

Reference 165946

Gary Townsend  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands  
PO Box 9352  
Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9M1

October 2, 2009

Dear Mr. Townsend:

**Re: Recreation Planning Process for the Rossland Range**

Thank you for your letter in response to our letter of February 25, 2009 regarding a community-based comprehensive recreation planning process for the Rossland Range.

We are pleased to note that our request for a comprehensive planning process is being considered by your Ministry. The Friends of the Rossland Range, and the key stakeholders and communities, continue to be committed to the creation of a recreation plan for the Rossland Range, and would like to encourage you to identify this as a priority in your Ministry's goals for the coming year.

As we have pointed out previously, we believe planning in the Rossland Range has the potential to capture the existing positive relationships and history in this area and give them a formal "home" while there is still sufficient flexibility in the landscape. We appreciate your Ministry's need to address conflict "hot spots;" however we hope you will also find the idea of a potential "win" appealing.

The key players, including Red Mountain Resort, the forest tenure holder, Atco Forest Products, and the major commercial backcountry tenure holder, Big Red Cats, are highly supportive of the creation of a plan. Apart from the simple "good practice" value of a sound plan, many of our tourism stakeholders realize the economic value of having a natural "backyard" to which we can bring visitors in an environment free of conflict and managed in a culture of community goodwill. (Visitors to Rossland often comment that the community feels friendly, and that they are willing to visit because of that feeling.)

As well, over the past couple of years, the City of Rossland has taken its citizens through a consultative process leading to the creation of a strategic sustainability plan and revised Official Community Plan. That process has led to two realizations: First, the community's interests and concerns do not stop at the City boundary; there is a clear need to think and plan more broadly. Second, Rossland is fortunate to have a large number of citizens who understand the value of consultative and collaborative planning, and who are willing to participate with commitment and good faith.

Again, we encourage you to place our planning process in the Ministry's work plan for the near future.

If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (250) 362-5677 or retrac01@telus.net, or our President, Kim Deane at (250) 362-5648 or kdeane@shaw.ca.

Yours truly,

Les Carter  
Director, Friends of the Rossland Range Society