

August 12, 2011

THE FUTURE OF THE KVR TRAIL, THE BACKBONE OF BC'S TRANS CANADA TRAIL IS THREATENED

Vancouver, August 4, 2011 - Trails BC is expressing concern about a recent petition and a letter writing campaign by the provincial motor sports sectors, lobbying the provincial government for authorized motorized access to the Kettle Valley Trail (KVR) which is the backbone to BC's portion of the national Trans Canada Trail as well as the province's Spirit of 2010 Trail Network.

Spearheaded by the provincial ATV organization, the Quad Riders of BC, this campaign threatens to turn the KVR/Trans Canada Trail into an official motorized trail with major negative implications for non-motorized users.

Over the last two years there has been resurfacing of sections of the KVR trail between Summerland and Faulder. In an attempt to maintain the integrity of these newly surfaced sections as well as to address other concerns impacting non-motorized users, the government of British Columbia Recreation, Sites and Trails posted official non-motorized signs on these sections just before the May long weekend. These non-motorized signs were immediately removed by unauthorized person(s). As a result, motorized users are still using these sections and the newly resurfaced sections are already degraded from motorized use. Such degradation discourages cyclists, the main intended user, from using the trail.

Here is a quote from the government's new website on the Spirit of 2010 Trail, stating its vision of the Spirit of 2010 Trail originally announced by former Premier Campbell in 2004. The KVR trail is the biggest single component of the Spirit of 2010 trail and BC's Trans Canada Trail.

"The Spirit of 2010 Trail is the first segment in the creation of world class recreational rails to trails product that will stimulate the development of incremental tourism infrastructure and incremental tourism visits across a significant portion of British Columbia. The Spirit of 2010 Trail is 750 kilometres in length and there is the potential to convert over 2000 kilometres of rail trails in total. The rails to trails movement has become an accepted model in North America for sustainable economic development in rural and urban areas. It is the conversion of former railway corridors into world-class recreational trails for use by cyclists, hikers, equestrians and Nordic skiers. It has enabled primarily rural communities to develop a sustainable business case for economic development using rail trails."

Trails BC strongly supports this vision as do the vast majority of BC's self propelled recreational users because it is known that such a quality trail would attract, in great numbers, said users at home and worldwide.

Trails BC urges concerned citizens to contact their provincial government representatives, the premier and the ministry responsible for trails, Ministry of Forestry, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to show their concern about this issue that threatens the vision of a world class trail network for British Columbia and the future of the Trans Canada trail in BC.

For more information

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