

Restoration in Action: Redstreak Restoration Project KNP

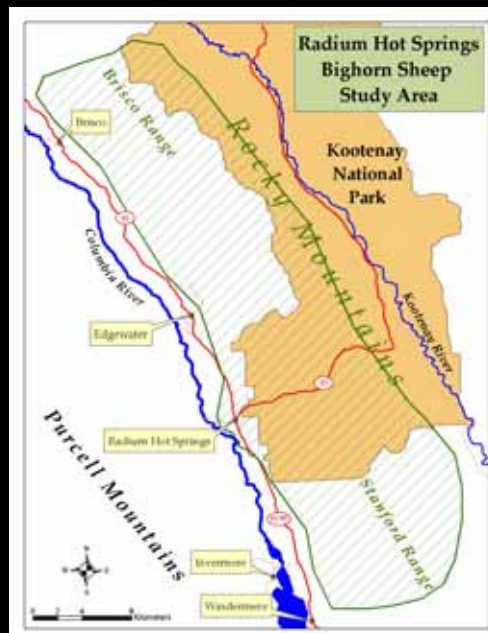


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Lake Louise, Yoho, Kootenay
Field Unit





Columbia Valley: 100 years ago

1906



2004



Restoration Objectives

- Restore fire-maintained open forest and grassland habitat for native plants and animals, including Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep.
- Reduce the build-up of forest fuels around park facilities and the village of Radium Hot Springs.
- Provide opportunities for public to learn about ecosystem restoration.



Parks Canada Mandate

Bighorn in Our Backyard: Project Overview



- Community Outreach and Awareness Building
- Community Involvement in Stewardship-Bighorn Community Monitoring Program
- Ecosystem Assessment, Research and Restoration
- Facilitating Sustainable Economic Connections between people, communities and ecosystems



Ecosystem Restoration



February 2003



April 2005



Monitoring and Research

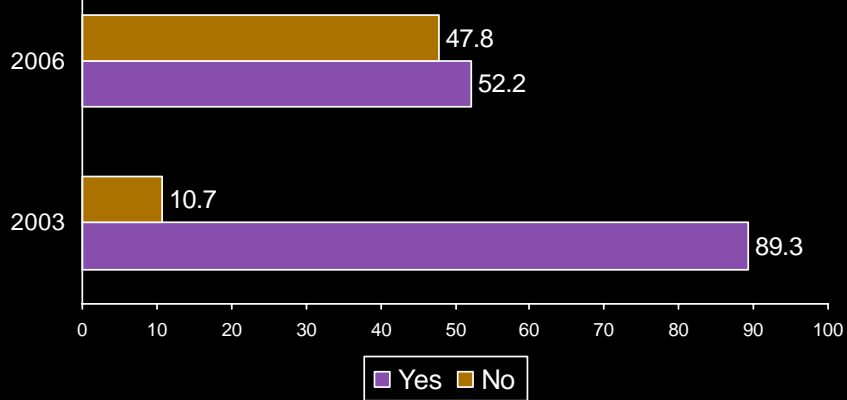
- **Social Science**
 - Public attitudes and awareness
 - Public support
 - Human use levels
- **Ecological Science**
 - Plant communities
 - Small mammal response
 - Bighorn sheep response





Awareness of Restoration

Are you aware that trees have been removed from the forest in this area of the park?



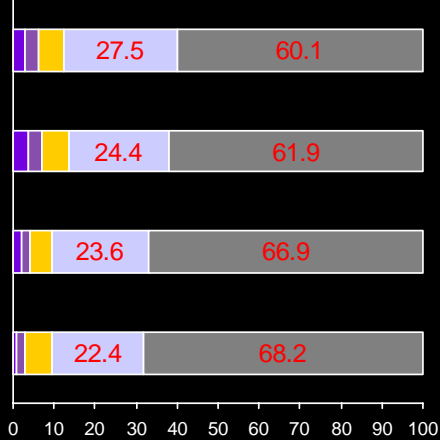
Attitudes Toward Restoration

It is acceptable for Parks Canada to use prescribed fire for restoration purposes

It is acceptable for Parks Canada to use selective logging practices for restoration purposes

It is acceptable for Parks Canada to alter or modify the forest to meet public safety objectives

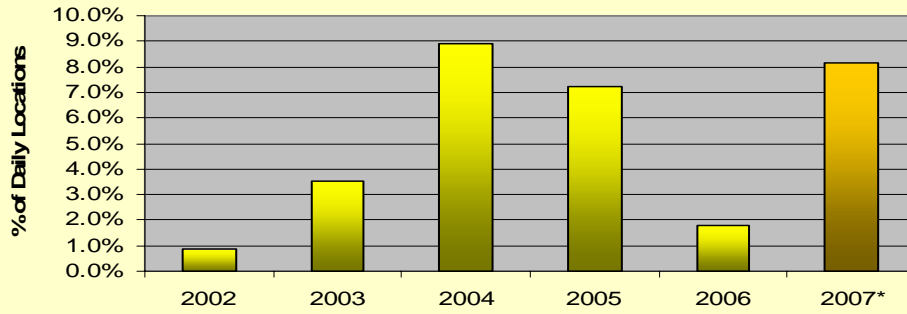
It is acceptable for Parks Canada to alter or modify the forest to improve ecological health



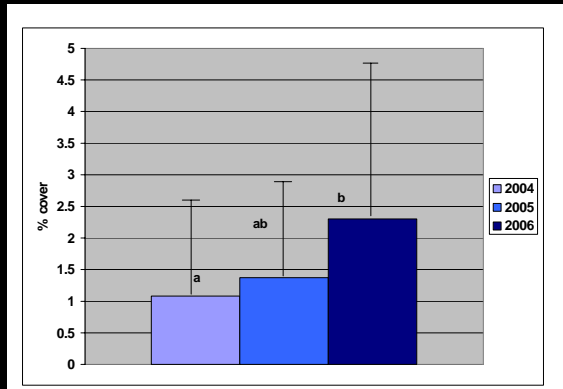
Legend: Strongly disagree (purple), Disagree (light purple), Neutral (yellow), Agree (grey), Strongly Agree (dark grey)



Sheep Use of Restoration Area by Year



Vegetation Response



Bunchgrass cover in 2004 – 2006 at the Redstreak Restoration Area. Means with a different letter indicate a significant difference ($p < 0.1$)



A view from the ground...

- Reviewed Principles and Guidelines comparing to Redstreak Project to date.
- Social Perspective strongly supported.
- Ecological Perspective supported.



Bighorn in Our Backyard: Set the Stage Consultation/Engagement



- Education events, on-site interpretation
- Information meetings/open houses for public and target groups



- Citizen monitoring program
- Volunteer native grass plug planting program
- Landowner stewardship program





Ecological Objectives

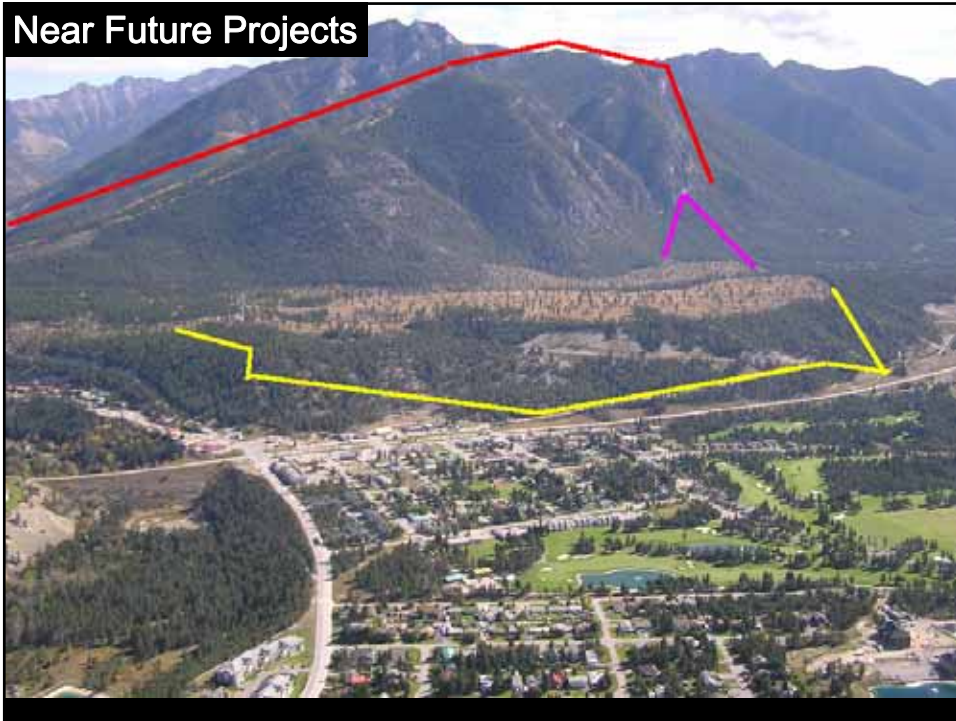
- Initial Objectives Achieved
- Structure/Function Restored
- Challenge = long term goals
 - Species Composition
 - Larger Ecosystem Context



Observations

- Project success to date would strongly support principles and guidelines.
- The depth of the principles and guidelines should not discourage agencies from initiating projects.
 - Need to have the resolve to move forward on small scale projects with imperfect knowledge.
- Redstreak Restoration Project will hopefully expand in area and focus over time.

Near Future Projects



Self-guided Nature Trail

- 75% of visitors are seeking a walk of one hour or less.
- New recreation opportunity for visitors and residents
- Hardened pathway to capture use of restoration area by walkers.
- Education about natural ecosystems and restoration





Acknowledgements

- Parks Canada, Kootenay National Park
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- British Columbia Ministry of Environment
- Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program
- University of Calgary