



January 10, 2011

Dear Real Estate Foundation of BC grant application adjudicators:

This letter is being provided as a supplement to the application being submitted by the Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) – in enthusiastic support of the application for funding to aid in the completion of the Bulkley Valley Recreation Access Management Plan (RAMP).

Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) is a Branch of the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations (more recently this program was managed and administered under Ministry of Tourism and formerly the Ministry of Forests) and is responsible for the complete management of campsites, trails/networks, and recreation areas outside of BC Parks and settled areas. We have a very strong and vested interest in a viable RAMP in order to properly manage these resources in collaboration with public not-for-profit groups.

From this view, a completed RAMP offers: (1) better certainty to recreation users; (2) reduced conflict amongst recreation users; (3) tourism promotion; and (4) will better enable and support organized recreation groups (our Partners) in the stewardship, maintenance, and development of recreational features and amenities in the Bulkley Valley.

The lack of a completed RAMP (as mentioned in the application, there are many high-value/high-use areas that are unresolved) poses a very real risk to increasing social conflict, increasing environmental damage, and the erosion of tourism values regionally. In fact, this is just the case – we are seeing these negative trends increase each year the RAMP remains incomplete – with the additional affect of complexifying our management approach. Lasting solutions to these problems are requiring resources that are unavailable at this time to properly mitigate.

At this time of substantial budget reductions and competing priorities, the BC Government has had to step away from a leadership and funding role in the RAMP completion. RSTBC however, as mentioned, has a strong interest in the completion of this Plan, and as such I have participated in strategic planning sessions with the BVCRB to assist in positioning for the completion exercises. In terms of continued support, resources we potentially have available include meeting rooms, mapping support, miscellaneous expenses (e.g. publishing, printing, advertising costs), and a staff of two individuals for planning support. More generally, I am committed to providing support and time to be involved with this process and will be endeavoring to aid the BVCRB in covering those costs which are relevant and affordable, and aiding in leveraging additional funds wherever possible.

Sincere thanks, for your time and careful consideration of this important application.

Kevin Eskelin, RFT
District Recreation Officer
Nadina-Skeena Recreation District
Recreation Sites & Trails Branch