

# WEST BENCH ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

GOLDEN CONSERVATION ACTION FORUM CHECK-IN



wildsight

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# WHO ARE YOU?

## Wildsight Golden

- Community Invasive Plant Program (CIPP) Coordinator
- Branch manager/Outreach coordinator - Inception of beaver and West Bench work w/ Annette

## Griffith University

- **PhD Candidate** - Unpacking conservation conflict in a changing climate: a socio-spatial approach
- **Lab demonstrator/TA** - undergrad ecology, urban biodiversity, sustainability
- **Research assistant** - mostly Climate Change Adaptation with a focus on futures thinking and Nature-based Solutions/Ecosystem-based Adaptation

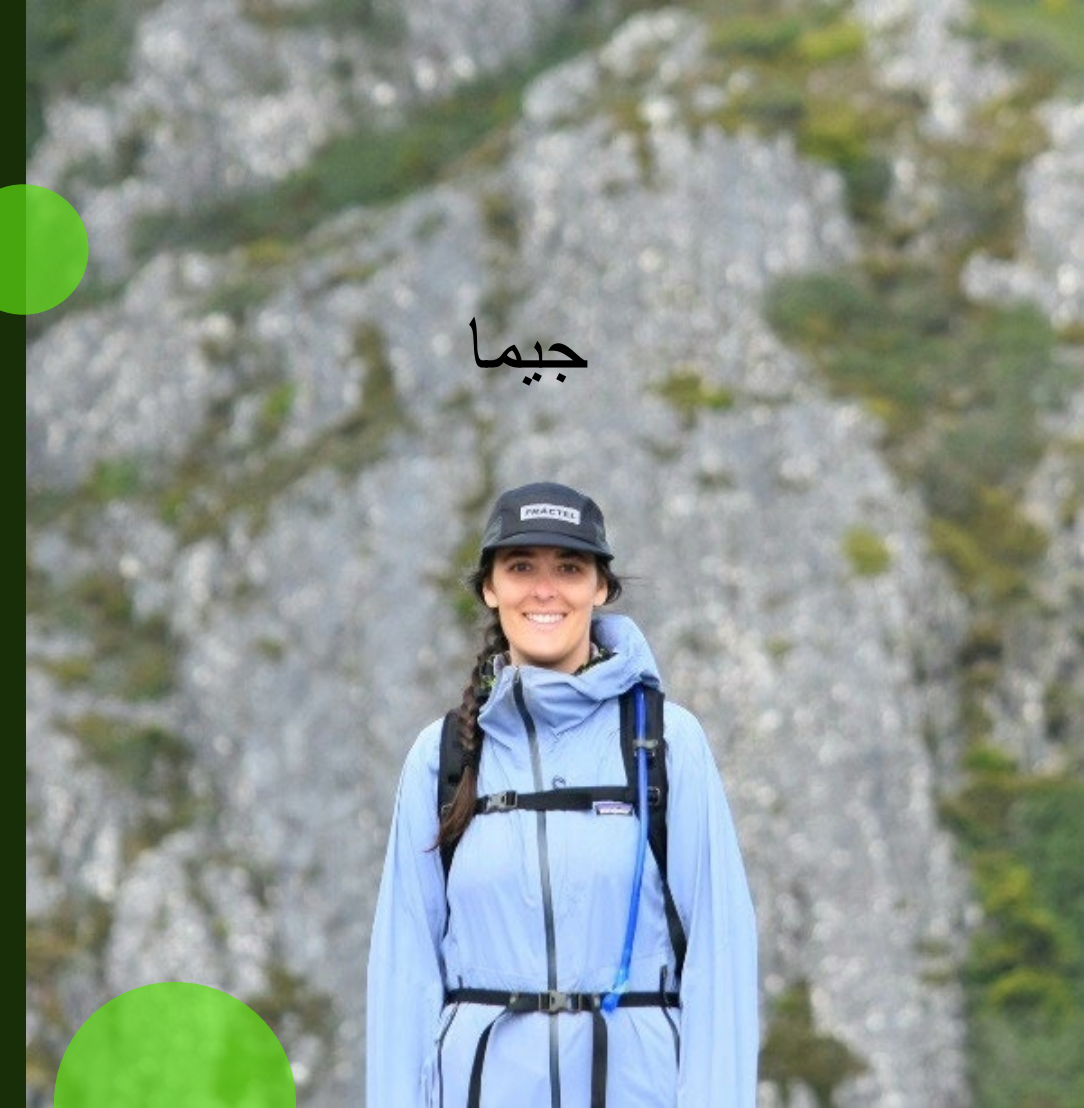
# WHAT SPECIES/ECOSYSTEM/ WHERE IN AREA IS YOUR STUDY AREA?

## Everywhere and everything? (PhD)

- Human-landscape nexus
- Social dimensions of geospatial conservation and landscape management

## West Bench & Dogtooth range

- Impacts of recreation and development on wildlife and landscape



 Meanjin/Magan-djin (Brisbane), Australia



# WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT/WHY CARE?

Understanding how local land use decisions and climate change affect the environment is crucial for maintaining a healthy area for humans and wildlife in Golden. Decisions made now impact the future, so it's essential to understand why people make the choices they do, and how that impacts opportunities for better conservation and land management.

## Working backwards..

### What makes implementation successful?

- Different types of data/knowledge *AND* community involvement/buy in

### How to get the community involved and supportive?

- Engage in early stages. Understand where they are coming from (identify environmental literacy gaps, areas of conflict and agreement)





# SURVEY RESULTS

63 %

Use Word of Mouth to make decisions about where to go/not go

24 %

West Bench & Dogtooth range is area of least concern

77 %

Don't know if there are processes to resolve conflict

*"it is not right that a small group of back country users are highly restricted while industry destroys first (old) growth forests, pollutes air and water"*

-(Participant 149)

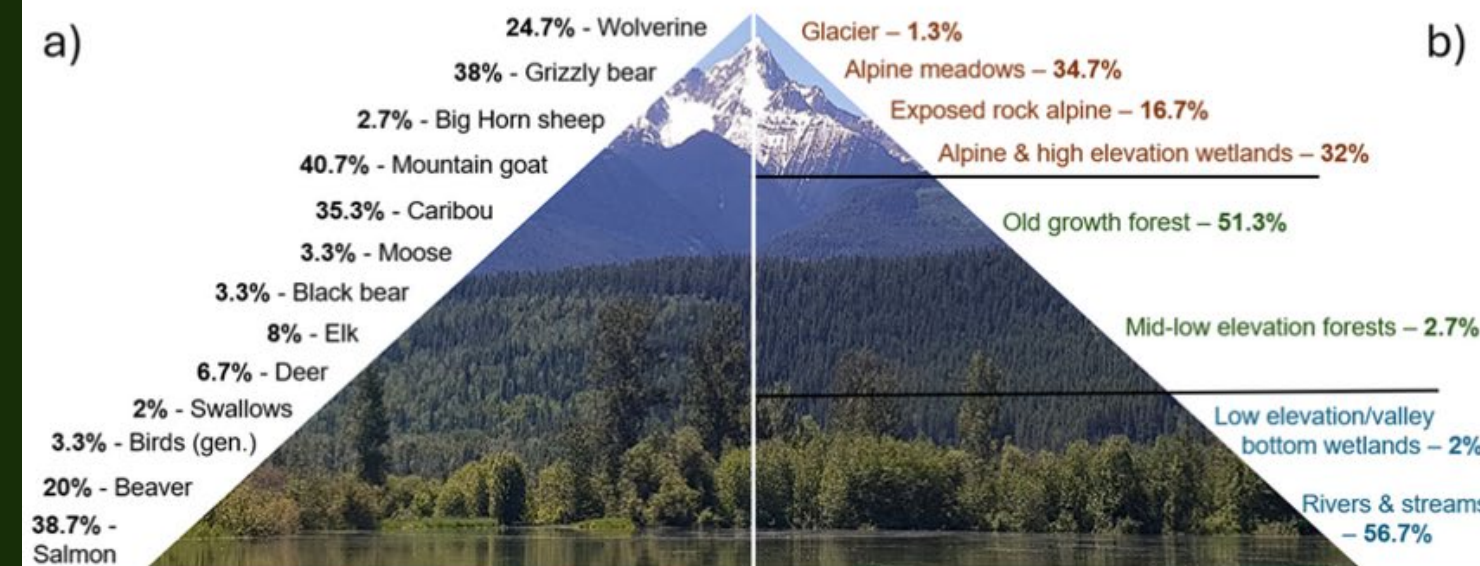
37 %

Not at all familiar with GBRAP

## 150 total responses from the community



### WE ASKED: Are there any a) wildlife or b) geographic attributes you think have experienced more change?



### WE ASKED: What human activities you think could have a negative effect on wildlife or the habitat and ecosystems they rely on?



### WE ASKED: What are your top priorities and goals you would like to see addressed in the area in relation to the environment?

- 1 PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEMS
- 2 MAINTAINING WILDLIFE CORRIDORS
- 3 PREPARING COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS



# NEXT STEPS

Feb



## Mapping exercise and preliminary analysis

- drag and drop landscape values/preferences in online portal
- Prioritization software to identify areas of conflict & agreement (within people, people & nature etc.,.)

June



## Validation and interviews

- Surprises? Agreement? Reasons behind conflict?

Dec



## Publish and thesis



2026



## West Bench report

- Compile specific WB insights from survey, mapping exercise and interviews



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