

# Wilderness Tourism Association



BRITISH COLUMBIA | CANADA

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PO Box 423 • Cumberland, BC • V0R 1S0 • (250) 336-2862 • [www.wilderness-tourism.bc.ca](http://www.wilderness-tourism.bc.ca)

Dear Tourism Operator,

We are writing to inform you about the relationship between commercial recreational (tourism) tenure holders and forestry tenure holders and the responsibilities of each as it pertains to tenure rights and communication.

The Wilderness Tourism Association of BC (WTA) has been actively working with tourism operators through out the province that have Crown land tenure and are being impacted by forestry operations. Many of these operators have invested considerable amounts of time and money establishing their facilities, activities, and trail networks. They have also invested significantly in their tenure and the annual rents that accrue to the government.

Tourism operators may assume that other tenure holders (e.g. forest licensees) would need to contact and consult them if their activities would have an impact on the tourism operator's tenure (and their business). However, due to gaps in the Forest and Ranges Practices Act, forest licensees are not obliged to contact tourism tenure holders regarding logging operations on their tenured land. They are obliged to contact tenure holders when they are developing their Forest Stewardship Plans every five years, but even this doesn't always happen. This is complicated with the many forest licensees working with Volume-based forest tenures. Hence, some tourism operators are only finding out about plans to log in their tenure areas when the harvesting is happening - when it is too late.

These cases highlight the need to improve communication and cooperation between users of Crown land. At present, all tenured commercial recreational users of Crown land are vulnerable to having the values they rely on for their tourism business (i.e. viewsapes and trails) destroyed without any warning.

Currently, the provincial government is relying on the tenure holder's use of their Integrated Land and Resource Registry (ILRR) to know who has authorizations to use Crown land, and any restrictions or covenants etc. However, the ILRR is proving to be a cumbersome system, which doesn't enable district resource managers, forest licensees and tourism operators to keep track of users and interests. Although we don't accept this as an excuse for tourism operators not being contacted, district managers and forest licensees have requested that all tenured commercial recreation operators send them a map of their tenured areas. They should also send a letter of introduction, requesting that the licensee contact the tenured commercial recreational operator prior to any logging or cut block planning in their area.

Therefore in order to protect your interests we encourage you to contact your local District Resource Manager to get a list of any forest licensees, logging contractors and salvage operators working in your area and notify them of your tenures. You should also contact the BC Timber Sales office responsible for your area. We have attached a copy of a generic letter that can be used as an example of correspondence in this regard.

Please do not hesitate to contact Evan Loveless if we can give you any more information or assistance on this matter.

Regards,

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