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Regional District of  
East Kootenay



SEM Resort LP  
7777 Mission Road  
Cranbrook, BC.  
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To RDEK Board of Directors:

In recent year we and our guests have noticed an increase of motorized vessels, primarily jet boats, on the upper Kootenay tributaries, especially the lower St. Mary's river but also the upper St. Mary's river the Bull River, the Lussier River, the White River, the Skookumchuck and the Kootenay above Canal Flats. The St. Eugene Golf Resort & Casino is concerned about this for the following reasons:

- 1) Potential environmental impacts;
- 2) Safety concerns for non-motorized users
- 3) The degradation of our wild and scenic rivers and the negative impact on our business operations.

#### **Environmental Concerns**

These Kootenay tributary streams have exceptional fisheries value, and this is a major attraction for many of our guests. These streams have been identified as special by the province that has listed them as Class 2, Classified Water *"to maintain the unique fishing opportunities provided by these waters, which contribute significantly to the province's reputation as a world class fishing destination."* Classified Waters require anglers to purchase a special daily license yet despite these restrictions, anglers travel from all over the world to enjoy the excellent fishing and wilderness values the rivers offer.

In addition to angling, these rivers provide habitat corridors linking low elevation winter range to high elevation summer range. These critical corridors are often only a narrow sliver of habitat and the St. Eugene Golf Resort & Casino is worried that operating large, extremely loud vessels up the center of this sliver of habitat will compromise negatively impact sensitive wildlife populations and nesting birds including the heron rookery that resides on our property.

#### **Safety Concerns**

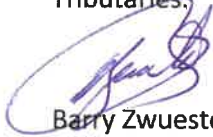
Anglers, recreational paddlers, professional raft guides and numerous guests and residents enjoy tubing, swimming, canoeing, kayaking and paddle boarding on the upper Kootenay tributaries. One thing all these users have in common is that they are floating down the river. Jet boats require a minimum speed of 35 km/h to become maneuverable, and they often travel at speeds exceeding 60 km/h. On narrow, winding rivers which are often braided this represents a serious threat to the safety of existing users.

### **Degradation of Natural Setting and Impact on Business Operations**

A major attraction for our guests is the opportunity to relax in a natural setting. The tranquility of the river is integral to experience we offer. The opportunity to camp, golf, walk, birdwatch and host events such as weddings and conferences hinge on the integrity of our rivers and the quiet experiences they afford.

Each of the tributaries to the Upper Kootenay already have roads on one or both banks with numerous bridge crossings which allow access. Motors are not required to enjoy this resource and their use on these systems reduces the natural splendor of the area and is not consistent with the experience we offer at the St. Eugene Golf Resort & Casino.

For these reasons, we recommend that the RDEK Board of Directors, support the resolution put forward by the East Kootenay River Alliance to prohibit motors on the Upper Kootenay River Tributaries.



Barry Zwueste,  
Chief Executive Officer

**RDEK No Power Boat Resolution :**  
**Presented by the East Kootenay River Alliance**

Whereas the Elk River and Moyie river presently have a motor prohibition which were put in place for safety reasons.

Whereas the use of power boats poses a severe safety risk for other non- motorized river users on all Kootenay tributaries in the East Kootenays .

Whereas powered boats only operate and maneuver affectively when they are under full power and traveling quickly which poses the safety issues.

Whereas the province of B.C. has deemed that the Classified waters of the East Kootenay are special and need special protection as stated in the fishing regulations on page 8.

“The classified waters of B.C. are highly productive trout streams. These streams are classified as either Class I or Class II and are listed in the Water-Specific Tables for each Region. The Classified Waters Licensing System was created to protect the unique fishing opportunities provided by these waters, which contribute significantly to the province’s reputation as a world-class fishing destination.”

Whereas The classified rivers of the East Kootaney – Kootenay River tributaries to be included are: St Mary River (excluding St Marys Lake) , Bull River , Shookumchuk River , and the White/Kootenay rivers above the confluence of the Kootenay-White rivers.

Whereas in addition to these rivers, the Lussier, Findlay and Wildhorse rivers also contain Native Cutthroat, Burbot and Bull trout and require protection as well and should be included in this prohibition.

Whereas powered boat usage in rivers and streams has been indentified in many Scientific studies to be detrimental to all forms of aquatic life, including aquatic insect which are killed by the pressure produced by the jet thrust and bow pressure. Juvenile fish species are also harmed as they are literally thrown out of the river ( due to power boat wash action) on to the banks because of their proximity to the shore to avoid the strong currents of the many streams.

Be it resolved that: The RDEK support the East Kootenay River Alliance to extend the motor boat ban on the Elk and Moyie rivers to the other Classified rivers of East Kootenays including St Mary River (excluding St Marys Lake) , Bull River , Shookumchuk River , and the White/Kootenay rivers above the confluence of the Kootenay-White rivers.

Be it further resolved: that the RDEK support the East Kootenay River Alliance with their expertise to holding public meetings and meet with other levels of government, provincially and federally, to achieve this goal.

Be it further resolved: That the RDEK consider the addition of the WildHorse, Lussier and Findlay rivers to this prohibition as well as these afore-mentioned streams