

BRIEF HISTORY SUMMARY From 2004

From ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES from 2004 to 2019

Prior to 2004, FoRRS participated in public consultations for the major Red Resort Master Plan. The summary deals only with FoRRS activities beginning in 2003 that have led to the Rossland Range Rec Site.

It is based on Annual General Meeting Minutes beginning in November 2004.

Up to 2003, over a period of about 20 years about 14 unauthorized, rustic shelters (typically plastic covered A-frames on poles, with dirt floors) were built in and around the Old Glory Alpine Area (OGAA). This was done by about 30 to 40 individuals, loosely connected by their interest in this open, back-country terrain.

Gradually, and in growing numbers the public became aware of, and began to use the shelters (all were open to the public) with the associated trails and logging roads.

Then, about 2002, Big Red Cats applied for a commercial, motorized (snow-cat skiing) tenure in the heart of the OGAA – their “Application #1”. The community opposed this very strongly which led to FoRRS hosting an overflow meeting at the Miner’s Hall in December 2003. The meeting demanded that FoRRS advocate strongly for public recreation in the OGAA beginning by challenging the Big Red Cats Application #1.

Big Red Cats withdrew their “Application #1” and submitted (by 2004) its “Application #2” located in the ‘back-of-Crowe’ - Neptune - Mackie alpine area.

(Since 2004, Big Red Cats have been strong a supporter of FoRRS efforts and the Rec Site in the OGAA).

FoRRS – Beginning in 2004:

November 2004:

FoRRS’ first Annual General Meeting dealing with the ‘Rec Site’.

Key items: support Big Red Cats “Application #2” and seek non-motorized status for OGAA.

During the next 8 years from 2004 to 2012:

FoRRS acted vigorously seeking to secure and upgrade public recreation in the OGAA. FoRRS placed strong emphasis on being connected effectively with the community throughout. Numerous events and activities were undertaken by FoRRS.

FoRRS benefitted from the strong community interest by having a very able and enthusiastic group of volunteers as Board members and active supporters. Twenty-six individuals served as Board - listed below in this summary.

A good Website, www.rosslandrange.org was established.

FoRRS sought by every means possible to gain Provincial formal recognition for the significant, and increasing public recreation in the OGAA (provincial Crown Lands).

The ‘means’ included countless written appeals to Provincial ministers and staff and a substantial, formal application for a community recreation tenure. The latter was rejected as lacking sufficient commercial content – not a fit with their program criteria. These efforts were strongly supported by regional local governments, tourism, industry and organizations.

An important positive factor was support from ATCO, the logging tenure holder - unusual in B.C. However, the primary driving force - clearly understood by the Province - was the high, and increasing public recreation in the OGAA (attracted by the unauthorized/illegal shelters). Parking became a major safety concern – many cars parked along the highway with children and dogs on the traveled surface. Elsewhere in BC, many unauthorized shelters were removed by the Province. However, the Province did not take this step with any of the many shelters in the OGAA, presumably due to the high public usage and broad regional support communicated to them “ad nauseum” by FoRRS and others.

FoRRS worked continuously for more parking and snowplowing. Emcon, the Highways contractor built a paved parking lot at Strawberry Pass as a voluntary contribution to the community. FoRRS pressed Highways for additional parking in the Pit area but could not get permission for this.

FoRRS believed most Provincial staffers understood the situation and were sympathetic to FoRRS requests for formal recognition of public recreation in the OGAA. However, in response to FoRRS asking “OK – what can we do?” - they did not have an answer.

2012:

Finally, in 2012 FoRRS received the first positive response from the Province.

The Rec Sites & Trails BC branch (Justin Dexter) in Nelson suggested that FoRRS apply for a “Rec Site”.

This came with an important proviso – the associated Management Plan be developed through a demonstrably extensive consultative process with the community.

Once a Management Plan was accepted by RS&T BC, a Partnership Agreement between RS&T BC and FoRRS for ongoing operations of a Rec Site could be negotiated.

2013 & 2014:

Director Les Carter led a major consultation process. Many public meetings and workshops were held with community members attending in large numbers. The high level of community interest and support was clearly demonstrated.

A Management Plan was achieved and accepted.

Subsequently, a Partnership Agreement was accomplished.

The boundaries of the Rec Site were largely the old Nancy Greene Recreation Area (which had been re-classified as the Nancy Greene Highland Forest) excluding the Red Resort tenure area, of course.

The Rec Site area was roughly all of the Rossland Range lands between the commercial Red Resort tenure, and the Big Red Cats commercial (sno-cat skiing) tenure.

2015:

Management Plan was approved.

FoRRS & RS&T BC entered into a 20-year Partnership Agreement.

!! Rec Site established !!

Key elements of the Management Plan:

- 14 old shelters to be demolished;
- 9 new, day-use cabins (later increased to 10) distributed in specific locations(considered safety ‘shelters’ by RS&T BC);
- new cabins to be modest in size, above-ground, rodent-proof, insulated, good stoves, etc.; and the Old Glory Forestry lookout to be restored;

(Note:

FoRRS was surprised, and pleased with this outcome - especially, the high number of cabins (unheard of in B.C.) and the large area of the Rec Site.

FoRRS believes this occurred due to the high community use, and particularly this use being a broad demographic - from families, to experienced alpine enthusiasts. Also, the proven community support during the final stage when Management Plan details were being established encouraged the Province to “go big”.

2015 to 2019:

Major development of the Rec Site by FoRRS.

- Seven new cabins built (Lepsoe Basin, Viewpoint, Mosquito, Sunspot, Chimo, Booty's & Eagle's Nest); plus, Red Dog (upgraded) was continued;
- Demolitions and clean-ups of the old shelters;
- Major restoration of Old Glory Forestry Lookout;
- Trail-head kiosks and signage;
- Parking lot with driveway in old Pit (finally, was permitted - at FoRR's cost).

Funding & Volunteer Contributions:

\$450,000 cash from a Canada 150 grant, CBT, Kootenay Mountaineering Club, 3 large individual donations (for 3 new cabins & Old Glory lookout), RS&T BC and others.

And very importantly, community volunteer efforts were enormous to build cabins and renovate the Old Glory Lookout, to oversee construction of trails and thinning for down-skiing routes and to fund-raise. These 'in-kind' contribution can be valued to be at least equal to the cash expenditures of \$450,000.

Total Rec Site asset value: in the order of \$1 million.

A list of lead volunteers is included in this summary (at risk of omitting many individuals who also contributed greatly on behalf of our community).

FoRRS – Constitution, Bylaws & Events:

2004: 7 Directors

2009: Constitution revised – expanded.

2015: Bylaws revised – 'house-keeping' items; plus, Board expanded up to 11 members.

2016: Constitution revised at request of Revenue Canada, Charities Directorate. This revision to remove perception that FoRRS was a 'political lobby group'.

2017: Charitable Status: Gained. Effective January 1st, 2017

View of Province – RS&T BC Staff on Tour in Rec Site During February 2020:

FoRRS joined a RS&T BC staff group from southern B and Victoria, and shared in their conversations over a two- hour tour to the Eagle's Nest Cabin.

- Rec Site is unique in BC with its many day-use, destination cabins;
- enabled, to great extent by the good fortune of having an exceptional scope of terrain adjacent to a provincial highway – rare, maybe non-existent elsewhere in BC;
- Province very impressed by the number of visits (estimated at 15,000 annually,) and the broad demographics - especially 'families' (people who don't normally get out into the alpine lands);
- Nelson office emphasized how the community (through FoRRS) does almost all fund-raising and management – very modest demands on RS&T BC staff and finances; and
- Rec Site is a 'poster-child' for RS&T BC – presentations have been made in Victoria.

FoRRS

DIRECTORS (2004 to 2019)

(As of date of AGM's)

- 2004: Kim Deane, Cindy Hall, Ken Holmes, Bridget O'Malley, Stewart Spooner Brian Steeves & Barry Williscroft
- 2005: Kim Deane, Ari Gore, Ken Holmes, Richie Mann, Sheree Sonfield, Stewart Spooner & Brian Steeves
- 2006: Les Carter, Kim Deane, Ken Holmes, Richie Mann, Sheree Sonfield, Stewart Spooner & Brian Steeves
- 2007: Les Carter, Kim Deane, Cindy Hall, Richie Mann, Sheree Sonfield, Stewart Spooner & Brian Steeves
- 2008: Bob Bechaud, Les Carter, Jen Coleshill, Kim Deane, Pat Hinds, Richie Mann, & Stewart Spooner
- 2009: Bob Bechaud, Les Carter, Jen Coleshill, Kim Deane, Pat Hinds, Stewart Spooner & Gary Westbury
- 2010: Bob Bechaud, Les Carter, Jen Coleshill, Kim Deane, Rejean Paquin, Stewart Spooner & Gary Westbury
- 2011: - ditto 2010 –
- 2012: - ditto 2010 –
- 2013: - ditto 2010 –
- 2014: Bob Bechaud, Les Carter, Troy Colautti, Jen Coleshill, Kim Deane, Rejean Paquin & Stewart Spooner
- 2015: Colin Adamson, Max Bankes, Bob Bechaud, Les Carter, Troy Colautti, Jen Coleshill, Kim Deane, Gerry Heacock, Rejean Paquin & Stewart Spooner
- 2016: Colin Adamson, Bob Bechaud, Les Carter, Troy Colautti, Kim Deane, Larry Doell, Gerry Heacock, Demitri Lesniewicz, Laura Mackay, Rob Richardson & Stewart Spooner
- 2017: - ditto 2016 -
- 2018: - ditto 2016 –
- 2019: Bob Bechaud, Les Carter, Troy Colautti, Kim Deane, Larry Doell, Gerry Heacock, Demitri Lesniewicz, Laura Mackay, Rob Richardson, Stewart Spooner & Don Vockeroth

FoRRS LEAD VOLUNTEERS & SITE CONTRACTORS (2004 to 2019)

(Supported by countless additional volunteers who put hours of skilled work into the Rec Site)

Lepsoe Basin Cabin	Kootenay Mountaineering Club	Bob McQueen, Dave Watson
Viewpoint Cabin	Rob Richardson	
Mosquito Cabin	Don Liszt, Laura MacKay	
Red Dog Cabin	Don Vockeroth	
Sunspot Cabin	Larry Doell	
Chimo Cabin	44 Engineer Squadron	Bart Fyffe, Derrick Horney
Booty's Cabin	Troy Colautti, Rob Richardson	
Eagle's Nest Cabin	Rob Richardson	
Igloo Cabin	Pete Kintoff	
Crowe's Nest Cabin	Les Carter	
Old Glory Lookout Renovation	Demitri Lesniewicz	
Website	Sheree Sonfield	
FoRRS Admin & Fund-Raising	Kim Deane	
Trail Building (contract)	Rod Newton	
Thinning (contract)	Chris DeRosa	
Snow-plowing (contract)	Lyle Simms	

Prepared by Kim Deane
May 7th, 2020