

FORR Special Newsletter: We need your input about Red Dog Cabin!

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The Rossland Range Recreation Site



Recreation Sites
and Trails BC



SPECIAL NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2016

WE NEED YOUR INPUT ABOUT RED DOG CABIN!

The current Management Plan lists these permitted cabins ("day use shelters"): Viewpoint, Mosquito, Red Dog, Rock & Roll, Barking Spider, Lepsoe Basin (consolidates Sunspot and Berry Ridge), Surprise, Not So Secret, and Igloo.

(Barking Spider hut will have to be removed in 2017 because of logging. By popular request, its place on the official list will be taken over by a new Sunspot cabin. A team has been formed, funding has generously been provided by two sets of private donors, and an attractive new site has been proposed. A large number of people apparently like this change, so we'll amend the Management Plan accordingly.)

Red Dog Cabin is currently listed as being in the process of renovation, but some questions have been raised about how best to manage it.

Red Dog is one of the most famous cabins made by the original generation of builders. In a way, it's a kind of memorial. It's basically well-built, attractive, and quite large. In the past it has been heavily used, and has left many people with many fond memories.

But, because of its log construction, and associated nooks and crannies, Red Dog is also popular with packrats and other rodents, which exposes people to potential diseases and is contrary to what is now allowed by the Rec Site rules.

The Vockeroth family, who are working on restoring Red Dog, report

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that their efforts to keep the packrats out have repeatedly failed, and they are running out of ideas. They wonder if it might be more practical to take down the current cabin and replace it with one that is designed from the ground up to keep out varmints, like our three new cabins.

Meanwhile, the new Mosquito cabin is attracting a lot of use, apparently including people who previously would have gone to Red Dog. As well, the location of Rock & Roll hut continues to be seen by many Rec Site users as having great potential as an easy touring destination, and as part of a “near country” circle tour.

A suggestion has been made that Red Dog should be retired as a location, and a new cabin the size of Red Dog built near the present Rock & Roll site. That would spread out the cabins, and free up a space in the official list for another cabin elsewhere.

If Red Dog is kept or replaced on its present site, a new replacement for Rock & Roll can still be built, but it would be smaller – about the size of Lepsoe Basin and Viewpoint cabins.

As you can see, there are several tough issues regarding how to deal with Red Dog, including lots of “heart value.” On the one hand, with some effort and resources it’s probably possible to restore Red Dog and keep the packrats out. On the other hand, there are other options that might be attractive in the long run.

What do you think is the best way of managing Red Dog (and Rock & Roll, and other cabins present and future)?

Be creative. Speak from the heart. Play with the map. Think about the

Rec Site as a whole. Look at all points of view. Weigh things in the balance. Send your ideas.

FORRS strives to manage the Rec Site and the cabins on behalf of the community. The FORRS directors would really appreciate your input, so that your collective wisdom can guide them.

Please pass your thoughts to any FORRS director, or send them to les@rosslandrange.org. Les will make sure they reach all the directors.

(For a list of directors and their contact information, go to www.rosslandrange.org.)

Thanks!

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