



Nose Creek Watershed Partnership
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Draft Nose Creek Water Management Plan Public Consultation Comment Sheet

November – December, 2005

The draft Nose Creek Water Management Plan addresses three objectives:

- A. Recommend water conservation objectives (WCOs) for Nose and West Nose Creek;
- B. Specify matters and factors that may be considered by Alberta Environment decision makers in deciding whether to issue an approval, preliminary certificate or license, or approve a transfer of an allocation of water under a license; and
- C. Build upon and/or refine the requirements specified in strategic, broad-scale planning documents.

Your feedback is important to us! Your input will help ensure that the draft Water Management Plan reflects the needs of the people living and working in the Nose Creek Watershed. Deadline for submission is January 31, 2006.

1. Did you attend an Open House hosted by the Nose Creek Watershed Partnership in November - December 2005? If yes, which one? (circle one)
 Yes No Golden Rod Hall or Crossroads/Mayland Hts
2. Do you reside within the Nose/West Nose Creek Watershed? If yes, do you live in Calgary, Airdrie, Rocky View or Crossfield? (circle one)
 Yes No

In relation to the three objectives of the draft water management plan:

3. ***The recommended water conservation objectives*** aim to maintain channel structure by minimizing anthropogenic (human) causes of streambank erosion. They also aim to maintain fish habitat, maintain recreation opportunities and minimize safety concerns resulting from streambank instability and flooding, while allowing for sustainable development in the basin. The expected outcome is reduced costs for flood control and environmental remediation.
→Do you agree with the recommended water conservation objectives to achieve these goals? Yes No
Comments: _____

4. **Matters and factors that may be considered by Alberta Environment decision makers** include a number of issues. Please consider the following:

A. Minimum runoff capture volume: Urbanization increases impervious surfaces, reduces infiltration and causes higher runoff volumes and peak discharges compared to natural environments. To lessen the impact, a minimum volume of runoff should be captured on site. The recommended minimum runoff capture volume reflects the need for groundwater recharge, water quality improvement and flood and channel protection.

→Do you agree with the recommended interim minimum runoff capture volume to achieve this objective? Yes No

Comments _____

B. Water quality capture volume: Contaminants tend to accumulate on impervious surfaces between rainfall events and are washed off into the receiving stream during the storm event. The amount of stormwater runoff from any given storm should be captured and treated in order to remove a majority of stormwater pollutants. This amount, on an average annual basis, is called the water quality volume.

→Do you agree with the recommended interim water quality capture volume to achieve this objective? Yes No

Comments _____

C. Permissible release rates: As part of the Instream Flow Needs Study completed for the draft water management plan, an assessment of pre-development unit area flow rates was completed. Results indicate that the maximum post-development peak flow rates for Nose Creek that would maintain the natural flow

regime and preserve the integrity of the creek are less than the current 2.6 L/s/ha for a 1:100 year condition.

→Do you agree with the recommended revised permissible release rates that will maintain the natural flow regime and preserve the integrity of the creek? Yes No

Comments _____

- D. Sediment and erosion control: Soil erosion can be reduced by limiting the removal of existing vegetation and decreasing exposure time of stripped areas. Vegetation controls erosion by protecting the surface of the soil from rainfall, slowing the velocity of runoff, maintaining the soil's absorption capacity and holding soil particles in place. Risks associated with sediment and erosion can be minimized by appropriate planning and use of properly designed management practices and techniques.

→Do you support the recommendations for increased sediment and erosion control to achieve this objective? Yes No

Comments _____

- E. Low impact development: A development is considered low impact when the post-development runoff conditions mimic the pre-development rates and volumes for both smaller storm events and severe, infrequent events. This is typically achieved through reduction in the level of imperviousness and the integration of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) in subdivision design, including "green infrastructure" features and stormwater reuse.

→Do you agree with the recommendations to encourage low impact development to achieve this objective? Yes No

Comments _____

F. A riparian area is the transition zone between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, where the presence of water supports the growth of water-tolerant vegetation and soils are modified due to temporary or permanent inundation. Typically, they are areas adjacent to a creek, stream, river, lake or wetland. As transition zones, they have a number of functions that are important to maintaining the integrity of Nose Creek and West Nose Creek: they protect water quality by trapping sediment, nutrient and bacteria in soils and vegetation. Riparian areas are a key component of streambank stability, and the impact of stormwater runoff is lessened by healthy riparian areas when the flood water is absorbed in soils and released slowly throughout the year. Riparian corridors maintain habitat diversity and allow for improved wildlife species distribution and diversity.

→Do you agree with the recommendations for riparian protection measures for urban and country residential areas to achieve this objective?

Yes No Comments _____

→Do you agree with the recommended riparian protection measures for agricultural land use? Yes No

Comments _____

G. Water quality protection: Water quality monitoring was conducted at irregular intervals over the past 30 years. The best available water quality data prior to the 1999 study (conducted by Cross) dated back to 1980. In that study, Schonekess found that concentration of various chemicals were generally lower in rural areas than at urban sites. During storm periods, concentrations increased greatly at urban sites and only slightly in rural areas. More recent water quality studies (1999-2001) showed similar trends. Since 1980, more sediment has been evidenced in the water. Water quality can be impaired by many activities that include agricultural, lands cleared of forests and urban development.

→Do you support the recommendations for water quality protection related to:

- i. Source water protection? Yes No
- ii. Preserving channel length and structure? Yes No
- iii. Protecting natural features? Yes No
- iv. Long-term water quality monitoring? Yes No

Comments _____

- H. Compensation, mitigation and restoration: In the unlikely event that disturbance to the streambanks of Nose Creek, West Nose Creek and their tributaries due to development cannot be avoided, compensation, mitigation and restoration recommendations are proposed.

→Do you agree with the recommendations for compensation, mitigation and restoration? Yes No

Comments _____

- I. Class structure of Nose Creek and West Nose Creek: The class structure for water bodies in Alberta is outlined in the Water Act Codes of Practice. The class structure influences activities occurring in a water body, including the construction method, timing and conditions under which the pipeline, telecommunication line, bridge, culvert, ford or stormwater outfall is constructed. The class is determined based on the sensitivity of fish habitats and their known distribution. Class D is described as having low sensitivity since fish species as defined under the Code are not present. Class C is described as having moderately sensitive habitat areas that are sensitive enough to be potentially damaged by unrestricted activities within a water body. At present, Nose Creek is classified as Class D and has no timing restrict on activities that may disrupt the bed or banks of the creek. By changing the class

of Nose and West Nose Creek to C, timing restrictions would be placed on an activity (ie construction) scheduled in the creek, and more strict conditions would apply to the activity, increasing the protection of aquatic health in the watershed.

→Do you agree with the recommendation to change the class structure from D to C for more aquatic health protection?

Yes No

Comments _____

→Do you agree with the recommendation for future study to identify the potential for Nose Creek and West Nose Creek as a fishery & determining their suitability and importance to maintaining the fishery in the Bow River? ? Yes No

Comments _____

- J. Cumulative effects assessment: Cumulative effects are changes to the environment that are caused by an action in combination with other past, present and future human actions. They can occur when there is too much activity within a small area during a short timeframe, and may induce further actions in the region that may add to the overall cumulative effects already occurring. Gradual disturbance and loss of land and habitat, or “nibbling loss”, is often the most significant method by which cumulative effects occur.

→Do you agree with the recommendations to assess cumulative effects? Yes No

Comments _____

Are there any other comments you have regarding the draft Nose Creek Water Management Plan?

Please submit your comment sheet no later than January 31, 2006 to:

Fax: (403) 276-2134, Attn: Tim Dietzler

Or Mail to:

Nose Creek Watershed Partnership
c/o Tim Dietzler
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911-32 Avenue NE
Calgary, Alberta
T2E 6X6

Please provide the following information (optional):

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email : _____

