



Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia

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All about ORC - Membership in the Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC)

This information is for prospective member organizations which want to know what ORC is and what it does for its members. A current list of ORC's member organizations can be found on our website at www.orcbc.ca

ORC's purpose is described in the Purposes attached to its bylaws which are posted on the website on the About ORC page. We also summarize ORC's objectives so they can be more readily understood as follows:

1. To promote the benefits of public outdoor recreation in BC.
2. To represent the interests of the outdoor recreation community to government, industry and the public.
3. To advocate and facilitate access to public lands and waters for outdoor recreation.
4. To foster responsible use of BC's outdoors by recreational users through advocacy and education.
5. To act as a forum for the exchange of views between government, outdoor recreation groups and other organizations in matters related to outdoor recreation
6. To build bridges between outdoor recreation groups.

The following are some of the services which ORC is undertaking for its members:

- ORC represents the outdoor recreation sector at meetings of BC Government ministers and senior staff of the following ministries and agencies to raise issues of concern, to keep informed about the work of the agencies and other NGOs and to keep abreast of current issues affecting the sector
 - Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations. ORC has an ongoing relationship with the Recreation Sites & Trails Branch of this ministry.
 - Ministry of the Environment including BC Parks
- ORC appoints five members from its member organizations to represent the public interest in the Provincial Trails Advisory Body (PTAB) which has been set up to implement *the Trails Strategy for British Columbia*. ORC also nominates one of the two co-chairs and provides the secretariat for the PTAB.
- ORC is designated by the Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations and FrontCounter BC to receive Referrals for new crown land tenure applications by the adventure tourism industry. We notify our membership by e-mail about the public comment periods attached to these Referrals.
- ORC advises its members when the Ministry of the Environment introduces or proposes amendments to Provincial Park Management Plans and is seeking public input.
- For relevant BC projects, such as those having an impact on rivers, ORC distributes the notices from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the BC Environmental Assessment Office with respect to public comment periods and open houses for applications for Environmental Assessment

Certificates by e-mail. This ensures that our member organizations have an opportunity to make comments when they have issues with these types of applications.

- ORC was an active member of the Joint Advisory Group for the Off Road Vehicle Management Framework initiative.
- ORC originated BC Rivers Day and it continues to sponsor and coordinate BC Rivers Day events on the last Sunday of September each year.
- ORC compiles and publishes the BC Endangered Rivers in alternate years.
- ORC publishes *The Outdoor Recreation Report*, a monthly e-newsletter. It is distributed to all individuals on ORC's e-mail lists and other individuals who subscribe to it via Mailchimp.
- At ORC's annual general meeting, generally held in June, issues of concern or interest to its member organizations are discussed and resolutions are passed, after which actions are taken to follow up the resolutions. All Organization and Individual Members are free to vote on any issue other than the election of directors and changes to the bylaws. Votes on the election of directors and changes to the bylaws are reserved for Provincial Organization Members, which are defined as those organizations having a mandate throughout BC and having at least two clubs associated with them. However, any member may nominate a person for one of the ten positions on ORC's Board of Directors.
- All members are invited to send delegates and, regardless of their voting status, are encouraged to raise issues of concern which might have an impact on public outdoor recreation or to propose resolutions for consideration by the membership.
- Minutes of the monthly meetings of ORC's Board of Directors are posted on the ORC website at www.orcbc.ca as soon as they have been approved. Annual General Meeting minutes are also posted shortly after the AGM.
- ORC maintains a digital library of reports and other documents related to land use planning and such topics as the history, purpose and use of BC's parks system. This library is stored on DVDs and we can respond to requests for specific documents of historic interest by e-mailing a PDF of specific documents.
- ORC is the designated BC member of the Canadian Trails Federation and appoints a BC Director to attend meetings and participate in conference calls so as to obtain a national perspective on issues related to trails and trail funding.

ORC relies heavily on the efforts of its volunteer directors as well as the modest funding it receives from the private sector.

We disseminate a significant amount of useful information on a regular basis by e-mail including the monthly e-newsletter. ORC maintains an e-mail list of selected individuals in each member organization to ensure that useful information reaches those in the organization who are in a position to pass it on to others who can benefit from it. There is no limit on the number of persons listed in ORC's e-mail lists. With the exception of ORC's Board of Directors, e-mail recipients are not identified in e-mails

Jeremy McCall
Executive Director

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