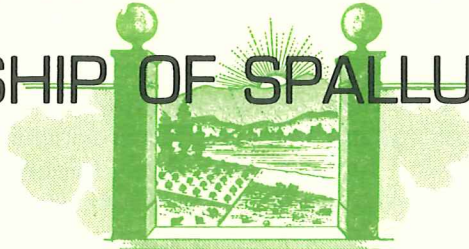


THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF SPALLUMCHEEN

TEL. (250) 546-3013
FAX. (250) 546-8878

OUR FILE NO.



4144 Spallumcheen Way
Spallumcheen, B.C. V0E 1B6

Email: mayor@spallumcheentwp.bc.ca

January 28, 2021

www.spallumcheentwp.bc.ca

File: 6130-50
0385-20-04

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Honourable Katrine Conroy
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development
PO Box 9049 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Email: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Conroy:

Re: Planned Logging – Rose Swanson Mountains – Township of Spallumcheen

The Township of Spallumcheen Council is supportive of the concerns raised by its citizens and therefore, is requesting that prior to any harvesting taking place by BC Timber Sales (BCTS) in the Rose Swanson Mountain area, extensive community consultation, including environmental studies, long term impacts, and clearly outlined harvesting plans, be provided.

The Township is aware that a petition, aimed at collecting 25,000 signatures from concerned citizens who are opposed to the planned logging of the Rose Swanson Mountain area, is being circulated, and is having success. There are well over 21,000 signatures to date.

Based on the community outcry the Township of Spallumcheen Council would like to request that the Ministry of Forests suspend all timber sales related to this area and any harvesting plans until extensive public consultation and communications for the area are established and identified in a terms of reference to ensure that community consultation meets the objectives of the Township of Spallumcheen, concerned citizens and stakeholders of the area.

Within the Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan the Rose Swanson area is designated within the Natural Disturbance Type 4 - Grasslands and Low Elevation Open Forests. The objectives and strategies speak to minimizing impacts on these important habitats and special features; restoring and rehabilitating these ecosystems; reducing disturbance and degradation of these areas due to access and to restore and enhance ecosystem connectivity. These lands also fall within the Old Growth Forests Biodiversity Emphasis Option assignment. The objectives and strategies include-providing suitable well distributed habitat for wildlife tree dependent species; avoid disturbances to rare ecosystems; and maintain old growth forests throughout the plan area. Additionally, since these lands are within the Community Crown Interface it is paramount that BCTS adheres to the objectives in providing a higher standard of communication with referrals and that appropriate levels of care are taken to address community health, safety and stability. Specifically, any negative visual impacts, flooding, debris flows, and or water quality and quantity are taken into consideration.

It is also important to note that the Okanagan Biodiversity Conservation Strategy highlights these lands as holding "high" Habitat Connectivity providing a key corridor for wildlife to remain

interconnected within the existing network of corridors for wildlife movement. In addition, these lands hold significant value based on their conservation rankings which range from "Moderate", "High" to "Very High". These rankings are based on the provincial conservation framework and local sensitive ecosystem priorities. These diverse areas support extensive plant and wildlife species and are highly valued natural features of the community. The protection of such highly valued sensitive areas must be at the forefront of any planned logging to the area.

In a letter provided by the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations to the Township dated April 11, 2014 the Township was assured the following:

*"In closing, and as I have stated in a number meetings and dialogues with you and your residents since August, 2013 much has changed in legislation and land use planning since the 1996 Rose Swanson Sensitive Area Management Strategy came into effect. The Forest and Range Practices Act has superseded the Forest Practices Code Act, the 1996 plan has expired and the **Okanagan Shuswap Land Resource Management Plan** has come into effect. Through this plan, I am confident that the spirit and intent of the 1996 Order to Establish a Sensitive Area and Objectives will be implemented."*

The Township further requests that any decisions related to this area allow for the protection of public recreation as articulated as an integral part of the balances required for the Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan. As community interface planning is where urban area blends into crown recreation the balance between health and wellness and forest management must meet.

If extensive community consultation is provided, and the concerns of the community is addressed, there will be opportunity to ensure that all parties can find a balance with regards to meeting the provinces annual allowable cut while still respecting the sensitivities related to a major recreation use area beloved by residents of the North Okanagan and beyond. The Township would like to request a meeting with you and your Ministry staff and Spallumcheen elected officials and staff to discuss this matter. Council knows there is an important balance that must be considered and would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the concerns of the residents with you.

The letter provided to BC Timber Sales regarding the Rose Swanson area is attached for further information.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, if you have any questions in this regard please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully,



Christine Fraser
Mayor

Attach. Letter to BCTS from Spallumcheen dated January 26, 2021
Township of Spallumcheen Media Release dated January 27, 2021

THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF SPALLUMCHEEN

TEL. (250) 546-3013
FAX. (250) 546-8878

OUR FILE NO.

January 26, 2021



4144 Spallumcheen Way
Spallumcheen, B.C. V0E 1B6

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

File: 6130-50

BC Timber Sales
PO Box 9507 Stn Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC
V8W 9C1

Email: Forests.BCTimberSalesHQOffice@gov.bc.ca

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Planned Logging – Rose Swanson Mountains – Township of Spallumcheen

The Township of Spallumcheen Council is supportive of the concerns raised by its citizens and therefore, is requesting that prior to any harvesting taking place in the Rose Swanson Mountain area, extensive community consultation, including environmental studies, long term impacts, and clearly outlined harvesting plans, be provided.

The Township is aware that a petition, aimed at collecting 25,000 signatures from concerned citizens who are opposed to the planned logging of the Rose Swanson Mountain area, is being circulated, and is having success.

With this petition in the forefront Township Council is requesting that all stakeholders, including those located within the Rose Swanson Mountain area, be involved and included in how extensive public consultation is to be initiated so that a properly defined process for consultation is publicly communicated. As noted in the quote by the Ministry of Forests spokesperson located in an article posted by the Morning Star dated January 20, 2021 at 3:30 pm which states *"Referral letters were sent out to First Nations and stakeholders, including citizens with adjacent private land parcels," Hooper said. "Multiple meetings were held with the Township of Spallumcheen, private citizens who've requested field trips, and the Armstrong Trail Society," Hooper said. "BCTS has and continues to consult with First Nations on all harvest proposals."*

Based on this quote, the Township Council is concerned that consultation with the Township of Spallumcheen, the residents and the Trails Society has concluded. For clarity there was a firm understanding by myself at the meeting held with BCTS, local residents and the Armstrong Spallumcheen Trails Society last year that those present in that meeting would have opportunity to review the consultation plan prior to it being actioned. Council has an expectation that the recommendations and the outcomes derived from the defined consultation process will be provided back to Spallumcheen Council and the stakeholders so that it can be considered prior to finalizing any harvesting plans near and within the Rose Swanson Mountain area. The protection of such a highly respected sensitive area must be at the forefront of any planned logging to the area.

Within the Township of Spallumcheen Rose Swanson Mountain has been a protected, sensitive area, with lush landscapes, ancient and majestic trees, and a beauty that will leave you comforted

and at peace. The trails and ecosystems have not only been connecting people with nature for years, they have also been providing a safe and flourishing habitat for wildlife and greenery. To lose such a treasured area will have devastating, long term effects that are without measure.

The Township of Spallumcheen Official Community Plan Bylaw 1794, 2011 under Section 13.0 speaks to Community Uses, Parks and Trails and specifically outlines the following:

"Mount Rose Swanson is the most extensively used hiking area in the Township and is a destination for hikers from around the region. Situated in the western sector of the community, Mount Rose Swanson was declared a "designated recreation area" by the Ministry of Forests and in 1967 it was named as the area's Centennial Trail. Hikers access the trailhead at Chamberlaine Road where a variety of routes take them to a viewpoint with a panoramic vista of the valley."

Under section 13.2.5 Parks and Recreation Areas the OCP advises the following with regards to Rose Swanson Mountains:

"The Township will pursue the establishment of an interpretive forestry trail at Mount Rose Swanson and will explore options to obtain "park" status for the area with the objective of securing adequate funding and other resources to maintain Mount Rose Swanson for future use and to preserve its natural qualities."

Finally, under section 13.3.4 Trails states:

"Any effort by the Provincial government to identify, restore and manage locally significant trails on Crown lands in the Spallumcheen area is supported by the Township."

In a letter provided by the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations to the Township dated April 11, 2014 the Township was assured the following:

*"In closing, and as I have stated in a number meetings and dialogues with you and your residents since August, 2013 much has changed in legislation and land use planning since the 1996 Rose Swanson Sensitive Area Management Strategy came into effect. The Forest and Range Practices Act has superseded the Forest Practices Code Act, the 1996 plan has expired and the **Okanagan Shuswap Land Resource Management Plan** has come into effect. Through this plan, I am confident that the spirit and intent of the 1996 Order to Establish a Sensitive Area and Objectives will be implemented."*

The Township further requests that any decisions related to this area allow for the protection of public recreation as articulated as an integral part of the balances required for the Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan. As community interface planning is where urban area blends into crown recreation the balance between health and wellness and forest management must meet.

The Township Council will be requesting the Minister to suspend all timber sales related to this area and any plans until extensive public consultation and communications for the area is

established and identified in a terms of reference to ensure that community consultation meets the objectives of the Township Council, concerned citizens and the stakeholders.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, if you have any questions in this regard please contact the undersigned.

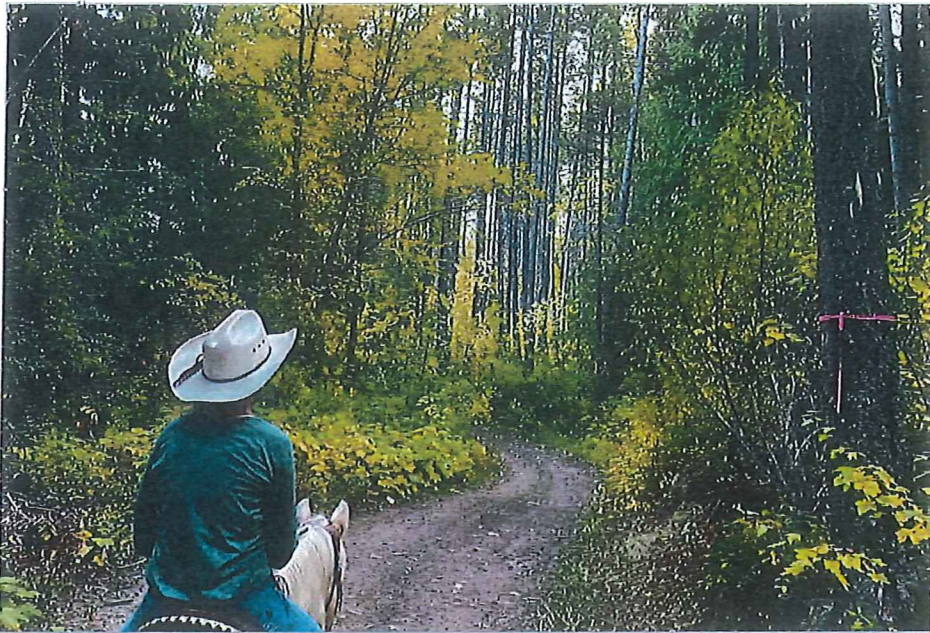
Respectfully,



Christine Fraser
Mayor

Attach. Morning Star Article by Brendan Shykora, dated January 20, 2021 at 3:30 pm

cc. Ministry of Forest Lands & Natural Resource Management
BC Parks
Armstrong Spallumcheen Trails Society
Armstrong Spallumcheen Chamber of Commerce



A petition to spare the Mount Rose Swanson area from logging later this year has eclipsed 21,000 signatures as of Jan. 20, 2021. (Rose Swanson Mountain/Facebook)

Controversial logging will cut 4% of 'sensitive' Armstrong forest area: Ministry

A petition to spare the Rose Swanson area from logging has eclipsed 21,000 signatures


BRENDAN SHYKORA / Jan. 20, 2021 3:30 p.m. / LOCAL NEWS / NEWS

North Okanagan residents are calling for the protection of the Mount Rose Swanson area from logging that's scheduled to take place before the end of 2021.

Located within the Okanagan timber supply area, Armstrong's Mount Rose Swanson is earmarked for a total of 28.3 hectares of logging next winter season, according to the Ministry of Forests.

“Rose Swanson has not contributed to the annual allowable cut in many years. Timber harvesting must be spread out between all operating areas in the Okanagan TSA to ensure that all areas of designated public land contribute to the AAC,” said Tyler Hooper, Ministry of Forests spokesperson, in an email to the Morning Star.

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The Rose Swanson area was designated as a sensitive area by the Vernon Forest District in 1997, a designation that is still in place. The objectives behind creating the sensitive area included maintaining and enhancing the trail network for recreational use and protecting the visual quality of the area.

According to Hooper, the ministry's chief forester determines the annual allowable cut (AAC) for all public lands in B.C.

The AAC is the rate of timber harvest determined for an area under the Forest Act.

READ MORE: Armstrong residents oppose future logging at Rose Swanson Mountain

A planned timber auction is slated for the fall of 2021 for the Mount Rose Swanson area, Hooper said. Harvesting using non-clear cut systems will likely begin early winter 2021 and may be completed by the end of that season.

Word of BC Timber Sales' intention to auction the lands has irked a number of local residents, who have launched an online petition to spare the mountain from the axe. The petition has been signed by more than 21,000 people in two weeks as of Jan. 20.

A Facebook page and dedicated website have also been created as part of the community-driven push to protect the forest.

BC Timber Sales has initiated public consultation for the Rose Swanson area with its Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) established in 2014. FSPs require all forest development activities to be approved by the B.C. government and are available for public review and comment prior to that approval. The Okanagan current five-year FSP can be found [here](#). Public comments are being accepted until March 18, and can be submitted online.

However, if you ask residents who have aligned themselves with the Save Rose Swanson From Logging group, accessible public consultation has been either non-existent or lacking in explanations as to Rose Swanson's 'sensitive' status.

“The sensitive area was designated as a consequence of public and stakeholder input,” one unnamed advocate said in a letter to the Ministry of Forests’ Okanagan district manager. “It was not a hollow designation. It crystalized actual values and protections sought by the public.”

“There is simply no way that any person who spends time in our Interior forests can escape being struck speechless by the beauty and the existence of the ancient trees growing since before B.C. entered Confederation,” continues the letter by a resident of Armstrong since 1992, when the issue of protecting the mountain from logging first led to the creation of the sensitive area.

As it stands, the logging development has been split up into 10 small cut blocks ranging from 0.5 to 7.5 hectares in size.

The ministry says recreation trails will be protected, but the planned logging will contribute to a four per cent impact to the Rose Swanson sensitive area. The exact location of the cut blocks is not currently known, but Hooper says a map of the logging areas will be made available online in the coming weeks.

“Referral letters were sent out to First Nations and stakeholders, including citizens with adjacent private land parcels,” Hooper said. “Multiple meetings were held with the Township of Spallumcheen, private citizens who’ve requested field trips, and the Armstrong Trail Society,” Hooper said. “BCTS has and continues to consult with First Nations on all harvest proposals.”

READ MORE: [Lavington man chains himself to tree as crews clear space for child care centre](#)

Brendan Shykora

Reporter, Vernon Morning Star

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Rose Swanson Mountains Recreation Area

Wednesday, January 27, 2021
Spallumcheen, BC

The Township of Spallumcheen Council met on Monday, January 25, 2021 at their Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the community petition in excess of 22,000 signatures related to the Rose Swanson Mountain Recreation Area located in the Township of Spallumcheen on Chamberlaine Road.

The Township of Spallumcheen Council is supportive of the concerns raised by the citizens and therefore, is requesting a meeting with the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations to request the process be suspended until extensive community consultation, including environmental studies, long term impacts, and clearly outlined harvesting plans, have been provided prior to any further decisions taking place in the Rose Swanson Mountain area. All stakeholders will need to be involved and consulted with, with the expectation that the recommendations and the outcomes derived from the consultation process be considered when proceeding with the harvesting plans near and within the Rose Swanson Mountain area. The protection of such a highly respected sensitive area must be at the forefront of any planned logging to the area.

The Township of Spallumcheen Official Community Plan Bylaw 1794, 2011 outlines the community's direction with regards to the Rose Swanson Mountain area as follows:

"Mount Rose Swanson is the most extensively used hiking area in the Township and is a destination for hikers from around the region. Situated in the western sector of the community, Mount Rose Swanson was declared a "designated recreation area" by the Ministry of Forests and in 1967 it was named as the area's Centennial Trail. Hikers access the trailhead at Chamberlaine Road where a variety of routes take them to a viewpoint with a panoramic vista of the valley."

"The Township will pursue the establishment of an interpretive forestry trail at Mount Rose Swanson and will explore options to obtain "park" status for the area with the objective of securing adequate funding and other resources to maintain Mount Rose Swanson for future use and to preserve its natural qualities."

"Any effort by the Provincial government to identify, restore and manage locally significant trails on Crown lands in the Spallumcheen area is supported by the Township."

Council is of the understanding that extensive community consultation is to take place for this area. To ensure the consultation is taking place the Township has provided a letter to BC Timber Sales, and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations requesting further public consultation prior to any planned logging to the area. The previously stated "Sensitive Area" designation has expired, due to changes in legislation, but the Ministry had advised Spallumcheen in 2014 that the area will continue to be protected under the same objectives.

More information will be provided on the Township's website at www.spallumcheentwp.bc.ca regarding the Rose Swanson Recreation area.

For more information regarding this release, please contact the Township office at 250-546-3013.

-30-

Media Contact:

Cindy Graves, Corporate Officer
Township of Spallumcheen
mail@spallumcheentwp.bc.ca
250.546.3013