

March 4, 2005

Cariboo Regional District
Suite D 180 North Third Avenue
Williams Lake BC V2G 2A4

Dear Board of Directors:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Williams Lake Sportsmen's Association in regards to the initiation of the development of a fringe area OCP.

The WLSA operates the only permitted shooting range in the Williams Lake area. Aside from providing a safe location for the recreation of our greater than 400 members, we provide a location for training of local agencies such as the RCMP, Conservation Officer Service and Sheriff Department. We also provide facilities for cadet groups and for Outdoor Education Training which must be taken by people wishing to obtain a hunting licence, and hold numerous shooting and archery events during the year.

The facility was developed in the early 1980s as a safe and acceptable location for a shooting range outside town limits. The site was selected as part of a crown land use plan that identified the Bond Lake area as a suitable area to develop recreational facilities such as the shooting range and later the motor race tracks. A significant amount of volunteer and club financial resources were required to establish the Bond Lake Road facilities.

Our club supports the orderly and planned development of the fringe area around Williams Lake. We wish to ensure you are aware of the needs of the shooting range and the need to protect the current location from development encroachment. History in other communities indicates that encroaching development leads to the closure of viable ranges, and that establishing new ranges is very difficult due to high development cost and the difficulty in finding an acceptable site.

The two most significant concerns are to ensure that adequate buffer is preserved to ensure that noise from the range does not become a source of public concern, and to ensure that the downrange area does not become developed.

Noise from a shooting range is inevitable. Although the WLSA range is not particularly noisy, we do wish to ensure that development does not result in a loss of adequate noise buffer. We would be concerned with the removal of vegetation between the range and existing development, as this would limit the noise reduction provided by vegetation. We would also be concerned about the establishment of new developments at the same elevation as the range and within 2 km; residential development would be a particular concern.

Development of the area specified by regulation as the "fall out zone" is another concern. Certainly any improvements built in the area designated by federal

regulations would jeopardize the facility, but we are also concerns about the development of new roads or trails in this zone.

Our hope is that the OCP will ensure the protection and long term viability of the range, so that we can continue to serve our members and the community for many years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of the above comments.

Yours truly,

Douglas Hill
President, Williams Lake Sportsmen's Association