

Viability of Expanding Ecotourism within Windy Lake Provincial Park

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Wilderness areas are valued for their solitude, biological diversity and scenery. Windy Lake Provincial Park, located northwest of Sudbury, has the potential for expansion into the Eco-tourism sector, specifically interior campsites and trail development for hiking, snowshoeing, Nordic skiing and mountain biking. This study examines the viability of expansion as well as the areas in which development could take place by using statistical analysis (S.P.S.S.) derived from surveys, the mapping of trails with the assistance of global positioning systems, and geographic information systems (ArcView-GIS). Additionally, the report looks at how local trends compare to those of Northern Ontario.

Planning and Management at the Lower Kananaskis River: The Opportunities and Challenges for Future Management

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The Lower Kananaskis River in Kananaskis Country is recongized as one of the premiere whitewater paddling locations in Southern Alberta and in recent years it has become the focus of intense debate. Serving a broad spectrum of interests, the Lower Kananaskis River is mandated to integrate the recreation needs of commercial guiding and instructional groups, non-profit clubs and organizations, educational teaching groups, military groups, and private recreation users. As well, management at the Lower Kananaskis River also integrates the operating needs of a Canadian-owned utilities company whose principle interest in the river is to regulate flows for the generation of hydroelectric power.

The Lower Kananaskis River is approximately ten kilometers long. Within this short distance there are a number of recreational facilities provided for users including three launch and landing sites, a world-class kayak slalom course, and an array of natural and man-made features. In addition, the Lower Kananaskis River also facilitates overnight group camping that is available through an advanced reservation system.

Since 1974 a multiple use approach has helped to guide policy development in

Kananaskis Country and it is through a system of integrated resource planning and management that this policy is implemented. A primary objective of the integrated planning and management system is to ensure that the natural resources in Kananaskis Country provide a wide range of outdoor recreation and development opportunities. As well, this system is intended to facilitate decision-making about the allocation of resource use by providing a mechanism for decision-making and process to ensure that feedback from the necessary interests is sought and utilized.

A preliminary investigation into the experiences of recreational and non-recreational users at the Lower Kananaskis River suggests that there are significant issues affecting not only the quality of visitor experiences and resources, but also the effectiveness of the existing policy, planning, and management frameworks to maintain the existing and future biophysical and social conditions at the river.

The purpose of this presentation is to explore these issues. The primary goal is to heighten the awareness of some of the opportunities and challenges that affect visitor experiences and resources at the Lower Kananaskis River, as well as the possible implications that these issues pose for current and future policy development, planning and management

Challenges and Opportunities to Managing Recreation for the Georgian Bay Island Archipelago

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The eastern shoreline of Georgian Bay was recently established as an Enhanced Management Area called the Great Lakes Heritage Coast. This designation (introduced in Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy, 1999) recognizes the diverse nature of the landscape and diverse uses for the planning area which stretches from Southeastern Georgian Bay to Northern Lake Superior. This land use designation presents some challenges and exciting opportunities for planning and management. Some of these issues will be discussed with reference to a preliminary recreation impact assessment performed on Franklin Island, Georgian Bay near Parry Sound.

Recreation and tourism has played an important economic and social role on Georgian Bay since the early 1900's beginning with cottages and fish camps, with increasing canoeing and kayaking, yachting, camping and day uses. Diverse users include local residents, cottagers, tourists and business operators, many of whom have a life long attachment to Georgian Bay.