



Reference: CLIFF 256210

June 8, 2020

VIA EMAIL: **LShykora@csrd.bc.ca**
c/o Lynda Shykora, Deputy Manager

Kevin Flynn, Chair
Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Dear Mr. Flynn:

Thank you for your letter of May 20, 2020 to Minister Doug Donaldson, in support of a recreation management and protection plan for the Mount Begbie area. I have been asked to respond.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) welcomes your interest in conservation planning and protecting the natural resource as an alpine destination. Recreation access management and sustainably managing B.C.'s ecosystems are both elements of land use planning. The Ministry has committed resources to the modernized land use planning (LUP) initiative and is supporting recreation access management planning regionally.

The Province's renewed mandate to land use planning and project identification in 2020 is based on input from stakeholders and First Nations'. Our initial year of implementing a modernized land use planning approach focussed on program development and design. The ministry engaged with First Nations and others, including community organizations and industry, to identify and scope high priority projects across the province. Selection of the initial areas focused on projects identified as a high priority by First Nations to further the government's commitment to Reconciliation.

The initial demand for land use planning projects exceeded our capacity and therefore some projects will be postponed to future years. The Kootenay Boundary Region's priorities include land use planning for a South East Wildlife Corridor (SEWC) and the Qat'muk (Jumbo) Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA). The Ministry is currently supporting the Columbia Valley Recreation Access Management Plan (CVRAMP) and updating the Golden Backcountry Recreation Management Plan (GBRAP), both initiatives designed to coordinate and identify appropriate land applications within those areas.

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The ministry has created a website for modernized land use planning information (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/crown-land-water/land-use-planning>) and regional plans can be found here. The Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan remains in effect as these modernized land use planning projects proceed. As the projects are designed, we will be seeking First Nations, stakeholder and public input and engagement into the local site-specific projects.

Although we cannot initiate a new LUP project for the conservation and protection of the Mount Begbie area at this time due to the constraints I described above, we do encourage you and all valued stakeholders on the land base to utilise the public engagement processes to insure their values and interests continue to be heard for projects within your local communities. Updates to the planning process will be posted on the website to keep the public informed of the projects' progress.

Thank you for sharing your support of this issue raised by the City of Revelstoke. The ministry looks forward to building a coordinated strategy to support land use and recreation access management planning across southern British Columbia.

Sincerely,



Kevin Eskelin
Regional Manager
Southern Interior Recreation Region

pc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development

Grant Neville, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Kootenay-Boundary Natural
Resource Region

Marcia Bennett, District Recreation Officer, Columbia-Shuswap Recreation District