

## **Summary of 12/15/04 meeting, 4:00 pm, Uplander Lounge**

**Current Directors:** Barry Williscroft\*, Bridget O'Malley, Cindy Hall\*, Ken Holmes, Kim Deane, Sparky Steeves, Stewart Spooner. (\*not present)

**Members Present:** Jenny Coleshill, Sheree Sonfield, Gary Senecal, Rejean & Suzanne Paquin, Gary Westbury, Sue Girard, Murray Mead, Mel Black, Chris Overton, Lorna Moazer.

Non-motorized designations: Ken Holmes showed us map(s) of the Old Glory area with a triangle drawn upon it indicating the boundaries of the area designated years ago by the Forestry Ministry as "non-motorized". The existing trails within the triangle are legally designated trails registered with the Forestry Ministry's objective that the trails are non-motorized. The triangle covers an area which is not the entire Nancy Greene Recreational Area but it is an area of Plewman which is key to any access within the area.

Based on this, it was proposed and agreed that the Board would write to the Minister of Forests to request that they notify the helicopter company that this area and these trails are legally designated "non-motorized" [by the Ministry of Forests] and that the helicopter shall not fly to this area in the future and land on Old Glory or Plewman Ridge as they have done in the past with mountain bikers.

Resort Development Task Force: Kim Deane passed out copies of a 12/10/04 article in the Trail Daily Times summarizing the Rosslund December 8, 2004 presentation by Sandy Santori, Minister of State, Resort Development.

This Resort Development Task Force was discussed at various times during the meeting, especially the fact that it was composed of representatives from ski areas, developers and the like, with no representation by the independent recreational hiker, biker, or other outdoor enthusiast.

Ken Holmes generally described some research of his regarding the number of ski areas, backcountry lodges and the like within 125 mile radius of Rosslund. (Note: This very interesting information may be posted in the future on this website as a general point of interest)

FoRR positions, boundaries and working groups: After much discussion during the entire meeting about the specific actions FoRR should take regarding the upcoming reviews by the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, it was determined that FoRR members and Board will work together to:

--create and submit a written position(s) of the membership of the FoRR for use during the land use review RE the appropriate use of the following areas: Old Glory area, the other areas of the Rosslund Range, and the area surrounding Rosslund;

--determine the more specific boundaries of the area around Rosslund which should be addressed by FoRR;

--determine the FoRR position RE the boundaries of the Old Glory area;

--determine the designation we'd prefer for the Old Glory area (eg special management area, recreation area, park (although "park" may carry unwanted restrictions));

--create working group(s) ("sub-committee(s)") to work with the Board and membership at-large to accomplish the above.

It was noted that meetings relating to this land use process are expected to begin by March, 2005, and that therefore there is not alot of time to do the important work above. Gary Senecal, Sheree Sonfield and Jenny Coleshill volunteered to assist on some of these issues but this was not defined further (TBD at the next meeting).

It was noted that 1 party/planner involved in the upcoming land use review mentioned that the "Rossland area" (for purposes of the Rossland area land use planning) should be the large area from the Columbia River to the Summit of Old Glory and from the Arrow Lakes to the US Border.

Snow-cat skiing tenure application: Proposal was made to immediately send Land Water BC a further statement by FoRR regarding the Gaul's tenure application. The language below, modified slightly from that originally proposed, was approved by those present [and was sent to LWBC on 12/15/04 by Stew Spooner].

Re: the Gaul's cat-skiing tenure application in the Rossland Range.

Following from a representation by concerned members, the Friends of the Rossland Range wish to emphasize the value that the proposed tenure area has to the local community. We understand that the date for submissions has expired, but trust that these views will recieve appropriate consideration.

The mountains around Nancy Greene Pass are one of the few easily accessible and still undeveloped cross-country and backcountry skiing locations in the area. It is increasingly popular, and contributes to Rossland's desirability to both visitors and prospective new residents. User conflict at other cat-skiing operations in the Kootenays have clearly shown that commercial cat-skiing operations are incompatible with independent backcountry recreation, particularly backcountry skiing and snowmobiling. With so many cat-skiing tenures being granted in the prime backcountry terrain of the Kootenays, untenured land is becoming increasingly scarce and therefore more valuable to independent recreationalists. The proliferation of established commercial operators makes the potential financial viability of the proposed operation and any associated benefit to the local economy less likely. For these reasons we believe the area has more value as undeveloped backcountry than as a commercial cat-skiing tenure. It is appropriate that the Gaul's application be delayed or denied, until these complex land use planning issues can be resolved as part of the impending review by the MSRM.

Stewart Spooner  
Friends of the Rossland Range.

Logo for FoRR: Mel Black's logo submission with the large graphic, then FORR below and the "Friends of the Rossland Range" just below that was chosen by those present, with the revision to request that the "Friends of the Rossland Range" be in a slightly larger more legible type. Black and white was chosen for its practicality.

Letters members are encouraged to write: Further discussion regarding the fact that the Rossland Range is 1 of only 3-4 undeveloped backcountry areas in the Kootenays (Kootenay Pass and above Whitewater being the others), led to the suggestions that:

each of us should be writing to Sandy Santori, Minister of State, Resort Development, to tell him our opinion that, in general, public recreation has to be considered in the land use planning and review process, especially in those areas that are easily accessible. The more people who write to him about this general topic will be helpful to support FoRR's positions during the upcoming land use review process.

Minister Santori can be contacted by email or mail. Click [here](#) to see his addresses (a new browser window will open) as well as his biography, current events, and a sign up for a weekly informational newsletter.

Next meeting and topics: Next meeting agreed to be January 19, 2005, 4:00pm, Location TBD.

Topics would include establishing working groups and those who should serve on these groups to create FoRR positions needed for the upcoming land use review.

It was suggested that we all think about how we should share the work and accomplish the goals.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6pm.

Summary of this meeting was prepared by:  
Suzanne Paquin and Sheree Sonfield. Please [contact us](#) promptly if any corrections are required.