



Reference: 408180

Wallace Mah
Chief Administrative Officer
District of Kent
7170 Cheam Avenue
Agassiz BC V0M 1A0
Sent via email: wmah@kentbc.ca

Tyson Koch
Chief Administrative Officer
Village of Harrison Hot Springs
495 Hot Springs Road, PO Box 160
Harrison Hot Springs BC V0M 1K0
Sent via email: tkoch@harrisonhotsprings.ca

Dear Wallace Mah and Tyson Koch:

I am writing with respect to the joint request submitted by your offices October 11, 2023, to adjust the boundaries of Sasquatch Park to enable your districts to construct an emergency egress route for the two communities.

As you are aware, Seabird Island Band submitted a boundary adjustment request for Sasquatch Park in 2013 to enable access to timber harvesting lands beyond the park. At that time, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy invited the Seabird Island Band to submit a detailed boundary adjustment application. To date, Seabird Island Band has not submitted such an application but have indicated that they want to have their interests addressed as part of the Kent – Harrison boundary adjustment proposal.

In your application, you provided the following information from Seabird Island Band:

s. 13, s. 16, s. 17

In order to provide Seabird Island Band with access to their proposed woodlot outside the park, it appears ^{s. 13, s. 16, s. 17}

to accommodate this proposed industrial use that is incompatible with the *Park Act*.

Changes to the boundary of Sasquatch Park can only be accomplished by a decision of the Legislature to amend the park's description in Schedule C of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

^{s. 13, s. 16, s. 17}

In light of the need for both proposals to be considered jointly, and of the known level of public interest in the proposed boundary adjustments, it is my view that a boundary adjustment application should follow the process for Category 3 boundary adjustments set out in the Provincial Protected Area Boundary Adjustment Policy, Process and Guidelines found on the BC Parks website: <https://bcparks.ca/about/management-plans/boundary-adjustment-guidelines/#proponent-requirements>.

In addition to the general requirements outlined in the guidelines, your application will need to consider and specifically address:

- ^{s. 13, s. 16, s. 17}

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s. 13, s. 16, s. 17

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BC Parks will be available to support the District of Kent, Village of Harrison Hot Springs and Seabird Island Band throughout the development of your application to address any issues or questions as they arise.

If you have any question about the boundary adjustment process or guidelines, please contact Jennifer Eliason, Senior Parks and Protected Areas Planner, at Jennifer.Eliason@gov.bc.ca or 778 974-4354.

Sincerely,

George Heyman
Minister

cc: Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate
Readiness
Jennifer Eliason, Senior Parks and Protected Areas Planner, Conservation and
Recreation Division, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Janice Parsey, Director of Inter-Governmental Affairs, Seabird Island Band
Kristy Vanderstarren, Executive Assistant, Seabird Island Band
Matt Wealickk, RFP, consultant to Seabird Island Band