

Friends of the Rossland Range

PO Box 701, Rossland, BC V0G 1Y0

www.rosslandrange.org

Mayor Greg Granstrom and Councillors
Corporation of the City of Rossland
Box 1179
Rossland, BC V0G 1Y0

April 8, 2010

Dear Mayor Granstrom and Councilors:

Re: Community process to create proposal for Designated Recreation Area tenure for Rossland Range high country – City of Rossland participation in creating tenure proposal.

As you are likely aware, the Friends of the Rossland Range Society has been working for several years to have a comprehensive recreation plan for the Rossland Range created by the provincial government. So far, we have had no success, in spite of strong community support and the support of provincial staff. (The City of Rossland has provided a letter supporting a planning process.)

In order to provide some level of protection and management for the key high-use areas of the Rossland Range in the absence of a comprehensive plan, we have decided to apply for a tenure, known as a Designated Recreation Area, under S. 57 of the Forest and Range Management Act. This tenure is like those held by the Castlegar Nordics ski club for their trails and huts at the Paulson summit, and the Kootenay Mountaineering Club for their chain of huts in the Bonnington Range.

The attached map indicates the approximate area we are considering for the tenure. We note that a significant portion of the area under consideration is within Rossland's boundaries.

The provincial government's Integrated Land Management Branch is the lead agency in creating the kind of comprehensive plan we have been seeking. The regional staff person for the Integrated Land Management Branch is supportive of our tenure application process, as is the local District Recreation Officer with the Ministry of Tourism, another key player in tenure approval.

In fact, the tenure is a way of taking community control of many of the issues that would need to be addressed in a more comprehensive plan. We are writing the proposal through a process of public consultation and review, similar to the kind of process that led to Rossland's new OCP, so that the final document will be a clear reflection of the community's will. In other words, we intend the proposal, and eventually the tenure and its management plan, to belong to the community, not just to FORRS.

(Attached is the questionnaire we are using to facilitate community and stakeholder input to the tenure proposal.)

We believe the City of Rossland has a key role to play in creating the tenure, and would like to invite the City to participate in the process of writing the proposal, and to support our application. We ask City Council and Staff to assist in the following ways:

- 1. Participate in the process of writing the proposal, so that it reflects the City's concerns and goals, and can be given official City support.**
- 2. Recognize the tenure as an extension of, or complementary to, the policy goals in Rossland's OPC.**
- 3. Support our application to the Ministry of Forests, either as a joint applicant or by way of a letter of support.**
- 4. Provide use of the Miners' Hall on the evening of May 20 for a workshop to obtain community advice on the important issues to be addressed in the tenure proposal.**
- 5. Consider using Rossland's OCP and zoning powers to help implement the tenure and its management plan.**

If you have any questions about the tenure proposal, or our requests to City Council, please do not hesitate to contact me at (250) 362-5648, or if I am unavailable, the FORRS directors leading this project, Les Carter (250) 362-5677, and Bob Bechaud (250) 362-7419.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours truly,



Kim Deane

Chair, Friends of the Rossland Range

Encl:

- Map of tenure area
- Community consultation questionnaire