



Regional Board Report

Request for Decision

To: Regional Board
From: Director, Development and Engineering Services
Date: February 20, 2025

Subject: FrontCounter BC Referral Application (Reference File No. 779319)
RDCO File: CL-24-01
Mountain Bikers of the Central Okanagan (applicant)
Central Okanagan East Electoral Area

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority – LGA s.208*

Purpose: To consider a FrontCounter BC referral application to legally designate Crown land for a recreation trail for mountain biking.

Executive Summary:

The applicant, Mountain Bikers of the Central Okanagan, are a non-profit society that operates biking trails on Crown land within the Central Okanagan East Electoral Area. Tenure was originally granted for the trails in 2015, and the applicant is seeking authorization under Section 56 and 57 of the *Forest Range Practices Act* to construct and maintain an additional trail. The application is aligned with policies from the Regional Growth Strategy and the South Slopes Official Community Plan. Staff have received no concerns from internal departments or external agencies regarding the referral application.

The Province of BC has jurisdiction over Crown land referrals and is the decision-making authority for the application.

Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Board support the Mountain Bikers of the Central Okanagan FrontCounter BC referral application No. 779319 to permit the construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of a recreational trail.

Respectfully submitted by: Ryan Dreher, Planner I

Report Approved by: Danielle Noble-Brandt, Director, Development and Engineering Services

Approved for Agenda: Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer

Strategic Plan Alignment:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency preparedness | <input type="checkbox"/> Truth and reconciliation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and wellness | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and climate – Regional priority only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional transportation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Growth and development – Electoral Area priority only |
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Background:

The Mountain Bikers of the Central Okanagan are a volunteer, non-profit association operating in and around Kelowna. The organization is committed to building, maintaining, and advocating for mountain biking opportunities around the Central Okanagan.

The applicant, Mountain Bikers of the Central Okanagan, have made application under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*. The Act allows for the establishment of Crown land as an interpretive forest site, a recreation site or a recreation trail, as well as permits construction, rehabilitation or maintenance of a trail or recreational facility on Crown land.

The Gillard Recreational Trails are intermediate and advanced single-track mountain bike trails that consist of man-made and natural technical features. They are a well-used and popular system of trails that have been utilized for over a decade.

The Regional District of Central Okanagan processed similar applications for the same group approximately ten years ago (File No. CL-15-03 – Board Resolution 2015) and fifteen years ago (File No. CL-10-02 – Board Resolution 2010). Copies of both resolutions are provided as attachments to this report.

Proposal:

The applicant is seeking Authorization under Section 56 and 57 of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) to construct a single track, downhill, mountain bike trail that provides riders a blue skill level trail routed to the parking lot. The trail would be approximately 0.7km long and 1m wide. Construction would be done by hand tools.

Regional Growth Strategy:

The application is aligned with the following policies in the Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1336:

Our Land

- Policy 3.2.1.4: Encourages access to and opportunity for development of Crown resources and rural land that provide economic opportunities that contribute revenues to support community social, health, education and transportation services for the citizens of the Central Okanagan while having minimal impacts to the land, wildlife, and sensitive environmental areas.

Our Health

- Policy 3.2.4.1: Actively promotes and supports physical activity, sense of place, social interaction, and neighbourliness as these encourage the growth of the region as a place that is safe, diverse, and inclusive.
- Policy 3.2.4.5: Promotes community health and safety through investments in education, recreation, health, community development, social support, civic design, environmental design, maintenance, and economic development.

Our Governance

- Policy 3.2.10.7: Supports the assessment of the social and economic benefits of arts, culture, tourism, and recreation amenities in decisions on land use.

South Slopes Official Community Plan:

The South Slopes Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1304 contains policy statements to guide land use decisions, one of which directly supports the proposal:

Policy No. 4.2.1.5

- “Crown lands and private lands within this designation are intended to support resource industries such as cattle range, agriculture, timber harvest and gravel extraction as well as outdoor recreation on large parcels (30 ha or larger).”

The Guiding Principles of the South Slopes Official Community Plan also show alignment with the application as they speak to “increasing connectivity of natural areas through trails, bike paths and access between natural areas”.

Additional Information:

The subject area is located within the South Slopes Official Community Plan. The subject area is not affected by Development Permit Area requirements.

Applicant:	Mountain Bikers of Central Okanagan
Location:	In the area of the Gillard Recreational Trails, adjacent to Gillard Forest Service Road
Legal Description:	Part of District Lot 2711, except Sub Lots 2-26, 28 & 29, Plan 1190, Similkameen Division Yale District
Area of Land Affected:	0.07 Hectares (700 m ²)
Existing Use:	Crown land, recreation
Surrounding Use:	Crown land, recreation
ALR:	Outside of the ALR
Fire Protection:	Not within Fire Protection Area

RDCO Referral Comments:

No comments or concerns were expressed by internal RDCO departments or external agencies.

Considerations:

Legal/Statutory Authority: The Province of BC has jurisdiction over Crown Land referrals and is the decision-making authority for the application.

Attachments:

1. Overview Map
2. Location Map
3. Specific Location Map
4. Board Resolution 2015
5. Board Resolution 2010
6. PowerPoint Presentation