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The Friends of the Oldman River is generally supportive of the 2007-2009 operational plan. We would like to see even more emphasis on building capacity to protect biodiversity, especially in the interior plains (grasslands) of North America, and less emphasis on recycling. We support the continued work on a number of pollutant, renewable energy and biodiversity issues.

Wind energy is starting to develop into an issue given the scale of implementation, both on the environmental side and on the engineering/electrical grid side. This might provide a good focus for some discussions in the next 3 years. One particular area of concern is that, without a cap on greenhouse gas emissions, wind becomes just another industrial activity on the landscape with biodiversity protection being lost and no real reduction in GHG (ie. our use of energy continues to expand and wind becomes another environmentally destructive rather than environmentally protective activity, albeit in different ways than hydrocarbon based fuels).

We are not opposed to the work on recycling, we just feel that this is one area that already has better industry and government support. Biodiversity protection continues to lag in attention paid by governments even though we have some strong agreements in this area.

We realize CEC cannot do it all so wish you success in your program implementation whichever becomes your focus.