

Understanding Cumulative Effects in the Elk Valley



What are cumulative effects?

— *When human activities and natural processes, like wildfire and flooding combine to impact the environment.* As cumulative effects build up, they can impact a range of values, including conservation, recreation, and the economy.

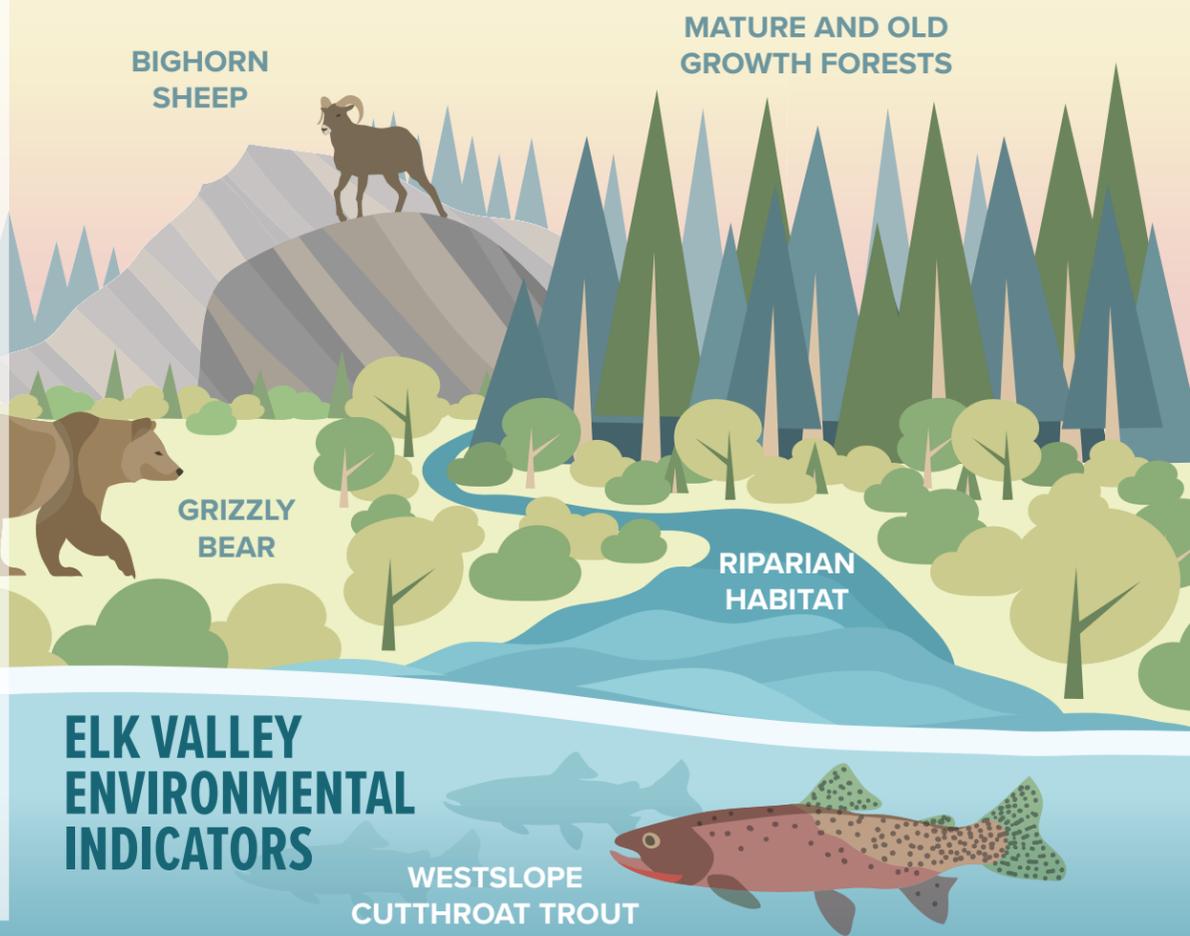
Management of cumulative effects in the Elk Valley is of increasing importance due to current and ongoing resource development, increasing recreational pressures, and municipal development.

The Elk Valley Cumulative Effects Management Framework (CEMF)

The Elk Valley CEMF is a working group of Provincial, Ktunaxa and municipal governments, industry and environmental groups.

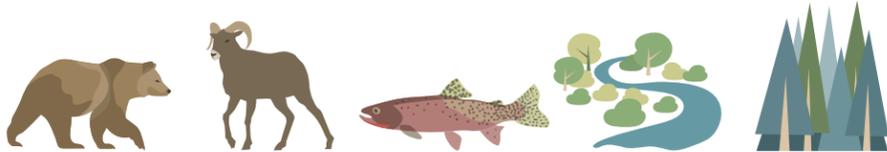
The purpose of the Elk Valley CEMF is to:

- Assess historic, current, and potential future conditions of the environment
- **Provide practical mitigation and management actions to address cumulative effects**
- Promote the management of ecosystems through collaboration.



ELK VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

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RISK ASSESSMENT



EXPERT KNOWLEDGE



BEST AVAILABLE DATA

What did the Elk Valley CEMF team do?

Five indicators of ecosystem health were selected. These indicators represent things that people and government care about or see as important for assuring the integrity and well-being of the province's communities and ecological systems.

Expert knowledge and the best available data were then used to understand how to identify risk to these indicators.

Current and future habitat conditions were then studied to identify potential risks to each indicator.

LEADING RISK FACTORS



HIGH ROAD DENSITY



HUMAN ACCESS

What did the team find?

Across all indicators, high road density and increasing human access were two of the leading contributors to negative cumulative impacts.

Road rehabilitation was identified as the highest priority management action to address cumulative effects in the Elk Valley and will be addressed through the next phase of this work.

For more information, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/cumulative-effects-framework/regional-assessments/kootenay-boundary/elk-valley-cemf>



ELK VALLEY
CEMF
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK



Ministry of
Energy, Mines and
Petroleum Resources



Ministry of
Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations
and Rural Development



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy



Environmental
Assessment Office