

NORM MACDONALD, M.L.A.
COLUMBIA RIVER-REVELSTOKE
CONSTITUENCY OFFICE:
104 - 806 - 9TH STREET NORTH
BOX 2052
GOLDEN, B.C. V0A 1H0
TELEPHONE: 250 344-4816
FACSIMILE: 250 344-4815
TOLL-FREE: 1 866 870-4188



PROVINCE OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



NORM MACDONALD, MLA
(COLUMBIA RIVER-REVELSTOKE)

April 11, 2012

Hon. Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
PO Box 9049 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

RE: Stewardship Cooperative Agreement with Arrowhead Conservation Society

Dear Minister Thomson:

As you will be aware, the Arrowhead Conservation Society has been working with the Ministry to finalize a Stewardship Cooperative Agreement to formalize the Management, maintenance and restoration of the Historic Townsite of Arrowhead (DL 384).

Finalization of this agreement has now been put on hold, and members of the society have since become aware that a second negotiation is underway to allow the development of an ATV trail and motorized recreation on the site.

Concerns have been raised that the approval of motorized recreation in this area could be in conflict with previous government commitments to enhance and protect wildlife.

It has been pointed out that motorized recreation would be in conflict with the Arrowhead Conservation Society's mandate 'to recognize Arrowhead as a heritage and conservation area and to provide an organization that will advocate for the protection and enhancement of the lands in and around the historic townsite and cemetery of Arrowhead.'

Further concerns have been raised that motorized recreation would be in conflict with the Columbia Shuswap Regional District's Official Community Plan that states in the Parks, Recreation and Culture section that the CSRD will 'Work with Ministry of Environment to recognize the Heritage values of the Arrowhead Townsite DL 384, particularly in relation to the townsite lots and cemetery. Recognition might include a heritage designation and should also consider partnership opportunities, particularly with a local heritage group for long-term heritage conservation.'

It would be much appreciated if an explanation could be provided outlining the current status of the Stewardship Cooperative Agreement with the Arrowhead Conservation Society and the status of the application to approve motorized recreation in this area.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Norm Macdonald", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Norm Macdonald MLA
Columbia River – Revelstoke

Distribution List:

Barry Comin, Natural Resource Specialist
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations



Recreation Sites and Trails BC

April 26, 2012

Ref:187527

Mr. Norm Macdonald, MLA,
Columbia River-Revelstoke
Constituency Office
Box 2052
Golden, BC V0A 1H0

Dear Mr. Macdonald:

Thank you for your letter of April 11, 2012, addressed to Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, requesting an update on: 1) the status of an application for a Stewardship Cooperative Agreement with the Arrowhead Conservation Society for the maintenance and restoration of the historic town site of Arrowhead, and 2) the status of an application to establish a multi-use recreation trail leading to the town site. Your letter has been forwarded to me so that I may respond on the Minister's behalf.

- 1) The Ministry's Habitat Section is reconsidering the application of the Arrowhead Conservation Society to enter into a Stewardship Cooperative Agreement for managing the old Arrowhead town site. Since there are a number of privately held lots within the old town site of Arrowhead, the Habitat Section does not control all of the land within DL 384, and to enter into an agreement to manage the entire town site is therefore not appropriate. The Habitat Section is in the process of informing the Arrowhead Conservation Society of this decision and will encourage the Society to continue its good work within the old town site without the need for a Stewardship Conservation Agreement.
- 2) The Revelstoke ATV Club has submitted an application to construct a multi-use trail (ATV, mountain bike, hiking, equestrian) to provide access to the old Arrowhead town site, which was previously only accessible by water due to private land ownership issues. The trail will also assist in removing barriers for disabled or elderly individuals that wish to visit the town site or cemetery. The proposed trail will terminate at a small parking lot outside of the town site in order to preserve historical and wildlife values. Motorized use within the town site will not be permitted except for maintenance activities, sanctioned events, or disabled person access. The Revelstoke ATV Club proposes to work closely with the Arrowhead Conservation Society to advocate for the protection and enhancement of the lands in and around the historic town site and its cemetery, and to develop the site's potential as an educational, interpretive and recreational means of celebrating the heritage values of Arrowhead. At this time, the trail application is being referred to government agencies and stakeholder groups to obtain feedback on the

**Ministry of Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations**
Recreation Sites and Trails BC Headquarters
<http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca>

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9811 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9W1

Phone: 250 356-7643

Location:
1st Flr. 780 Blanshard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2H1

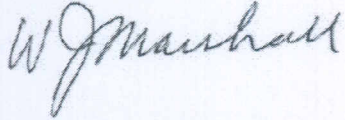
Fax: 250 387-2539

Page 2

proposal. The trail application will not be considered for approval until the referral process is complete and any concerns have been satisfactorily addressed.

Thank you again for your letter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "WJ Marshall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Bill Marshall
Director, Recreation Sites and Trails Branch

pc: Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister
Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Barry Comin, Natural Resource Specialist
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations



COPY

March 28, 2013

File: 39550-01

Brian Gabois
Arrowhead Conservation Society
PO Box 643
Revelstoke BC V0E 2S0

Dear Brian Gabois:

To begin, I would like to extend my apologies for the length of time it has taken to respond to your application to enter into a Stewardship Cooperative Agreement for the maintenance and restoration of the historic town site of Arrowhead. I would also like to acknowledge the significant commitment and effort that the Arrowhead Conservation Society has already made in commissioning reports and studies on the old site.

After careful consideration, the Habitat Management Section has determined that we cannot support your application for a Stewardship Cooperative Agreement for the following reasons:

- The lands in District Lot 385 that are deemed to be conservation lands are a very small area (less than 10 hectares) and are unlikely to provide critical wildlife habitat features.
- When the application was referred to other branches within the Ministry, it was widely felt that a Stewardship Cooperative Agreement was not a suitable mechanism for protecting the site while allowing for public recreation opportunities.
- The old Arrowhead town site, which we recognize and appreciate as having heritage values, has not been officially designated as a heritage site.

Lastly, while our habitat protection mandate does not extend to private property, it is worth noting that S22 is opposed to a Stewardship Cooperative Agreement as it may restrict his use of the land and potentially affect the value of his property.

Once again, I apologize for the delay in this response. Regardless of this decision, I hope the Arrowhead Conservation Society will continue its excellent work in the old Arrowhead town site without a Stewardship Cooperative Agreement.

Sincerely,

Mike Knapik, R.P. Bio
Section Head, Habitat Management
Kootenay Boundary Region

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APR 04 2013

MINISTRY OF FORESTS & RANGE
COLUMBIA FOREST DISTRICT

cc: Ken Gibson, Recreation Office, FLNRO, Revelstoke



P.O. Box 3116, Revelstoke, British Columbia V0E 2S0

EMAIL: ncesociety@gmail.com WEBSITE: www.northcolumbia.org

30 April 2013

Steve Thomson - steve.thomson.mla@leg.bc.ca
Minister of Forest, Land, and Natural Resource Operations
PO Box 9049, Stn Prov Govt.
Victoria BC, V8W 9E2

Charles Reid - customer.service@bchydro.com
President and CEO
BC Hydro
333 Dunsmuir Street
Vancouver, BC, V6B 5R3

Re: ATV Trail to Arrowhead and the Arrow Reservoir Fish and Wildlife Agreement

Dear Minister Thomson and CEO Reid,

The North Columbia Environmental Society (NCES) asks that you not allow the development of Arrowhead as a destination for motorized recreation and thereby protect this unique habitat.

On the 29th December 1989, The Minister of Environment, the CEO of BC Hydro, and the Comptroller of Water Rights signed the Arrow Reservoir Fisheries and Wildlife Agreement to satisfy BC Hydro's requirements under Clause "O" of its Conditional Water Licence. This licence was originally issued by the Comptroller in 1962 and after many decades of negotiation, the Agreement "...provides for remedial measures to be undertaken and completed by Hydro for the protection of fisheries and wildlife...."

The Agreement transferred, from BC Hydro to the Ministry of Environment, a large number of properties adjacent to the Arrow Reservoir as compensation for habitat losses caused by the creation of the reservoir. Clause 2.2 of the Agreement states....

“The Province shall utilize the Lands described in the Schedule to enhance and protect the wildlife referred to in the Licence.”

A number of these properties are located in the abandoned townsite of Arrowhead south of Revelstoke (D.L.384). This site with its remaining fruit trees, herbaceous plants, grasses, and low elevation south exposure provides critical habitats for many species of wildlife including ungulates, bears, cougars, and neo-tropical migrating birds. The site also has a historic cemetery where many Pioneers of the valley including First and Second World War Veterans now Rest in Peace.

Since obtaining these properties in 1989, the Ministry of Environment has not proactively enhanced or protected wildlife; however, wildlife has been protected by default through the lack of vehicle access to the site.

We understand that the MoFLNRO is currently in the process of approving an application to build an ATV trail to Arrowhead. We believe that turning Arrowhead into a destination for motorized recreation is in direct conflict with Clause 2.2 of the Wildlife Agreement and would cause the loss of this critical habitat and the displacement of many wildlife including grizzly bears.

It is commonly known that one of the largest impacts to grizzly bear populations is caused by vehicle access and the associated human disturbances. Lack of vehicle access and limited human disturbance has allowed Arrowhead to become a valuable habitat for grizzlies and this value can only be protected and enhanced with sound management decisions.

The NCES cannot support the development of Arrowhead as a destination for motorized recreation and believes it is of paramount importance to protect this wildlife habitat by preventing motorized access to the site.

Larry Bell, CEO of BC Hydro stated during finalization of this agreement – *“I trust that this agreement will now conclude the long overdue settlement for Wildlife Compensation and that the benefits will soon be evident in the Region.”* We agree that the benefits must be evident for compensation to occur. We also believe that a breach of BC Hydro’s Water Licence would occur if the signatories to this agreement do not fulfill their obligations. We ask BC Hydro to ensure that all conditions of its Water Licence continue to be met.

Clause 3.5 of the Agreement states – *“The parties shall carry out any and all obligations placed upon them by the terms of this Agreement with due diligence both before and*

after the Agreement has become legally binding upon them.” We believe the MoFLNRO and its predecessor, the Ministry of Environment, have not acted with due diligence to enhance and protect the wildlife of these lands. This agreement must be legally binding upon all parties.

We ask the Minister to direct his staff to not approve the creation of an ATV trail to Arrowhead and to protect these lands (D.L.384) from all motorized access. We ask the Minister to direct his staff to work cooperatively with conservation organizations in the Revelstoke area to proactively enhance and protect the wildlife of Arrowhead.

Thank You.

Yours in Conservation,

Sarah Newton
President

cc – Norm MacDonald - MLA Norm.Macdonald.MLA@leg.bc.ca
-Glen Davidson – Comptroller of Water Rights. Glen.Davidson@gov.bc.ca
-Arrowhead Conservation Society – PO Box 643, Revelstoke, BC, V0E 2S0
- Valhalla Wilderness Society info@vws.org



Recreation Sites and Trails BC

May 17, 2013

Ref: 197219

Sarah Newton
P.O. Box 3116
Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0
via email: ncesociety@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Newton:

Thank you for your letter of April 30, 2013, addressed to the Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and Charles Reid, President and CEO, BC Hydro, regarding the application to develop a motorized recreation trail to the old Arrowhead town site. Your letter has been forwarded to me so that I may respond on Minister Thomson's behalf.

The application to develop a motorized recreation trail to the old Arrowhead town site has been referred to all relevant agencies and stakeholders for review and comment as is required under Section 57 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA). As part of the referral process, the Ministry's Resource Management Division reviewed the Conservation Lands transferred to its jurisdiction by BC Hydro and has determined that the small area within the old town site is not considered to be critical for wildlife. Furthermore, the Section 57 application submitted contains provisions that prevent motorized access to and on these Conservation Lands. In addition, the Resource Management Division does not feel that construction and use of the proposed trail will adversely affect wildlife or habitat values.

There appears to be strong local interest in re-establishing motorized access to the Arrowhead town site since it was lost several years ago due to private land issues. The Revelstoke ATV Club that submitted the Section 57 application to construct the motorized trail is prepared to take on a stewardship role in protecting the site, including working with the Arrowhead Conservation Society.

The Columbia/Shuswap Recreation Officer, who is the statutory decision maker in this matter, will not be making a decision on the application until he or a facilitator hired on his behalf meets with the Arrowhead Conservation Society, the North Columbia Environmental Society, and the Revelstoke ATV Club to fully review the application and explore management options that

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**Ministry of Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations**

Recreation Sites and Trails BC
<http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca>

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9811 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9W1

Phone: 250 356-7643

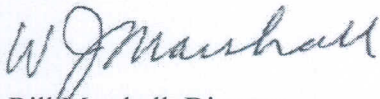
Location:
5th Flr. 800 Johnson Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1N3

Fax: 250 356-2842

would allow motorized access while protecting heritage and wildlife values. The Recreation Officer is hopeful that all groups will work together in good faith to achieve this objective.

Thank you again for writing to express your concerns.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W Marshall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "W" being particularly prominent.

Bill Marshall, Director
Recreation Sites and Trails BC

cc: Sarah.Clark@bchydro.com
Glen.Davidson@gov.bc.ca