

# WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE FRIENDS OF THE ROSSLAND RANGE?



The Friends of the Rossland Range have always been concerned with protection of important community, natural, cultural and recreational values in the local mountains. Recently, as a result of discussions with our members, and with other stakeholders in the community, we adopted a new set of goals, and put them in our Constitution, to make our mission clearer. Our new official goals are:

**1-**To increase public awareness of the importance of natural values, including recreational, scenic and environmental values, to the people and communities touched by the Rossland Range;

**2-**To increase public awareness of the cultural and historic values that make the Rossland Range and its communities unique;

**3-**To work with all stakeholders for responsible use of the Rossland Range, and particularly for use that is appropriate to its site, that respects conservation values and the needs and sensitivities of other users, and that provides appropriate integration or separation of uses;

**4-**To work with stakeholders and governments to preserve important natural, recreational, cultural, historic and economic values in the Rossland Range;

**5-**To act as a catalyst, and where feasible as a facilitator, for the creation of appropriate plans and other official instruments (e.g. bylaws, regulations, tenures) to give formal recognition of, and security for, natural, recreational, cultural, historic and economic values in the Rossland Range; and

**6-**To enter into agreements, hold tenures, and undertake any other activities to further the Society's purposes as set out above.

## THE FRIENDS OF THE ROSSLAND RANGE NEED YOU

### THE PROJECT:

For several years, in line with our goals, we have been working to inspire the provincial government to create a plan to manage recreation in the Rossland Range, or to provide us with an alternative such as a community tenure. There has been no success, in spite of strong community support. Now, with the huge increase in recreational use in the past few years, it is clear that something must be done to protect the many qualities of the Rossland Range that are so important to our community. If it is going to happen, we will have to do it.

The Friends of the Rossland Range are thinking of applying for official recognition of the important high country (the Old Glory Alpine and Nancy Greene Pass areas) as a Designated Recreation Area under the mandate of the Ministry of Forests, similar to the designations managed by the Castlegar Nordics at the Paulson Summit, and by the Kootenay Mountaineering Club in the Bonnington Range.

Our intention is to present government with a complete proposed agreement, describing how the community wants to manage the Designated Recreation Area, particularly for winter recreation. We want to show government as comprehensive a plan as possible, and how we can make it work.

***We need your help in deciding how to deal with a number of issues that have emerged over the past few years.***

**THE PROCESS:**

We wish to create our proposal with the input and support of the community. (We presently have many letters of support from stakeholders and members of the community for creation of a plan reflecting the concerns driving the present project.)

We will be consulting with all Rossland Range stakeholders, and the public. In the next while, we will be holding a public workshop to get your input on the issues that need to be addressed in the proposal.

***Please consider the issues below, and give us your ideas.***

You may write your thoughts on this hand-out and return it to a FORR director, or mail it to FORR, PO Box 701, Rossland, BC V0G 1Y0. You are also welcome to wait for the public workshop, and to consider and discuss the issues in the meantime.

**THE ISSUES:**

**BALANCING USE AND PROTECTION**

Over-use of our mountains could damage the very things that we like about them. Please consider these questions:

- How can we tell if we are over-using the Rossland Range?
- How can we balance use with the need to protect ecological values?
- How can we prevent or correct over-use?
- Can we manage increased use while protecting natural values and our recreational experiences?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**RECOGNIZING ECONOMIC VALUES**

- How important is the Rossland Range to the economy of our community?
- How important is the fact that recreation within our proposed Designated Recreation Area is free to the public?
- How can we deal with costs that may arise in managing a Designated Recreation Area?
- What is the best approach to the relationship between the forest tenure holder, Atco Wood Products, and the needs of recreational users?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ACCESS: PARKING**

Increased use of the Rossland Range has created parking problems, including safety hazards, along Highway 3B. The Ministry of Transportation provides no money for ploughing of parking areas along the highway. (The ploughing that is done is by the good graces of Emcon.) Parking lots that meet the Ministry's policies, so that ploughing could be funded, are expensive, and complicated to have approved.

- What parking is needed?
- How could it be built?
- How could it be paid for?
- Would there be any negative consequences of creating more parking in the Rossland Range?
- How can we decide what is the right amount of parking?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ACCESS: GLADING AND BRUSHING**

Over the years, areas that were previously logged have grown up, either in new forest, or in brush. There may be a need to work with the forest tenure holder on a program to remove some of this growth in order to maintain reasonable winter access.

- What areas need to be considered for a clearing or thinning program?
- What rules and cautions should be applied?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**THE NANCY GREENE PASS DAY USE SHELTERS**

The small shelters scattered throughout the Nancy Greene Pass area (and a few elsewhere) have become a major winter recreational attraction - locally, regionally, and beyond. Use of the huts has increased many-fold in recent years, which places a strain on the volunteers who maintain them. While the huts are presently unauthorized, there is potential in a Designated Recreation Area for approval of some number of huts, thus protecting them from removal by the Ministry of Forests.

- How important are the day-use huts in the Rossland Range?
- How could the community best manage the huts?
- What limits and cautions might be appropriate?
- How can we balance the huts' attractive history of being informal with the need to keep them up, and to protect them from misuse?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNITY WATERSHEDS**

A significant portion of the Rossland Range is within community watersheds, either for Rossland, or for communities along the Columbia River.

- What concerns arise from using community watersheds for recreation?
- How could those concerns be resolved?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLVING POTENTIAL CONFLICTS BETWEEN RECREATIONAL USERS**

At present, there are unwritten understandings about how people using the Old Glory Alpine and Nancy Greene Pass get along. For instance, there is a general understanding that the forestry road (the Crowe Road) which is a popular skiing and snowshoeing route, is also an access corridor for snowmobiles traversing the area. There is also a general understanding that all types of winter self-propelled recreation are accepted. For instance, dogs are welcomed on the trails. Skiers, snowshoers, and walkers share the trails. As climate change affects the quality of snow at lower elevations, with a further increase in users in the high country, these informal understandings may be strained.

- How can we manage potential conflicts among users while retaining our historic sense of sharing and community?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SIZE AND SCOPE OF A DESIGNATED RECREATION AREA**

Our initial thought was to seek Designated Recreation Area status just for the parts of the Rossland Range that are experiencing the heaviest use, and seem to have the greatest need for protection - the Old Glory Alpine and the area around Nancy Greene Pass. There may be some value to seeking a larger area, for instance to provide recognition for motorized use. On the other hand, we may face limited resources with which to look after the Designated Area.

- How inclusive of all recreational interests should the Designated Recreation Area be?
- What areas of the Rossland Range should be included?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER ISSUES**

Are there other concerns not mentioned here that you feel would need to be addressed in a proposal for a Designated Recreation Area?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*If you prefer that someone contact you to discuss the project further, please provide contact information below:*

\_\_\_\_\_