

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

August 26, 2008

Liz Williamson
Senior Land Officer
Integrated Land Management Bureau
Bag 5000, 3726 Alfred Avenue
Smithers BC V0J 2N0

Re File No. 6405671: Petursson application to build a road to access private property

Dear Ms. Williamson:

The Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (CRB) has reviewed Mr. Petursson's application to develop a road on Hudson Bay Mountain. We oppose this application because it is not compatible with the Bulkley Valley Land and Resources Management Plan (BVL RMP) in two main regards:

- 1) The area under consideration lies within the BVL RMP Special Management Zone 2 (SMZ2); Planning Sub-unit 10-2. Under the objective for this Sub-unit, the BVL RMP notes that recreation has a high priority in the area and that existing hiking trails should be maintained; access is to be restricted to non-motorized trails. This is supported in the Bulkley Valley Sustainable Resource Management Plan which states that the highest priorities in SMZ2 include public recreation and encouraging hiking opportunities and non-motorized access. It is clear that a road along an existing and well-used year-round trail would not be in accordance with the intent of the BVL RMP.
- 2) It appears from the map that the road would impact a Core Ecosystem as designated in the BVL RMP. The Core Ecosystem includes a red-listed plant community, the Saskatoon-slender wheatgrass ecosystem. Direction in the BVL RMP is that no permanent roads be developed in Core Ecosystems. The negative impacts of roads in red-listed plant communities have been noted in a report to the Ministry of Environment by S. Hauessler on sensitive plant communities of the Bulkley Valley: Fragmentation and enhanced introduction of invasive species are two significant relevant concerns.

Apparently the applicant has expressed a willingness to offset losses on Crown Land using his private land. However, offsets would not address the issues of fragmentation, damage to a listed plant community, and damage to recreational values in this area.

Similar plans for a road in this area have been rejected in the past due to concerns about damage to sensitive lands and recreational values. We do not see anything in this application that addresses those concerns.

Yours truly,

Anne Harfenist, Board Member

for

Greg Storie
Interim Chair
Bulkeley Valley Community Resources Board