



Regional Board Report

Request for Decision

Approved for Board Consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Reardon".

Brian Reardon, CAO

To: Regional Board

From: Todd Cashin, Director of Community Services

Date: May 12, 2022

Subject: FrontCounter BC Referral Application (Reference File No. 558796)
RDCO File: CL-22-03
Friends of the South Slopes Society (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 for a Crown land tenure to permit the rehabilitation and maintenance of an existing trail system in the KLO Creek Myra Recreation Area.

Executive Summary:

Friends of the South Slopes Society (FOSS) maintain a number of trails located on park land managed by the City of Kelowna and the Regional District of Central Okanagan. FOSS holds a partnership agreement with BC Parks to provide trail maintenance in Myra-Bellevue Park and Okanagan Mountain Park. The applicant is seeking authorization under Section 56 and 57 of the *Forest Range Practices Act* to maintain and rehabilitate an existing non-motorized trail system in the KLO Creek Myra Recreation Area. Policies from the Regional Growth Strategy and South Slopes Official Community Plan support the application and staff have received no concerns from internal departments or external agencies.

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

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Regional Board support the Friends of the South Slopes Society FrontCounter BC referral application No. 558796 for Crown land tenure to permit the rehabilitation and maintenance of an existing trail system in the KLO Creek Myra Recreation Area subject to the following conditions:

- Trail system be limited exclusively to non-motorized use; and
- Post signage at the site to include
 - information on Provincial Best Management Practices,
 - reminders to leave the area litter-free,
 - to identify trail directions and locations relative to public and private land; and
 - to identify the area as non-motorized use.

Respectfully Submitted:



Brittany Nichols, Environmental Planner, for
Todd Cashin, Director of Community Services

Prepared by: Michael Czarny, Senior Planner

Attachment(s):

- Orthophoto Map
- FrontCounter BC application and maps
- RDCO Presentation

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Priorities: Sustainable Communities, Environment

Values: Relationships, Collaboration

Background:

Friends of the South Slopes Society (FOSS) maintain a number of trails located on park land managed by the City of Kelowna and the Regional District of Central Okanagan. FOSS holds a partnership agreement with BC Parks to provide trail maintenance, facility repair and maintenance, sign installation and promotion of park values in Myra-Bellevue Park and Okanagan Mountain Park. Although undesignated, the existing trails serve as a neighbourhood trail network and a destination for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. The existing trails located on the subject properties connect KLO Creek Regional Park to June Springs Rd and beyond to Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park.

Proposal:

The applicant is seeking authorization under Section 56 and 57 of the *Forest Range Practices Act* (FRPA) to maintain and rehabilitate an existing non-motorized trail system in the KLO Creek Myra Recreation Area. Approximately 8,000m of trails will be rehabilitated and maintained, including improvements to trail signage and location maps to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development's Recreation Site and Trails (RSTBC) Standards. In consultation with RSTBC, trails will be named, and signage installed.

Should this FrontCounter BC application be successful, the applicant has indicated they will pursue additional applications in the future to re-route trails onto Crown land to mitigate impacts on private property, meet the RSTBC standards, and create a new trail to connect existing trails to June Springs Road. A high priority for FOSS will be to protect the abandoned irrigation flume that was constructed over 100 years ago. Maintenance of the trails will be responsibility of FOSS.

Regional Growth Strategy:

The RDCO adopted Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Bylaw No. 1336 on June 23, 2014. The RGS is a long-range planning tool that assists local governments to plan a coordinated future for their communities

while dealing with regional issues and decisions that cross jurisdictional boundaries. The RGS is also a collective vision from the regional partners for the future to create a region that promotes growth that is economically, environmentally, and socially healthy over a twenty-year time horizon. The following policies of the RGS support the proposal:

Our Land

- Encourage 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

- Actively promote and support 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.
- Promote community health and safety through investments in education, recreation, health, community development, social support, civic design, environmental design, maintenance, and economic development.

Our Ecosystems

- The Region's natural ecosystems will continue to face development pressures and it will be important for the Region to manage growth to balance the human need for resources, recreation, enjoyment, and aesthetics with the need to protect, conserve, and restore natural areas and biodiversity.

Our Governance

- Support 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 Bylaw No. 1304:

The South Slopes Official Community Plan was developed in consultation with residents, landowners and recreational users of the South Slopes community. The development of the South Slopes OCP involved several opportunities for the community to build their understanding of the issues facing South Slopes and to provide their ideas and comments. Community values identified by the residents and landowners included the number of parks and recreational trails in the area, and the respect of the environment and sensitive natural areas.

The OCP's vision statement is supported by a set of guiding principles. One of these principles directly supports the proposal:

- Create connections between park areas to increase responsible recreational enjoyment of these parks. There is a desire to increase connectivity of natural areas through trails, bike paths and access between natural areas.

Policies from the South Slopes Official Community Plan support the maintenance, rehabilitation and creation of new trails to expand existing trail systems.

- Section 7.4. Policy 2: Encourage community groups and individuals seeking to establish trails or recreation facilities within rural resource lands to apply for Crown tenure, consult with resource managers, and design for compatibility with varied resource development activities.

Additional Information:

The subject area is within the South Slopes OCP and is within the Wildfire, Hillside, Sensitive Terrestrial Ecosystem and Aquatic Ecosystem Development Permit Areas. The applicant has noted that no water crossings are proposed and that trails on steep slopes have been identified as low use.

Applicant:	Friends of the South Slopes Society
Legal Description:	City of Kelowna: The East ½ of the North East ¼ of Section 35 Township 29 ODYD Except Plans A398, A1582 and C18506; and The East ½ of the North East ¼ of Section 35 outlined red on Plan A1582; Township 29 ODYD; RDCO: North ½ of East ½ of South East ¼, Section 35, Township 29, ODYD, Except Parcel C on Plan A393 and Plan KAP56229.
Area Affected:	+/- 45.73 hectares (113 acres)
Existing Use:	Crown land, recreation
Surrounding Uses:	North: Crown land, residential (City of Kelowna) South: Crown land, rural residential East: Crown land, rural residential West: Crown land, rural residential, Myra-Bellevue Park
ALR:	Outside of the ALR
Fire Protection:	Not within a Fire Protection Area

RDCO TECHNICAL COMMENTS:

Parks Services supports the proposal as presented.

Unaffected internal departments include Inspection Services, Engineering Services, and Fire Services.

AGENCY REFERRAL COMMENTS:

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure staff have no concerns with the proposal.

Unaffected agencies include the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development, Interior Health Authority, and the District of Lake Country.

Considerations:

Legal/Statutory Authority: Jurisdiction for approving the application lies with FrontCounter BC.

Considerations not applicable:

- Organizational/External
 - Financial
 - Alternate Recommendation
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