

STOP LOGGING



CREATE A PARK

KANQUIZ

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SUMMARY

Illustration: Claudio D'Angelo

100%

Create a Park

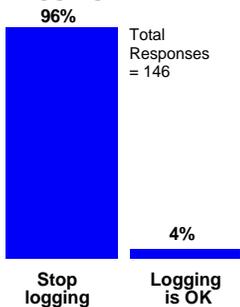
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Leave it Alone

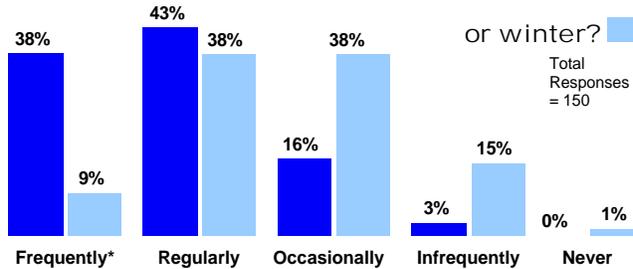
No answer: 5

One-hundred and fifty-one people responded to the KanQuiz survey

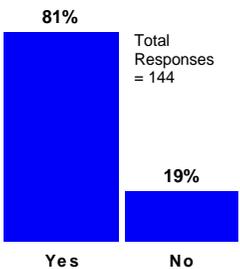
Logging?



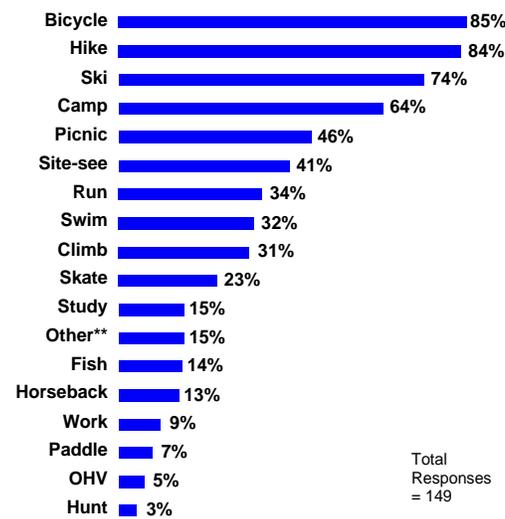
How often do you visit in the summer



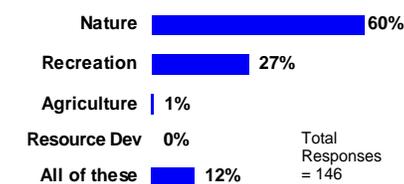
Would you pay an entrance fee?



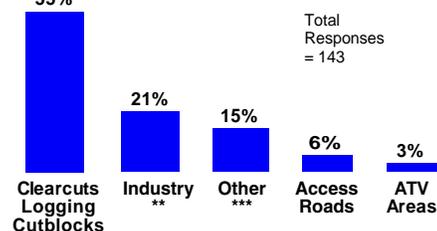
What activities do you enjoy?*



What's the most important?



What's the ugliest thing in Kananaskis?*

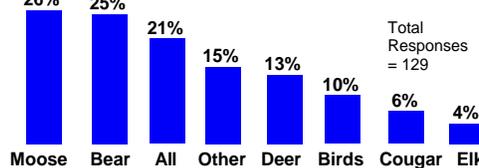


*Some respondents indicated more than one item. Thus, the total exceeds 100%

**Industry includes: development, oil & gas (sour gas wells, pipeline)

***Other includes: garbage, machinery

What is your favourite type of wildlife?*



*Some respondents indicated more than one wildlife type. Thus, the total exceeds 100%

**Other includes: Bighorn sheep, wolf, mountain goat, fish, insects, horse, squirrel

These results confirm previous studies that show people want to protect Kananaskis. Further, they show that people want a park in Northeastern Kananaskis.

We used an online form to capture input on a variety of topics from an entrance fee to forest management. This, in response to a call from the Kananaskis administration for comments on a management plan review. We got input from mountain bikers, environmentalists, nature lovers, families and even a few industrial users. One-hundred and fifty-one people responded, providing both thoughtful, well-informed comments and simple, strong statements that, in general, said they want the loggers out and they want the forested foothills in Northeastern Kananaskis left alone.

The five people who earn income from logging or oil & gas said, in general, that we need better management, but the two people from the energy industry said, "Leave the land as natural and relatively undeveloped as possible; water supplies and watersheds must be protected at all costs".

The survey was comprised of questions posed by Save Kananaskis (those on the left and the "Spend a \$million" on the next page), and topics included in the Kananaskis request for input (the comments on the following pages).

These four pages were heavily edited from 84-pages of data collected. The complete results are available in a text file and a spreadsheet on the www.savekananaskis.ca web site.



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If you had a \$million to spend on Kananaskis, what would you do with it?

Protect the area and turn it into a fully-protected park: stop logging, stop development; outlaw ATVs etc.; Enhance trails, signs & outhouses; Add more wardens to check for poachers and damage by vehicles. Groom trails more often for X-country skiing.

I'd use it to develop a world class mountain bike trail system that caters to all levels of riders and to all disciplines. With a fund set up to provide monies for ongoing trail maintenance and advocacy.

Through research develop a three year strategy that

- addresses what the different needs are for each user group
- discusses how, with conservation being the guiding principle, we can manage user group needs -implement the strategy and evaluate success

What is the best way to ensure a diverse and healthy environment for plants and animals?

A comprehensive management plan that includes recreation, habitat protection and forestry in balance that results in a mixture of habitats and forest cover, while generally protecting watershed and recreational values.

Exclude industrial users; allow natural disturbances to continue (i.e., fire, insects, forest diseases).

Minimal human development. Allowing recreational access for people to see the environment and understand why it must be conserved.

Halt all logging / mining / gas exploration. Restrict motorized vehicle access. Halt all activities that interfere with watershed quality.

The Elbow and Bow Rivers supply Calgary's water. What should



we do to ensure the quality and quantity of water?

Protect the environment surrounding the headwaters and tributaries of the Rivers. Designate those areas Protected Parks where no industrial activity can occur and limit access and extraction points to the waters for agriculture

No motorized vehicles within 500 m of open water, (bridges on main access roads excepted), no logging, limit access to water from livestock (to ensure bank integrity).

Legal protection of the rivers and their watersheds. Serious fines and jail time for abusers and polluters. Access points developed for the public to access the river to use it, and outhouses at the access points, but the rest of the shoreline to be protected from access to reduce erosion.

What can be done to make your time in Kananaskis more rewarding – events, activities, information, guides, tours, etc.

Increased signage in common areas and trails to make the public more aware of the natural resources and history in the area. Things such as interpretive trails, yearly festivals that promote sustainable use, and interpretive guides or an information center.

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I just like how it reminds me that I'm a part of nature to - that I belong and that I'm also a steward.

Inform the public of the vast and beautiful wilderness on their doorstep. If people are going to take action then they need to know what they stand to lose, and why they should care. Apparently (although our government does not reflect this) the environment and it's protection are the most important topics for Canadians. Why not capitalize on this fact. Develop a Mountain Parks Heritage Interpretation Association type program for guides, interpreters and any other official who comes in contact with the public. Dissemination of information is paramount to get people involved

Who should have access, to do what? Is the multi-use policy working?

The multi-use policy is not working because it is destroying the environment. Access should be limited to only those who are there to enjoy, not harm, the surroundings.

No - too many conflicting priorities

The multi-use policy was great for a while, but with such a growing population, it no longer works. Only recreation (except off road vehicles because they tear apart the trees and ground) and animals should be allowed in K-country.

No, it can't work. Please everyone, need to make some hard decisions and phase out cattle, logging, oil and gas

Do we need new and/or better recreation facilities? What?

The land and sky are in fact the recreation facilities required. Please avoid building tourist attractions and large tourist draws. This undermines the real reason for being in Kananaskis.

Yes. The trail network needs more maintenance and additional official trail links need to be recognized (where good trails already



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exist unofficially), or constructed, where those links don't properly exist.

Most facilities are doing just fine the way they are, but with more and more people visiting Kananaskis, new and/or better facilities might be a good idea in some places.

More camping and more supervision of these sites. Also more school sites for outreach camps / day sites for school children. We need less special interest camps.

Are you concerned about your safety or the impact of industrial/agricultural activities?

I am concerned about how the current logging in the area is going to affect the habitat connectivity for a lot of the local wildlife, and the impact it is going to have on the water quality. As well, from the oil and gas extraction in the area, I am concerned about the potential for sour gas blowouts that may occur while I am hiking and biking in the valleys.

I'm not concerned about my safety however I am concerned about the industrial/ agricultural activities. I will start to get concerned if logging continues to clear cut undermining stable slopes in areas where recreational usage occurs. I would also be concerned about the proximity of a sour gas well in close proximity to a water source that is paramount to ecological integrity and that also is a source of water for a greater population of people. I don't trust industry to make good decisions with the environments and the people's best interests in mind. In fact it has already shown that it does not make good decisions i.e. the reason for this survey

What is the role of First Nations in Kananaskis?

First Nations have a lot of valuable input towards the historical use of the land and the wildlife and plant life that interact in the area. They have been able to live sustainably off the land for a long time, and they can provide valuable input for the way we use



the area also.

Their role is important and special but they should be held to the same level of commitment to avoiding resource and tourist over-development.

They should have a say and be at the table for all planning and long term planning along with Environmentalists, municipalities etc.

How important is the visual appeal of Kananaskis?

The visual appeal is a big part of how people feel when they visit Kananaskis. If it looks ugly people won't feel as good or want to visit Kananaskis as much. This will affect the people themselves, and tourism.

I like to think that the views are what draw people to the Kananaskis. Without the view what would draw people in. Its well known that Canada's Rocky Mountains are some of the most spectacular and sought after scenery in the world. The limited and narrow scope of a few industry businesses threatens to ruin one of our countries greatest natural assets. It might interest you to know that Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. Why not create a sustainable tourism plan for the area that would help produce revenue for the communities in Kananaskis, the provincial and the federal government. If we don't promote tourism and get people to come see this

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natural wonder then we leave it wide open to industry to do what they will. A need has to be created.

The forest is important for the health an appeal of Kananaskis. Is it being managed well?

Not at all. Clear-cut logging, cattle grazing, and oil & gas well sites/pipelines all degrade forest health. We need natural process to determine forest health (as they have for the past millennia).

Not at all. Mutli-use activities just doesn't work as a model anymore in this rapidly growing province.

Until recently it appeared yes; however, the most recent plans and activity are over the Top and should be stopped. If the government has to compensate the forestry industry or Oil and Gas Co's for stopping their activities here then as a taxpayer I would support that.

Ranchers use Kananaskis to graze cattle. Is that a problem or benefit?

I think that watersheds are being compromised because of cattle (as well, the trees which are killed when their bark is stripped). Then, of course, there's the amount of manure one stumbles over/through on many of the trails. That, too, is disconcerting . . . I don't really see any benefit at all! What's wrong with all the rangeland to the east of K-Country (away from the forests)? Seems like there's a lot more grass to eat out there...

Grandfathering existing leases and restricting additional lease areas would likely be good. Monitoring impacts would be good.

Do we need to know more about the area? About what; ecology, tourism, industry, agriculture?

We know very little about the ecology of the area, so it is hard to believe we could accurately manage resource extraction when we



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don't understand how the system works in an unperturbed state. I think the current levels of tourism can be sustainable if limited to specifically designated areas. The interaction of industry and agriculture on the landscape is definitely something to investigate.

I suspect we already know what we need. The area needs to be isolated from industrial and agricultural activity!!!

Fishing and hunting is restricted in some areas. Is this good or bad?

These activities are unnatural (whatever hunters and fishermen may claim to the contrary) and should not be allowed. Maybe, as a compromise, it *might* be allowed without too much damage in some fringe areas.

It's Good. Hunters shouldn't be allowed near people. Fishing is OK

I think its a good thing because some areas are much more delicate of an ecosystem than other areas. Hunting and fishing are great outdoor activities. But they must be managed

This is good, there should be no hunting at all in the area.

Some special events are restricted. Should there be more or less access for large groups and commercial operators?

I think large events and commercial operators can be accommodated in specific areas if the facilities and resources are available to them. These events can be low impact if restricted to certain locations if the facilities are upgraded to accommodate them. I have trouble believing large groups could have the same impact as the current resource extraction is having in the area. There seems to be a disconnect here.

There must be strict guidelines about all individuals and groups using the park to adhere to low impact standards, any operator or special event must respect these standards.



Is it time to change boundaries and jurisdiction? How?

I believe the foothills region is a very fragile and increasingly limited resource. If we could make the rest of the Kananaskis area into a park to help preserve many of the features that draw us all there, then many more Albertans will be able to enjoy it long into the future.

Create a park, involve local groups and community in the handling on their neighborhood. Don't be ridiculous about the percentage of K-Country protected, is mostly above the tree lines !! Protect What is used and enjoyable, the forests

It seems there is conflict between the present Kananaskis administration and the objectives of Sustainable Resource Development Department. I don't think the Minister truly understands the meaning of the word sustainable. This is a problem! If anything, give more jurisdiction to the Kananaskis Administration to protect the park and surrounding areas in perpetuity.

Should we protect cultural, historical, paleontological resources?

Yes, the cultural, historical and paleontological resources are important and worth protecting. They are less important than the environment itself, but more important than

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resource exploitation.

Yes- of course- this is Canadian heritage Definitely. Without knowledge of the past, we are lost for the future.

What new facilities and/or programs are needed?

Some huts for a hut-to-hut experience might be wonderful. Simple, inexpensive and possibly commercially operated, summer and winter (if we get any snow!).

Generally, many unofficial trails need to be formally recognized as official trails and then be properly signed and maintained.

Eco Tours, back country tours

Education programmes regarding the intricacy of ecology in Kananaskis country, our impact as humans using the area, and our responsibility in conserving it. It may have escaped some people but without an environment to support us we will cease to exist. Its that simple.

Comments

K-Country is interesting because it represents a chance for a large population to connect with the wilderness. It gives young and old alike a chance to learn about and interact with the ecosystem, to catch a glimpse of the many unique species found here.

K-Country is a unique and accessible backcountry. It is beautiful and occasionally remote, and my favorite place in the world. Logging it clear is a travesty for both users and the environment. Creating a national park and disallowing access would be an equal tragedy. There is room for all user groups if the plan is fair and balanced.

K-Country is interesting for its diversity, sheer beauty, and it's accessibility for recreationists to play in a relatively wild area. What's wrong with K-Country is not the park itself, but governments bowing to commercial pressures. We need true stewardship and protection here - not short-sighted profiteering.