



File: 6405671 (permit # 636227)

April 22, 2021

Ted Vander Wart, on behalf of the Bulkley Community Resource Board
Via email: info@bvcrb.ca

Re: Non-Motorized Seymour Ridge

Dear Ted Vander Wart,

This letter has been prepared regarding your request to restrict access on the public road on Seymour Ridge to authorized use. As I understand it, the rationale for this request is to mitigate further disturbance from firewood cutters and associated motorized use to the affected CORE Ecosystem¹ and Seymour Ridge hiking trails.

For reference, the road in question was constructed to access private land under a Temporary Use Permit (# 636227) issued on March 5th, 2011 and terminated 10 years later (March 5th, 2021). I have reviewed the permit details and associated management plan which clarify that access *was not* to be restricted except as required to allow for subgrade set-up. It is possible that the gate remained in place for longer than required after road construction (subgrade set-up), as opposed to remaining in place to align with the (non-legal) non-motorized designation of the trails (as you indicated in your letter).

Access restrictions require a legal framework to authorize closures to the public. Currently, there is no legal avenue to restrict the public from using the road in question. The points below validate this statement and echo some of the issues raised in your letter:

- The Bulkley LRMP does not explicitly restrict motorized access in Core Ecosystems.
- The original Bulkley Recreation Access Management Plan (RAMP) does not refer to this specific geographic area.
- The 2013 Summer RAMP recommended non-motorized designation for the Seymour Ridge hiking trails; although this did not result in a legal designation.

Currently, there does not appear to be substantial evidence or concern that motorized traffic is using the trails but rather that motorized traffic is accessing firewood adjacent to the trails. In the past, educational signage has been used to address similar issues of disturbance in Core Ecosystems. The Skeena Stikine Natural Resource District (DSS) and Recreation Sites and Trails foresees collaborating with the Bulkley Valley Backpackers and/ or the Bulkley Valley

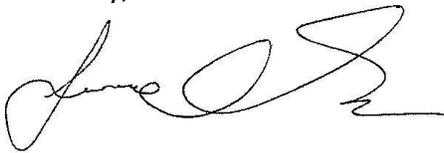
¹ A land-use objective set by Government in the [Bulkley Land and Resource Management Plan](#).

Community Resources Board on developing public signage to address this issue at the same time as the wildfire risk reduction works are undertaken in this area.

Further to the issue of firewood cutting in Core Ecosystems, the district office is in the process of updating the mapping associated with firewood cutting permits to specifically exclude Core Ecosystems and Landscape Corridors as identified in the Bulkley LRMP. In the immediate term, if you are concerned about firewood cutting in the Core Ecosystem, pursuing a complaint with Natural Resources Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) Branch is the appropriate avenue. A complaint can be made online at the following link: [Natural Resource Compliance and Enforcement Reporting](#).

If you have any additional concerns or questions please contact Merle Crombie by phone 250-876-7029 or by email merle.crombie@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,



Jevan Hanchard
District Manager

CC'd: Brandy Hughes, District Recreation Officer, Nadina-Skeena Stikine District
Cam Bentley, Resource Operations Manager, Skeena Stikine Natural Resource District
Merle Crombie, Ecosystems Biologist, Skeena Region

