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July 15, 2021

Member Municipalities

Sent via email.

Re: Protection of outdoor recreation opportunities and established snowmobile Recreational Sites or Trails in B.C.

To Whom It May Concern,

District of Sicamous (DOS) Council is seeking support from fellow municipalities to support two resolutions the DOS has agreed to sponsor from the BC Snowmobile Federation (BCSF) concerning the Forest Range & Practice Act (FRPA) objectives and site-level objectives for snowmobile trails.

Currently there are 53 non-profit snowmobile organizations across the province who hold partnership agreements with Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) to maintain trails in return for operating on Crown land. Many of these non-profit organizations exist in rural communities and largely contribute to the local economies—\$299M annually according to the BCSF.

The BCSF notes that of the 11 values within the FRPA, recreation is the only value without declared objectives, and that without these declared objectives industrial licensees have no requirement to consider, consult, or coordinate activities with recreation groups who hold partnership agreements with RSTBC. Within the existing FRPA framework, recreation organizations are legally required to maintain trails without communication from industry and are not guaranteed the very trails they are responsible for managing are not disrupted by industrial forest activity.

As these resolutions address issues impacting rural communities across B.C. and a disparity within the provincial legislation of the FRPA, DOS Council endorses the resolutions presented by the BCSF and asks for support from member municipalities at the 2021 UBCM Convention.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Rysz", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mayor Terry Rysz,
DISTRICT OF SICAMOUS

Encl. Protection for Outdoor Recreation Opportunities in BC
 Protection for Established Snowmobile Recreational Sites or Trails