



Bighorn Proposal Comment Guide

The Bighorn Country Survey has been designed to allow you to provide feedback on each proposed area in Bighorn Country. BHA recommends that respondents try to comment on at least the following three areas because they will have the most impact on the backcountry hunting and angling experience and wildlife habitat:

Bighorn Wildland Provincial Park

David Thompson Provincial Park

West Country Public Land Use Zone

If you do not wish to provide input on individual areas or are short on time, select "**Do not wish to provide input on individual areas**" for Q1 and then copy and paste our answer to Q30.

Below, we provide suggestions for what to consider when you are responding to BHA priority areas. You can copy and paste our answers directly into the survey or use them to guide your response. Feedback on the Bighorn Country proposal will be collected until February 15th, 2019.

Q1. Please indicate which areas of Bighorn Country you would like to provide input on.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All areas of Bighorn Country | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bighorn Wildland Provincial Park | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Thompson Provincial Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ya Ha Tinda Provincial Park | <input type="checkbox"/> North Saskatchewan River Provincial Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Bighorn Dam Provincial Recreation Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hummingbird Provincial Recreation Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Snow Creek Provincial Recreation Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Shunda Provincial Recreation Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kiska-Willson Public Land Use Zone | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> West Country Public Land Use Zone | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not wish to provide input on individual areas |

Bighorn Wildland Provincial Park

Q2. What else should we consider to help achieve the stated objectives planned for Bighorn Wildland Provincial Park?

a) To support conservation objectives [optional response]

Manage to retain the wilderness nature of the Bighorn. Prior to any development of huts or trails or other infrastructure conduct environmental impact assessments to minimize impact on fish and wildlife habitat. Designate funds for habitat restoration. The use of un-managed or irresponsible motorized off-highway vehicles anywhere in the Wildland Park or development of new trails within the WPP should not be permitted. Off-highway vehicle trails in the Wildland Park that negatively impact wilderness recreation values or fish and wildlife habitat should be removed.

b) To support recreation objectives [optional response]

Manage to retain the wilderness nature of the Bighorn. Ensure that hunting opportunity is retained by allowing bird and cougar hunters to run their hunting dogs off-leash during the hunting season. Designate funds for enforcement to diminish misuse of the area.

c) To support tourism development objectives [optional response]

Huts, trails, and other tourist attractions will detract from the pristine and remote wilderness and diminish opportunity for those who value the Bighorn as a true backcountry destination. Tourism facilities should be located outside wildland parks.

Q3. What would be your level of support for the following outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism experiences and services in the Bighorn Wildland Provincial Park?

a). Designated backcountry trail networks

Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Do Not Support	No Opinion
<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reason [optional]

I support the maintenance of existing non-motorized backcountry trails. Creation of any new trails should only be done if it does not diminish the wilderness nature of the area and after consultation with stakeholder groups and conducting environmental impact assessments.

b). Designated backcountry non-motorized camping areas including equestrian camping areas

Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Do Not Support	No Opinion
<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reason [optional]

I support the maintenance of existing backcountry campgrounds. Creation of any new campgrounds should only be done if it does not diminish the wilderness nature of the area and after consultation with stakeholder groups and conducting environmental impact assessments.

c). Backcountry travel opportunities (e.g. guided tours, hut to hut)

Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Do Not Support	No Opinion
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reason [optional]

I do not agree with developing huts in the Bighorn Wildland Provincial Park, nor in increasing guided tourism

Q4. Overall, how satisfied are you with the proposed plans for the Bighorn Wildland Provincial Park?

Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Why do you feel this way? [optional]

Wildland Provincial Parks are the ideal conservation designation in Alberta, protecting ecological integrity and quiet backcountry recreation opportunities. If anything, more of the proposed Bighorn Country should be included in the Wildland Park.

David Thompson Provincial Park

Q5. What else should we consider to help achieve the stated objectives planned for David Thompson Provincial Park?

a) To support conservation objectives [optional response]

Manage to retain the wilderness nature of the Bighorn. Minimize development in this ecologically sensitive area. Designate funds for habitat restoration.

b) To support recreation objectives [optional response]

Manage to retain the wilderness nature of the Bighorn. Ensure that hunting opportunity is retained, allow bird and cougar hunters to run their hunting dogs off-leash during the hunting season. Designate funds for enforcement to diminish misuse of the area.

c) To support tourism development objectives [optional response]

Tourist attractions will detract from the pristine and remote wilderness and diminish opportunity for those who value the Bighorn as a true backcountry destination. Tourism development should take place in, or in close proximity to, surrounding communities.

Q6. What would be your level of support for the following outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism experiences and services in the **David Thompson Provincial Park?**

a) Designating backcountry “un-serviced camping areas”

Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Do Not Support	No Opinion
<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reason [optional]

I support the maintenance of existing backcountry campgrounds. Creation of any new campgrounds should only be done if it does not diminish the wilderness nature of the area and after consultation with stakeholder groups and conducting environmental impact assessments.

b) Designating “limited service camping areas”

Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Do Not Support	No Opinion
<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reason [optional]

I support the maintenance of existing campgrounds. Creation of any new campgrounds should only be done if it does not diminish the wilderness nature of the area and after consultation with stakeholder groups and conducting environmental impact assessments.

c) Designating frontcountry and vehicle accessible facilities and staging opportunities

Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Do Not Support	No Opinion
<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reason [optional]

I support the development of minimal frontcountry facilities to manage human use on Highway 11. I do not support large-scale tourism development.

d) Facilities and Services that support Backcountry travel opportunities (e.g. guided tours, hut to hut).

Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Do Not Support	No Opinion
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reason [optional]

I do not agree with developing backcountry huts, and note that this is not really a backcountry location so it is entirely day-accessible.

e) Small scale eco-lodges, Comfort Camping

Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Do Not Support	No Opinion
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reason [optional]

Tourist attractions will detract from the wilderness and diminish opportunity for those who value the Bighorn as a true backcountry destination. Tourism development should take place in or in close proximity to surrounding communities.

e) Tourist attractions (e.g. via ferrata)

Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Do Not Support	No Opinion
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reason [optional]

Tourist attractions will detract from wilderness and diminish opportunity for those who value the Bighorn as a true backcountry destination. Tourism development should take place in or immediately adjacent to surrounding communities.

Q7. Overall, how satisfied are you with the proposed plans for David Thompson Provincial Park?

Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Why do you feel this way? [optional]

I believe this park should be part of the Bighorn Wildland Provincial Park. Wildland Provincial Parks are the ideal conservation designation in Alberta, protecting ecological integrity and quiet backcountry recreation opportunities. Tourist attractions should be minimized in the area to preserve the remote and wild nature of the Bighorn.

West Country Public Land Use Zone

Q28. How do you want to be engaged in West Country Public Land Use Zone planning process? [optional response]

I want to be consulted on Land-use and Recreation Management Plans that reflect the need for habitat restoration in the area and set science-based limits on motorized roads and trails, management of random camping, protection of threatened native fish species, comprehensive habitat fragmentation analysis of all human activity, and creation of additional areas of non-motorized use. The

management of open motorized trails and roads should be consistent with the science-based thresholds and guidelines established previously for the Livingstone and Porcupine Hills planning areas.

Q29. How do you feel Government could provide additional supports for recreation use in the **West Country Public Land Use Zone**? [optional response]

Land-use and Recreation Management Plans need to be developed to manage the area appropriately for fish and wildlife habitat and recreation. These plans need to include science-based limits on motorized roads and trails, management of random camping, protection of threatened native fish species, comprehensive habitat fragmentation analysis of all human activity, and creation of additional areas of non-motorized use.

Q30. Anything we've missed? Please share any other thoughts or feedback you have on Bighorn Country below. [optional response]

I support the creation of Bighorn Country. I would like to see the following improvements to the Bighorn Country proposal:

- 1. Bighorn Wildland Provincial Park and the proposed Provincial Parks should be managed with the intent of maintaining wilderness. Tourism hubs should be built in or immediately adjacent to surrounding towns and development should be minimized in the parks.**
- 2. Hunting with dogs: Provide provisions in the plan to allow bird and cougar hunters to hunt with off-leash dogs in the Bighorn Wildland Provincial Park and Provincial Parks.**
- 3. Develop recreation and land use management plans for both the West Country and Kiska-Willson PLUZ. These plans should include science-based limits on motorized roads and trails, management of random camping, protection of threatened native fish species, comprehensive habitat fragmentation analysis of all human activity, and creation of additional areas of non-motorized use.**
- 4. Designate funding for habitat rehabilitation and enforcement. A proportion of the \$40 million promised by the provincial government needs to be specifically designated for habitat rehabilitation and enforcement to ensure that habitat and quality of experience is improved and not degraded by the proposed changes.**