

Management Recommendations and Implementation Plan for Lower Silvertip Wildlife Corridor

January 2024



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1. Background

The Lower Silvertip Wildlife Corridor (LSWC) is one of two wildlife corridors running across the northeast side of the Bow Valley in Canmore. These corridors, along with the established habitat patches, create a network designed to preserve functional wildlife habitat, accommodate daily and seasonal wildlife movement, and reduce human-wildlife conflicts. The LSWC is meant to connect the Harvie Heights and Indian Flats habitat patches through the lower portion of the valley (Figure 1). In recent years new peripheral developments, human presence, and recreational disturbances within the LSWC have raised questions about its functionality as a wildlife corridor. It is anticipated that future development will further constrain animal movement, and potentially increase recreational pressures inside the LSWC.

A recent study, conducted in 2020, on the Lower Silvertip Wildlife Corridor completed by Management and Solutions in Environmental Science (MSES Report) confirmed the LSWC continues to function as a wildlife corridor, particularly for ungulates. However, the MSES Report also notes portions of the corridor are ecologically vulnerable due to increased recreation and topography of the area. The number of people living next to, and recreating within, the corridor is expected to grow significantly over the coming years, particularly with the development of the Palliser Lands (between the Trans-Canada Highway and the LSWC) and Mountain Tranquility Place (along the north boundary of the Eagle Terrace lands). Increased human use of the corridor will likely result in further disturbance to wildlife habitat and wildlife behavior. Addressing human use issues in the near term is crucial to the long-term functional success of the LSWC.

The Lower Silvertip Wildlife Corridor Management Committee (Committee) was formed to guide, implement, and evaluate management actions over the long term, and in particular to address the challenges raised by continued human use in the corridor. The Committee consists of representatives from landowner and relevant stakeholder organizations within the LSWC: Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Forestry and Parks, Canmore Community Housing Corporation, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Stone Creek Resorts Inc. and the Town of Canmore. This Management Recommendations and Implementation Plan for the Lower Silvertip Wildlife Corridor (MRIP) was developed by the Committee to support the function of the LSWC through collaborative management.

This MRIP includes a series of recommended actions and an implementation plan focused on managing human use within the LSWC. The corridor's natural features attract a variety of recreational users, including walkers, runners, and mountain bikers. This recreational use in the area has resulted in a proliferation of non-designated trails and temporary structures, causing increased wildlife disturbance and ecological degradation. A key aim of the MRIP is to consider these recreational uses, while addressing human-wildlife interaction, erosion, run off, fire safety and other issues. Central to this is identifying an ecologically sustainable, designated trail system that facilitates continued recreational pursuits, while improving the function of the LSWC and ecosystem.

1.1 SITE LOCATION AND SURROUNDING LAND USE

The general location of wildlife corridors in the Bow Valley were initially identified and mapped by Bow Corridor Ecosystem Advisory Group (BCEAG). The exact boundaries of the corridors may shift as more detailed analysis and planning is undertaken for a particular wildlife corridor. Over time, the identified wildlife corridors may be gradually designated and protected through either voluntary actions of landowners or as land is subdivided and developed in accordance with municipal statutory plans and the Municipal Government Act.

The LSWC is 78.2 hectares in area. It runs from the Harvie Heights Habitat Patch in the west to the eastern edge of the Silvertip property near Cougar Creek in the east (Figure 1). BCEAG identified this area to be an ungulate movement corridor. Its purpose is to allow elk, deer, and bighorn sheep unimpaired movement pathways across the Silvertip development between habitat patches near Harvie Heights and on the east side of Cougar Creek.

In 1992, Banff National Park published *The Preservation of Wildlife Populations in the Bow Valley, Alberta: A Banff National Park Proposal to Neighbouring Municipalities*. The report identified two corridors that transected the Silvertip and Eagle Terrace Properties. The western part of the LSWC (i.e., the portion of the corridor west of Silvertip Trail), was originally owned primarily by Canmore Alpine Development Company Ltd., now known as Stone Creek Resorts Inc. (SCR). Today, land in the western LSWC is owned by SCR, the Town of Canmore, Canmore Community Housing (CCH), and the Province of Alberta (Figure 2). A parcel of land within this western portion of the LSWC is protected under a conservation easement (CE). Palliser Bench is owned by the Town of Canmore and the CE granted to Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) (Figure 2). The main objective of this CE is to “protect forever the wildlife habitat of the property”.

The eastern end of the land identified as the LSWC is owned by ACA and AFGA, known as the Eagle Terrace Conservation Site, and is protected under a CE granted to the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) in 1998 (purple patches in Figure 2). ACA is the lead management agency. Only the western parcel of Eagle Terrace Conservation Site (purple cross hatching on Figure 2) lies within the LSWC. The purpose of the easement is to protect in perpetuity portions of wildlife corridors just west of Cougar Creek, running towards Silvertip Trail. The main objectives of the conservation easement are to:

- maintain the land as a secondary corridor for ungulates and small to medium sized carnivores;
- facilitate movement of these animals through the corridor;
- promote scenic, aesthetic and open space values;
- maintain the land with the spirit and intent of the goals of wildlife protection;
- promote public education relative to wildlife corridors; and,
- monitor the efficacy of the easement as a wildlife corridor.

The following is a list of current owners of land and stakeholders within the LSWC:

- Stone Creek Resorts Inc./944095 Alberta Ltd.;
- The Province of Alberta;
- Alberta Conservation Association;
- Alberta Fish and Game Association;
- Town of Canmore; and,
- Canmore Community Housing Corporation.

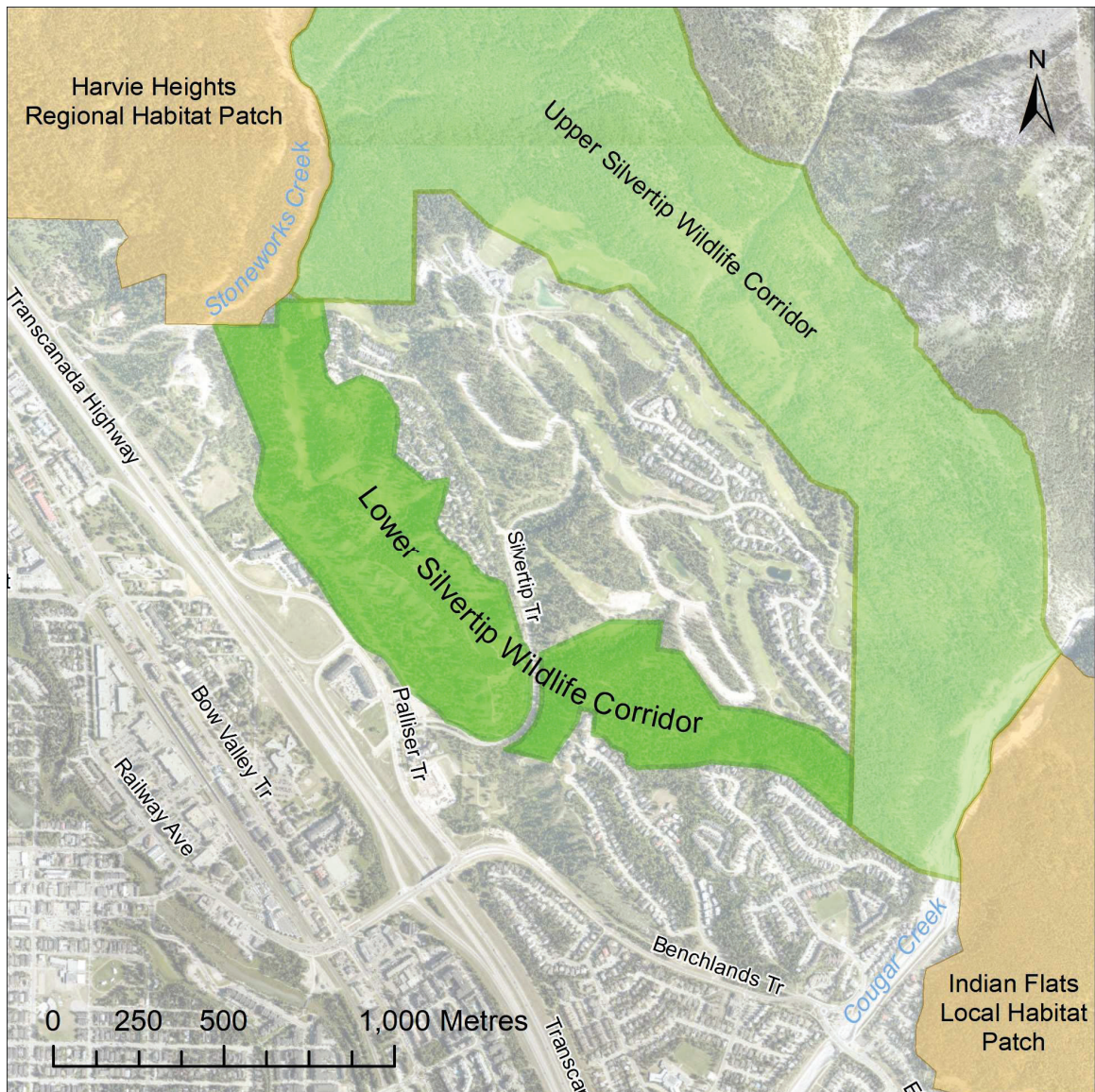


Figure 1. Location of Lower Silvertip Wildlife Corridor

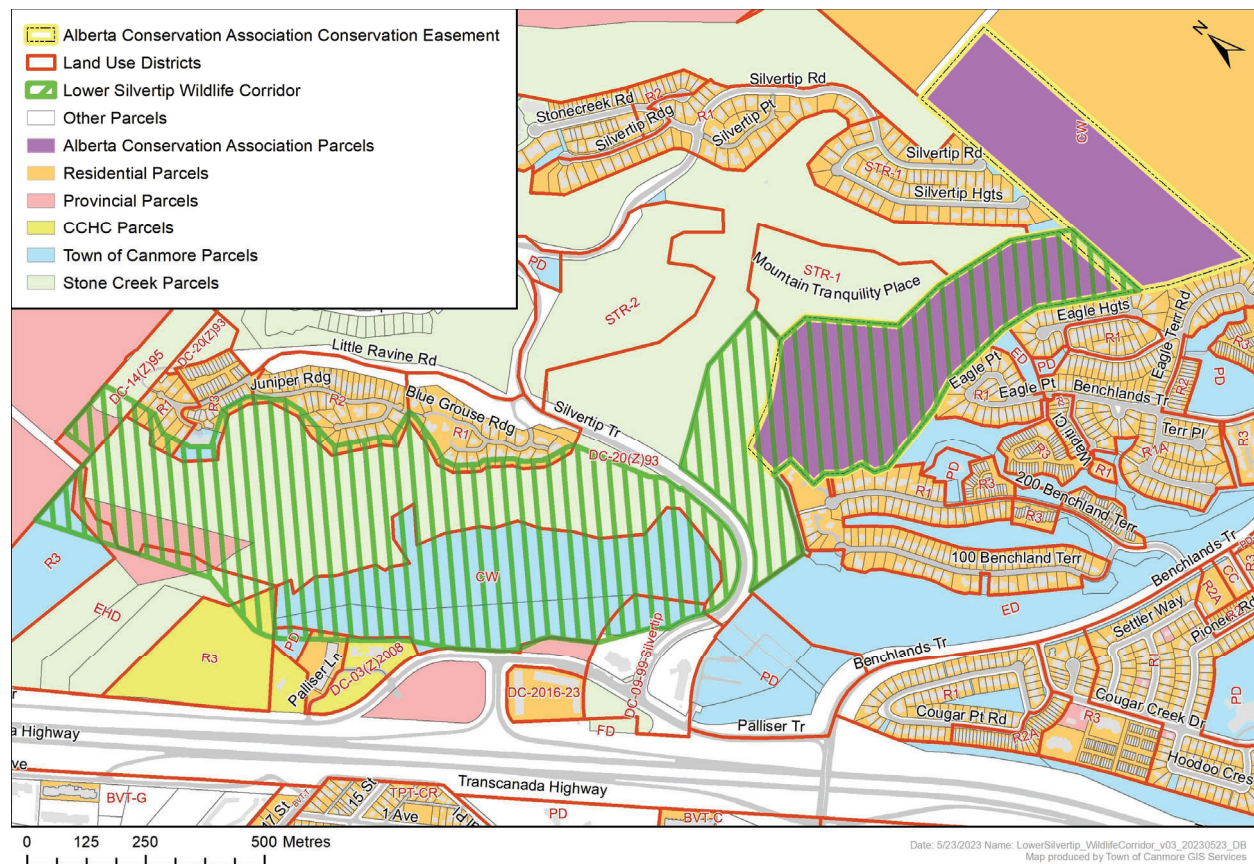


Figure 2. Ownership of land parcels in and around the Lower Silvertip Wildlife Corridor (additional information on the land use zoning shown in this figure can be found in the Town of Canmore Land Use Bylaw)

1.2 LEGAL DESCRIPTION

NW Sec-04 Twp-025 Rge-10 Mer-5; SE Sec-05 Twp-025 Rge-10 Mer-5; SW Sec-04 Twp-025 Rge-10 W5M; NW Sec-33 Twp-024 Rge-10 W5M; and NE Sec-33 Twp-024 Rge-10 W5M (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Map Representing the Legal Land Description of the Lower Silvertip Wildlife Corridor

1.3 SITE FEATURES

1.3.1 Vegetation and other natural site features

Based on aerial image analysis presented in the MSES Report, the LSWC contains a range of landscape cover types, consisting of dense coniferous forest and tall shrubs which serve as hiding cover for ungulates (Table 1).

Table 1. Percentage of different land cover types within the LSWC

Land Cover	Area (ha)	Percent (%)
Coniferous Dense	21.8	27.9
Herb	19.6	25.0
Grassland	18.9	24.2
Shrub Tall	10.3	13.1
Developed	5.2	6.6
Exposed Land	1.9	2.4
Rock	0.6	0.8

Source: Government of Canada. 2009. Note data is based on 2000 Landsat 5 and 7 ortho-images.

1.3.2 Anthropogenic (human influenced) features

Human use is highest in the eastern portion of the corridor, but also occurs in the western portion. The ACA lands/NCC conservation easement in the eastern portion of the corridor, has private residences that back directly onto the LSWC, whereas the western half of the LSWC requires climbing steep slopes to access the trail in the corridor. It appears human use does occur in winter in the LSWC despite a seasonal closure being in place for the Douglas Fir Trail. The seasonal closure has not been well communicated to trail users, and there is little/no signage in place identifying the closure to trail users.

For the purpose of this MRIP we use the terms “designated trails” and “authorized use” to refer to approved trails and activities but acknowledge this terminology may vary in related documents. These terms are defined in Section 2.2.

Spatial analysis of disturbance features completed by BCEAG in 2012 showed the proliferation of recreational trails in the LSWC (Table 2). There is a single, designated seasonal trail that is ~2.4 km long called the Douglas Fir Trail through the western portion of the LSWC. BCEAG (2012) also noted 7.1 km of non-designated recreational trails located nearest the western and eastern edges of the LSWC (

Figure 4). This number has likely increased since 2012. In 2016, ACA installed signs showing designated trails and trail closures on the eastern portion of the LSWC (part of Eagle Terrace Conservation Site). The ongoing proliferation of non-designated trails and increases in unauthorized human use (e.g., unsanctioned disc golf course holes) present major challenges to corridor functionality.

Informational data on recreational trail use in the LSWC can be downloaded from the fitness app “Strava” (Figure 5). The heat map of recreational use (e.g., running and cycling) shows most activity occurs on designated trails in the corridor, except in the eastern portion of the corridor where a network of designated and non-designated trails are used.

Table 2. Amount of linear and nonlinear anthropogenic disturbances in the LSWC. (Adapted from BCEAG 2012)

Anthropogenic Footprint within Wildlife Corridor		
Linear Feature	Designated Recreational Trails	2.4 km
	Non-Designated Recreational Trails	7.1 km
	Vehicular roads (paved and gravel)	0.6 km
	Rights-of-Way (powerlines, pipelines, seismic lines, railway)	0 km
	Total Length	10.1 km
	Linear Density	12.9 km/km²
Non-Linear Feature	Anthropogenic Disturbance	0 ha
	Golf Course (includes buildings, paved areas and obvious disturbances with no habitat potential).	6.5 ha

Source: trail data provided by ATPR (2011a)(designated and non-designated trails), as well as air photo interpretation (September 2009 imagery)(powerlines, railway, highways, roads, anthropogenic disturbance).

Note: only designated recreational trails are shown on the maps (ATPR 2011a).

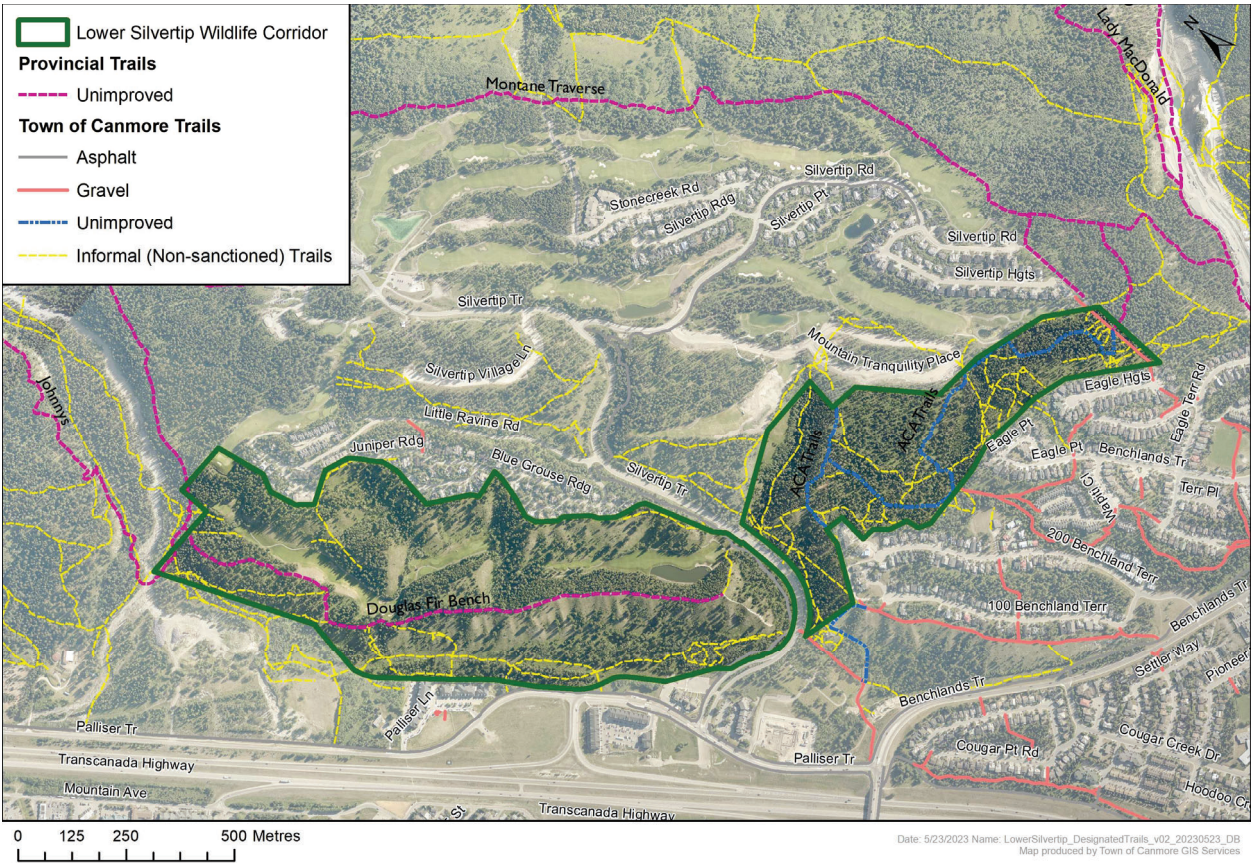


Figure 4. Designated (unimproved) and Non-Designated (informal) Trails in the Lower Silvertip Wildlife Corridor.



Figure 5. Heat Map of Recreational Trail Use as Recorded by the Strava App on Designated and Non-Designated Trails in the LSWC.

1.4 WILDLIFE AND FISH

A complete history of the wildlife monitored in the LSWC can be found in the 2020 MSES Report, and the 1998 Baseline Conditions for the Eagle Terrace Conservation Easement report prepared by Golder Associates Ltd.

1.4.1 Mammals

The site provides habitat for a variety of ungulates including elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer, and bighorn sheep. The site is also periodically used by moose, coyotes, fox, cougars, black bears, grizzly bears, fisher, lynx, bobcat and wolverine.

The most common small mammals include red squirrel, marten, snowshoe hare, least chipmunk, short-tailed weasel, deer mouse, and meadow voles.

1.4.2 Birds

The bird community consists primarily of pine siskin, yellow-rumped warbler, chipping sparrow, American robin, warbling vireo, ruby-crowned kinglet, brown-headed cowbird, and Swainson's thrush.

1.4.3 Amphibians and reptiles

No amphibians or reptiles have been observed on the site.

1.4.4 Fish

No waterbodies exist on LSWC that can sustain fish.

2. Management

2.1 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS CONTEXT

The recommendations provided below are designed to align with the Town of Canmore's 2023 – 2026 Strategic Plan, specifically the Environment Goal: "Canmore is a recognized leader in managing impact on our environment". A result of this goal is "wildlife encounters within Canmore's urban footprint are reduced, and unauthorized human use in wildlife corridors is similarly reduced."

This MRIP also aligns with the seven recommendations put forward in the 2020 MSES Report, to improve wildlife movement and mitigate impacts of recreational use in the LSWC:

1. Develop a committee of LSWC landowners and other relevant stakeholders (i.e., Town of Canmore, SCR, AEP, ACA, NCC) to guide, implement and evaluate management actions in the LSWC over the long term.
2. Implement the closure of non-designated trails, and designation of new trails, at the western end of the LSWC as detailed in the report *Recommendations for trails and management of recreational use for the Town of Canmore: South Canmore and West Palliser* (Tera Environmental, 2012).
3. Implement the recommendations for the LSWC outlined in the *Open Spaces & Trails Plan* (Town of Canmore, 2015).
4. We recommend the Town of Canmore ensure the future Block 10 Subdivision has mitigations in place to limit direct access from private homes into the LSWC, and in collaboration with ACA/NCC, explore what options are available to manage access into the LSWC from Eagle Terrace.
5. Address wildlife movement issues stemming from the steep slope east of Silvertip Road. This slope appears to limit movement by ungulates east-west through the corridor. Solutions will need to address the filtering effect of the slope on animal movement to reduce wildlife access to Benchlands Trail to the south or the Silvertip Golf Course to the north. For example:
 - Strategically placed sections of wildlife fencing could be used to keep elk from accessing Benchlands Trail as they traverse the LSWC.
 - Habitat enhancements could be done within the corridor to facilitate more use by elk. Improved foraging conditions or movement pathways could increase elk use. Increasing the attractiveness and functionality of the LSWC will become more important in the future as wildlife fencing excludes animals from other preferred habitats in Canmore (e.g. Centennial Park; Three Sisters Mountain Village).
 - These actions should be guided by the LSWC Management Committee.
6. Reduce trail density in the eastern portion of the LSWC. These actions should be guided by the LSWC Management Committee.
7. Implement year-round monitoring within the LSWC in the future to assess corridor functionality and the effectiveness of management actions.

To address MSES Report recommendation #1, a committee of all landowners identified in section 1.2 of this MRIP was formed in fall 2022. The first outcome of the LSWC Management Committee is this MRIP.

The following management recommendations and implementation actions are recommended to support the implementation of MSES Report recommendations #2 - #7. Additional details on the implementation of these recommendations can be found in Appendix 3.

A note on MSES Report recommendation #5: The LSWC Committee reviewed the MSES recommendation and recognized that the steep slope is influencing ungulate movement through the wildlife corridor. By implementing the action items in this plan, this Committee believes that this will help to resolve the issue. However, ungulate movement will be monitored and evaluated over the next five years to determine if further action is required.

2.2 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

The following recommendations are broken out into themes, with each theme area containing recommended management and implementation actions to be undertaken by the landowners of the LSWC.

Authorized Use of Land and Designated Trails

Creating clear and consistent terminology across the management recommendations for the LSWC is a crucial first step. The definitions below are to ensure that the terminology used in this MRIP is in alignment with other municipal and regional planning documents.

Authorized Use: means the present and future use of the trail and lands in the LSWC as authorized by the Town of Canmore and the landowners of the LSWC.

Designated Trail: means a trail that is approved by the landowner, mapped, marked, and actively managed and maintained.

Recommendations:

1. Request the Town of Canmore and adjacent landowners to reaffirm the authorized use of the designated trails and incorporate this definition and use into municipal plans as they are reviewed and updated:
 - Dogs: on-leash only
 - Human use: foot access, pedal bicycles, and Class 1 e-bicycles only
 - Motorized vehicles and UAVs are not permitted

Non-designated trails are not to be used for any purpose.

2. As part of the implementation of authorized use, request that Administration consider the implementation of a robust education program to area residents and trail users.

Trail Management

Recommendations:

3. Design and manage a network of designated trails that is consistent with the Town of Canmore's Open Space and Trails Plan and other statutory or non-statutory Plans from all levels of government, including but not limited to the Canmore Area Trails Strategy:
 - a) A sub-committee to come together to identify designated and non-designated trails based on existing data, research, and engagement with trail user groups. Initial draft trail alignment visible in Appendix 4.
 - b) Contract trail design experts to determine final trail alignment.
 - c) Develop a trail closure plan and trail management plan.
 - d) Develop a decommissioning plan.
 - e) Work collaboratively with landowners stated in section 1.1 to fund the steps b - d.

Signage & Wayfinding

Recommendations:

4. Determine a funding mechanism and responsible parties for the development and installation of new signage and wayfinding.
5. Engage with Îvârha Nakoda to consider changing the name of the LSWC.
6. Clearly brand the area with new name – important to refer to the area as a wildlife corridor.
7. Create consistent signage across the corridor from natural materials. It should also be designed in consideration of the greater Bow Valley signage, and in alignment with the Provincially funded Canmore Areas Trail Strategy.
8. Signage should include directional and educational content (i.e., a comprehensive trail map including access points; which trails are open and closed; an explanation for why a trail would be closed, such as “this trail is closed to protect the wildlife”).
9. Signage should be displayed at all access points to the corridor.
10. Include signage at intersections between designated and non-designated trails.
11. Restrict access to points that are being closed with fencing and signage.
12. Identify a budget and funding mechanism for sign maintenance and updates.
13. Regularly maintain and update signage. Identify who is going to repair or replace vandalized signs.

Examples of effective trail signage is included in Appendix 2 below.

Public Engagement

Engagement has been shown to be an important part of corridor management, but engagement must also be authentic. As many of the issues will be managed with expert input based on science and data, and as landowners cannot be compelled to make changes, the most effective use of engagement will be a comprehensive “inform” initiative – the first stage in the IAP2 engagement continuum.

Recommendations:

14. Consult with key partners on how to engage with their members. Provide key partners with information on the designated trail design and new management strategies.
15. Inform the public about the role of the corridor and human use pressures within it.
16. Inform the public on mitigations underway.
17. Benchmark public support for the corridor and its decreased human use.

Communications Campaign

Recommendations:

The “inform” initiative will be implemented through a comprehensive communications campaign:

18. Determine a funding mechanism and responsible parties for the development of communications materials.
19. Develop key messages to use across all communications materials. Focus messaging on:
 - The significant pressures that inappropriate human use places on the function of the corridor
 - Animal use and the function of the corridor (i.e., a bear was seen near this trail in the corridor yesterday, we counted XX carnivore crossings on our cameras last year)
 - The fact that key decisions, such as designated trail placement and access points, were informed by science and extensive data to ensure long-term corridor preservation.
 - Time is of the essence to ensure the long-term sustainability of the wildlife corridor.
20. Consider a direct mail campaign to inform homeowners along/near the corridor about management changes.
21. Request that the Town of Canmore consider the development of a town-wide educational campaign.

Community Education

Recommendations:

22. Develop a Corridor Stewards program or partner with an existing community organization. This is a volunteer-based position that provides educational resources for trail users. These volunteers can be equipped with an official badge or vest, and printed information to distribute or QR codes to scan. They are provided with the most up to date information about the corridor including which trails are open and what animals have been seen in the corridor recently. These individuals are advocates for the wildlife; they are not policing the area.

Land Use

Recommendations:

23. It's strongly recommended that an off-leash dog park be developed near housing to provide dog owners with an alternative off-leash area to enjoy with their dogs. This will minimize some of the frustration from dog owners following the LSWC management changes.

Enforcement

Enforcement is an important component of an education campaign. Education comes first, but enforcement is usually required to change behaviour.

Enforcement of the corridor is complicated due to it including both private and public land. Enforcement under the different land types looks different:

Private:

For the private land, it is the responsibility of the landowners to enforce proper use.

Municipal:

On public land owned by the Town of Canmore, the Town's Protective Services department can enforce, however, there is currently limited tools and capacity to enforce human use. An agreement with the Town would need to be proposed and approved for broad corridor enforcement. Under the current Town Bylaws only off-leash dogs would be able to be enforced. There is nothing in Town bylaws that prohibits people from walking off trail, people cannot create new trails, but they can use existing pathways, such as deer trails. There is also the potential for Protective Services to address undesignated trail use/construction as property damage, i.e. fence removal or trail closure destruction.

Provincial:

On Provincial lands enforcement is difficult because there are capacity concerns within the current resources of the Provincial Conservation Officers and Fish and Wildlife Officers. Increasing staffing and enforcement in the LSWC would require a Ministerial order. Increased Provincial resources would enable enforcement of trail use and off-leash dogs.

Recommendations:

24. Park Rangers could be used for education (but not enforcement). Biosphere Institute of the Bow Valley runs a conservation program called WildSmart that provides education and outreach efforts to the public. This program could help train LSWC Steward volunteers.
25. Explore creating a universal agreement between Alberta Fish & Wildlife, Town of Canmore, and individual landowners to ensure adequate enforcement is committed from either Alberta Fish & Wildlife or the Town of Canmore in the LSWC.

Perimeter Management**Recommendations:**

26. Explore creating a universal agreement on a consistent fencing structure (and cost) for the south/southwest side of the LSWC. Strong consideration should be given to National and Provincial Park guidelines. Fencing on the south side of the LSWC can also serve as highway fencing for the TransCanada Highway.
27. Setbacks from the LSWC boundary should align with setbacks set out in the BCEAG guidelines of 20-metres. Consideration can be given to areas of the LSWC governed under another existing statutory document. However, unless stated in an existing Statutory Document all future development adjacent to the corridor should implement a 20-metre setback to nearest active property development.

Monitoring & Evaluation

To ensure the success of this MRIP, ongoing monitoring of the following will need to take place:

- Wildlife movement,
- Authorized and unauthorized human use, and
- Changes to the public's awareness of and attitudes towards the corridor.

Recommendations:

28. A monitoring plan should be developed that identifies key measures, monitoring regularity, and who will be managing this deliverable.

29. Develop long term wildlife monitoring to build on the existing data set to keep learning about the evolving nature of the corridor. This will help to ensure appropriate human use of the corridor and to continue identifying where and when animals are using the corridor.

Land Transfer

Recommendations:

30. Support initiation of title transfer of the ACA/NCC lands to the Provincial government within one year of this final, signed MRIP.

Committee

Recommendations:

31. The LWSC Management Committee has agreed to continue to meet quarterly, with a rotating chair. Terms of Reference will be developed to formally define this group and their various roles and responsibility. Subcommittees will be developed for trail management, monitoring & evaluation, funding, and signage & wayfinding.
32. The Committee will review and update this MRIP every 5 years unless an earlier review is warranted.

Signatories

The signatures below indicate that the affected landowners have reviewed and approved this MRIP and are committed to its implementation.

Accepted by:	Robert Anderson Alberta Conservation Association	Signature: 
Accepted by:	John Paczkowski Alberta Forestry and Parks	Signature: 
Accepted by:	Michelle Ouellette Canmore Community Housing	Signature: 
Accepted by:	Guy Turcotte Stone Creek Resorts Inc.	Signature: 

Town of Canmore Council Motion: That Council accept the Management Recommendations and Implementation Plan for the Lower Silvertip Wildlife Corridor for planning purposes.

Date: MARCH 5, 2024

Motion Number: 47-2024

Appendix 1: LSWC Working Group Process

The LSWC Management Committee consists of 12 individuals representing 6 LSWC landowners. Between October 2022 – July 2023, this Committee was engaged in the following facilitated process with Stormy Lake Consulting:

- Four, 3-hour group working sessions. These were conducted in-person and online.
- One, individual Zoom conversation.

The information gathered and discussions had in these engagements were used to prepare this management approach.

LSWC Management Committee

Name	Organization	Role
Mandy Couve	Alberta Conservation Association	Senior Biologist
Erin VanderMarel	Alberta Conservation Association	Intermediate Biologist
Debbie Mucha	Alberta Forestry and Parks	Kananaskis West Area Manager
John Paczkowski	Alberta Forestry and Parks	Human Wildlife Coexistence Lead
John Mahoney	Alberta Forestry and Parks	Manager Ecosystem and Conservation
Peggy Holroyd	Alberta Forestry and Parks	Planning Team Lead
Michelle Ouellette	Canmore Community Housing Corp	Executive Director
Morgan Higginson	Nature Conservancy of Canada	Natural Area Manager, Alberta
John Third	Stone Creek Resorts Inc.	Vice President, Marketing & Sales
Rod Berg	Stone Creek Resorts Inc.	Senior Project Manager
Caitlin Van Gaal	Town of Canmore	Supervisor, Environment & Sustainability
Josh Cairns	Town of Canmore	Senior Policy Planner
Riley Welden	Town of Canmore	Parks Planner

Appendix 2: Sample Wayfinding Strategy

<https://www.parks.marincounty.org/projectsplans/road-and-trail-management/wayfinding-signs-all?tabnum=2>



Appendix 3: Proposed Implementation Plan

LSWC Implementation of Action Plan					
Action Plan Category	Activity	Responsible Organization/ Personnel	Estimated Cost	Estimated Time Commitment	Estimated Completion
Authorized use	1. Request the Town of Canmore and adjacent landowners to reaffirm the authorized use of the designated trails and incorporate this definition and use into municipal plans as they are reviewed and updated.	Committee	N/A	Low	Ongoing
	2. As part of the implementation of authorized use, request that Administration consider the implementation of a robust education program to area residents and trail users.	Committee	N/A	Low	Ongoing
Trail management	3a. A sub-committee to come together to identify designated and non-designated trails based on existing data, research and engagement with trail user groups.	SCR, ToC, AFPT, ACA	\$3,000	Medium	2023
	3b. Contract trail design experts.	SCR, ToC, AFPT, ACA	TBD	High	2023 - 2024
	3c. Develop a trail closure plan and trail management plan.	SCR, ToC, AFPT, ACA	TBD	High	2024
	3d. Develop a decommissioning plan.	SCR, ToC, AFPT, ACA			
	3e. Work collaboratively with landowners stated in section 1.1 to fund the steps b-d.	ToC	TBD	High	2025
Signage & wayfinding	4. Determine a funding mechanism and responsible parties for the development and installation of signage and wayfinding.	Committee	N/A	Low	same as trail closures
	5. Engage with Iḱarha Nakoda around changing the name of the LSWC.	ToC, AFPT	TBD	Medium	same as trail closures
	6. Clearly brand the area with the new name – important to refer to the area as a wildlife corridor.	ToC, AFPT	TBD	High	same as trail closures
	It should also be designed in consideration of the greater Bow Valley signage, and in alignment with the Provincially funded Canmore Areas Trail Strategy	ToC, AFPT	TBD	High	same as trail closures
	8. Signage should include directional and educational content (i.e., a comprehensive trail map including access points; which trails are open and closed; an explanation for why a trail would be closed, such as "this trail is closed to protect the wildlife").	ToC, AFPT	TBD	High	same as trail closures
	9. Signage should be displayed at all access points.	ToC, AFPT	TBD	High	same as trail closures
	10. Include signage at intersections between designated and non-designated trails.	ToC, AFPT	TBD	High	same as trail closures
	11. Restrict access to points that are being closed with fencing and signage	ToC, AFPT	TBD	High	same as trail closures
	12. Identify a budget and funding mechanism for sign maintenance and updates.	ToC, SCR, CCH	TBD	High	same as trail closures
	13. Regularly maintain and update signage. Identify who is going to repair or replace vandalized signs, vandalized signs.	ToC, SCR, CCH	TBD	High	same as trail closures
Public engagement	14. Consult with key partners on how to engage with their members. Provide key partners information on the designated trail design and new management strategies.	ToC, trails group	TBD	Medium	2024
	15. Inform the public about the role of the corridor and human use pressures within it.	ToC	TBD	Medium	2024
	16. Inform the public on mitigations underway.	ToC	TBD	Medium	2024
	17. Benchmark public support for the corridor and its decreased human use.	ToC	TBD	Medium	2024
Communications campaign	18. Determine a funding mechanism and responsible parties for the development of communications materials.	Committee	N/A	Low	2023
	19. Develop key messages to use across all communications materials.	Committee, ToC	TBD	Medium	2024
	20. Consider a direct mail campaign to inform homeowners along/near the corridor about management changes.	ToC	TBD	Medium	2024
	21. Request that the Town of Canmore consider the development of a town-wide educational campaign.	Committee	N/A	Low	2024
Community education	22. Develop a Corridor Stewards program or partner with an existing community organization.	ToC to initiate, Biosphere Institute	TBD	High	2026
Other related recommendations	23. It's strongly recommended that an off-leash dog park be developed near housing to provide dog owners with an alternative off-leash area to enjoy with their dogs.	ToC, property owners	TBD	Medium	Ongoing
Enforcement	24. Park Rangers could be used for education (but not enforcement). Biosphere Institute of the Bow Valley runs a conservation program called WildSmart that provides education and outreach efforts to the public. This program could help train LSWC Steward Volunteers	AFPT, Biosphere, ToC, SCR	TBD	High	2024
	25. Explore creating a universal agreement between Alberta Fish & Wildlife, Town of Canmore, and individual landowners to ensure adequate enforcement is committed from either Alberta Fish & Wildlife or the Town of Canmore in the LSWC.	ToC, AFPT, ACA, SCR	TBD	High	2023
Perimeter management	26. Explore creating a universal agreement on a consistent fencing structure (and cost) for the wildlife corridor.	TC, AFPT, ACA, SCR, CCH	TBD	Medium	2024
	27. Setbacks from the LSWC boundary should align with setbacks set out in the BCEAG guidelines of 20-metres, unless stated differently in an existing Statutory Document	ToC, SCR, CCH	N/A	Low	Ongoing
Monitoring & evaluation	28. A monitoring plan should be developed that identifies key measures, monitoring regularity, and who will be managing this deliverable.	AFPT, SCR	TBD	Medium	2023 - ongoing
	29. Long term wildlife monitoring to build on the existing data set to keep learning about the evolving nature of the corridor.	AFPT	TBD	Medium	Ongoing
Land transfer	30. Support the transfer of the ACA/NCC lands to the Provincial government.	ACA, AFPT, NCC, ToC	N/A	Low	Ongoing
Committee	31. The LSWC Management Committee has agreed to continue to meet quarterly, with a rotating chair. Terms of reference will be developed to formally define this group and their various roles and responsibility. Subcommittees will be developed for trail management, monitoring & evaluation, funding, and signage & wayfinding	ACA, AFPT, NCC, ToC, CCH, SCR	TBD	Medium	2023 - ongoing
	32. The Committee will review and update this long-term plan every 5 years unless an earlier review is warranted.	Committee	TBD	Medium	2028

Figure 6. LSWC Implementation Plan

Appendix 4: Proposed Draft Trail Plan and Overview

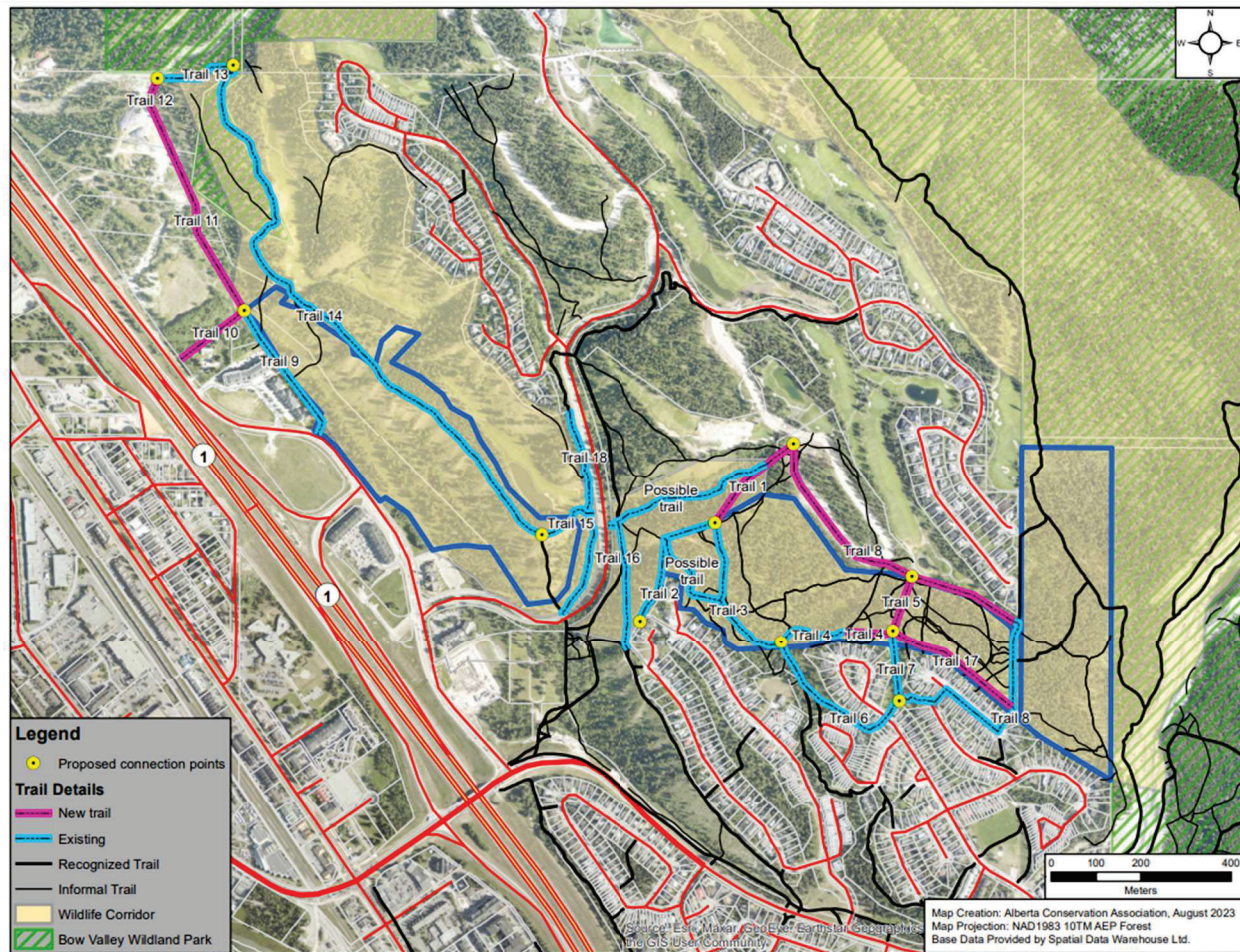


Figure 7. Proposed Draft Trail Plan Overview.

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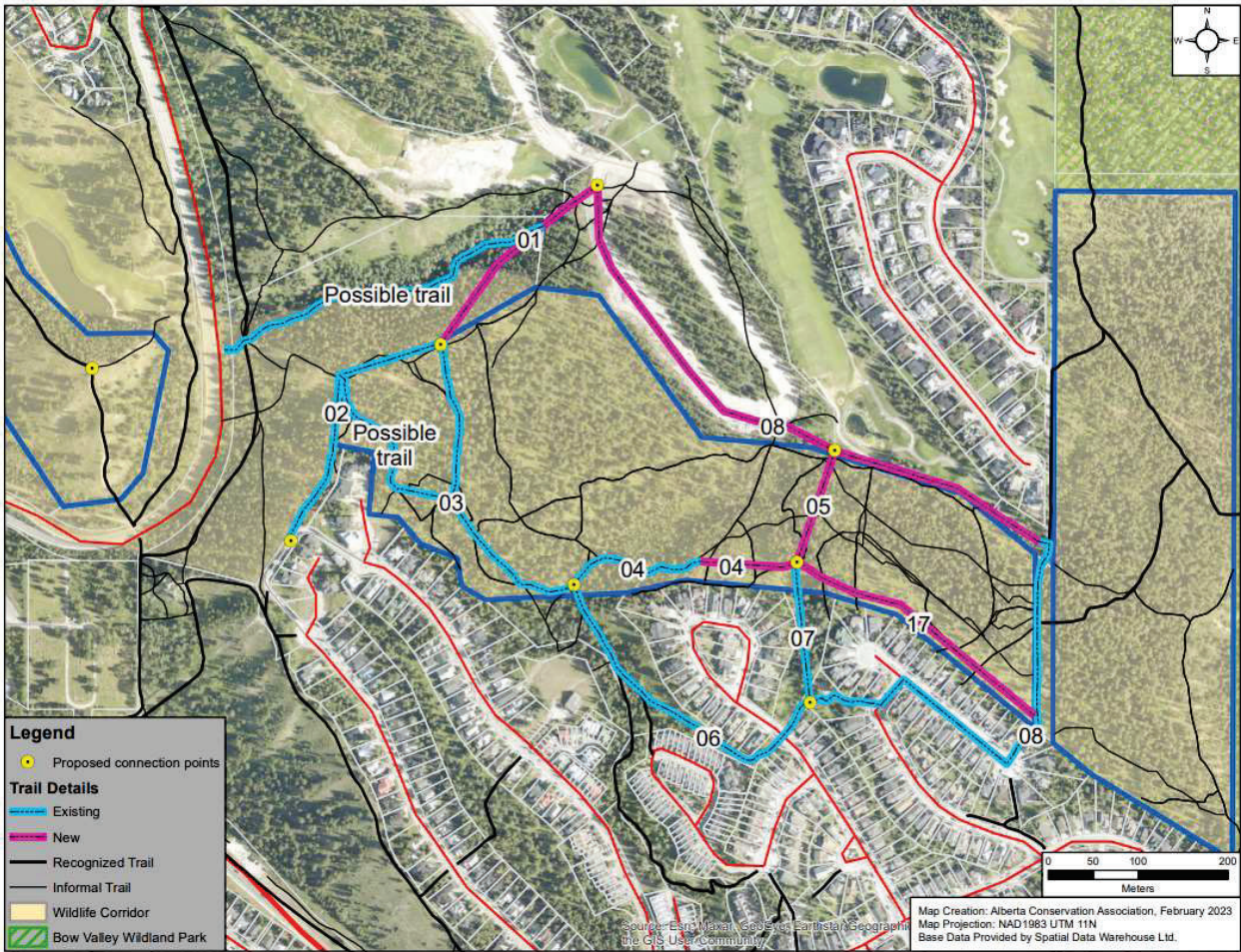


Figure 9. Proposed Draft East Trail Plan

Table 3. LSWC Trail Management Objectives

Trail Name	Land Designation (PLUZ)	Difficulty Rating (for the priority activity)	Start-Finish Points (Decimal values)	Tread Width (Meters)	Total Length (Metres)	Average Grade	Trail Description	Trail User Objectives	Level of Development	Resource Concerns (e.g. SARA, Forest harvest, grazing issues, etc.)	Enthusiast Group	Permitted Uses - Winter	Permitted Uses - Summer	Groom	Timing Restrictions	Trail Management Notes
Trail 01 - Connection for West Block 10		moderate/difficult	51.097088, -115.334005 (start); 51.095606, -115.336482 (finish)		250m	(steep)?	This connection would provide for a complete loop from the Block 10 Subdivision to Eagle Terrace - providing local residents a walking loop - dirt single track trail	connectivity, nature, variety, exercise	Minimally developed	requires forest harvest, grading for new trail along steep slope, stair connection to block 10 subdivision	walkers, dog walkers, hikers, runners	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	No	?	
Trail 02 - Connection for Benchlands Terrace		Moderate	51.0903681, -115.338752 (start); 51.095606, -115.336482 (finish)		300m	gentle slope, steeper in sections	this is a connection from Benchlands Terrace to the complete trail loop that runs through Block 10 and Eagle Terrace with connection in the LSWC - dirt single track trail	connectivity, nature, variety, exercise	Minimally developed	requires minor trail upgrade and removal of any undesignated trails that exit off of this trail	walkers, dog walkers, hikers, runners	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	No		
Trail 03 - Connects Trail 01 and Trail 02 into Eagle Terrace (Trail 06)		moderate	51.095606, -115.336482 (start); 51.093101, -115.334363		370m	relative y flat, with slight downhill at the end	this trail connects Trail 01 and 02 coming out of Block 10 and Benchlands Terrace to Eagle Terrace (Trail 06) to create a full looped walking trail - dirt single track trail	connectivity, nature, variety, exercise	Minimally developed	requires minor trail upgrade and removal of any undesignated trails that exit off of this trail	walkers, dog walkers, hikers, runners	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	No		
Trail 04 - Connect Trail 03 to Trail 05, along eagle Terrace in LSWC		Moderate	51.093101, -115.334363 (start); 51.093296, -115.330862		260m	relative y flat,	This trail connects Trail 03 to Trail 05 to help control unsanctioned trail use within LSWC - provide a walking connection within nature to greater trail loop. - dirt single track trail	connectivity, nature, variety, exercise	Minimally developed	trail realignment, removal on lots of unsanctioned trails, movement of trail closer to residential areas to limit the length of trails out of backyards that is unavoidable.	walkers, dog walkers, hikers, runners	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	No		
Trail 05 - Connects Trail 04 and Trail 07 to Trail 08		moderate	51.093296, -115.330862 (start); 51.094422, -115.330311 (finish)		130m	relative y flat	This trail is to provide connection to larger walking loop by crossing the LSWC at the shorted point with the most direct route. - Dirt single track trail	connectivity, nature, variety, exercise	Minimally developed	trail realignment, removal on lots of unsanctioned trails	walkers, dog walkers, hikers, runners	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	No		
Trail 06 - Connect Trail 03- 04 to Trail 08		moderate	51.093101, -115.334363 (start); 51.091927, -115.329629		450m	sloped	This trail connects residents of Eagle Terrace into LSWC. This is part of a larger loop - this is a double wide path	connectivity, nature, variety, exercise	Minimally developed	requires minor trail upgrade at the connection point to Trail 03/04. The majority of this trail is within the residential area	walkers, dog walkers, hikers	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	No		
Trail 07 - Connect Trail 04-05 to Trail 06		moderate	51.093296, -115.330862 (start); 51.091994, -115.330602		150m	relative y flat	Trail connect Eagle Terrace residents to the most direct path across LSWC to Block 10, - need to confirm - double or single track?	connectivity, nature, variety, exercise	Minimally developed	requires minor trail upgrade at the connection point to Trail 03/04. The majority of this trail is within the residential area	walkers, dog walkers, hikers	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	No		
Trail 08 - Completes the loop from LSWC through residential area of Eagle Terrace and Block 10		easy	51.091927, -115.329629 (start); 51.097088, -115.334005		1100m	gentle slope	This is the residential connection to create a looped trail with connections through the LSWC	exercise, connectivity, loop	develop-paved multi use trail/side walk	use existing infrastructure, final section to be completed as part of Block 10 Development	walkers, dog walkers, hikers	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	No		
Trail 09 - Connects Palliser Trail to Proposed dog park		easy	51.09755, -115.349162 (start); 51.099159, -115.350976		230m	relative y flat	trail connects Palliser trail and future development in Mustache Lands to the proposed dog park. Runs behind Blackiston beside the LSWC.	connectivity	Minimally developed	requires minor trail upgrade and removal of any undesignated trails that exit off of this trail	walkers, dog walkers, hikers	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	No		
Trail 10 - Pedestrian Entrance from Hwy Crossing to Dog Park		easy	51.0908614, -115.353544 (start); 51.099159, -115.350976		190m	relative y flat	paved multi-use path adjacent to roadway, connecting pedestrians to development in the area and to the proposed future hwy crossing	connectivity	develop-paved multi use trail/side walk	requires upgrades as part of proposed development in that area additional details in Palliser ASP.	walkers, dog walkers, hikers, bikers	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running), biking	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running), biking	No		
Trail 11 - Trail connecting (west-east) behind development outside of the wildlife corridor		easy/moderate	51.099159, -115.350976 (start); 51.103929, -115.354608		590m	relative y flat with gentle slope	this is a connection from the west LSWC to development and proposed dog park. Trail will be outside of wildlife corridor and fenced. Trail will be gravel/doublewide or single track - more details to be determined during the development/subdivision applications	exercise, connectivity, loop	Minimally developed	trail realignment, removal on lots of unsanctioned trails	walkers, dog walkers, hikers	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running), biking	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running), biking	No		

Trail Name	Land Designation (PLU)	Difficulty Rating (for the priority activity)	Start-Finish Points (Decimal values)	Tread Width (Meters)	Total Length (Metres)	Average Grade	Trail Description	Trail User Objectives	Level of Development	Resource Concerns (e.g. SARA, Forest harvest, grazing issues, etc.)	Enthusiast Group	Permitted Uses - Winter	Permitted Uses - Summer	Groom	Timing Restrictions	Trail Management Notes
Trail 12 - connection to Johnny's trail to development - exit point of Montane Traverse trail loop		moderate	51.103929, -115.354608 (start); 51.104358, -115.354277		060m	gentle slope	this is a connection to Johnny's trail and a way to exit from the montane loop into the developed area.	exercise, connectivity, loop	Minimally developed	trail realignment, removal on lots of unsanctioned trails	walkers, dog walkers, hikers, bikes	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running), biking	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running), biking	No		
Trail 13 - Johnny's Trail connection to Douglas Fir and Montane Cut off		Moderate	51.104358, -115.354277 (start) 51.104605, -115.352009		170m	gentle slope	this is a connection to Johnny's trail and Douglas Fir Trail and Montane Cut off Trail	exercise, connectivity, loop	Minimally developed	trail realignment, removal on lots of unsanctioned trails	walkers, dog walkers, hikers, bikes	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running), biking	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running), biking	No		
Trail 14 - Douglas Fir Trail		Hard	51.104605, -115.352009 (start); 51.095249, -115.342015		1390m	steep slope on west end and then relatively flat with gentle slopes	Douglas Fir trail connects Johnny's to Silvertip Rd	exercise, view, connectivity, loop	Minimally developed	trail realignment, removal on lots of unsanctioned trails	walkers, dog walkers, hikers, bikes	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running), biking	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running), biking	No	Yes (winter)	
Trail 15 - connection east end of Douglas fir to Silvertip Rd		Hard	51.095249, -115.342015 (start); 51.095682, -115.340358		140m	steep slope	Connection on east end of Douglas fir to Silvertip Rd and under the road on the golf car path to the east end of LSWC (trail connects up to the double wide along the front of benchland terrace)	exercise, connectivity, loop	Minimally developed	trail realignment, clean up access to control access onto Douglas Fir Trail	walkers, dog walkers, hikers, bikes	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running), biking	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running), biking	No	Yes (winter)	
Trail 16 - connection from west to east LSWC		hard	51.095617, -115.339964 (start) 51.093075, -115.339402		200m	steep slope	connection from west LSWC, under silvertip road on cart path to double wide trail along Benchland Terrace - creates a complete loop with Montane Traverse	exercise, connectivity, loop	Minimally developed	clean up access and remove unsanctioned trails	walkers, dog walkers, hikers, bikes	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running), biking	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running), biking	No		
Trail 17 - connection of trail 04 to Trail 08		moderate				relative y flat	new trail alignment closer to property line to connect trail 04 to the paved path Trail 08	exercise, connectivity, loop	Minimally developed	clean up access and remove unsanctioned trails	walkers, dog walkers, hikers, bikes	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running)	No		
Trail 18 - paved path along Silvertip Rd		easy	51.097751, -115.341211 (start) 51.093702, -115.341322 (finish)		470m	gentle slope	paved multi-use path adjacent to roadway	commuting	develop-paved multi use trail/side walk	no concerns	walkers, dog walkers, hikers, bikes	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running), biking	foot traffic (walking, hiking, running), biking	snow clearing	no	

Appendix 5: Trail User Group Engagement Summary

Trail User Group Engagement Session

May 31, 2023

In Attendance:

Philip Coppard – Stormy Lake Consulting
Lisa de Soto – Canmore Community Housing
Felix Camire – Mountain bike group of Canmore (STEEDZ)
John Third – Stone Creek Resorts Inc.
Andrew Dixon – Canmore Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA)
Laura Quelch – Canmore Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA)
Caitlin Van Gaal – Town of Canmore
Peter Thompson – Biologist – University of Alberta
Mandy Couve – Alberta Conservation Association
Bruce Eidsvik – Rundle Mountain Cycling Club (RMCC)
Demetra Sainas – Minutes and notes

Summary:

The meeting between landowners and user groups regarding the Lower Silvertip Wildlife Corridor Management plan allowed stakeholders to be consulted regarding the current condition of the LSWC and the management plan going forward. Following a presentation about how the corridor is used by both animals and humans, and what is needed for it to remain viable, the group reviewed the draft recommendations.

The presentation highlighted that while the corridor is still viable, it is under threat. As development in the area attracts more people, it is best to be proactive. The recommendations are being brought forward by a group outside of the Canmore Town Council, with the goal of demonstrating a unified desire enact a set of recommendations which will be presented to town council for approval.

All participants agree that there needs to be physical changes to the current trails and behavioural changes from the users of the corridor; users of the trails, especially off-leash dog walkers pose the largest threat to animals.

Representatives from the mountain biking groups Canmore Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) and the Mountain Bike Group of Canmore (MBGC) agree that while changes are necessary, more emphasis needs to be put on understanding human behaviours, and not just the animal behaviours. Bikers and walkers will still seek out places for recreation, and if changes to the corridor are to work, options for trail use still need to be provided.

The sanctioned trails need to provide a way for people to transition through out. This will require looping options. If users are not satisfied with the trail options, they will create their own as signage and fences will not impede them. The mountain bike groups agree that trail density can be reduced; many of those are in the middle of the corridor which are the trails most used by walkers.

Along with changes to the trails, there needs to be an educational and public engagement aspect. Education needs to entail explaining and connecting with users about why the corridors are so important, and how human activity is impacting their viability. Telling a story is a key part of this. Enforcement as an option for keeping individuals off illegal trails will be extremely difficult and not very effective.

The engagement group also spoke to the issue of trail maintenance. There are groups (such as CAMBA) that can do provide this service. They can work with different land managers and in areas of concern. There are also funding opportunities and volunteer nights to make it a community effort, which will contribute to educational programming. CAMBA's hope is a more structured future when it comes to being brought in for trail maintenance. They take liability and provide insurance for sections that are on private land.

Conclusion

All individuals in attendance expressed agreement that action needs to be taken, and that the current recommendations as they were presented are a good start. The user groups support the general initiative and would like to be consulted further when it comes to the decision-making process around what specific trails are kept or removed. Trail maintenance and design are priorities. The original intent is wildlife protection, but it needs to be balanced with human recreation needs.

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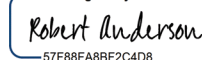
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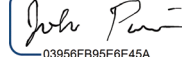
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