

**FORRS – MAY 20, 2010 PUBLIC WORKSHOP
COMMENTS – BALANCING USE AND PROTECTION**

Signs of over-use:

- Trail erosion (x4)
- Trail braiding or similar over-use symptoms.
- Damage to trails
- Trails will be degraded
- Over-using will result in erosion of trails as well as parking issues (winter)
- Garbage on the trails (x2)
- Refuse left about
- Garbage will be evident
- Footprints left by users
- Snow tracked excessively
- Overuse may be assessed by sentiments/feelings of local users
- Being taken over by outsiders/tourists
- We are over-using the Rossland Range when we can't get powder in January.
- Favorite lines/touring areas tracked out before locals can enjoy their "backyard"
- Impossible to find parking (x2)
- Parking at trailheads spills onto highway on most days/weekends
- We are over-using if cars are parked dangerously on the highway. Additional parking would reduce this stress and increase capacity.
- Crowded huts
- Firewood depleted
- Scavenged wood
- Supply or lack thereof of firewood for the cabins
- Fire pits in unauthorized areas
- Poop in bushes
- Environmental degradation
- By changing the environment from its natural state
- Deterioration of environment – water quality, soil erosion, noise pollution
- Vegetation abuse in the summer (wildflowers). (Push people to use trails instead of walking all over.)
- Recovery time
- Wildlife interactions
- Tree damage
- Complaints between conflicting users – hikers vs. snowmobilers
- Confrontations between users
- Noise from sleds
- Sled tracks everywhere
- Unrestricted motorized use
- City/government concern about liability increases

- Overuse: Not seen as likely or significant at this time. Will be limited by available parking.

I don't think it's over-used, I think it's not used properly, like dirt bikes on trails, people leaving garbage.

Land impact from recreational use unlikely to compare to industrial use

Extensive logging planned and in progress. Recreational use – minimal impact compared to commercial operations, lodge

Managing use:

- Limit day use numbers
- Non-motorized (x2)
- Regulate vehicles
- Manage car parking
- Some toilets at car parking
- Restrict motorized users
- Limit/eliminate machine-based use first, then general mechanized use second.
- Licensing ATVs and dirt bikes – report offenders
- Define over-use (x2)
- Monitor impacts over time, create response based on results (x2)
- Development of baseline indicators for monitoring use/overuse (x2)
- Understand baseline information and monitor change (x2)
- Research – establish baseline (x2)
- Identifying all values
- Identify values to be protected (x4)
- Whose values – local? Universal?
- Identify areas of concentrated use
- Identify areas of sensitive ecological values
- Need to define “ecological values,” “natural values”
- Identify ecological values and key indicators
- Forecast changes in ecological values expected due to climate destabilization
- Determine how various uses are likely to impact ecological values.
- Ecological values: Whose values?
- Do we know what the ecological values are for the proposed tenure area?
- Protection: What values? Ecological? Natural? Watersheds
- There needs to be baseline ecological information. This makes it easier to measure damage.
- Complete inventory, and then monitor and detect changes. Find key indicators with least effort. (Inventory will provide some indicators of over-use if correct.)
- How do we define “capacity” of the Rossland Range?
- Survey frequently

- I think it's important to understand volume. The Rockies see thousands of more visitors (for example). It may be important to have an understanding of what volume the Range can handle. Also, when this recreation takes place will make a difference. For example, summer [use] will place more impact on the land than winter.
- What is current use?
- Monitoring program – 1) recreational users: who? where? when? 2) ecological value indicators – erosion (trail use, off-trail use), water (pollution, depletion), wildlife (siting, concentration), plant life (rare, weeds, diversity)
- Monitor for changes and trends. Identify use which might be causing impacts leading to loss of values. Recognize negative changes early.
- Monitor the number and types of users (ski, cross-country, mountain biking, horseback).
- “Rosslund Range” as currently defined will change over time (expand). It's much larger. Use must [be] planned; could be no use in some areas.
- Regulate users
- Who has the authority and resources to monitor and supervise use?
- Over-use is difficult to manage and control. Who polices it?
- Limit use via lottery entry, or limited number of people per day
- Limit access and numbers
- Management of numbers of users can be balanced with accessibility (i.e. parking).
- Start thinking about how to limit use to allow rehabilitation of affected areas
- Establish usage protocols and (somehow) convey these protocols
- Intelligent, low-impact trail design
- Education (x3)
- Education – public, user groups, schools, clubs (x2)
- Education and ambassadors to help educate on values
- Educate users about impact – signs and literature
- Communication
- Post signs to stay on the summer trails by bikers, and on motorized vehicles on logging roads
- Trail signs
- Increase signage
- Clear and concise signage
- Editorials
- Don't provide more parking – will limit number of people who can get in (maybe)
- Install gates to prevent motorized in non-motorized area
- Installing gates on roads is not an option as we would create dissention between users; due to remote locations, gates would be destroyed.
- Use categories – motorized/non-motorized
- Channel usage to specific areas with trails to help access
- By having proper access and trails, people will be less likely to cause damage
- Consider relocation of activities to avoid impacts
- There is lots of room. Only a certain number will want to walk – self-regulating

- We can prevent over-use by not providing facilities. If we don't provide maps, toilets, parking, we may keep people away. This could organically moderate use. Advertising attracts people.
- Categorizing types of use and placing according to the ground
- "Non-motorized" signs don't work
- Need participation in planning and management from all user groups – hikers, bikers, sledders
- We can manage use but need a group (community) to be responsible
- Management is possible – develop appropriate user culture
- Fire protection strategies
- Over-use, ecosystem protection, protection of natural values and recreation planning are all issues that Parks Branch has dealt with for years. My suggestion is to glean good guidance [from Parks].
- Process: Watershed by watershed planning for intensity and values – continuum from recreation to conservation
- Proposal will provide protection vs. open Crown land for more aggressive activity – quite possibly commercial, motorized