

Land-use Framework and Regional Planning

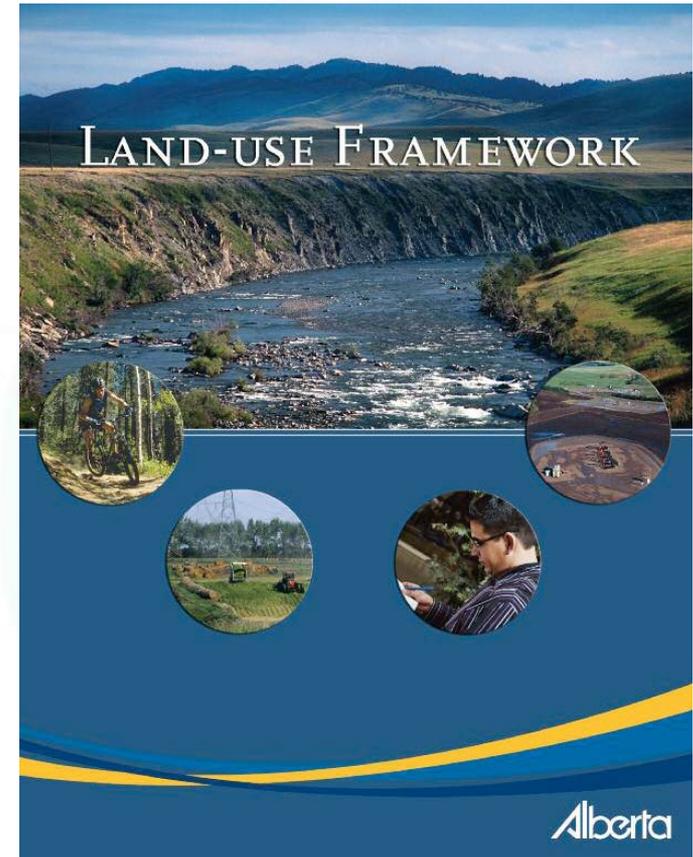
Synergy Alberta Conference 2012



Alberta

Land-use Framework

- Developed in response to increasing pressure on Alberta's landscapes from economic development and population growth
 - Developed over a two year period with extensive stakeholder and public input
- Final Framework
December 2008



Land-use Framework – It's about

- Improving provincial leadership on land-use issues through policy direction and guidelines;
- Taking a new approach to manage public and private lands and natural resources to achieve Alberta's long-term economic, environmental and social goals;
- Increasing certainty for industry through
 - Integration and coordination of provincial policy
 - Aligned planning/decision-making;
- Encouraging stewardship and conservation on public and private lands;
- Clarifying roles and responsibilities for land-use decisions at all levels; and
- Improved information sharing.



The LUF Vision & Outcomes

Vision:

- Albertans work together to respect and care for the land as the foundation of our economic, environmental, and social well-being.

Outcomes:

- Healthy economy supported by our land and natural resources
- Healthy ecosystems and environment
- People-friendly communities with ample recreation and cultural opportunities.



LUF Strategies

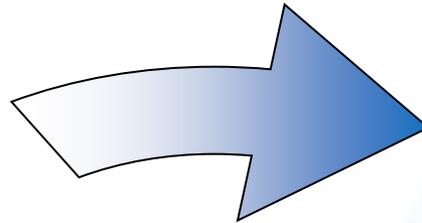
1. Develop seven regional land-use plans
2. Create a Land Use Secretariat and establish a Regional Advisory Council for each region
3. Cumulative effects management will be used at the regional level to manage the impacts of development on land, water and air
4. Develop a strategy for conservation and stewardship on private and public lands
5. Promote efficient use of land to reduce the footprint of human activities on Alberta's landscape
6. Establish an information, monitoring & knowledge system to contribute to continuous improvement of land-use planning and decision-making
7. Inclusion of aboriginal peoples in land-use planning



Systems approach to land-management

Check

Monitor, evaluate, report and adjust performance of actions and plans against economic, environmental and social objectives

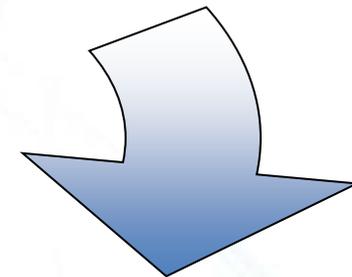


Provincial Vision, Desired Outcomes and Guiding Principles

- Healthy economy supported by our land and natural resources
- Healthy ecosystems and environment
- People-friendly communities with ample recreational and cultural opportunities

Continuous Improvement System supported by Building Information, Knowledge & Tools

- Science, traditional knowledge, and experience
- Improved connections
- Strategic research
- Knowledge transfer
- Technology and tools
- Stewardship initiatives
- Collaboration and partnerships

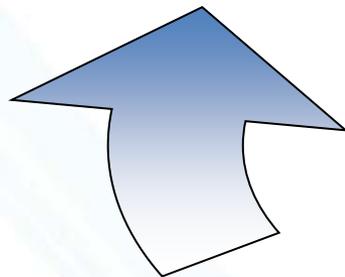
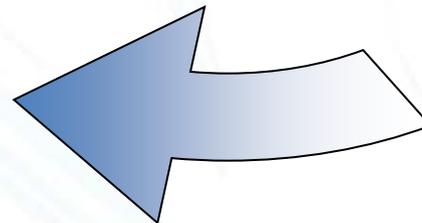


Plans: Provincial, Regional and Local

- Provincial leadership
- Land-use planning system
- Regional planning
- Local planning
- Appeal mechanisms

Do (Consistent with Region Plans)

- Transitional strategy
- Immediate priorities
- Addressing policy gaps
- Timeframe for implementing the Land-use Framework



LUF Key Priorities

- Legislation (*Alberta Land Stewardship Act*) to support the framework - proclaimed October 2009; amended May 2011
- Development of seven regional plans – starting with the Lower Athabasca and South Saskatchewan regions
- Completion of metropolitan plans for the Capital and Calgary sub-regions

Alberta Land Stewardship Act

- Amendment of 27 Provincial Acts
 - 25 amendments into force October 1, 2009
 - Public Lands/Forest Act into force April 1, 2010
- Established the Land Use Secretariat
- Enables the development of regional plans
- Requires regulators to align with regional plans
- Enables the development and implementation of conservation and stewardship tools

Land-use Regions

Seven regions were created and named after major watersheds to signify integration of land and watershed planning

- Lower Peace
- Upper Peace
- Lower Athabasca
- Upper Athabasca
- North Saskatchewan
- South Saskatchewan
- Red Deer



Regional Plans - will

- Reflect the vision, principles and outcomes of the LUF;
- Define regional outcomes (economic, environmental and social) and a broad plan for land and natural resource use for public and private lands;
- Align provincial strategies and policies at the regional level;
- Consider the input from First Nations and Metis communities, stakeholders and the public;
- Determine specific trade-offs and appropriate land and natural resource management for specific landscapes within a region;



Regional Plans - will

- Define the cumulative effects management approach for the region and identify targets and thresholds;
- Provide direction and context for local plans within the region;
- Recognize the authority and role of municipalities in local decision-making;
- Be approved by Cabinet, thereby becoming government land-use policies for the region; and
- Will be subject to regular reviews and public reporting.

Regional Plans

May:

- Identify a need to refine provincial policy;
- Identify the need for more detailed plans to address specific needs and issues within the region;

Will require:

- Amendments if provincial policy or direction changes to ensure that provincial policy and regional plans remain aligned.

Regional Plans - are

- A legal document and public policy for the region
- Enforceable; the Crown, government departments, local authorities, decision-makers, the public must align plans and decisions with regional plan
- Subject to regular reviews and public reporting
 - Evaluation and public report on plan implementation – after 5 years
 - Complete plan reviews – every 10 years

Regional Plan Structure

The structure of the regional plan is unique in that it provides both policy direction and regulatory detail

Strategic and Implementation Plan:

- Strategies and Actions that will be undertaken to support achieving the Vision and Outcomes and includes indicators to measure and evaluate progress. (Policy Direction - must be considered by decision makers but not binding)

Regulatory Details Plan:

- Enables the achieving the strategic direction and strategies and actions. (Is binding on decision makers)



**Provincial
Authority**

Regional Plans

- Vision and desired future for the region
- Integrated economic, environmental and social outcomes
- Objectives/goals (quantitative , measurable targets, trade-offs and choices)
- Strategies/actions (both regulatory and non regulatory)



**Municipal
Authority**

Municipal Development Plan

- Future land use
- Transportation and services
- Coordination with neighbours



Area Structure Plans

- Specific pattern of land use and servicing



Land-use Bylaws

- Divides the municipality into districts
- Permitted and discretionary uses in each district
- Sets standards for development/permitting/subdivision design



Subdivision Control

- Divides land into two or more parcels
- Municipality can take some land for municipal/school/environmental reserve

Private Lands

Regional Plans

- Vision and desired future for the region
- Integrated economic, environmental and social outcomes
- Objectives/goals (quantitative , measurable targets, trade-offs and choices)
- Strategies/actions (both regulatory and non regulatory)



Resource Management Policy and Standards

Eg. Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard



Natural Resource Management Planning

Resource and access management plans
Forest Management Agreements
Watershed Management Plans
Range management plans

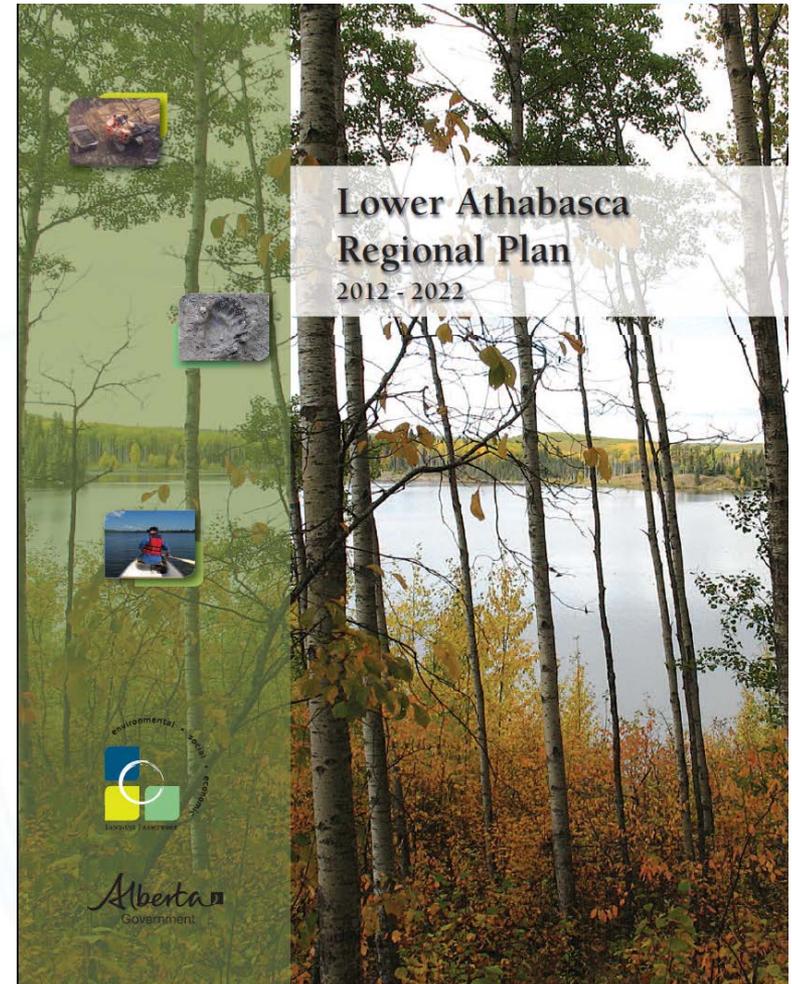


Specific Approvals for Activities

Public Lands

The Lower Athabasca Regional Plan

- LARP is the first regional plan to be developed under the Land-use Framework.
- Approved on August 22, 2012
- Came into legal effect September 1, 2012 – implementation underway



The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan

- RAC advice and online workbook were released for public review in March 2011
- Next steps will be:
 - Phase 2 public and stakeholder sessions (November-December),
 - Preparation of a draft regional plan and Phase 3 consultation

Next Regional Plans

- Process and sequencing of remaining plans under discussion

Questions?

Website:

<http://www.landuse.alberta.ca>

