



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

A Provincial Vision for Outdoor Recreation

BC Recreation and Parks Association
February 28, 2024



VISIT
Bentonville



MOUNTAIN BIKING CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

WELCOME TO BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS



Ministry of
Environment and
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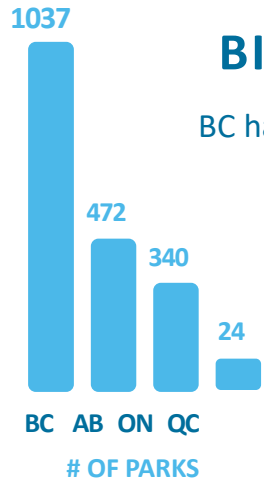
BC's Outdoor Recreation Advantage

1. **Size: 95M Ha (CA, OR, WA & WV); 95% public lands**
2. **Diverse topography, geography and ecosystems**
3. **Permissive land use policy (relative to US jurisdictions)**
4. **Dedicated and passionate community based OR sector**

What is B.C. missing?



Recreation Ecosystem



BIGGEST IN CANADA

BC has **1039 parks and protected areas**, **2283 recreation sites**, **10,700 BCP campsites**, **9,299 RST campsites** and **28,000+ km** of actively managed trails

- 35** active mountain resorts on Crown land
- 20** regional & destination resorts
- 15** community ski areas
- 3** additional ski areas in BC Parks
- 1,245** adventure tourism tenures
- 15.7 million** hectares under tenure

14.4%
(14M hectares) of BC's land base is dedicated to **protected area status**



~2% of this area has been developed for recreation



50+ NGO's providing a provincial lens to outdoor recreation

480+ Formal partnerships with volunteers, Indigenous communities and recreation organizations

7+ **Ministries** involved in some part of outdoor recreation

16 **Government Acts** with associated regulations that apply to outdoor recreation

200+ **Distinct First Nations** in BC, each with their unique traditions, interests and history

Of **61** private contractors operating parks on behalf of BC Parks, **17** BC Parks are operated by **16** Indigenous governments or businesses

45 **Strategic agreements** with Indigenous communities that BCP is directly involved with

Yearly, over **62,900** volunteer hours support maintenance of 20% of BC's trail network



Purpose and Scope

We are developing a **shared vision for the management of outdoor recreation** in British Columbia that, shared across various provincial ministries, will enable a coordinated approach. This vision has the potential to more wholly incorporate multiple values including conservation and wildlife, visitor use management, vibrant and resilient communities, and health and wellbeing.

With a focus on how OR opportunities are provided by the following provincial agencies, and how those agencies are aligned:

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV)

- Conservation and Recreation Division (CARD)
 - BC Parks (BCP)
 - Recreation Sites and Trails (RST)

Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS)

- Mountain Resorts Branch (MRB)
- Tourism Branch

Ministry of Forests (FOR)

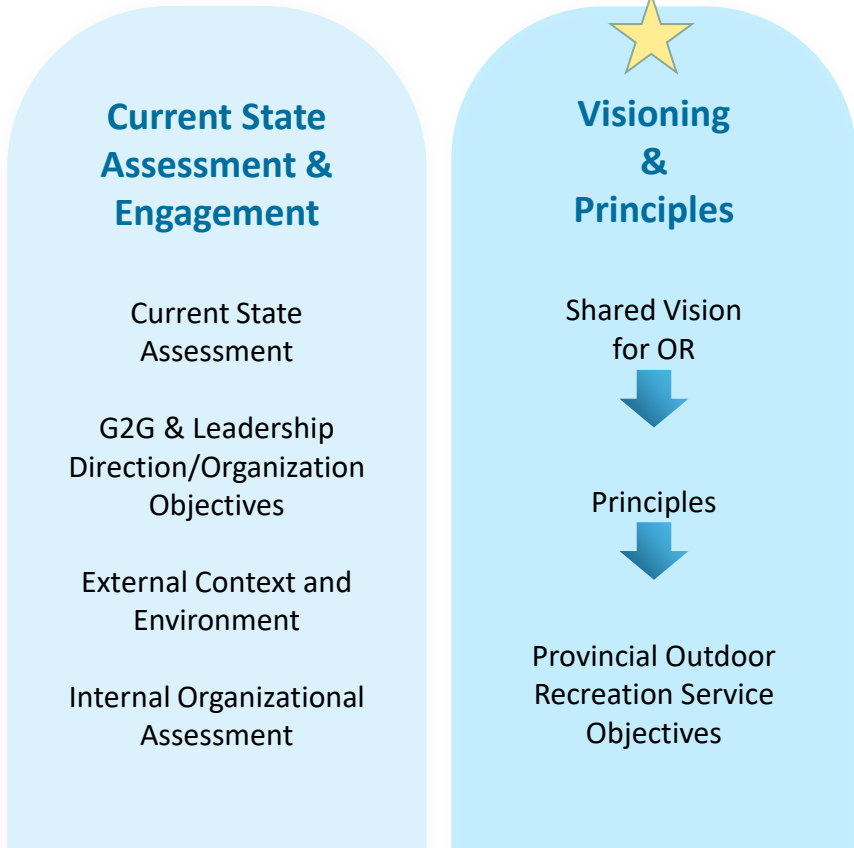
- Integrated Resource Operations
- Office of the Chief Forester

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS)

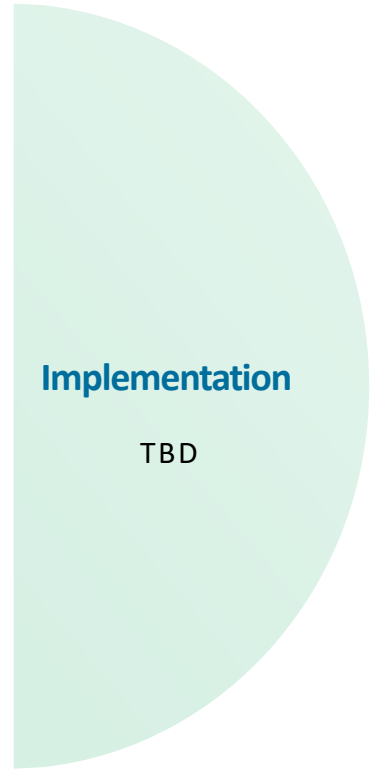
- Lands Program
- Permitting Transformation

Project Phases

Phase 1 & 2 – Shared Vision



Phase 3 & 4 Organization and Design



Shared vision will inform next phases

Digital Strategy and Service Transformation (Concurrent)

Engagement Horizons



- Outdoor Recreation Council of BC
- BC Adventure Tourism Coalition
- BC Recreation and Parks Association
- Union of BC Municipalities
- Tourism Industry Association of BC
- Indigenous Tourism BC
- BC Parks Foundation
- BC Wildlife Federation
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – BC
- Camping and RVing BC Coalition
- BC Society of Park Operators
- BCP Commitment to Inclusion contributing organizations
- Private Forest Landowners Association



- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
- Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs
- Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
- Agricultural Land Commission
- Destination BC
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure



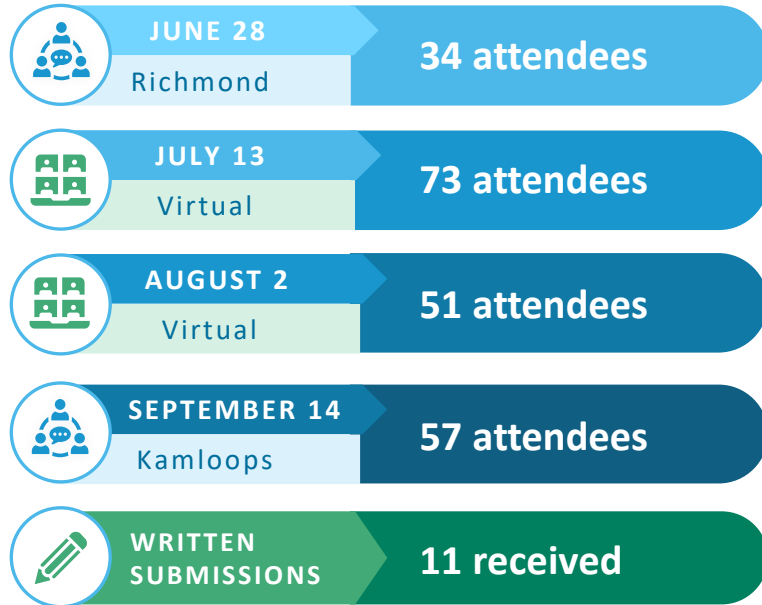
- Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
- Ministry of Forests
- Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport



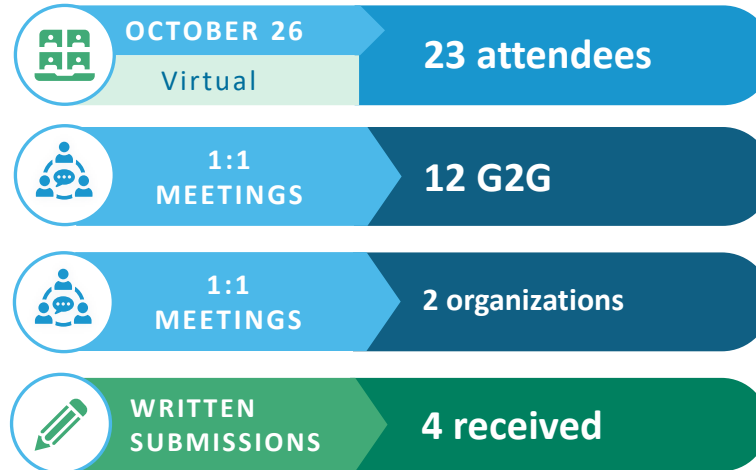
Indigenous engagement will be undertaken as a distinctions-based government to government process and will inform the project as whole.

Summary of Engagement

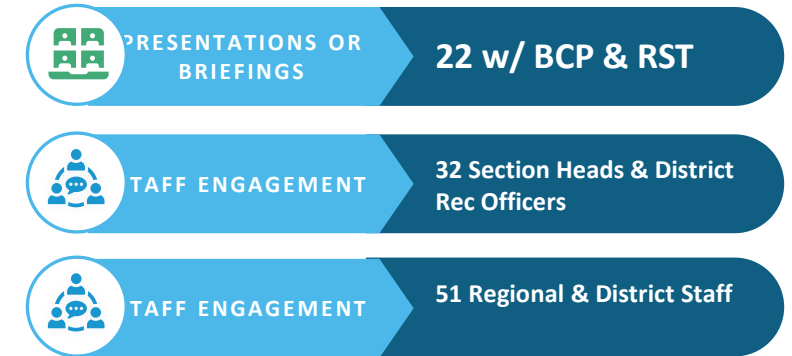
Sector Engagement



Indigenous Engagement



Agency Engagement



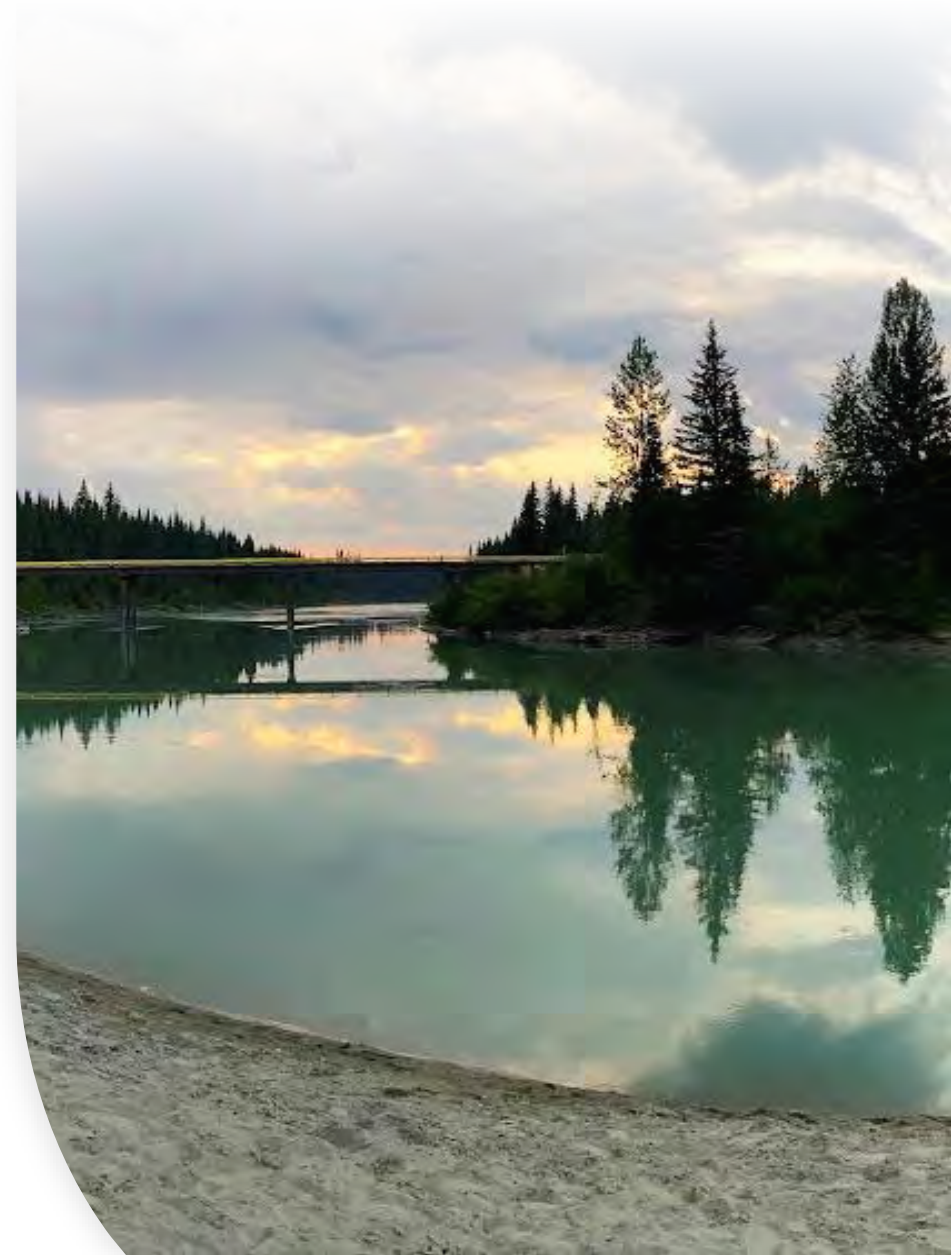
Key Takeaways: Sector Engagement

- Reconciliation, inclusion and conservation & stewardship are priorities and shared responsibilities
- Integrated and holistic planning
- More coordinated approach by government with more presence on the land
- Broaden understanding of economic impacts and wellbeing



Key Takeaways: Indigenous Engagement

- Right to define and undertake outdoor recreation
- Right to determine outdoor recreation values
- Not realizing economic benefits
- Limited outdoor recreation futures
- Opportunity for "New realizations"
- Government silos as barriers
- Government needs to stand alongside Indigenous Peoples



Key Takeaways: Agency Engagement

- Stewardship and conservation as the priority
- Indigenous relations is central
- Maintaining presence
- Community-centred approach
- Need for user-centred focus
- Capacity is not keeping up



Key Takeaways: Overall

- Deeply value the myriad of benefits of interacting with natural spaces for outdoor recreation
- Opportunity to come together around a valued opportunity
- Imperative to shift how we collectively think about outdoor recreation and holistically plan





Progressing the Vision

A Vision for Outdoor Recreation



A Vision that is:

- ✓ central to provincial identity
- ✓ includes all people
- ✓ Provides for diverse, quality experiences
- ✓ strengthens people's connection with nature
- ✓ contributes to resilient, thriving communities
- ✓ Linkages to health and well being

Current and Next Actions

- Public distribution of sector and Indigenous engagement reports
- Confirmation of Vision and Guiding Principles
- Strategic and tactical component underway
- Convene an Indigenous outdoor recreation focus group (IFE)

