

FRIENDS OF THE ROSSLAND RANGE  
MEDIA RELEASE: NANCY GREENE HIGHLANDS RECREATION AREA

After a long process of community consultation, the Friends of the Rossland Range have completed a proposal for a provincially-designated Recreation Area to provide community management of public recreation and ecological values in the Rossland Range high country.

The Recreation Area proposal builds on the efforts of many community members over a number of years to gain official recognition and protection for our mountains. What makes the proposal unique is the fact that, unlike a government-initiated plan or designation, it is an expression of how the people who use and value the Rossland Range, whatever their particular interests, have decided its high country core should be looked after.

Of course, the proposed Recreation Area addresses only a portion of the recreational use in the Rossland Range. It is intended to be a good fit with arrangements for managing recreation, whether public or commercial, motorized or non-motorized, throughout the area, and with future planning for a more integrated management approach. It's a piece of the big picture, but a key piece, and a piece that is increasingly necessary as more and more people discover the Rossland Range.

The Recreation Area proposal sets out a vision for our mountain "backyard," the understanding that users and stakeholders have come to about how to look after it, and a work plan. All it needs is government approval to make it official.

Unfortunately, it takes considerable time for an application like this to make its way through the various government agencies, so it will be a while before we hear if the Recreation Area has received provincial approval.

However, while we wait for official recognition, the Recreation Area proposal can be treated as a "handshake agreement" among Rossland Range users, and looked to for guidance.

The Recreation Area proposal gives much positive, common-sense direction on things like looking after the day-use huts, good relationships between motorized and non-motorized users, working effectively with the forest tenure holder and commercial tenure holders, and generally being responsible for the places in the Rossland Range high country enjoyed by so many people.

The Friends of the Rossland Range invite everyone to read the Nancy Greene Highlands Recreation Area proposal, and to think about how you can help carry forward its spirit and intent.

You can see the proposal at [www.rosslandrange.org](http://www.rosslandrange.org), or call our representative, Les Carter at 250-362-5677 for a copy.