

**Bulkley Valley
Community Resources Board
Box 577
Smithers BC V0J 2N0**

October 2, 2008

Kevin Eskelin
Recreation Officer
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts
Bag 6000 – 3333 Tatlow Rd
Smithers BC V0J 2N0

Re: File No. REC 32385

Dear Mr Eskelin:

The Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) has attempted to review the above application from the Round Lake Community Association for consistency with the Bulkley Valley Land and Resources Management Plan (LRMP). The application is to establish new trails and facilities, include those trails and facilities in the Recreation Inventory, and obtain recreation reserve designation for a 2745 hectare area. However, the application does not include any details, including notations on the attached map, as to what is planned. At a minimum, we need to know the type and location of trails and facilities proposed in order to assess this application.

According to information sent to me by John Crooks, Provincial Recreation Officer, a recreation reserve “Refers to a map notation used to record an interest in an area (in this case an interest in an area for its recreation values). This generally occurs when a proponent requests authorization under FRPA, Section 57, to construct a recreation facility such as a recreation trail.” We cannot support assigning recreation reserve status to such a large area in the absence of basic information about the recreation facilities planned. To do so would seem to raise the priority of recreation in an area that falls within an Integrated Resource Management Zone. The objective of this zone is to “recognize a full range of resource values and activities.....No single value or activity is identified as having the highest priority for management.”

We would be happy to assess a revised application that contains the necessary information.

The BVCRB is not impressed to be presented with applications such as this that do not consider the land use decisions made by the community and clearly outlined in the LRMP. All land use applications should note how the proposal is consistent with the LRMP: The zone or sub-zone should be identified and the relevant objectives highlighted. We strongly urge you to routinely return as incomplete any proposals that do not include such information.

In response to a previous application from this proponent, we noted that their proposed trails overlapped zoned Wildlife Habitat Management Areas and requested that the Recreation Technician return the application indicating this potential conflict and asking for further details. If that was indeed done, then this proponent is aware of the LRMP and should have provided sufficient information to let us assess the present proposal without further prodding.

The LRMP was negotiated and approved based on a balance of many resource values. The BVCRB cannot support an application of this size without seeing an analysis of how it will impact the other resource values identified in the LRMP.

On another note, approval of individual recreation tenures, such as this one, in the absence of a completed Recreation Access Management Plan for the Bulkley TSA, would not constitute sound resource management

Yours truly,

Greg Storie
Chair, Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

cc: Barry Smith, District Manager, Skeena-Stikine Forest District
Tim Hoskin, Regional Manager, Ministry of Tourism Culture and the Arts, Prince George, BC