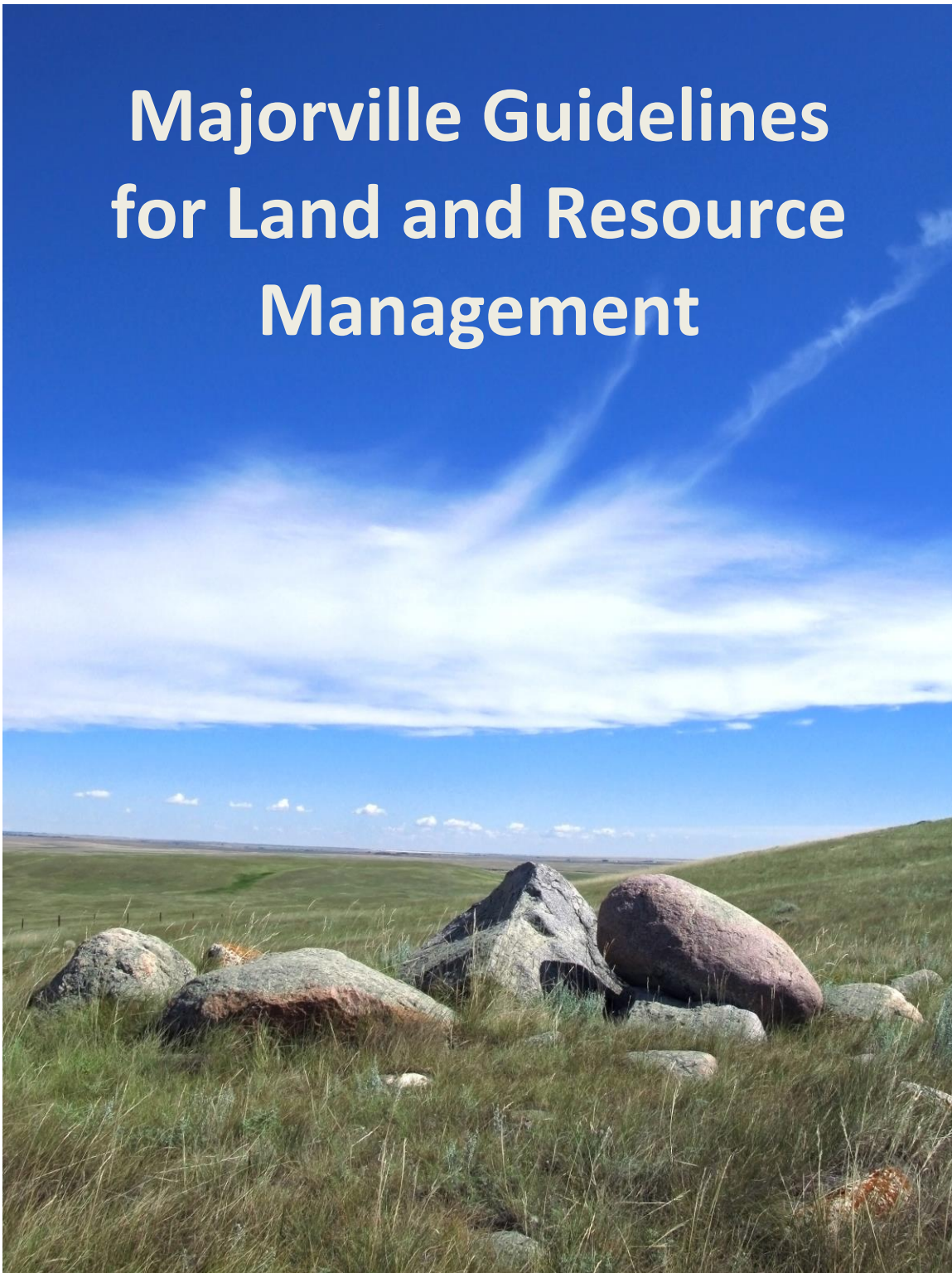


Majorville Guidelines for Land and Resource Management



Majorville Guidelines for Land and Resource Management

prepared under the auspices of the *South Saskatchewan Regional Plan: 2014-2024*

November 2015

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Alberta Environment and Parks
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- Alberta Energy

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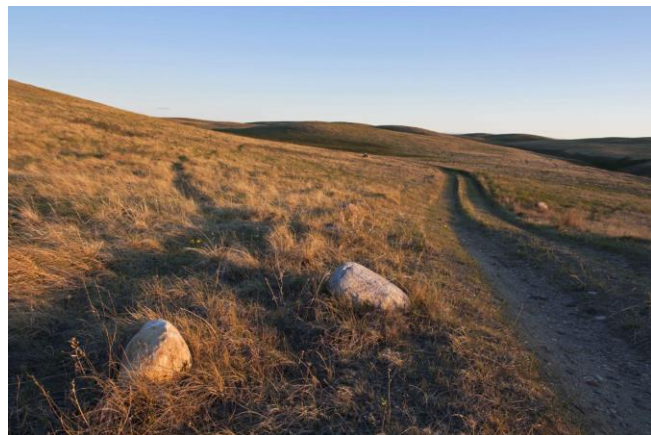


Approval

The *Majorville Guidelines for Land and Resource Management* were approved by:

- the Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations Division, Alberta Environment and Parks on October 22, 2015, and
- the Assistant Deputy Minister, Heritage Division, Alberta Culture and Tourism on November 5, 2015

This document contains the Government of Alberta's operational policy for the management of public land and public assets (i.e., natural resources and historic resources that fall under the jurisdiction of the province) in the Majorville planning area.



Foreword

Completion of the *Majorville Guidelines for Land and Resource Management* fulfills a requirement within the Government of Alberta's *South Saskatchewan Regional Plan*. The *Majorville Guidelines* are intended to be consistent with the statutory regional plan.

The *Majorville Guidelines* fall into the category of operational planning within Alberta's land use planning hierarchy. As such the *Guidelines* will need to conform with any applicable sub-regional plans that will be prepared in the future under the authority of the *South Saskatchewan Regional Plan*.

The *Majorville Guidelines* provide operational direction for managing the Majorville planning area. Management direction in this document applies to all users of the area: the public (recreational users, visitors and First Nations members), grazing lease holders, industry, operators and contractors, the rural municipality, researchers, etc. The *Guidelines* will be consulted by GoA staff and regulatory bodies in decision making, in day-to-day management activities, and when reviewing applications or proposals for land use change or development on public land. The *Guidelines* apply only to public land in the planning area.

The *Majorville Guidelines* will provide the basis for any further detailed planning or site-specific strategies that may be undertaken in the Majorville planning area in the future.



Need for Majorville Guidelines

Increased industrial activity within the Majorville planning area during the 1990's and into the new millennium brought several provincial government departments together to assess the extent and degree of land disturbance that was occurring within the area. It was realized that the volume of new activity and the expanding industrial footprint on the landscape had the potential to threaten the integrity of historic resources and put natural heritage values at risk. During this same period, Blackfoot people began re-connecting with the Majorville landscape, visiting the medicine wheel and other sacred sites. It became increasingly clear to government staff, after speaking with Blackfoot elders and reviewing archaeological information, that the Majorville area was, and remains, an important cultural landscape to the Blackfoot people.



Agreement emerged among government departments (responsible for the management of public land and natural resources in the Majorville area) that the development of a coordinated resource management plan was an appropriate response to the surface disturbances that were occurring in close proximity to the medicine wheel and on the surrounding landscape. It was decided that a cross-ministry planning process should be initiated to assess the effectiveness of current management approaches in the Majorville area and to make recommendations on future management strategies that address the interests, needs and concerns of provincial agencies, First Nations and key stakeholders. The inter-departmental Working Group that was formed to clarify the purpose and focus of a management plan for Majorville was eventually superseded by a cross-ministry Planning Team which began its work by developing *Terms of Reference* for the Majorville planning exercise. A **Background Report** was prepared by the Planning Team shortly thereafter.

Background

In 2005, the *Government of Alberta's First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development* was released. The *Consultation Policy* addressed Alberta's duty to consult with affected First Nations when provincial decisions pertaining to land management and resource development had the potential to adversely impact First Nations' Treaty rights¹.

¹ Alberta recognizes that impacting Treaty rights to hunt, fish, and trap for food may trigger a duty to consult.



Alberta would also consult with First Nations when traditional use activities had the potential to be adversely impacted by land and natural resource management decisions². Supporting *Consultation Guidelines* to implement the *Policy* were released in 2006, and were subsequently updated in 2007. The intent and provisions within the provincial *Consultation Policy* and *Guidelines* were interpreted and applied to the Majorville planning exercise in 2009. At that time GoA staff met with representatives from the three Blackfoot First Nations to develop the *Majorville FNs Consultation Approach*. This document identified how consultation would occur with Blackfoot First Nations throughout the various stages of the planning project and what kind of input the Government of Alberta (GoA) was seeking from First Nations. Preparation of the *Majorville FNs Consultation Approach* also gave each Blackfoot Nation a better understanding of the aims and objectives of the Majorville planning project.

[NOTE: Alberta released a new *FNs Consultation Policy* in 2013 and new *Guidelines* in 2014. As a “pre-existing” planning project, the Majorville planning exercise was completed under the original *Policy* and *Guidelines*. However, the core values and principles found in the 2005 *Policy* are consistent with those found in the 2013 *Policy*.]



When the Majorville planning exercise was launched numerous Tax Recovery (TR) parcels existed within the planning area. On February 3, 2011 the GoA announced that Cabinet had reached a decision on which TR lands in the Majorville planning area would be transferred to Vulcan County and which TR parcels would be retained as provincial Crown land within the planning area. Eight of 29 TR parcels within the planning area were transferred to the County (see [map on page 42](#)).

The planning project was re-named as the *Majorville Guidelines for Land and Resource Management* with the release of Alberta’s *South Saskatchewan Regional Plan* in September 2014. The regional plan (a Cabinet approved document) specifies that the *Majorville Guidelines* be completed and approved by the GoA in 2015. The *Guidelines* will need to conform with the (statutory) regional plan and align with direction contained in future sub-regional plans that will be prepared under the authority of the regional plan.

After reviewing progress that had been made during the first 8-year period on the Majorville project, the project clients (Alberta Environment and Parks – AEP, and Alberta Culture and Tourism) agreed to expedite project completion. It was decided early in 2014 that the interim planning discussion document (i.e., the draft *Majorville Framework for Land and Resource*

² *Traditional uses* of land include burial grounds, gathering sites, and historic or ceremonial locations and do not refer to proprietary interests in the land.



Management) would, following FNs and stakeholder review, become the final project deliverable. As a result the GoA would not develop a detailed management plan for the Majorville planning area as was originally planned.



Preparation of the **Majorville Guidelines** is being undertaken to clarify the GoA’s intentions for managing this unique landscape. Among other things, the Guidelines will provide direction on compatible land uses, resource development, the protection of cultural sites and historic resources, and maintaining ecological integrity, environmental health and biodiversity on the landscape. A map of the Majorville planning area is found on [page 42](#).

A key aim of the **Majorville Guidelines** will be to protect significant cultural sites and historic resources that are found throughout the planning area and achieve various conservation objectives for the native prairie landscape and its biodiversity while accommodating a range of compatible human activities and land uses through best management practices. The completed Guidelines will provide guidance for provincial agencies, disposition holders (who have mineral agreements or hold grazing leases), contractors and operators, recreational users and visitors, First Nation members, and other users by identifying the GoA’s land use policies for the planning area.

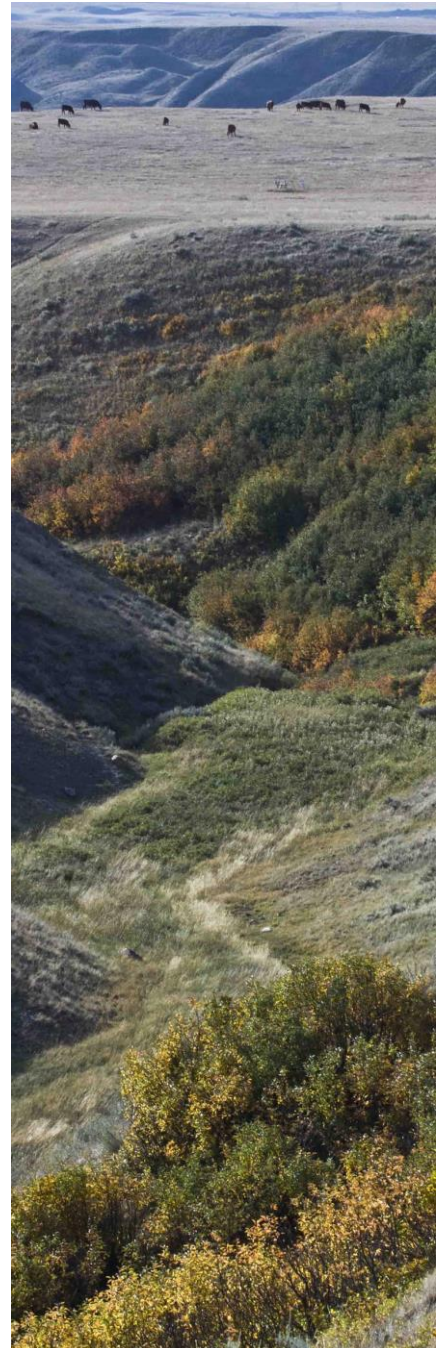
To ensure that sensitive sites and the area’s resource values were not compromised during the plan development process, a protective notation (PNT) was applied to the entire planning area. New PNTs will be applied to the planning area following GoA approval of the **Majorville Guidelines**.



Planning Process

The typical GoA planning process for public lands, as outlined in Section 4 of the revised *Majorville Background Report*, was followed for the Majorville project. Key steps in the planning process were as follows:

- a) Preparatory work was undertaken by a cross-ministry Working Group and the project was scoped out.
- b) A cross-ministry Planning Team and Steering Committee were established to proceed with the development of an integrated resource management plan.
- c) Project *Terms of Reference* were prepared and endorsed by senior government officials.
- d) A *Background Report* was prepared. (An updated version of the *Background Report* was prepared two years later.)
- e) Treaty 7 First Nations were notified of the planning project. The project *Background Report* was provided to First Nations to inform them of the project and planning area.
- f) Stakeholders were notified of the planning project.
- g) FNs consultation was initiated to obtain Blackfoot First Nation perspectives on the Majorville landscape, to identify Blackfoot interests and concerns, and determine potential infringements on Blackfoot Treaty rights and traditional uses.
- h) The Planning Team outlined the GoA's broad aims for the planning area in the *Majorville Framework for Land and Resource Management*. This draft discussion document contained preliminary planning proposals that attempted to balance land and resource use with the need to protect the integrity of natural and cultural resources found at Majorville. Development of the draft *Framework* was originally undertaken as an intermediate step in the overall planning process – a detailed management plan was to eventually follow.
- i) As a result of significant organizational changes within the GoA (following a provincial election) and given the GoA's priority of preparing and releasing the *South Saskatchewan Regional Plan*, the Majorville planning project was put on hold.
- j) The project was re-designed by the two project proponents to ensure its timely completion – it was decided that a detailed management plan would not be prepared.
- k) The planning project was re-activated with the release of the



approved *South Saskatchewan Regional Plan* in July 2014.

- l) First Nations review of the draft *Framework* document was initiated. A workshop attended by the three Blackfoot FNs was held to receive input. The three Blackfoot FNs then submitted a Blackfoot Confederacy written submission in response to the draft *Framework*. A follow-up meeting was subsequently held to achieve greater clarity on Blackfoot concerns and perspectives.
- m) Stakeholder review of the draft *Framework* document was then undertaken. Three workshops were held to receive stakeholder input and meetings with individual stakeholders were held.
- n) The Planning Team systematically addressed all feedback that was obtained through FNs consultation and stakeholder engagement and prepared the *Majorville Guidelines for Land and Resource Management*.
- o) The *Majorville Guidelines* were reviewed and endorsed by the project Steering Committee.
- p) The *Majorville Guidelines* were then reviewed and approved by the project clients (Alberta Environment and Parks, and Alberta Culture and Tourism).

A flow-chart on page 43 identifies the key planning elements, their linkages, and the main process steps that were followed during the plan development process.

Development of a draft Framework document

The Planning Team prepared the draft *Majorville Framework* to test its initial proposals with FNs and stakeholders (to gauge the reaction of planning area users) before commencing with the preparation of more detailed strategies and concrete action recommendations in a final management plan.

However, 2 years after the release of the draft

Framework (and following another project hiatus), GoA officials decided to speed up the process for completing the Majorville project – given that 8-years of planning activity had already transpired. It was decided that the Majorville *Framework* (to be renamed the *Majorville Guidelines for Land and Resource Management*) would now become the final product deliverable. If needed, more detailed site-specific planning could be undertaken in the future in conjunction with the implementation of the *Guidelines*. The draft *Framework* that had been released for comment underwent revisions in response to feedback supplied by FNs and stakeholders, and was further modified to reflect GoA priorities and preferences. The new document that emerged following Planning Team revisions was the *Majorville Guidelines for Land and Resource Management*.



Participants

Participants involved in the development and review of Majorville planning documents are as follows:

Planning Team – A cross-ministry Team of GoA staff assembled relevant information, identified resource management challenges, prepared, evaluated and integrated planning proposals, developed planning documents, and consulted with First Nations and stakeholders.

Steering Committee – A cross-ministry Committee of GoA managers provided project oversight, resolved project related issues, offered guidance in the development of planning proposals, endorsed planning documents, and sought approval for the completed plan.

Majorville Consultation Advisory Committee – An inter-agency Committee of GoA staff was established from 2008 - 2010 to oversee the development of the *First Nations Consultation Approach* (which would guide First Nations consultation at key junctures in the planning process) and provide advice to the project Planner/Manager on how to pursue meaningful FNs engagement.

Technical Working Group – A cross ministry Working Group of GoA subject matter experts and technicians provided a support role to the Planning Team offering needed expertise, information, analytical services and technical support.

Blackfoot First Nations (Piikani, Kainai, Siksika) – During the Treaty 7 project notification stage it was confirmed that the three Blackfoot First Nations wished to be consulted on the Majorville project. In 2009 representatives from the 3 Blackfoot Nations met with GoA staff to prepare a FNs consultation strategy (i.e., *FNs Consultation Approach*) for the Majorville project. Consultation occurred with elders, ceremonialists, tribal administrators and Band Councillors from 2006 – 2014. The Blackfoot were encouraged to share information, offer cultural perspectives and review planning proposals.

General Stakeholders – The following stakeholders were invited to review the draft *Framework*: grazing lease holders, industry, Vulcan County, resource managers, and other organizations and user groups that had a stake or interest in the outcome of the Majorville planning process.



3.0 Resource Management Challenges

At the outset of the planning exercise the Planning Team identified a range of resource management challenges within the Majorville planning area. These issues (which are presented in the draft *Framework*) were considered during the planning process. A significant number of these issues have been addressed in the *Majorville Guidelines*.

During the *Guidelines* implementation stage a new Majorville Implementation Work Group will take note of and monitor emerging issues and, wherever possible, resolve these in a manner consistent with direction contained in the *Majorville Guidelines*.



4.1 Vision

The planning area falls within the larger *South Saskatchewan Regional Plan* (SSRP) planning region of southern Alberta. The statutory SSRP was approved and released in September 2014. The *Majorville Guidelines* must be consistent with the SSRP and the Alberta *Land-use Framework*. Together, the *Land-use Framework* and the SSRP are intended to achieve three primary outcomes:

- a healthy economy supported by our land and natural resources;
- healthy ecosystems and environment; and
- people friendly communities with ample recreational and cultural opportunities.

While it can be argued that each landscape within Alberta is distinctive in some way, the Majorville area is considered to be unique and special. What sets the Majorville planning area apart from many other native prairie locations in southern Alberta is the presence of a large number of known archaeological sites that cover much of the planning area. They give testimony to the use of this area by indigenous people, stretching back over several millennia. Blackfoot elders have indicated that the landscape itself, and the many sacred sites that are found here, continue to have enduring spiritual and cultural significance to the Blackfoot people.

Vision for the Planning Area

The prairie ecosystem and the rich cultural heritage of Alberta's First Nations will be conserved, protected and celebrated at Majorville. Compatible human activities and land uses which provide economic and social benefits can occur in the planning area, however, agreement holders and users must adopt stewardship approaches and best management practices which respect and conserve natural and cultural features. Maintaining the integrity of individual historic sites and the larger cultural landscape will be pursued by operators and visitors alike, thereby supporting First Nations members' continuing connections with traditional use areas, and the ongoing enjoyment and appreciation of the Majorville area by all other users.



4.2 Principles

The following principles provided a basis for the development of the *Majorville Guidelines* and will be observed during the plan implementation stage.

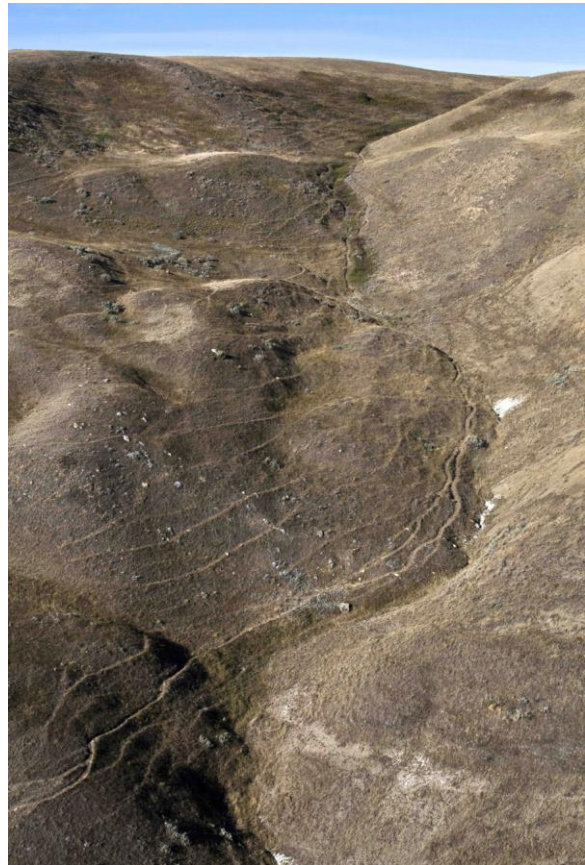
Integrated Landscape Management Approach

Traditional land and natural resource planning systems have often been characterized by compartmentalizing a planning area into multiple management units, using sector-based or single resource management approaches (that result in fragmented decisions), relying on *ad hoc*, disposition-by-disposition or project-by-project decision making that does not fully consider effects at larger spatial and temporal scales, and an absence of performance measures to determine if desired outcomes are being achieved. The integrated landscape management approach to planning moves land use and resource management decision making in a new direction by:

- addressing whole landscapes (not merely sites of specific interest)
- using a multi-sectoral approach which integrates economic, social and environmental objectives – addressing industrial, agricultural, recreational, cultural and other activities on the landscape and considering the interactions among these activities
- considering the incremental (cumulative) effects of additional disturbances and human activity on landscapes and biodiversity
- adopting performance measures (i.e., indicators, targets, thresholds) that express concrete outcomes and limits

Integrated landscape management has as its aim the wise management of human activity so that landscapes and ecosystems, and the services they provide, will continue to sustain human well-being.

Landscape management is based on a holistic approach in which the dynamic interactions that occur among constituent parts of the landscape and ecosystem are maintained. It is now recognized that functioning ecosystems require larger intact areas, which are essential to maintaining biodiversity, i.e., biodiversity cannot thrive in highly fragmented landscapes where only a few habitat islands are retained. Furthermore, it is recognized that First Nations cultural sites may have a relationship (i.e., are connected) with other surrounding cultural features, and



that the natural environment which surrounds a particular cultural site is integral to that site and should not be compromised.

In the Alberta context, the provincial government adopted Integrated Resource Management (IRM) as the dominant planning paradigm for land use planning on provincial Crown lands. Integrated Resource Management has provided the guiding principles for Alberta's integrated resource planning (IRP) program for at least 3 decades. The commitment to IRM on a provincial scale was initially established through the adoption of *A System for Integrated Resource Planning on Public Lands in Alberta* in 1979. IRM was re-affirmed as the provincial public land and natural resource management philosophy and decision-making model in March 1990 with the release of *Alberta's Commitment to Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management*.

Coordinated Resource Management

Coordinated resource management is a planning and resource management approach whereby government agencies, organizations and individuals agree to communicate and cooperate with each other when developing and implementing resource management strategies.



Coordinated resource management provides a forum where participants can identify and resolve issues, exchange information and ideas, and establish mutually beneficial goals. This approach encourages participants to reach agreement on resource management objectives, preferred strategies for achieving stated objectives, and appropriate land uses within a defined geographical area. Coordinated resource management decisions, solutions and outcomes tend to be durable in nature because a conscious effort is made to integrate both sectoral interests and needs, and resource management objectives and strategies.



Integrated Land Management (ILM) is a specific application of coordinated resource management in the Alberta context. ILM is an initiative which encourages cooperation among all land users to lessen impacts, reduce disturbance activities, and minimize the extent of human activity on the land base. Among other things, the government's ILM program focuses on: managing and reducing the industrial, recreational and other footprints; reclaiming disturbed lands, and; providing an appropriate level of access for all users.



Stewardship

Stewardship is simply defined as “*caring for the land and associated resources so that healthy ecosystems can be passed onto future generations.*” (*Dictionary of Natural Resources Management*, 1996, p 299) To achieve the societal goal of ‘healthy ecosystems,’ industrial operators, other land users and visitors must adopt a stewardship mindset when in the Majorville planning area. Responsible stewardship requires a willingness and commitment from all user groups to modify their activities to reduce and prevent harmful impacts to the environment so that fully functioning ecosystems can be maintained at all levels, from the local site to the larger landscape. Effective stewardship will promote ecosystem ‘integrity’, which is concerned with safeguarding the ongoing productive and renewal capacities of natural ecological processes and maintaining the genetic, species and ecosystem diversity that is associated with a given area.



Maintain the integrity of archaeological / cultural sites

The remains of human antiquity are important in shaping and informing those people who are linked to these artifacts and their associated sites. Archaeological resources are also of benefit to the larger society as a legacy of human history and experience. Cultural and historic resources found in the planning area will be protected to preserve Alberta’s First Nations’ heritage and to facilitate the engagement (re-connection) of First Nations people with these cultural sites.

Existing Commitments

The Government of Alberta will honour existing mineral commitments as defined by any tenure, disposition, right, agreement or approval that existed prior to the approval of the *Majorville Guidelines*. Existing oil/gas agreements within the planning area will be grandfathered in.



Monitoring

Provincial agencies will assess the effectiveness of provisions in the *Majorville Guidelines* and progress being made in achieving management objectives in these *Guidelines* by monitoring changing environmental conditions and the impacts arising from human activities and permitted land uses. Monitoring is an important and integral part of planning and resource management. Opportunities may exist to



develop working relationships with stakeholders and Blackfoot First Nations to assist with monitoring activities.

Adaptive Management

Adaptive management is “a dynamic planning or modelling process that recognizes the future cannot be predicted perfectly. In response to these imperfect predictions, planning and management strategies are modified frequently as better information becomes available. It applies scientific principles and methods to improve management activities incrementally, as decision-makers learn from experience and new scientific findings, and adapt to changing social expectations and demands.” (*Dictionary of Natural Resources Management*, ibid, p 6)

Aboriginal Consultation

Following the adoption of the *Majorville Guidelines*, any future land use or development proposal which represents a significant departure from management direction that is outlined in these *Guidelines*, and which could potentially impact cultural sites, may need to be reviewed and discussed with appropriate stakeholders and First Nations before any decision is finalized.

Alberta followed its First Nations *Consultation Policy* (2005) and *Guidelines* (2007) during the development of the *Majorville Guidelines*. Future consultation with the Blackfoot First Nations will occur pursuant to Alberta’s First Nations consultation policy as it exists at the time of any planning project review. As stated in Alberta’s 2013 First Nations *Consultation Policy*: “. . . Alberta will seek to reconcile First Nations’ constitutionally protected rights with other societal interests with a view to substantially address adverse impacts on Treaty rights and traditional uses through a meaningful consultation process.” (page 1)



4.3 Goals and Objectives for Key Resource Sectors

A number of “goals / outcomes” and “objectives / guidelines” have been prepared for the Majorville planning area. These direction statements (which are grouped under several land use sectors and management themes) identify how different natural resources, land uses, and human activities will be managed in the future to achieve the broad aims that have been established for the planning area. Actions in Section 4.3 apply to the entire planning area unless statements make particular reference to the Majorville Heritage Landscape (see Section 4.4 and [map on page 44](#)) or the Historic Resource Management Area ([see map on page 60](#)). Direction statements in the *Majorville Guidelines* do not apply to deeded land within the planning area, however, private land owners are encouraged to voluntarily adopt land and resource management provisions that are contained in these *Guidelines*.

The native prairie landscape within the planning area is recognized for its significant ecological, archaeological, cultural and economic values. Land use and development within the Majorville planning area must be sustainable and must be compatible with the many resource values that are present on the landscape. Development proponents must ensure the health and safety of the public in the planning area and must be committed to conserving the environment, unique and sensitive landscapes, and protecting the area’s historic resources. Proponents must also meet the standard operating conditions that have been established for the Majorville Historic Resource Management Area – see Appendix 1.



The planning area contains numerous sites which Blackfoot First Nations consider to be sacred. Furthermore, the planning area is an important cultural landscape where the Blackfoot continue to practice traditional uses and exercise their Treaty rights (within the meaning of section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982). As such, operators, users and visitors should conduct themselves to minimize impacts to the cultural landscape and its cultural heritage resources.

In addition to the operational policies that are identified in these *Majorville Guidelines*, the planning area is also subject to:

- other applicable GoA policies, guidelines, laws and regulations
- applicable municipal plans and bylaws



- direction contained in the *South Saskatchewan Regional Plan* and its subordinate sub-regional plans (e.g., *Biodiversity Management Framework*, *Linear Footprint Management Plan*)

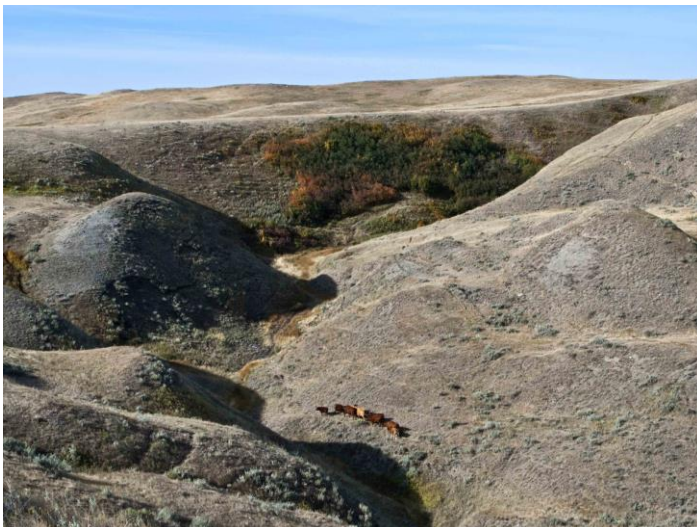
4.3.1 Grazing and Rangelands

Goal / Outcome

To maintain a diversity of native plant species, vigorous and healthy plant growth, and adequate vegetative cover on public lands within the planning area.

Objectives / Guidelines

1. To achieve a “healthy” score for all public land rangelands within the planning area when rangeland evaluations are completed using Alberta’s *Grassland Range Health Assessment* tool.
2. To maintain productive rangelands by adopting grazing management principles, including:
 - ❑ balancing livestock demands with the available forage supply and wildlife habitat needs
 - ❑ promoting even livestock distribution by using tools like fencing, salt placement and water development to spread livestock grazing over the landscape
 - ❑ avoiding grazing of rangelands during vulnerable periods
 - ❑ providing effective rest periods after grazing to allow range plants to recover from the stresses of grazing
3. To ensure the long-term sustainable use of public rangelands, grazing lease holders will abide with the *Grazing Lease Stewardship Code of Practice* (December, 2007) which identifies the roles and responsibilities that grazing lease holders have.
4. All future range improvements (e.g., dugouts, fences, livestock treatment facilities) must satisfy the intent and provisions in the *Majorville Guidelines*. Grazing lease holders are encouraged to conceal any substantial structures that may be visible from the medicine wheel.



4.3.2 Energy / Mineral Resources

Goal / Outcome

To allow energy resource exploration and development activities where these are deemed compatible³ with the landscape and the resource values which are present. Activities related to the exploration, development and extraction of energy resources must follow Alberta's Integrated Land Management (ILM) principles, not impair the prairie ecosystem, or damage historic resources and cultural sites within the planning area.

Objectives / Guidelines

1. a) To require industry compliance with the requirements that are set out in the following: **(Operators will need to follow whichever is the higher of the two standards which follow)**
 - the GoA's Enhanced Approval Process (EAP) *Integrated Standards and Guidelines*
 - the operating conditions which have been adopted by the GoA for the Majorville Historic Resource Management Area (HRMA). These operating conditions were shared with industry in 2005, have now been updated, and are included within Appendix 1 of the *Majorville Guidelines*. The Majorville HRMA operating conditions will eventually be incorporated within Alberta's EAP process and the associated *Integrated Standards and Guidelines*.
- b) Industry is also advised to follow the best practices that are outlined in:
 - *Prairie Oil and Gas: A Lighter Footprint* (2001, H. Sinton)
 - AER (formerly ERCB) Information Letter IL 2002-1 - *Principles for Minimizing Surface Disturbance in Native Prairie and Parkland Areas*
 - *Petroleum Industry Activity in Native Prairie and Parkland Areas – Guidelines for Minimizing Surface Disturbance* (January 2002)



2. The *Majorville Guidelines* propose the creation of a new management unit in the planning area – the Majorville Heritage Landscape (see Section 4.4). Industry voluntary conformance with the new operating conditions in the Majorville Heritage Landscape will be sought for **existing** mineral agreements. **New** mineral leases and new surface dispositions within the Majorville Heritage

³ **compatible** (defined): An activity is 'compatible' when it meets existing provincial regulatory requirements, standards, guidelines and best management practices, and the activity conforms with provisions that are identified in the *Majorville Guidelines*.



Landscape will be subject to the operating conditions which are contained in Section 4.4 of this document. (i.e., The operating requirements that were in place when existing mineral agreements/dispositions were issued in the planning area will continue to be in effect. However, energy companies with existing mineral and surface dispositions are encouraged to adopt the new operating requirements that are identified in these *Guidelines*. The operating restrictions and requirements identified in these *Guidelines* must be followed for any new mineral agreements and new surface dispositions that are issued.)

3. To phase out all surface based industrial activity and ensure associated reclamation is completed within the new Majorville Heritage Landscape - East when existing mineral agreements and associated surface dispositions expire. (see map on page 44 and Section 4.4 for a detailed explanation of operating requirements)
4. To limit the industrial development footprint within the new Majorville Heritage Landscape - West. (see map on page 44 and Section 4.4 for a detailed explanation of operating requirements)

5. The planning area exists within the Majorville viewshed (i.e., the area that is visible from the Majorville Medicine Wheel). Large above ground energy facilities and infrastructure that cannot be effectively shielded or concealed (e.g., oil wells, power lines, large tanks, etc.) will be prohibited within the viewshed of the planning area to ensure that these facilities do not



intrude on planning area viewscapes as seen from the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel. A map (see the viewable landscape map on page 45) identifies where the land surface is visible from the medicine wheel, and those areas where oil/gas structures of various heights might be visible from the medicine wheel. Operators should consult the viewable landscape map – a useful tool in quickly determining whether structures at a given location may be visible from the medicine wheel. Where opportunities exist to do so, operators should also explore concealing new industrial facilities along future designated access routes within the planning area.

(NOTE: The Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel offers an outstanding prairie vista given its location on a high prairie hill. The views from the Medicine Wheel are spectacular in all directions. Appendix 1 indicates that permitted industrial facilities must be concealed and blend into the landscape within the Majorville HRMA so that they are not visually conspicuous in the viewshed.)



6. Large-scale, intensive resource developments (e.g., open pit mines, sand and gravel pits, mineral quarries, coal bed methane and shale gas developments), because of their comparatively large surface footprint, extensive development disturbance, and visibility within the viewshed, are seen to be incompatible with a landscape that has an unusually high density of archaeological sites and where the retention of native prairie and landscape aesthetics is a primary objective.
7. Construction timing and set-back policies established by AEP to protect species at risk, water resources, riparian areas, wildlife travel corridors, sensitive habitats, erodible soils, recreation activities, and which reflect site visitation patterns must be observed. These are identified in the EAP Integrated Standards and Guidelines documents.

8. To manage access roads and reduce the fragmentation of native prairie, industry will be required to pursue a coordinated approach in access planning and road development – sharing roads and trails wherever possible. The use of existing road corridors and the adoption of road sharing agreements will help reduce the need for new road development.



9. New access roads are prohibited in MHL-E. New access roads may be accommodated in MHL-W if suitable mitigation actions are taken to reduce impacts.
10. Any new industrial access outside of MHL-E must be located to minimize impacts to the prairie ecosystem and historic resources. Planning for new access roads must consider ILM principles, avoid sensitive landscape features and historic resources, and must comply with any road development standard which has been established for the planning area. See also Appendix 1 in this regard.
11. The GoA will, upon approval of the **Majorville Guidelines**, adopt three Protection Notations (PNTs) within the Majorville planning area:
 - a PNT that pertains to the entire planning area, alerting government agencies and companies to the **Majorville Guidelines** that are now in effect and that Guideline provisions must be followed
 - a PNT that pertains the MHL-W, alerting government agencies and companies to **Majorville Guideline** provisions that pertain specifically to this new management unit
 - a PNT that pertains the MHL-E, alerting government agencies and companies to **Majorville Guideline** provisions that pertain specifically to this new management unit



4.3.3 Other Industrial Activity

Goal / Outcome

To prohibit industrial activities that are incompatible with the retention of landscape aesthetics, the conservation of native prairie, protection of historic resources, and the retention of biodiversity in the planning area.

Objectives / Guidelines

1. To maintain native prairie aesthetics wind power installations (individual wind turbines and wind farms), new above-ground utility corridors for major transmission lines, major pipelines, and solar energy farms will not be permitted in the planning area.
2. To retain the native prairie ecosystem and retain landscape aesthetics sand and gravel operations, surface coal mining, and the extraction of surface materials, metallic and industrial minerals will not be permitted in the planning area.
3. No ammonite shell agreements will be issued in the planning area by Alberta Energy given the cultural significance of ammonite shells to Blackfoot First Nations (i.e., commercial ammonite mining will be prohibited). (NOTE: Buffalo stones or *iniskim*, which are derived from ammonite shells, are sacred ceremonial objects to the Blackfoot people.)
4. Industrial activity on provincial Crown land needs to conform with the ***Public Lands Act***, which identifies the terms/conditions under which road access and development can occur.
5. Permission can be obtained through a Temporary Field Authorization or License of Occupation for AltaLink to operate outside of the existing utility right-of-way (while undertaking inspections, monitoring, maintenance, operations and emergency repairs) for the purpose of avoiding or minimizing impacts to known historical resources and environmentally sensitive sites that are located on the existing utility right-of-way.



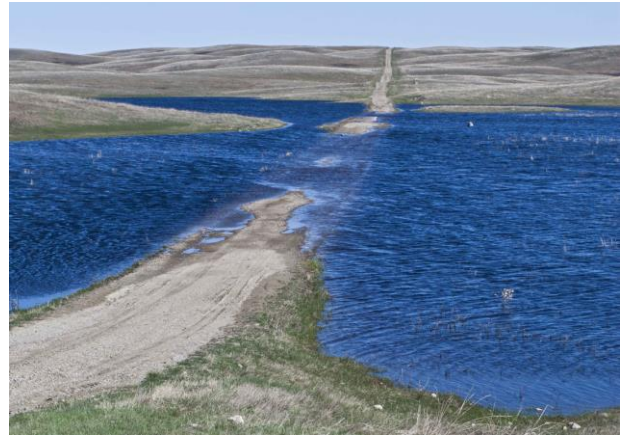
4.3.4 Access Management

Goal / Outcome

Motorized access will be provided for area users (ranchers, industry, recreational users, First Nations members and visitors) through un-improved access roads and trails while maintaining native prairie landscape aesthetics, limiting ground disturbance, conserving the planning area's biodiversity and grasslands, and protecting historic resources and sites.



Access road through a low lying area in a dry year.



The same location in a wet year.

Objectives / Guidelines

1. At present, all public users (including First Nation members) need to make contact with and receive permission from grazing lease holders – in accordance with Alberta's ***Recreational Access Regulation*** – before travelling on agricultural leases within the Majorville planning area. When lease holder permission has been obtained for motorized access, travel must be confined to existing main trails (unless an exception has been granted by the lease holder). Public motorized access is not permitted:

- on the numerous spur trails that branch from main trails,
- along the rim of coulees,
- through coulee breaks and on river banks, and
- along the Bow River (on benches, fluvial terraces or the flood plain).

Further information about motorized recreation on agricultural public land is provided at the following AEP web-page:

<http://esrd.alberta.ca/recreation-public-use/recreation-on-agricultural-public-land/default.aspx>

2. Recreational users and visitors are responsible for their own personal safety and enter grazing leases in the planning area at their own risk. Users will assume any costs that are incurred if they need to be rescued while in the planning area. Users will also be responsible for the payment of any fines resulting from violations that are committed on public land.



3. To more effectively manage access-related impacts in the future, public access will be restricted to those entry points which are identified in a future detailed recreational (access) management plan. Industry, grazing disposition holders, contractors and GoA staff may continue using existing entry points for resource management purposes, to engage in authorized activities, and for fire suppression purposes.
4. To further reduce public access-related impacts in the future, public access and motorized travel will be confined to “designated routes” that will be identified in a future detailed recreational management plan. Options for informing the public about the location of “designated routes” could include: information kiosks, signs, brochures, and gates. Public motorized travel off (i.e., departures from) newly established “designated routes” will not be permitted. Exceptions may however be granted by the grazing lease holder in particular situations. In such instances, the public must contact the lease holder and receive permission beforehand.

5. Existing main trails (and future “designate routes”) to the Medicine Wheel will continue to have a basic and primitive character. Trail improvements will be limited to those improvements which are carried out by industrial LOC holders. The retention of primitive roads and trails will have the effect of discouraging heavy or casual public use.



6. An information kiosk will be established – either within or outside the planning area, at the SE entry point – to orient and notify the public of the following: where entrance can occur, use of “designated routes”, access restrictions, visitor conduct, lease holder access contacts, trail closures that are in effect, etc. Further details on the design, location, purpose and information that will be presented at kiosks will be addressed in a future detailed recreational management plan.
7. Grazing lease holders and industrial disposition holders will be invited to assist GoA staff in reporting on public use levels and visitor behaviours in the planning area. This information will be useful in the future development of a detailed recreational management plan.
8. The GoA will investigate options for determining public use levels on main trails. It is proposed that a guest book be provided at the medicine wheel to allow visitors to voluntarily sign-in.
9. Any closure of trails (and “designated routes”) to vehicles will conform with Alberta’s ***Recreational Access Regulation***. Closures may occur as a result of fire bans, wet ground



conditions or other circumstances. Trail closures can be initiated by grazing lease holders, industrial disposition and LOC holders, the County, or GoA officials. Public notification of trail closures will occur at the entrance kiosk, through gate closure, signs, and potentially through social media.



10. Roads and trails that are not required by industrial disposition holders and grazing lease holders will be allowed to naturally grass over. In some situations, where agreement exists between AEP, industrial users and grazing lease holders, selective road reclamation may be undertaken at identified problem areas to expedite the process of vegetative recovery. License of Occupation roads that are put to bed need to meet stringent reclamation criteria before a reclamation certificate is issued. It is urged that reclaimed roads not be used by vehicles following their reclamation.
11. Industrial disposition holders and operators should use existing trails wherever possible.
12. Permission can be obtained through a Temporary Field Authorization or License of Occupation for AltaLink to operate outside of the existing utility right-of-way (while undertaking inspections, monitoring, maintenance, operations and repairs) for the purpose of avoiding or minimizing impacts to known historical resources and environmentally sensitive sites that are located on the utility right-of-way. During emergency situations in which AltaLink is engaged in rapid response actions, necessary access to problem areas will be granted. Existing roads and trails should be used wherever they exist.
13. Grazing leaseholders have authority under the *Public Lands Act* to travel throughout their grazing leases to carry out necessary livestock management activities and range improvement operations.
14. Recreational ATV / OHV use is not permitted within the planning area.
15. Recreational users cannot create fires within the planning area. If found responsible for starting a fire, people or companies may be charged with the costs of fire suppression and may be fined under the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*.



16. During periods of high fire risk, or when an authorized fire ban is imposed, public access trails will be closed to reduce the risk of vehicle caused fires. No public vehicle access will be allowed while a fire ban is in effect. Closed gates and signs at designated entry points will notify the public that a fire ban is in effect and that public vehicle entry is prohibited.



17. To more effectively manage public (i.e., recreational, visitor, First Nations) activity in the planning area, the GoA will develop a detailed recreational (access) management plan for the Majorville planning area. This will entail the following:

- Development of a recreational management plan should commence immediately after the approval of the *Majorville Guidelines*. Access provisions that are contained in this section of the *Guidelines* will provide the basis for more detailed recreational management planning.
- First Nations, grazing lease holders, the County and industry representatives will be invited to participate in the development of the recreational management plan.
- An enforcement mechanism will be adopted by the GoA for the Majorville planning area to ensure future public compliance with any access restrictions. Access enforcement mechanisms that could be considered include: Recreational Management Plan, Director's Access Order, or any other suitable enforcement instrument.
- The recreational management plan should address, among other things:
 - a) entry points for recreational users
 - b) designated routes available for recreational users
 - c) trail restrictions and access limitations that pertain to recreational users
 - d) circumstances/conditions under which designated routes will be closed
 - e) installation of gates (and whether gates should be locked)
 - f) closure of select municipal road allowances
 - g) use of kiosks and brochures to inform recreational users
 - h) signage needs to manage and restrict recreational activity
 - i) minimizing fire threats from visitor use (i.e., vegetation management on designated routes)
 - j) monitoring of visitor use levels and visitor compliance
- Identify how the public will be notified about the recreational management plan and what information will be shared.



- The dissemination of brochures (that are based on the approved recreational management plan) to stakeholders, Vulcan County, and surrounding villages.

18. The GoA has developed an access management strategy that identifies proposed designated entry points and access routes for public use (see [description and map on pages 54-56](#)). This access strategy will be reviewed and modified as necessary through First Nations consultation and stakeholder engagement when a recreational management plan is prepared for the Majorville planning area in the future.

4.3.5 Recreation

Goal / Outcome

To allow non-intrusive, low impact visitor experiences and recreational activities that are compatible with a cultural landscape and unique native prairie landscape.

Objectives / Guidelines

1. To maintain healthy, productive and sustainable wildlife populations which provide recreational and economic benefits to Albertans.
2. Wildlife viewing, hiking, and hunting are compatible activities within the planning area. ATVs and OHVs cannot be used for the retrieval of shot game.



3. All recreational motorized activities must conform with the access provisions that are found in the preceding Access Management section (i.e., section 4.3.4).
4. Recreational camping and fires are not permitted within the planning area.
5. To meet conservation objectives and protect historic sites, the planning area and the Medicine Wheel will not be identified or promoted as a tourism site or as tourism destination



area by the GoA and the tourism industry to discourage high visitor use of the area. Permanent tourism facilities will not be constructed in the planning area.

6. To maintain the native prairie setting, any authorized facilities or works within the planning area should blend into the landscape and have a rustic and primitive character, without sacrificing public safety.

4.3.6 Biodiversity and Wildlife

Goal / Outcome

To conserve and maintain healthy, productive, and sustainable fish and wildlife populations.

Objectives⁴ / Guidelines

A – Habitat Conservation

The planning area is largely comprised of relatively undisturbed native prairie, located within the Dry Mixedgrass Natural Subregion of the province. Landscape topography ranges from fairly flat to rolling terrain on extensive uplands. Native grassland habitat is critical for many southern Alberta wildlife species, both game and non-game species, as well as numerous sensitive, rare and endangered species.



Many grassland nesting birds utilize the planning area. Grassland nesters often require large areas of intact native prairie and are sensitive to disturbance during the breeding season (April 1 – July 15). Coulees (valley slopes) and uplands associated with the Bow River valley provide critical winter range for mule deer and other large ungulates. Many of the ephemeral and larger wetlands, potholes and riparian areas along the Bow River provide habitat for ducks, several species of which nest in the adjacent uplands, and for shorebirds.

⁴ Biodiversity and Wildlife objectives are based on the EAP Manual and EAP Integrated Standards and Guidelines; Sept. 1, 2010.





i) Habitat Retention

1. To maintain and enhance native vegetation (grasses, forbs and shrub species) throughout the planning area.
2. To maintain the integrity of natural terrain features including prairie uplands, coulees, unique landforms, riparian areas and river valleys.
3. To ensure that invasive species, undesirable plants and weeds are not introduced in the planning area.
4. To ensure that the current biodiversity of the planning area is maintained.
5. To ensure that the natural ecological functions which are associated with the planning area are not impaired.
6. To minimize or prevent the fragmentation of intact native grasslands and maintain areas of contiguous wildlife habitat.
7. To minimize or eliminate disturbances to native grasslands in recognition of their sensitivity to disturbance.

8. The GoA may wish to purchase private properties within the planning area from willing sellers to consolidate land parcels within the planning area under provincial ownership.

ii) Species at Risk

1. To reduce human caused mortality of Species at Risk.
2. To reduce increased predation resulting from anthropogenic (human created) features.
3. To conserve habitat that is essential to the conservation and management of sensitive species.
4. Species Recovery Plans and Recovery Actions as well as the Enhanced Approval Process will be consulted to reduce potential conflict between industrial development and sensitive landscape features that wildlife and Species at Risk are dependent upon. Sensitive landscape features within the planning area may include but are not limited to:
 - Sensitive Raptor Range
(used by Ferruginous Hawks, Prairie Falcons, Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles)
 - Sensitive Amphibian Range
(used by the Plains Spadefoot)
 - Burrowing Owl Range
 - other habitat used by Sensitive or At Risk Species including grassland birds such as Sprague's Pipit, Sharp-tailed Grouse and Loggerhead Shrike





iii) Wildlife

1. To maintain the ecological conditions for naturally sustainable wildlife populations to exist throughout the planning area, and conserve the habitat that they require.
 - maintain unique and important wildlife habitat sites
 - avoid or minimize development within key habitats (at both local and landscape scales) and during those seasons when wildlife species are most vulnerable
 - maintain habitat intactness and connectivity, and allow for wildlife use, breeding and passage throughout the planning area by minimizing habitat loss and fragmentation.
2. To minimize the potential adverse effects of land use activities on wildlife populations.
3. To minimize the impacts of anthropogenic features on wildlife behaviour (i.e. wildlife avoidance of features, habitat fragmentation, disruption of movement patterns).
4. To decrease the potential for sensory disturbances to wildlife and the displacement of species from their habitat.
5. To limit the potential for human-wildlife conflicts.





B – Land Use Development Standards & Guidelines

Wildlife related operating standards for upstream oil and gas development have been incorporated within the Enhanced Approval Process (EAP), particularly the ***Integrated Standards & Guidelines***. For other forms of development (e.g., transmission lines, range improvements), AEP’s wildlife division provides recommendations to proponents for the mitigation of impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat. These recommendations are based on applicable wildlife surveys, timing restrictions and setback requirements.

4.3.7 Archaeological / Palaeontological Resources



Within the Majorville planning area and the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel Historic Resource Management Area (HRMA), all proposed development projects require ***Historical Resources Act*** clearance prior to proceeding. Submission of development information to the Historic Resources Management Branch (GoA) is required in advance of project initiation. Where conflicts are likely between planned development activities and historical resources, a Historic Resources Impact Assessment (HRIA) may be ordered under Section 37(2) of the ***Historical Resources Act***. This may require authorized archaeological or palaeontological studies and submission of a report which identifies management recommendations. Clearance will not be granted until all negative effects of proposed development activities on historic resources have been avoided, minimized, or mitigated.

Goal / Outcome

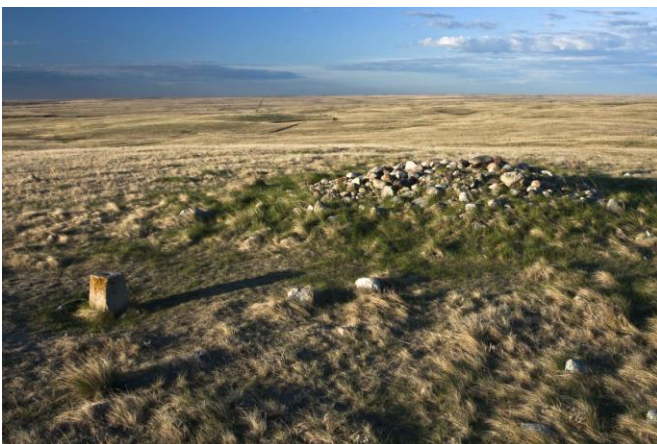
To preserve, study and promote the appreciation of historic resources within the planning area.



Objectives / Guidelines

1. To protect historic resource sites (i.e., archaeological, palaeontological and cultural sites) within the planning area from disturbance, degradation, destruction or loss.
2. To update provincial inventory databases of recorded historic resource sites within the planning area through the regulation of ongoing historic resource assessments.
3. To implement increased protective measures for historic resource sites within the planning area through the ongoing implementation of the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel Historic Resource Management Area's (HRMA) standard operating conditions for industrial development (see Appendix 1).
4. To ensure that appropriate precautions and, where necessary, mitigative actions are taken to protect historic resource sites and information about historic resource sites within the planning area.
5. To encourage the scientific and traditional study of historic resource sites within the planning area that furthers our understanding of these sites (at local, regional, national and international levels) and assists in any efforts at interpreting these sites to users and visitors.
6. To provide input into the development of educational messages which are communicated to users and the public about the importance of protecting historic resources within the planning area.

4.3.8 First Nations Cultural Use



Archaeological evidence indicates that the Majorville planning area has been used and occupied by indigenous people groups over a period of at least 5 millennia. In particular, Alberta's three Blackfoot First Nations (Kainai, Piikani, Siksika) have formed strong connections with the



Majorville area. The Blackfoot have been visiting this landscape and its numerous cultural sites and they have indicated that they will continue to do so in the future.

Goal / Outcome

To allow First Nations connections with the Majorville cultural landscape and accommodate ongoing culturally appropriate activities within the planning area.

Objectives / Guidelines

1. The exercise of Treaty rights and traditional uses will be upheld in the planning area where these activities are undertaken in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
2. Motorized access by First Nations members within the planning area will be subject to provisions in the *Majorville Guidelines*, the provincial government’s “Recreational Access to Agricultural Public Land” policy, the provincial *Recreational Access Regulation*, and any provisions that are contained a detailed recreational (access) management plan that will be prepared in the future.
3. The GoA recognizes that the collection of *iniskim* by First Nation members is an important religious and ceremonial activity. *Iniskim* (ammonite shell) collection can occur in accordance with sections 9 and 10 of the *Historical Resources Act, Dispositions Regulation*.



Majorville Medicine Wheel spoke perimeter.



Majorville Medicine Wheel central cairn.

4.3.9 Information, Monitoring, Engagement, Education

Preamble

Land and resource management are dependent on the following: reliable and updated natural resource information; scientific knowledge of environmental change and the effects of human activity on landscapes over time; the ongoing positive engagement of affected stakeholders; and



raising awareness about resource management issues, management interventions and appropriate human behaviours.

Goal / Outcome

To pursue adaptive resource management in the planning area in response to new information, the findings of monitoring activities, advances in scientific knowledge, and input obtained from stakeholders and Blackfoot First Nations.



Objectives / Guidelines

1. To identify and fill data gaps through resource inventories, surveys, studies, research, field assessments, and site inspections.
2. To promote the sharing and selective dissemination of pertinent information among agencies, stakeholders and the public, except in cases where sensitive information (cultural or biological) has been obtained. Information and messaging will be adapted to specific targeted audiences. Caution will be exercised to ensure that communications do not have the unintended effect of increasing use levels, thereby increasing impacts in the area.
3. To undertake monitoring activities which identify changing environmental conditions and human impacts in the planning area.
4. The findings and data obtained through monitoring activities will be compiled, analyzed, reported as appropriate, and used to develop management interventions that minimize impacts to the landscape and its resources. Monitoring will also assist resource managers in understanding how the cumulative effects of human activity in the planning area are changing.
5. To increase disposition holders knowledge of historic resources and sites in the planning area.



6. To ensure that visitors to the planning area are properly oriented and that they receive necessary information at Majorville entry points.
7. To consider First Nations and stakeholder knowledge, concerns and advice as appropriate.
8. To consider opportunities to engage stakeholders and First Nations in monitoring activities undertaken within the planning area.



4.4 Majorville Heritage Landscape

The Majorville planning area is distinctive – different from other native prairie landscapes in southern Alberta. It is located in a semi-remote area that has historically received relatively low levels of visitor use. The grasslands environment here contains valued wildlife habitat and a diversity of plant and animal species which appear to have been minimally impacted through carefully managed industrial activity. It also harbours numerous ancient stone features – a large complex of archaeological sites left by indigenous people over a period of several millennia. It is a cultural and spiritual landscape that continues to have heritage and cultural importance to First Nations people today. At Majorville a unique mix of natural resource and cultural heritage values cluster together, offering what is not found elsewhere in the province.

The following noteworthy attributes are associated with the Majorville planning area:

- the presence of a largely intact native prairie landscape
- a relatively inaccessible, out-of-the way place that offers visitors a unique prairie experience
- varied terrain features and a grasslands environment that possess striking beauty – the view from the Medicine Wheel, which sits on a high prairie knoll, is spectacular
- native prairie plants and animals, including “at risk” species
- exposures of the geologic Bearpaw Formation – an ancient marine outcrop and a palaeontological repository that contains ammonite fossils
- the renowned Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel – which is an important cultural site to the Blackfoot people
- a landscape that contains an abundance of archaeological sites – some of which date back 5000 years
- a landscape where ranching has been the dominant land use for many decades – and which continues to be instrumental in perpetuating the native prairie ecosystem
- a landscape where the forces of nature have rebuffed early pioneers, where the prairie environment has triumphed over cultivation, and where the scars left by the first Canadian-European settlers are gradually disappearing



To retain these unique attributes within the Majorville landscape’s core area, a new management unit – the Majorville Heritage Landscape – will be established. By limiting or phasing out future disturbances in the new Majorville Heritage Landscape, the area’s unique terrain features, historic resources and natural resource values will be safeguarded for the benefit of future users, visitors, First Nation’s members and Albertans.



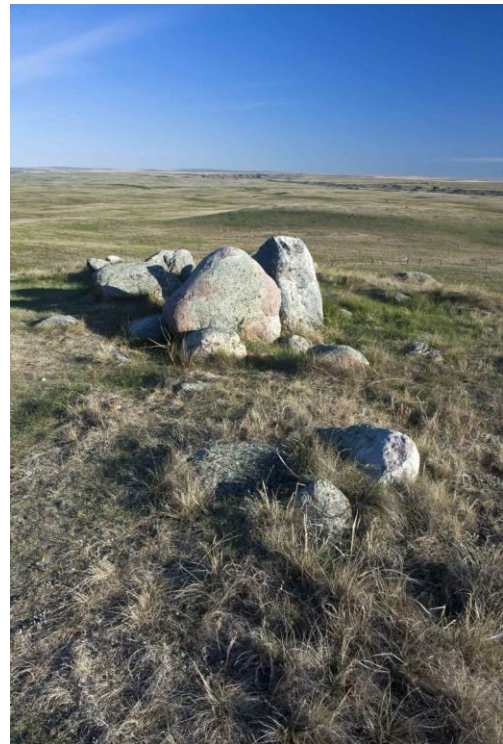
a) Vision, Goal and Purpose of the Majorville Heritage Landscape

VISION – A sizeable tract of native prairie exists where people can discover and enjoy a unique prairie landscape and flourishing grasslands environment, where a diversity of native plant and animal species thrive, and where ancient cultural sites are acknowledged, appreciated and conserved.

GOAL – To establish a new management unit, the “Majorville Heritage Landscape”, where native prairie and First Nations cultural sites co-exist and where complementary human activities can occur.

PURPOSE

- ❑ to establish a tract of contiguous public land parcels on which surface disturbances are restricted or excluded so that the native prairie ecosystem can thrive
- ❑ to maintain the full range of native (indigenous) plant and animal species which are part of this landscape (i.e., maintain biodiversity)
- ❑ to protect historic resources and First Nations cultural heritage sites
- ❑ to provide a landscape where First Nations members can exercise their Treaty rights and engage in traditional use activities
- ❑ to maintain native prairie landscape aesthetics
- ❑ to accommodate energy resource development and livestock grazing through best management practices and adherence to guidelines which are identified in the *Majorville Guidelines*



b) Geographical boundaries and extent of the Majorville Heritage Landscape

The proposed Majorville Heritage Landscape (MHL) consists of two separate, adjoining, and complementary management units ([see map on page 44](#)) that are situated entirely within the planning area. Taken together, these 2 units (MHL–East, and MHL–West) comprise a land area of 3640.8 hectares (8996.3 acres).

Two existing “no surface access” management units ([see map on page 42](#)) are contained within MHL–East; these “no surface access” units have not been fenced off. An exclusion fence has however been erected around the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel to keep cattle out. This fence does not correspond with the (purple) boundary of the designated Provincial Historic



Resource site (see map on page 42). New fencing is not required to demarcate the boundaries of the proposed Majorville Heritage Landscape.

c) Management intent for the Majorville Heritage Landscape

The resource management intents for the two management units that make up the MHL are as follows:

Majorville Heritage Landscape – East (2152.2 Hectares; 5318 Acres)

INTENT - To maintain a native prairie landscape around the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel by progressively eliminating the surface footprint of industrial activity when existing mineral agreements expire.

- existing mineral agreements/commitments will be honoured with the following conditions:
 - only existing surface access can be used for the recovery of mineral resources
 - expansion of the existing surface operating footprint will be limited to temporary disturbances during the construction period
 - new MSL surface dispositions will generally not be granted in connection with existing mineral agreements unless a technical requirement can be demonstrated. In such cases, new surface leases will be considered as additions to existing leases or adjacent to existing linear infrastructure (i.e. access roads and pipelines to reduce the need for new PLAs or LOCs). Industrial operators must use minimal disturbance construction techniques.
 - New pipeline corridors will follow existing linear disturbances (PLAs or LOCs) wherever possible. New PLAs will only be considered by AEP and Alberta Culture and Tourism staff when there is a demonstrated technical requirement. In such cases, minimal disturbance techniques must be used to install the pipelines.
- industry infrastructure must not be visible from the medicine wheel in MHL-E
- all surface-based industrial activity will be eventually phased out of MHL-E as existing mineral rights and surface dispositions expire



- ❑ surface access will not be granted for new (future) mineral agreements that are acquired in MHL-E (i.e., resource recovery within MHL-E will have to occur using off-vertical drilling technology from adjacent areas)
- ❑ the existing E-W power line situated to the north of the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel, (owned and operated by AltaLink) will be allowed as a non-conforming use. The rebuild of this transmission line in 2015-16 will be accommodated. Any future transmission line rebuild will however need to become a conforming use.

The existing “surface access not permitted” management unit (see map on page 42; shown with red boundaries) will continue in effect (i.e., remain in the GoA’s land status system) after the new MHL-E management unit is adopted by the Government of Alberta. Upon approval of the *Majorville Guidelines*, Alberta Energy will apply a “no surface access” restriction to all lands in MHL-E.



Majorville Heritage Landscape – West (1488.6 Hectares; 3678.2 Acres)

INTENT - To retain native prairie while allowing restricted mineral resource recovery to occur within the general confines of the existing road, industrial infrastructure and disturbed area footprint.

- ❑ existing mineral agreements/commitments will be honoured
- ❑ allow future mineral sales but with surface access restrictions
- ❑ exceptions may be granted to expand existing access roads for the recovery of mineral resources
- ❑ exceptions may be granted to expand the existing surface operating footprint to accommodate:
 - additional well bores on existing well sites
 - additional pipelines within existing Right of Way corridors
 - rebuilding AltaLink’s existing electrical transmission line in 2015-16
- ❑ industry infrastructure must not be visible from the medicine wheel in MHL-W



d) Compatibility Matrix

The table which follows identifies land uses and activities that are either permitted or prohibited in Majorville Heritage Landscape West (W) and East (E).

Activities and Land Uses / Conditions	MHL-W	MHL-E
1. Future drilling programs associated with <u>existing</u> mineral commitments must occur during frozen ground conditions (to avoid conflicts with wildlife and visitors)	yes	yes
2. Future drilling programs associated with <u>new</u> mineral agreements must occur during frozen ground conditions (to avoid conflicts with wildlife and visitors)	yes	no (use off-vertical drilling from adjacent areas)
3. New (additional) surface access for industrial activity	no * (exceptions may be considered)	no *
4. New industrial ground disturbances – permanent disturbances (i.e., disturbances that persist with the lifespan of a well or a well site)	no (exceptions may be considered)	no ** (exceptions may be considered under certain circumstances)
5. New industrial ground disturbances – temporary disturbances are allowed during the construction period only and must adhere to any conditions that have been identified by AEP and Culture and Tourism staff.	yes	yes
6. Seismic activity is allowed, but must avoid known historic resources	yes	"no" or "low" impact seismic must be used ***
7. New above ground tanks, oil wells, pump jacks, power lines, compressor stations are allowed	yes (but must be shielded)	yes (but must be shielded)
8. Existing gas pipeline corridors must be used; new pipeline corridors are prohibited. Pipelines must be ploughed in – trenching is prohibited.	exceptions may be considered	exceptions may be considered under certain circumstances **
9. Noise and odours from industrial activity should be minimized	yes	yes
10. Well servicing activities should preferably be conducted outside the primary visitation period from June to August. Well abandonment and surface reclamation work can, however, occur during the summer months under favourable ground conditions to promote quick vegetation re-establishment.	yes	yes
11. Weed infestations at disturbed sites must be treated annually, prior to seed release, until weed infestations are eliminated	yes	yes
12. Industrial motorized access will be confined to existing LOC roads and trails	yes	yes
13. Public/recreational motorized access (including hunting) will be confined to main trails and any future designated public access routes which are identified	yes	yes
14. Dispersed (off trail) ATV / OHV motorized recreation on public land	no	no
15. First Nations members' will be granted access in accordance with Alberta's Recreational Access Regulation , direction contained in the Majorville Guidelines , and provisions that are contained in a future recreational management plan	yes	yes



Activities and Land Uses / Conditions	MHL-W	MHL-E
16. Livestock grazing	yes	yes
17. Hunting	yes	yes
18. Culturally appropriate and ecologically oriented, small-scale ventures (that do not require permanent on-site facilities) may be considered	yes	yes
19. Recreational camping and fires	no	no
20. Wind power installations	no	no
21. New major transmission lines (power lines and pipe lines)	no	no
22. Ammonite mining	no	no
23. Sand and gravel extraction	no	no
24. Metallic mineral exploration and development	no	no
25. Coal exploration and development	no	no
26. Solar farms	no	no

* permission can be obtained through a Temporary Field Authorization or License of Occupation for AltaLink to operate outside of the existing utility right-of-way (while undertaking inspections, monitoring, maintenance, operations and emergency repairs) for the purpose of avoiding or minimizing impacts to known historical resources and environmentally sensitive sites that are located on the utility right-of-way

** industry needs to provide a clear justification for why an exception is needed and should be granted

*** “no” or “low” impact seismic activity is restricted to fall and winter months only. Seismic activity is not permitted within the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel Designated Provincial Historic Resource area (see “Planning Area” [map on page 42](#))

e) Acquisition of private land parcels

Several private land properties are found within the Majorville Heritage Landscape. It is recommended that the GoA acquire (through purchase or land exchange) four private land parcels in the northern part of the MHL, as funds become available and if a willing seller exists, in the following order of priority ([see map on page 44](#)):



Priority	Property	Legal Land Description	Area (Ha/Ac)
1 st	property #1	NE 14, TWP 19, R 18, W4 – S of Bow R	34.6 / 85.5
2 nd	property #2	SW 23, TWP 19, R 18, W4 – S of Bow R SE 22, TWP 19, R 18, W4 – S of Bow R NE 22, TWP 19, R 18, W4 – S of Bow R	66.7 / 164.8
3 rd	property #3	NW 22, TWP 19, R 18, W4 – S of Bow R	38.2 / 94.4
4 th	property #4	NE 21, TWP 19, R 18, W4 – S of Bow R SE 21, TWP 19, R 18, W4 – S of Bow R NW 21, TWP 19, R 18, W4 – S of Bow R SW 21, TWP 19, R 18, W4 – S of Bow R	195.5 / 483
TOTAL			335 / 828

RATIONALE – purchasing the four listed private land parcels (i.e., making them part of the provincial Crown land base in the planning area) is being pursued for the following reasons:

- i) to bring all parcels within the boundary of the MHL under single land ownership (i.e., establish a contiguous public land base throughout the MHL). Mixed ownership presents greater challenges for managing the MHL. The four listed properties are quite isolated and somewhat inaccessible.
- ii) to secure riparian and flood plain habitats along the Bow River along the northern boundary of the Majorville Heritage Landscape. Riparian lands tend to be biologically rich and have higher wildlife habitat values.
- iii) the four listed properties may include areas of significance to the Blackfoot people. Bearpaw formation outcrops within these parcels may be *iniskim* collection areas.
- iv) Purchase of these 4 parcels by the GoA would support future discussions on closing select road allowances on public land within the planning area.



5.0 Implementation, Monitoring and Review

Implementation

Upon approval of the *Majorville Guidelines*, a GoA cross-ministry Implementation Work Group (which will replace the Majorville Planning Team) will be established to oversee the implementation of the *Guidelines*. The Implementation Work Group will prepare work plan(s) that, among other things, identify:

- priorities for putting *Guidelines* provisions into effect in years 1, 2, 3 . . .
- agencies/organizations that have a role in implementing specific actions in these *Guidelines*
- the need for additional, detailed site planning and how such planning will be carried out
- budget and staff requirements for *Guidelines* implementation
- necessary partnerships and cooperative agreements
- whether further consultation as needed



A priority in implementing the *Majorville Guidelines* will be the development of a recreational (access) management plan for the planning area. The GoA will convene a separate Team of provincial agency staff, grazing lease holders, industry LOC holders, the County and First Nations to develop the recreational management plan. Planning, facilitation, mapping, and technical support will be provided by the GoA for this initiative.

The cross-ministry Implementation Work Group will work with individual (mandated) agencies in clarifying and resolving issues and overcoming obstacles associated with implementing these *Guidelines* and pursuing management actions that are in accord with direction contained in the *Majorville Guidelines*.

The cross-ministry Implementation Work Group will also assess the ongoing suitability and effectiveness of direction statements contained in the *Majorville Guidelines*. Feedback obtained from users of the planning area will be useful in this regard. The Implementation Work Group will make recommendations for adaptive management and revisions, and initiate any amendments and reviews of these *Guidelines*.

Monitoring

Monitoring is an integral part of planning and resource management. Monitoring (tracking) will occur to:



- assess changes to ecosystem/environmental conditions in response to management actions that have been initiated
- assess the extent, magnitude and impact of human activity (the human footprint) in the planning area
- identify new or emerging resource management issues

Monitoring may occur at various temporal and spatial scales, dependent on provincial agency budgets and the willingness and ability of stakeholders to assist with monitoring. Monitoring methods, schedules, assignments and protocols will be established following the approval of the *Majorville Guidelines*.



Monitoring may require that baseline conditions be established for pre-determined ecological/environmental variables and for any indicators that have been identified. Monitoring responsibilities will be shared among provincial agencies in accordance with their respective mandates. Ranchers, industry, First Nations and other users of the landscape will be invited to participate in monitoring activities to obtain information for the future effective management of the Majorville landscape and in achieving outcomes in the *Majorville Guidelines*. The findings from monitoring activities will be compiled and summarized. They will provide a basis for evaluating provisions in these *Guidelines* and for instituting adaptive management where applicable.

The potential role of the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI) and Alberta Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Agency (AEMERA) in monitoring activities will need to be determined.

Review and Revisions

The *Majorville Guidelines* will undergo a formal review at approximately 5-year intervals to ensure that these *Guidelines* remain current, effective, achievable and responsive to change. Provisions in the *Guidelines* that are no longer relevant or attainable will be modified or eliminated. Formal reviews of the *Guidelines* will be led by the cross-ministry Work Group.

Reviews will entail a systematic examination (evaluation) of the direction statements contained in the approved *Majorville Guidelines*. Opportunity will exist during the *Guidelines* review stage to address any management challenges or needs that may have arisen in the intervening period. Reviews may necessitate the modification of direction statements in the *Guidelines* or result in the adoption of new provisions.



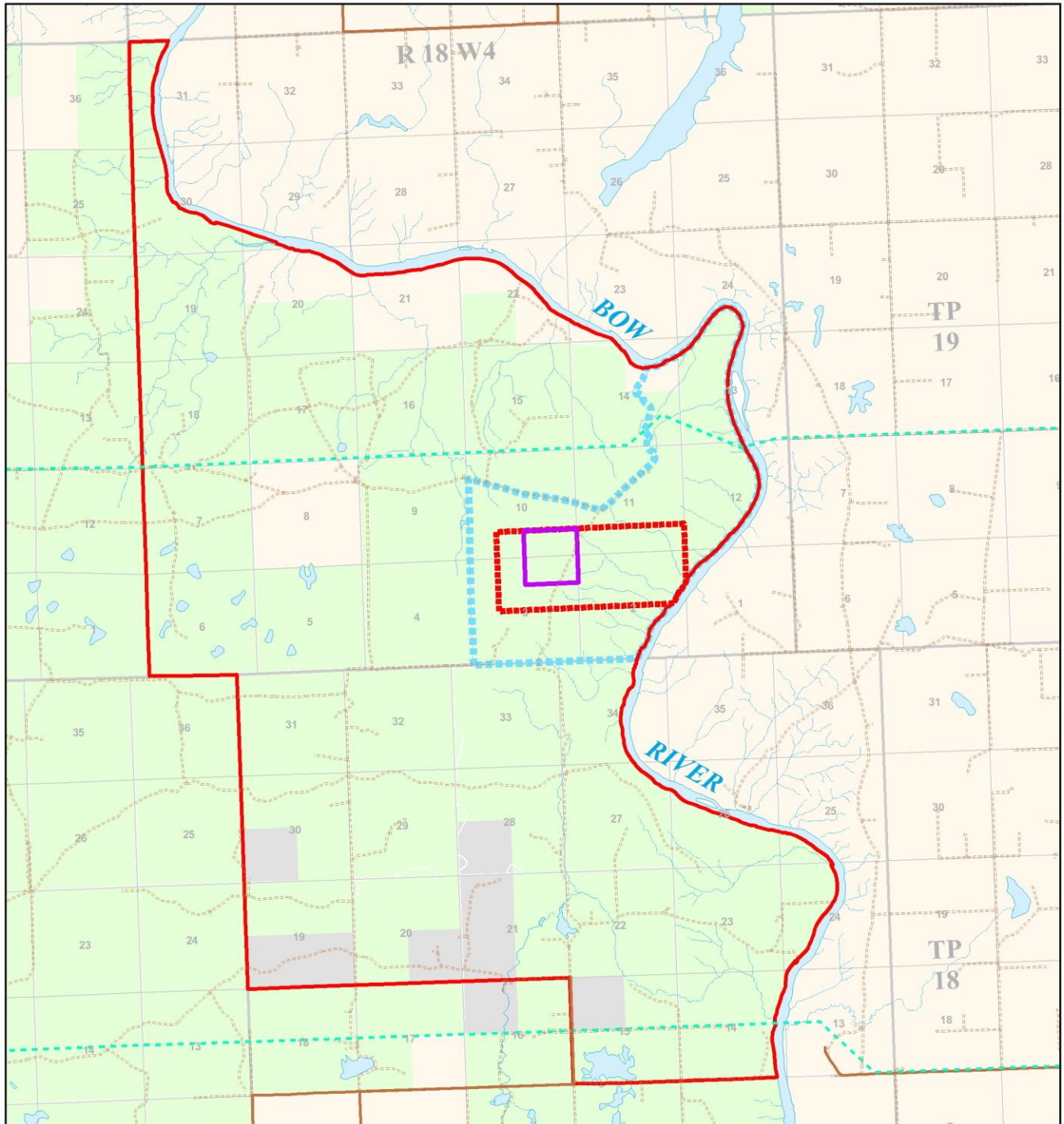
Depending on the nature and number of substantive changes being introduced into the **Majorville Guidelines**, consideration should be given to notifying First Nations and stakeholders of proposed **Guidelines** revisions. The revised **Guidelines** will be subject to any GoA plan endorsement and approval system that is in effect during the formal plan review process.

Adaptive Management

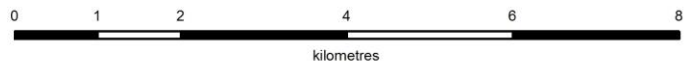
As stated on [page 12](#) of these **Guidelines**, adaptive management is “*a dynamic planning or modeling process that recognizes the future cannot be predicted perfectly. In response to these imperfect predictions, planning and management strategies are modified frequently as better information becomes available. It applies scientific principles and methods to improve management activities incrementally, as decision makers learn from experience and new scientific findings, and adapt to changing social expectations and demands.*” (Dictionary of Natural Resources Management, *ibid*, p 6).

Resource management is a dynamic enterprise. To remain effective these **Guidelines** must remain flexible and responsive to change. Instituting adaptive management will provide a mechanism for ensuring that the **Majorville Guidelines** have the ability to respond to a changing world, to incorporate the findings obtained through monitoring activities, to adopt new (improved, innovative) management systems and techniques, and to respond to new information.





MAJORVILLE GUIDELINES FOR LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING AREA



LEGEND

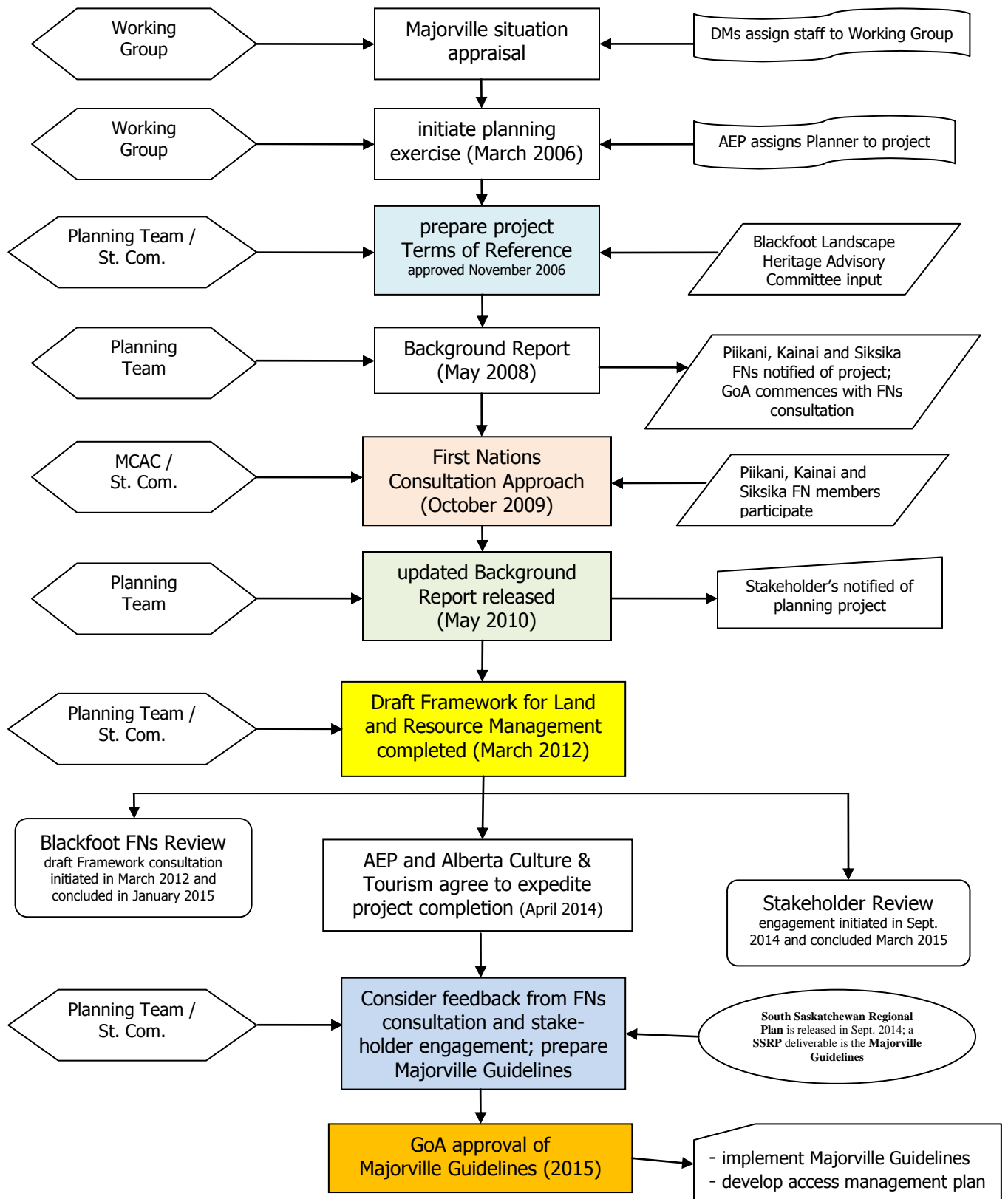
- Public Land
- Freehold Land
- County Land, former Tax Recovery Lands
- Hydrography
- Gravel Road
- Trail
- Planning Area Boundary
- Designated Provincial Historic Resource
- Surface Access Not Permitted
- Alberta Culture and Tourism No Surface Access Permitted
- Powerline

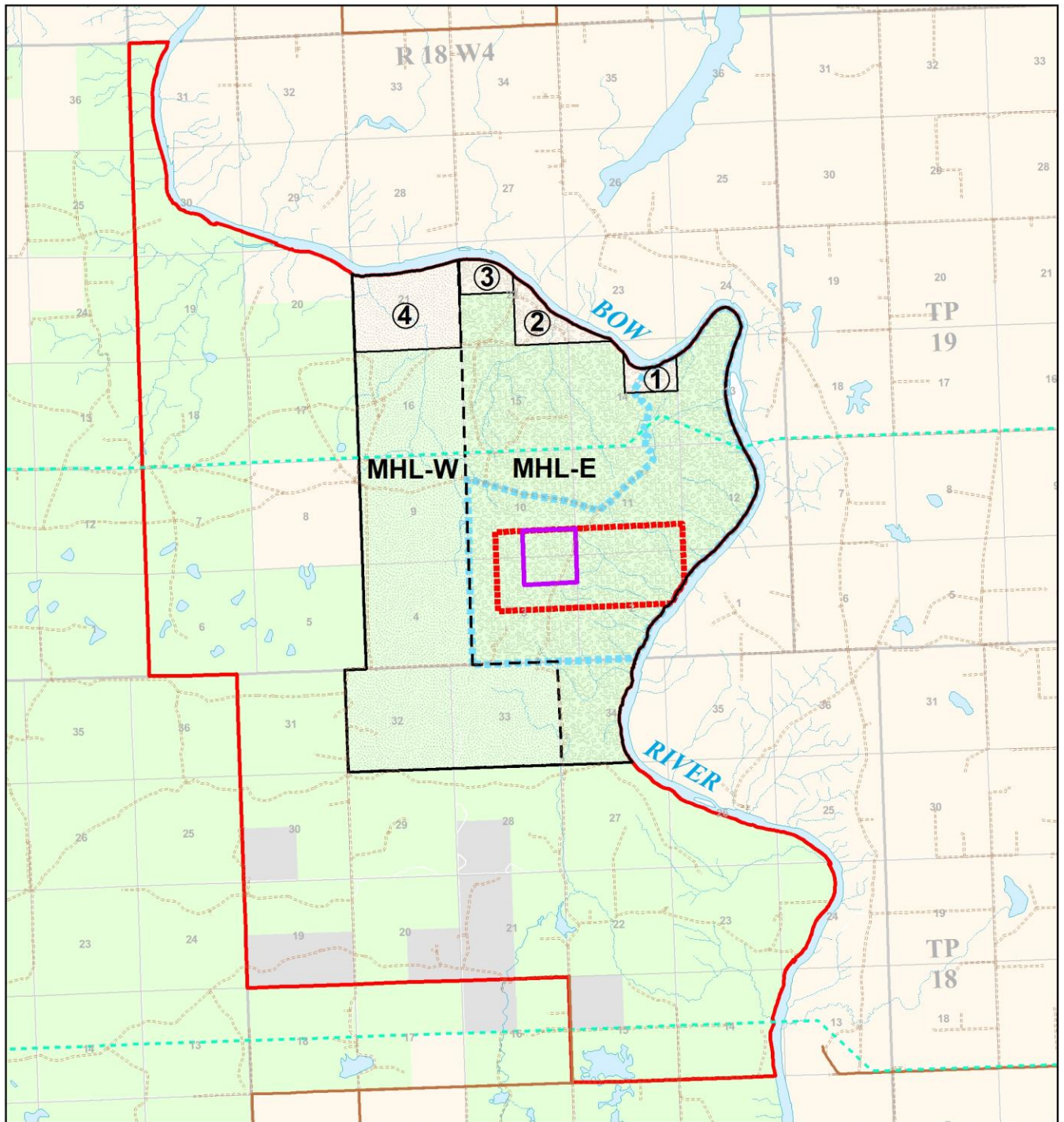


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Flow Chart – Majorville Guidelines for Land and Resource Management

ABBREVIATIONS: **DMs** = Deputy Ministers; **FN** = First Nation; **MCAC** = Majorville Consultation Coordinating Committee; **AEP** = Alberta Environment and Parks; **St. Com.** = Steering Committee

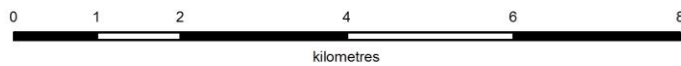




KEY MAP



MAJORVILLE GUIDELINES FOR LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT MAJORVILLE HERITAGE LANDSCAPE

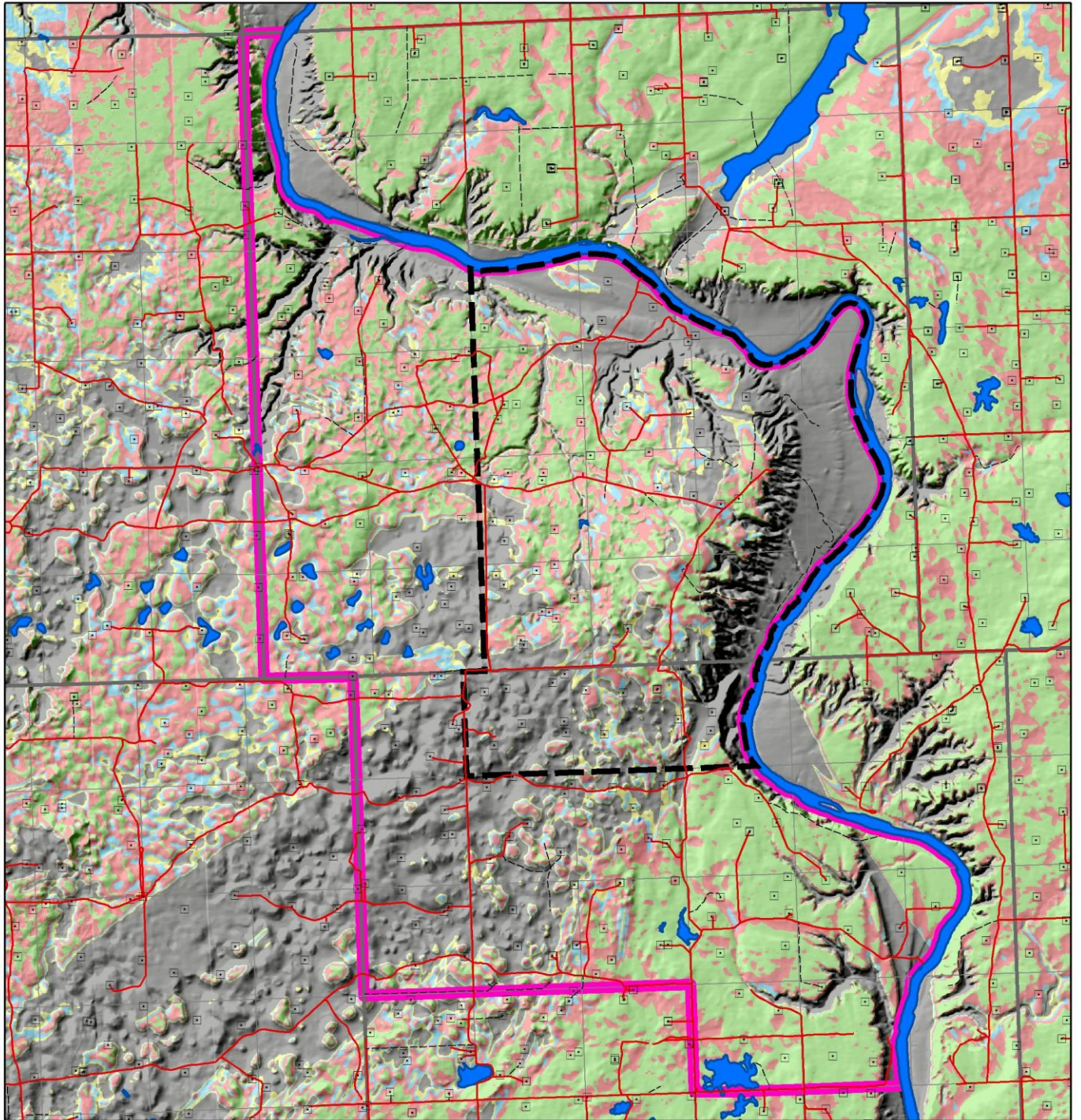


LEGEND

- Public Land
- Freehold Land
- County Land, former Tax Recovery Lands
- Hydrography
- Gravel Road
- Trail
- Powerline
- Planning Area Boundary
- Designated Provincial Historic Resource
- Surface Access Not Permitted
- Alberta Culture and Tourism
No Surface Access Permitted
- W E Majorville Heritage Landscape
MHL-W = West MHL-E = East
- 1 4 Private Land Parcels

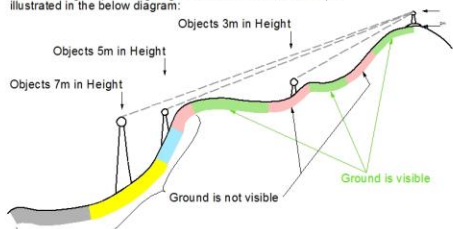


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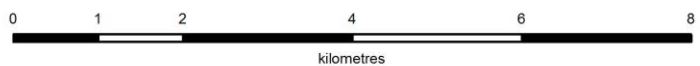
Object Visibility Notes

The visibility stratification classes shown on this map are calculated viewsheds as if an observer who is 2 metres in height is standing on the Majorville Cairn. The visibility of objects in the landscape of three different heights (including at ground level, i.e., at 0 metres) is illustrated in the below diagram.



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VIEWABLE LANDSCAPE FROM MAJORVILLE CAIRN AND MEDICINE WHEEL



LEGEND

Object Visibility

- Objects > 7m in Height are visible
- Objects 5m to < 7m in Height are visible
- Objects 3m to < 5m in Height are visible
- Objects up to 3m in Height are visible
- Ground surface is visible

- Oil/Gas Well
- Passable Roads
- Trails
- Hydrography
- Planning Area Boundary
- Majorville Heritage Landscape



Acronyms used in this plan

AEP	Alberta Environment and Parks
AER	Alberta Energy Regulator
ACT	Alberta Culture and Tourism
ATV	All-terrain vehicle
EAP	Enhanced Approval Process
FN	First Nation
GoA	Government of Alberta
HRIA	Historic Resources Impact Assessment
HRMA	Historic Resource Management Area
ILM	Integrated Land Management
LOC	License of Occupation
MHL	Majorville Heritage Landscape
MSL	Mineral Surface Lease
OHV	Off-highway vehicle
PLA	Pipeline Agreement
PNT	Protective Notation
SSRP	South Saskatchewan Regional Plan
TR	Tax Recovery land



Definitions

Cultural Feature

For the purposes of this document, a “cultural feature” is a physical object on the landscape which has been created by indigenous people or early settlers.

Cultural Landscape

For the purposes of this document, “cultural landscape” is a descriptive term which is used to indicate that a particular area has been repeatedly used by indigenous people in the past as suggested by the presence of archaeological remains and cultural features, and an oral tradition which links indigenous people with the area. The area continues to be important to indigenous people in the present. (NOTE: The term “cultural landscape” is not being used in a technical sense to refer to a land use category or to a specific management approach within the *Majorville Guidelines*.)

Heritage

The word “heritage”, when used in the phrase ‘Majorville Heritage Landscape’, broadly refers to historic resources and natural resources within the planning area.

Historic Resource

“ . . . any work of nature or of humans that is primarily of value for its palaeontological, archaeological, prehistoric, historic, cultural, natural, scientific or esthetic interest including, but not limited to, a palaeontological, archaeological, prehistoric, historic or natural site, structure or object.” (Alberta Historical Resources Act)

Landscape Aesthetics

Refers to the scenic (visual) qualities that are associated with an expanse or a mosaic of landforms, habitats and features whose character has largely been maintained (is relatively unaltered) by humans. Scenic areas evoke human emotion because they are perceived as beautiful or pleasurable.

Traditional Use

In Alberta, *“Treaty Rights and Traditional Uses includes uses of public lands such as burial grounds, gathering sites, and historic or ceremonial locations, and existing constitutionally protected rights to hunt, trap and fish, and does not refer to proprietary interests in the land.”* GoA First Nations Consultation Policy, 2005 More recently, traditional use refers to *“ . . . customs or practices on the land that are not existing section 35 Treaty rights but are nonetheless important to First Nations (“traditional uses”). Traditional uses of land include burial grounds, gathering sites, and historical and ceremonial locations and do not refer to proprietary interests in the land.”* GoA First Nations Consultation Policy, 2013

Viewscape

Line of sight from a specific location to a landscape or portion of it. Parks Canada 2009

Viewshed

Sequence of views or panorama from a given vantage point. Parks Canada 2009

Mandatory Operating Conditions: Majorville Cairn & Medicine Wheel Historic Resource Management Area

Upon approval of the *Majorville Guidelines*, these operating conditions will become the “mandatory” standard for all industrial operations in the planning area. These measures will be incorporated into the EAP *Integrated Standards and Guidelines*.

The following operating conditions apply to the Majorville planning area, which is situated within the Historic Resource Management Area (HRMA). The geographical extent of the HRMA is shown in a [map found on page 60](#). Please note that some HRMA operating conditions in this Appendix will be superseded by a higher operating standard within the newly proposed Majorville Heritage Landscape (see Section 4.4 in this document).

Historical Resources Act Requirements

1. Historic Resources Impact Assessment - Archaeological

A Historic Resources Impact Assessment (HRIA) and any work resulting from this assessment is to be conducted on the project proponent’s behalf by an archaeologist qualified to hold an Archaeological Research Permit within the Province of Alberta. In order to conduct the HRIA, the project proponent’s archaeological consultant(s) must submit an *Application for an Archaeological Research Permit - Mitigative Research Project* to the Historic Resource Management Branch (HRMB). Please allow ten (10) working days for the permit to be processed.

Coverage: The Historic Resources Impact Assessment shall address well site leases, access roads and any other development as illustrated on Plan of Surveys that are submitted by the consultant. Additionally, the assessment must include those segments of any trails and undeveloped road allowances that may be used to access the surface locations, even if these trails and undeveloped road allowances are not identified on the plans as access routes.

Timing: The Historic Resources Impact Assessment shall be carried out prior to the initiation of any land surface disturbance activities. Snow cover and/or frozen ground conditions must not hinder the completion of the assessment.



2. Assessing Historic Structures within the context of primarily archaeological HRIAs:

Archaeological consultants are to comply with GoA requirements for recording historic structures. For further information, please refer to the February 2012 guidelines entitled *Requirements for recording and reporting historic structures within the context of archaeological HRIAs*. Interim reports and the final report must stipulate whether or not any historic structures are present in or adjacent to the impact zone.

3. Avoidance of all Stone Features

One of the key components of the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel HRMA involves the relationship between a multitude of archaeological resources. Therefore, the preservation of individual stone features is an important aspect in the management program. All previously recorded stone features and any stone features recorded by the project proponent’s archaeological consultant(s) must be avoided. An exception may be granted for those stone features that are recorded within existing trails.

4. Shielding of Well Site Leases



The project proponent is required to visually shield (i.e., hide from view) well site leases and/or post-drilling facilities that may otherwise be visible from the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel Archaeological Site. This may be accomplished by taking advantage of natural topographic features – to be evaluated on a case by case basis. The project proponent’s archaeological consultant(s) are also required to comment upon whether each of the well site leases and/or post

drilling facilities will be visible from both the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel Archaeological Site and the “common” routes that are used by visitors to access the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel Archaeological Site.

5. Earth Tone Colours

The project proponent is required to use earth tone colours to paint any above ground post-drilling facilities – to be evaluated on a case by case basis.



6. Using Previously Disturbed Lands

Within the development area, vehicular traffic should maximize the use of existing trails. One of the HRMB’s objectives is to minimize the number of access trails within the vicinity of the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel Archaeological Site. The use of existing trails will result in the conservation of native prairie grasslands and the undisturbed archaeological resources that are situated on these lands.

7. Minimizing Wellsite Lease Development

Minimal disturbance, low-impact techniques and technologies should be used to develop well site leases.

8. Minimizing the Number of Access Routes

One of the HRMB's concerns is that the Proposed Drilling Program will result in the establishment of additional access into this sensitive area; in particular to the floodplain of the Bow River. At one time, the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel Archaeological Site was protected by its remoteness. Given the amount of new access that the oil and gas industry has developed into this area, it may now be necessary to direct and control access. Access management has been addressed in the *Majorville Guidelines* for the interim period; access will be more fully clarified when a detailed recreational management plan is prepared in the future.

9. New Stone Features Must Not Be Created

The creation of new stone features and alignments may negatively affect the integrity of the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel Archaeological Site complex. The development and reclamation of well site leases, access roads and pipelines must not result in the creation of any new stone features (i.e., stone alignments, cairns).



10. Historic Resources Impact Assessment - Palaeontological

A Historic Resources Impact Assessment for palaeontology and any work resulting from this assessment is to be conducted on the Project Proponent's behalf by a palaeontologist qualified to hold a *Permit to Excavate Palaeontological Resources (Mitigative)* within the Province of Alberta. A final report must be submitted to the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology upon completion of the Historic Resources Impact Assessment for palaeontology.

Coverage: The Historic Resources Impact Assessment is to include those portions of the proposed development that will impact the valley slopes of the Bow River, outcrops of bedrock and/or known palaeontological localities. Additionally, based upon field observations, the project proponent's palaeontological consultant(s) are to also examine any other areas that appear to possess "moderate" to "high" potential for the presence of bedrock and/or palaeontological resources. The discovery of

ammonites and/or baculites could be of both scientific importance and of considerable importance to Aboriginal communities.

Timing: The Historic Resources Impact Assessment shall be carried out prior to the initiation of any land surface disturbance activities. Snow cover and/or frozen ground conditions must not hinder the completion of the assessment.

11. Scientifically Important Palaeontological Resources, Ammonite Shell and *Iniskims*

Palaeontological resources that are of scientific interest to the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology and any palaeontological resources (e.g., ammonite shells and *iniskim*) that could be of importance for Aboriginal ceremonial use must not be collected without appropriate approval. Within any interim reports and the final report, the project proponent's palaeontological and archaeological consultants must state whether or not the proposed well site leases, access roads, and any proposed pipeline route alignments will impact any palaeontological resources and objects (i.e., ammonite shells or *iniskim*) that may be of significance to Aboriginal communities.

12. First Nations Consultation

If a proposed project within the HRMA has the potential to adversely impact First Nations rights and traditional uses, the project proponent may be required to undertake consultation with First Nations to address any such impacts. The proponent should consult the Government of Alberta's First Nations *Consultation Policy* and *Guidelines*.

Additional requirements and conditions that must be observed by industrial disposition holders and operators within the HRMA are as follows:

Communications

Companies must ensure that all appropriate employees, contractors and sub-contractors are fully aware of the environmental issues and requirements regarding pre-construction assessment, environmental protection and mitigation practices within the Majorville planning area prior to any on-site activity occurring.

Environmental Inspections

Companies must use qualified Environmental Inspectors/Monitors when construction, operational or reclamation activities occur within the Majorville planning area. The Environmental Inspector/Monitor will ensure that all mitigative measures which have been identified in response to species at risk, rare plants, historical resources and/or any other environmental or ecological sensitivities are adhered to.

Wildlife and Sensitive Species

Sensitive species surveys will be required prior to any ground disturbance occurring within the planning area. A qualified person must assess the possibility of impacts to species at risk ensuring that on-site activities do not adversely affect any sensitive or threatened species. Companies shall ensure that its personnel will at no time harass wildlife, carry firearms, bring dogs on-site, or dispose of waste materials inappropriately. Set-back distances and operating time period restrictions (i.e., scheduling of activities) to protect species are identified in the Upstream Oil and Gas Approval Standards, Conditions and Guidelines.



Pre-site Assessments

To further reduce potential impacts, companies must ensure that all locations have a Pre-Site Assessment completed by a qualified individual. This assessment will provide background information on the existing soil, flora and fauna. It will not be limited only to the area covered by the disposition but must include immediately surrounding habitats as well. Two copies of the pre-site assessment must be provided to the GoA (i.e., Land Use Operations; Fish and Wildlife).

Site and Route Selection

All dispositions will be sited or routed to minimize the potential for adverse environmental impacts and must take into consideration stakeholder concerns that have been brought to the attention of AEP Land Management staff.

Minimal Disturbance⁵

All development will use minimal disturbance techniques, which includes but is not limited to minimizing sod layer disturbance, no stripping, no cuts and no fills. The disposition holder (and on-site operators) shall ensure that surface disturbance is kept to a minimum. Vehicles cannot leave approved trails and travel routes or the disposition area (i.e., vehicles must not be driven across open native prairie).



Disposition Identification

Disposition boundaries and access routes will be clearly marked during the development stage to minimize trespass on the development site.

Drilling Waste

Above ground tanks will be used to contain all drilling fluids on-site. Drilling waste cannot be disposed of on-site. Land Spraying While Drilling (LWD) is not permitted on provincial Crown land. Cement returns cannot be placed directly on native prairie. Cement returns must be removed from the site (taken

⁵ **Minimal Disturbance Activity** (defined): Any activity conducted in such a manner that the soil and overlying grassland vegetation is not stripped, displaced or removed. The intention is to leave the soil and rooting zone intact in order to facilitate quick restoration of the site and maintain ecological continuity. The activity must be conducted under appropriate ground conditions (i.e., dry or frozen) to prevent impacts through rutting, compaction and admixing of soils. Disturbance of the sod layer must be restricted to the allowable parameter associated with the individual activity type and must be restricted to an area where natural recovery processes can adequately restore the site.

Clarification for specific dispositions follows:

Minimal disturbance wellsites: wellsites must minimize their footprint by utilizing existing sites wherever possible. The only surface disturbance that is permitted will be at the well centre to accommodate the well bore. All fluids must be contained in above ground tanks. Minimal disturbance principles must be maintained from the construction stage, through production, to abandonment.

Minimal disturbance pipelines: pipelines must minimize their footprint by utilizing existing linear disturbances wherever possible. They must be constructed using a narrow trench with no soil stripping. Backfilling must be done in a fashion that minimizes scalping of the sod layer. The final roach height should not exceed 8 – 10cm. Bell holes will require soil salvage.

Minimal disturbance access: access must minimize its footprint by utilizing existing trails or linear disturbances wherever possible. All initial access routes must be as drive on grass trails with no stripping or grading. Permanent access routes will be maintained as drive on grass trails or two strip gravel trails. Foreign line crossings must be designed to minimize surface disturbances. All depressions and low lying areas that are susceptible to water ponding must be avoided.

off the grazing lease) for disposal at an approved facility. If cement rings are used, temporary fencing should be installed to restrict cattle access.

Weed/Invasive Species Introduction

All construction and maintenance equipment will be cleaned prior to entry on provincial Crown lands to minimize weed introduction. This cleaning protocol will also be in effect for equipment that is moved from crested wheat fields/pastures to native prairie.

Hydro-Vac

All hydro-vac fluids will be disposed of in existing disturbances only. Under no circumstance will hydro-vac fluids be disposed of on the native prairie or on existing access roads or undisturbed sites.

Seeding

If disturbed areas require seeding, they will be seeded to a native species mix similar to the adjacent native prairie. The seed mixture must be approved by an AEP Land Management Specialist. To minimize the introduction of noxious/restricted weeds, all seed mixes utilized will contain the highest quality seed available. The Seed Certificate of Analysis must be provided to the AEP Land Management Specialist upon request. Companies are responsible for controlling all restricted, noxious and prohibited weeds found on their dispositions. Seeding, where required, shall be conducted during non-frozen ground conditions up to June 15 or between September 15 and October 31, unless otherwise approved by the Land Management Specialist.

Wildfire Prevention

Companies must incorporate wildfire prevention into their construction and operating practices. At a minimum, a wildfire prevention plan must be developed and communicated to AEP's Land Management Specialist and all company personnel (including contractors and sub-contractors) conducting activities within the planning area.



Spills

To minimize the potential impact of spills, all equipment that will be utilized must arrive on-site in a good working order to reduce the risk of accidental spills attributable to equipment failure. All equipment and service vehicles must be equipped with spill kits and containment material for prompt action and quick clean-up.

Site Condition

The holder of a disposition shall maintain any disturbed areas in a neat and clean condition acceptable to a AEP Land Management Specialist. The disposition holder shall remove all garbage and waste materials resulting from its operations and discard these items at an approved disposal site.

Erosion Prevention

The holder of a disposition shall take all precautions and safeguards necessary to prevent soil/surface erosion.

Concurrent Reclamation

The holder of a disposition shall reclaim all disturbed areas immediately after construction and production operations, as soon as weather and ground conditions permit, i.e., progressive reclamation should occur prior to site abandonment and final reclamation. Reclamation will occur in accordance with GoA reclamation standards of the day.

Appendix 2

Proposed Designated Access Routes in the Majorville Planning Area

Based on input received during First Nations and stakeholder review of the draft Majorville Framework, the GoA is putting forward a new proposal for access management in the planning area. This proposal will provide a starting point for discussions when a detailed recreational (access) management plan is prepared for the Majorville planning area in the future.

The underlying rationale for the new access proposal is as follows:

- conserve natural and historic resources found in the planning area
- reduce public impacts to sites and features in the planning area
- maintain visitor safety
- reduce the potential of fire risk from public motorized travel
- use existing roads and trails to minimize expansion of the motorized access footprint

Two (2) designated motorized access routes are being recommended for future public use. These are shown on the map which follows.

The southeast (SE) entry point and designated access route will be the principal (main) access route for public use in the planning area. Only partial motorized access will be provided to the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel through this route. Vehicles must be parked at the mid-point. Thereafter, users will need to walk (or use a bicycle) from the mid-point to reach the medicine wheel (a distance of about 3.2 Km or 2 miles). This designated route can be used by the public whenever it is “open” for general public use without prior contact with the grazing lease holder. This route will be closed to public use whenever the fire risk is high or when ground conditions are unsuitable. Users assume responsibility for any risks that may be associated with using this route.



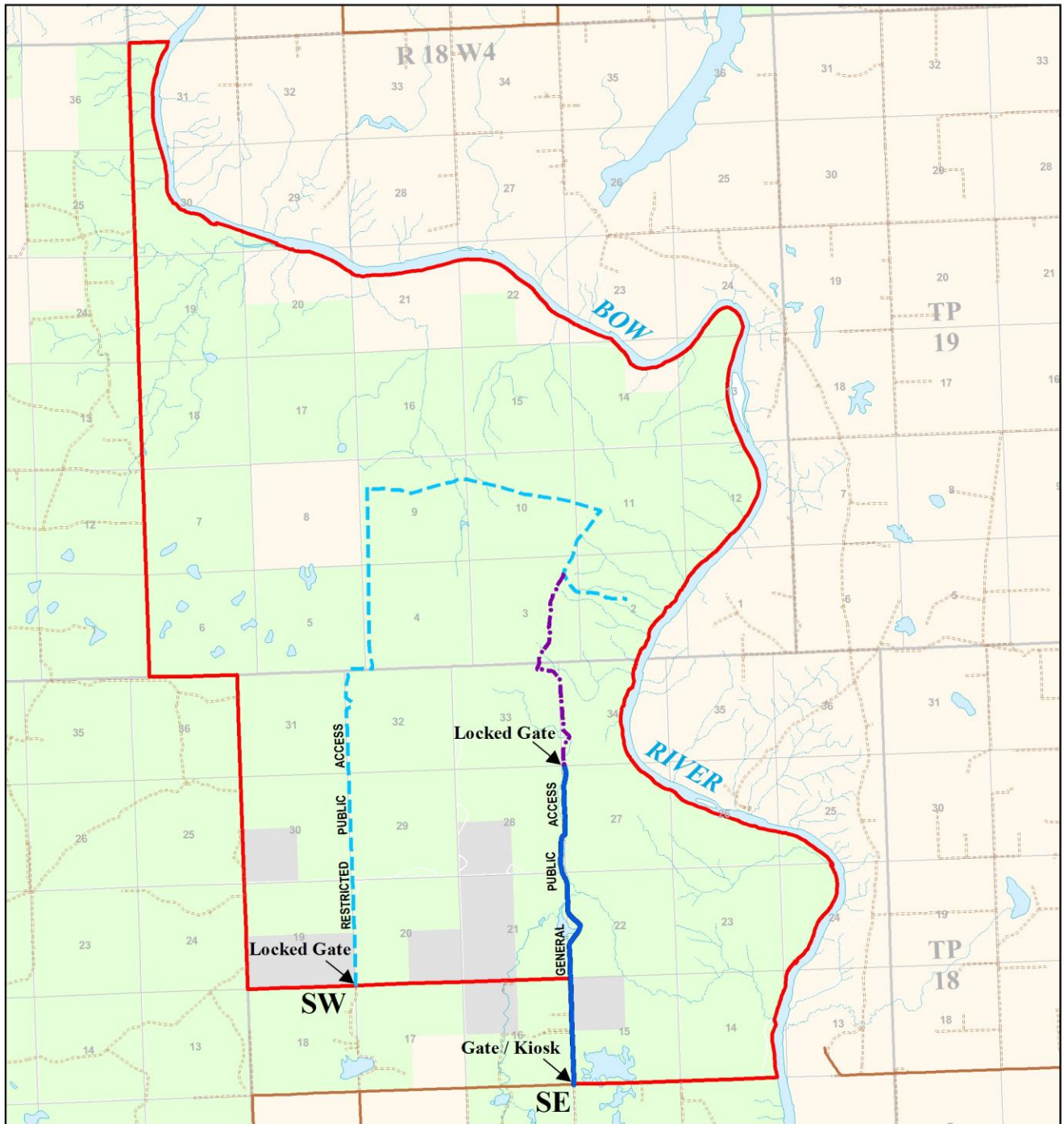
The southwest (SW) entry point and designated access route is only available for public motorized use when permission is granted by the grazing lease holders. Motorized travel up to the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel is possible when using this route. This route is generally intended for use by people with disabilities, First Nations engaged in spiritual activities, and other special need users. Grazing lease holders must be contacted before entry occurs. Grazing lease holders may refuse public motorized access on

reasonable grounds as specified in Alberta’s *Recreational Access Regulations*. Users assume responsibility for any risks that may be associated with using this route.

Under special circumstances, motorized public use can occur on the spur road that leads to Bacculite Beach from the medicine wheel. Users must contact the grazing lease-holder to obtain permission prior to using this road. The leaseholder may refuse motorized access on reasonable grounds as outlined in Alberta's *Recreational Access Regulations*. Users assume responsibility for any risks that may be associated with using this route.

The GoA does not support future public use of the northwest (NW) entry point, an access route that has served the public in the past. This route requires that users cross private land. Given that the GoA has no jurisdiction or authority to grant public access across deeded land, and to prevent trespass, it is recommended that this route no longer be made available for general public use.



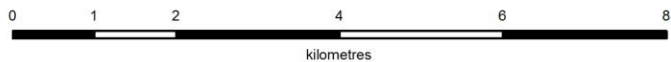


KEY MAP



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MAJORVILLE GUIDELINES FOR LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROPOSED PUBLIC ACCESS - FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION



LEGEND

- Planning Area Boundary
- Public Land
- Freehold Land
- County Land, former Tax Recovery Lands
- Hydrography
- Public Motorized Route
- Restricted Public Motorized Route, by permission only
- Public Foot Access
- Gravel Road
- Trail

Explanation of Management Units

The *Majorville Guidelines* make repeated reference to several administrative units that exist within or coincide with the boundaries of the Majorville planning area. What follows is a brief description of each administrative area and the relationship that exists between them.

Provincial Historic Resource (1987) ([see map on page 42](#))

The Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel is an important archaeological site in western Canada, one of a few unique sites known as a “medicine wheel”. In recognition of its rarity and interpretive significance, the site was designated as a Provincial Historic Resource on July 2, 1987. The designation area covers 160 acres. These lands carry a Historic Resource Value (HRV) rating of ‘1’, which means that no alteration or development of the designated lands can be undertaken without approval of the Minister of Alberta Culture and Tourism or his designate. Furthermore, access to the location may be denied by the Minister or his designate if it is determined that the intended activities are not in the best interest of preserving the site and its context.

“No Surface Access” management units (1994) ([see map on page 42](#))

Two “no surface access” management units have been established around the designated Provincial Historic Resource to protect the integrity of the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel and its surrounding context.

The first “no surface access” management unit was established in 1994 after GoA staff considered energy company requests to purchase petroleum and natural gas rights in the vicinity of the Provincial Historic Resource site. In response, provincial agencies established a “surface access not permitted” area around the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel, involving the following land parcels: TP 19, R 18, Wof4M: LS 9-16 of Sec. 2; LS 9-11 and 14-16 of Sec. 3; LS 1-3 of Sec. 10; and LS 1-4 of Sec. 11. This no surface access zone included a portion of bacculite beach, where Blackfoot people collect *iniskim* for ceremonial use

Subsequently, in 2002, owing to the increased industrial activity occurring in the vicinity of the designated Provincial Historical Resource site, provincial agencies established a larger “no surface access permitted” buffer, which also takes in the entire 1994 “surface access not permitted” management unit.

Historical Resource Management Area (1998) ([see map on page 60](#))

In 1998, the concept of Historical Resources Management Areas (HRMAs) was adopted. Tailored for use within Alberta's integrated resource planning process, the purpose of HRMAs was to assist in ensuring the protection of the Province's most significant historic resources while allowing for the orderly exploration and development of petroleum and natural gas resources. HRMAs have been established in select locations throughout the province. They are administrative areas that have been established by Alberta Culture and Tourism to protect the integrity of "designated" and significant historic resources by more intensively managing land use and development activities in the vicinity of these resources. To accomplish this, surface access to specific lands within HRMAs is restricted, and development within HRMAs must follow a specific set of "Standard Operating Conditions" that minimize physical and visual impacts to significant historical resources.

The Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel HRMA was one of the first HRMAs established in the Province. It consists of 51 sections of land, including the designated Provincial Historic Resource area. In addition to restricted surface access, the Standard Operating Conditions required for development within the HRMA include:

- (1) requirement to conduct an Historical Resources Impact Assessment (HRIA) prior to undertaking any development;
- (2) avoidance of impact to all identified archaeological stone features;
- (3) shielding (i.e., concealing) all well site facilities – using natural topographic features in the landscape – which are visible from the Majorville Cairn and Medicine wheel site;
- (4) use of earth tone colours on any above-ground post-drilling facilities;
- (5) use of previously disturbed lands as much as possible for both well leases and access roads;
- (6) use of minimal disturbance techniques during construction; and
- (7) avoiding the creation of 'new stone features' from non-archaeological rocks exposed during excavation and construction activities.

In response to increased drilling and production applications within the Majorville area, staff from Alberta Culture and Tourism and AEP met with industrial operators early in 2005 to present and clarify the interim operating conditions which apply in the Majorville HRMA.

Majorville Guidelines planning area (2006) ([see map on page 42](#))

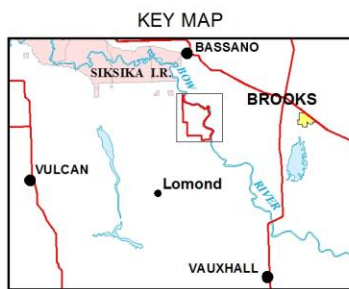
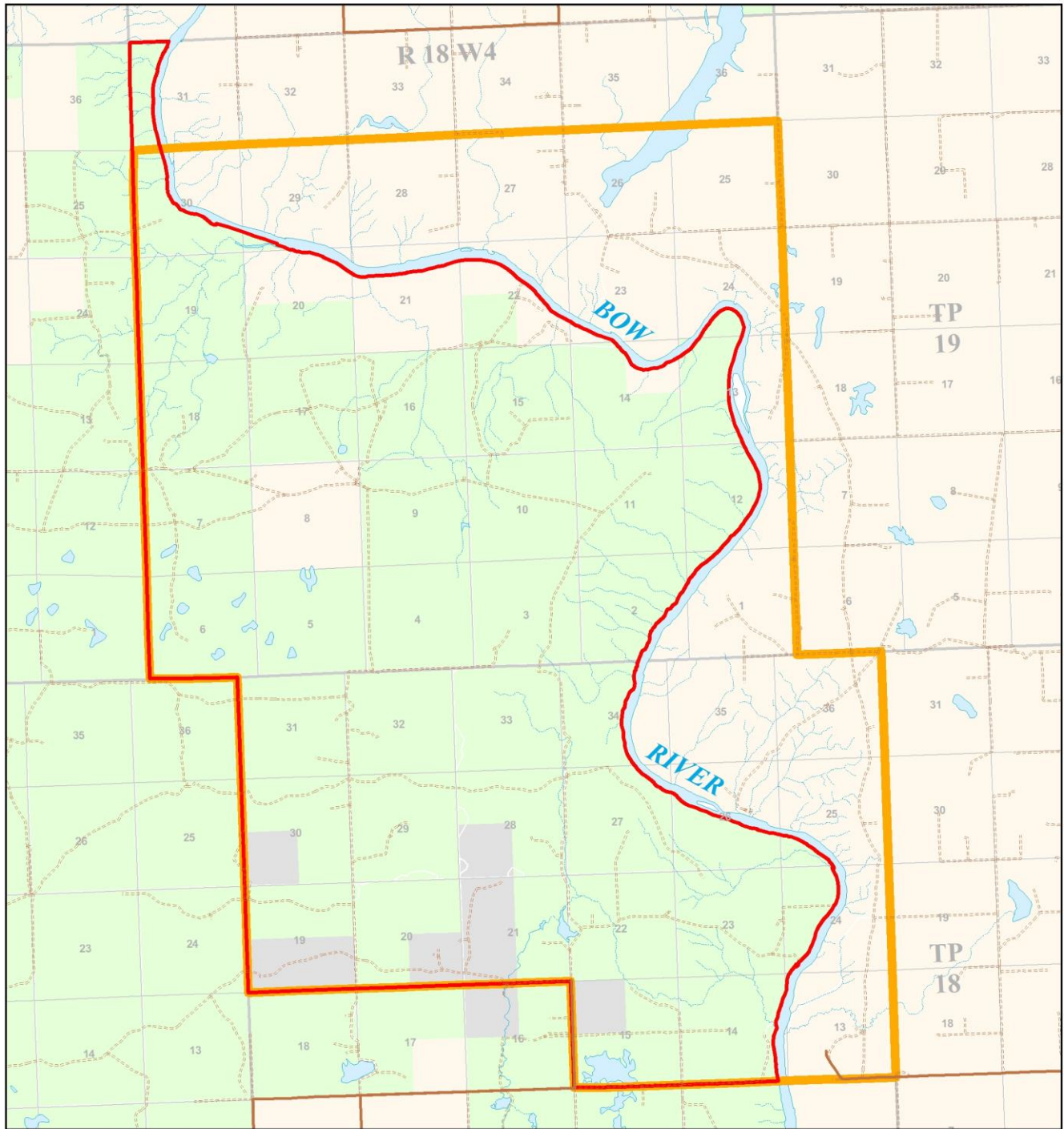
Increasing natural gas prices during the late 1990s and into the first decade of the new millennium brought about a significant increase in industrial exploration and development activity on the Majorville landscape. This prompted government officials from 6 GoA departments to evaluate whether adequate management practices were in place to protect cultural and natural heritage values that are associated with the Majorville area. It was decided that a planning exercise should be initiated to consider appropriate land use activities for the area, the conditions under which these might occur, and involve First Nations in these discussions. As the planning exercise was being conceptualized and defined, planning area boundaries for the project

were defined in the (approved) project Terms of Reference. It was decided that the planning area should be a sub-set of the Majorville HRMA and be confined to public lands on the west side of the Bow River.

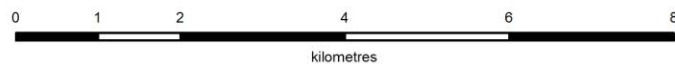
Majorville Heritage Landscape (2015) ([see map on page 44](#))

In discussions leading to the development of the *Majorville Guidelines*, various recommendations for maintaining cultural and natural heritage resources in the planning area were proposed and examined. One option that was seen to have particular merit entailed the establishment of a new management unit that would expand on and in effect supersede the two “no surface access” management units which currently exist. The establishment of the Majorville Heritage Landscape unit will ensure that land which surrounds the Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel (on all four sides) will be managed to conserve valued landscape elements and historical resources, minimize intrusions on the tremendous viewscape that visitors can experience when at the medicine wheel, afford better management of Bacculite Beach, the Bow River valley, valley slopes and adjacent uplands, and minimize impacts to the prairie ecosystem, species and habitats – while allowing compatible industrial activity, livestock grazing and responsible visitor use to occur. This unit, identified as the Majorville Heritage Landscape, is a subset of the Majorville planning area.





MAJORVILLE CAIRN AND MEDICINE WHEEL HISTORICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA (HRMA)



LEGEND

- Public Land
- Freehold Land
- County Land, former Tax Recovery Lands
- Hydrography
- Planning Area Boundary
- Historical Resource Management Area
- Gravel Road
- Trail

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