

## **Background Information - Electoral Area B Zoning Amendment (Revelstoke Backcountry Guides) Bylaw No. 851-14**

Referral Responses for a Crown Tenure Adventure Tourism Application

**Licence of Occupation Provincial File Number:** 4405817

**Applicant:** Revelstoke Backcountry Guides Inc. (RBG)

**Agency Comments:** The agency comments listed below were submitted to the Province (between July 18 – September 16, 2017) and forwarded to both the applicant and the CSRD, which are in response to the Provincial file 4405817 and specifically the RBG Winter Backcountry Recreation Tenure Management Plan, dated June 2, 2017. The Management Plan has since been updated (dated December 13, 2017), to address the initial referral comments/concerns.

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### **Interior Health:**

This application is within the City of Revelstoke's Drinking Water Watershed. Interior Health would not recommend any backcountry activity within a drinking water watershed.

The applicant would be required to comply with B.C. Regulation 326/2004, Sewerage System Regulation, B.C. Regulation 210/99 Food Premises Regulation, and the B.C. Drinking Water Protection Act and B.C. Drinking Water Protection Regulation.

The applicant has been contacted and will be provided with the necessary information to update their application to comply with our regulations. Please contact [hbe@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:hbe@interiorhealth.ca) or call toll free at 1-855-744-6328 ext 4.

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### *Initial Comments:*

#### **City of Revelstoke:**

1. The City actively supports and encourages the development of winter recreation of all types in the Revelstoke area, but is concerned about the impact of the proposed development on the City of Revelstoke's Greeley Creek Community Watershed. Prior to any further review of the application, the City requests that a map of watershed and all other existing tenures in the area, including those for recreation and forestry, for review by all affected parties, including the City. The City has a legislated responsibility to manage the protection of source water used for drinking.
2. To the extent that the City can comment on this application with the information provided, the City does not support the construction and operation of the proposed buildings, nor does the City support the provision of overnight lodging in or near the watershed. Clearing, glading and avalanche mitigation activities are not desirable or compatible with the City's plan for protection of the Greeley Creek water supply.
3. Acknowledging also that this is currently an application for winter use only, the City does not support any human activity in the watershed, including the construction of

buildings or facilities in or near the watershed during the summer months due to the significant risk of wildfires and the catastrophic impact on water quality and supply such a fire could pose.

4. Road access to the egress locations is via a Private Railway Crossing (managed under the Railway Safety Act) which landowners and licensees (including the City of Revelstoke and Downie Timber) have access to under agreement with Canadian Pacific (CP). Should this tenure, or an amended version of such, be approved, the City requests assurance that a requirement be that the tenure holder gains legal access to the Private Rail Crossing through agreement with CP.
5. Further, the City requests to be notified for all referrals of developments and tenures near all City watersheds.

*Comments following discussion and meeting with the applicant:*

**City of Revelstoke:**

During the Regular Council Meeting held November 14, 2017 Revelstoke City Council passed the following resolution to support the application of the Revelstoke Backcountry Guides as follows:

“THAT a letter of support be submitted to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development regarding Revelstoke Backcountry Guides’ application for a modified commercial recreation tenure, overlapping into the upper northern reach of the Greeley Creek Watershed.”

The conditions that Council would agree to allow this area to be included in the tenure are as follows:

1. any travel in the watershed will be reserved for human powered skiing only (no helicopter landings/pickups except in the event of an emergency).
  2. no tree cutting of any kind, improvements or alteration of the landscape will occur within the watershed.
  3. travel in the watershed would be limited to 1500m and above except in the event of an emergency. Egress via Greeley creek is extremely unlikely due to the rugged nature of the terrain.
  4. travel in the watershed occurs on an incidental basis (best skiing opportunities are drain into West Twin Creek).
  5. travel patterns/tracks do not connect directly to/from Revelstoke Mountain Resort to limit likelihood of increased public traffic in the watershed.
  6. any human waste produced will be immediately removed by the user to avoid and potential for contamination whatsoever.
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**FLNRO Habitat Branch:** No objection to approval subject to the following conditions:

- The operation is fully compliant with the “Wildlife Guidelines for Backcountry Tourism/Commercial Recreation in British Columbia” as may be amended from time to time

([http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/twg/documents/wildlife\\_guidelines\\_recreation\\_may06\\_v2.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/twg/documents/wildlife_guidelines_recreation_may06_v2.pdf)).

- The Management Plan states that “wood would be collected from standing dead throughout the extensive use area as well as flown into the site as needed.” Large standing dead trees (Wildlife Trees) provide valuable habitat for many species. In order to reduce the likelihood of impacting these habitats, removal of standing dead trees should be limited to those that are <30 cm diameter at breast height (DBH).
- Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) is a Blue Listed species that is documented to occur within the proposed tenure area. Whitebark pine should not be cut or felled unless it constitutes a hazard as determined by a certified Wildlife Tree Assessor.
- All operations need to be compliant with the Wildlife Act ([http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/consol24/consol24/00\\_96488\\_01](http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/consol24/consol24/00_96488_01)). Works that could adversely affect nesting birds should be done outside of the April 1st – Aug 31st bird nesting period unless a bird nest survey is conducted by a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP). Nests of certain birds of prey are protected regardless of occupancy.
- No structures should be located within 30m of any “stream” (as defined by the Water Sustainability Act).
- The southernmost proposed flight path is within 1500m of known mountain goat late summer range and should not be used during the snow free period. Goat presence during winter has not been verified. Extra care should be taken during winter operations and if any signs of mountain goats are observed a flight path >1500m from the areas(s) be used instead as per the “Wildlife Guidelines for Backcountry Tourism/Commercial Recreation in British Columbia”. Locations of mountain goats or their sign should be submitted to the FLNRORD Revelstoke Ecosystem Specialist for information purposes.
- Withdrawal of water for use at the intensive use site(s) is likely subject to the Water Sustainability Act.

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**FLNRO Columbia Forest District:** No objection subject to conditions:

As stated in the Proponent's Management Plan, an Occupant Licence to Cut will need to be issued for Helipad Landing, Danger Tree falling and other activities requiring tree cutting.

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**Overlapping tenures:** No conflict.

*CSRD staff understand that the following overlapping tenures have no conflict with the updated RBG Winter Backcountry Recreation Tenure Management Plan, dated December 13, 2017.*

- 4404314 – Section 17 Designated Use Area
- 4400355 – Section 16 Map Reserve communication site
- 4403112 – Stat ROW City of Revelstoke
- 4403722 – LOO for Public Works – City of Revelstoke
- 4404381 – LOO Communication site TM Mobile
- 4405462 – LOO Selkirk Tangiers – summer use