land to keep it as ranch/farm land
 - Want to keep this part of the province as it is “a very special place.” Once it is lost it will never come back
 - Once it is gone or changed people will look back and realize what a big mistake they have let happen and it will be too late.
 - Agricultural activities: feedlots / fertilizers/ overgrazing
 - Ranches unbroken once a societal asset
 - Cowboy culture / history –ranching lifestyle
 - Generational shift of ranchers

EL & EV - Economic livelihood and economic viability:

- People that live in the area have a proprietary use – others haven’t paid but are using it – imposing on those with a proprietary interest.Difference should be paid to those who are losing ability to use and protect the land (landowners)
- More clear cutting now
- Need economic drivers
- Fragmentation of ranch land...Selling off acreages to keep ranching
- THREATS: Industrial/residential fragmentation

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- Need to reward industry / individuals for maintaining ecological goods and services need to place an economic value on these
- Need to reward industry / individuals for maintaining ecological goods and services need to place an economic value on these
 - Agricultural viability concerns
 - Agricultural production
 - Agricultural productivity
 - Compensation for farmers using the land for agricultural purposes
 - AGRO credits
 - Compensation for land stewardship
 - Maintain the water quality and natural grassland quality for the production of crops and cattle
 - Monies necessary for protection
 - Stewards will pass the land on.
 - Preservation of Agricultural land
 - Healthy livestock industry: we must continue to love AB Beef
 - Protection of healthy ag. Land
 - Compensation to ensure that ag. land is protected
 - Decline of ranching and lifestyle
 - Cowboy culture / history –ranching lifestyle
 - Heritage
 - Cows
 - Freedom to run
 - Need to keep ranch families on the land to keep it as ranch/farm land
 - Need to make a living while taking care of landscape.
 - Need to preserve the agricultural area
 - Culture/history/ranching lifestyle
 - Maintain rural communities – stewardship
 - Maintain rural community – stewardship efforts
 - Viable agriculture
 - Human pressures – recreation, industrial, agricultural uses
 - Agriculture needs economic security
 - Needs to be security in ownership of land
 - Limit to land that can provide food but agricultural land is threatened by fragmentation
 - Keeping farms and ranches viable
 - Safety and protecting the land
 - Protecting the people who live here
 - Need to keep ranch families on the land to keep it as ranch/farm land
 - Cows
 - Want to keep this part of the province as it is “a very special place.” Once it is lost it will never come back
 - Once it is gone or changed people will look back and realize what a big mistake they have let happen and it will be too late.
 - Agricultural activities: feedlots / fertilizers/ overgrazing
 - Maintaining land owners on the land that are stewards of the land; responsible to maintain water etc.
 - Don’t disrupt generational transfer of ranch land so it continues to operate as a ranch

- Need to maintain uses that allow for sustainability of landscape
- If ranches can't remain viable; risk to ecological integrity

ED – Economic development (impacts): Corporate Social Responsibility

- More clear cutting now
- Too much leeway for logging companies
- Logging destroying roads used by ranchers
- Calgary has most of the water licence – Bow/Elbow
- Okotoks almost out of water
- THREATS: Industrial/residential fragmentation
- Need to reward industry / individuals for maintaining ecological goods and services □ need to place an economic value on these
- Recognize demand on land will increase – need regulation
- Concern re fragmentation from too many people, over use, disrespect of environment
- Watershed development
- Tremendous pressure from large population and ignorant public
- Oil and gas less damage than public / recreational use
- Logging disruption – uncontrolled industry
- Preservation of fescue and riparian area threatened by oil and gas and increased population
- Opposition amongst backpackers to sour gas development due to impact on landscape
- Logging – reclamation used to be better
- Logging affecting snow drifts
- Need for oil companies to be more responsible
- Protagonists: Urban Sprawl, Oil Industry- main threat
- Industry – energy in particular but also logging affects the landscape
- Industry will be an issue
- Transparency of ERCB: how do we cultivate this cultural value?
- Concern re logging trucks
- Powerful interests of developers
- Underlying economic model = “growth economy”. How do we change business as usual? Status quo no longer any good.
- Land fragmentation from oil and gas, residential development, roads and power lines, forestry. All these affect water quality / quantity
- Business sector taking over
- “Business as Usual” concerning
- Economic model based on growth concerning
- Oil and gas impact on environment, health, people, and ranching operations
- Oil and gas has positive impacts from resource available. How can positive and negative coexist? What is the best use?
- Fit in with dominant land use: eg. If water production is the dominant use then maybe oil and gas isn't (and visa versa)
- No understanding of ramifications to watershed at all by industry
- Lack of leadership
- Logging trucks of concern

- Lack of enforcement
- Future loss of traditional range land due to oil and gas activity
- Conflict between agriculture and industry
- Sustainable energy development and diverse energy development. This would be less destructive to the environment and doesn't destroy water (overuse and poisoning.)
- No understanding of ramifications to the watershed by some industries in the area. Users need to have an understanding of the watershed.
- Everyone wants a piece of the land
- Pressure to develop
- Industrial footprint – oil / gas, power lines, windmills
- Recreation impacts especially of mechanized forms
- Timber harvest – relation to water quality and quantity
- Proposed pipeline, transmission lines, mine, windmills without larger consideration of cumulative effects
- Economic forces
- Need to assess environmental, social and economic implication of developments
- Increased industrial impact
- Logging / industrial activity affects watershed
- Concern re industrial footprint, recreational impacts → human pressures
- Type of development allowed in sensitive areas (Micrex Magnetite mining)
- No traffic
- Be careful that industrial incursions don't drive young people out
- Persistent efforts by industry to compromise our home and values
- Don't want to "Love" landscape to death so that we damage ourselves socially and economically.
- Challenge: acreages, growing population, city wants more filtered water
- Concern over oil and gas and industrial development
- Secondary use, initial development has unintended consequences. Ie. Recreation
- Urgent need to get it right! Impact of our land uses
- Relationship of land uses to water production
- Concern re the imperative that growth is good
- Concern re how we act in our own self interest at the cost of the common good
- Private property view" needs to change
- Water contamination
- Cap on growth Okotoks affecting High River water management
- No development without water
- Rapid growth of population in our already stressed watershed is dangerous
- There has to be a stop to fragmentation of the land especially selling of land for purposes outside of agriculture
- So many companies drilling so many wells
- Concern over number of agricultural parcels compared to number of country residential parcels
- Land not used for planting and agriculture
- Sacrificing tourism in favour of industrialization
- Minimize our interference in the natural ecosystem
- Water Quality: Agricultural Chemicals, Oil and gas
- Landscape disturbances concerning
- Concern when there is drilling in the watershed: smell within area

RM – Resource management:

- Over abundant herds of elk need to be addressed wrecking fences. Elk don't wait around for hunters
- Sustainability, appropriate use, measured
- Cumulative impacts in context of concern and challenge
- Cap on growth Okotoks affecting High River water management
- Why ATV and recreational use is free reign?
- Conservation of Alberta's natural resources – all of them – not just oil and gas
- Water issues involving damming
- Burning as a management tool increasing native grasslands
- Need hunter for grass – too many deer and elk affects grazing
- More wildlife in this area than the 1960s, also closer to town – moose, elk
- Quads can be a tool – do damage when used in recreation
- Combination of EDUCATION AND LEGISLATION
- Difficult to get tags to hunt
- Is hunting considered a useful land management tool (especially by hunters in Calgary)? Or is it more of a social event?
- Frustration with short hunting seasons
- Has to be threat of repercussions □ TOUGH LEGISLATION
- Can't pretend recreational users will go away. Calgary population will only increase
- How do we keep it functioning? (Landscape ?)
- 40 acre lawns!! Water use?
- Need manage all user groups – recreation
- Wildlife – problem numbers
- Burning as a management tool increasing native grasslands
- Cows and Fish know how to measure outcomes
- We manage the headwaters to our advantage

PE - Public education:

- Education re potential damage to land guys on bikes / quads – not realizing the impact they're having
- Many careful urban users – backpackers.....ask proprietary right, don't trespass
- AWARENESS RE IMPORTANCE OF FESCUE GRASSLAND: need personal connection; make it about WATER
- City needs to understand impact on their water that is filtered in grassland
- Combination of EDUCATION AND LEGISLATION
- Need to see tie between ecological goods and services and healthy, viable communities
- Education –regulations on recreation users
- Ways to control and promote protection in the eastern slopes

- Watershed – over allocated- If we don't look at water as the baseline, we're all in trouble
- Give stewards of the land the power to look after it
- Declaring the land for its ecological integrity, eg. Water, recreation, ranching
- Too much subdividing going on, should slow this down
- Low impact recreation
- Lack of enforcement
- Changing regulations
- Challenge of managing/limiting growth
- Need for management plan with teeth for regulation and enforcement
- Need plans, controls, and incentives
- Need to overhaul water legislation and policy
- Manage and enforce biodiversity. Development decisions need to value what is valuable: water, soil, air
- Need a land-use plan and process that is accountable and enforced
- Watershed preservation: Coal bed methane and fracking: both use water for industry
- Recreation = Wreckreation
- Education
- Awareness
- Comprehensive understanding of stewardship
- School curriculum
- Need to educate children
- Ecological illiteracy
- Need better education
- Need to sell importance of watershed to people downstream – Lethbridge and beyond
- Best practices are not enough
- School curriculum
- Grass does not grow back. Need to educate all of the public
- Education, awareness, technical support, financial support
- Technical support
- No appreciation of the landscape

Environmental disconnect:

- Dissociation / lack of connection with land
- Disassociation from the land (continues to move further toward increased disassociation)

SS - Shared stewardship:

- Recognition that rural and urban populations should be in solidarity re CRIMES against the landscape
- Many careful urban users – backpackers.....ask proprietary right, don't trespass
- Culture that knows how to steward it.
- Groups working on same thing together ---aware of each other?
- Everyone should stay involved and stay in plan
- Want to share area with people who aren't from here.

- Collective value
- Water a shared responsibility
- Issue with different groups being able to compromise. Need to consider the “collective good.”
- Respect for the land
- Fragmenting: need to stop. Need to get all groups to work together to have stronger voice

GEI & ES– Green economic incentives and economic subsidies:

- People that live in the area have a proprietary use – others haven’t paid but are using it – imposing on those with a proprietary interest.Difference should be paid to those who are losing ability to use and protect the land (landowners)
- More clear cutting now
- Need economic drivers
- Fragmentation of ranch land...Selling off acreages to keep ranching
- THREATS: Industrial/residential fragmentation
- THREATS: Industrial/residential fragmentation
- Need to reward industry / individuals for maintaining ecological goods and services need to place an economic value on these
- Need to reward industry / individuals for maintaining ecological goods and services need to place an economic value on these
- Ecological Goods and Services-making it economically viable
- The better environmental stewards need to have a value placed on what they are doing
- Solution = economic incentives eg. Development credits
- No incentive to maintain rough fescue
- Value on ecological goods and services needed
- There is \$\$ value in seeing and experiencing a productive landscape
- Need to make it profitable (conservation?)
- Compensation should be available to maintain and enhance ecosystems
- Value wildlife but pay for damages from wildlife (wolf kills etc.)
- Reclamation processes need conservation funding
- Development land credits need to be developed and used. This will help agriculture
- ALSA – act - put to use in protecting the headwaters, declared in a conservation directive and compensate the land owners who are stewards of the land
- Use the tools to pay the landowners for their contributions of stewarding the land
- Alternative energy resource development
- Concerned about the devaluation of agriculture
- Not adequate income for ranching
- Want to see land preserved for raising horses
- Still want to obtain economic benefit from land
- No value on ecological goods and services
- Need plans, controls, and incentives
- Agriculture being pushed out
- Lack of policy to incent alternative energy options
- We’ve devalued agriculture This leads to fragmentation

- Sustainable ranching □ looks after the soil, grass
- Economic incentive to ranchlands
- Sustainable energy development and diverse energy development. This would be less destructive to the environment and doesn't destroy water (overuse and poisoning.)
- Incentives / financial support
- Agricultural viability concerns
- Agricultural production
- Agricultural productivity
- Compensation for farmers using the land for agricultural purposes
- AGRO credits
- Compensation for land stewardship
- Maintain the water quality and natural grassland quality for the production of crops and cattle
- Monies necessary for protection
- Stewards will pass the land on.
- Preservation of Agricultural land
- Healthy livestock industry: we must continue to love AB Beef
- Protection of healthy ag. Land
- Compensation to ensure that ag. land is protected

RV & RI – Recreational values and recreational impacts:

- Closing areas down for use only increases concentration of use (Willow Creek)
- Education re potential damage to land guys on bikes / quads – not realizing the impact they're having
- Have closed down areas that were destroyed by camping (to recreational use) to restore to a grassy area – nonsensical.....will drive use to more pristine areas
- Difficult to ride through deadfall (horseback)
- Used to have wardens living there – now barely a presence. Recreational use need to be policed better
- Quads can be a tool – do damage when used in recreation
- Can't pretend recreational users will go away. Calgary population will only increase →
- Need manage all user groups – recreation
- Education –regulations on recreation users
- Value of tourism
- Recreational damage
- Recreational damage
- Lots of skiing and snowboarding
- What is considered acceptable recreation?
- Clean water to swim in Code changed from Environmental values
- Increased recreational use
- Recreational activities affect ws
- Ponds to skate on → Code changed from ENV: environmental values
- People like to recreate as long as it's responsible

- Freedom / play space
- Cowley glider strip is important to us. World renowned.
- Respect when you recreate. Ask for access.
- Concern with ATVs destroying landscape, leaving garbage
- Certain times of year are not good for certain types of recreation. Should consider restriction.

PS and PH– Public safety and public health

- Safety
- Traffic (issue)
- Traffic (issue)
- “People” community health
- Alberta has very tough laws on waste water
- Education of landowners
- Need to persuade people to use appropriate grass species for water conservation; drought tolerant varieties
- Misconception re oil and gas; cattle uses most water
- Organized planning: we are facing a health crisis
- We need to educate and create an emotional connection to our biodiversity
- Wide spread information and education needed
- Communication about activities in the watershed is poor and needs improvement
- How do you develop and emotional impact relationship to the landscape? Outsiders taking it for granted
- Beef and cattle health and therefore food chain health dependant on natural grassland
- Foodshed
- Education of all players: residential, oil and gas, ranch/farm
- Education of future stake holders: youth, urban, rural
-

Land stewardship: (Carole added category)

- Accept some intrusion into private land
- Accept some restriction of private land
- Prevent breaking up of quarters (160acres)
- Don’t want to “Love” landscape to death so that we damage ourselves socially and economically.

Societal change: (Carole added category)

- Reluctance to change
- Restrain: lowered expectations at all societal levels
- Restraint, lowered expectations at all societal levels
- Critique new ideas

Conflicting Interests and Differing Values : (JN added category)

- Recreational users may feel discriminated against because of those who don't use respect or treat the land with respect
- Different value systems
- Wildlife- nature has a balance and we are in the middle of it- not everyone understands
- Landscape values are outdated
- Property rights are very important
- Business as usual" growth economics needs to be re-evaluated
- We need to re-evaluate GDP as the measure of economic prosperity
- Concerned about the devaluation of agriculture
- Recreation = Wreckreation
- Energy, land management
- Ranching and development
- Underlying economic model = "growth economy". How do we change business as usual? Status quo no longer any good.
- How to manage many uses
- Conflict between cattle grazing and motorized recreation (eg. Mclean Creek)
- Grazing allotment used for recreation
- Business sector taking over
- Fit in with dominant land use: eg. If water production is the dominant use then maybe oil and gas isn't (and visa versa)
- All land uses have no coordinated effort. Each governing body operated independently.
- Conflict between agriculture and industry
- Utilize "The Natural Step" back casting process because we believe there are inconsistent / conflicting initiatives / plans / policies
- Property rights are very important
- Challenge: acreages, growing population, city wants more filtered water
- Secondary use, initial development has unintended consequences. Ie. Recreation
- Have to make choices
- Private property view" needs to change
- Out of control use of land for personal "utopian" acreages
- The more than superficial natural beauty of the landscape
- Water Quality: Agricultural Chemicals, Oil and gas
- Barriers: Extreme individuality (boot strap mentality) and lack of ability to consult in a humble way
- Stewards of the land: we do not have a legal RIGHT to use the land as we see fit.
- Oil and gas less damage than public / recreational use
- Quad users need to respect water / grass but are useful to keep trails open for people on horseback
- Sacrifices are necessary
- The more populated areas have different concerns than big open areas
- Water quality – irrigation

