

Request for Decision Natural Resource Operations Referral

File No: P 151 100
Reference: 539958
Date: February 24, 2020

Subject: Crown Land Section 56/57 – Hornaday Pass / Hornaday Wilderness Society
Applicant: Hornaday Wilderness Society
Agent: Bill Hanlon
Location: Hornaday Pass area, between Sparwood and Elkford
Legal: Unsurveyed Crown Land in the vicinity of Brule Creek

Proposal: Crown land application pursuant to Section 56 or 57 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)* to rehabilitate a managed trail.

Options:

1. THAT the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, be advised the RDEK supports the Hornaday Wilderness Society Crown Land application to rehabilitate a managed trail in the vicinity of Hornaday Pass.
2. THAT the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, be advised the RDEK does not support the Hornaday Wilderness Society Crown Land application to rehabilitate a managed trail in the vicinity of Hornaday Pass.

Recommendation: **Option # 1**
OCP policies support outdoor recreation opportunities that respect and protect resource values. Improvements to the trail to reduce motorized use is consistent with the areas land management plan. In August 2019, the Board passed a resolution supporting a referral for the establishment of the non-motorized Hornaday Pass trail.

Property Information: **OCP Designation:** RR, Rural Resource; includes agricultural, rural residential and rural resource land uses with parcel sizes 8.0 ha and larger. The RR designation also recognizes the use of these lands for public utility use, resource extraction, green space and recreation.

OCP Policies:

- The provision of a broad spectrum of outdoor recreation opportunities, suitable for both residents and tourists, that respect the need to protect resource values, is supported
- The Regional District encourages management of Crown land in an environmentally responsible manner which:
 - Protects surface and groundwater sources;
 - Manages forest ingrowth;
 - Minimize risk of interface fire and wildfire;
 - Enhances wildlife habitat;
 - Protects views and scenery;

- Protects watershed ecological values, including waterfowl and fish and their corresponding habitat; and,
- Maintains diverse plant communities by managing invasive plants.

Property Information - cont'd:

Zoning Designation: RR-60, Rural Resource Zone, minimum parcel size: 60 ha. Recreation reserves are a permitted use in all zones

Parcel Size: Area under application: approx. 1200 m of trail

Density: N/A

ALR Status: Not within the ALR.

BC Assessment: N/A

Water / Sewer Services: N/A

Interface Fire Hazard Rating: Low to moderate, Crown land is not serviced by RDEK fire services

Flood Hazard Rating: There are several creeks that run through the subject area. The referral states that the proposal will not impact any water features.

Crown Land Management Plans:

The Southern Rocky Mountain Management Plan designates the area as non-motorized in both snow-free months and snowbound months

Lake Management Plans:

N/A

Shoreline Management Guidelines:

N/A

Additional Information:

- The referral states that the 1,200 m of trail proposed for rehabilitation is the first 1,200 m from the east side of the trail, closest to Sparwood. This portion more closely resembles a 'road' and has seen increasing motorized use in the area. This proposal is intended to resolve those issues.
- The proposed rehabilitation work includes unbuilding the portion of trail that is double tracked with an excavator and then re-establish the single track trail by hand, which would mimic the nature of the rest of the Hornaday Pass recreation trail. The Hornaday Wilderness Society plans to revegetate the disturbed soil along the trail with a native grass seed mix and potentially some shrubs to prevent soil erosion, inhibit the spread of invasive plants and provide a positive aesthetic appearance.
- The referral states that trail maintenance will be conducted following Recreation Sites and Trails BC guidelines and that the present

trailhead signage will be moved to be visible from the Brule Creek FSR.

**Additional
Information -
cont'd:**

- The referral states that the Hornaday Wilderness Society has held the maintenance and stewardship contract with Recreation Sites and Trails BC since 2001 for the Hornaday Pass Trail and advocates for the retention of the historic wilderness values and attributes that this trail provides now and into the future.
- See attached letter.

Consultation:

APC Area A: Not supported.

**Documents
Attached:**

- Location Map
- Aerial Photo
- Letter from Referral Agency

**RDEK
Contact:**

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