

Letter to the Editor ~ Planning & SSRP Make Sense!

by editorialstaff - Monday, December 09, 2013

<http://gatewaygazette.ca/planning-ssrp-make-sense/>

Dear Editor and Readers:

Fears be gone! Please read the Draft South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) for yourself! Have your say by participating in the public engagement and submitting your comments by January 15, 2014. Look at all the good and thoughtful things in it! To the point, the plan is a non-event in terms of losing property rights. The SSRP proposes no changes for existing approvals on public land and only suggests voluntary conservation measures on private lands. No lease approvals on public land are planned to be extinguished. In the future if it is determined there is a need to protect some areas, the people who may lose an approval would be compensated. Participation by municipalities in sub-regional plans is voluntary. ATV/OHV and recreation use will continue - let's just consider not destroying the water courses while we have fun. The list of sensible ideas goes on...If anything, during recent conversations and meetings to review the draft, I've heard that people want more of what the Regional Advisory Council had recommended included in the plan.

Working together: Many of us have volunteered or worked on the Land-Use Framework planning since 2008 or earlier to be a part of the process and represent our communities. The SSRP is the second of seven watershed-based plans for Alberta. There are a whole lot of people who care whether we have clean water, clean air and land to grow our food and provide processes for our ecology. If we don't plan in a province which is developing our natural resources and is attracting so many people to move here, we could end up paving over our best agriculture land and not caring about the land which serves us, in favour of development only. Considering both the environment and development is important.

Our Future: The SSRP & land-use planning will help towards many different land users collaborating and considering consequences when making decisions about the uses on the land, especially in this area which has lots of demands in a water-short area. We can't keep doing everything everywhere all the time. Let's work together to identify the issues and maintain or improve the health of our systems. We live in one of the best places in the world – let's keep it that way! Let's use some common sense... and care about the value that planning creates for our communities to have hope for the future.



<https://landuse.alberta.ca/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.landuse.alberta.ca/RegionalPlans/SouthSaskatchewanRegion/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://beta.albertatomorrow.ca/>

Regards to all,

Suzanne Oel

Div. 4 Councillor, Municipal District of Foothills

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