



Seabird Island Band

P.O. Box 650 | 2895 Chowat Road | Agassiz | B.C | V0M 1A0
(604) 796-2177 | (604) 796-3729

May 7, 2013

Regional Planner, South Coast Region
Ministry of Parks – BC Parks
2950 Columbia Valley Highway
PO Box 3010
Cultus Lake, BC V2R 5H6

RECEIVED
MAY 10 2013
SOUTH COAST REGION

Dear Jennie Aikman:

Re: Request for Boundary Adjustment – Sasquatch Provincial Park

Please find attached a completed initial proposal for request for boundary adjustment – Sasquatch Provincial Park. Should further clarification or additional information be required please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

**Chief Clem Seymour
Seabird Island Band
PO Box 650
Agassiz, BC
V0M 1A0**

REQUEST FOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT – SASQUATCH PROVINCIAL PARK

Initial Proposal

1. Proponent Information and Contact Details

Seabird Island Band
2895 Chowat Road
Agassiz, B.C. V0M 1A0

Attention: Chief Clem Seymour

2. Type and Purpose of Project

The purpose of the project is to gain access to crown land that is designated as part of the contributing forest land-base of the Fraser Timber Supply Area and that provides timber for Seabird Island First Nation's Non Replaceable Forest Licence A81096.

3. Project Location

Sasquatch Provincial Park

4. Project Footprint

Alternative #1

Total length of 4.5 km along Rockwell Drive from the junction of the East Harrison Forest Service Road to the turn-off of an old logging road for a further length of 1.2 km on the old logging road terminating at the southerly boundary of Sasquatch Provincial Park.

Alternative #2

Total length of 1.9 km along the old logging road originating near Mahood Creek near the NorthEast corner of Sasquatch Provincial Park and then terminating at Rockwell Drive. Then 0.5 km along Rockwell Drive to the turn-off of an old logging road for a further length of 1.2 km on the old

logging road terminating at the southerly boundary of Sasquatch Provincial Park.

5. Preliminary description of economic, social and environmental impacts and benefits of the project.

This project will provide access to a significant part of the Seabird Island First Nation Non Replaceable Forest Licence A81096 operating area. The area is presently rendered inaccessible by the boundary location of the Sasquatch Provincial Park. Approximately ten years of timber harvesting for NRFL A81096 are tied up in this area. This area could sustain roughly 15% of the licence on a continual basis.

Seabird Island First Nation considers this area to be an important part of our traditional area that could provide significant socio-economic benefits to our Band. Considering that the operating area is fully developed and accessible by existing roads the environmental issues to the land would be minimal.

6. Preliminary assessment of alternative access.

Extensive field studies have determined that no viable access is possible without crossing through the Sasquatch Provincial Park. The land to the south and east of the operating area has extremely steep side slopes with vertical rock bluffs, private property issues, gas and electrical transmission corridors and sensitive riparian areas along Ruby Creek.

7. First Nations and Local Government Discussions.

Seabird Island First Nation has informed other local First Nation Bands about the importance of this operating area and the need to access the site through the Sasquatch Provincial Park. Discussions are ongoing. Seabird is seeking letters of support.

8. Known Interested Community Groups

Seabird Island First Nation is not aware of any community group with an interest in the protected area, the Sasquatch Provincial Park. Seabird Island First Nation has been in contact with the local Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Please find attached a letter of support from the local District Manager.

9. Any Known Environmental Issues.

Sasquatch Provincial Park is located within Wildlife Habitat Area 2-499 and as such has special management restrictions to accommodate spotted owls. All activities must conform to Managed Forest Area guidelines. No disturbance is necessary on the already constructed roads.

10. Anticipated Project Schedule

Year 1. Construct logging roads and develop cutblocks in the operating area

Year 2. Complete development of cut blocks and start logging and hauling phase.

Year 3-4. Logging and hauling phase.

Year 5-6. Complete first pass logging and hauling phase, deactivate roads and reforest logged sites.

11. Maps.

Attached.

May 6, 2013

Regional Planner, South Coast Region
Ministry of Parks – BC Parks
2950 Columbia Valley Highway
PO Box 3010
Cultus Lake, BC V2R 5H6

Dear Jennie Aikman;

Re: Request for Boundary Adjustment – Sasquatch Provincial Park

Please find attached a completed initial proposal for a request for boundary adjustment – Sasquatch Provincial Park. Should further clarification or additional information be required please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

Chief Clem Seymour
Seabird Island Band
2895 Chowat Road
Agassiz, B.C. VOM1A0



March 26, 2013

Seabird Island Band
PO Box 650
Agassiz, BC
V0M 1A0

Sent via email

Dear Chief Clem;

Thank you for your letter of January 16, 2013 regarding access to the timber harvesting land base south of the Sasquatch Provincial Park (Moss Lake). In your letter, you indicated intent to initiate the Provincial Protected Area Boundary Adjustment Process to enable log hauling on existing roads within the Park and are seeking information in support of the planned application. The Ministry is supportive of enabling access to this part of the Fraser Timber Supply Area (FTSA) as an important contributing area to the timber harvesting land base currently designated a Bill 28 operating area. This area is one of several Bill 28 areas needed to provide harvest opportunities to the First Nation licensees, small tenure and community based licenses although it is not precluded from being assigned to a major replaceable forest license holder or BC Timber Sales at some point in the future.

The Chilliwack District offers the following information in support of the application process:

- The Moss Lake area is about 2750 hectares in size and contains about 975,000 cubic meters of timber. The timber is a mix of predominantly second growth coniferous stands with a healthy component of deciduous as well
- Most of the timber is in the 40-80 year old range and is ready or coming on line as an important contributing component of the FTSA harvest opportunity. The timber is valuable to the forest licensees due to lower than average operating costs which can help offset the higher costs in other parts of the FTSA as well as providing less common winter harvest opportunities.
- While the magnitude of the benefits to the province and local economies can vary depending on log markets, product value etc., it is clear that a healthy forest economy provides direct and indirect benefits to the people of the Province of BC. Access to this area will contribute toward that goal. The area represents upwards of 15,000 cubic meters per year of sustainable AAC.
- More specifically, the Chilliwack District (FLNR) is aware of the partnership the Seabird Indian Band has with Dorman Timber in sharing revenue and creating employment opportunities in the forestry. This is supported by a MoU that also

Page 1 of 2


To

includes BC Timber Sales whereby operating area management is shared and timber harvesting and timber pricing objectives are mutually enabled. The Ministry is generally supportive of these arrangements which help foster success for First Nation communities and contribute toward furthering governments socio-economic objectives to assist in closing socio-economic gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people of British Columbia and objectives of the Transformative Change Accord.

- Specific to the planned Provincial Protected Area Boundary Adjustment Process to enable log hauling on existing roads within the Park, the District offers that:
 - Multiple routes to access the Moss Lake area have been assessed and the simplest, most stable option with the lowest additional environmental impacts appears to be the use of the existing Park roads. The alternate option, while possibly not even viable, is on very steep and environmentally challenging terrain.
 - The Sasquatch Park Road was previously a Forest Service Road (FSR) used for industrial purposes.
 - While supportive of access to the Moss Lake area, the District is concerned with an increased level of potential traffic conflict with Park users. Timing constraints have been proposed to limit the potential interaction which must be considered.
 - As an additional consideration to the above bullet, the Village of Harrison Hot Springs and District of Kent are seeking a formal emergency evacuation route using the Sasquatch Park Road and exiting across Mahood Creek and out the Ruby Creek FSR. This route may be appropriate to also consider in the boundary adjustment process for several reasons – including the minimization of recreational user interactions.

While the Chilliwack District (FLNR) acknowledges the objectives of a park, this information points to a strong need to look closely at this Provincial Protected Area Boundary Adjustment Process proposal noting the District is currently unaware of any practicable alternative.

Sincerely,


Digitally signed by Allan
Johnsrude RPF,
DN: cn=Allan Johnsrude RPF,
o=Ministry of Forest and Range
Development, Forest District,
email=Allan.Johnsrude@gov.bc.ca,
c=CA
Date: 2013.03.26 11:28:01 -0700

Allan Johnsrude, RPF
Chilliwack District Manager

CC: Ministry of Environment - BC Parks, Tom Blackbird