

Waterton Lakes National Park Forum

June 5, 2010

Presentation Outlines

For your information – here are outlines of the presentations made at the recent Park Forum. If you have any questions, or would like more information on specific points, please contact - janice.smith@pc.gc.ca.

Dave McDonough – Field Unit Superintendent

Parks Canada Vision - Canada's treasured natural and historic places will be a living legacy, connecting hearts and minds to a stronger, deeper understanding of the very essence of Canada.

Connecting – Reconnecting

- Culture of cooperation & learning
- Shared stewardship
- Connecting & reconnecting Canadians in
 - Protecting their heritage
 - Celebrating their history
 - Inspiring more minds to explore, renew & imagine
- Reconnecting Aboriginal peoples to the park

Showcasing Conservation Innovation

- Investing 7M into efforts to improve the Park ecosystem.
- Protect, restore & monitor our natural heritage
- Approach conservation challenges in ways that engage Canadians,
 - collaborating with stakeholders to implement solutions
 - Communicate rationale for decisions

Unique and Inspiring Experiences

- Improving existing opportunities & creating new opportunities
- Partnerships
- Social science, understanding our visitors & potential visitors
- Using new technology & improved internet to reach more Canadians.
- Working with the community to improve the business district
- Painting, minor improvement to day use & camping facilities projects
- Increasing our winter cross country ski trail offer
- Process in place to look at new recreational activities
- Improving the sense of arrival at the gate

Celebrating the World first Peace Park & Our WHS designation

- Building on our legacy of cooperation with glacier National Park
- Celebrate and make people aware of this unique and inspiring example of International ecosystem cooperation
- Focus on working with our neighbours to protect the crown of the continent ecosystem

Protect & Celebrate Our History & Cultural Resources

- Enhance the profile of our National Historic Sites
 - Prince of Wales & First Oil well in Western Canada
- Involving aboriginal people in celebrating their connecting to the Park and in telling their stories

Community Infrastructure improvements

- Increased community infrastructure maintenance
- Continue Sewer & Water line replacement over the next 5 years.

Visitor Experience – Manager, Locke Marshall

Key Accomplishments - 2009/10

- Completed Environmental Assessment & Detailed Design - Kootenai Brown Trail
- Electrical Service Sites at Townsite Campground G Loop
- Replaced 6 major directional signs
- Completed construction of the playground washroom
- Secured an architect and started detailed design for the Cameron Falls Day Use Area parking lot and washroom building

What's happening This Year

- Kootenai Brown Trail construction from the community to the park gate
- Replace damaged signs on Entrance Parkway
- Tipi camping at Crandell Mountain Campground
- Additional Aboriginal programs at Tipi - Crandell Mountain Interpretive Theatre
- Replace floor at Peace Park Pavilion
- Upgrades to the Alpine Stables and their facilities

Future Plans 2011-2015

- Replace Bison Paddock Fence
- Improve Akamina Trailhead parking
- Design and build new Visitor Centre
- Improve serviced sites at Townsite Campground

Note: Future Plans are subject to final project approvals

Community – Manager, Deb Witham

Key Accomplishments 2009/10

- Completed and commissioned the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- New Porch with Barrier Free Access Ramp at Administration Building
- Development/Building Permits for Construction

What's Happening This Year

- Townsite Asset Maintenance - planned projects
 - Traffic calming - Rumble strips
 - Transfer station roof
 - Landscaping at Administration Building (front)
- Housing Study
- Sign Guideline Review

Future Plans 2011-2015

- Townsite Asset Maintenance - planned projects
 - Firehall (siding, roof)
 - Administration Building (windows, bathroom)
- Street works (Water & Wastewater Lines, Paving)
- Golf Course irrigation (Wastewater Plant upgrade)
- Community plan review

External Relations – Manager, Doreen McGillis

Key Accomplishments - 2009/10

- All External Relations staff hired by April 1, 2010
- Public consultation on Park Management Plan
- In-class and in-park programs for local and regional students
- Set up ER Component of *Restoring Terrestrial Ecosystems Together* project

What's Happening This Year

- Emphasis on celebrations (125th of first national park, 100th of Waterton Community)
- Establish or formalize relationships with key stakeholders, partners
- Canadians learn about Parks Canada's protected areas through new programs such as *Get to Know* (youth arts camp) and the *National Parks Project* (film and music)
- *Canada's Best Summer Job* student videographer
- *Restoring Terrestrial Ecosystem Project* – volunteers, surveys, Citizen Science

Future Plans 2011-2015

- Celebrate 100 years of world's first national park system 2011
- Expand social network and web-based products for WLNP and Bar U Ranch NHS
- Expand opportunities to involve Canadians through Citizen Science and volunteer projects

Resource Conservation – Manager, Dennis Madsen

Key Accomplishments - 2009/10

- Completed upgrades of the Bertha Lake Trail
- At Upper Rowe Lake, planted 1300 whitebark pine seedlings along with Glacier National Park staff and local volunteers
- Initiated prescribed fire at Summit Lake as part of restoration of whitebark pine
- Completed inventory of lakes and stream for westslope cutthroat trout, as expected most fish are hybrids
- Completed over 3000 hours of weed control

What's Happening This Year

- *Restoring Terrestrial Ecosystems Together* project begins in earnest
- Doubled the size of the weed/restoration crew - Year 2 of a 5 year effort focused on weed control
- Restoration continues at Trade Waste Pit – supplemental planting of native prairie plants
- Completion of prescribed fire at Summit Lake and further whitebark pine planting
- Initiating boater survey at the gate and boat inspections for quagga mussels
- Continued reintroduction of the leopard frog

Future Plans

- Prescribed fires in the Blakiston Valley and Eskerine complex
- Complete the restoration of the Trade Waste Pit
- Ongoing enhanced weed control efforts
- Ongoing work on whitebark and limber pine restoration and monitoring

Blakiston Valley Project – Manager, Jim Lambe

Key Accomplishments - 2009/10

- Completed the detailed design of the Red Rock Day Use Area
- Completed the detailed design for a new arrival node at the start of the Red Rock Parkway
- Completed the design and fabrication of 10 interpretative exhibits for the Red Rock Parkway and Day Use Area
- Completed a social science report - *A Quantitative Description of visitor Use on the Red Rock Parkway 2008-09*
- Completed the design options report for erosion control on Blakiston Creek

What's happening This Year

- Complete the reconstruction of the Red Rock Day Use Area
- Implement strategy to address temporary closure of Upper Parking Lot at Red Rock Canyon (due to construction) – including shuttle service access for the public
- Complete the detailed design for erosion control on Blakiston Creek

Future Plans 2011-2015

- Complete erosion control work on Blakiston Creek
- Construct arrival node at the start of the Red Rock Parkway
- Install new interpretive exhibits (and related pull-off improvements) along the Red Rock Parkway
- Initiate planning work on:
 - Improvements to the Red Rock Parkway
 - Crandell Campground improvements
 - Improved visitor wayfinding and directional signs in the Blakiston Valley
 - Trailheads/trails improvements

Note: Future Plans are subject to final project approvals