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2008

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McNicol, B., Derbyshire, P. & Radzikowska, M. "Developing A Web 2.0 Prototype To Promote Sustainable Decision-Making For Recreational Large Group Use and the Ecological Health Of Protected Habitats." Contributed paper for the Canadian Parks for Tomorrow: 40th Anniversary Conference, May 8 to 11, 2008, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB.

http://hdl.handle.net/1880/46901

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Developing A Web 2.0 Prototype To Promote Sustainable Decision-Making For Recreational Large Group Use and the Ecological Health Of Protected Habitats

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This project and presentation involves the planning and development process implemented for a new Web 2.0 media resource designed as a decision-making mechanism to assist with the management of recreational and/or educational use and stewardship in Alberta Provincial Parks and Protected Areas. The presentation case study emphasizes development of the prototype for Kananaskis Country in Alberta. Development and programming of the resource, however, will be applicable to all parks within the provincial system. The prototype targets identification and integration of user characteristics, sustainability indicators and indices with existing data about park resources and group use of specific in-park habitats. This technology is intended to engage two targeted groups.

First, the resource aims to provide managers, staff and stewardship groups with the means to collect and examine empirical data and gather improved information on the nature, use and effects of large groups. Second, the resource will target group users by providing a means to access group permits while promoting sustainable decisions, behaviors and outcomes. The interactive Web 2.0 technology will enhance management and stewardship objectives by 1) improving knowledge about large group use and its effects on park habitats 2) making management decisions and outcomes increasingly strategic and 3) integrating decision-making, recreational coping and user engagement with the ecological health and conservation of habitats in Alberta's parks and protected areas.