

**Friends of the Rossland Range (FoRR)**  
**PO Box 701, Rossland, B.C. V0G 1Y0**  
www.rosslandrange.org

The City of Rossland  
Box 1179  
Rossland, BC V0G 1Y0

February 8, 2008

Attention: Mayor and Council

**Re: Support by the City of Rossland (City) for a Community-Based, Multi-Stakeholder Planning Process (Planning) for Recreation in the Rossland Range.**

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of the Rossland Range (FoRR) to seek support, in the form of a letter to the Premier and Cabinet (we have attached a draft which you may find helpful), in accordance with the concepts that:

- 1) Lands beyond Rossland in all directions are of great importance to the City and the region;
- 2) Currently, there is effective user sharing of these lands: eg recreation (motorized & non-motorized), commercial, industrial, Rossland watershed, and ecological values;
- 3) Currently, the BC Gov't land classifications do not recognize all the existing shared uses;
- 4) A BC Gov't higher level plan would benefit the City and the region;
- 5) The above is especially true given the rapid land development in the area;
- 6) There is community and stakeholder support for this proposed Planning, evidenced by 20 letters written from a variety of stakeholders and the community;

FoRR advocates a fair, open process within which the FoRR intends to seek that the historic and current non-motorized recreation uses in the Old Glory Alpine and Nancy Greene Summit areas be recognized. We believe the proposed Planning is the best approach to meet the interests of all users, the community and the region.

FoRR intends to seek similar support from all regional municipal entities (Greater Trail, RDKB, Castlegar, Grand Forks, Nelson and the RDCK).

For more information see the Appendix attached or call Kim Deane at 362-5648.

FoRR is scheduled to attend the City Council Meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Thank you for your consideration.

Friends of the Rossland Range Directors

Les Carter	Kim Deane	Cindy Hall	Richie Mann
Sheree Sonfield	Stewart Spooner		Brian Steeves

## APPENDIX

The FoRR are focused on the large, open lands extending away from Rossland in all directions of the compass – most of these being BCGov't Crown Land. The geographical extent of the interest of the FoRR is not specifically defined. To the fullest, it might be bounded by the US border on the south, the old Kettle Valley Railway on the north, the Columbia River to the east and the Christina Lake valley to the west.

These lands have high value for the entire West Kootenay region, both for residents and visitors, due to the terrain, the natural values and the recreation opportunities they provide. The access to the Nancy Greene Summit, Nancy Greene Lake and Paulson areas is exceptional and unique. One can reach alpine backcountry at 1500m (5000 foot) elevation on paved provincial highways by relatively short drives from Greater Trail, Castlegar, Grand Forks and Nelson.

The recreation and other values the lands support are vital components of the lifestyle and amenities that we enjoy, and that attract visitors and investors to the West Kootenay region.

### Recreation includes:

Motorized: south of Rossland, east of Highway#3B, and north of Highway#3

Non-Motorized: Old Glory Alpine & at Nancy Greene Summit – with “warming hutches” (begun by Booty & so-named by Cookie Lecluse)

Commercial: Red Resorts Ski Area Big Red Cats Snocat Skiing

Cross-Country: Black Jack Nordic XC

Nancy Greene Lake Park

Equestrian activities and informal cabins throughout the entire area

Economic Activity: primarily forestry - Atco, Beaumont, Jones Poles & Ties and others.

Rossland Watershed: comprises a portion of the lands.

Natural & Ecological Values: significant - all other uses must be balanced with these.

We have a history of using this “Backyard” with generally good regard for the values and wishes of others in the community. Over the years, many groups have built the special sharing circumstances that prevail today. However, there is increasing pressure due to rapid land development in the region. The special sharing may well be lost or diminished in future if we rely on the normal course of events. Fullest benefits will be realized only if the entire regional community exercises leadership. The FoRR wish to foster such broad leadership through the proposed Planning.

Our concern is that the BCGov't does not formally recognize many of the shared uses and values associated with these lands. To address this concern, the FoRR and others have been encouraging the BCGov't to lead a Planning process. This, to balance all the values and to establish more secure land status.

We hope the result of the Planning will be a provincial Higher Level Plan to guide use and tenure decisions in accordance with the consensus wishes of those who share its recreational and other amenities.

The FoRR asks the City to provide a letter of support, requesting resources and facilitation from the appropriate provincial Ministries, for the Planning. We feel it is important to have support from all regional municipalities including the other Greater Trail communities, the RDKB, Castlegar, Grand Forks, Nelson and the RDCK. We intend to approach all of these.

Rossland is a uniquely important stakeholder, because many of the key areas are within City boundaries. These include important community watersheds which could be impacted by intensified recreational use. And, they include the “heart” of the Old Glory Alpine area. Most of the lands are within RDKB Area B, with those further west being within RDKB Area C and those further north being within the RDCK.

In making this request, the FoRR advocates a fair, open process, with the intention of seeking, within this process, that the historic and current non-motorized recreation in the Old Glory Alpine and Nancy Greene Summit areas will be formalized. We believe the lands have the scope to meet the reasonable wishes of all user groups, and we believe the proposed Planning is the best approach to address the needs of all user groups to the overall benefit of the community and the region. We are not proposing firm geographic boundaries for the Planning. These should arise from the process – a big enough area to accommodate all interests; a small enough area to make management sense.

We have approached stakeholders, businesses and individuals in Rossland and have received many expressions of support including the major forest tenure-holders, Atco Timber and Beaumont Timber, as well as Red Resorts, Big Red Cats, Redstone and many local accommodators and other businesses. We can provide letters of support for your information. However, we consider the support of the City, as the elected representatives of the whole community, to be crucial toward convincing the BCGov’t to act.

For your assistance, we have also attached a draft letter from the City to the Premier and Cabinet, which supports the Planning.

With municipal letters of support in hand, the FoRR intend to convey our proposal directly to the Premier, and the appropriate Ministries, as soon as possible.

The region has an opportunity, before these lands become over-committed, to capture our valuable history of shared use, give more certainty to all, and ensure that the sense of community, that our residents, visitors and investors find so attractive, continues in the future.