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Reference: 239920

July 30, 2018

VIA EMAIL: LShykora@csrd.bc.ca

Chair Rhona Martin  
Columbia Shuswap Regional District  
PO Box 978  
Salmon Arm, British Columbia  
V1E 4P1

Dear Chair Martin:

Thank you for your letter of June 2, 2018, regarding recreation planning in the City of Revelstoke / Electoral Area B.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development recognizes that Revelstoke is indeed a well-renowned recreation destination and acknowledges that there is growing demand by commercial business operators. I understand and appreciate your concerns regarding increasing requests for commercial tenures and overlapping tenures in the Kootenay Boundary Natural Resource Region (KBR).

I also understand that these issues can be addressed through a Backcountry Recreation Plan for the Revelstoke Area. In order to move forward, such a process would require commitments and engagement from local government, community and stewardship groups.

The early opportunity for ministry staff to engage in this issue can be through collaborative community planning with the British Columbia Trail Strategy. The Recreation Sites and Trails Branch is the ministry lead on this approach. Furthermore, the KBR's cumulative effects assessment tool is available to assist community-based planning in achieving fact-based decisions and scenario modeling.

The Province of British Columbia has renewed a mandate for land use planning and we are focusing on program development and design this year. In the near future, the ministry will implement a renewed website for modernized land use planning information. As the program is designed and progresses, the website will be updated with relevant information on how modernized land use planning is expected to be undertaken in British Columbia.

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CSRD Directors

Chair Rhona Martin

The ministry anticipates that land use planning interest from numerous groups will be considerable and require priority assessment. With the help of First Nations, community organizations, industry, and others identified priority projects will be ranked and expected to commence in 2019/2020.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kevin Eskelin, Regional Recreation Manager, Recreation Sites and Trails Branch in Cranbrook, by phone at 250-426-1759 or by email at [Kevin.Eskelin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kevin.Eskelin@gov.bc.ca).

Again, thank you for writing. I appreciate you taking the time to share your concerns and suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Donaldson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Doug Donaldson  
Minister

pc: Kevin Eskelin, Regional Recreation Manager, Recreation Sites and Trails Branch