



**December 5 2016**

**AOHVA – Linear Footprint Management Plan  
Clarification Questions  
GoA Meeting June 29, 2016**

## **Overview**

On June 29, 2016 representatives from AOHVA met with representatives from EAP. A series of questions were forwarded by AOHVA for response by the Planning Team. In reviewing the responses there were several that are ambiguous and require further clarification.

A copy of the original questions and responses are attached as background information.

The original questions requiring clarification are highlighted in red; the Planning team responses are in blue.

### **3.1 Linear Footprint Management Plan – Questions**

On April 22, 2015 AOHVA representatives met with Mr. Rob Simieritsch and other representatives from the EAP. AOHVA expressed concerns that allowable linear footprint keeps getting ratcheted down and the OHV users feel this is designed to shut out recreation in general; OHV specifically. AOHVA asked the following:

- **Question:** *Is there threshold designated for linear footprint?*
- **Response:** *Not yet, the Biodiversity Management Framework will be informing the footprint plan.*

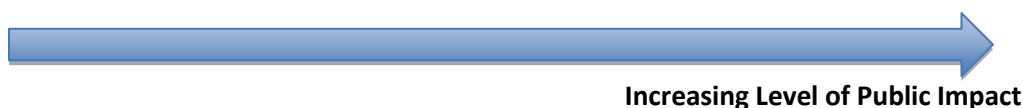
At the conclusion of this meeting the AOHVA representatives believed an open, transparent and collaborative process had been initiated. During the subsequent April 21, 2016 Managing Linear Footprint workshop for the Porcupine Hills indicated that this may not necessarily be the case.

The AOHVA supports and encourages an open, transparent and collaborative consultation process to develop the linear footprint and biodiversity management framework.

There are references to a collaborative approach through several planning documents, is this truly the public participation process being utilized? The following outlines Public Participation Processes identified by the International Association of Public Participation.

AOHVA supports a collaborative approach, however it appears that the public participation processes being employed are primarily at the Involve and Consult stages.

## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
<b>Public Participation Goal</b>	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspiration are consistently understood and concerned.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public
<b>Promise to the Public</b>	We will keep you informed.	<b>We will keep you informed</b> , listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	<b>We will work with you to ensure your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed</b> and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and decisions to the maximum extent possible	We will implement what you decide
<b>Example Techniques</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fact sheets</li> <li>• Web sites</li> <li>• Open House</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public comment</li> <li>• Focus groups</li> <li>• Surveys</li> <li>• Public Meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops</li> <li>• Deliberative Polling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizen Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Consensus building</li> <li>• Participatory decision-making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizen juries</li> <li>• Ballots</li> <li>• Delegated decision</li> </ul>

At the June 29, 2016 meeting the following two questions were asked:

**Question 8:** AOHVA left the April 22, 2015 meeting with the impression that the linear footprint would be developed at the conclusion of the Biodiversity Management Framework (BMF). This document is in draft format, how can a conclusion be determined?

**Response 8:** The teams working on the two projects are in close contact. The LFMP will not be finalized until the BMF is completed.

**Question 9:** It would appear that this disturbance limit was identified as early as 2007 when the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan was finalized. Why was it not presented or shared with stakeholders during SRP consultation process including the Biodiversity Management Framework Process? The studies referenced in the Linear Footprint Management Plan discuss road densities – Interstate, Primary, Secondary and Rural Roads impacts.

**Response 9:** The BMF is focused on regional indicators and landscapes that sustain multiple species. More references were provided during the June 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### QUESTIONS 8 AND 9 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:

With respect to Response 8 – 9, At the October 5, 2016 meeting EAP re-iterated again that the threshold is 0.6 km /km squared.

- If the BMF is not approved why is this number consistently on the front burner?
- Have the BMF numbers been pre-determined and by whom?

**Question 10:** The AOHVA presumes that the expert opinion is based on scientific approaches, however does the scientific evidence support the conclusions and presumptions?

**Response 10:** Yes, for multiple species.

#### QUESTION 10 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:

- How can AOHVA obtain a copy of these reports and the scientific evidence that has been developed?

**Question 11:** Where is the scientific evidence and peer supported documents that support an overall disturbance limit of 0.6 sq. km for the Alberta landscape?

**Response 11:** See the references provided. 0.6 is a surrogate indicator that covers multiple species.

### **QUESTION 11 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:**

The references provided by GoA were reviewed by AOHVA as were several other documents obtained through research.

The origin of the 0.6 km/km squared is a US model from 1985 based on motorized access – Interstates, secondary highways and hard surfaced roads - and impact on wildlife.

- Where is the evidence that the 0.6 km/km squared is the appropriate surrogate number?

**Question 12:** If there has been no significant adverse impact on the Grizzly bear population, why a focus on 0.6 km and 1.2 km?

**Response 12:** Protects multiple species, not just grizzly

### **QUESTION 12 RESPONSE REQUIRES AEP CLARIFICATION:**

- Where and what are the conclusions and assumptions? The references do not indicate the science behind the numbers.
- Are they based on Alberta/Canadian scientific evidence or American scientific evidence?
- Who are the peers that are acknowledged?

The US based 0.6 km/ km squared is based on motorized access that is paved or hard surface such as Interstate Highways, Secondary roads and Country roads and based on impact on threats to wildlife. In addition the US 0.6 model is not based on linear distance but on width from the centre of the road in both directions. It looks at the impacts of noise, road kill, winter salt on highways and impact on vegetation as well as noise levels.

- Noise level is a very broad term. Who has determined acceptable noise levels and specific impacts? What processes were used?

**In the June 1, 2016 Alberta Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (Pg 45)**

It is stated that “Open roads are defined as access that is reasonably drivable with on-high-way vehicles (paved or graveled), are much easier to define and have been clearly associated with increased grizzly bear mortality. As such in this recovery plan the density thresholds are for open roads.

However, when more areas have designations that restrict OHV use to designated trails, there will be the opportunity to assess the contribution of these trails to grizzly bear mortality and if necessary, develop OHV trail density thresholds.”

**Question 13:** Does the new definition of Open Roads apply through all regional and sub region plans such as the Biodiversity Management Framework, Linear Footprint Management Plans and others?

**Response 13:** Definitions are being finalized for use in plans across the province. In the LFMP, we are considering all motorized routes, including OHV and single-track trails. Research has been directed at wildlife mortality; we are also considering wildlife/cattle disturbance and noise (which also impacts human enjoyment).

**QUESTION 13 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:**

- Is the intent to have consistent definitions through all GoA land use planning documents?
- If so, how will this be achieved with three different processes taking place with three different mandates and three different planning teams?

**Question 14:** With respect to the term “if necessary” who will decide it is necessary and what level will there be stakeholder involvement?

**Response 14:** GOA will decide in consultation with stakeholders and First Nations

**QUESTION 14 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:**

- Who are the stakeholders being referenced?
- Does this include consultation with all stakeholders?

The current consultation process gives great weight to environmental groups such as the Oldman Watershed, rather than recreation user groups?

**Question 15:** If the origin of 0.6 km is based on impacts of US open road density – interstates, primary roads, secondary roads and rural roads; how have OHV trails that are neither paved, 30 metres wide or linear have been included in this threshold?

**Response 15:** 0.6 km protects multiple species, not just grizzly; In the LFMP, we are considering all motorized routes, including OHV and single track trails. Research has been directed at mortality; we are also considering wildlife/cattle disturbance and noise (which also impacts human enjoyment).

### QUESTION 15 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:

The current motorized access footprint within the Porcupine Hills is stated to be 2.4 km/ km squared. This is based on all forms of motorized access – roads, lane ways and industry access within the region.

- How will the objective of 0.6 km/ km squared be achieved without a drastic reduction of motorized access?
- How are recreation needs of users going to be addressed if there is less access?
- Is there a realistic target for a recreation area?
- What is an acceptable scale when there could be areas of under 0.6?
- What's the policy behind the 0.6?

**Question 16:** How does this road density apply to the backcountry of Alberta with the release of the new Alberta Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan?

**Response 16:** 0.6 km protects multiple species, not just grizzly; In the LFMP, we are considering all motorized routes, including OHV and single track trails. Research has been directed at mortality; we are also considering wildlife/cattle disturbance and noise (which also impacts human enjoyment).

**Question 17:** Have any grizzly bears been killed as a result of a collision with an OHV? If not, why use the same linear density for OHV trails as roads?

**Response 17:** 0.6 km protects multiple species, not just grizzly; In the LFMP, we are considering all motorized routes, including OHV and single track trails. Research has been directed at mortality; we are also considering wildlife/cattle disturbance and noise (which also impacts human enjoyment).

**QUESTIONS 16 -17 RESPONSES REQUIRE EAP CLARIFICATION:**

The response for Questions 16 – 17 appear to be from a government speech or Ministerial briefing and avoid the questions that were asked. AOHVA requests a response that is not scripted and clearly answers the question.

As indicated previously, the issue around noise levels needs to be supported by evidence rather than a blanket statement.

**Question 18:** How will the linear footprint density be achieved through the configuration of management zones and a strategic approach?

**Response 18:** The Footprint Plan will provide the guidance for future development using zones and management direction for those zones. Users will have to collaborate to ensure that their activities meet the plan objectives. A business process will be developed prior to plan implementation.

**QUESTION 18 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:**

It appears that the objective within the Porcupine Hills is to achieve 0.6/ km squared for a landscape footprint.

- How is this to be achieved? It would appear that the intent is to reduce motorized access thus closing areas. If this is the case what motorized access areas are being considered for closing?
- Will the Landscape Footprint for this region become the template not only through the SSRP but all Regional Plans?
- How does the GoA propose to be involved in this collaboration? The GoA needs to lead by example rather than telling groups they need work things out on their own.



**Question 19:** How is this achieved, as it appears that linear disturbances have already been set without consultation with stakeholders?

**Response 19:** We are still in the consultation process. Another workshop is planned for October, to be followed by small meetings with recreational groups to discuss needs and opportunities.

**QUESTION 19 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:**

The consultation process to date has been on the first two levels of the IAP2 model (Pg.2) Informing and consulting, fairly low level of involvement. Feedback is sought but there is been minimal evidence that it finds its way into planning documents.

**Question 20:** What factors or disturbances will determine the linear footprint density?

**Response 20:** The LFMP will not be finalized until the BMF is completed. The BMF is focused on regional indicators and landscapes that sustain multiple species. Research has been directed at wildlife mortality; we are also considering wildlife/cattle disturbance and noise (which also impacts human enjoyment).

**QUESTION 20 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:**

With respect to Questions 20, during the October 5, 2016 meeting EAP re-iterated again that the threshold is 0.6 km/ km squared.

- If the BMF is not approved, why is this number consistently on the front burner?
- Have the BMF numbers been pre-determined?

Recreation planning is being implemented in the area again with 0.6 as the basis. It appears that a silo planning process is being undertaken with the only common factor of 0.6. As stated previously it appears that this number was pre-determined 18-24 months ago.

**Question 25:** Which factors are most important to the GoA to insure that the recreational objectives are going to be achieved in a meaningful and sustainable way?

**Response 25:**

- The objectives within the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan guide the planning and implementation of recreation management in the SSR.
  - Headwater protection, reduction of wildfire risk, biodiversity conservation and integrated management will be the continued priorities
- We will be using the 5 Es of recreation management to enable outdoor recreation – Engineers, Education, Enforcement, Evaluation and Experience
  - The planning, building and maintaining of recreational trails (the engineering) will promote “the right activities in the right places” (SSRP pg. 94) and support those larger outcomes described in the SSRP
  - Education and enforcement will assist in creating the behavioral change necessary to ensure sustainable use and build a stewardship ethic in all users of the public land base.
  - Consistent Evaluation will allow the plans and implementation actions to be adjusted to meet outcomes and adapt to changing land uses, including new recreation trends

**The implications of the Linear Footprint Management Plan**

- Public lands will not be closed to the Public, we are moving to a system of designated trails for motorized users:
- Enhanced practices to manage for specific values.
- New road/trail development will be subject to disturbance limits.

**QUESTION 25 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:**

From AOHVA perspective, Public Lands may not necessarily be closed but it would appear limits are being developed to restrict access in an incremental way.

AOHVA has been involved in Education and Enforcement for many years through their clubs and school programs.

- As indicated in AOHVA's previous submission that there may be scientific research but what is the scientific evidence?
- Reference is made to the 5 E's. Whose experience will be sought to enable outdoor recreation, through proper recreation management practices?
- As well, how are highway road densities equated to OHV trails?
- At what level will the users be involved in the planning, building and maintaining of trails?

The majority of scientific based reports have been focused on impacts of roads i.e. interstate, primary, secondary and rural roads on wildlife.

The rationale statement highlights this interpretation such as wildlife mortality – hunting/poaching is enforcement issue not a linear density disturbance.

It also appears that the concept of stewardship has been misunderstood and potentially declining over the past several years. What is the GoA definition of Stewardship?

**Question 26:** We need to move from positions of us versus them and achieve "We Together" to address issues and solutions. How can we best achieve this? Who should be taking the lead?

**Response 26:** Agree; we have an ED4REC committee that is looking at partnerships. We also want to have meetings this fall with various recreational users to better understand their needs.

**QUESTION 26 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:**

- Who are the regional recreation groups referred to in the response?
- When will user groups be included in the consultation/partnership process?
- Will the ED4REC committee take on responsibility for trail construction and maintenance?
- Will reports from the ED4REC Committee be distributed for review?
- Will stakeholders have an opportunity to attend a meeting?
- Will stakeholders in particular AOHVA have an opportunity to make presentations in an open and transparent process?

## 4.0 Activity Risk Management Matrix

**Question 27:** It appears that the point of the Activity Risk Matrix is to reduce OHV activity within the Porcupine Hills/ Livingstone Region. Who built the risk matrix? What was it based on?

**Response 27:** GOA built the first draft using expert opinion and BMPs. It is still draft and we welcome ideas and suggestions.

### QUESTION 27 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:

- Has the Activity Risk Management Matrix been used in other jurisdictions?
- Reference again is made to expert opinion, who are the experts and what reference material have they developed?

**Question 28:** What risks were used in building this matrix?

**Response 28:** Risks to priority values under SSRP: headwaters protection, biodiversity, wildfire risk, and integrated management

### QUESTION 28 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:

- The Matrix is based on risk to values, what is the ratio/ formula to determine the risks in relation to the values?

**Question 29:** The reference to Watershed and Hydrology and 100 m buffers is not included in the revised Matrix (May 26, 2016). Was this an accidental omission or is it to be addressed in Biodiversity Management Framework or Recreation Management Plan?

**Response 29:** The 100 meter buffer is for assessment purposes only.

### QUESTION 29 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:

With respect to Responses 27 – 29 the matrix references BMP factors in developing the Matrix. The BMP is a work in progress and not approved.

- If this is the case, how can the Matrix be developed and considered accurate?

## 5.1 Oldman River Watershed Indicator Project

The following is from Ouren (2007) document referenced in the Indicators Project. All of the following aspects are related to the Biodiversity Management Framework and Marxan, but science is incomplete as noted by Ouren.

- **4.4.1 Potential Indicators of OHV Effects on Wildlife and Habitats: Native, Threatened, and Endangered Species:** To date, *there have been few simultaneous studies* of OHV use and wildlife responses to OHV activities, but such studies could provide more precise assessments of the relationship between patterns of OHV activity and wildlife responses, particularly behavioral responses to varying traffic patterns, intensity, and total area affected.
- **4.4.2 Potential Indicators of OHV Effects on Water Quality:** The literature on OHV impacts *offered little information specific to evaluating or monitoring OHV effects on water or air quality.*
- **4.4.3 Monitoring and Research Needs:** Remaining questions about effects of OHV's on ecosystems and people are numerous and varied. *Information regarding management approaches for sustaining or restoring resources— from the level of single OHV routes to entire landscapes—to pre-disturbance conditions while still providing for quality OHV experiences is especially sparse.*
- **4.4.4 Research Regarding Effects of OHV's on Animal Populations:** Many prior studies of OHV impacts on wildlife have focused on indirect indicators of animal population health, such as distribution and behaviour, at the expense of more direct indicators, such as population trend/size, gender and age ratios, and productivity. In part, this is because such data can be significantly more difficult and expensive to collect than behavioral and distribution data. Studies that address possible changes in plant and animal genetics in ecosystems fragmented by OHV roads and trails also are needed.

**Question 30:** What studies or research has the GoA completed to close the scientific gaps on the information that has been used by Oldman Watershed and others to provide recommendations to the SSRP?

**Response 30:** We are consulting experts both within and outside the GOA that are actively involved in research, e.g., multiple recognized wildlife and watershed specialists.

**QUESTION 30 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:**

- Again, who are the experts? Can a list of experts be provided to stakeholders in addition to reference material they have published?

**Question 31:** As indicated all decisions are to be based on scientific evidence therefore what standards or protocols have been developed by GoA to determine the validity of the science being used?

**Response 31:** We use peer-reviewed literature in our citations

**QUESTION 31 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:**

The term peer-review is used throughout several documents.

- Who are the experts that are referenced – from –in-province or out?
- Whose peers are these?
- What is the literature being reviewed? The AOHVA has reviewed the literature referenced but could not find any indication it is peer reviewed.

## 7.0 Regional Recreation Management Plan

The AOHVA understands that the Recreation Management plan is a key document to inform the recreation on public lands.

**Note:** The Planning Branch is no longer creating a Regional Recreation Management Plan, at least in the short term. Work will be divided into sub-regional planning as the priority, with a regional trails plan developed at a later date, as time and resources allow.

**Question 34:** Why would the Regional Management Plan (RMP) start a process of identifying recreational trails without the completion of a Biodiversity Management Footprint (BMF)?

**Response 34:**

- A key step in designating a trail network that meets both ecological outcomes and user expectations is understanding the current land uses
- A strong inventory of existing linear features used for recreation will better inform our planning – using the thresholds and considerations from the BMF and LMFP along with the knowledge of recreationists current use and values, to provide a desirable experience in the right places
  - Utilizing existing trails wherever possible reduces the impact of development and disturbance that building new trails creates
  - An accurate inventory also allows us to prioritize restoration where the BMF/LMFP indicates the need to reduce access.

**Question 36:** There are three processes taking place the Biodiversity Management Framework (BMF), Linear Footprint Management (LFM) and Regional Management Plan (RMP), how is the coordination taking place between the various plans? Is there a GoA team dedicated to this?

**Response 36:**

- There is a coordinated project team that works on Footprint and Recreation Management planning. The plans share a project coordinator to ensure consistent processes and application of input
- BMF staff are also located within the Planning Branch and there is direct consultation between management and professional staff to ensure alignment among the three processes

**QUESTION 36 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:**

There is an Outdoor Recreation Management Planning in the development stage. How will this plan relate to Recreation Planning in the Porcupine Hills Area?

**Question 39:** What is the proposed planning process? The AOHVA has been involved with different Regional Management Plans (RMP) throughout the Province, and their needs to be a very clear documented GoA written process before proceeding or there will is cynism.

**Response 39:**

- A consistent approach is being developed for application in all footprint and recreation management planning across the province, based on best practices learned from other planning efforts

- While there are a number of sub-regional planning efforts with different intents, the Porcupine Hills is being used to pilot a new approach for recreation related sub-regional planning
- A Standards or Guidebook for both Footprint and Recreation Management Planning is currently being developed and will be in draft form in late 2016

**QUESTION 39 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:**

- Who is developing the Standards/Guidebook and at what point will stakeholders be involved?

## 8.0 Proposed Regional Advisory Councils

**Question 48:** What process was used by GoA to learn from the Ghost Stewardship Monitoring Group (GSMG) and can you share the report with us? The AOHVA was a participating member of this committee from inception, and is keenly interested in ensuring that these mistakes are not repeated.

**Response 48:**

- ED4Rec has commissioned a Formal Relationships Task Team that will, in part, develop governance models for recreation related partnerships.
- This Task Team has identified the Ghost Stewardship Monitoring Group as a group to look at. They will be contacting staff engaged in the group, as well as potentially having informal conversations with non-staff members of the group to assess what worked, where the issues were and develop some “lessons learned” that will inform the models being developed.

**QUESTION 48 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:**

- Who are the members and experts of the Formal Relationships Task Team?
- Would it not be beneficial to have membership from stakeholders on this Team or Advisory to the team?

**Question 49:** There were a number of GoA commitments made to the OHV community that were not met in 10 years so why are we to believe that this process is going to be any different?

**Response 49:** AEP has recently confirmed with the Executive Team that we are “in the business” of outdoor recreation management – a commitment internally that has been lacking for many years (since the 1990s)



**QUESTION 49 RESPONSE REQUIRES EAP CLARIFICATION:**

- What is meant by, in the business of outdoor recreation management?

It is AOHVA's understanding, that another government department is developing an Outdoor Recreation Management Plan.

- What impact will this plan have on your business approach?

**Question 50:** What process was used by GoA to learn from the Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council (EBRPC), and can you share the report with us? The AOHVA current director was a co-founder of the Park and participating member of this council from inception, therefore is keenly aware of the shortfalls of this council structure and decision making process.

**Response 50:**

- ED4Rec has commissioned a Formal Relationships Task Team that will, in part, develop governance models for recreation related partnerships.
- This Task Team includes Parks and will look at the Blue Rapids as one of the models to review. We would be happy to discuss your analysis of its governance and processes.

**Question 51:** There were a lot of commitments made to the OHV community 10 years ago by Parks regarding Eagle Point that were not met. Why are we to believe that this process is going to be any different?

**Response 51:**

- We would be interested in hearing what you learned from that process.

**Question 52:** What are the challenges identified by GoA for the Regional Advisory Committees (RAC) that would act as barriers in accomplishing their objectives?

**Response 52:** The ED4REC Partnership Team is identifying these; they would welcome your input.

**Question 53:** How will these RAC committees be established?

**Response 53:** This will be determined at the provincial level by the ED4REC team looking at partnerships. That team would be interested in your thoughts.

**Question 54:** What will be the governance structure and who will decide?

**Response 54:** TBD; we would like your input re: what works best.

**Question 55:** Is there a sunset term or a permanent structure within each Region?

**Response 55:** TBD; we would like your input re: what works best.

**Question 56:** Who will develop the mandate and objectives?

**Response 56:** The ED4REC Partnerships Team will help to develop these provincially.

**Question 57:** What is the level of authority and responsibility for the RAC committee?

**Response 57:** TBD

**Question 58:** How will they be held accountable and by whom?

**Response 58:** TBD; they will be accountable to GOA

**Question 59:** What corrective processes are being contemplated to make any necessary changes to these RAC committees as they become operational?

**Response 59:** TBD; we would like your input re: what works best.

**Question 60:** Will these RAC committees be a temporary or permanent fixture in continued area management?

**Response 60:** TBD; we would like your input re: what works best.

**Question 61:** What are the consequences for "road blocking" behavior or "going outside" the process?

**Response 61:** TBD; we would like your input re: what works best.

**Question 62:** If the RAC committees are to be permanent, how are they going to be funded? Who is going to oversee them to ensure their mandate is being carried out? The AOHVA is very concerned that this could become another form of passive management that will lead to the same results of the past 15 years.

**Response 62:** There is an ED4REC Sustainable Funding Committee looking at options. They would be happy to receive your ideas.

#### **QUESTION 50 - 61 RESPONSES REQUIRE EAP CLARIFICATION:**

The AOHVA has provided numerous documents over the years on partnerships, land use issues, funding models, what has and hasn't worked, funding proposals etc.

AOHVA is prepared to meet in an open and transparent process to discuss mutual learning

- How will these learning's be used in moving ahead?
- What will GoA change to encourage the AOHVA to continue to provide information?
- When will user groups be included in the consultation/partnership process?
- Will the ED4REC committee take on responsibility for trail construction and maintenance? Where will the expertise for trail development come from; from within government or contract outside government?

## 9.0 Conclusion

As stated earlier the AOHVA understands that a Provincial Outdoor Recreation Management Plan is being developed. It is our impression that perhaps this Plan's intent is to further reduce access to public lands by all user groups. This Plan appears to be strictly an in government process, which is a concern to not only our Association but perhaps to other recreation users. The Plan conceivably will be approved and become policy without consultation.

With respect to the 0.6 km/ km squared is based on a US model developed by Thiel in 1985. This concept was further reviewed by Richard T.T. Forman et al: *Ecological Effects of Roads: Towards three summary indices and an overview for North America*.

The review by Forman and Thiel was not based on an approach of looking at total area and dividing by the total area of motorized access as has been undertaken in the Porcupine hills i.e. 10,000 ha divided by 4000 km of motorized access. The US studies are based on Interstates/highways, secondary road and country roads not trail development.

The AOHVA has attended all sessions related to the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan and in particular the Porcupine Hills/ Livingstone area. There has not been any scientific evidence presented on the Land Use Framework Linear Footprint Disturbance that supports the surrogate indicator number of 0.6 km /km squared. One gets the impression that the South Saskatchewan and in particular the Porcupine Hills / Livingstone area is becoming a science experiment that has the potential to be implemented province wide.

The AOHVA was extremely disappointed with the answers to the questions presented on June 29, 2016, considering the amount of resources the Land Use Framework has at their disposal. With all of these resources available; why do we have to keep coming back and asking the same scientific questions?

## AOHVA Meeting with EAP

### Planning Branch & Regional Operations Division – South Saskatchewan

June 29, 2016

Discussion & Question - **Responses are below in blue**

#### 1.1 Land Use Framework

#### 1.2 The Land Use Framework Guiding Principles:

In the development of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plans, Guiding Principles were developed and approved. Two guiding principles that require further clarification are:

- **Collaborative and transparent** – Albertans, land owners, land users and governments will work together.
- **Knowledge based** – Government decisions and choices will be informed by science, evidence and experience including traditional knowledge of aboriginal peoples.

If the process is to be transparent:

**Question 1:** Can submissions made by various organizations, individuals be shared with all participants?

**Response 1:** We are hoping to set up an external SharePoint where these documents can be shared (with full permission from the organizations submitting them).

**Question 2:** Information such as questions are raised at the sessions, why isn't this material shared with participants at the conclusion of workshops?

**Response 2:**

- Detailed notes are kept during workshop sessions by both GOA staff and our contracted facilitators
- What we heard documents are being prepared for all sessions and will be made available on the external SharePoint when it's operational
- Due to the large volume of input received, completion of these documents is taking longer than expected. We intend to have these completed by early fall 2016.

**Knowledge base should be based on current information.**

The science with respect to the Linear Footprint Management Plan is from ten to thirty years old and

based on road (smooth or paved) densities.

## 2.0 South Saskatchewan Regional Plan – Regional Advisory Council

Without a secure land base, attracting investment for tourism and recreation is necessary to diversify the economy. Building upon the existing world-class tourism destinations to reach the region's fullest potential requires development of iconic tourism destinations, such as the Castle, Kananaskis and Badlands areas. These areas currently lack the critical mass of tourism attractions, infrastructure and appropriate management to maintain their nature-based, scenic and recreational attributes.

The regional recreation and tourism landscape values, and issues related to those values, contribute to the economic and community quality of life.

### Objective

4.5.1 To recognize and position the region as a world-class, year-round tourism destination using both public and private lands to meet the demand.

6.4.4.19 - Work with the private, not for profit and public sectors to expand the supply and diversity of the recreation opportunities and tourism products where they are currently lacking.

**Question 3:** How will these objectives be addressed through the Biodiversity Management Framework and Marxan Modeling?

**Response 3:** The BMF and Marxan modelling are meant to address biodiversity values for the Footprint Management Plan. The Recreation Management Plan will address recreation and tourism opportunities.

**Question 4:** How do the social, economic, and cultural values fit in and who decides the trade-offs?

**Response 4:** Effects on economic values (into the future) are being explored using a second model, GeoSim, and through meetings with different industries. The results of the Porcupine Recreation survey will be used in plan development. In addition, Culture is conducting a TLU/TEK assessment with First Nations for the PH-Liv this fall.

**Question 5:** Who decides what tourism products are lacking and how?

**Response 5:**

- AEP will continue to engage with Alberta Culture and Tourism to assess demand for tourism products on Crown lands at all scales
- Modelling has been completed to identify areas of high value for recreation and tourism as

part of the South Saskatchewan Region planning process.

- through Recreation Opportunity Spectrum, Recreation/Tourism Features Inventory, and the Significant Tourism and Recreation Areas Modelling
- Alberta Tourism works with municipalities and stakeholders, including industry, commercial tourism operators and the public to develop tourism plans (Destination Marketing Plans) based on demand from the region, or as identified in the Regional Plans as appropriate

**Question 6:** Will the private sector be allowed to provide recreation opportunities on public land?

Response 6:

- The diversification of the green economy is a high priority for the Province. Outdoor recreation and nature based tourism can play a significant role in this
  - Strategy 3.2 of the AEP 2016-2019 Business Plan highlights this priority: Develop and implement a recreation management strategy for Crown Lands that fosters outdoor recreation planning and management, and nature-based tourism, within a green economy.<sup>1</sup>
- Dispositions will be considered for tourism applications that meet or do not negatively impact the greater objectives outlined in the regional planning, biodiversity management framework, linear footprint management framework etc.

**Question 7:** If so, will long term contracts for service and dispositions be issued for these facilities?

Response 7:

- The current legislation permits a tenure of up to 25 years for dispositions, which may not be sufficient for high investment tourism opportunities
- Review of the available dispositions for recreation and tourism is ongoing (by our Policy colleagues), including review of the Alberta Tourism/Recreation Lease disposition (ATRL), administrative procedures for trails dispositions, Trappers Cabin Standard and Mooring Disturbance Standards.
- Alberta Culture and Tourism, along with AEP, is currently investigating the potential for a new disposition specific to tourism applications
  - Tourism is assessing impacts of increased tenures, how to evaluate levels of impact to the landscape based on proposed activities or operation types (e.g. multi story fixed roof hotel vs. temporary trail riding camps vs. seasonal RV parks etc.) and how to determine disposition length

### **3.1 Linear Footprint Management Plan – Questions**

On the April 22, 2015 meeting representatives from AOHVA met with Mr. Rob Simieritsch and other representatives from the ESRD. At that meeting AOHVA expressed concerns that allowable linear footprint keeps getting ratcheted down and the OHV users feel this is designed to shut out recreation in general; OHV specifically.

At the meeting the AOHVA asked the following:

- **Question:** *Is there threshold designated for linear footprint?*
- **Response:** *Not yet, the Biodiversity Management Framework will be informing the footprint plan.*

At the conclusion of this meeting the AOHVA representatives believed an open dialogue process had been initiated.

The April 21, 2016 Managing Linear Footprint workshop for the Porcupine Hills indicated that this may not necessarily be the case.

The AOHVA supports and encourages an open and transparent consultation process to develop the linear footprint and biodiversity management framework. However, there needs to be a clear definition as to who these stakeholders will be as certain groups have predetermined conclusions.

**Question 8:** AOHVA left the April 22, 2015 meeting with the impression that the linear footprint would be developed at the conclusion of the Biodiversity Management Framework (BMF). This document is in draft format, how can a conclusion be determined?

**Response 8:** *The teams working on the two projects are in close contact. The LFMP will not be finalized until the BMF is completed.*

**Question 9:** It would appear that this disturbance limit was identified as early as 2007 when the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan was finalized. Why was it not presented or shared with stakeholders during SSRP consultation process including the Biodiversity Management Framework Process?

The studies referenced in the Linear Footprint Management Plan discuss road densities –Interstate, Primary, Secondary and Rural Roads impacts.

**Response 9:** *The BMF is focused on regional indicators and landscapes that sustain multiple species. More references were provided during the June 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

**Question 10:** The AOHVA presumes that the expert opinion is based on scientific approaches, however does the scientific evidence support the conclusions and presumptions?

**Response 10** *Yes, for multiple species.*

**Question 11:** Where is the scientific evidence and peer supported documents that support an overall disturbance limit of 0.6 sq. km for the Alberta landscape?

**Response 11:** *See the references provided. 0.6 is a surrogate indicator that covers multiple species*



**Question 12:** If there has been no significant adverse impact on the Grizzly bear population, why a focus on 0.6km and 1.2 km?

**Response 12:** Protects multiple species, not just grizzly

In the June 1, **2016 Alberta Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (Pg45)**

It is stated that “Open roads are defined as access that is reasonably drivable with on-high-way vehicles (paved or graveled), are much easier to define and have been clearly associated with increased grizzly bear mortality. As such in this recovery plan the density thresholds are for open roads.

However, when more areas have designations that restrict OHV use to designated trails, there will be the opportunity to assess the contribution of these trails to grizzly bear mortality and if necessary, develop OHV trail density thresholds.”

**Question 13:** Does the new definition of Open Roads apply through all regional and sub region plans such as the Biodiversity Management Framework, Linear Footprint Management Plans and others?

**Response 13:** Definitions are being finalized for use in plans across the province. In the LFMP, we are considering all motorized routes, including OHV and single track trails. Research has been directed at wildlife mortality; we are also considering wildlife/cattle disturbance and noise (which also impacts human enjoyment).

**Question 14:** With respect to the term “if necessary” who will decide it is necessary and what level will there be stakeholder involvement?

**Response 14:** GOA will decide in consultation with stakeholders and First Nations

AOHVA supports the development of the linear footprint management plan. It must be supported by peer reviewed scientific evidence to justify supporting linear disturbance limits all across the Alberta landscape.

**Question 15:** If the origin of 0.6 km is based on impacts of US open road density – interstates, primary roads, secondary roads and rural roads; how have OHV trails that are neither paved, 30 metres wide or linear have been included in this threshold?

**Response 15:** 0.6 km protects multiple species, not just grizzly; In the LFMP, we are considering all motorized routes, including OHV and single track trails. Research has been directed at mortality; we are also considering wildlife/cattle disturbance and noise (which also impacts human enjoyment).

**Question 16:** How does this road density apply to the backcountry of Alberta with the release of the new Alberta Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan?

Response 16: 0.6 km protects multiple species, not just grizzly; In the LFMP, we are considering all motorized routes, including OHV and single track trails. Research has been directed at mortality; we are also considering wildlife/cattle disturbance and noise (which also impacts human enjoyment).

**Question 17:** Have any grizzly bears been killed as a result of a collision with an OHV? If not, why use the same linear density for OHV trails as roads?

Response 17: 0.6 km protects multiple species, not just grizzly; In the LFMP, we are considering all motorized routes, including OHV and single track trails. Research has been directed at mortality; we are also considering wildlife/cattle disturbance and noise (which also impacts human enjoyment).

**Question 18:** How will the linear footprint density be achieved through the configuration of management zones and a strategic approach?

Response 18: The Footprint Plan will provide the guidance for future development using zones and management direction for those zones. Users will have to collaborate to ensure that their activities meet the plan objectives. A business process will be developed prior to plan implementation.

**Question 19:** How is that be achieved, as it appears that linear disturbances have already been set without consultation with stakeholders?

Response 19: We are still in the consultation process. Another workshop is planned for October, to be followed by small meetings with recreational groups to discuss needs and opportunities.

**Question 20:** What factors or disturbances will determine the linear footprint density?

Response 20: The LFMP will not be finalized until the BMF is completed. The BMF is focused on regional indicators and landscapes that sustain multiple species. Research has been directed at wildlife mortality; we are also considering wildlife/cattle disturbance and noise (which also impacts human enjoyment).

**Question 21:** Will the scale of this density be averaged out over the total region or applied per square kilometer?

Response 21: The scale of evaluation is likely to be at the sub-watershed level.

**Question 22:** Could you bring some maps to the meeting that shows the current recreational trails in SSRP?

Response 22: This was done

**Question 23:** Is the intent to use the levels of linear disturbance in the Porcupine Hills/ Livingstone Area as the standard throughout the SSRP and all regional plans?

Response 23: Will vary depending on the values that need conservation (e.g., WSCT, caribou)

**Question 24:** Will the linear disturbance or the biodiversity management framework limits be relaxed to meet the recreational goals of the SSRP?

**Response 24:** TBD but unlikely (biodiversity and watershed integrity have a higher priority in the Green Area - SSRP)

**Question 25:** Which factors are most important to the GoA to insure that the recreational objectives are going to be achieved in a meaningful and sustainable way?

**Response 25:**

- The objectives within the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan guide the planning and implementation of recreation management in the SSR.
  - Headwater protection, reduction of wildfire risk, biodiversity conservation and integrated management will be the continued priorities
- We will be using the 5 Es of recreation management to enable outdoor recreation – Engineers, Education, Enforcement, Evaluation and Experience
  - The planning, building and maintaining of recreational trails (the engineering) will promote “the right activities in the right places” (SSRP pg 94) and support those larger outcomes described in the SSRP
  - Education and enforcement will assist in creating the behavioral change necessary to ensure sustainable use and build a stewardship ethic in all users of the public land base.
  - Consistent Evaluation will allow the plans and implementation actions to be adjusted to meet outcomes and adapt to changing land uses, including new recreation trends

### **The implications of the Linear Footprint Management Plan**

- Public lands will not be closed to the Public, we are moving to a system of designated trails for motorized users:

From AOHVA perspective, Public Lands may not necessarily be closed but it would appear limits are being developed to restrict access in an incremental way.

- Enhanced practices to manage for specific values.
- New road/trail development will be subject to disturbance limits.

As indicated in AOHVA’s previous submission that there may be scientific research but what is the scientific evidence. As well, how are highway road densities equated to OHV trails? The majority of reports have been focused on impacts of roads i.e. interstate, primary, secondary and rural roads on wildlife.

The rationale statement highlights this interpretation such as wildlife mortality – hunting/poaching is an enforcement issue not a linear density disturbance.

**Question 26:** We need to move from positions of us versus them and achieve “We Together” to address issues and solutions. How can we best achieve this? Who should be taking the lead?

Response 26: Agree; we have an ED4REC committee that is looking at partnerships. We also want to have meetings this fall with various recreational users to better understand their needs.

## 4.0 Activity Risk Management Matrix

**Question 27:** It appears that the point of the Activity Risk Matrix is to reduce OHV activity within the Porcupine Hills/ Livingstone Region. Who built the risk matrix? What was it based on?

Response 27: GOA built the first draft using expert opinion and BMPs. It is still draft and we welcome ideas and suggestions.

**Question 28:** What risks were used in building this matrix?

Response 28: Risks to priority values under SSRP: headwaters protection, biodiversity, wildfire risk, integrated management

**Question 29:** The reference to Watershed and Hydrology and 100m buffer is not included in the revised Matrix (May 26, 2016). Was this an accidental omission or is it to be addressed in Biodiversity Management Framework or Recreation Management Plan?

Response 29: The 100 meter buffer is for assessment purposes only.

## 5.1 Oldman River Watershed Indicator Project

The following is from Ouren (2007) document referenced in the Indicators Project. All of the following aspects are related to the Biodiversity Management Framework and Marxan, but science is incomplete as noted by Ouren.

- **4.4.1 Potential Indicators of OHV Effects on Wildlife and Habitats: Native, Threatened, and Endangered Species:** To date, *there have been few simultaneous studies* of OHV use and wildlife responses to OHV activities, but such studies could provide more precise assessments of the relationship between patterns of OHV activity and wildlife responses, particularly behavioural responses to varying traffic patterns, intensity, and total area affected.
- **4.4.2 Potential Indicators of OHV Effects on Water Quality:** The literature on OHV impacts *offered little information specific to evaluating or monitoring OHV effects on water or air quality.*
- **4.4.3 Monitoring and Research Needs:** Remaining questions about effects of OHV's on ecosystems and people are numerous and varied. *Information regarding management approaches for sustaining or restoring resources— from the level of single OHV routes to entire landscapes—to pre-disturbance conditions while still providing for quality OHV experiences is especially sparse.*

- **4.4.4 Research Regarding Effects of OHV's on Animal Populations:** Many prior studies of OHV impacts on wildlife have focused on indirect indicators of animal population health, such as distribution and behaviour, at the expense of more direct indicators, such as population trend/size, gender and age ratios, and productivity. In part, this is because such data can be significantly more difficult and expensive to collect than behavioural and distribution data. Studies that address possible changes in plant and animal genetics in ecosystems fragmented by OHV roads and trails also are needed.

**Question 30:** What studies or research has the GoA completed to close the scientific gaps on the information that has been used by Oldman Watershed and others to provide recommendations to the SSRP?

**Response 30:** We are consulting experts both within and outside the GOA that are actively involved in research, e.g., multiple recognized wildlife and watershed specialists.

**Question 31:** As indicated all decisions are to be based on scientific evidence therefore what standards or protocols have been developed by GoA to determine the validity of the science being used?

**Response 31:** We use peer reviewed literature in our citations

## 6.0 Dutch Creek Planning Region

**Question 32:** AOHVA has completed an extensive review of the Environmental Law Centre (ELC) document and was disappointed to find all the facts not represented and the information used was not presented in an impartial fashion. No solutions were identified to the Alberta problems, however the liberty was taken to dismiss solutions presented by others without any discussion. This document seems to be prepared with a predetermined conclusion to support positions that are very outdated. Who does the Environmental Law Centre represent? What is their knowledge base on OHV recreation?

**Response 32:**

- Note: Assuming this report is the Environmental Law Centre Managing Recreation on Public Lands. The ELC has a number of blogs on OHV use in wet areas/recreation enforcement etc.
- The ELC report was completed at the discretion of the Environmental Law Centre and was not requested by GOA
- The ELC promotes itself as “Alberta’s leading environmental public policy and law reform charity, the Environmental Law Centre (ELC) has spent the past thirty years offering valued services to the environmental community, everyday citizens, policy-makers, the legal community and corporations.

- We are one of the only non-profits in Alberta that provides objective information and respected advice on changing environmental legislation and regulations.
- We help community groups understand and use legal tools to advance their concerns.
- We work with policy-makers at all levels of government to create better processes for making environmental decisions.
- We promote cutting-edge legislation and support the right of all Albertans to have a say in their future.”

From: <http://elc.ab.ca/about-us.aspx>, 9:32am accessed June 28, 2016

- As the ELC is an organization external to the GOA, we cannot comment on their knowledge base of OHV recreation
  - Note: We can share that the author was planning on issuing a correction due to the incompleteness of the report, including failing to complete an appropriate cross-jurisdictional scan and mis-understanding the policy and organizational context of some of the materials. We have permission from the author to share this information, especially as a correction was not issued prior to his leaving the ELC.

**Question 33:** Why is the Environmental Law Centre document being referenced by the GoA through committees or groups that are government funded?

Response 33:

- The ELC report has been reviewed by GOA staff; the ELC provides valuable insight and perspective on where public policy may look to moving. It is not an authoritative source, however, and is considered among significant amounts of data and stakeholder input when making decisions related to OHV management.
- The planning and operations team is not using the ELC report within its presentations to the public or stakeholders.
- The ELC report may be used by GOA supported groups such as the Oldman Watershed Council. These group maintain (to varying degrees) autonomy from the GOA and may choose to use any information available as best suits their goals.

## 7.0 Regional Recreation Management Plan

The AOHVA understands that the Recreation Management plan is a key document to inform the recreation on public lands.

Note: The Planning Branch is no longer creating a Regional Recreation Management Plan, at least in the short term. Work will be divided into sub-regional planning as the priority, with a regional trails plan developed at a later date, as time and resources allow.

**Question 34:** Why would the Regional Management Plan (RMP) start a process of identifying recreational trails without the completion of a Biodiversity Management Footprint (BMF)?

Response 34:

- A key step in designating a trail network that meets both ecological outcomes and user expectations is understanding the current land uses
- A strong inventory of existing linear features used for recreation will better inform our planning – using the thresholds and considerations from the BMF and LMFP along with the knowledge of recreationists current use and values, to provide a desirable experience in the right places
  - Utilizing existing trails wherever possible reduces the impact of development and disturbance that building new trails creates
  - An accurate inventory also allows us to prioritize restoration where the BMF/LMFP indicates the need to reduce access.

**Question 35:** Your department has initiated a process for a Request for Proposals (RFP) to conduct trail inventory in the Porcupine Hills/Livingstone Region, how does this fit with the Regional Management Plan (RMP) timelines and proposed trail siting?

Response 35:

- This work is part of the current state assessment for the Porcupine Hills and Livingstone areas to support both footprint and recreational planning
- Work will be used to inform the development of the future trail network
  - Initial designated network will likely rely on existing trails and staging points until investment can be made in moving infrastructure and providing new, properly constructed, trail alignments

**Question 36:** There are three processes taking place the Biodiversity Management Framework (BMF), Linear Footprint Management (LFM) and Regional Management Plan (RMP), how is the coordination taking place between the various plans? Is there a GoA team dedicated to this?

Response 36:

- There is a coordinated project team that works on Footprint and Recreation Management planning. The plans share a project coordinator to ensure consistent processes and application of input
- BMF staff are also located within the Planning Branch and there is direct consultation between management and professional staff to ensure alignment among the three processes

**Question 37:** Is there a GoA organizational chart on who are the regional stakeholders and their identified representatives?

Response 37:

- The GOA maintains stakeholder lists for each project consisting of provincial NGO's (environmental, recreational and other), industry, municipalities, private landowners, public, commercial users, and other self-identified interested parties.
- Information related to stakeholders is subject to Freedom of Information and is not able to be



shared.

**Question 38:** Who are expected to be involved with the Recreation Management Plan and how will they be involved in developing the Plan?

Response 38: We have a list of 300+ stakeholders who have been invited to workshops. This includes landowners, lessees from the area, as well as groups such as yourselves. We are meeting with various sectors over the summer (and onsite if requested) and will hold another workshop in the fall, once the trail inventory is complete.

**Question 39:** What is the proposed planning process? The AOHVA has been involved with different Regional Management Plans (RMP) throughout the Province, and there needs to be a very clear documented GoA written process before proceeding or there will be cynicism.

Response 39:

- A consistent approach is being developed for application in all footprint and recreation management planning across the province, based on best practices learned from other planning efforts
  - While there are a number of sub-regional planning efforts with different intents, the Porcupine Hills is being used to pilot a new approach for recreation related sub-regional planning
- A Standards or Guidebook for both Footprint and Recreation Management Planning is currently being developed and will be in draft form in late 2016

**Question 40:** What is the decision-making process/method that is going to be implemented in decisions on trails and infrastructure?

Response 40:

- This process is under development. We understand that recreation trails, nature based tourism and related infrastructure are user driven.
- It is our intention to work closely with all stakeholders to develop the designated trails network in the Porcupine Hills

**Question 41:** Who will be involved and what are the timelines in making decisions?

Response 41:

- The timeline for the completed Recreation Management Plan is subject to the timelines of completion of the BMF and LFMP
  - A draft RMP is expected during the winter of 2016/17 and will be made available for public comment and input prior to approval
- We will continue to engage with stakeholders in the fall, based on current state of both these over-arching plans, to advance recreation planning
- The decision to create PLUZs has already been made by Cabinet; LFMP is also likely to be Cabinet approved. Recreation plans may be approved at the Departmental level (still TBD).



**Question 42:** How will decisions be communicated?

Response 42: We are in the process of setting up an external website to improve communication. We will also inform all registered stakeholders. There will be public and First Nations consultation on both plans.

**Question 43:** Is there a GoA organizational chart that clearly identifies the departments, timelines, etc. that will be involved in the Regional Management Plan decisions? The AOHVA believes this is critical as past attempts to implement Management Recreational Plans have failed because of different interpretations of timelines and intentions.

Response 43:

- A Planning System document is currently under development by the Planning Branch, along with Standards for both Footprint and Recreation planning.
- As part of the implementation of the plans, clear timelines and accountabilities will be built into an operational “action plan”

**Question 44:** Who is looking at the processes, structural changes, and motivational changes that are required to implement any construction, maintenance, and liability assumption of the recreational requirements?

Response 44:

- There is currently a cross-ministry and cross departmental Steering Committee, led by AEP, addressing Outdoor Recreation Management on Crown Lands; the Executive Directors for Recreation Management Steering Committee or ED4Rec
- We understand the concerns related to working with our partners on recreation infrastructure including construction standards, maintenance and liability issues and are working to address those through policy and relationship building province wide.

The Alberta Historic Resources Act defines “Historic resource” means any work of nature or of humans that is primarily of value for its paleontological, archaeological, prehistoric, historic, cultural, natural, scientific or esthetic interest including, but not limited to, a paleontological, archaeological, prehistoric, historic or natural site, structure or object.

**Question 45:** Are there currently defined cultural sites within the Porcupine Hills/Livingstone area? If so have they been identified on a map to ensure provision of access?

Response 45:

- STREAM modelling has been completed to identify areas of high scenic value and will be incorporated into the recreation management plans where appropriate
- Culture is conducting TLU/TEK assessments with First Nations this fall

**Question 46:** As with cultural sites, have historic resources been identified within the Recreation Management Planning area?

Response 46:

- Alberta Culture and Tourism maintains an inventory of historic resources and impact assessments will be completed if potential dispositions or development of recreation infrastructure may impact the historic resource
  - To preserve the integrity of the resource, this information is not made publically available
- A traditional land use study will be completed in the area to capture traditional land uses and ecological knowledge

**Question 47:** The definition is very broad, what prevents a special interest group from promoting a natural area as a potential historic area?

Response 47:

- Alberta Culture and Tourism works with experts to determine appropriate designation and protection of historic sites (under the *Historic Resources Act*)
  - While this process may be proponent led, it is done with careful consideration and according to pre-determined processes, which includes the provision for publication of the intention to designate and allowance for a hearing to review objections.

(<http://culture.alberta.ca/heritage-and-museums/programs-and-services/historic-places-research-and-designation/historic-places-designation-program/#apply>)

## 8.0 Proposed Regional Advisory Councils

**Question 48:** What process was used by GoA to learn from the Ghost Stewardship Monitoring Group (GSMG) and can you share the report with us? The AOHVA was a participating member of this committee from inception, and is keenly interested in ensuring that these mistakes are not repeated.

Response 48:

- ED4Rec has commissioned a Formal Relationships Task Team which will, in part, develop governance models for recreation related partnerships.
- This Task Team has identified the Ghost Stewardship Monitoring Group as a group to look at. They will be contacting staff engaged in the group, as well as potentially having informal conversations with non-staff members of the group to assess what worked, where the issues were and develop some “lessons learned” that will inform the models being developed.

**Question 49:** There were a number of GoA commitments made to the OHV community that were not met in 10 years so why are we to believe that this process is going to be any different?

Response 49: AEP has recently confirmed with the Executive Team that we are “in the business” of outdoor recreation management – a commitment internally that has been lacking for many years (since the 1990s)

**Question 50:** What process was used by GoA to learn from the Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council (EBRPC), and can you share the report with us? The AOHVA current director was a co-founder of the Park and participating member of this council from inception, therefore is keenly aware of the shortfalls of this council structure and decision making process.

Response 50:

- ED4Rec has commissioned a Formal Relationships Task Team which will, in part, develop governance models for recreation related partnerships.
- This Task Team includes Parks and will look at the Blue Rapids as one of the models to review. We would be happy to discuss your analysis of its governance and processes.

**Question 51:** There were a lot of commitments made to the OHV community 10 years ago by Parks regarding Eagle Point that were not met. Why are we to believe that this process is going to be any different?

Response 51:

- We would be interested in hearing what you learned from that process.

**Question 52:** What are the challenges identified by GoA for the Regional Advisory Committees (RAC) that would act as barriers in accomplishing their objectives?

Response 52: These are being identified by the ED4REC Partnership Team. They would welcome your input.

**Question 53:** How will these RAC committees be established?

Response 53: This will be determined at the provincial level by the ED4REC team looking at partnerships. That team would be interested in your thoughts.

**Question 54:** What will be the governance structure and who will decide?

Response 54: TBD; we would like your input re: what works best.

**Question 55:** Will there be a sunset term or a permanent structure within each Region?

Response 55: TBD; we would like your input re: what works best.

**Question 56:** Who will develop the mandate and objectives?

Response 56: The ED4REC Partnerships Team will help to develop these provincially.

**Question 57:** What is the level of authority and responsibility for the RAC committee?

Response 57: TBD

**Question 58:** How will they be held accountable and by whom?

Response 57: TBD; they will be accountable to GOA

**Question 59:** What corrective processes are being contemplated to make any necessary changes to these RAC committees as they become operational?

Response 59: TBD; we would like your input re: what works best.

**Question 60:** Will these RAC committees be a temporary or permanent fixture in continued area management?

Response 60: TBD; we would like your input re: what works best.

**Question 61:** What are the consequences for "road blocking" behavior or "going outside" the process?

Response 61: TBD; we would like your input re: what works best.

**Question 62:** If the RAC committees are to be permanent, how are they going to be funded? Who is going to oversee them to ensure their mandate is being carried out? The AOHVA is very concerned that this could become another form of passive management that will lead to the same results of the past 15 years.

Response 62: There is an ED4REC Sustainable Funding Committee looking at options. They would be happy to receive your ideas.