

March 23, 2023

BC Parks Response: RDEK Bylaw 3213 & 3214

Mount Fernie Provincial Park exists adjacent to this proposed development, as such, BC Parks appreciates the ability to comment on this referral and how its approval may impact the park and its values.

- BC Parks appreciates the efforts of the proponent to confine proposed private homesite development within the subject parcels to south of the unnamed tributary to Lizard Creek indicated on the proposal mapping.
- BC Parks supports the creation of a conservation/recreation parcel at the north end of the property and peripheral to the proposed homesite development area. Values within the proposed 94-hectare parcel are connected to and compliment both conservation and recreation values found Mount Fernie Park. With the proposed transfer and management of those lands to an appropriate conservation group, long-term protection of those lands should be secured, which will help maintain the integrity of Mount Fernie Park and its users.
- This proposal includes development of 90+ private single-family dwellings. This increase in prospective recreation use combined with the closure of existing trails within the proposed homesites area has the potential to increase recreation pressure at Mount Fernie Park. BC Parks suggests the proponent consider developing a trails strategy that integrates with surrounding lands and community recreation partners to help offset any potential recreation pressures.
- Lizard Creek is an important habitat feature and tributary to the Elk River and the Elk Valley. To ensure development occurs in the least impactful way to the creek, its access points and associated wildlife movement corridors BC Parks recommends that services of a Qualified Professional be retained to assess and mitigate impacts of the proposed development if it is approved. This is particularly important for long ranging species like ungulates and Grizzly Bears. BC Parks could provide the name of a qualified local biologist, if the proponent needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dani Money".

Dani Money
Planning Section Head, Kootenay
Kootenay Okanagan Region, BC Parks