

## Nikki Bradshaw

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**Subject:** FW: Reconnecting East and West Kootenay's  
**Attachments:** Proposal for Connecting East and West Kootenay.pdf

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**From:** John Bell  
**Sent:** December 1, 2025 9:22 AM  
**To:** Nikki Bradshaw <nbradshaw@rdek.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Reconnecting East and West Kootenay's

Good morning Nikki:

**Subject:** Request to Present on Kootenay Trail Network Project to RDEK Governance and Regional Services Committee/Board

**Dear RDEK Committee/Board Members,**

I am writing to request an opportunity to present on a proposed community-sourced mountain bike and e-mountain bike (eMTB) trail network connecting the East and West Kootenays via Earl Grey Pass and/or Jumbo Pass. This initiative, developed in alignment with BC Recreation Sites and Trails standards as an Authorized Trail Area, promises substantial economic, health, and cultural benefits for the region, particularly the underutilized northern Kootenay Lake area (Argenta, Lardeau, Meadow Creek). See attached Executive Summary for more information on the proposed project

**Economic Merits:** The trail will boost tourism by attracting riders to this pristine wilderness, extending the season with year-round activities like fat-tire biking. It addresses the economic gap between the two Kootenay's by stimulating lodging, dining, and services. Job creation in trail maintenance, guiding, and hospitality will counter population declines, leveraging partnerships with the Nelson Cycling Club and Columbia Valley Cycling Society. Low-cost domestic BC Hydro power enables affordable eMTB charging stations at trailheads and community hubs, enhancing accessibility and visitor dwell time without costly infrastructure upgrades.

**Health Benefits:** The network promotes inclusive physical activity, mental well-being, and community engagement, making trails accessible via eMTBs for diverse demographics.

**Cultural Uniqueness:** Integrating the historic beef trail and mining heritage, with interpretive signage and Indigenous collaboration (Ktunaxa, Sinixt, Syilx), enriches rider experiences and fosters cultural pride. This project aligns with regional strategies like the North Kootenay Lake Rural Revitalization Program and Columbia Basin Trust initiatives, ensuring sustainability and community ownership. I believe a 10-minute presentation could highlight how this trail network will drive long-term prosperity for the RDEK.

**Environmental Benefits:** This initiative capitalizes on the ability to utilize world-class low-priced, sustainable BC Hydro for e-bike charging. Establishing these trails enable crossings in 3-5 hours with zero emissions, vs. 300km, 6-hour drives around the Purcell's—slashing time and carbon footprint.

RDEK's leadership can propel this forward!

My son, Scott Bell, is a city planner having worked for both Calgary and Vancouver districts, may attend in person with me. He will be helpful for setting up the presentation material

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,  
John Bell PGeol  
President, Jumbo Resources Ltd