

Columbia Valley

Recreation Planning Initiative

2023-08-15 CVRPI Advisory & Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

Present

Planning Committee: Adrian Pery, Clara Reinhardt, Al Miller, Roberta Schnider, Andrew Craddock, Brenda Hopkins, Enola Eugene (First Nations representative), Gerry Wilkie, Stephanie Stevens, Josh Martin, Tracy Flynn

Regrets /absent: Trevor Hann, Ember Heidt, Richard Martin

Advisory Committee: Franz Feldmann, Barry Hawes, Rick Hoar, Jenna Schulhof, Chris Fordham, Darcy Lehr, Tom Hoyne, Rhiannon Kirton, Suzanne Bayley, Dennis Paradine

Regrets/Absent: Richard Tegart, George Tegart, Gordon Bagan, Mike Caswell, Brian Feeney

Contractors:

Jeff Zukiwsky

1. Updates

- Confirmed that the cabin on the trapline is in the government's database. Decision was made to leave it on the GIS map as it is publicly available information.
- The District of Invermere will host funds from Columbia Basin Trust. Funding from BC Rec Sites and Trails is in the works for next stage.

2. Minutes from July 4 meeting accepted.

3. Various items of discussion:

- Jeff received and incorporated feedback from members regarding issues in the Forster area into the inventory report. Updated data from trail counters will be sent to Jeff.
- It was decided to delete the Irish Lake trail from the map because it is "more of a bushwhack."
- Additional wildlife layers can be added to the GIS map if they are available.
- "Winter" to be taken out of the text in regards to habitat.
- A new sign was spotted for the Mt. Forster Trail (up the spur before the water takeout). Trevor will be asked about any knowledge he has regarding it.
- Government maps and new info should be clearly distinguished and ensure proper credits for information sources.
- Starting with June 2023, all minutes will be posted on the website for public access. The notes will be for general actions and decisions, not discussions.

4. Budget

- Funding for engagement has been secured. Funding for planning efforts are still on-going.

5. Advisory Committee items

- Primary concern in Forster for a local rancher is preventing cattle-vehicle mishaps from a car rally. Co-chair will reach out to Tourism Radium about reopening lines of communication with rally organizers. It was also noted that it may be possible to put in permit conditions such contacting local ranchers in advance of the event.

- **Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners** has prepared a report that makes recommendations for areas above 5500 feet. Co-chairs noted that it is helpful to share reports like this and reinforced that CVRPI's scope and purpose is recreation planning.
- It was further noted that CVRPI should be as transparent as possible and be respectful to one another. The planning committee will listen and hear all concerns from the Advisory Committee but may not always agree with all topics brought up if they are not relevant to recreation and how to best plan for it.

6. **Forster mapping.**

- The official trail inventory should be mapped correctly.
- The question was brought up as to whether to include unofficial, or "local knowledge," trails. It was decided that all official trails should be included as well as any specifically submitted unofficial trails.
- The mapping inventory is to help understand recreation access within the Forster unit.
- The Welsh Lake trail is still in progress, and Jeff will fix the Thunderwater Trail discrepancy. Any further changes or additions should be sent to Jeff.

Action items:

- Add to the inventory the Alpine Club of Canada who fly in both the Horsethief and Forster units every year.
- Change off trail hiking to encompass more of the area and take out the word "minimal"
- Snowmobile club will send traffic counter data to Jeff
- Canfor has sent a map off all future harvesting areas in Forster.
- Any additional concerns or issues in regards to the Forster area should be sent to Jeff for inclusion in the inventory report.

Next meeting date is Tuesday Sept. 12 at 3 p.m. location TBD.