



## ON-THE-GROUND @ LAKE LOUISE

### Trail Review: May 2008 update

*Where the scenery inspires and the land sustains*

Under the Banff National Park Management Plan (2004), we have a commitment to review summer and winter trails in the Lake Louise area with a goal to identify ways to reduce environmental impacts. The review also creates opportunity to improve visitor experience.

### Background

- The Lake Louise area contains a network of formal and informal trails. Some trails bisect wildlife movement corridors, important wildlife habitat, or sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands).
- Many of the designated trails were developed at a time when our knowledge of the ecological effects of recreational activity was limited and modes and levels of recreational use were quite different.
- The scope of the trail review includes the Fairview wildlife corridor (i.e., Tramline, Louise Creek, Bow River Loop) and the Whitehorn wildlife corridor (i.e., Pipestone trails).

### Management Plan Direction

Under the park management plan, the *Lake Louise Areas Strategy* provides the following direction:

**Objective 5:** To reduce the impacts of informal and designated trails.

### Key Actions

- Review informal and designated summer and winter trails; consolidate, realign, or relocate to maintain access and reduce environmental impact.
- Identify important habitats that support grizzly bears and other sensitive species, link to trail review.
- Encourage use of designated trails in sensitive areas.

### Summer Trails

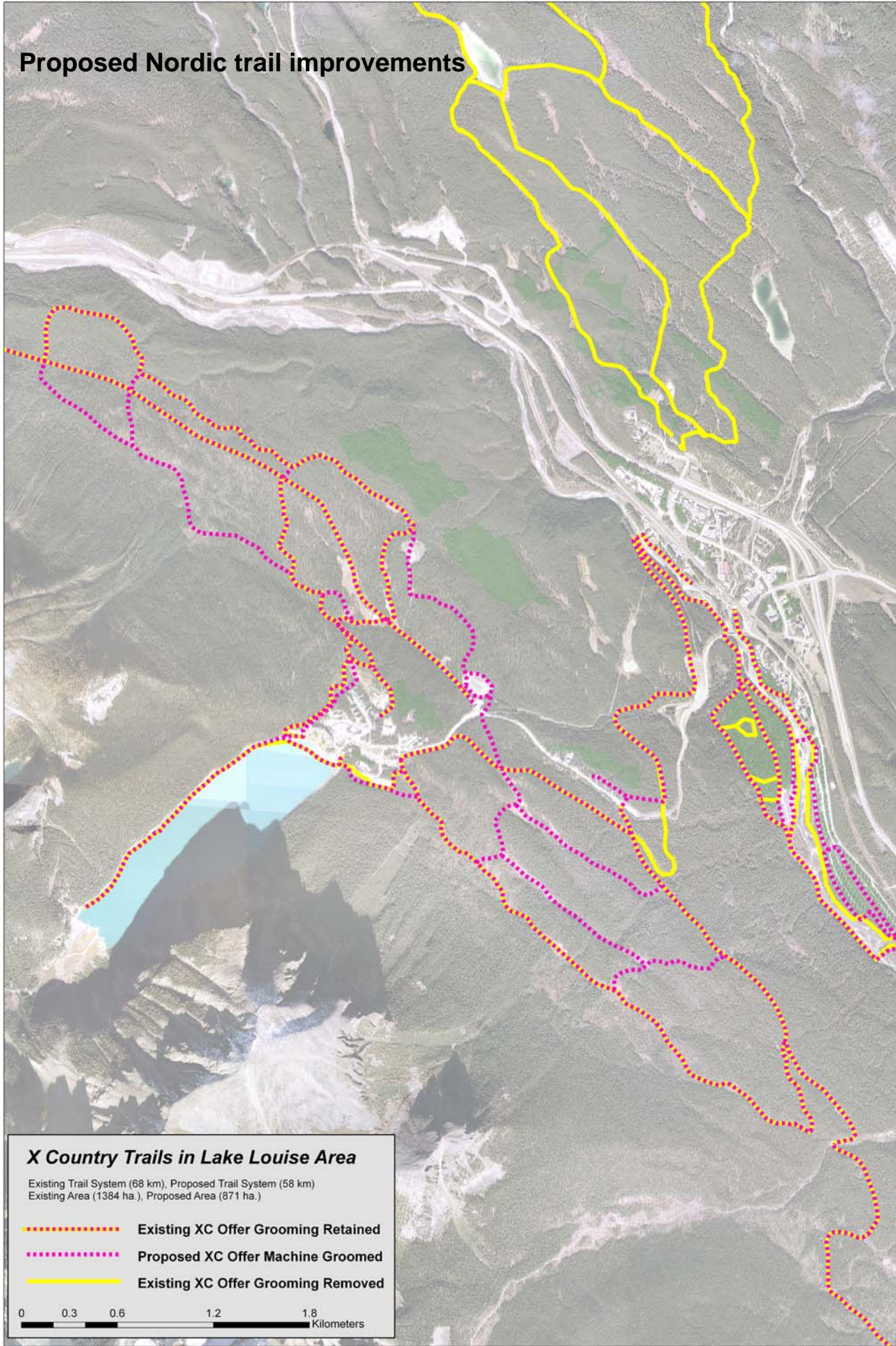
An internal review of the summer day use trails did not identify significant ecological gains that could be made by adjusting trail segments. We have also sought feedback from several community residents to this end, and continue to welcome further input. Regarding informal trails, we need to collect further information on location and use to address any issues here.

### Winter Trails

A pilot study was undertaken in winter 2006/07 to better understand winter recreation. Comments for improvements centred on signage and maintenance of facilities. This winter, Parks Canada hired a consultant to assess and make recommendations for improving nordic ski opportunities in the Lake Louise area, while taking into account wildlife concerns. We are now seeking feedback from staff, the community and other key stakeholders on recommendations related to:

- Improving the balance of trails with respect to skill level and trip lengths, with an emphasis on novice and intermediate skiers.
- Providing a denser network of well-designed and groomed trails on the Fairview/Great Divide (hamlet) side of the Bow Valley.
- Using a snowcat to groom the Fairview/Great Divide trail network for improved quality, efficiency and durability.
- Integrating snowshoeing areas and information within this trail network.
- Improving trail connectivity from major trailheads.
- Offering skier-packed trails in the Pipestone area (i.e., trails open but not machine groomed) to improve the effectiveness of the wildlife corridor and to allow us to focus our grooming efforts in higher use areas.
- Enhancing trail information services (i.e., signs, maps, publications, etc.)

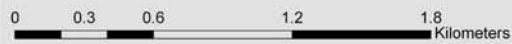
# Proposed Nordic trail improvements



## X Country Trails in Lake Louise Area

Existing Trail System (68 km), Proposed Trail System (58 km)  
Existing Area (1384 ha.), Proposed Area (871 ha.)

- Existing XC Offer Grooming Retained
- Proposed XC Offer Machine Groomed
- Existing XC Offer Grooming Removed





## ON-THE-GROUND @ LAKE LOUISE

Proposed Nordic Trails: Quick Facts, June 2008

*Where the scenery inspires and the land sustains*

**Parks Canada is proposing to improve the Nordic ski experience in Lake Louise, while also improving conditions for wildlife.**

1. Do you agree with the premise that the quality of Nordic skiing in the Lake Louise area should be improved?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Do you support the proposed strategy of improving the system of groomed trails and snowshoeing experiences on the Fairview (hamlet) side of the valley, while increasing habitat security and improving the effectiveness of the Whitehorn wildlife corridor. Please explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Are there aspects of the proposal that you strongly support or strongly oppose? Please tell us what they are and your reasons.

Please provide any additional comments you would like considered.

Name:

Address:

**We appreciate your feedback. Please *drop off your comments by June 30, 2008* to: LLYK Field Unit Superintendent's office (Samson Mall) or the Lake Louise information centre, or *mail them by June 27*: Superintendent LLYK Field Unit, Box 213, Lake Louise, AB T0L 1E0**

June 3, 2008

**Under the Banff National Park Management Plan (2004), we have a commitment to review summer and winter trails in the Lake Louise area with a goal to identify ways to reduce environmental impacts. The review also creates opportunity to improve visitor experience.**

**Following are some points around the proposed Nordic trail improvements:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the balance of trails with respect to skill level and trip lengths, with an emphasis on novice and intermediate skiers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer skier-packed trails in the Pipestone area (i.e., not groomed trails) to improve the effectiveness of the wildlife corridor and to allow us to focus our grooming efforts in higher use areas.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a denser network of well-designed and groomed trails on the Fairview/Great Divide (hamlet) side of the Bow Valley.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance trail information services (i.e., signs, maps, publications, etc.).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a snow cat to groom the Fairview/Great Divide trail network for improved quality, efficiency and durability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current trail network has an area of influence of 1384 ha, while the proposed trail configuration has one of 871 ha. (Area within 100 m. on either side of linear trails, e.g., Moraine Lake road, plus the area contained with the loop trails, e.g., Fairview and Telemark.)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate snowshoeing areas and information within this trail network.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existing groomed trail offer is 68 km, some of which is rarely used. The proposed reconfigured groomed trail offer is 58 km. With the proposed trail configuration there would be more options for loop trips, skier abilities and variety of experiences.</li> </ul>

Additional notes from presentation: