



Ref: 9475

November 28, 2005

Ms. Katrine Conroy, MLA
West Kootenay-Boundary
2 - 1006 3rd Street
Castlegar, BC V1N 3X6

*Since you are aware
of this - but I'm
just trying to erect
some public signage
to help the cause!*

Dear Ms. Conroy:

Thank you for your letter regarding the issue of motorcycle use on the Seven Summits Trail (Trail) as raised by your constituent, Mr. Doug Brandvold. Since forest recreation sites and trails are now the responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts, your letter has been forwarded to me for response.

The Seven Summits Trail is part of the provincial recreation site and trail system, and is currently managed for non-motorized use only. Motorized use of the Trail is unauthorized and should be reported so that appropriate action may be taken. I would encourage Mr. Brandvold to report the incident to the Trails Society and Mr. Dan Reibin, District Recreation Manager, at 250 365-8600. Mr. Reibin will assess the situation and determine if additional signage and/or compliance and enforcement action is necessary.

British Columbia currently has no requirement for mandatory registration and/or licensing of off road vehicles (ORVs), except a one-time registration for snowmobiles. To address this issue, government is developing an ORV management strategy for British Columbia. The ORV - Interagency Policy Committee, comprised of representatives from seven different provincial agencies, is coordinating development of the provincial ORV management strategy.

A major partner in the development of the ORV management strategy is the Coalition for Licensing and Registration of Off Road Vehicles (Coalition). This organization is a broad-based alliance of conservation organizations, recreation groups, ORV and snowmobile clubs, ranchers and farmers. The goal of the Coalition is to provide government with a cost-effective and sustainable solution for the licensing and registration of ORVs in British Columbia, and to recommend a framework for an effective ORV management strategy.

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The ORV – Interagency Policy Committee is reviewing the Coalition's recommendations and liaising with other stakeholders before submitting a final proposal for the provincial ORV management strategy to senior government officials. I am hopeful that the process underway will result in an effective management strategy which will ensure that incidents such as the one reported by Mr. Brandvold become much less common in British Columbia.

Thank you, again, for your letter and for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours truly,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Olga Ilich
Minister

pc: Honourable Kevin Falcon, Minister of Transportation

Mr. Dan Reibin, Recreation Officer, Arrow Boundary/Kootenay Lake District

Mr. Doug Brandvold

Kootenay Columbia Trails Society

Trails BC