

## Tracy Van de Wiel

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**From:** McKay, Ariana WLRs:EX <Ariana.McKay@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** March 29, 2023 10:14 AM  
**To:** Tracy Van de Wiel  
**Subject:** RE: Last reminder: Bylaws 2313 and 2314 for review and comment - (90 lot residential subdivision near Fernie Alpine Resort - Galloway Lands)

Hey,

Thanks for passing along the report, that was helpful. If it goes forward those measures will need to be adhered to especially having an environmental monitor on site providing updated recommendations and considerations to timing of activities, and ensuring new trails/roads are not developed around the project.

Ministry of Water, Lands & Resource Stewardship does not recommend approval of the project. The project area provides valuable habitat for multiple species and is currently relatively undisturbed; this project would permanently remove functioning habitat. Development in this area would compromise habitat values and would likely displace wildlife. The adjacent areas are altered by cumulative impacts, including the ski hill, forestry, road development, and recreation. This area is likely functioning as a refuge for wildlife from surrounding human impacts. Further development is not recommended given permanent impacts of habitat loss.

Access is one of the most influential factors affecting wildlife and wildlife habitat stewardship; access is currently limited in the vicinity of the project area. Recreation, invasive plant spread, sedimentation, habitat degradation, etc. are associated with increased access. Access to surrounding undeveloped land should remain restricted to protect wildlife and habitat values from the impacts of increased access.

**Ariana McKay MSc, RPBio**

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