



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**RURAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE  
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

**Thursday, April 16, 2015**

<b><u>PAGE NO.</u></b>	<b><u>DEVELOPMENT SERVICES</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
2-6	Land Referral File No. 6408812 Telus Communications Inc. Electoral Area "G"	Recommendation (Page 2)
7-9	Mines File No. 13990-04-434 Robert Miller Electoral Area "C"	Recommendation (Page 7)
<b><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></b>		
10-13	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Letter to Skeena Regional Cattlemen's Association RE: Bulkley Valley Elk Issue	Receive
<b><u>NEW BUSINESS</u></b>		
<b><u>ADJOURNMENT</u></b>		

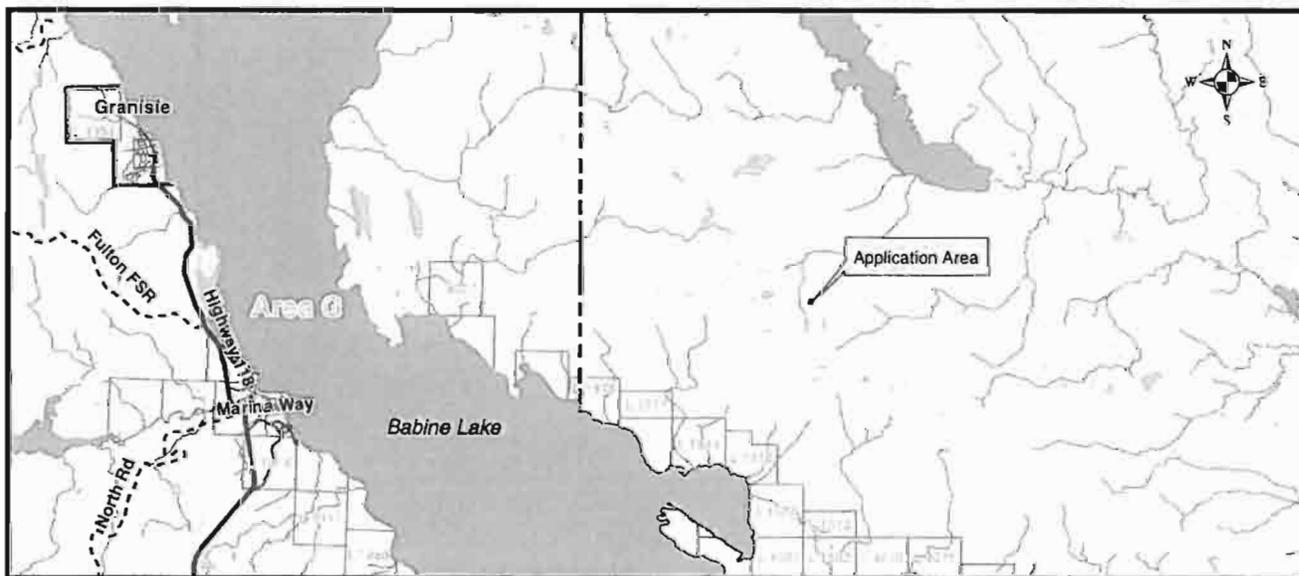


## MEMORANDUM

To: Rural Directors  
 From: Maria Sandberg, Planner  
 Date: April 14, 2015  
 Re: **Land Referral File No. 6408812 (Telus Communications Inc.)**

This application is regarding a Licence of Occupation application to install an 18 metre tall steel tower to operate a passive repeater with antennas. The purpose of the installation is to service area camps. The application area is 2.25 ha in size and located 21 kilometres east of the Village of Granisle. The site will be accessed by helicopter.

### Location Map



The application area is not zoned.

### Recommendation

That the attached comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown land application 6408812.

*Rural Directors – All/Directors/Majority*

Reviewed by:

Jason Llewellyn  
 Director of Planning

Written by:

Maria Sandberg  
 Planner



## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO COMMENT SHEET ON CROWN LAND REFERRAL 6408812

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<b>Electoral Area:</b>	C
<b>Applicant:</b>	Telus Communication Inc.
<b>Existing Land Use:</b>	Vacant
<b>Zoning:</b>	None
<b>Plan Designation</b>	None
<b>Proposed Use Comply With Zoning:</b>	N/A
<b>If not, why?</b>	
<b>Agricultural Land Reserve:</b>	Not in the ALR
<b>Access Highway:</b>	Access by helicopter
<b>Archaeological Site:</b>	Not according to our mapping
<b>Building Inspection:</b>	Outside the building inspection area
<b>Fire Protection:</b>	Outside of Rural Fire Protection Area
<b>Other comments:</b>	None

## Management Plan – Communications Site

Telus File Name – Tocha Site

Telus Communications Inc. File No. 46648-1

Application for Crown Tenure - Telecommunications Tower Tocha Site in the Vicinity of Babine Lake, B. C.

### Section A - Project Overview

The purpose of this application is to install an 18.00 m. self support Telecommunications tower, antennas and associated equipment in order to provide telecommunication serviced to area camp service providers. The proposed timeframe for construction is August 2015 to August 2016. This management plan provides an outline of the general construction activities, environmental and Socio Community impacts.

### Section B - Project Description

The enclosed Plans detail the proposed construction and access location. The components of the 150 x 150 metre subject area are defined on the Attached Site Specific Map and Shape File. The overall proposed subject area is approximately 2.25 hectares in size. No access road or power line is proposed as access will be by helicopter. The new tower will have back to back antennas with no other buildings or structures required. A helipad will be constructed for access purposes.

### Section C - Additional Information

#### Environmental

**Land Impacts** - Construction will have a minimal impact on the land, primarily the footprint of the Tower site.

**Cutting of Vegetation** - there will be minimal vegetation removal associated with this project, only some minor non merchantable shrub clearing. A licence to Cut will be applied for in the event that any tree removal is required.

**Atmospheric Impacts** - This type of installation will not produce atmospheric impacts such as noise or odors once in operation.

**Aquatic Impacts** - There are no activities planned which will affect water courses or riparian features. See attached DFO Self-Assessment form. The applicant will participate in any required environmental studies.

**Archaeological Sites** – To our knowledge there are no archaeological sites or features identified at this location. Telus will participate in any required consultation and any required Archaeological studies.

**Fish and Wildlife Habitat** - This installation will not have any environmental impact on existing wildlife habitat.

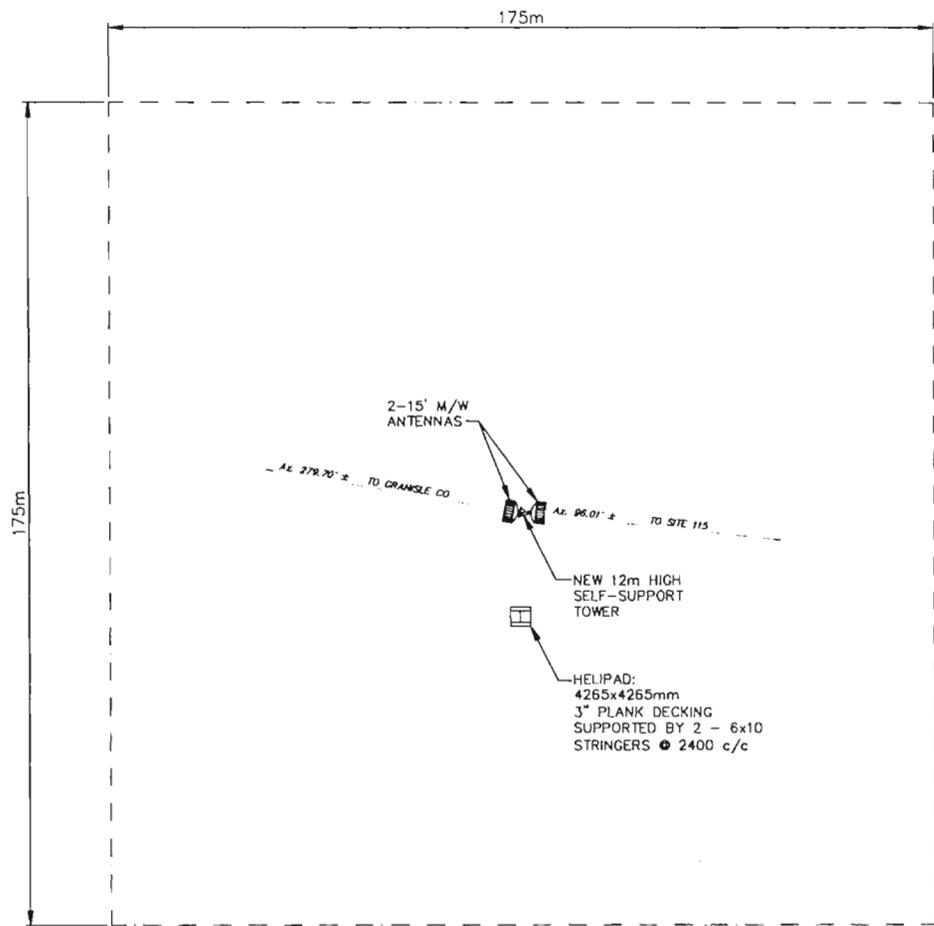
**Socio-Community**

**Land Use** - This tower will provide telecommunication service to camp service providers in the area of Tocha / Babine Lakes and Nechacko.

**Socio-Community Conditions** – The proposed installation will provide cellular coverage for camp service providers.

**Public Health** - Telus Engineering advises there will be no impact on community water systems or infrastructure, and no effect on public health services.

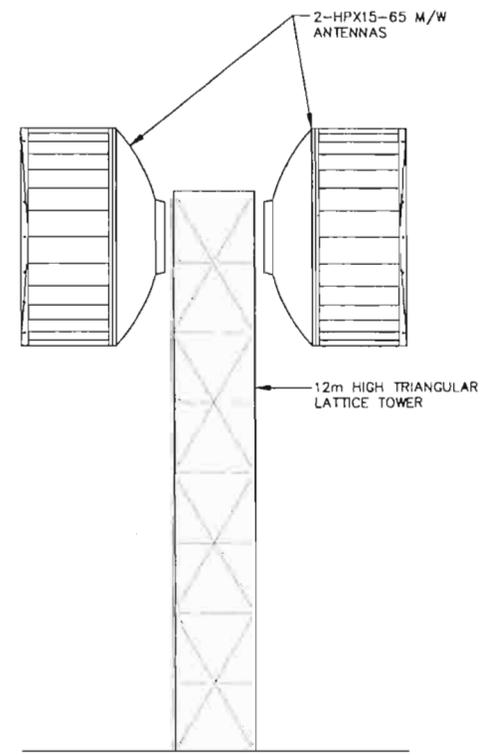
**First Nations** - There have been no discussions with First Nations with respect to this project. Telus will participate in any required consultation and any required Archaeological studies.



**SITE PLAN**  
1:1000

NEW TELUS COMMUNICATIONS  
SITE LEASE AREA  
(AREA = APPROX. 3.06 ha)

CO-ORDINATE TABLE					
NAD 83 ZONE 10					
DESCRIPTION	NORTHING	EASTING	LAT.	LONG.	EL.
CENTER OF TELUS PROPOSED TOWER	6081155	314480	N54°50'35.10" 54.84308	W125°53'21.50" 125.88931	1438.45m±



**ELEVATION**  
1:100

REVISIONS CHANGE APPLICATION DATE NO	<b>ROBERTSON KOLBEINS TEEVAN GALLAHER ASSOCIATES LTD</b> <small>CONSULTING ENGINEERS</small>		<small>1848 W. 4TH AVE. VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, V6J 1M8</small>	
	<b>RKTG</b>		DRAWING No.: B19-5141-100	REV. 1
	<b>TOCHCHA REPEATER</b>			
	<b>SITE PLAN &amp; ELEVATION</b>			
	ENG: -	DATE: FEB 2015		
	DR: R. JOHNSON	PLOT: 1 : 1		
	CHK: R. CARTER	PLOT DATE:		
	APP: R. CARTER	-		



10

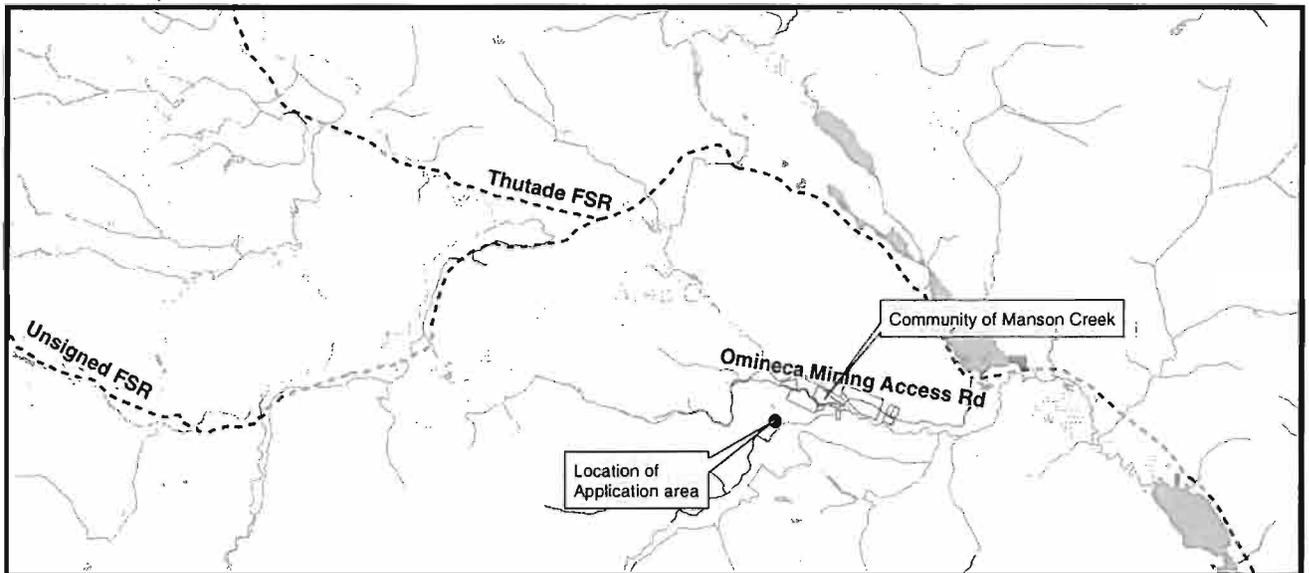


# MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors  
 From: Maria Sandberg  
 Date: April 15, 2015  
 Re: Mines File No. 13990-04-434 (Miller)

This application is regarding a renewal of a Placer Minerals Lease held by Robert Miller. The lease is located south of the rural community of Manson Creek, approximately 135 kilometres north of the District of Fort St James, and is 34.16 ha in size. The lease was originally issued for a 10 year term and the proponent is asking for a 10 year extension.

The application area is not zoned.



**Recommendation**

That the attached comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Mines File No. 13990-04-434 (Miller).

*Rural Directors – All/Directors/Majority*

Reviewed by:

Jason Llewellyn  
 Director of Planning

Written by:

Maria Sandberg  
 Planner



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO COMMENT  
SHEET ON Mines File No. 13990-04-434**

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**Electoral Area:** C

**Applicant:** Robert Miller

**Existing Land Use:** Vacant

**Zoning:** No zoning

**Plan Designation** None

**Proposed Use Comply  
With Zoning:** N/A

**If not, why?**

**Agricultural Land Reserve:** Not in the ALR

**Access Highway:** Omineca Mining Access Rd

**Archaeological Site:** Not according to provincial mapping

**Building Inspection:** Not within the Building Inspection area

**Fire Protection:** Outside Rural Fire Protection area

**Other comments:** None



BRITISH COLUMBIA

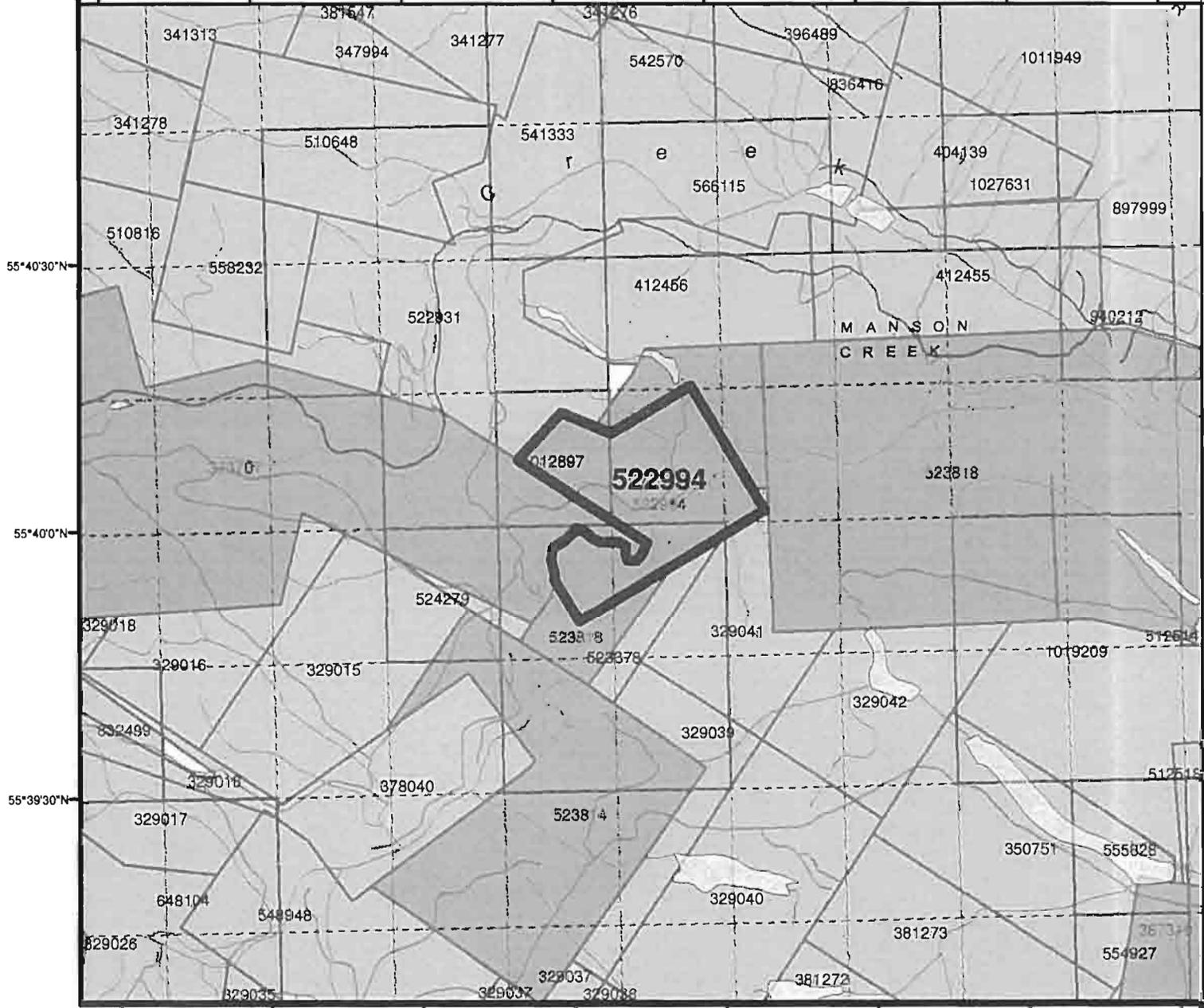
Placer Lease Extension File Number: 13990-04-434

# Referral Map

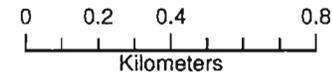
Lease Tenure Number

## 522994

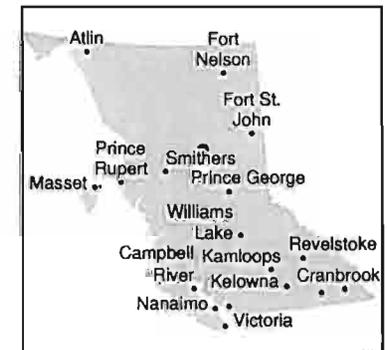
124°32'30"W 124°32'0"W 124°31'30"W 124°31'0"W 124°30'30"W 124°30'0"W 124°29'30"W 124°29'0"W



Map Scale 1:20,000



- Subject Placer Lease Tenure
- Federal Transfer of Admin & Control
- Municipalities
- Placer No Registration Reserves
- Placer Conditional Reserves
- Indian Reserves
- Parks: National, Provincial
- Mineral Placer Grid
- Placer Leases
- Placer Claims
- Private Land (Surface)
- Surveyed Crown Land (Surface)



Projection: BC Albers Datum: NAD83  
 Data Source: British Columbia Geographic Warehouse  
 Produced by: Mineral Titles - Energy and Mines  
 Date: 09/01/2015  
 Path: \\spatialfiles.bcgov\work\em\vic\umb\Local\projects\leases\placer\referral\_maps\mxd\Detailed\_8.5x11-BCGWLayers.mxd

124°32'30"W 124°32'0"W 124°31'30"W 124°31'0"W 124°30'30"W 124°30'0"W 124°29'30"W 124°29'0"W

APR 09 2015

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF  
BULKLEY NECHAKO**Geraldine Craven**

**From:** Jex, Bill A FLNR:EX <Bill.Jex@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** April-09-15 10:33 AM  
**To:** Linda; Stevenson, John J AGRI:EX  
**Cc:** Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX; Nadina District Office, Forests FLNR:EX; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX; Njenga, Francis AGRI:EX; Minister, ENV ENV:EX; dougdonaldson.mla@leg.bc.ca; Rustad.MLA, John LASS:EX; inquiries; bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca; Atagi, Dana Y FLNR:EX; MacDonald, Leslie S AGRI:EX; Pesklevits, Anthony FLNR:EX; Diemert, Karen A FLNR:EX; Nixon, Kevin B ENV:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Skeena region - Bulkley Valley Elk issue  
**Attachments:** BVCA Member survey summary.docx

Skeena Regional Cattlemen's Association  
 PO Box 98  
 Houston, BC V0J 1Z0

Dear Linda Dykens:

Thank you for your emailed letter of March 19, 2015, regarding elk depredation issues faced by the membership of the Skeena Regional Cattlemen's Association. Having grown up on a small family beef farm I have a sense of the unique challenges agriculturalists face in terms of both the positive and negative effects that native wildlife populations pose on both stock and crops. Those effects are often driven by our weather from one year to the next, which in itself can ameliorate or exacerbate the issues at hand, and which also has direct implications to the size and distribution of wild ungulate populations.

As you know the issue of addressing wildlife depredation and in particular elk damage to crops and crop stores is complex and as observed in other regions, will require likely a complex set of solutions. That species is very adaptable and seems to be expanding its range across portions of British Columbia. In terms of our local context, elk have been known to be present in the Bulkley Valley area since the early 1980's, however initial reports of sightings were of single animals (usually bulls) that appeared to have migrated from colonized areas to the east of our region; there is no truth to the rumour that elk in the Bulkley Valley are the result of an introduction by government. By the 1990's, sightings of small groups of cows were being reported in and around the Deep Cr./Quick area. In the early 2000's, herds of 20+ animals were being seen regularly in the fields near Quick. In 2004, wildlife branch captured and collared four cow elk, equipping them with GPS-based radio collars to obtain better information and an understanding of the movements of this localized elk herd. Those collars were recovered in 2005 and the data corroborated assumptions with respect to the herd's geographic distribution in the valley. Over and since this time, the magnitude of impacts resulting from elk distribution and numbers has varied greatly.

My specific involvement in this matter began in 2008 wherein I assisted the Bulkley Valley Cattlemen's Association (BVCA) in delivering a member survey that was focused on identifying locations of elk and wild ungulate depredation in the valley, between Smithers and Houston. It was interesting to note that while elk damage was identified on 1 of the 4 returned surveys, that individual landowner indicated that the magnitude of impact was low (i.e., it scored a 3 out of 10); in general, bear were more often identified with a higher magnitude of impact to farming operations. Following the review of those surveys however, I coordinated a funding application and in winter 2009-10 undertook a Provincial Agricultural Zone Wildlife Program (PAZWP) funded survey of identified ungulate depredation sites, attempting to quantify the effect and distribution of ungulates in and around those farms. This survey identified some farming practices that were increasing the attractiveness of the farmland to elk (e.g., open broadcast feeding in low-fenced pastures, in close proximity to forested areas) and also showed that moose and deer were more often observed in close proximity to the farms that identified winter depredation issues.

In February 2011, as a result of wildlife branch staff being able to acquire donated helicopter time from Due North Helicopters Ltd., an ungulate inventory focused on enumerating elk in and around the core winter range areas used by the collared elk in the 2005 study was conducted. Our population estimate at that time of elk winter concentrations in the Bulkley Valley was between 50 and 70 animals. That same spring I began working with Mr. Wayne Tofsrud who represented the BVCA, the Bulkley Valley Farmer's Institute & who was a member of the Skeena Stockmen. Together we tried to understand and find solutions to crop and crop-store depredation during a time when Ministry of Agriculture staff were not positioned in the valley. I hosted a meeting with 8 local agriculturalists from these organizations as well as the Skeena Draft Horsemen's Association at my office on May 16, 2011, where we discussed many aspects of the depredation issue, but the group was in agreement with two main points: 1) that the ministry's estimate of elk numbers and distribution at that time; and 2) that the magnitude of impact from elk depredation seemed to be increasing. The outcome of that meeting identified a strategy for the BVCA to lead development of a joint position statement and a process to collect more precise information on elk numbers and depredation issues that could then inform future management actions. During this same period I engaged then MLA John Rustad on this topic, in an attempt to specifically find some assistance for our local agriculturalists in the form of returning funding programs and opportunities such as exclusion fencing. In October of 2011 the British Columbia Cattlemen's Association (BVCA) penned a letter to then Ministers Lake & McRae, that requested assistance on this issue (BVCA file number 2011-062), and asked for re-implementation of past funding initiatives that could be accessed by the BC agricultural community.

In January of 2012, I attended the BVCA's AGM in Smithers and following some discussion, I invited members to complete a landowner attitudes survey that I had developed. My hope was that the information provided would offer a sense of the issues and acceptability of possible solutions from the broader membership. Results from that survey did not provide wildlife branch with the clear direction that was hoped for (see attached summary). I continued to work with Wayne and the BVCA through 2013, sharing information as I acquired it from other jurisdictions and attempting to assist the BVCA in being awarded funds to deliver fencing demonstration projects here locally.

In 2014 I spent some time at Mr. Rick Boonstra's property out in Quick (Rick was one of the original members I had met with back in 2011), to gain a better understanding of issues he was facing and to attempt to find workable solutions from his perspective; I have also spoken with others, exploring various strategies to try to resolve the elk depredation issue on a site by site basis (e.g., such as employing the use a combined electric fence and peanut butter attractant) with mixed success. Wildlife branch has been challenged to date in finding a single workable solution; we have limited resources with which to undertake a stakeholder-driven strategic plan for elk and wildlife depredation assessment and compensation programs are the clear purview of the Ministry of Agriculture. I noted in your letter that the cattlemen have initiated the development of a regional coexistence strategy and I would applaud that initiative. I have echoed a similar need for some sort of multi-stakeholder management planning process here in the valley for some time, and now that the Ministry of Agriculture once again has a staff position here locally held by Mr. John Stevenson, progress on this file will hopefully occur. I appreciate you bringing this matter forward and identifying your concerns, but also the BVCA's initiative in seeking to lead a management planning process for elk in the agricultural zone of the southern Skeena region. This ministry is striving to find a balance between a number of objectives, including addressing landowner interests, conserving the Bulkley Valley elk herd, accommodating First Nations' harvest interests and rights, and seeking to provide resident hunting opportunities where they may assist with addressing crop and crop-store depredation situations.

For your information I have also attached some reference information that your members may want to try to see if some small wins can come of that:

<http://www.icwdm.org/handbook/index.asp#om>

<http://www.albertafarmexpress.ca/2014/07/10/protecting-stored-hay-from-wildlife/>

[http://www.peaceforage.bc.ca/#\\_ga=1.224286299.1596807167.1421863389](http://www.peaceforage.bc.ca/#_ga=1.224286299.1596807167.1421863389)

<http://www.google.com/cse?cx=001816625638833290427%3A3ue4m4dcmne&ie=UTF-8&q=protect+hay&x=75&y=11#gsc.tab=0&gsc.q=protect%20hay&gsc.page=1>

[http://www.peaceforage.bc.ca/Wildlife%20Mitigation%20Info/Mitigation%20info/Ungulate%20Control/Prevention%20&%20Control%20Handbooks/Prevention & Control Handbook Elk.pdf](http://www.peaceforage.bc.ca/Wildlife%20Mitigation%20Info/Mitigation%20info/Ungulate%20Control/Prevention%20&%20Control%20Handbooks/Prevention%20&%20Control%20Handbook%20Elk.pdf)

I have also heard that 'blood meal' (a flower fertilizer commonly used for roses), is effective when broadcast on hay. It apparently doesn't deter livestock feeding and I've been advised it doesn't pose a concern for livestock (e.g., CWD, etc.). As long as it stays dry it appears to work successfully in with trough feeders, open bales, bedding areas around residences.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions about the content of this email, or if you want to engage further on developing a strategic plan for elk in the valley.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Bill Jex, RPBio.**

*Regional Wildlife Biologist,*

*Skeena Region,*

*British Columbia Ministry of Forest, Lands  
& Natural Resource Operations*

*Mail to:*

Bag 5000  
 3726 Alfred Avenue  
 Smithers, BC V0J 2N0

*Phone:*

(250) 847-7804

*Fax:*

(250) 847-7728

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**From:** Linda [mailto:lindadykens@xplornet.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2015 5:15 PM

**To:** Jex, Bill A FLNR:EX

**Cc:** Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX; Nadina District Office, Forests FLNR:EX; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX; grant.parnett@gov.bc.ca; Njenga, Francis AGRI:EX; steward@gov.bc.ca; Stevenson, John J AGRI:EX; Minister, ENV ENV:EX; dougdonaldson.mla@leg.bc.ca; Rustad.MLA, John LASS:EX; XT:BulkleyNechako, RegionalDistrict ENV:IN; bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca

**Subject:** Skeena region elk issue

Please see attached letter regarding elk issues in the Skeena region.

Linda Dykens

[lindadykens@xplornet.com](mailto:lindadykens@xplornet.com)

## BVCA Member survey

Wildlife Branch presented a survey to BVCA members at their AGM in Feb 2012. Key findings:

- 13 responses from the 22 members. These 13 agriculturalists represent:
  - 382 yrs of farming
  - 15,700 acres of private land ownership
  - 28,300 acres of Crown Land lease
- 11 experience some crop damage from the following species
  - 1 – wolf
  - 4 - bear
  - 6 – deer
  - 5 – elk
  - 5 – moose
  - 1 – waterfowl
- 9 experience what they consider significant crop damage or loss of income
  - 3 – wolf
  - 5 - bear
  - 6 – deer
  - 5 – elk
  - 2 – moose
  - 4 – waterfowl
- 0 families hunt on their lands
- 9 properties are posted No Trespassing
- 8 are posted No Hunting
- 7 have experiences trespass by big game hunters; 3 by small game hunters
- 5 would allow big game hunting if asked
- 3 would allow small game hunting if asked
- 10 would allow access to kill wildlife as part of a ministry control program
- 7 would consider accepting compensation from a non-profit or NGO in return for access to hunt and trap on their land
- 9 would prefer other options to reduce problem wildlife numbers over hunting or trapping.