

APPENDIX F

Trends and Issues Surveys

Data Collection Instruments and Results

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Trends and Issues Surveys

Introduction

The impetus for the Upper Swan Valley Landscape Assessment since its inception has been the people who live and work in the Swan Valley along with the people who visit the Swan Valley to rekindle their spirits.

Because the people are the heart of the reason for the Upper Swan Valley Landscape Assessment, their thoughts and feelings are an integral part of the analysis and discussion regarding the future of the valley. With this in mind, the Landscape Committee charged with developing the Landscape Assessment held community meetings to gather input from residents. To augment the meetings, the Landscape Committee also sent out a survey in the fall of 2001 to the residents of the Upper Swan Valley to ensure a broad opportunity was provided to them to air their feelings and thoughts.

As a follow-up to the 2001 survey, another survey was conducted during 2003. The latter survey was developed by an independent contractor with the Bolle Center for People and Forests, College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana. Analysis of the data for the 2003 survey is available in this appendix with highlights found in “Chapter 6: Landscape Trends” along with the findings from the earlier information-gathering in 2001.

The reader is encouraged to peruse “Chapter 6: Landscape Trends” where the results of both surveys and comments from the Swan Valley residents are described in a combined narrative and quantitative form. For those interested in the survey instruments, both the 2001 and 2003 data-gathering tools may be found on the following pages as well as detailed tabular results.

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Appendix F – Trends and Issues Surveys

Upper Swan Valley Survey Trends and Issues - 2001				
Question	Agree (%, N)	Neutral (%, N)	Disagree (%, N)	Don't know (%)
	Total (Strongly)		Total (Strongly)	
1. Critical wildlife habitat has become fragmented due to development	57% (40)	18%	22% (8)	
2. PC will soon sell more land. FS should acquire PC sensitive lands.	75% (54)	17%	7% (2)	
3. We should protect wildlife/fish values in critical areas on all ownerships.	64% (44)	20%	13% (6)	
4. Water quality has decreased in the Swan River.	38% (18)	26%	25%(9)	10%
5. Quality of fishing has decreased in Swan River and tributaries.	48% (28)	29%	9% (5)	14%
6. River rafting should be regulated due to its impact on fisheries	39% (20)	29%	23% (13)	8%
7. Quality of fishing in high, alpine lakes remains good.	43% (7)	26%	13%(2)	17%
8. The speed limit on Hwy 83 is too high for human and wildlife safety	67% (51)	15%	13% (9)	
9. Some PC land, when sold, should be developed for affordable housing.	22% (10)	30%	43% (28)	
10. The community should acquire forested land for a community forest.	45% (28)	28%	24% (10)	
11. Cooperative weed management plans should be developed	87% (67)	8%	5% (2)	
12. Conservation education should be increased.	72% (41)	18%	7% (2)	
13. Motorized recreation in the valley has increased.	69% (48)	15%	9% (4)	
14. Backcountry trails need better maintenance	46% (22)	32%	17% (5)	
15. We need groomed snowmobile trails.	26% (8)	18%	52% (31)	
16. We need groomed cross-country ski trails.	31% (13)	30%	36% (11)	

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Upper Swan Valley Survey Trends and Issues - 2001				
Question	Agree (%, N)	Neutral (%, N)	Disagree (%, N)	Don't know (%)
	Total (Strongly)		Total (Strongly)	
17. Economic opportunities found to replace lost forest industry jobs	59% (31)	21%	14% (9)	
18. Forests in the interface need to be managed to protect homes from fire.	72% (41)	16%	9% (6)	
19. FS should restore forest health by using fire.	53% (22)	21%	26% (14)	
20. FS should actively manage its land to reduce fire danger.	65% (42)	14%	12% (8)	9%
21. More regulations are needed to control development here.	43% (31)	24%	23% (15)	10%
22. Cell phone towers shouldn't interfere with scenic values.	62% (44)	17%	11% (7)	9%
23. Development has caused increased dust & pollution on gravel roads	63% (43)	19%	15% (2)	
24. Garbage disposal is becoming a problem	32% (18)	26%	28% (9)	14%
25. Decrease in road closures needed for seasonal access to public land.	39% (26)	12%	36% (20)	13%
26. More road closures are necessary.	26% (10)	16%	46% (26)	12%

Source: *Upper Swan Valley Survey, Trends and Issues (2001).*

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