

JASPER NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT *Phase 2 Consultation*

Introduction

Under the *Canada National Parks Act* every national park is required to prepare a park management plan, and to review it every ten years. A park management plan lays out the future direction for a park, including a vision, key strategies and objectives to achieve over a 10-year timeframe.

Parks Canada last updated the park management plan for Jasper in 2010.

In 2019, Parks Canada began consulting with Indigenous partners, stakeholders and the public on the development of a new management plan for Jasper National Park, and on August 17, 2022, the new management plan was approved and came into force. A copy of the plan can be accessed [here](#).

This document presents the feedback Parks Canada heard during our second phase of consultation, and summarizes how the feedback was incorporated into the final plan.

It is intended to be a high-level summary of the ideas and comments collected during the second phase of consultation. Detailed comments and ideas shared during more detailed discussions were not included in this document. However, all feedback was recorded and considered by the project team as they made the final revisions to the plan.

Parks Canada sincerely thanks all those who provided their thoughts and input on the management plan for Jasper National Park. Your input was used to build a management plan for Jasper that reflects the perspectives and aspirations of the people the park is being managed for.

A plan is just the first step in the process. Now that the new management plan for Jasper is finalized, we will continue to engage with Indigenous partners, the public and stakeholders to work together to implement the plan to make our collective vision for Jasper National Park a reality.

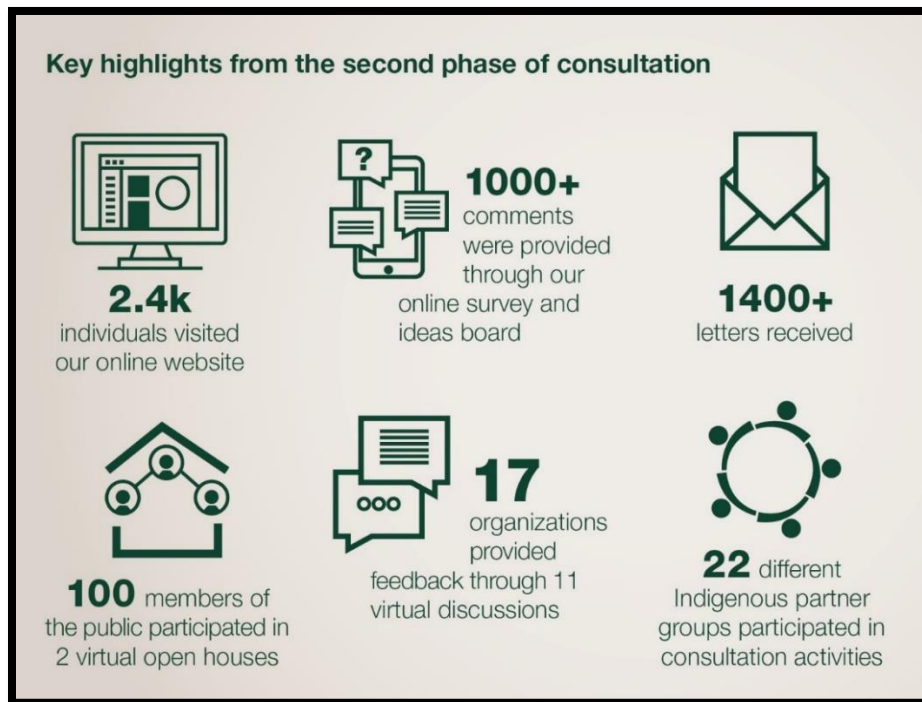
Consultation Overview

Phase 1 of consultation for Jasper's new management plan was held in 2019. Indigenous partners, stakeholders and the public were asked what topics they thought were important to consider during development of a new management plan for Jasper and how they wanted to be engaged going forward. Feedback from the first phase of Indigenous and public consultation in 2019 is summarized in [What we Heard: Jasper National Park](#), and was used to prepare a draft of a new management plan.

Phase 2 of consultations on the new draft management plan for Jasper was initially scheduled for Spring 2020. After delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Phase 2 of consultation took place in the Spring and Summer of 2021. Parks Canada believes it was worth the extra time and effort in the midst of a pandemic to ensure all Indigenous partners, stakeholders, and the public had the opportunity to have their say about the direction of Jasper National Park for generations to come.

In this second phase of consultation, Indigenous partners, stakeholders and the public were asked to provide feedback on the draft management plan. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, engagement and consultation activities were predominantly virtual.

As summarized in the figure below, Parks Canada received a significant volume of feedback on the management plan. Once consultations had closed, Parks Canada analyzed the many comments received, and used them to revise and refine the draft management plan. Whether an idea was expressed once or 100 times, Parks Canada carefully considered each piece of feedback on an individual basis.



Consultation with Indigenous Partners

Parks Canada works with over 25 First Nations and Métis partner communities with historical connections to the lands that now make up Jasper National Park. In Phase 2 consultation, these partner communities were all invited to provide feedback on the draft management plan.

The following summarizes how Parks Canada consulted with partner communities, and the feedback received through this process.

How We Consulted

Information Session

In March of 2021, all of Jasper's Indigenous partner communities were invited to attend a virtual information session on the resumption of management plan consultations. Eight communities attended the session. At this meeting, Parks Canada informed groups that Parks Canada intended to formally resume management plan consultations in April, and asked for feedback on how best to consult with them.

Partners expressed that they would like consultation to proceed through a multitude of approaches, including in-person meetings if possible, bi-lateral meetings, virtual break-out groups, and ceremonies in the park. They added that the summer months should be avoided for consultation as this is the busiest time of year for their groups. In response, Parks Canada committed to focussing Indigenous consultation activities in the Spring, and, if needed, the Fall, to offer opportunities for Indigenous groups to be consulted in a variety of ways. Parks Canada also offered to work with partner communities to facilitate ceremonies on request.

Notification of Consultation

On April 15, 2021, partner groups were emailed and mailed to formally notify them that Parks Canada was resuming consultations on the management plan for Jasper. At this time, partners were sent a copy of the draft management plan, and were invited to review and provide comments in whichever format best suited their community, whether through attending one of the consultation sessions, via a phone call, or by making a written submission. Ultimately, no written submissions were received: all chose to share their feedback through all-partner meetings or bilateral meetings.

All-Partner Meetings

All partner communities were invited to attend virtual meetings in April, June, and September. At these meetings, Parks Canada presented different sections of the draft plan, and facilitated a discussion with partners on them. Twenty-two different partner communities attended all-partner meetings.

Bilateral Meetings

Recognizing that all-partner meetings are not every community's preferred consultation format, in July 2021 partner communities were asked if they would like to arrange a bilateral meeting between group representatives and Parks Canada to discuss any feedback or questions they may have on the plan. Eight different partner communities met with Parks Canada bilaterally.

Partner Feedback

Generally, there was support from partners for the objectives and targets presented in the draft management plan, particularly the plan's focus on strengthening relationships with Indigenous peoples, the plan's acknowledgement of the significance of the park to Indigenous peoples, and the plan's direction to facilitate opportunities for partners to harvest fauna, to increase Indigenous involvement in park management, to increase Indigenous presence in the park, and to increase recruitment of Indigenous park staff.

Many of the concerns received through consultation were about how the plan's targets and objectives would be implemented, and not on the direction in the plan itself. Additionally, many concerns regarding park operations that are outside the scope of the management plan were shared through this consultation process. Parks Canada will work with communities to address these concerns on an ongoing basis.

The feedback received through Phase 2 consultation has been summarized into 7 key themes, which are summarized below. Please note that not all interests or concerns were shared by all parties. Some were raised by one community; some were raised by many. All are presented below.

Theme 1: Indigenous Presence

Many partner groups felt that there needs to be increased Indigenous presence in the park. Partners wanted more opportunities for participation in the park and to improve public awareness of their history and cultures. This could be through involvement with wildlife guardians, storytelling, interpretation, sharing culture and selling arts and crafts, and inclusion in policy and planning initiatives.

Several communities also felt that Parks Canada should facilitate an Indigenous guardian program in Jasper.

With regard to interpretation, several partner communities expressed that Parks Canada should hire more Indigenous people to work in park interpretation, and more broadly ensure that Indigenous stories are being told by Indigenous voices in the park.

It was advised that increasing Indigenous presence needs to be done in a respectful way, by working with First Nations and Métis communities. Concerns were raised that Indigenous cultures are being appropriated by businesses in the park, and that Parks Canada needs to address this.

How this Feedback was Considered

The management plan includes direction under Objectives 2.6, 3.2 and 3.3 to increase Indigenous presence in and access to the park and to facilitate Indigenous peoples telling their own stories in the park. Parks Canada will continue to work with partners to implement this.

Theme 2: Historical Exclusion of Indigenous Peoples

One community suggested that the plan should include more information on the forced removal and exclusion of Indigenous peoples from the park at the time the park was created, and the consequences of this and other prohibitive policies that resulted in a disconnection of these peoples from ancestral and familial lands.

How this Feedback was Considered

To honour this concern, and in recognition that the plan can act as a valuable education tool, additional detail on the forced removal and exclusion of First Nations and Métis peoples from the park was added to the plan under Sections 2.0-Significance and 3.0 – Planning Context.

Theme 3: Terminology

Several concerns were raised with the terminology and language used in the plan. Multiple partner communities raised concerns with the use of the term “Indigenous peoples”, and felt that they did not see themselves in this term.

Another community expressed that the draft plan included wording like “considers” or “may happen” or “may inform”. They felt that language like this usually translates into exclusion, and wanted more concrete language around including Indigenous partners in processes or having more access.

How this Feedback was Considered

Terminology was changed to “First Nations and Métis” peoples where appropriate throughout the plan, and language was added to Section 3.0 – Planning Context to clarify that the term “Indigenous” was intended to include both First Nations and Métis peoples.

Additionally, language throughout the plan was strengthened to emphasize that Indigenous knowledges and perspectives would be included, rather than considered in decision-making.

Theme 4: Cultural Appropriation and Cultural Safety

One community raised concerns regarding cultural safety, and stated that Parks Canada needs to do more to support Indigenous interpreters and Indigenous people more broadly so that Indigenous staff, residents, and visitors feel safe to visit the park, work in the park, and carry out cultural, spiritual, and social activities in the park safely and without interference. Several communities also raised concerns about Indigenous cultures being appropriated by businesses in the park.

How this Feedback was Considered

A new objective and target were created (Target 4, Objective 2.2) in the management plan to facilitate work with partner communities to support Indigenous peoples feeling culturally safe in the park.

Objective 3.1, Target 4 of the plan commits Parks Canada to facilitate relationship-building between local First Nation and Métis partners and business operators. Through this process, Parks Canada will work with partners and business owners to raise awareness and address concerns of cultural appropriation.

Theme 5: Increased Involvement in Management

Several communities noted that Parks Canada’s relationship with Indigenous peoples has come far since we first started working together, but that more work is needed. Many communities felt that Indigenous knowledges needed to be more integrated into park management, and that partners needed to move beyond advisory roles to participate in decision-making, rather than having the government decide for them.

How this Feedback was Considered

The management plan includes direction under Objectives 3.1 and throughout the plan to increase Indigenous involvement in park management, including through the integration of Indigenous knowledges into decision-making. Parks Canada will continue to work with Indigenous peoples to address common interests and work on achieving mutual goals that support healing and reconnecting to the land.

Theme 6: Economic Reconciliation

Several partner communities requested that Parks Canada share revenues with partners as an act of economic reconciliation. It was felt that revenue sharing could allow partners to develop initiatives to share more knowledge and to have a stronger presence in the park. Several partners also expressed interest in vendor opportunities, contracting opportunities, and business licences.

How this Feedback was Considered

While revenue-sharing is not within the legislative scope of Parks Canada's authorities at this time, the management plan contains direction to improve business opportunities for Indigenous partners in the park under Objective 3.1. Parks Canada will work with partners to implement this.

Theme 7: Caribou and the Tonquin Valley

Many partners expressed concern about the decline of caribou herds in Jasper, particularly in the Tonquin Valley. Several communities felt that public access should be limited to allow the valley to recover on its own. Many communities expressed concerns about their ability to continue to access the Tonquin area for traditional and cultural use.

How this Feedback was Considered

Indigenous partners, stakeholders, and the public will be consulted on a potential caribou conservation breeding and herd augmentation program in Spring/Summer 2022.

Consultation with Stakeholders and the Public

How We Consulted

Consultation Website

Parks Canada's primary mechanism for seeking public feedback on the draft management plan was the project's consultation website, called 'Lets Talk Mountain Parks.' The site was used during both phases of consultation, and was promoted through media releases, promotion on Parks Canada's social media, direct mail-outs to stakeholder groups, and advertisements in Jasper newspapers. Facebook posts alone reached over 28,000 people.

During Phase 2 consultation, visitors to the website were able to view a copy of the draft management plan, to review information on the management planning process, and to provide input on the management plan through an online survey or by posting on a public 'ideas board'.

The survey asked for the public's input on objectives connected to each of the 6 key strategies and 2 management areas in the plan. It asked survey-takers to rate their level of support for each management plan objective, to state what they liked or didn't like about the objectives, and if any key elements were missing from the objectives. The public ideas board asked individuals to post any other thoughts on the desired future state of Jasper National Park. In total, 2,200 individuals visited the website, 155 people completed the survey, and 8 contributed an idea to the ideas board.

Ninety percent of survey participants were from Alberta, with residents of Jasper comprising approximately 20% of total respondents. 6% of respondents from British Columbia, and 4% were from elsewhere in Canada. No international responses were received. The vast majority of participants reported having visited Jasper National Park five or more times in the last five years.

Public Information Sessions

Parks Canada hosted two public information sessions in May to inform the public of the management planning review and respond to public questions on both the process to develop the plan and the plan itself. In total, 100 people attended these meetings.

Stakeholder Meetings

The following stakeholder groups were invited to attend virtual discussions with Parks Canada's planning team on the draft management plan. At these meetings, Parks Canada presented the draft plan, and hosted an open discussion on the plan. Seventeen of these groups attended a meeting.

- Alberta Cycling Coalition
- Alpine Club of Canada
- Alberta Wilderness Association
- Association of Mountain Parks Protection and Enjoyment
- BC Parks and Mount Robson Provincial Park
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- Friends of Jasper
- Government of Alberta
- Hiking Alberta
- Jasper Chamber of Commerce
- Jasper Trails Alliance
- Municipality of Jasper
- Nature Alberta
- Rocky Mountain Youth Network
- Travel Alberta
- Tourism Jasper
- Town of Hinton
- The Wildlife Society – Alberta and British Columbia Chapters
- Yellowhead County
- Yellowstone to Yukon

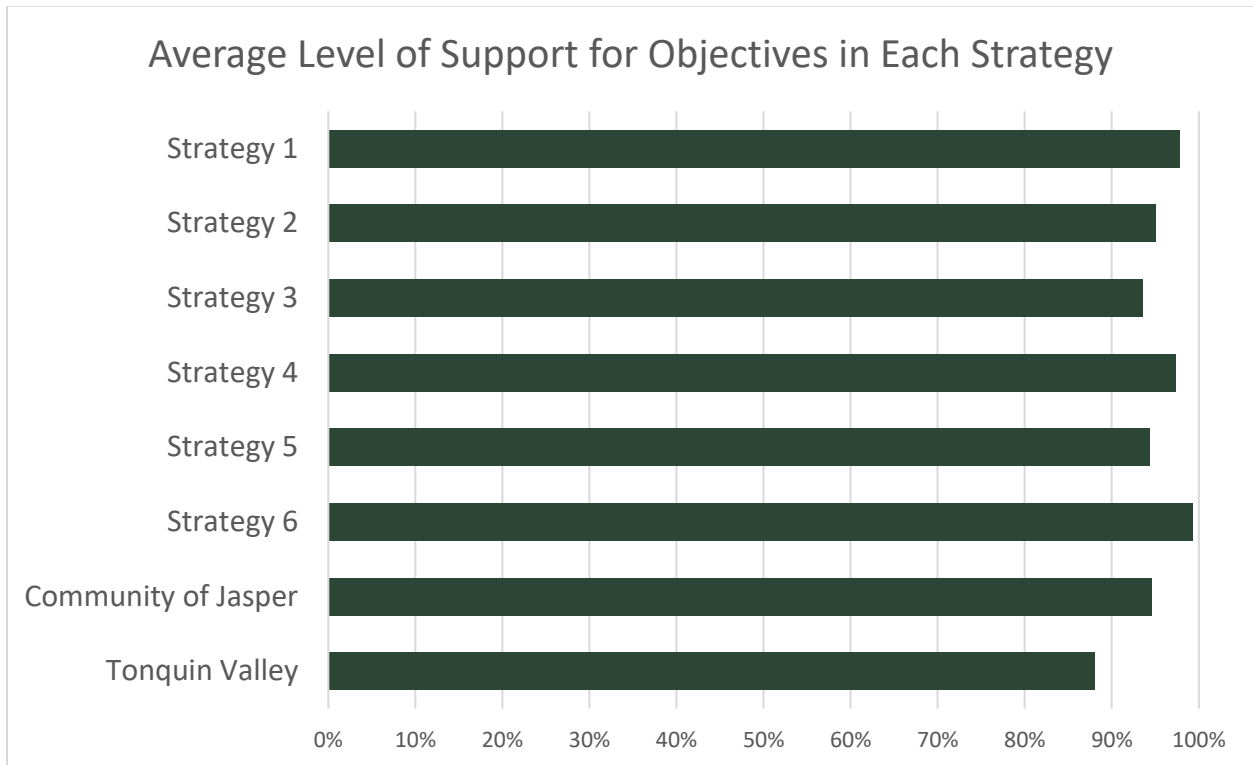
Written Submissions

Parks Canada also welcomed feedback in the form of written submissions from the public and stakeholders. In Phase 2 consultation, Parks Canada received letters from 11 stakeholder groups and nearly 1400 letters from members of the public.

What we Heard – Stakeholders and the Public

Overall, the feedback received during the consultation period indicated that there was broad support for the general vision, strategies and objectives of the draft management plan.

The online survey asked respondents to rate their level of support for each management plan objective. All objectives received over 88% support. The graph below displays the average of the level of support for objectives in each strategy and area management strategy.



Parks Canada received thousands of comments from meetings, written submissions, and open-ended survey questions. Comments likewise revealed general support for the plan. There was broad agreement that Parks Canada should continue to make ecological integrity the first priority in decision-making and preserve Jasper National Park as a wild, natural, place, but many suggestions were provided on how Parks Canada could strengthen specific aspects of the plan.

Comments received generally fell within the scope of 9 different themes. These themes are presented below, along with an explanation of how Parks Canada considered the feedback received when finalizing the management plan.

Theme 1: Plan Specificity

Parks Canada received many comments from stakeholders and the public requesting greater specificity in the plan. They felt that sections of the plan were too vague, and wanted additional detail on how certain targets and objectives would be achieved. Many individuals expressed desires to see specific actions highlighted within the plan, such as replacing a certain bridge on a trail, detailing which indicators would be monitored against which thresholds, or implementing a visitor use management tool like user quotas.

Members of the public and stakeholders also expressed concerns that the plan did not include commitments contained within other acts, regulations, or policies. For example, it was felt that Parks Canada needed to include direction in the management plan to develop a green building strategy, when Parks Canada already has a national green building strategy that Jasper is required to adhere to.

How this Feedback was Considered

While minor clarifications were added where possible, the management plan was not significantly changed in response to these comments.

With the new management plan, Parks Canada has chosen to adopt a more results-based format in order to focus on desired outcomes, rather than actions. The plan lists objectives detailing what the park seeks to achieve over the next 10 years, and each of these objectives has associated targets allowing Parks Canada to measure progress towards achieving this objective.

This focus on the ‘what we want to achieve’ rather than the ‘how do we get there’ allows Parks Canada to take an adaptive management approach that responds to changing circumstances over the next decade. For example, rather than detailing specific actions for how wildfire risk will be reduced in the park, the plan instead contains a target (Target 1.5) to implement and maintain wildfire risk reduction measures, giving the park the ability to course-correct and adapt wildfire risk reduction efforts in response to the situation and in accordance with best known practices at the time.

In short, the plan is intended to provide the foundational values and principles that should be used to guide park decision-making, and not act as a year-to-year operational plan, nor a plan listing all the regulations, policies, and guidelines. A plan covering all aspects of park operations and listing all the rules that apply in the park would be far too long and have to be updated far too frequently in response to changing circumstances for it to be a product of meaningful Indigenous, stakeholder and public consultation.

Feedback received on operational concerns has been shared with the applicable managers or program areas. Individuals wishing to obtain more information or to provide feedback regarding park operations are welcome to do so at any time by contacting pc.jasper-opinion.pc@pc.gc.ca.

Theme 2: Caribou

Many comments were received from members of the public and stakeholders expressing that existing measures to protect caribou in Jasper are insufficient, and that the commitments to caribou protection included in the draft management plan needed to be stronger. Many felt that Parks Canada should adopt a precautionary approach and urgently do ‘whatever it takes’ to protect and preserve caribou, including strengthening access restrictions to caribou habitat, though some felt that access restrictions were inappropriate.

Similarly, many stakeholders and members of the public felt that the Tonquin Valley area management strategy was too vague and required greater specificity as to how caribou would be protected.

How this Feedback was Considered

In recognition of the importance of caribou over the lifespan of this management plan, Parks Canada amended the draft plan to create a new objective (Objective 1.4) and targets specific to caribou protection and preservation. Additional detail regarding area closures in support of caribou protection was also added to Objective 2.7, and targets in the Tonquin Valley area management strategy were updated to clarify direction.

The plan does not include greater details on which caribou protection actions will be undertaken over the next 10 years as a decision on whether to proceed with a caribou conservation breeding and herd augmentation program has not yet been made. It will only be made following the completion of project-specific consultation in Spring and Summer 2022 with Indigenous partners, the public and stakeholders, and following the completion of a detailed impact assessment. Decisions resulting from these processes will dictate additional caribou protection actions to be taken.

Theme 3: Climate Change

Both the public and stakeholders generally felt that Jasper National Park should be a leader and champion in climate change, and that Parks Canada needed to add stronger commitments to action on climate change in the management plan.

Several stakeholder groups raised concerns that the plan did not adequately emphasize the role of the park in climate change resiliency, that the plan did not sufficiently highlight the importance of climate change, and that the plan did not commit Jasper to taking actions like developing and implementing a green fleet policy, green building policy, and a long-term climate change adaptation strategy.

Some stakeholder groups also felt that the plan should commit Parks Canada to taking actions to protect habitat and habitat connectivity under climate change.

How this Feedback was Considered

In response to this feedback, the plan was amended to add a statement to the park vision about resiliency being a guiding principle of conservation efforts, and to strengthen language on the role of parks like Jasper in climate change adaptation throughout the plan.

Parks Canada is encouraged by the stakeholder and public support for the development of strategies and policies to take actions on climate change issues and habitat protection. However, the direction within the management plan was not changed in response to these concerns as many of the commitments and actions suggested already exist.

For example, Jasper National Park is required to support and adhere to the federal *Sustainable Development Strategy*, the federal *Greening Government Strategy*, and national Parks Canada policies, including the Agency's green building, fleet greening, national ecological monitoring program, and other corporate climate change initiatives.

Likewise, under the *Declared Wilderness Regulations* and management plan zoning, 97% of JNP is already protected as wilderness. Only limited development required for park administration, public safety and provision of basic visitor facilities, such as trails, backcountry campgrounds, alpine huts, and patrol cabins, is allowed in Jasper's designated wilderness. Furthermore, the management plan includes direction under Objective 4.3 to facilitate Parks Canada's work with neighbouring jurisdictions to preserve habitat connectivity.

Theme 4: Visitation

Many stakeholder groups and members of the public raised concerns regarding visitation. Some felt that Parks Canada was excessively prioritizing environmental protection over visitation, while others felt that Parks Canada was placing undue priority on visitation at the expense of the environment.

How this Feedback was Considered

Parks Canada acknowledges that visitation comes with environmental impacts. As outlined in the vision of the management plan, Parks Canada seeks to continue to provide opportunities for individuals to visit and connect with Jasper National Park, while minimizing their impacts on the park's natural and cultural heritage. Fostering this connection facilitates greater understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of parks and protected areas, thereby inspiring people to want to protect them.

Specific Concerns and Response

More specific feedback was received across 3 key sub-themes relating to visitation:

Increased Visitor Demand

Many felt Parks Canada needs to do more to respond to growing demand in Jasper National Park. There was general support for Parks Canada to introduce visitor management tools to manage visitor numbers and behaviour in Jasper, but confusion over what visitor use management would entail, and many

suggestions were provided on how best to manage growing visitor demand. Many readers were supportive of the plan direction to improve active transportation and public transit.

In response to this feedback, Parks Canada revised the visitor use management objective (Objective 2.3) to clarify its intention. While many requested further detail on visitor use management, the management plan is intended to be strategic and high-level. As such, it will not include commitments to implement specific visitor use management strategies, allowing Jasper National Park to continue to implement the visitor management tools that best fit the circumstances over the 10-year lifespan of the management plan.

Park Stewardship and Visitor Compliance

There was broad support for the concept that park visitors should take the initiative and responsibility to act as stewards of the park. It was indicated that Jasper National Park needs more staff presence on the landscape, both in terms of interpreters to educate visitors on appropriate stewardship behaviours, and in terms of strengthened enforcement activities to ensure visitors respect the park as they should.

Parks Canada agrees that the continued implementation of visitor education and compliance actions will be essential to successfully implement the objectives outlined in this management plan. However, the comment on increasing staff presence was not integrated into the management plan, as the management plan does not include operational activities like staffing levels.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

Feedback was received from stakeholders that Parks Canada did not sufficiently address inclusivity and accessibility concerns in the management plan. Parks Canada agrees that greater emphasis in the plan on these concerns is needed. In response to this feedback, a new objective (Objective 2.2) and associated targets regarding accessibility and inclusivity were added to the management plan.

Theme 5: Trails

Trails were the subject of a high volume of comments.

Many comments were received for and against horse use, and for and against mountain biking and e-biking. Some individuals wanted to see the expansion of trails and frontcountry and backcountry campgrounds, while others felt there should be less human use of the park.

Many stakeholders and members of the public recommended that Parks Canada improve the camping reservation system and improve trail maintenance, particularly by replacing washed out bridges on remote backcountry trails.

A target under Objective 1.1 stating recreational trail connections along the North Boundary trail would be managed caused significant confusion among readers.

How this Feedback was Considered

In response to the many concerns made regarding trail use, Parks Canada amended the draft plan to create a new objective on trails and reunite targets previously dispersed throughout the plan under this new objective (Objective 2.4). The management plan was not changed to include more detailed direction, as the plan is intended to set out the general principles to guide trail management over the lifespan of the plan, and not to provide detailed direction on elements like trail maintenance standards for a given trail. This is to allow Parks Canada to adaptively manage trails over the next 10 years in response to changing circumstances.

Parks Canada is in the process of introducing a new national camping reservation system.

Finally, the target regarding the North Boundary trail was rewritten to clarify Parks Canada's intent, which is ultimately to secure wildlife habitat by preserving large areas of park land as wilderness.

Theme 6: Indigenous Relations

Public and stakeholder feedback emphasized that there should be increased education for visitors about Indigenous heritage and connection to the land. They felt that Parks Canada needs to do more to tell visitors about the Indigenous cultures and peoples that were and continue to have a presence in the park. In so doing, they emphasized that Parks Canada needs to avoid tokenism. They felt that colonially-named sites should be renamed with Indigenous names, that there should be more Indigenous people represented amongst park staff, and that overall there should be greater Indigenous presence in the park.

Both the public and stakeholders also felt that the objectives and targets laid out in the plan on Strengthening Indigenous relations were generally strong. However, they cautioned that Parks Canada needs to avoid 'lip service' and fulfill the objectives of the plan to a greater extent than is done currently.

How this Feedback was Considered

Jasper National Park acknowledges the general support for its initiatives to strengthen Indigenous relations. No changes to the general direction in the plan were made, as it has included enabling language to facilitate work with Indigenous partners on these concerns in the management plan.

Theme 7: Managing Development

Parks Canada received a high volume of comments on development in Jasper National Park.

Many comments were received against privatization, against any commercial expansion, and against any expansion of the developed footprint of the park. It was felt that development like the Skywalk should not have been permitted, that there should be a moratorium on any future development, that monopolies should be prohibited, and that the guidelines outlined in the draft management plan were 'too vague' and opened the door to increased development.

How this Feedback was Considered

No changes have been made to the direction in the management plan in response to this feedback, as Parks Canada will continue to implement the limits to development established in the management plan and other legislation and policies.

As listed under Key Strategy 5 of the management, no new land will be released for overnight commercial accommodations outside of the Jasper townsite. Furthermore, as established under management plan zoning and the *Declared Wilderness Regulations*, 97% of the park will continue to be protected as wilderness. In addition to the commitments established in the management plan, Parks Canada will continue to enforce legislative limits to development like the cap on commercial floor area in Jasper established in the *Canada National Parks Act*. Parks Canada will not develop nor implement a complete moratorium on any new development, to avoid precluding a development that could lead to ecological gains.

Specific Concerns and Response

More specific feedback was received around the following sub-themes:

Environmental Impacts of Commercial Activities: Comments were received critiquing the environmental impacts of commercial operators in the park. Some expressed that they felt that 'large business can do anything.' Many comments were received criticizing the operation of busses on the Athabasca Glacier, gas-powered boats on Maligne Lake, and snowmobiles to winter backcountry lodges. No changes were made to the plan in response to this feedback, as the management plan includes direction under Objective 5.2 to have businesses, events and activities minimize their impacts on air, water, wildlife, and noise. Parks Canada will work with operators to work to achieve this direction over the lifespan of the plan and ensure that businesses operating in the national park meet the highest environmental standards.

Length of Leases and Licences: Certain stakeholders expressed that the length of leases was too short, making it difficult for businesses to make improvements. No changes were made to direction in the management plan in response to this feedback. Parks Canada will continue to issue leases in accordance with the *National Parks of Canada Lease and Licence of Occupation Regulations*, which limits the length of leases to no more than 42 years.

Jasper Airstrip: Many comments were received from pilots and pilot's associations against any potential closure of the Jasper Airstrip. No decisions have been made at this time to make changes to the operation of the Jasper Airstrip. As outlined under Objective 5.5 of the plan, Parks Canada will review whether the airstrip continues to be an appropriate land use in a montane grassland in a National Park, taking into account pilots' safety concerns.

Development review process: Many expressed that there needed to be more transparency and consultation in the review of development applications. Others felt that the Parks Canada's process to review development applications was too slow. Parks Canada is currently working to update its national land use planning regulations and policies, with the aim to create a modernized planning permit process that streamlines processes and improves transparency in decisions related to managing development.

Theme 8: Community of Jasper

There was general support for continuing to enforce a strict townsite boundary and preventing the commercialization of the townsite. Some felt that the restrictions on development in the Community of Jasper were too restrictive, while others felt that more restrictions were needed. There was high support for Management Area Objective 1.3, which targets the creation of more affordable housing within the community. The Municipality of Jasper requested that Parks Canada include commitments in the management plan to review limits to growth, review the limits to commercial floor area in town, remove the municipality's land rent requirement, and transition land-use planning and development authority in the community to the Municipality.

How this Feedback was Considered

Parks Canada will continue to implement legislated limits to development, and to work with the Municipality to create more affordable housing. The commitments requested by the municipality are outside the scope of the park management plan, as this lies within the Minister, and not the park's, authority, and, therefore, were not included in the plan.

Theme 9: Open Management

Stakeholders and the public expressed that they would like to be consulted on management activities like visitor use management, human-wildlife conflict, horse use, trail management, and development of public transportation. It was also felt that Parks Canada needs to be more transparent in park management, and that Parks Canada needs to do more to collaborate with adjacent land managers to prevent outside decisions like resource extraction from affecting park ecosystems, and to work on issues of mutual importance. Finally, stakeholders expressed a strong desire to use their platforms to collaborate with Parks Canada on improving visitor stewardship of the park.

How this Feedback was Considered

Direction to facilitate work addressing these concerns is outlined in Strategy 4. Jasper National Park will continue to work with Indigenous partners, the public and stakeholders to ensure the way the park is managed reflects the interests of those who it is being managed for, and to collaborate with neighbouring jurisdictions on issues of mutual importance.

Next Steps

The management plan is not an end in and of itself. Over the next decade, Parks Canada will continue to engage with Indigenous partners, stakeholders and the public on how best to implement the vision and objectives established in the plan.