

FRIENDS OF THE ROSSLAND RANGE
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March 22, 2004

Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Sustainable Resource Management
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Dear Honourable Minister:

**Re: Friends of the Rossland Range
Old Glory Alpine Area
Protection for Non-Motorized Status**

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of the Rossland Range Society in Rossland (with its nearly 200 members).

The Rossland Range forms the skyline west of Rossland, Trail and Castlegar with alpine lands roughly 50,000 hectares in area. It has unique, easy access off Hwy 3B and the Rossland Cascade Road. It is the watershed for the City of Rossland and contains the Red Resorts ski area. It provides winter touring on skis and snowshoes, snowmobiling, hiking, biking and horse-back riding and is important habitat for wildlife.

The Friends of the Rossland Range seek sharing of these lands among the commercial and non-commercial, motorized and non-motorized and watershed and logging uses, with full consideration of environment and natural values. All of these uses and values are valuable components of the Rossland region lifestyle that is attracting new people and major new investments to the area.

Specifically, the Friends of the Rossland Range are advocating for (the traditional) non-motorized status for the historic and highly valued Old Glory Alpine, an area of about 5,000 hectares. This is only about 10% of the Rossland Range, most of which is otherwise open to, or designated for, motorized activity.

The Old Glory Alpine Area is at the north end of the former Nancy Greene Recreation Area, which protected status was lost in 1995. Since then, we have seen two commercial cat-skiing tenure applications for the area. Local communities expressed vehement opposition to the cat-skiing proposals and strong support for non-motorized status. Both applications were ultimately withdrawn by their proponents.

The Province has supported protection of this limited area for non-motorized activity, as indicated by the efforts of former MLA & Minister of State for Resort Development Sandy Santori, and his Executive Assistant Jake McEwan. They expected an overall land

review for the West Kootenay area would resolve the matter. However, this has been delayed repeatedly over the last few years. To expedite matters, for the circumstances near Rossland, a specific local review through your Nelson office (Ken Gorsline) was proposed. Planning was intended to be started this winter, but we now understand it is delayed due to lack of funding.

Needles to say, this is frustrating with the passage of years and no progress. We ask for your support for protection of the Old Glory Alpine Area and that you take action toward both short and long-term resolutions.

I have attached a briefing note (5 pages) to provide more information, and the reasons and justifications underpinning the objectives of the Friends of the Rossland Range.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Yours truly,

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