



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
RURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
AGENDA
Thursday, May 14, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

May 14, 2026

Approve

MINUTES

Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes - April 16, 2026

Page 3-7

Approve

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

**Cameron Kral, Planner - Notice of Work Referral No. 0200077 -
Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)**

Page 8-10

Recommendation

**Cameron Kral, Planner Crown Land Referral No. 6409585 -
Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)**

Page 11-13

Recommendation

**Rowan Nagel, Planning/GIS Technician - Crown Land Referral
No. 6409599 - Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)**

Page 14

Recommendation

**Rowan Nagel, Planning/GIS Technician - Crown Land Referral
No. 7410403 - Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)**

Page 16-17

Recommendation

REPORTS

**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services -
Community Hall Appraisal Project Update**

Page 18

Receive

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Resource Roads

Page 19-27

Report from June 5, 2025 for Information

Chambers of Commerce

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

- 2022-2026 RDBN Board Strategic Plan**
- 1. Relationships with First Nations**
 - 2. Advocacy with the Province**
 - 3. Housing Supply**
 - 4. Community and Economic Sustainability**



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
RURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday, April 16, 2026**

Directors Present: Chair Michael Riis-Christianson
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Stoney Stoltenberg
Alternate Director Alex Kulchar

Directors Absent: Shirley Moon, Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof)

Staff: Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others: Martin Elphee, District of Fort St. James
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle
Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa - via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.

Thursday, April 16, 2026

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AGENDA

April 16, 2026

2026-RSC-041

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Newell

That the Rural Services Committee Meeting Agenda for April 16, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes - March 12, 2026

2026-RSC-042

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Parker

That the Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**Cameron Kral, Planner - Crown Land Referral No. 0267730 - Electoral Area D
(Fraser Lake Rural)**

2026-RSC-043

Moved by Director Parker

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's response to Crown Land Referral No. 0267730.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

**Directors Greenaway and Moon - Report - Electoral Area Directors Forum -
March 10-11, 2026**

2026-RSC-044

Thursday, April 16, 2026

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Moved by Alternate Director Kulchar

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Board receive the report from Directors Greenaway and Moon regarding the Electoral Area Directors Forum March 10-11, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Greenaway provided an overview of the key topics at the EA Forum attended in Richmond March 10-11, 2026. Director Parker spoke of the Emergency and Disaster Management Act and First Nations Consultations.

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Volunteer of the Year Program Proposal

2026-RSC-045

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Committee recommend that the Board direct staff to complete the development of an RDBN Volunteer of the Year Program for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee discussed options for recognition of volunteers. Some options discussed were:

- Once a year event separate from a Board meeting
- Volunteer recognition at a Board meeting
- Collaborate with local Chamber of Commerce to be included at their yearly recognition dinner
- External committee to determine volunteer recognition selection
- Nomination forms on the RDBN website to provide the opportunity for peer recommendations
- Staff will incorporate ideas in the development of a program.

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Non-Profit Navigator Newsletter Issues 1 (Winter) and 2 (Spring)

2026-RSC-046

Moved by Alternate Director Kulchar

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Committee receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services' Non-Profit Navigator Newsletter Issues 1 (Winter) and 2 (Spring) memorandum.

Thursday, April 16, 2026

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CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff bringing forward tracking data for the newsletter at a future meeting was discussed along with Directors bringing forward topics of interest from constituents for inclusion in upcoming newsletters.

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Passive Infrastructure Update**2026-RSC-047**

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Committee receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services' Passive Infrastructure Update memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff will follow up regarding the status of Fort St. James projects nearing completion and the progress of CityWest.

VERBAL DISCUSSION**Rural Residents Survey**

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services provided an overview of Directors responses to questions provided for the future creation of a Rural Residents Survey. The questions were:

- What are the top three questions you receive from your constituents?
- If you were able to tell constituents about a few of the services the RDBN provides, which three would you include?
- When you think of rural culture/lifestyle, what three words first pop to mine?
- What are the top one or two services that you find are commonly misunderstood by residents?
- What are three key decisions related to rural culture that you think the Committee may need to consider in the next 3-5 years?
- What information collected from a resident survey would be most helpful to support decision making?
- What are the top three questions you would like to see asked of your constituents?

The Committee discussed the following:

Thursday, April 16, 2026

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- Time frame to distribute survey
- Engagement initiatives, election and future strategic planning
- Informing other RDBN plans being renewed
- Providing education and receiving feedback.

2026-RSC-048

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Newell

That the Committee receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services' verbal report regarding the Rural Residents Survey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

2026-RSC-049

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

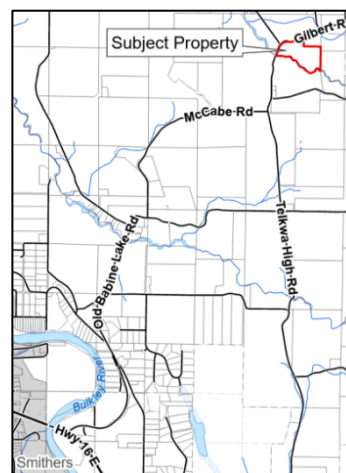
To: Chair and Committee
From: Cameron Kral, Planner
Date: May 14, 2026
Subject: **Notice of Work Referral No. 0200077 - Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)**

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

That the attached comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's response to Notice of Work Referral No. 0200077.

BACKGROUND

The RDBN has received a request to provide comment on a Notice of Work (NoW) application by West Fraser Concrete Ltd., to reactivate operations at a former sand and gravel pit known as Gilbert Pit. The application area covers approximately 9.55 ha and is located approximately 7 km northeast of the Town of Smithers, off Gilbert Road. RDBN records indicate Gilbert Pit has operated intermittently under several owners since the 1950s. It appears operations stopped several years prior to the applicant purchasing the property in 2023.



The applicant is proposing to extract 5,000 tonnes of material annually over 10 years and operate seasonally from May to October each year, Monday to Friday, 7:00 am to 3:00 pm, depending on demand. Equipment includes a loader, haul truck, portable screening plant, and potentially a portable crushing plant and an excavator or dozer. Reclamation details are outlined in the attached referral documents. The two nearest residences, located to the north and east, are approximately 125 m and 175 m from the application area, respectively.

Agricultural Land Reserve Application

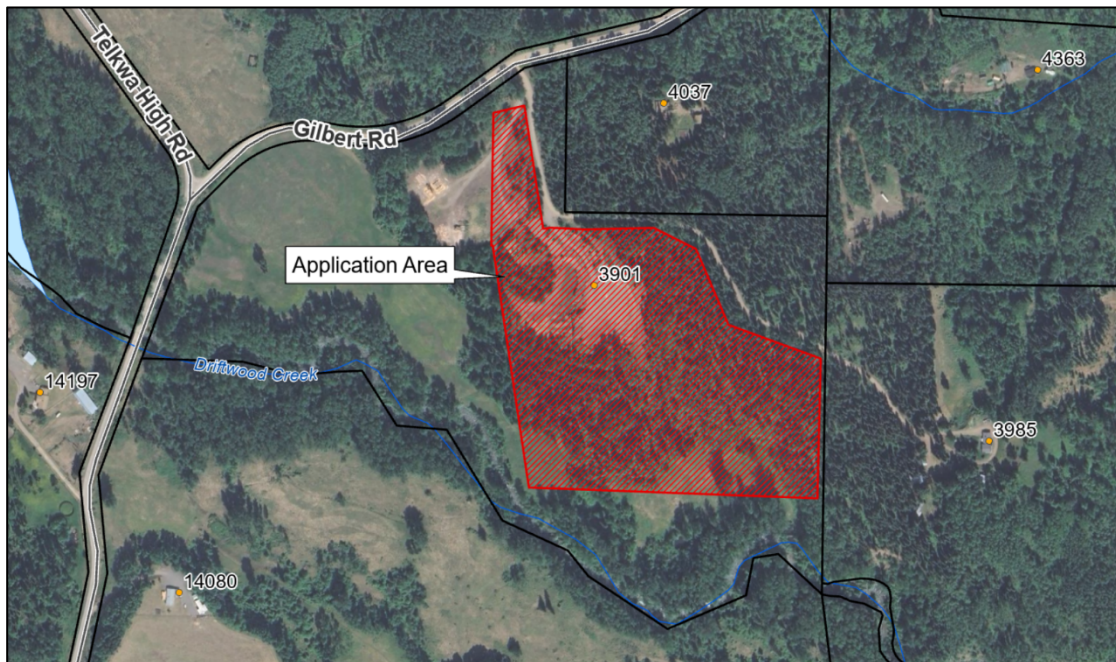
On June 19, 2025, the RDBN Board passed a resolution recommending the applicant's Non-Farm Use application (ALR 1277) to the Agricultural Land Commission for approval subject to conditions (see Attachments for staff report). There are some discrepancies between the operation proposed in ALR 1277 and this referral. The applicant stated to staff the lifespan and scale of the operation may be reduced based on feedback from the ALC and the current NOW represents the most up-to-date information on the proposed operation.

Temporary Use Permit Application

Staff note the RDBN Zoning Bylaw cannot regulate aggregate extraction. However, aggregate processing, including crushing, screening and washing, is not a permitted use in the Ag1 zone. Staff are currently processing a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) application from the applicant to allow screening and crushing on the property. This TUP is expected to be on the May 28, 2026 Agenda for the Board's consideration.

Staff Comments

Staff received the attached correspondence from the owner of 3985 Gilbert Road expressing concerns regarding impacts from gravel extraction activities on the subject property. Staff have also received the attached correspondence from the Ministry of Mines and Critical Minerals relating to the resident's concerns.



ATTACHMENTS:

- Comment sheet
- [Referral documents](#) (link)
- [ALR 1277 staff report](#) (link)
- [Neighbour correspondence, dated April 22, 2026](#) (link)
- [MMCM correspondence, dated April 24, 2026](#) (link)

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This topic aligns with the following Strategic Focus Area(s) from the RDBN Strategic Plan:
Not Applicable

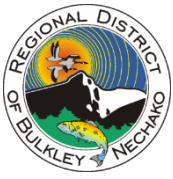
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Comment Sheet on Notice of Work Referral No. 0200077

Electoral Area:	Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)
Applicant:	West Fraser Concrete Ltd.
Existing Land Use:	Sand and Gravel Pit (inactive)
Zoning:	Agricultural (Ag1) Zone
OCP Designation:	Agriculture (AG) Designation
Proposed Use Comply with Zoning:	See comments
Agricultural Land Reserve:	Yes
Access:	Gilbert Pit Road
Building Inspection:	Yes
Fire Protection:	No
Other comments:	

An approved Temporary Use Permit from the Regional District is required to allow the proposed screening and crushing activities.

Attached for your information and consideration is correspondence from an abutting property owner regarding the proposed gravel pit. It is recommended that the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals engage with area residents to identify any potential community impact issues that require mitigation. It is also recommended that the Ministry ensure an adequate vegetation buffer is maintained around the site and any sensitive ecosystems along Driftwood Creek are preserved.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

To: Chair and Committee

From: Cameron Kral, Planner

Date: May 14, 2026

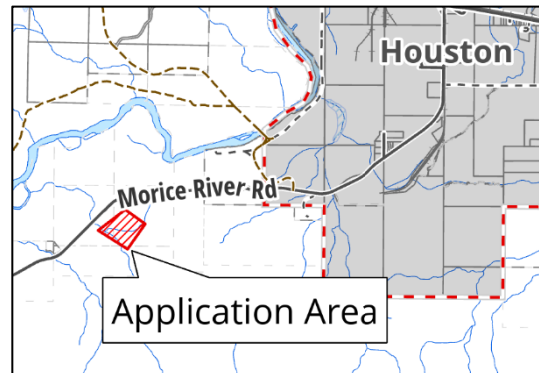
Subject: **Crown Land Referral No. 6409585 - Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle) Rural**

RECOMMENDATION: **(all/directors/majority)**

That the attached comment sheet be provided as the Regional District's response to Crown Land Referral No. 6409585.

BACKGROUND

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has received a request from the Province to provide comment on a Licence of Occupation application by the Houston Motocross Association (HMA) for an outdoor motocross facility. The application area covers 17 ha of Crown land located approximately 1.6 km west of the District of Houston and 1.4 km southwest of Bymac Park (see Location Map to the right).



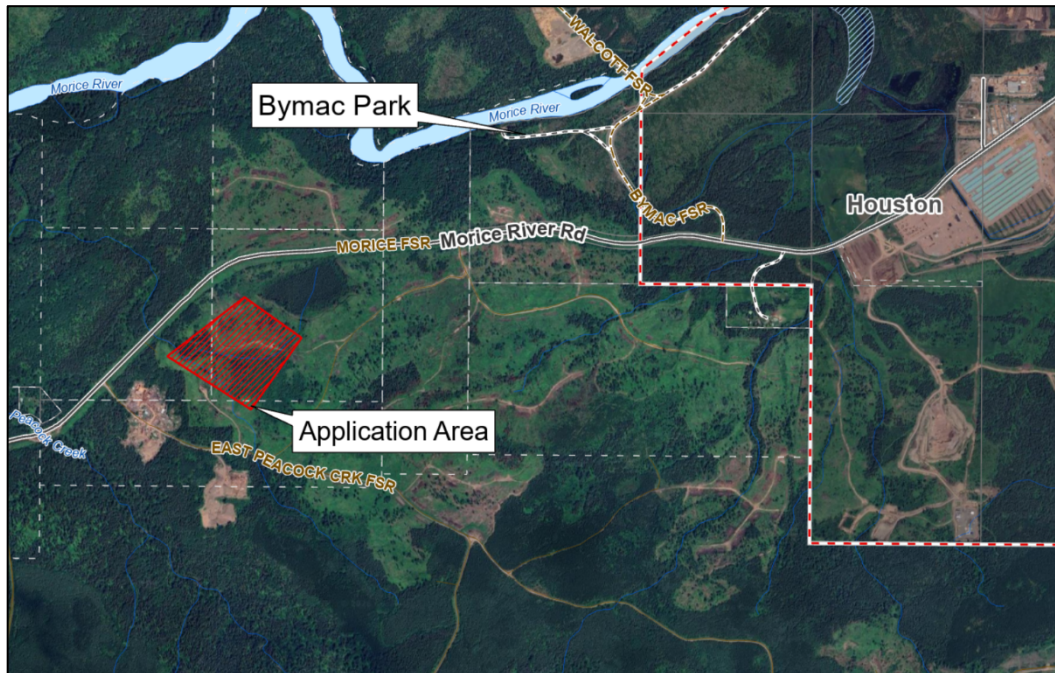
The Management Plan states the facility would include two motocross tracks, a parking area, and moveable infrastructure (bleachers, picnic tables, and starting gates) and will be used for community events including racing, training, fitness, camping and tourism. No permanent structures appear to be proposed, including no utilities or waste disposal system. No environmental impacts are listed except some vegetation clearing and soil disturbance as required. The Management Plan states there are no nearby watercourses. However, staff note it appears there may be an unnamed watercourse within the application area according to digital mapping. The application area was previously logged and HMA plans to consult with the Ministry of Forests for FireSmart planning (see Attachments for Management and Site Plan)

Staff Comments

The application area is zoned Rural Resource (RR1) pursuant to RDBN Zoning bylaw 1800, 2020 and the proposed motocross facility is not a permitted use in the RR1 Zone. Therefore, a rezoning application or Temporary Use Permit (TUP) must be approved by the Board for the use to occur. It is recommended that the Province make the issuance of a Licence of Occupation conditional upon the land use being approved through the rezoning of the property or the

issuance of a Temporary Use Permit (TUP). Staff note that the proximity of the proposed motorcross facility to Bymac Park will be a notable consideration during a rezoning or TUP review process (see map below).

This referral was sent to the District of Houston for comment as they own and operate Bymac Park. Comments from the District are anticipated to be on the supplemental Agenda.



ATTACHMENTS:

- Comment Sheet
- [Applicant Management and Site Plan](#) (link)

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This topic aligns with the following Strategic Focus Area(s) from the RDBN Strategic Plan:
Not Applicable

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral No. 6409585

Electoral Area:	Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)
Applicant:	Houston Motocross Association
Existing Land Use:	Crown land
Zoning:	Rural Resource (RR1) Zone
OCP Designation:	Resource (RE) Designation
Proposed Use Comply with Zoning:	No
Agricultural Land Reserve:	No
Access:	Morice River Road
Building Inspection:	No
Fire Protection:	No
Other comments:	

The proposed motocross facility is not a permitted use in the RR1 Zone. Therefore, the subject lands must be rezoned, or a Temporary Use Permit must be approved, by the RDBN Board for the use to be permitted. It is recommended that the Province make the issuance of a Licence of Occupation conditional upon the land use being approved through rezoning or the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit. Proximity of the proposed motocross facility to Bymac Park is noted and will be a consideration when evaluating a land use application.

The applicant is encouraged to contact the RDBN Planning Department to discuss their land use application as soon as possible.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

To: Chair and Committee

From: Rowan Nagel, Planning/GIS Technician

Date: May 14, 2026

Subject: **Crown Land Referral No. 6409599 - Electoral Area G (Houston Rural)**

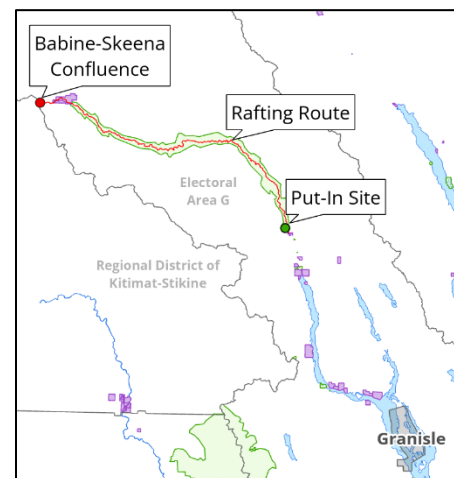
RECOMMENDATION: **(all/directors/majority)**

That the attached comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's response to Crown Land Referral No. 6409599.

BACKGROUND

The applicant, West Coast Whitewater Ltd., has applied for a 10-year Licence of Occupation over lands in the vicinity of the Babine River for the purposes of adventure tourism. If granted, this license would allow them to conduct guided, multi-day commercial whitewater rafting expeditions on the Babine River in northern Electoral Area G. The application includes other river corridors outside of the RDBN and covers 8,296 ha of land in total, 233 ha of which are in the RDBN.

For the proposed Babine-Skeena route, the expedition will put-in just south of the Babine River Corridor Provincial Park, at the Babine River Fish Counting Fence. From there, they will raft the Babine north-west for approximately 80 km before crossing into the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine at the confluence of the Babine and Skeena Rivers. Of these 80 km, only 4.5 are within RDBN jurisdiction, as the remaining 75.5 are within the Provincial Park and the neighbouring Kisgegas Reserve.



The put-in site and route are not zoned and are outside of the building inspection service area.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Comment Sheet

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This topic aligns with the following Strategic Focus Area(s) from the RDBN Strategic Plan:
Not Applicable

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako**Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral No. 6409599**

Electoral Area:	Electoral Area G (Houston Rural)
Applicant:	West Coast Whitewater Ltd.
Existing Land Use:	Unsurveyed Crown Land
Zoning:	Not Zoned
OCP Designation:	Route: Not Designated Put-In Point: Resource (RE)
Proposed Use Comply with Zoning:	N/A
Agricultural Land Reserve:	No
Access:	Nilkitkwa FSR
Building Inspection:	No
Fire Protection:	No
Other comments:	N/A



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

To: Chair and Committee
From: Rowan Nagel, Planning/GIS Technician
Date: May 14, 2026
Subject: **Crown Land Referral No. 7410403 - Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)**

RECOMMENDATION: **(all/directors/majority)**

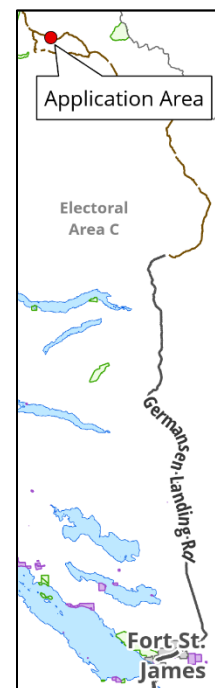
That the attached comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's response to Crown Land Referral No. 7410403.

BACKGROUND

The RDBN has received a request for comment on an application from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. The Ministry has applied for conditional withdrawal from disposition under sections 16 and 17 of the *Land Act*. The site is located between Manson Creek and Germansen Landing, approximately 140 km north of Fort St. James. It is outside of the building inspection service area and is not zoned. Access is via Thutade FSR.

A hydrometeorological monitoring station proposed to be located on the land to monitor atmospheric conditions and other water related metrics for the purposes of weather forecasting and management of water resources. The withdrawal area is 4.19 ha, which will provide a buffer between the station and any activities that may influence data collection. The station itself is approximately 16 sq.m.

Work will occur in late 2026 or early 2027. Construction will involve tree clearing to create wildfire buffers and a landing area for helicopters.



ATTACHMENTS:

- Comment Sheet

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This topic aligns with the following Strategic Focus Area(s) from the RDBN Strategic Plan:
 Not Applicable

Electoral Area: Electoral Area C (Fort St James Rural)

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako**Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral No. 7410403**

Applicant:	BC Ministry of Environment
Existing Land Use:	Unsurveyed Crown Land
Zoning:	Not Zoned
OCP Designation:	Not Designated
Proposed Use Comply with Zoning:	N/A
Agricultural Land Reserve:	No
Access:	Thutade FSR
Building Inspection:	No
Fire Protection:	No
Other comments:	N/A



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

To: Chair and Committee

From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services

Date: May 14, 2026

Subject: **Community Hall Appraisal Project Update**

RECOMMENDATION: **(all/directors/majority)**

Receive.

BACKGROUND

All participating Community Hall appraisals were completed between February 16-20, 2026.

The completed appraisals are the property of the individual halls. The RDBN has been provided with an aggregated report, and Directors are welcome to request information for halls in their Electoral Area.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This topic aligns with the following Strategic Focus Area(s) from the RDBN Strategic Plan:
Not Applicable



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

To: Chair and Committee
From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services
Date: June 5, 2025
Subject: **Resource Roads**

RECOMMENDATION: **(all/directors/majority)**

Receive.

BACKGROUND

Resource roads are found on Crown land but are not part of the provincial highway system. They are frequently used by industrial vehicles involved in forestry, mining, oil and gas, clean energy, or agriculture operations. They also provide access to communities and high value recreation in remote areas.

In B.C. there are different types of resource roads. The majority of them are Forest Service Roads and road permit roads that are used to access natural resources. Many of these roads are managed [using permits](#).

The B.C. government maintains most resource roads that are not under a permit. Available resources are prioritized to resources roads that supply access to rural communities, residents and high value recreation sites.

Some resource roads are maintained **only** to protect the environment. Resource Roads may be deactivated when no longer needed or where it is cost prohibitive to continue to maintain.

There are also non-status roads (NSRs) on Crown land. These roads may be found on maps but have no permit status. These roads are not maintained or inspected and may be deactivated if significant safety or environmental issues become known.

Roads on private, federal or municipal land and B.C. Ministry of Transportation side roads are **not** considered resource roads.¹

Resource roads are not maintained for regular vehicle traffic and must be used with caution.

¹ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-resource-use/resource-roads>

The provincial mapping program iMap includes data for resource road segments, including active status and permit holder information.

If there are resource roads in the RDBN that are of concern or for which Directors would like to make an inquiry, staff are able to research and provide the appropriate information.



Image: Forestry Roads in the RDBN – iMap data

ATTACHMENTS

MOF Factsheet – Engineering Roads Funding Policy

FAQ – Engineering Roads Funding Policy

FACTSHEET

June 2024

Ministry of Forests

Engineering Roads Funding Policy

- The Ministry of Forests has developed a road funding policy to serve as a framework to allocate funds for the maintenance, improvement and closure of Forest Service Roads (FSRs) maintained by the Crown.
- FSRs are not built or maintained to the same standards as public highways. Many resource roads are not maintained for vehicular traffic. Most resource roads have rough, loose gravel surfaces and are narrow (often one lane wide).
- The Ministry does not receive specific funding to maintain alternate egress routes. Egress routes may be comprised of active or inactive FSRs, non-status roads, other resource roads or public highways. Alternate egress routes may be activated during emergency response activities throughout B.C. The decision to utilize an FSR as an alternate egress route is completed on a case-by-case basis.
- The Ministry prioritizes how funds are allocated to FSR maintenance (operating) and major road and bridge improvement (capital) projects in the following order:
 - Roads accessing:
 1. Communities (First Nation and non-First Nation)
 2. Rural residences
 3. High value recreation sites
- The Engineering Program has an annual capital budget of \$26.3 million for major upgrades to the 12,000 kilometres capital road network in B.C. in Fiscal Year 2024/25.
- In addition, a \$17 million operational budget is available annually to maintain 45,000 kilometres of FSRs, where the priority is on the capital road network for Fiscal Year 2024/25.
- Of the 60,000 kilometres of FSRs in British Columbia, 15,000 kilometres are maintained by BC Timber Sales. The Engineering Roads Funding Policy does not cover these roads.
- If not maintained to a high-clearance vehicle standard, wilderness roads deteriorate and, unless an industrial user assumes maintenance obligations, eventually must be deactivated to reduce risks to the environment, the public, and other objectives. The decision to deactivate FSRs is made carefully with consideration to multiple priorities and impacts.
- The Ministry's Engineering Program staff maintain roads and make capital improvements, as they are identified and as resources allow.
- Capital funding will not be allocated to complete works on FSRs solely for industrial purposes (current or future).

- The Engineering Program uses the following principles when allocating funds to manage and maintain a safe FSR network throughout the province:
 - Allocate funds based on priority
 - Allocate funds in an open and transparent manner
 - Allocate funds consistently—generally use the same criteria to make ranking decisions

Additional information can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-resource-use/resource-roads>

Contact the Engineering Branch directly at: FLNREng.Branch@gov.bc.ca

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Ministry of Forests
250 896-7359

FAQ – Engineering Roads Funding Policy

June 2024

Ministry of Forests

- What are resource roads?

Resource roads in B.C. are constructed to develop, protect and access the province's natural resources. They also serve as crucial links for many rural communities and access to highly used recreational opportunities.

- What types of resource roads are there?

There are Forest Service Roads (FSRs), Road Permit Roads, roads maintained by the Oil and Gas Sector, Private Land roads, and public roads administered by the Ministry of Transportation. If you are unsure of a road's status, please contact your local natural resource district office. The Ministry of Forests inspects and designates maintainers for FSRs only; all other resource roads are managed by the companies who have the permits for these roads.

- Who uses resource roads?

Resource roads are used primarily by industrial vehicles engaged in forestry, mining, oil and gas or agricultural operations. Members of the public and commercial operators (i.e., ski hills, fishing lodges) also use resource roads. Some resource roads lead to rural communities and residences and are used daily by the public.

- How are resource roads regulated?

Resource roads are regulated by the Forest Act, Forest Range Practices Act, Forest Planning Practices Regulation, and Forest Service Road Use Regulation.

- Who is responsible to maintain and deactivate FSRs in B.C.?

By and large, the industrial user of the road is responsible for maintenance to a safe standard for their intended activities while in use. When roads are not in use by an industrial user, the roads largely fall under an environmental maintenance status as a wilderness road. Roads are maintained to protect environmental values and road prism integrity.

By default, the Ministry of Forests, including BC Timber Sales, maintains roads to wilderness standards where no other user is present and no obligation to maintain to a higher standard exists. The Ministry maintains roads to communities, rural residences and high value recreational sites when no industrial user is active and as budgets permit.

- How many kilometres of FSRs are there in B.C.?

There are approximately 60,000 km of FSRs.

- What happens to FSRs that are not maintained?

If not maintained, wilderness roads become eroded and/or overgrown and, unless a user assumes maintenance obligations, eventually may have to be deactivated or closed to reduce risks.

- Do all unmaintained FSRs have to be deactivated?

No. Some resource roads provide important tourism or recreational opportunities and are inspected on a risk basis. These roads are left open unless closure is necessary to protect the environment and/or mitigate other risks.

- What criteria are used to allocate funding to FSRs in B.C.?

It is important to recognize that limited funding and resources exist to maintain and upgrade FSRs provincially. We do not have the ability to maintain all FSRs but focus our resources on the high-use, critical infrastructure FSRs. The Ministry prioritizes how funds are allocated to road maintenance (operating) and major road and bridge improvement (capital) projects in the following order by road use type, using a detailed priority rating exercise and in considerations of various impacts and consequences related to road prism integrity:

1. Roads accessing communities (First Nations and non-First Nations)
2. Roads serving rural residences
3. High value recreation sites
4. Other legislative requirements (e.g., deactivation and remediation)

- Are FSRs maintained for emergency access and egress?

The Ministry does not receive specific funding to maintain alternate egress routes. Egress routes may be comprised of active or inactive FSRs, non-status roads, other resource roads or public highways. Alternate egress routes may be activated during emergency response activities throughout B.C. The decision to utilize an FSR as an alternate egress route is completed on a case-by-case basis.

- What is a capital road?

In the context of the Engineering Program, a capital road includes a road accessing a community, group of rural residences or high value recreation site. A capital road is always an FSR, whereas FSRs are not always capital roads. Definitions for these three classifications of capital roads are as follows:

Community FSRs: These important public roads provide primary access to a group of 50 or more year-round residents within a specific locality and are not scattered.

Road Serving Rural Residence: These FSRs provide primary access to a primary residence or residences along the road and are subject to 0.4 year-round residences per kilometre (1 year-round residence for every 2.5 km). These roads do not meet the critical definition of a Community FSR. These roads do not include instances where 'water access' is listed on Titles for the residence(s).

High Value Recreation FSR: These roads provide primary access to High Value Recreation Sites and Trails as officially designated by the Ministry of Environment, Recreation Sites and Trails Division OR designated representative as *Important Recreational Areas* by the Regional District Executive Director. May also be an area where an FSR provides access to a Provincial Park, recreation feature or significant recreation areas and designated as such by the application of the Regional Executive Director with input from local District Managers.

- What principles does the Engineering Program use to allocate funds?

The Ministry's Engineering Program staff maintain roads and make capital improvements as they are identified and as resources allow. The following principles are followed when allocating funds to manage and maintain a safe resource road network throughout the province:

- Allocate funds based on priority
 - Allocate funds in an open and transparent manner
 - Allocate funds consistently—generally use the same criteria to make ranking decisions
- What is the annual budget for capital and operational road works?
- The engineering program in Fiscal Year 2024/25 has a capital budget of \$26.3 million for major upgrades to the 12,000 km capital road network.
- A \$17 million annual operational budget maintains 45,000 kilometres of FSRs (which includes the 12,000 km of capital roads), where the priority is on the capital road network.

Learn More:

Resource Roads: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-resource-use/resource-roads>

Contact information:

For more information on the engineering program, please contact your local [Natural Resource District office](#).

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/ministry-of-forests-lands-and-natural-resource-operations-region-district-contacts>

Contact the Engineering Branch directly: FLNREng.Branch@gov.bc.ca

Media Contact:

Media Relations

Ministry of Forests

250 896-7359

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

MINUTES

Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes - May 8, 2025 Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Greenaway

RSC.2025-6-2 "That the minutes of the Rural Services Committee meeting of May 8, 2025 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

MINISTRY OF FORESTS – Jason Olmsted, RPF, P.Eng. Northern Engineering Group Leader, Integrated Resource Operations Division, Engineering Branch Re: Resource Roads – via Zoom

Chair Riis-Christianson welcomed Jason Olmsted, RPF, P.Eng., Northern Engineering Group Leader, Integrated Resource Operations Division, Engineering Branch, Ministry of Forests.

Mr. Olmsted noted that the Engineering Group provides support to all Forest Districts in the north in relation to forestry roads and networks. They provide three support roles:

- Funding source
 - Operational funding for road maintenance
 - Capital funding
 - Build new bridges and road construction (only applied to capital Forest Service Roads (FSRs))
 - Liability fund to deactivate roads
- Provides professional oversight practices and services for roads and bridges
- Policy and standards division
 - Sets policy, legislation and guidelines for use of funding.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Use of FSRs for recreational purposes
- Recent decrease in forestry activity impacting maintenance
- Annual budget for capital and operational road works
- Morice-Owen FSR
 - Competing users
 - High recreational use
 - Morice River
 - Coastal GasLink
 - Forestry companies
 - Mining and Exploration companies
 - Sharing road costs is inequitable
- User groups have different maintenance standards
- Highway access to an FSR requires the Ministry of Transportation and Transit to maintain road
- Possible solutions in the province to address the inequities of shared costs for road users
- Road user groups

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

- When a main contractor is no longer utilizing an FSR the Province can take over the care and maintenance outlined in their policies and standards
- Mr. Olmstead indicated he could meet individuals regarding specific areas along with the Forest District Manager
- Closures of historical FSRs traversing through private property
 - o Antimony FSR
 - o Extensively utilized by cabin owners and other users in the area
 - o Consultation with the public and road users when closure of an FSR is considered
- Changes in provincial regulations approximately 5 years ago wherein the Ministry of Forest or Transportation used taxpayers' dollars to fund a road, they would then be responsible for that road and that no longer occurs
- Director Newell will follow up with the Nadina District Manager
- Chair Riis-Christianson spoke of following up with Land Tenures department of the Ministry of Forests.

Chair Riis-Christianson thanked Mr. Olmstead for attending the meeting.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Crown Land Referral Moved by Director Greenaway
No. 7410358 – Electoral Area Seconded by Director Parker
C (Fort St. James Rural)

RSC.2025-6-3 "That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application No. 7410358."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Crown Land Referral No. Moved by Director Greenaway
6409543 – Electoral Area E Seconded by Director Stoltenberg
(Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

RSC.2025-6-4 "That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application No. 6409543."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Peace River Regional District Removed from Rural Services Committee Agenda and moved to
Referral Regional Growth Board Agenda.
Strategy Bylaw No. 2571