

The draft **vision** of the Ghost-Kananaskis Sub-regional Plan is:

The Ghost-Kananaskis Sub-regional Plan envisions a landscape where conservation, cultural, recreational and tourism values coexist in harmony. This plan seeks to protect headwaters, preserve biodiversity, and support responsible land use that reflects the values of all Albertans. Through balanced management of natural resources, recreation, and conservation the Kananaskis and Ghost regions will remain wild, beautiful and accessible for generations to come.

1. To what degree do you support the vision for the sub-regional plan as written?

I somewhat support the vision statement

2. Can you explain why you're somewhat supportive of the vision statement, and what could be improved to increase your level of support?

Outdoor recreation and tourism stakeholders must be recognized as partners in achieving conservation and responsible land use outcomes, not simply beneficiaries of them.

The vision must prioritize the preservation of the natural environment at a level equal to or enhanced from the present baseline and focus human activity through well-designed recreation and tourism infrastructure that is compatible with environmental resilience and biodiversity.

Suggested: The Ghost-Kananaskis Sub-regional Plan seeks to protect headwaters, preserve biodiversity, and support responsible land use that reflects the interests and values of the local Alberta communities and economies. Through active partnership with local stakeholders, the management of natural resources, recreation, and conservation of Kananaskis and Ghost regions will remain wild, beautiful and accessible for generations of Albertans to come.

3. Recreation and tourism opportunities are sustainable and sufficient to meet the growing demand

Somewhat satisfied

4. Human footprint is effectively managed to conserve biodiversity and water quality.

Somewhat satisfied

5. Our headwaters are protected.

Satisfied

6. Traditional land uses are supported.

Satisfied

7. Policy direction for land uses is streamlined.

Somewhat satisfied

8. The natural resource economy of the area is sustained.

Dissatisfied

9. Wildfire risk is mitigated through preventative actions.

Somewhat satisfied

10. What considerations do you feel are missing? (2000 characters)

Critically, the plan does not name outdoor recreation and tourism stakeholders as contributors to its own stated outcomes. The plan lacks a meaningful stewardship model that recognizes outdoor recreation and tourism stakeholders as active partners in land management. Alberta's natural resource economy must evolve to include service-based, low-extraction economic models: outdoor recreation and commercial tourism represent exactly this transition, delivering economic value without depleting the landscape. Without a planned stewardship model, outdoor recreation and commercial tourism cannot enable sustainable land use outcomes. The plan must commit to specified engagement with local stakeholders in implementing policy outcomes that are site-specific, measurable and community-led.

In alignment with the broader outdoor recreation and tourism industry, we request that the following five principles are appropriately incorporated in the subregional plan:

1. Recognize outdoor recreation and commercial tourism as long-term, sustainable land uses.
2. Promote environmental protection through sustainable human use on the landscape.
3. Utilize outdoor recreation, commercial tourism stakeholders and environmental experts as key enablers of public access, tools for conservation, and effective human management.
4. Ensure appropriate public and commercial access, through long-term investment certainty for infrastructure.
5. Prioritize community-led tourism and recreation developments that offer sustained local economic participation and integration.

Regarding the policy outcome for “Recreation and Tourism” earlier in the survey, a suggested, more nuanced statement would read: Recreation and tourism opportunities meet local demand to the degree they are compatible with maintaining or enhancing environmental resiliency.

Regarding the policy outcome for “streamlining policy” earlier in this survey, a suggested statement would read: Government works closely with outdoor recreation and tourism stakeholders, including commercial operators, recreation organizations and volunteer groups to shape policy direction.

11. Do you have anything else to share about this topic (500 characters)

Provincial recreation associations and commercial operators maintain infrastructure with a replacement value in the hundreds of millions of dollars; a vital operational subsidy allowing the Crown to maintain public access while meeting conservation goals. Without statutory recognition in subregional plans, this Volunteer Capital and commercial investment is at risk. Our sector must be named as a partner in implementation.