

NEW CAT-SKIING TENURE REINFORCES NEED TO PROTECT OLD GLORY ALPINE AREA

March 30, 2005 The Province, through Land & Water BC has offered to approve 7,782 hectares of the Rossland Range for a commercial cat-skiing tenure. The original tenure request was for 18,067 hectares and included all of Mounts Crowe, Neptune and Mackie. While all details of the tenure offer are not yet known, LWBC did remove from the offer the area on Mount Crowe traditionally used for cross-country skiing, including the area where cabins are located. Additionally, traditional users such as skiers and snowmobilers will not be excluded from continued use of the area.

The Friends of the Rossland Range seek sharing of the limited alpine lands in the Rossland Range among historical users while giving full consideration to wildlife and environmental values. These uses and values are essential components of the Rossland region lifestyle, a lifestyle that is attracting new people and investment to the area while unfortunately creating development pressure on those very attributes that make the region so attractive.

Specifically, the Friends of the Rossland Range are advocating for non-motorized status for the historic and highly valued Old Glory Alpine, an area of about 5,000 hectares. This is only about 10% of the Rossland Range, most of which is otherwise open to, or designated for, motorized activity.

This new tenure offer underscores the importance of continuing work toward protection of the Old Glory Alpine. This land, at the north end of the former Nancy Greene Recreation Area lost protected status in 1995. While the Province has indicated general support for re-establishing protection, land use reviews in the West Kootenay area have been repeatedly delayed and a planned local Rossland area review has not yet begun.

“New money and new jobs are necessary for the region; but we must guard against losing what we have in the Rossland Range, what is attracting the new investment in the first place”, says Kim Deane, Director, Friends of the Rossland Range.

The Friends of the Rossland Range will continue to press for the right balance in sharing use of the Rossland Range through designation of some areas for non-motorized recreation with full consideration of natural values.

For more Old Glory Alpine information, details, membership and more visit:

www.rosslandrange.org.

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