

KOOCANUSA Recreation

Station 2: KooCANUSA Recreation Strategy Background



KooCANUSA Recreation Steering Committee Partners:



www.koocanusarecreation.ca

Ktunaxa Values in Koochanusa



Tobacco Plains residents c. early 1900's



Tobacco Plains encampment on Kootenay River - 1861



Fishing in Koochanusa



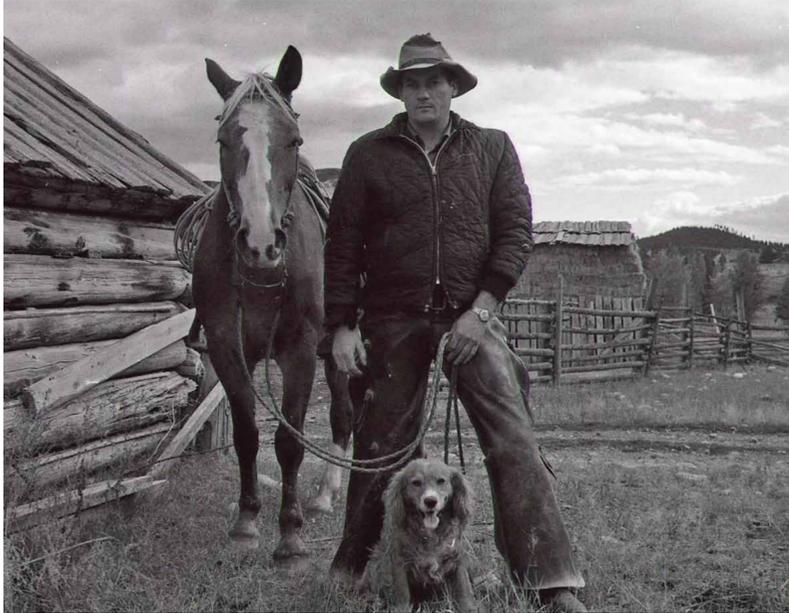
Skinning at Ktunaxa Culture Camp



Tobacco Plains Community Centre

Important Values in Koocanusa

A History of Ranching



Grassland Ecosystems



Sensitive grasslands in the Koocanusa area

Species and Ecosystems at Risk



The long-billed curlew is one of several species at risk in the Koocanusa area

Sensitive Riparian, Shoreline and Drawdown Zone area



Koocanusa Reservoir and drawdown zone

Aesthetic and Recreation Values



Beach at Koocanusa campground and marina

Recreation Issues and Impacts on Crown Lands

1. Damage to sensitive ecosystems and grasslands

4. Random camping and illegal occupancy

7. Increased wildfire risks

2. Disturbance to wildlife and wildlife habitat

5. Unauthorized large events and gatherings

8. Public health and safety concerns

3. Effects on Aboriginal rights and traditional activities

6. Increased spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species

9. Negative impacts on local ranchers



CAMPING May 20, 2014 1:22 pm Updated: May 20, 2014 4:27 pm

Long weekend campers leave horrible mess behind in B.C. campground

By Tamara Elliott

Comments 5 Facebook 5.9k Twitter Email Print

PLAY VIDEO



Listen

CALGARY- Those who live in a stunning area in southeast B.C. are outraged after long-weekend campers left a huge mess behind.

NEWS

Koocanusa discovered as a venue for raves

12 Like 99

f t e p + 101

posted Aug 16, 2013 at 1:00 PM

By Sally MacDonald

Cranbrook Daily Townsman staff

Koocanusa has been "discovered" by the next generation of Calgarians, and regional district directors don't like the kinds of events these young people are bringing to the reservoir.

"Clearly the Koocanusa area has been well discovered. We had a very large concert held at Big Springs last month that attracted about 1,200 people from outside the area. They discovered it and they thought they'd found nirvana," described Heath Slee, the director for Area B, which wraps around Koocanusa.



Lake Koocanusa. — Image Credit: Submitted Photo



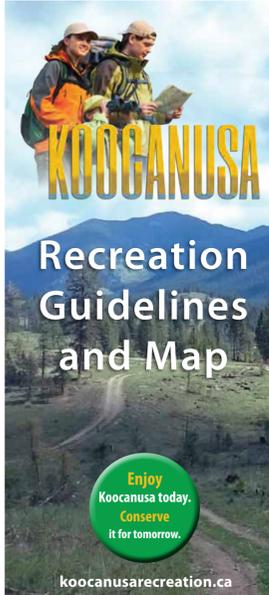
Key Milestones

| Date | Key Milestone / Event | Description | |
|------|---|---|---|
| 2014 | Form the Koochanusa Recreation Steering Committee (KRSC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To address Crown Land recreation issues |  |
| 2015 | Situational Analysis Report and Recommendations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey local residents and recreational users; interview local businesses and non-profit organizations Commitment to develop a Recreation Management Strategy for Koochanusa |  |
| | Form the Koochanusa Recreation Public Advisory Group (KRPAG) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide local input and perspectives on recreation management issues, options and approaches |  |
| | Values Inventory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify important values across the landscape |  |
| 2016 | Dorr- Grasmere | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorr-Grasmere chosen as focus for initial management efforts Ongoing meetings with user groups and stakeholders to identify values and management priorities in Dorr-Grasmere Complete inventory of recreation roads, trails, and existing camping and staging areas in Dorr-Grasmere |  |
| 2017 | Public Consultation process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five community open houses hosted in Tobacco Plains, Grasmere, Jaffray, Cranbrook and Fernie Public survey receives over 1,100 responses Survey results show significant support for improved management of recreation across Koochanusa |  |
| | Dorr-Grasmere Recreation Assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a detailed recreation assessment with recommendations for a designated trail network, camping areas and parking areas |  |
| | Koochanusa Recreation Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Koochanusa Recreation Strategy developed following public consultation process The 2017 Strategy is a living document to be updated on an ongoing basis in collaboration with local partners |  |
| 2018 | Implementation in Dorr-Grasmere | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install signage to educate recreation users Begin decommissioning unauthorized recreation trails |  |
| | Koochanusa Recreation Inventory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete inventory of recreation roads, trails, camping areas and parking areas across Koochanusa |  |
| 2019 | Continue Implementation in Dorr-Grasmere | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin establishing motorized and non-motorized recreation trails Begin establishing camping and parking areas Begin process of changing legislation to improve enforcement |  |

Recreation Management Progress

Since 2014, the KRSC has invested over **\$1.2 million** to improve recreation management in the Kooacanusa Area. This includes funds directed towards:

- Improved enforcement presence
- Improved signage and communications
- Improved garbage and sanitation facilities
- Recreation inventories, planning assessments and mapping



Kooacanusa Recreation brochure



Kooacanusa Recreation signage



Improved enforcement presence



Kooacanusa Transfer Station Site (RDEK)

Summary of 2017 Koocanusa Public Consultation

In 2017, the Koocanusa Recreation Steering Committee conducted an extensive public consultation process including:

- 4 community open houses hosted in Grasmere, Jaffray, Cranbrook and Fernie
- 1 community meeting in Tobacco Plains
- A public survey that received over 1,100 responses
- Survey results showed the following levels of support for proposed management actions across Koocanusa

| | |
|-----|--|
| 70% | Support motorized recreation on designated roads and trails only |
| 79% | Support the installation of trail facilities and improvements to reduce impacts |
| 63% | Support decommissioning and reclaiming roads and trails that are unsustainable or redundant |
| 59% | Support vehicle access camping in designated areas only |
| 69% | Support installation of facilities (toilets, fire pits and signage) at designated camping areas |
| 70% | Support implementation of a recreation user-pay system with proceeds going towards maintenance of recreation trails and facilities |
| 76% | Support increased recreation monitoring and enforcement |

We listened to your feedback and are implementing strategies across the Koocanusa Area to improve recreation management