

Folks,

Regardless of position on the use of OHV's in Alberta, it is of much greater concern of how this government has conducted itself on the SSRP ammendment for the Castle Parks Area. Below is cut right from their "What We Heard" document, to which I have provided facts and commentary following.

Consultation Process

To designate the Castle under the *Provincial Parks Act* an amendment to the SSRP is required. The *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* (ALSA) set outs the legal authority for regional land-use planning in Alberta, which includes making, amending and reviewing regional plans. According to ALSA, appropriate public, stakeholder and Indigenous consultation with respect to a proposed amendment is required before a final decision is made by Cabinet.





All Albertans were invited to participate and provide input to the proposed plan for the Castle. A 30-day public input period was held from September 4 to October 5, 2015. Input was provided to government in a variety of ways including an online survey, written and email submissions, phone calls and meetings. There were approximately 3,400 responses to the online survey (Appendix 1 – Summary of Public Online Survey Results). Meetings with stakeholder groups were also held with the Land Use Secretariat and with Alberta Environment and Parks representatives upon request.

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Public

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Not one question in this public survey was in relation to "do you agree with banning of OHV use on trails in the Castle park." This was a very misleading survey done to be later interpreted that because 75% supported non-motorized back camping, and only 60% supported OHV Camping – the government used this to infer that 75% did not support OHV in the area?

Question 5: Backcountry off-highway-vehicle camping areas in the new Provincial Park.	2,902 Albertans responded to this question. The survey responses revealed a medium level of support for backcountry off-highway vehicle camping areas in the new Provincial Park, significantly lower than the support for backcountry non-motorized camping areas (question 7).	
Question 6: Backcountry off-highway-vehicle camping areas in the expanded Wildland Provincial Park.	2,907 Albertans responded to this question. The survey responses revealed a medium level of support for backcountry off-highway vehicle camping areas in the expanded Wildland Provincial Park, significantly lower than the support for backcountry non-motorized camping areas (question 8).	
Question 7: Backcountry non-motorized camping areas in the new Provincial Park.	2,903 Albertans responded to this question. The survey responses revealed a high level of support for backcountry non-motorized camping areas in the new Provincial Park, significantly higher than the support for backcountry off-highway vehicle camping areas (question 5).	
Question 8: Backcountry non-motorized camping areas in the expanded Wildland Provincial Park.	2,895 Albertans responded to this question. The survey responses revealed a high level of support for backcountry non-motorized camping areas in the expanded Wildland Provincial Park, significantly higher than the support for backcountry off-highway vehicle camping areas (question 6).	

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Upon request? Was it not the Alberta's Government responsibility and LSA requirement to ensure affected stakeholders were consulted with? Furthermore, the government had told & published that OHV would REMAIN in the castle area on designated trails. Not once did they state they we're going to ban it, up until it was release they had at the January 20th public announcement. On the previous three phases on the original SSRP by the previous government, over 1350 total stakeholder consultations were performed in 21 communities over 5 years.

This is either blatant disregard of procedure, or a deliberate attempt to mislead both public and affected stakeholders of the intentions from the start. *Why would a stakeholder request a meeting when they had been told it would remain? The following is the FAQ document released by the Government showing their "proposed" changes of the amendment AT TIME OF PROPOSAL.* [Original Document here.](#)

8. How will Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use be permitted?

Off-highway vehicle use in the new Provincial Park will be managed to designated off-highway vehicle trails and areas. Off-highway vehicle use in the expanded Castle Wildland Provincial Park will be managed to designated off-highway vehicle trails. Off-highway vehicle use is permitted only on existing off-highway vehicles trails and areas where a management plan, trails plan, regulation, sign, notice, or trail marker designates such use.

No new trails or access may be developed without a management plan, trail plan or regulation. The Government of Alberta will engage Albertans in the park management planning process and work with them to identify and designate appropriate trail systems and access in the parks.

Activity	New Provincial Park	Expanded Castle Wildland Provincial Park
Hunting	Yes	Yes
Fishing	Yes	Yes
Auto Access Camping	Yes, in designated areas	No
Backcountry Camping	Yes, in designated areas	Yes
Designated Day Use Areas	Yes	No
Off-Highway Vehicles	Yes, on designated trails and areas	Yes, on designated trails
Commercial Trail Riding	Yes, in designated areas	Yes, in designated areas
Equestrian Use	Yes, in designated areas	Yes, in designated areas
Snowmobiling	Yes, on designated trails and areas	Yes, on designated trails
Mountain Biking	Yes, on designated trails	Yes, on designated trails
Hiking	Yes	Yes
Nature Appreciation	Yes	Yes
Climbing/Caving	Yes	Yes
Water Based Recreation	Yes	Yes

I'll leave it to you to decide if this was a deliberate attempt to mislead the public and stakeholders, or a procedural oversight. Either way, proper stakeholder consultation has NOT been done – and a complete disregard for both the Alberta public and affected stakeholders is clear.

Garett