

The NDP Ammended the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, and with the input of environmental lobbyist's – banned OHV in Castle with zero regard to the surrounding municipalities, recreationalists and the Alberta Economy.

South Saskatchewan Regional Plan

The previous government consulted Albertans on the advice provided by the South Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council gathering input through an online workbook and a series of public and stakeholder community conversations held in 20 cities, towns and farming communities throughout the region, in the adjoining and in Edmonton. Feedback was summarized in three documents found on the [SSRP Consultation](#) page.

This regional plan went through extensive consultation and planning processes, [with well reported & published recommendations](#), and was one of the largest & most expensive undertaken. It started in 2009 and ultimately went through 3 phases, with a final draft that became effective by council in September 2014.

Upon the NDP election in 2015, Shannon Phillips was appointed Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development on May 24, 2015. She also became the Stewardship Minister. The Stewardship Minister is designated as the minister responsible for the Alberta Land Stewardship Act.

Upon Election the NDP started work to AMMEND the SSRP that took 5 years to create. This amendment was proposed in September of 2015. [They CLEARLY stated that OHV would continue to be permitted in all documents at this time.](#) It is clear by actions, that this was not the intention from the start, but a calculated tactic to mitigate opposition while selectively building input from the environmental lobbyists and compile misleading public surveys.

In order to make an amendment to a regional plan (which this is), it requires a couple of key points with the [ALBERTA LAND STEWARDSHIP ACT](#):

Section 5 Consultation

Before a regional plan is made or amended, the Stewardship Minister must

- (a) ensure that appropriate public consultation with respect to the proposed regional plan or amendment has been carried out, and present a report of the findings of such consultation to the Executive Council, and
 - (b) lay before the Legislative Assembly the proposed regional plan or amendment.
- 2009 cA-26.5 s5; 2011 c9 s5

Section 9 Implementation

- (e) manage whatever is necessary to achieve or maintain an objective or policy, including managing all or part of the cause of an effect or those matters that affect or that might affect the economy, social objectives, the environment, human health or safety, a species or any element of any of them;

We know that a management board was formed for “stakeholder” input, but these people (QuadSquad, Alberta Fish & Game etc) did NOT even get to submit their recommendations before Phillips had already stated appropriate consultation (with no public records of who, when or how many times) had been completed in her submission of the amendment to Lieutenant Governor, and passed through the draft to be [approved in council](#).

We know this as many on the “management board” were not even notified of the public meeting announcement by the government that was well planned to preserve public image. [This public announcement](#), had >200 hand picked people well notified to attend to create the illusion of acceptance, and the real “stakeholders” (affected clubs, municipalities) only found [out through tips and very last minute \(night before\) that it was happening.](#)

[One look at this page](#), and you'll see the numerous documentation from public & stakeholders (and lists who those are within) that help create the 2014 SSRP. Notice the LIMITED consultation and notes from the 2016 amendment, [with no listing or mention of who those stakeholders were](#). No economic impact study was performed. It is very clear that this government selectively chose input, sheltered lobbyists and rammed this draft through without regard to ethical process and economic consideration.

This amendment completely reverses the recommendations that came through a democratic process that took 5 years to create.

Pick up the phone, email, and take a stand. Make your voice heard.

Contacts:

<http://www.wildrose.ca/tags/mla>

<https://albertandpcaucus.ca/your-mlas>

News Links & Info to read:

<http://passherald.ca/archives/170125/index1.htm>

<http://castleparks.ca/a-letter-to-the-editor/>

<http://www.cohv.ca/press-releases/canadians-spent-6-9-billion-on-direct-activities-involving-atvs-and-rovers-in-2015/>

<https://talkaep.alberta.ca/CastleManagementPlan>

<https://www.landuse.alberta.ca/RegionalPlans/SouthSaskatchewanRegion/SSRPConsultation/Pages/default.aspx>