



November 2016

**Castle Park Management Plan
OHV Trail Input**

1.0 BACKGROUND:

The Alberta Off Highway Vehicle Association (AOHVA) is a non-profit organization who represents a broad range of Alberta's off-highway recreation users and their members across the province; those being all-terrain vehicles (ATV's), off-road motorcycles (ORM's) and side by sides (UTV's). In fact, there are nearly 122,000 registered motorized off highway vehicles out of the estimated 165,000 in Alberta as of December 2015.

AOHVA has worked diligently for the past 7 years to establish an OHV Recreation Trail Service Delivery Organization to ensure the appropriate development, enhancement and maintenance of sustainable, designated trails for all off-highway recreation enthusiasts in Alberta.

AOHVA, its member clubs and partners remain firmly committed to the establishment of an OHV Recreation Trail Service Delivery Organization. We are committed to the implementation of an allocated funding model as the preferred means of achieving a province wide network of sustainable, designated trails. AOHVA continues to work with, and involve local clubs in this Provincial initiative. Our user group supports a trail enhancement fee to make this recreation industry sustainable province wide.

2.0 Proposal:

In the Castle Parks area, under the management of the AOHVA, OHV membership clubs would develop a multi-faceted trail stewardship program, which will foster cooperation among users, industry and government. It will encompass trails assessment, planning, maintenance, management and education resulting in a backcountry trail and infrastructure system.

The AOHVA sees one of the purpose of the OHV Recreation Trail Service Delivery Organization to be an **allocated funding disbursement** agency, which could provide funds for the critical pillars of recreation trail development, implementation and sustainable usage:

- **Engineering enhancement** of existing trails and construction of new single and multi use recreation trails, bridges, O.H.V trailheads, signage and staging/camping areas, in compliance with existing provincial and municipal legislation or new legislated standards.
- **Education** on the safe and respectful use of such recreation trails to new OHV users, school students, community groups etc.
- **Evaluation** of outcomes of funding, with a proper set of due diligence and reporting guidelines in place.
- **Enforcement** will play a secondary and supportive role to other GoA and municipal government agencies whose mandate it is to enforce legal, regulatory and safe access to and use of recreation trails in Alberta. The respective departments of Alberta Environment and Parks would retain responsibility for enforcement.

Based on available funding, AOHVA would provide funds and support to OHV membership clubs for the restoration and rehabilitation of OHV trails throughout Alberta, in accordance with the Recreation Corridor Manual and Trails Classification of B1, B2 and B3 trail users.

Deliverables based on available funding would be:

- Trail heads
- Trail rehabilitation, reclamation and maintenance
- Camping facilities
- Installation of Parks standard Vault Restroom Facilities
- Engineered water crossings, and other related facilities will also be in compliance with standards established in current legislation.

3.0 BUDGET:

Description	Cost
Trail Rehabilitation or Reconstruction	\$10,000 km
Annual Trail Maintenance	\$500 km
Trail Reclamation of Reroutes	\$6,000 km
Parks Standard Double Stall Vault Restroom	\$45,000 ea
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and pump one facility per year 	\$3,000 yr
Basic Camping Facilities Maintenance	\$5,000 yr
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camping Facilities – Basic No Service Construction 	\$20,000
Construction of Serviced Camping Facilities	\$10,000 per stall
Steel Engineered Bridges (product only)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40' x 72" 	\$24,800
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60' x 72" 	\$37,200
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80' x 72" 	\$49,600
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100' x 76" 	\$89,500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120' x 76" 	\$107,400
Cost for Bridge Installation	\$50,000
TFA's Approvals estimated	\$300 per km of trail
Signage estimated	\$100 per km of trail
Administration	10% to 20% of project cost

4.0 RATIONALE:

The AOHVA envisions an Alberta with approved recreational trails within the Land Use Framework across the landscape of the province. These trails are located on public and private land, all with permission and support of land owners, and all used responsibly and safely by both motorized and non motorized users.

McLean Creek in the Kananaskis Country is a GoA project regarding OHV trails that has had ongoing challenges. The AOHVA would like to be engaged and could help find solutions if asked.

All of this trail development, restoration and revitalization can be done with no cost to the public through tax dollars; but completed through the proposed user fee by the AOHVA Service Delivery Organization.

We support effective stewardship of Alberta’s public lands, including the need to manage access and use, as well as the protection of sensitive areas. In addition, the AOHVA is committed to work with partners in educating the public about the need for responsible behaviour in wilderness areas and during off-highway recreational activities.

Strong education programs create awareness and helps diminish incidences of destructive and unruly behaviour. Irresponsible use of public lands and/or environmentally sensitive areas by some members of the public impacts the landscape and generates negative media attention detrimental to legitimate activities. The AOHVA does not condone unruly or unsanctioned activity on the land.

5.0 CONCLUSION:

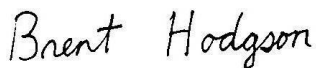
The successful implementation of a trail plan will work best when the OHV user pays a fee and is involved in the sustainability of their OHV recreation. By joining a club, volunteering for stewardship opportunities on the trails and educating other users; these OHV users are engaged and will encourage others to participate.

Another possible GoA interim option to consider would be that a portion of the registration paid on OHV's be allocated to approved OHV recreational trails and infrastructure through the proposed AOHVA Service Delivery Organization. Currently the registration of an OHV is \$54. In no time at all Alberta could have the start of a designated OHV trail system, with no extra burden on the taxpayer. For example: $122,000 \text{ units} \times \$54 = \$6,588,000 \times 50\% = \$3,294,000$ would be directed to the designated OHV trail system.

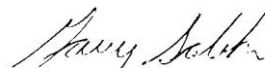
The AOHVA has the ability to leverage this OHV user amount up through donations and volunteer efforts. This will not be achieved through a GoA program such as a conversion of the Backcountry Flood Rehabilitation Trail Program to a Trail Building Program.

AOHVA encourages and supports the development of the Land Use Framework for the respectful enjoyment of the back country, understanding that it is there to protect the environment and wilderness FOR the people of Alberta and not to keep it FROM the people.

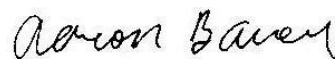
On behalf of AOHVA,



AOHVA President



AOHVA Treasurer



AOHVA Vice President



AOHVA Secretary