

Reference: 39258

MAY - 5 2005

Kim Deane, Director
Friends of the Rossland Range
PO Box 701
Rossland BC V0G 1Y0

Dear Mr. Deane:

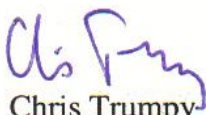
Thank you for your letters of March 22, and April 1, 2005, to the Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM), regarding your society's concerns for recreational use in the Rossland Range. I am responding on behalf of Minister Abbott.

As you have noted, the Rossland Range contains a variety of resource values important to a cross section of users. I appreciate that you recognize the importance of sharing the lands among all users. Your letter points out that most of the area of your concern already has legal designation, with non-motorized objectives, as a Ministry of Forests Recreation Site and two Recreation Trails. I have been assured by Lands and Water BC (LWBC) that these objectives will be followed in their adjudication of any commercial recreation tenure applications, to determine appropriate and compatible uses. I suggest that you contact the Arrow-Boundary Forest District office to determine any intended direction on their part in the Rossland Range.

A Tourism Opportunity Study of the Bonnington Range, which includes the Rossland Range, was previously completed by MSRM. This study identified suitable areas for both motorized and non-motorized activities. LWBC also assures me that they refer to and consider this information and other MSRM plans to guide them in their decision-making.

As noted in your letter of March 22, 2005, the MSRM Nelson office has considered undertaking a recreation access plan for the Rossland Range to assist in addressing conflicts between commercial and public recreation. I have been advised that initial work is being done to gather information and develop a terms of reference for this plan. Your letters have been provided to our regional office and I suggest you call Steve Flett, Nelson Team Leader, at (250) 354-6379 if you would like to discuss this further.

Yours truly,



Chris Trumpy
Deputy Minister

pc: Steve Flett, Nelson Team Leader