

January 27 2011

Friends of the Rosland Range
PO Box 701, Rosland BC
VOG 1Y0

Dear Ms. Vogel,

Thank you for your letter dated November 4, 2010 enquiring about the standards and protocols the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has in place to safeguard the Strawberry Flats wetland which is adjacent to a Ministry gravel pit (Strawberry Pit).

The Ministry develops, works and reclaims pits in conjunction with all applicable British Columbia Acts & Regulations. In particular, the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations "Health Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia 2008", the "Reclamation and Environmental Protection Handbook for Sand, Gravel and Quarry Operations in British Columbia" and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure "Gravel Managers Handbook". For your convenience, I have attached one of the available links that can be found online: <http://www.empr.gov.bc.ca/MINING/HEALTHANDSAFETY/Pages/HSRC.aspx>.

Strawberry Pit has been a very valuable asset to the Ministry over the years as it has been a great source of aggregate for the production of winter sand for the highways in this area. Although the aggregate supply is now getting close to being depleted, it continues to play a vital role in our winter operations as it is a strategic winter sand storage and reload site for winter maintenance services.

As we are in the very early stages of developing a progressive reclamation plan for this site, I would ask if you could contact Darrell Gunn, the local Ministry's Road Area Manager in Trail, with your concerns. It would be most helpful if you could supply Mr. Gunn with any information with respect to habitat location, habitat requirements or special reclamation methods that could benefit the wetland area. It would be great if we could identify opportunities where we can not only further protect, but enhance the wetland areas for future generations. For your convenience, Mr. Gunn can be reached directly at (250)364-0742 or via email at Darrell.Gunn@gov.bc.ca.