

2010 – 2011 Watershed Legacy Program Projects

Chief Mountain Study Brochure and Public Information Sessions

Project Category: Outreach, Communication and Education

Land Use Issues

The Chief Mountain Landowner Information Network (CMLIN) saw an educational opportunity after the completion of the 2006 Chief Mountain Cumulative Effects Study (CMS) - a study that mapped the land-use trends for a number of variables in the Pincher Creek-Cardston area including, groundwater and surface water reserves, water quality, wildlife populations and habitat, land fragmentation, native grassland integrity, and agricultural lands in general. The study was to provide a picture of the cumulative effects of different land uses and their associated long-term impacts given possible future scenarios for the region. While some of the study findings showed areas for concern, it also showed that there is still time to make a difference.

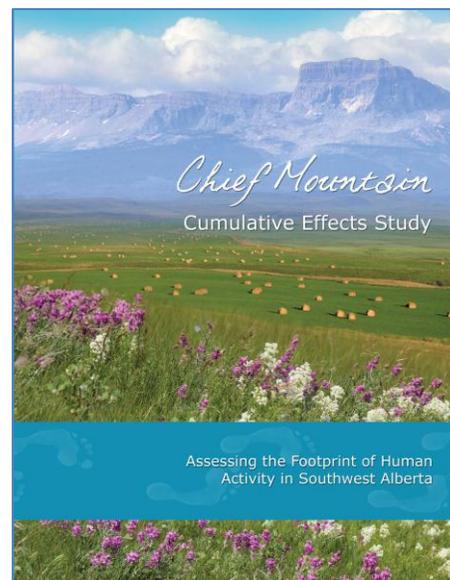
Upon completion of the study, the Chief Mountain Landowner Information Network (CMLIN) wanted to create 1500, 12-14 page informational booklets and facilitate 4 public information sessions throughout the study area that would highlight the results to the local community and municipal councillors. The brochure and information sessions would help guide decisions regarding future land use and management, promote meaningful discussion about the environmental, economic and social future of the region and help foster an improved understanding of the importance of land stewardship.

The total cost of the booklet and information sessions was \$12,400, with the Oldman Watershed Council supplying \$7500 of the funds and the remaining funds being covered by the Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association and the CMLIN Volunteer Committee.

The Watershed Legacy Program provided funding for:

- brochure design and layout and
- printing

The Chief Mountain Landowner Information Network produced a booklet highlighting Results from the Chief Mountain Cumulative Effects Study



The booklet and public information sessions helped the Chief Mountain Cumulative Effects Study continue to make an impact, keeping it on the minds of the public and municipal councillors. They also ensured that residents are engaged and informed and appreciate that even the decisions of individuals can have beneficial or negative consequences cumulatively. The study and accompanying information provide a better understanding of the potential impacts of changing land uses and how these impacts might affect the lives of current and future residents.