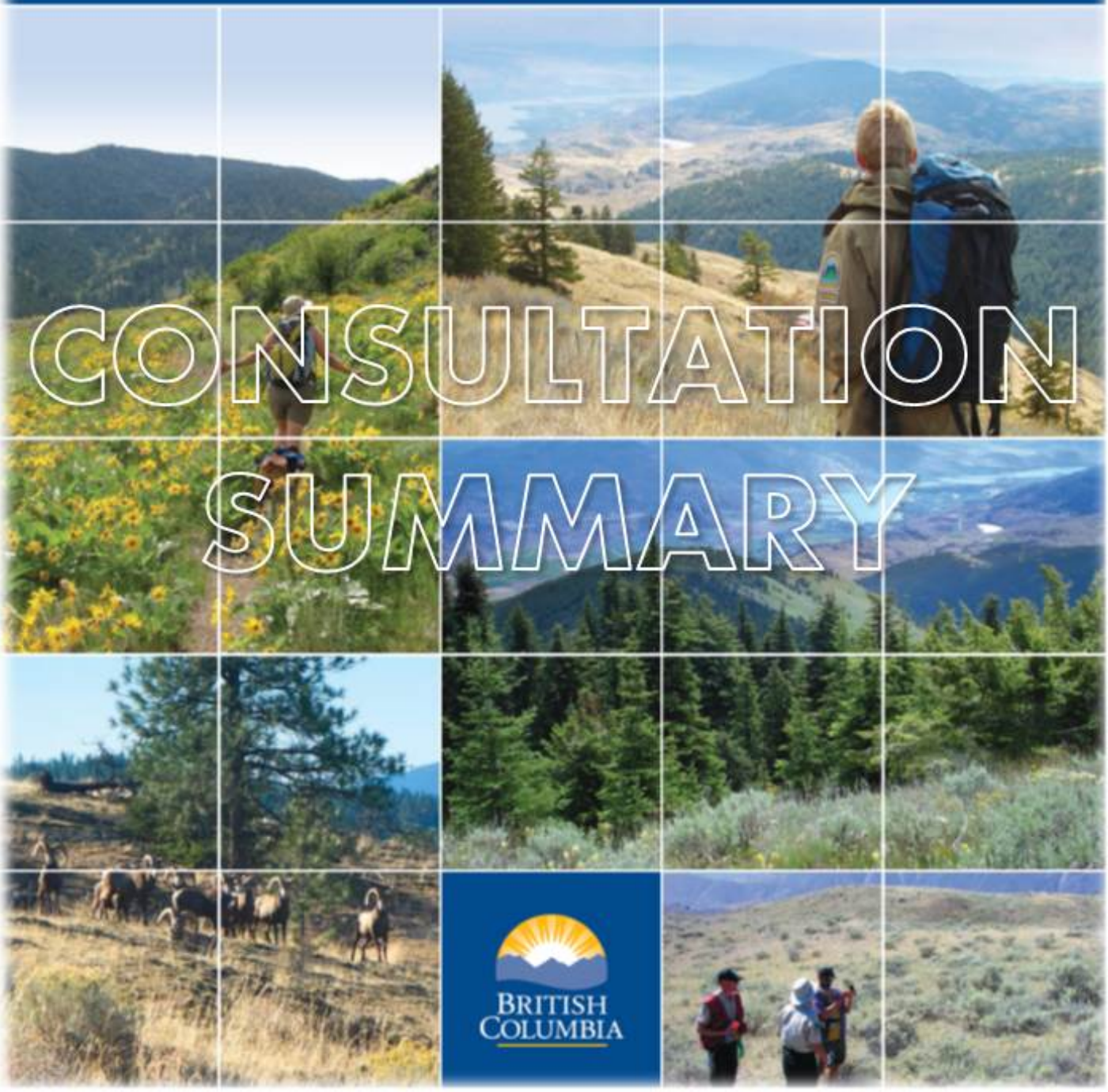
INTENTIONS PAPER

Protected Areas Framework for British Columbia's South Okanagan



Contents

1.0 Introduction

British Columbia's South Okanagan region is a special place. It contains significant diversity and uniqueness of plants and animals, and is home to 30% of B.C.'s red-listed wildlife species and 46% of blue-listed species. Situated at the northernmost tip of the Great Basin Desert and representing a dry arid landscape that is not only unique to British Columbia, but to Canada, it is aptly named the "pocket desert". This area is important to First Nations and contains sacred cultural and traditional use sites such as Spotted Lake and the White Lake basin and many other significant cultural, recreational and ecological sites. It is also an area that is facing intense development pressure and increasing population.

2.0 Background

Following the recommendations of the Okanagan-Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan, which was approved by the provincial government 2001, there were a number of protected areas established in the South Okanagan. Shortly thereafter, the Federal Government chose to focus on the area for a potential new national park reserve. In October 2003, Canada and BC signed a Memorandum of Understanding to study the feasibility of establishing a National Park Reserve (NPR) in the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen area. Consultations during the feasibility study indicated that the NPR proposal was controversial among area residents. In January 2011, the BC Government announced that the Province would not be proceeding with the proposed establishment of the NPR at this time.

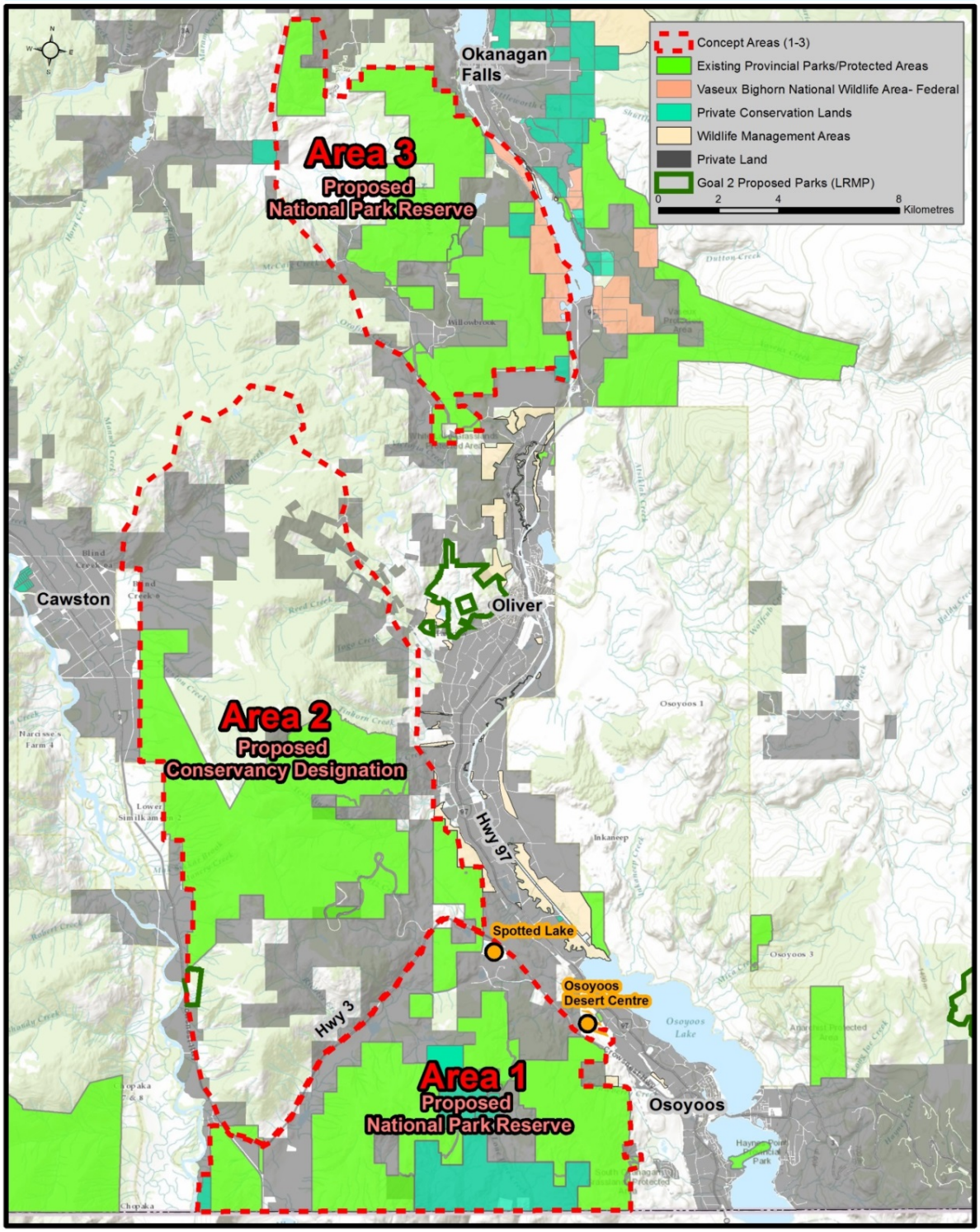
Area residents continue to be very interested in issues of environmental protection, tourism and recreation opportunities and economic development in the region. Many residents consider that future protection measures would help meet some of these interests. Others feel that future protection measures are not necessary in the South Okanagan.

In November 2014, Minister Polak met with First Nations, area stakeholders and community leaders to initiate a dialogue on land use objectives for the South Okanagan area, including environmental protection, tourism development and outdoor recreation to fully explore the various interests at play in the region, and then begin to collaboratively identify possible solutions.

On August 13, 2015 an Intentions Paper proposing how land might be protected in the South Okanagan was released for public feedback for an 81 day comment period (ending on October 31, 2015). The Intentions Paper identified three areas for potential protection. The intended audience of the Intentions Paper was that of the *general public* and its distribution was not intended as to be a formal referral to local, regional, provincial or federal government agencies nor entities which hold tenure/legal interest over the Crown landscape discussed.

Areas 1 and **3** were suggested for potential inclusion in a national park reserve, and **Area 2** was suggested as a provincial conservancy. The conceptual areas of the proposed designations were regarded as 'soft' boundaries. Private lands were not included and would only be considered for future park designation under a willing buyer - willing seller scenario. No lands would be expropriated.

Concept Areas- Enhanced Protection (South Okanagan)



In arriving at this land protection framework proposal, the Province was guided by the following principles:

1. Additional protection will be beneficial	*Additional protection measures will benefit the area. Currently, while protection from BC Parks, Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service), First Nations, local governments, private landholders, conservation organizations, and others exists, this area does not have the coordinated protection needed to address the uniqueness and richness of the ecosystems, and the large number of species at risk that are present.*
2. Management is shared with First Nations	*First Nations are committed to conservation in this area and further collaboration must be explored. To be effective, it should involve the planning and ongoing management incorporating traditional ecological knowledge and traditional cultural use. Cultural tourism must be considered in protecting these areas as it represents an exciting opportunity that could become a significant draw for visitors.*
3. Existing uses are recognized	*Protection measures will result in a collective broad array of recreation opportunities, even if some uses must be allocated to certain areas through access management. For tenure holders, tenures will continue under the same terms and conditions and be subject to existing management policies. Changes would only occur if the tenure holder consents.*
4. Respect for private land holders	*Privately owned lands will be respected. Any future private land acquisitions that may occur will only be on a willing seller/willing buyer basis and only as land availability and budgets allow.*
5. Tourism is actively promoted	*The area has outstanding beauty that residents and visitors will experience. New protected area establishment will come with support to encourage prospective visitors to consider the recreation opportunities that the South Okanagan has to offer. Promoting cultural tourism in protected areas could be a particular emphasis.*

3.0 Purpose of the Consultation Summary

This consultation summary presents the feedback and public comment that was received on the intentions paper from August 13th through October 31st, 2015. Where feasible, the consultation summary provides an overview of recurring themes/sub-themes that were prevalent in the submissions received. The summary also provides context on the modes/methods by which many of the responses were received by the Ministry of Environment.

It is important to note that the comment process was not designed to be a statistically valid opinion poll or other measure about whether more people support or oppose the concept of a national park reserve in the area. This feedback process was intended to reveal some of the specific issues and themes that people feel are important to consider when contemplating additional land protection measures in the South Okanagan.

While some excellent input was received regarding the advantages and disadvantages of national park reserve designation and overview/positional statements on this matter were commonly provided, this consultation summary places its main focus and analysis on the seven question structure (detailed in Section 4.0 below) that was presented in the Intentions Paper.

In addition, this report does not reflect the outcomes of consultation with the member bands of the Okanagan Nation Alliance. A separate consultation process in ongoing with those First Nations, the outcomes of which will be reflected in any final land use recommendations that may be made.

4.0 Summary of Input Received

BC Parks provided an on-line comment form with seven questions for people to respond to related to the Intentions Paper. The questions were:

1: Are the appropriate areas captured in the overall land protection framework?

2: Are there any adjacent lands of particular conservation, recreation or cultural heritage value that should be included in Area 1?

3: Are there any special considerations that should be taken into account in establishing additional protection for Area 1?

4: Are there any adjacent lands of particular conservation, recreation or cultural heritage value that should be included in Area 2?

5: Are there any special considerations that should be taken into account in establishing additional protection for Area 2?

6: Are there any adjacent lands of particular conservation, recreation or cultural heritage value that should be included in Area 3?

7: Are there any special considerations that should be taken into account in establishing additional protection for Area 3?

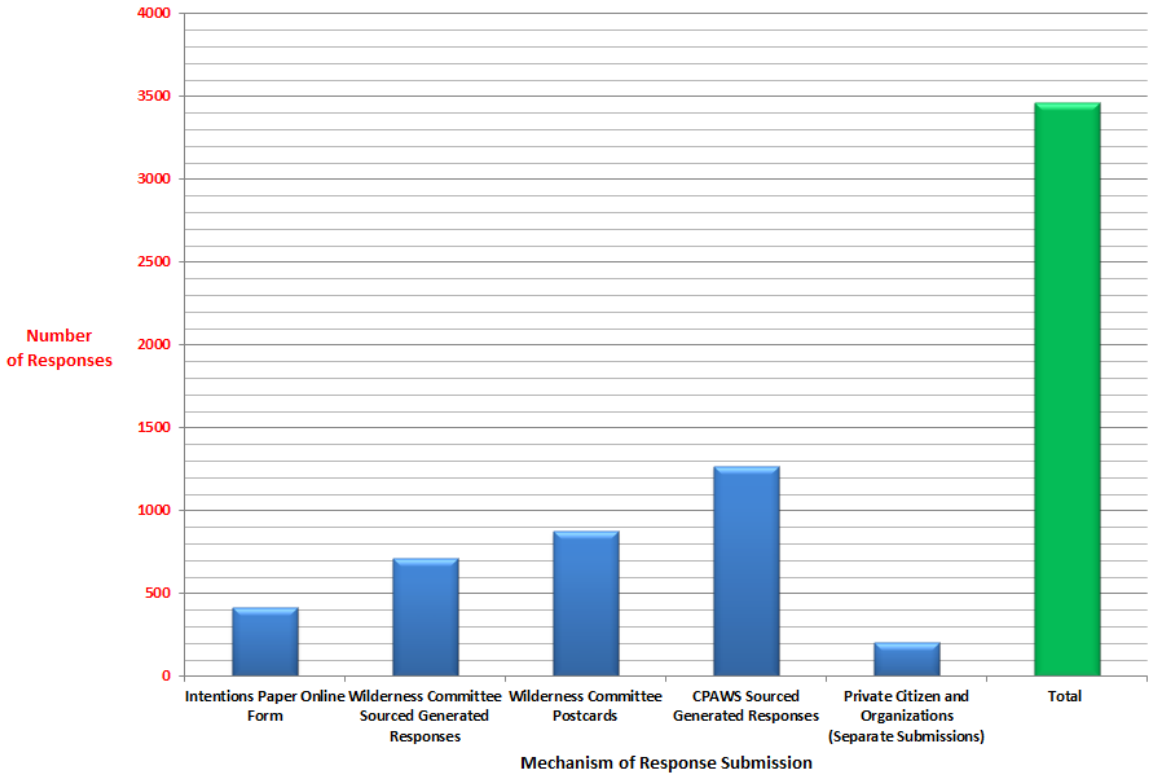
4.1 Who We Heard From

BC Parks received 3,460 responses related to the Intentions Paper. Only a small percentage (12% or 411 individual submissions) of the responses received were from the online form provided on the Intentions Paper/BC Parks website.

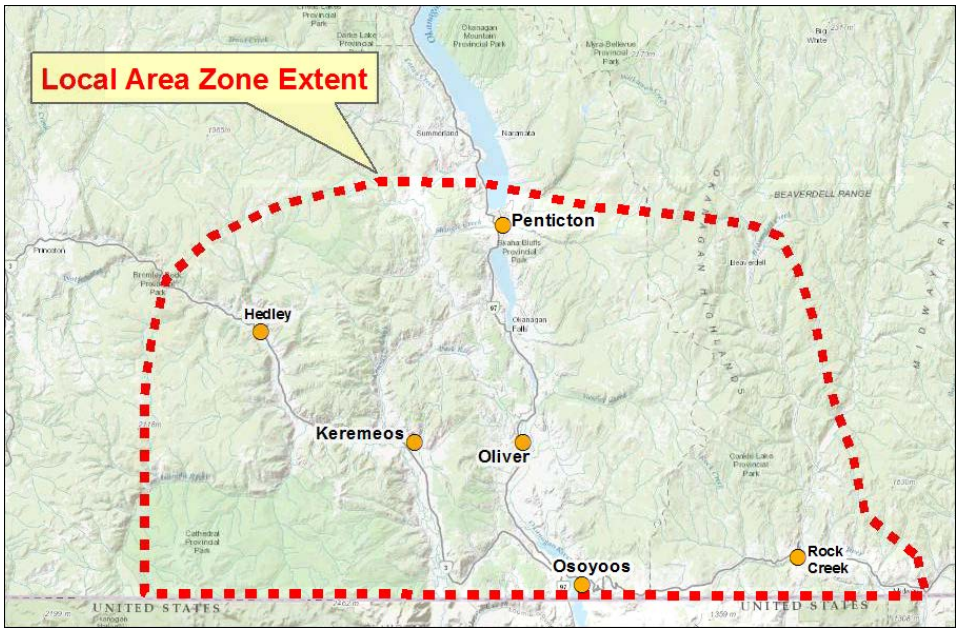
BC Parks received 3,049 other submissions, consisting of emails and letters sent to the Minister, to BC Parks, or to the office of the local Member of the Legislative Assembly. The submissions that were not from the on-line comment form website often did not respond specifically to the questions asked in the on-line comment form, but rather provided the respondent's views on a range of topics related to the proposed protection framework.

Many submissions outside of the online questionnaire were facilitated through the websites of the Wilderness Committee and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Committee (CPAWS), who both hosted web sites that enabled people to submit comments on the proposal. A total of 1,265 submissions originated from the CPAWS website and 707 originated from the Wilderness Committee website. In addition, 873 postcards were received utilizing template language provided by the Wilderness Committee. Private citizens sent in 167 submissions (primarily through email) and these were not associated with the mechanisms provided by the Wilderness Committee and CPAWS. There were 37 formal letter submissions received from organizations (see Appendix 1).

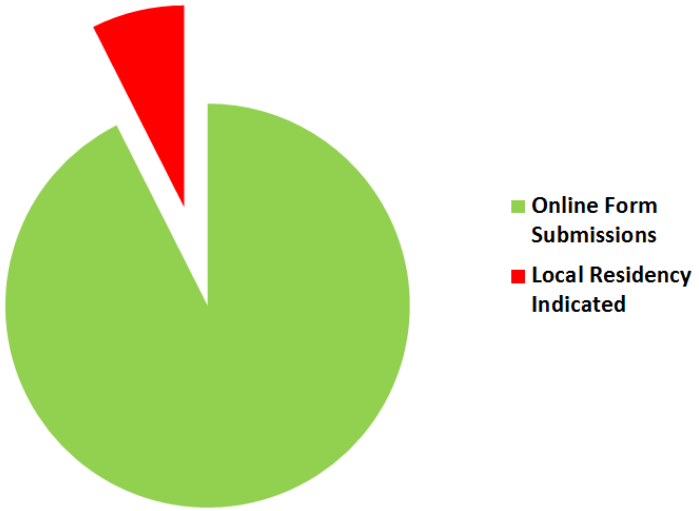
A summary and breakdown of the number of responses and identifier/mechanism by which it was received is presented below:

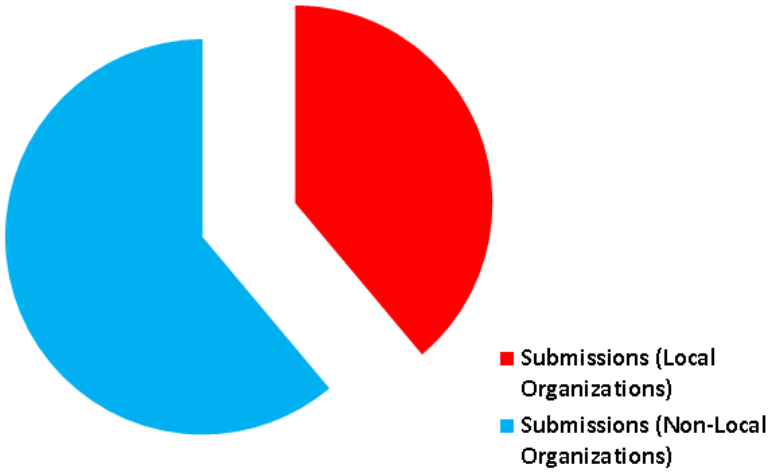


It was necessary to make a determination of the geographical area that constituted representation of the 'local area' zone, this aided in sorting organizations that responded with feedback. A local area zone was determined and is depicted below.



The online submission format was not designed to capture the locality of respondents. However, of the 411 respondents from the on-line submission, only 33 volunteered the location of their residence, and all of these 33 residences were within local area zone. Further analysis of the other forms of submissions (emails) indicated an additional 198 respondents were identified as local, bringing the total identified local respondents to 231. A total of 15 organizations were identified as local (see Appendix 1). The vast majority of other submissions did not contain the respondent's place of residency.





4.2 What We Heard

This section summarizes the main themes/sub-themes that emerged from the submissions BC Parks received on the Intentions Paper. As mentioned earlier, the Intentions Paper and its suggested protection framework elicited a high degree of opinion that was outside the scope of the Intentions Paper including a number of submissions that either supported all areas becoming national park reserve or no areas needing further protection. . Nevertheless, broader theme areas are outlined based on submissions.

4.3 Main Themes

Main themes and topic areas that were sourced from the online form and other submission mechanisms are expanded below. In instances where the data was sufficiently structured to allow for further analysis of whether there was preference for a specific outcome then there is quantification/weighting represented. This quantification typically took the form of "frequency" as the specific theme or topic was mentioned enough to gain a perspective of its importance to respondents.

Connectivity

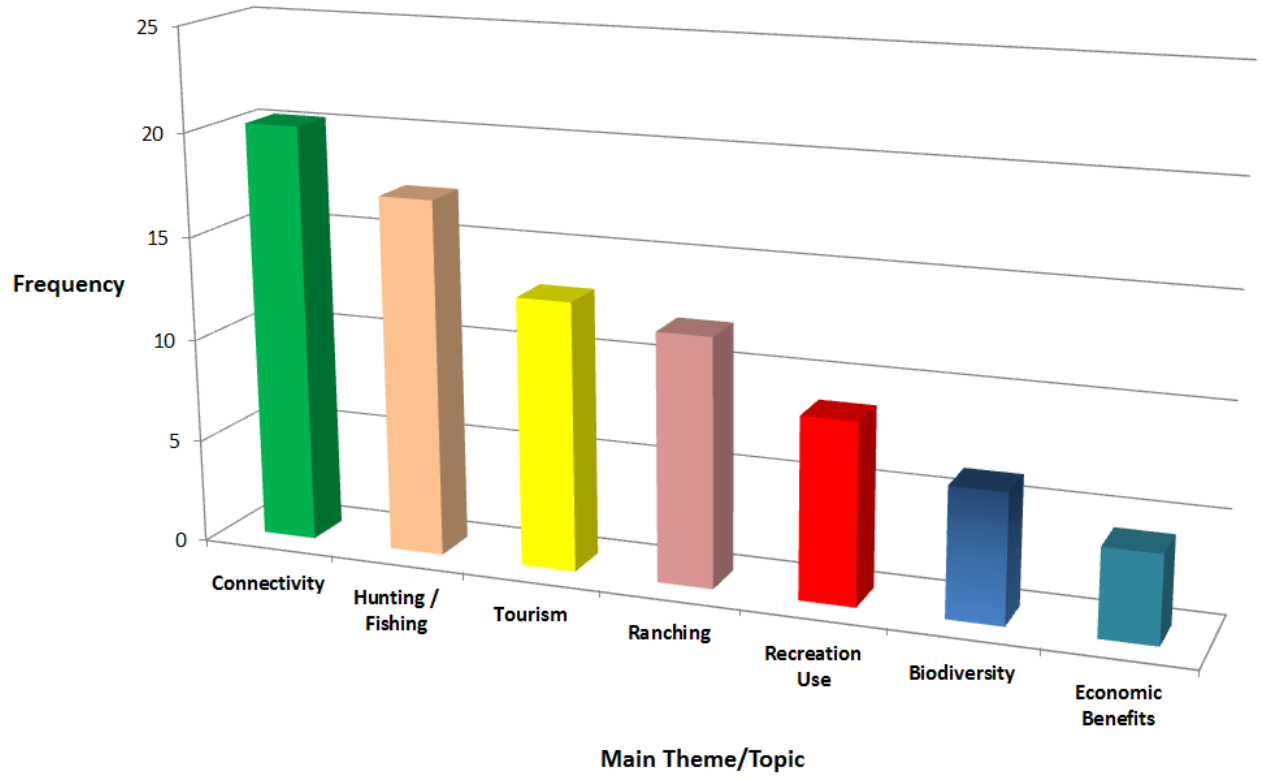
This theme focused on a need to ensure connectivity between not only the 3 areas identified, but also with the remaining natural landscape and other conservation holdings outside of protected areas. Connectivity also was raised frequently in the context of expanding protection to adjacent areas (such as Vaseux Lake).

Hunting and Fishing

Recreation use in the form of hunting and fishing was identified as important for many in the South Okanagan and this issue was identified frequently in the many of the submissions.

Tourism

Tourism was identified as a key attribute to the South Okanagan and its correlation to parks and protected areas was particularly significant.



Ranching

The focus of comments involving this theme highlighted the importance of ranching and grazing in the South Okanagan as both an economic benefit, but also an effective land management tool. Grazing was referenced in some submissions as being a threat to biodiversity and overall landscape impacts.

Recreation Use

This is a prevalent theme that covers a wide range of issues such as non- motorized and motorized used, types of activities (hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, camping etc.) and access to popular destinations within the 3 concept areas and the modes upon which many of these destinations are reached.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity was commonly mentioned in the context of the need to preserve and protect the remaining biodiversity of the South Okanagan. While other submissions pointed out that the areas have a high level of biodiversity that exists today, because of current land management practices.

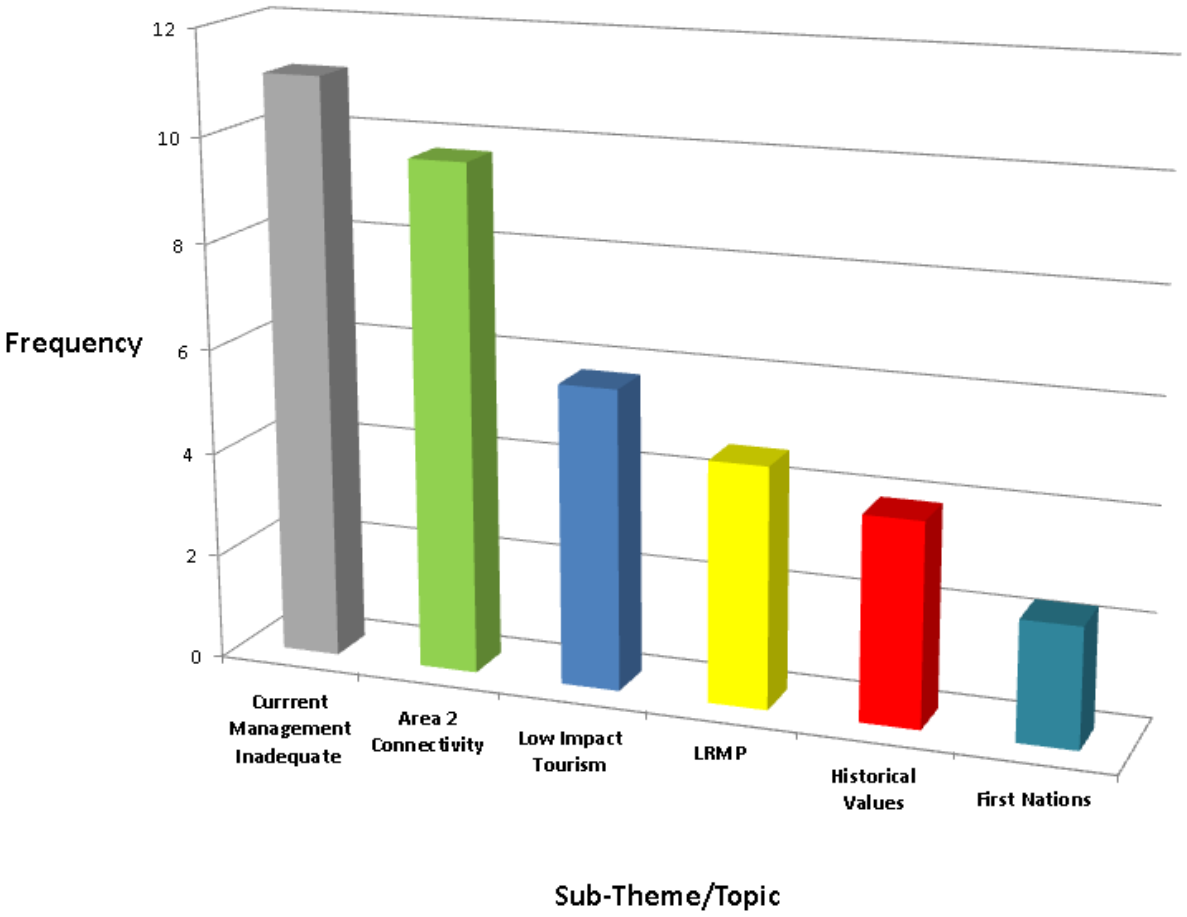
Economic Benefits

Associated typically with the subject of tourism, the economic benefit of enhanced protection (i.e., national park reserve designation) was outlined in most submissions that focussed on the desire for federal involvement in parks management. In contrast, economic benefit was also a factor in those submissions that stressed current tenures (e.g., ranching, forestry, and mining) which forms a foundation of current economic benefit to the South Okanagan.

4.4 Sub-Themes

A number of sub-themes were sourced from email submissions as well as the online form submissions. These sub-themes focussed on matters such as following:

- Existing management of the Crown land base was inadequate and that improved management could be explored (but not necessarily as National Park Reserve).
- That connectivity with Area 2 was critical- especially at it relates to the gap in protection/conservation between Area 2 and Area 3.
- Low impact tourism plays a factor in ensuring protection of species and habitat of the South Okanagan.
- To follow the recommendations of the LRMP (e.g., creation of Class A parks and establishment of Goal 2 sites such as Oliver Mountain).
- Historical values are high in the South Okanagan and should be better protected, maintained and promoted.
- First Nations use and access to the land forms an important aspect of land management in the South Okanagan.



4.5 Overall Protection Framework

This section is particularly relevant to the feedback received from Question 1 in the survey (which asked if the appropriate areas were captured in the overall land protection framework)**.** Some respondents stated that no additional protection is warranted in the area. Other respondents felt that some additional protection would be beneficial, but a national park reserve would not be the right tool to achieve that in the south Okanagan. These writers were concerned with the potential loss of access to the land and its resources for local people, for both resource development and recreation such as hunting and off-road vehicle use. Repeatedly, the strategic direction provided for protected areas and the Crown land base through the OSLRMP was mentioned. Respondents who referred to the LRMP cited that the process was a balanced, consensus driven approach to land management and should be fully implemented.

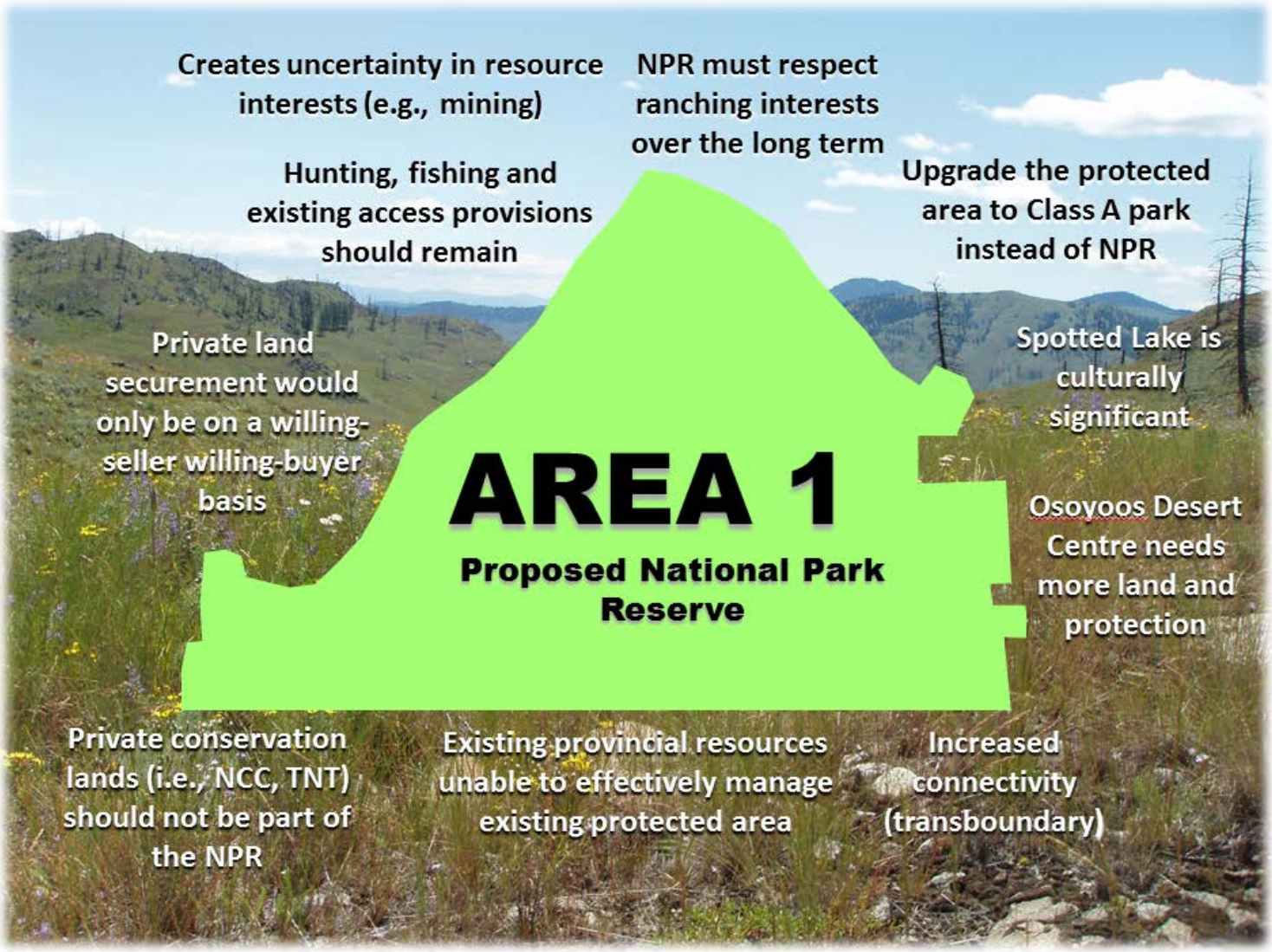
Additional respondents felt that a national park is necessary to adequately protect the many rare and endangered species and ecosystems found in this area, and would be a benefit to the local tourism economy. Comparisons were cited to other communities that border or lie within the boundaries of national parks in Canada (e.g. Banff, Revelstoke). The vast majority of respondents in this category

conveyed that Area 2 should be included as part of a national park reserve designation, and a smaller percentage felt that connectivity between Area 2 and Area 3 was necessary.

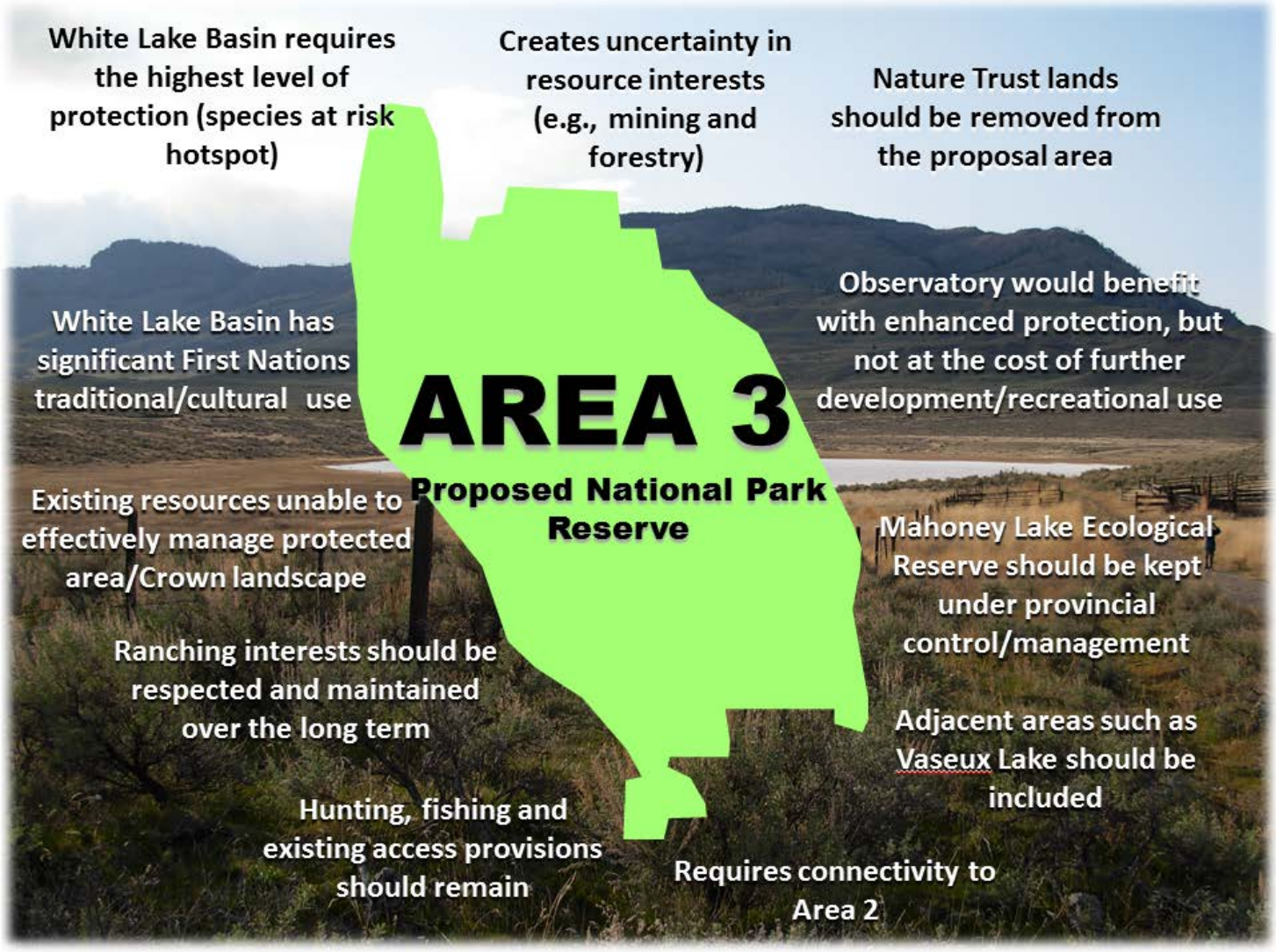
Other respondents indicated that the proposed model of enhanced protection utilizing a combination of NPR and conservancy was not nearly adequate and that additional areas, outside the scope of the proposed framework must be investigated (e.g., Vaseux Lake and surrounding lands)- see the Additional Areas section.

5.0 Concept Areas 1, 2, and 3: Considerations for Proposed Designations

An analysis of the range of considerations that were received each concept area (Areas 1, 2 and 3) was conducted and generalized feedback is represented in the following three diagrams.



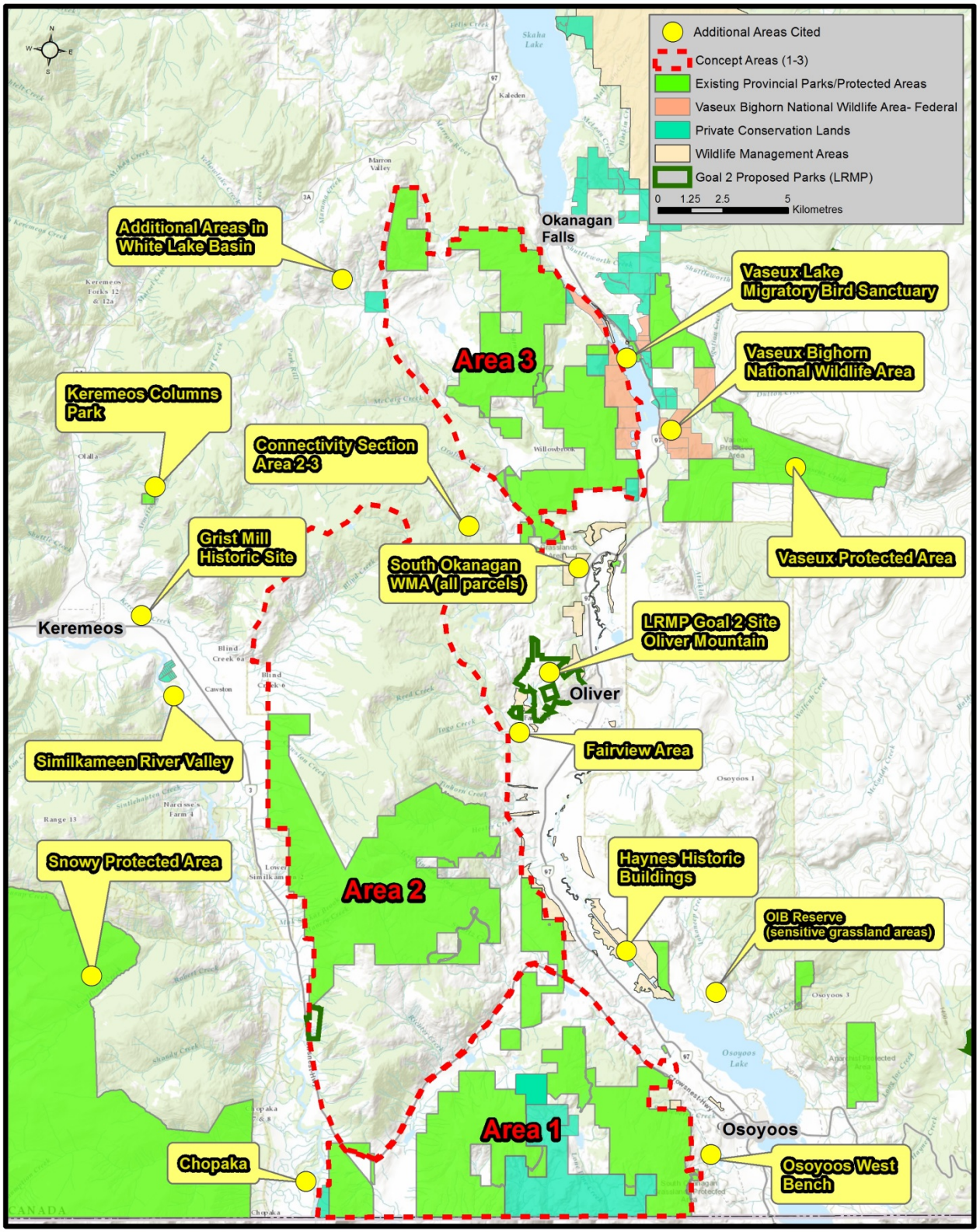

Greater certainty for resource interests (e.g., mining)
The federal government has the necessary resources to manage this area as NPR
Ranching interests are respected and maintained over the long term
Recognizes and accommodates for First Nations interest/opportunities
AREA 2
Proposed Provincial Conservancy
Conservancy better serves and reflects local interests
Hunting, fishing and existing access provisions remain
Largely respects the recommendations of the LRMP
Existing provincial resources unable to effectively manage a conservancy with such high ecosystem values
Tourism can be beneficial but does negatively affect biodiversity



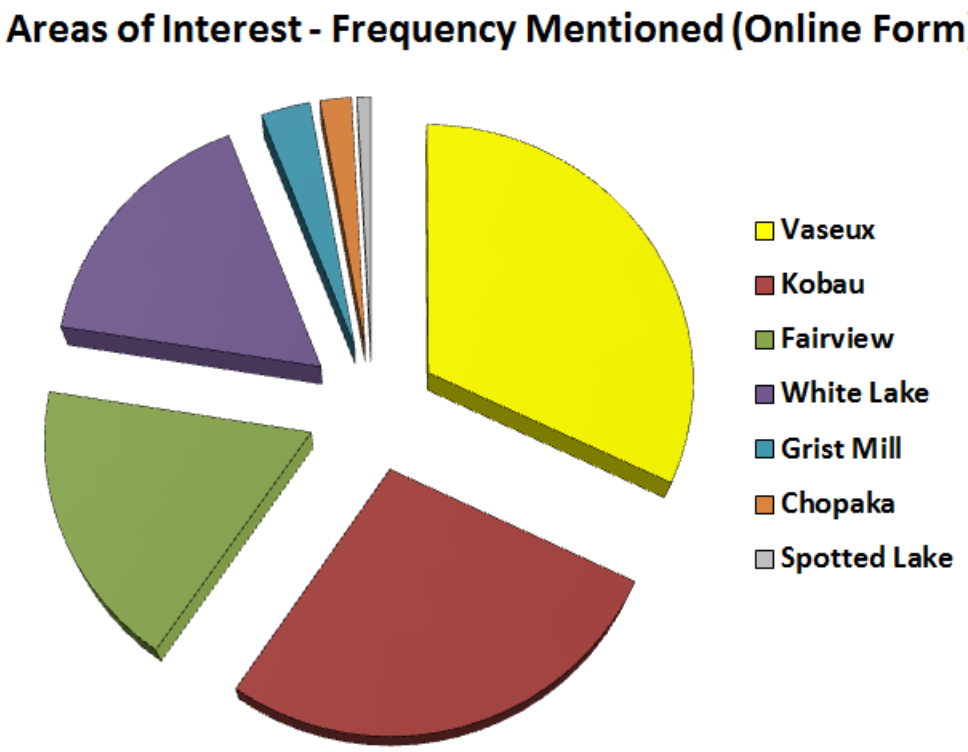
6.0 Additional Areas/Geographical Areas of Interest

When soliciting feedback on each respective concept area, there were several adjacent locations or geographical areas of interest that the public cited should be included in the consideration of enhanced protection. The various locations are illustrated below (note: these are geographical sites of interest outside of the 3 Area structure).

Additional Areas Cited- Enhanced Protection (South Okanagan)



Analysis of the online form data suggested the main areas of interest (sites mentioned by frequency) in the submissions were as follows. Of note, other forms of submissions (emails, formal letters) followed a similar identification of specific areas.



Additional areas cited in the emails and formal letters highlighted the following sites/geographical areas:

- **Oliver Mountain**
- **South Okanagan Wildlife Management Area**
- **Adjacent areas of the Similkameen River valley (adjacent to Area 1 and Area 2)-**
- **Vaseux Protected Area, Vaseux Lake, Vaseux Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Vaseux-Bighorn National Wildlife Area**
- **Areas of the Osoyoos Indian Reserve that retain intact grasslands and Antelope-Brush habitat**
- **Private conservation lands (leased to the Province) in the area of Vaseux Lake**

7.0 Conclusions and Next Steps

The 81 day public comment period that was associated with the Ministry of Environment's release of the Intentions Paper generated 3,460 responses. While a small percentage of the respondents (members of the public, organizations, affiliations, business interests etc.) chose to submit comments via the online form, a much larger percentage utilized different mediums (e.g., post cards, direct emails, formal letters) in which to convey their interests/recommendations for enhanced protection in the South Okanagan. The comments received varied in detail and presentation, and, while some respondents directly followed the seven question format outlined in the Intentions Paper, the majority of submissions used the release of the Intentions Paper as a platform to reinforce perspectives on the question of whether the South Okanagan was a suitable candidate for a national park reserve.

While all responses were appreciated, the purpose of the Intentions Paper was to solicit public feedback regarding the protected area framework proposal within the paper, one which is intended to reflect as best as possible the wide ranging interests of all interested groups and individuals; the original 2010 national park reserve proposal is not being reconsidered. Given the purpose of the Intentions Paper, submissions focused on the 2010 proposal (either supporting or opposing) weighed far less in the analysis process than responses focused on the questions in the Intentions Paper. In addition, the *quantity* of responses was factored less in the analysis than the *quality* of the information, concerns, suggestions and ideas raised in the context of the seven questions.

The questions posed within the Intentions Paper respecting the protected area concept were drafted to seek qualitative information to help the Province consider impacts (positive and negative) of protected area designations and to identify the types of issues that enhanced protection measures would need to consider before implementation. As the process was open-ended for responses, there were no appropriate controls in place, nor was the framework designed to determine overall support or opposition, and therefore the input cannot be considered as a poll.

Despite the deviation from what the Intentions Paper was originally designed to present and elicit, the feedback revealed many common themes and geographical areas of concern that greatly aided the Ministry of Environment in better understanding the interests of those passionate about protection in the South Okanagan. Numerous areas were suggested as requiring some form of enhanced protection and many of those sites were focused in the Vaseux Lake area, areas bordering existing sites of the South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area, and within the White Lake Basin. While other sites were presented as having a strong historical connection to the South Okanagan, such as the Haynes Ranch buildings (east of the Okanagan River), the Grist Mill near Keremeos and the iconic Fairview town site at the base of Oliver Mountain.

The Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (OSLRMP) factored heavily in many responses, with comments focussed on respecting existing land use commitments (such as access, recreational activities, commercial tenures) and pointing out that there remain outstanding recommendations from the OSLRMP that government should consider for implementation (e.g., Goal 2

park establishment). The decision to create a proposed conservancy designation for Area 2 as presented in the Intentions Paper was influenced by these previous land use commitments.

The Province has been, and will continue to be, in discussions with member bands from the Okanagan Nation Alliance (in particular, the Penticton Indian Band, the Osoyoos Indian Band and the Lower Similkameen Indian Band) on potential protection measures and land management that is collaborative and respects First Nation interests and values in the area. The Province will continue to engage with First Nations to better understand their interests prior to any final decisions.

Next Steps

Any new or enhanced land protection measures in the South Okanagan will require approval by Government. The information gathered through this process will help to inform any decisions by the Minister of Environment with respect to what, if any, mandate to seek. Cabinet direction will also determine what, if any, role federal designations may play in any future protection plan for the South Okanagan.

Next Steps: Next steps in the process will include:

- The Minister of Environment considering the findings of this process and develop a report for Cabinet.
- Continuing engagement with member bands of the Okanagan Nation Alliance to further understand First Nation values and interests in the area. Discussions will include how collaborative management can be accomplished.
- Identifying any interim protection measures that should be considered in the short to medium term.

Appendix 1: List of organizations with formal submissions (local and non-local)

ORGANIZATION
LOCAL AREA ZONE
Osoyoos Wildlife Federation
Penticton Outdoors Club
Okanagan Similkameen Stock Association
South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program
BC Wildlife Federation – Okanagan Region
Osoyoos Town Council
Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association
South Okanagan Naturalists Club
Oliver Tourism Association
Speak Up for Wildlife Foundation
South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Network
Destination Osoyoos Development Society
Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society
The Nature Trust of BC
Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory (NRC Canada)
NON LOCAL
North Okanagan Naturalists Club
Kootenay Mountaineering Club
Guide Outfitters Association of BC
Ancient Forest Alliance
BC Great Blue Heron Society
Central Okanagan Naturalists Club
Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – BC Chapter
Wilderness Committee
Nature Canada
Sierra Club of BC
Grasslands Conservation Council of BC
Association of Mineral Exploration of BC
Friends of Ecological Reserves
Group of Concerned Scientists
BC Wildlife Federation
Elders Council for BC Parks
Burke Mountain Naturalists
Alberni Valley Outdoor Club
BC Nature
Grand Forks Wildlife Association

Appendix 2: Summary of feedback from organizations (local and non-local)

Local Organizations

Name: Osoyoos Wildlife Federation

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position:

If No, then key reasons for position: Loss of local control and federal jurisdiction is a major concern

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Concerns over First Nations and federal government co-management

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Name: Penticton Outdoors Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: More resources available under federal control

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Lake, Fairview Townsite

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Merge into one large NPR

Name: Okanagan Similkameen Stock Association

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: Follow recommendations of the LRMP

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: N/A

Name: South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): N/A

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Insufficient consultation timelines and process. More clarity is required.

Name: BC Wildlife Federation – Okanagan Region

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: Follow recommendations of the LRMP

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Too much commercialization and tourism under NPR

Name: Osoyoos Town Council

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Benefits area in general

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Haynes homestead, Spotted Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Better protection and tourism potential

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: South Okanagan Naturalists Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Significant ecological benefits over existing protection

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Connection between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Oliver Tourism Association

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Increased tourism benefits

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Speak Up for Wildlife Foundation

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Needed to protect ecosystem and species

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Not specifically stated but conveys a large land area is needed

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: Yes

Comments: Under the proviso that there be no hunting, no grazing and no helicopter training.

Name: South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Network

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Greater landscape level protection is needed

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: South Okanagan WMA, Vaseux Lake, Vaseux Bighorn NWA, Osoyoos West Bench, Snowy Protected Area, Oliver Mountain, Old Fairview Townsite, Connectivity between Area 2 and 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Destination Osoyoos Development Society

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Diversified tourism and economy, federal funding is necessary

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Oliver Womens Institute

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Better protection of unique values

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: High ecosystem values, landscape connectivity

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Oliver Mountain

Connectivity between Area 2 and 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: The Nature Trust of BC

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Must exclude lands held by TNT BC

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Mapping should be revised to exclude TNT BC holdings

Name: Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Increased protection would benefit area

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Mapping should be revised to exclude DRAO land holdings and interest areas

Non-Local Organizations

Name: North Okanagan Naturalist Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Increased protection for habitat for rare/endangered species

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments:

Name: Kootenay Mountaineering Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Benefit ecological diversity and non-motorized use

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Guide Outfitters Association of BC

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: Loss of hunting opportunities

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection:

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Should an NPR be established then guide outfitters territories should be purchased at fair market value or properly compensated.

Name: Ancient Forest Alliance

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Enhanced protection is needed

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Similkameen River, Vaseux Lake, OIB lands- under agreement, Okanagan River.

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: BC Great Blue Heron Society

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Protection of cultural, environmental values and revenue to surrounding communities

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Central Okanagan Naturalists Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3):

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Protection of the environment, enhanced visitation/economy

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Similkameen Valley, Snowy Protected Area, connectivity between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: N/A

Name: The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Environmental protection and economic benefit

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Lake, Fairview Historic Site

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Recreational benefits and increased protection

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: East side of Vaseux Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Increased protection is needed (climate change, biodiversity, First Nations values, tourism, recreation, and socio-economic benefits)

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Connectivity section between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Wilderness Committee

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Biodiversity, species at risk and habitat

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Lake Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Vaseux PA, Vaseux Bighorn NWA, Oliver Mountain, and South Okanagan WMA, Connectivity between Area 2 and 3, Snowy, Fairview Townsite, Haynes Ranch buildings, Grist Mill, private lands south of Vaseux Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Nature Canada

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Species protection and increased habitat protection

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: Yes

Comments: N/A

Name: Grasslands Conservation Council

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Higher level of active land management

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Connectivity between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Association of Mineral Exploration British Columbia

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): N/A

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: Mineral tenures must be compensated and further clarity is required on the process of addressing current mineral claims and interests

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Name: Friends of Ecological Reserves

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Economic and environmental benefits

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Connectivity between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR and Mahoney Lake ER should not be transferred to federal jurisdiction and should remain as an ecological reserve under provincial control.

Name: Declaration of Support (24 Scientists and Land Managers)

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Special significance and existing protection is inadequate

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Osoyoos West Bench, east side of Vaseux Lake, Oliver Mountain

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: BC Wildlife Federation

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: Key holdings purchased using HCTF funds, provincial park designation offers the best protection while allowing for hunting, hiking and camping.

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Provincial park designation is the most appropriate tool to serve the public interest

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Name: Elders Council for Parks

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Special area that deserves a more collaborative and better coordinated protection regime

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Lands east of Vaseux Lake

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: Yes

Comments: N/A

Name: Burke Mountain Naturalists

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Unique area that requires protection of species at risk

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Vaseux Bighorn National Wildlife Area, connectivity between Area 2 and Area 3

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Alberni Valley Outdoor Club

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Greater protection of biodiversity

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: BC Nature

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): Yes

If Yes, then main reasons for position: Species at risk and habitat protection is enhanced

If No, then key reasons for position: N/A

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: Fairview site, Osoyoos Desert Centre, east side of Vaseux Lake, Vaseux Bighorn NWA.

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: No

Comments: Area 2 should be NPR

Name: Grand Forks Wildlife Association

General Support of Enhanced Protection as NPR (Area 1 and 3): No

If Yes, then main reasons for position: N/A

If No, then key reasons for position: Only benefits a handful of people

Additional areas cited for enhanced protection: N/A

Support Conservancy designation for Area 2: N/A

Comments: N/A