



File: FOR 16660-20/REC31979

July 26, 2019

Trails Society of BC

Re: Columbia and Western Rail Trail

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (the Ministry) is seeking your input on a proposal by the Ministry to cancel the recreation trail designation on a portion of the Columbia & Western Rail Trail in accordance with the *Forest and Range Practices Act*. The section of trail is a 67-kilometre segment between the communities of Fife and Castlegar (see attached map for specific details). The rail corridor will remain Ministry owned. Public use and access are expected to remain as they have been if the change is approved. This change would transfer management of the corridor from Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) to other agencies.

Currently, there is significant use of the rail grade by on-highway vehicles by both the public and industry. The Ministry is proposing the administrative transfer to ensure management is appropriate for the current use. The proposed change reflects local interests and supports access for industrial activity.

This portion of rail corridor contains engineered structures including steel trestles, hard rock tunnels, major culverts and retaining walls atypical of recreation trails and requiring management beyond typical trail standards. An appropriate management regime considering this infrastructure and the current use is required.

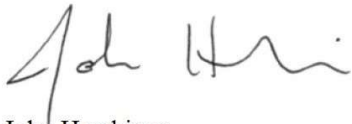
If the legal trail designation of the portion of the rail corridor is removed, the Ministry would consider and evaluate appropriate road tenure, permit or designation options that reflect the intended and current uses. These tenures would transfer maintenance responsibilities to other agencies or parties in support of a sustainable maintenance regime for this section of former rail corridor.

Traditional recreational uses would continue to be accommodated along this portion of the trail. The Columbia & Western Rail Trail is part of the Great Trail (Trans Canada Trail). The Province does not expect that this administrative change would impact the Great Trail

designation - many sections of the Great Trail across Canada are composed of segments of roadway. Current recreational uses of the corridor could continue under this proposed change.

The Ministry will consider your comments and input prior to reaching a final decision. Your input is requested prior to August 26, 2019. Comments regarding this proposed administrative change should be sent to recinfo@gov.bc.ca with the subject line "CWRT change in administration comments".

Yours truly,



John Hawkings
Director,
Recreation Sites and Trails BC

Columbia & Western Rail Trail

Legend

- Columbia & Western Rail Trail
- Kettle Valley Rail Trail
- Park / Protected Area
- Private Land Owned by CP Rail
- Municipality
- Regional District

1:50,000
1:100,000
1:200,000
Scale

Rails north to south at 17.5/27.5 degree N26E.



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