



Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board, BVCRB

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Jeff McKay, Former BVCRB Chair, SMBA Director At Large

Lee Boland, President SMBA

Jan Wengelin, Executive Director

Nov. 16, 2024

Dear Mr. Van Varseveld,

We are writing to express our appreciation of your presentation and attendance at the BV CRB Board meeting on September 16, 2024. Hudson Bay Mountain is a community jewel and this special management zone requires community consultation and the respectful consideration of existing land use management plans. As a community member, the SMBA should understand the significance of local land use planning in promoting sustainable development and preserving the unique character of our region.

Local land use planning serves as a foundational framework that balances ecological integrity, economic vitality, and community well-being. It is crucial that we honour the existing land use management plans that reflect the collective vision of our community and safeguard our natural resources for future generations. The expansion of the controlled recreation area (CRA) is not a licence to ignore the Land Resource Management Plan (LRMP) objectives within the CRA and beyond. With an increase in the CRA comes and increase in responsibility.

The LRMP, the Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) and interpretation of their language is left to the Community Resource Board. If Ministries, users, and/or developers continue to make interpretations without consulting the Board then this is not a legitimate form of public consultation. The Board meets monthly and welcomes observers and new members at any time. Engaging residents in discussions at these meetings and others fosters a sense of ownership and accountability. When community members are actively involved, we can create resilient and adaptable strategies that reflect our shared priorities and aspirations.

Moreover, respecting existing land use management plans is essential for maintaining stability and predictability within our region. Disregarding these plans can lead to unintended consequences, including environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity, and social discord.

In conclusion, we urge you to come back to our table when you have news or updates about SMBA trail building. The BV CRB has oversight responsibility and this project will require an amendment to the LRMP and more public consultation. We would appreciate full disclosure of long term goals of the trail, future additions, and increasing demands for commercialization. By doing so, we can foster a collaborative environment where sustainable development thrives, and our community's unique identity is preserved.

Thank you for considering this important matter. We look forward to seeing our community come together in support of these principles. Please contact us if you have further concerns or are unsure of any matter or interpretation of the LRMP.

Sincerely,

Ted Vanderwart

Director the Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

info@bvcrb.ca

cc: Jay Gilden, Len Vanderstar, Cassandra Enns, Jim Pojar and Rosamund Pojar