



From the Bear Pit

Regional Council Newsletter

March 13, 2017

Regional Council Submits Resolution to NCLGA re: Boreal Caribou Implementation Plan

Regional Council rose and reported additional directions related to the Boreal Caribou Implementation Plan (BCIP). The BCIP in both its February 2016 form, and as it currently exists, would alienate a significant volume of high-quality, commercially desirable timber from harvesting, and render an industry restart in our region very difficult. Concerns were also raised about the timelines and consultation associated with the implementation of this plan.

In addition to letters being sent to relevant government agencies voicing Council's concerns, the following resolution is being forward to the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) and Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM):

WHEREAS the Province, in compliance with the Federal Species at Risk Act, is currently in the process of developing Implementation Plans for the conservation and regeneration of Woodland Caribou in BC;

AND WHEREAS such plans, by restricting the harvesting of timber in specified areas can have a significant negative impact on forest industry investment operations, and local economies:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to immediately commit to meaningful consultation with local governments potentially affected by Woodland Caribou Implementation Plans, such consultation to involve thorough investigation and consideration of socio-economic impacts.

Background Information:

The Province is currently involved in the development of Woodland Caribou Implementation Plans to satisfy the requirements of the Federal Species At Risk Act (SARA). The areas affected span BC from north to south and involve the Designated Units of Southern Mountain Caribou, Central Mountain Caribou, Northern Mountain Caribou, and Boreal Caribou.1 Satisfying SARA conditions does not require consideration of socio-economic factors in the creation of Implementation Plans inasmuch as SARA is conservation and species-focused legislation.2 Any requirement for consultation regarding such impacts is a matter of provincial prerogative, as is consultation with local governments on the matter. At the same time, the potential impact on the forest industry in the regions affected by Implementation Plans are significant in that a primary component of the plans is the protection of habitat through restrictions on access and harvesting in large areas of forest. Under current arrangements and practices the Province can and is making decisions without adequate knowledge of local conditions and engagement with local government. This is the case, for example, in the Fort Nelson Forest District whereby the formulation of the Boreal Caribou Implementation Plan (BCIP) proposes to alienate 1,000,000 hectares of forest from harvesting, in addition to the approximately 1,500,000 hectares (comprising close to 25% of the total Forest District) already protected for conservation purposes. In this case, no investigation of the socio-economic impact on the already severely economically distressed Northern Rockies Regional Municipality has been undertaken. The proposed action would require the Province to engage in a process recognizing local interests and socio-economic values, and support the formulation of Implementation Plans reflecting a balance between conservation and economic sustainability.



Courtesy of BorealForestFacts.com

NRRM Reconfirms Commitment to Not Compete with Local Gyms

After receiving a request from a local resident concerned about significant community interest in using the vacant space in the Recreation Centre walking track area for fitness purposes, Regional Council reconfirmed their resolution (first made in 2015) that it is not Council's intent to compete with local gyms or related businesses.



Photo Credit: Anography by Tracy

Recreation Centre Statistics

Regional Council discussed recent Recreation Centre usage statistics, noting that the facility is well used by the community.

Week ending February 27

- 3000 patrons through the main doors (1300 on the weekend)
- 700 using the indoor track

Week ending March 6

- 3914 patrons through the main doors (2168 on the weekend)
- 788 using the indoor track
- 319 using the playspace



Don't forget to like the Northern Rockies on Facebook for the most up-to-date information.

Also of note...

REGIONAL COUNCIL GAVE FIRST three readings to, and adopted, the 2017 Annual Budget Adoption Bylaw No. 67, 2017 for the Regional Hospital District.

REGIONAL COUNCIL GAVE FIRST three readings to the Planning and Development Service Application and Paving Security Fees Amendment Bylaw which, when adopted, will allow the NRRM to charge for the production of tax certificates

WITH THE CANCELLATION OF the previous Bear Aware program, the NRRM will be investigating in-house enforcement/education options for moving forward.



Learn more about what is happening in and around the community on the [NRRM website](#):

Engage Northern Rockies