



Friends of the South Slopes

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To all FOSS members:

PLEASE READ - IMPORTANT!

Please find attached a statement from Rob Dinwoodie, Range Officer, BC Ministry of Forests, (FLNR), forwarded to FOSS by Andrew Hunsberger, Urban Forest Supervisor, City of Kelowna. This outlines a 'targeted grazing pilot project' being proposed for the former SEKID Utility Property and the two adjacent Crown Lots. This has been on FOSS' radar for a couple of months and we have since been doing our best to garner more information and details. As Mr. Dinwoodie describes, this is a pilot project for fire mitigation of the fine, ground fuel that will remain following the tree harvesting which will take place in this area during the winter of 2020. If this project goes ahead, and is successful, 'targeted grazing' would be used in other interface areas to assist with other fire mitigation efforts; the entire project will be carefully monitored by government personnel.

FOSS is doing its best to fully understand both the benefits and ramifications of this concept. We have met with Ministry, Regional and City officials regarding this, and will remain actively involved during this initial operational planning phase. The public is to be consulted on this as well and we hope that these sessions will be scheduled in the not-too-distant future-A PRIORITY FOR FOSS. This will be YOUR opportunity to learn more about this and to voice your opinion.

FOSS and MTBco (Mountain Bike Club) will work together to identify the main trails and access points, and FOSS will undertake to GPS the area before and after the winter fire mitigation, in order to ensure that these trails are rehabilitated, as was done by the Ministry following the recent mitigation in this same area (ie. Swings Both Ways, Piper's). Also note that we have been advised that the next phase of fire mitigation will have a higher retention rate re: tree removal.

FOSS is continuing to pursue the rezoning of the Utility Property as 'park', most practically from FOSS' perspective, an extension of KLO Creek Regional Park; this is a priority for this special, pristine property. We are also making an application to the Provincial Government for a C57 for the adjoining Crown Lots, for management of the trails therein, and hoping that one day this area will become part of the 'park' too.

FOSS will continue to update you as information becomes available.

KLO Creek Myra Recreation Area Committee of FOSS (KMRA)

Friends of the South Slopes Society – BC Parks' Volunteer Group of the Year (2014)

Working with partners to create a legacy of sustainable and accessible trails on the South Slopes