



April 1, 2014

Martin Buckley
Chair
Ghost Stewardship Monitoring Group
c/o 8660 Bearspaw Dam Road NW
Calgary, AB T3L 1S4

Dear Martin:

Re: Trail Education

Thank you for your letter dated March 11, 2014. In response to your concern about the White Ribbon Trail in the Ghost Public Land Use Zone and the confusion around whether it is considered a designated or designated trail by one of your user groups, please note that ESRD confirms it is not a designated trail. We encourage the Ghost Stewardship Monitoring Group members to share this information with their constituents who use this particular trail.

ESRD recognizes the importance of recreational trails in the Ghost and other Public Land Use Zones. ESRD will be looking to conduct education/awareness activities through two main programs this summer – the Backcountry Trails Flood Rehabilitation Program and ESRD education plan for outreach in the Region targeted towards recreational activities.

In response to the damage that occurred during the 2013 floods, ESRD is leading a \$10 million program to restore and repair backcountry trail systems on public lands. The Backcountry Trail Flood Rehabilitation (BTFR) Program will commence in 2014 and be completed by March 2017. The program aims to restore priority trails and trails systems along the eastern slopes for both motorized and non-motorized recreational users. I will be sure to give an update on the program at the next Ghost Stewardship Monitoring Group meeting. ESRD will also be looking to engage with other user groups along the Eastern Slopes about this program.

In addition to engaging with the public and partners about the BTFR program, ESRD will also be implementing an education program throughout the summer directed at recreational users in Public Land Use Zones, including weekend and long weekend activities. This is part of an education plan for outreach in the South Saskatchewan

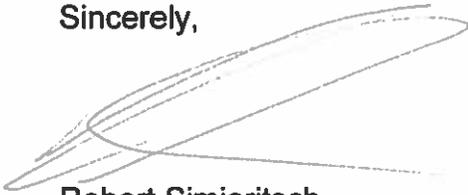
Region targeted towards user groups and recreationalists for the 2014 summer season and it includes the following:

- Meet with user groups and provide information on trails being considered as part of the trail flood rehabilitation program;
- Update the ESRD website and ensure it has all the relevant information both on the Trail program pages and the PLUZ pages / maps;
- Ensure staff, project crews and volunteers have relevant information they can hand out to the public;
- Ensure there are PLUZ brochures/maps in the kiosks and there are updated maps (or public notices) with trail closures/construction;
- Use of signage where appropriate;
- Use social media for trail updates – link to the My Wild Alberta Facebook page;
- Communicate trail closures and link to the flood website for the most current info; and
- Train the volunteers so they know what our messaging is and ensure they have the appropriate products to hand out.

As well, ESRD has developed some outreach materials, such as license plate holders, garbage bags, crayons and coloring books to hand out to the public as a means of reinforcing the message of being responsible when they are in the backcountry.

I hope this information provides some assurance ESRD recognizes the importance of education regarding trails in our Public Land Use Zones and their appropriate use. Please do not hesitate to forward any future questions from your user groups to ESRD if there is any doubt about whether a trail is deemed designated or not.

Sincerely,



Robert Simieritsch
Resource Manager
Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

cc: Jane Price, ESRD
Andun Jevne, ESRD
Jordan Dyck, Spray Lakes Sawmill
Mike Dobovich, Rocky Mountain Dirt Riders Association