

Dear Community Member:

We invite you to join with the Friends of the Rossland Range and others in asking the provincial government to make a comprehensive, community-based plan for recreation in the Rossland Range.

Over the past several years, the Friends of the Rossland Range have worked to ensure all natural and recreation values in the Rossland Range and adjacent areas are properly managed. We helped create the new Red Mountain Resort Master Plan which has allowed the ski hill development to proceed while accommodating various community interests. We were also able to guide the cat-skiing tenure process in ways that appear to have been of benefit to both the operator and community recreation users.

These successes point to a need for a comprehensive plan for more of the Rossland Range and adjacent areas. Our objective is to develop a plan that reflects the needs of all concerned, and provides certainty both for the public and for those whose businesses depend, either directly or indirectly, on keeping the Rossland Range healthy, appealing, and accessible.

For several years, we have urged the provincial government to undertake such planning. Each time, when there appeared to be some progress, the drive and initiative were lost due to government reorganizations and staff changes. Currently, there seems to be no-one within government with instructions to take on this initiative.

Thus, we propose that our community take the lead to make such planning a reality. We seek your participation as a key player.

At this point, what we need is a letter from you supporting a community-based planning process for the Rossland Range.

We plan to collect your letter and present it, along with many other letters of support, to both local and provincial government when we make our submission proposing a community-based planning process.

If you would like to lend us your assistance, please write a letter addressed to the Premier and Executive Council (Cabinet) expressing your support for a community-based recreation plan for the Rossland Range. You may use your own words, or you may wish to use the attached draft letter as a guide.

We can provide the sample letter as a Word document if that would be useful. You may also wish to comment more extensively on how the natural and recreational qualities of the Rossland Range add value to your personal experience, your community, or your business.

If you let us know when your letter is ready, we will arrange to pick it up and include it in our submission.

In our role as advocates for the planning process, we are not presently taking a position on what direction the plan should take, or what its geographical scope should be. Those are both, of course, matters to be addressed in the course of planning.

We hope that, with your support, government will see the value of a community-based plan for recreation in the Rossland Range, and will either task government staff or allocate resources to fund an independent facilitator. In any event, the Friends of the Rossland Range will continue to shepherd the process, and will ensure that you are invited to participate.

We would be happy to discuss this with you, and to answer any questions you may have. Please let me know if you are interested in meeting, or you may also contact me by phone (362-5648) or e-mail (kdeane@shaw.ca).

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Kim Deane
Chair, Friends of the Rossland Range Society