Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia
38th Annual General Meeting

Saturday June 11, 2016
Yarrow Community School, Wilson Road, Yarrow, BC
Draft Minutes

In attendance

Executive Board of Directors	**Affiliation**
Dennis Webb (Chair)	Quad Riders ATV Association of BC
Don Reid	Trails Society of BC
Rose Schroeder	Back Country Horsemen of BC
Dave Wharton	Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
Roxanne Rousseau	Sea Kayak Association of BC
David Lock	BC Off Road Motor Cycle Association
Executive Director	
Jeremy McCall	Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society
Provincial Group Members (voting)	**Delegate(s)**
BC Federation of Drift Fishers	Rod Clapton
BC Federation of Fly Fishers	Pete Caverhill
BC Lapidary Society	Phillip Crewe
BC Marine Trails Network Association	Mick Allen
BC Nature	George Bangham
BC Snowmobile Federation	Tyler Kraushar
BC Speleological Federation	Robert Wall, Doug Storozynski, Charly Caproli
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC	Brian Wood
Four Wheel Drive Association of BC	Rachelle Tomm
Horse Council of BC	Nancy Sprat
Trails Society of BC	Leon Lebrun Serge Touchette
Guest	
Tim Ryan	Chair, Forest Practices Board
Absent Members of the Executive	
Penney Edwards	BC Nature
Gordon Weetman	UBC Faculty of Forestry
Erin Hart	BC Snowmobile Federation

Welcome

Dennis Webb, Chair, began proceedings at 9.20 AM, with a warm welcome to all those present. He introduced the members of the Executive Board of Directors.

Members' Forum

Dennis then invited each of the other persons present to introduce themselves and say a few words about the organization they represented. Delegates from the member organizations listed above gave brief reports. These reports were followed by a question and answer session in which representatives asked each other questions about their respective organizations.

On completion of the Members' Forum the Annual General Meeting took place. See following pages.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Call to order

At 10.34 AM the Chair called the Annual General Meeting to order.

2. Establishment of quorum

J. McCall, Executive Director, reported that in addition to members of the Executive, 12 paid-up voting members of the total voting membership of 24 organizations were represented, which exceeded the one third quorum requirement.

3. Adoption of agenda

Motion: Moved & seconded (P. Harrison/B. St. John): That the agenda be adopted. **Motion carried**

4. Approval of minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting have been posted on the Council's website since 2015 and they were also displayed on the wall of the meeting room during this meeting.

Motion: Moved & seconded (D. Reid/D. Wharton). That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on June 20, 2015, be considered as read and approved. **Carried.**

5. Business arising from the minutes

None.

6. Chair's Report

D. Webb summarized key points from his Chair's Report. See Appendix A for the full report. He also reported on an *in camera* meeting of the Executive which was held on February 29.

7. Executive Director's Report

J. McCall reviewed his Executive Director's Report. See Appendix B for the report.

8. Financial Report

J. McCall provided a brief financial report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016. See Appendix C for the report. He said that a processing error experienced while preparing the 2015/2016 financial statements in the week before the meeting prevented him from completing the statements in time for the meeting.

Motion (D. Reid/P. Harrison): To accept the financial report for the year ended March 31, 2016. **Motion carried.**

9. Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2016 – 01

Approval of 2016 Constitution and Bylaws.

Proposed by the Executive Board of Directors. Moved & seconded (R. Clapton/P. Harrison.

Be it resolved that the 2016 Constitution and Bylaws of the Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia, as approved for consideration by the members by the Executive Board of Directors, be approved.

Discussion: The Executive Board of Directors approved the new Bylaws at the May 9 meeting. A copy of the new Constitution and Bylaws were distributed to members

with the Notice of Meeting on May 12. Members present at the meeting were provided with copies of both the current and proposed Constitution and Bylaws. J. McCall reviewed the key points in a memo dated May 11, 2016, and entitled *"ORC's new bylaws – Reasons for the new bylaws and principal differences from the existing bylaws".* See Appendix D for the text of the memo, which was distributed to members with the Notice of Meeting on May 12.

A concern was raised by representatives of Provincial Group Members representing motorized recreation that the new bylaws would give a vote to all members on matters other than the election of directors and changes to the bylaws. L. Lebrun responded that he considered there were sufficient safeguards for the provincial organization members in the new bylaws. He also said that the outdoor recreation sector needs "this forum" for discussion of issues affecting the sector.

Motion carried. 15 votes in favour, 3 against.

Note: Each member of the Executive Board of Directors exercised one vote, and either voted as a member of the Executive or as a representative of their affiliated organization if it was not otherwise represented.

RESOLUTION 2016 – 02

To determine the effective date for the Outdoor Recreation Council's 2016 Constitution and Bylaws.

Proposed by the Executive Board of Directors of the Council. Moved/seconded R. Rousseau/T. Kraushar.

Whereas the Council's 2016 Constitution and Bylaws have been approved; and

Whereas it is desirable to implement the changes as soon as possible; and

Whereas it is necessary to file the 2016 Constitution and Bylaws with the Corporate Registry before they can become effective;

Therefore be it resolved that the 2016 Constitution and Bylaws take effect on receipt of confirmation that they have been filed in the Corporate Registry.

And be it further resolved that the Council's member organizations be informed immediately after they come into effect.

Motion carried - Unanimous

RESOLUTION 2016 – 03

To determine the membership dues for the Outdoor Recreation Council's member organizations after the 2016 Constitution and Bylaws take effect.

Proposed by the Executive Board of Directors of the Council. Moved & seconded (L. Lebrun/P. Crewe)

Whereas the Council's 2016 Constitution and Bylaws have been approved by a special resolution of the Council; and

Whereas it is necessary to set the membership dues for member organizations after the 2016 Constitution and Bylaws have been filed in the Corporate Registry and take effect; and

Therefore be it resolved that the membership dues for the new membership categories will be as follows:

- Provincial Organization Members $156 per annum
- Regional Organization Members $84 per annum
- Individual Members $50 per annum

Motion carried - Unanimous

RESOLUTION 2016 - 04

To increase the funding for BC Parks

Proposed by the Executive Board of Directors. Moved & seconded (R. Schroeder/P. Harrison)

Preamble

BC's extraordinary provincial parks are truly world class! There are few countries in the world, let alone states or provinces, which can claim to have such an extensive park system. In addition to protecting thousands of hectares of British Columbia's varied ecosystems in which British Columbians can hike, climb, ski and paddle and otherwise enjoy the outdoors, it is these parks which are the true emblem of Supernatural BC and which attract visitors from all over the world. Our parks system is the largest provincial system in Canada, and yet it is one of the worst funded on a per-hectare basis in the country.

While many if not most British Columbians value their parks, as do many visitors from outside the Province, the BC Government does not appear to do so. For many years the BC Government has starved BC Parks of the operating funds required to adequately maintain the infrastructure in the parks and maintain the number of park rangers at the level required to provide adequate visitor services. The only parts of the Provincial Parks which are reasonably well funded are the front country areas with developed camp sites, which are administered through contracts with Park Facilities Operators (PFOs). The PFOs receive and retain fees from the public for their services and it is those fees which they use to maintain the facilities they manage. This anomaly in the park funding model leads to a distorted view of the Provincial Parks and an impression, by persons taking a superficial view, that the parks are adequately funded.

Resolution

Whereas the area of the BC Parks system more than doubled during the past 20 years from 6.5 million hectares to 14 million hectares and the number of Provincial Parks and Protected Areas increased from 490 to 1,029 in 2014; and

Whereas in the same 20 year period the number of Full Time Employees was reduced from 486 to 195 in 2014, to be partially replaced with Park Facilities Operators who do not have the same responsibilities, knowledge or authority as Park Rangers, each of whom is responsible for up to ten parks; and

Whereas BC Parks' annual operating budget of $31 million has barely increased since the year 2000; and

Whereas the demand for campsites in BC's Provincial Parks almost invariably exceeds the number available; and

Whereas the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services in its November 2015 report recommended that the budget of BC Parks be increased; and

Whereas the 2016 Provincial Budget contained no significant increase in the budget for BC Parks;

Therefore be it further resolved that the Council and all its member organizations contact all BC's ministers and MLAs to ensure that they are aware of the inadequate state of funding for BC Parks; and

Be it further resolved that the Council call on like-minded non-government organizations with a similar interest in BC Parks to join a concerted campaign for a significant increase in the funding of BC Parks in 2017.

Be it further resolved that the Council urge the BC Government to increase the operating budget for BC Parks in order to maintain the infrastructure in the parks, such as trails, bridges and other facilities, and to hire more Park Rangers; and

Be it further resolved that the Council and its member organizations adopt and promote the following proposal to Ministers and MLA's, to be implemented by the BC Ministry of Finance in the 2017-18 Provincial Budget. Increase the annual operating budget of BC Parks by 10% a year for five years.

Motion carried - Unanimous

RESOLUTION 2016 - 05

Coalition for BC's rivers

Proposed by Mark Angelo, Rivers Chair, Outdoor Recreation Council. Moved & seconded (R. Clapton/P. Caverhill)

Preamble

The protection of British Columbia's rivers and water resources is, to many, our most pressing environmental issue. In light of the extensive public and media interest in the Council's 2016 Endangered Rivers List, a number of non-government organizations (NGOs) in the Province plan to build on the momentum created by the List and ensure that river-related issues are appropriately discussed in the run-up to the 2017 provincial election. Many of these groups have also highlighted a number of specific issues that were included in the Endangered Rivers Backgrounder, including the following major concerns;

- The Seymour and Cowichan Rivers
- Ensuring adequate flows are maintained on key tributaries of the Thompson River which are experiencing extensive water extraction
- The need for a precautionary approach to assessing potentially polluting developments in close proximity to rivers
- The need for an environmental sustainability plan for the Fraser estuary.

It is in this spirit, that the following motion is put forward.

Resolution

Whereas the Council has been a leading advocate for river management and conservation through BC Rivers Day and the Endangered Rivers List; and

Whereas the 2016 Endangered Rivers List generated a great deal of interest and identified a number of specific issues that need to be addressed; and

Whereas the BC election is now a year away and all BC political parties are currently developing election platforms; and

Whereas several of BC's biggest river-related non-government organizations (NGOs) have aligned in supporting an effort to get rivers on the political radar in the hope that all provincial political parties will develop positions pertaining to river management and conservation, especially relating to issues that the Council highlighted in the 2016 Endangered Rivers List;

Therefore be it resolved that the Council support the effort of others in the NGO community, including the BC Wildlife Federation, the BC Federation of Drift Fishers, Watershed Watch Salmon Society, West Coast Environmental Law and the David Suzuki Foundation, which are currently planning to form a Coalition to profile the need for all political parties to develop river-related policies as part of their electoral platform; and

Be it further resolved that the Council agrees to be listed as part of the Coalition advocating the development of river-related policies prior to the 2017 provincial election, post its support of this initiative on its website, and write to the Minister of Environment, as well as other key leaders in the BC Government and the Official Opposition, urging the development of river-related policies relating to key points raised by the Coalition and the Council's 2016 Endangered Rivers Backgrounder.

Motion carried - Unanimous

ORC RESOLUTION 2016 – 06

Terrestrial motorized recreation in BC Parks

Proposed by the Executive Board of Directors of the Outdoor Recreation Council. Moved & seconded (T. Kraushar/R. Schroeder)

Preamble

In 2015 the Outdoor Recreation Council requested BC Parks to provide a list of Provincial Parks in which either summer or winter motorized terrestrial recreation is permitted. After several requests limited information was received which confirmed that terrestrial motorized recreation is permitted in some Provincial Parks but the information was not complete. A practical list for the entire Province, which could serve as a useful reference, was not provided.

Resolution

Whereas the number of BC residents and visitors who participate in terrestrial motorized outdoor recreation has increased significantly in recent years; and

Whereas those who participate are constantly seeking places where they can recreate legally; and

Whereas the terrestrial motorized community is reluctant to support initiatives related to BC's Provincial Parks unless they have some incentive to do so;

Therefore be it resolved that the Outdoor Recreation Council request BC Parks to provide a complete and practical list of Provincial Parks in which either summer or winter terrestrial motorized recreation is permitted; and

Be it further resolved that BC Parks be requested to consider the needs of the motorized community in future park planning so that terrestrial motorized recreation can take place in those parks where it would be acceptable.

Discussion: In response to a question by Rose Schroeder, it was emphasized that the intent of this motion is to obtain information on the current state of access permitted in the provincial parks. The Council had difficulty in obtaining comprehensive information in 2015. There was also discussion about "use" compared to "access", apparently a distinction in certain parks and the meaning of "permitted".

Proposed amendment to Resolution: Moved & seconded (B. Wood/R. Rousseau). That the word "use" be substituted for "recreation" in three places in the resolution.

After further discussion the amendment was defeated.

Motion carried. ORC Resolution 2016 – 06 was passed with one abstention.

ORC RESOLUTION 2016 – 07

Motor assisted bicycles in BC Parks

Proposed by the Executive Board of Directors of the Outdoor Recreation Council. Moved & seconded (D. Lock/R. Schroeder).

Preamble

Along with the significant increase in the number of people riding bicycles of all types and in all types of trails and terrain at the present time, there has been a growing interest by the public in motor assisted bicycles. The regulation of these bicycles, which may be assisted by gasoline or electric motors, is a work in progress and has not yet been adequately defined. Furthermore it is difficult to classify these machines by the extent to which they are motor assisted, so it is possible that the distinction between motor assisted bicycles and motor cycles might become blurred. That could result in quite powerful motor assisted bicycles being used in BC's Provincial Parks with negative impacts on trails and trail users.

Resolution

Whereas the majority of BC's Provincial Parks do not permit motorized recreation; and

Whereas there has been a significant increase in the use of mountain bikes in many Provincial Parks; and

Whereas there has been a significant interest by the public in the use of motor assisted bicycles; and

Whereas there are no current regulations governing the use of motor assisted bicycles nor is there any distinction between different types and sizes of motor;

Therefore be it resolved that the Outdoor Recreation Council recommend that BC Parks prohibit the use of motor assisted bicycles in those parks where motorized recreation is not permitted in order to protect the trails and to preserve the trail experience for other park users in those parks.

Discussion: J. McCall noted that this question is especially pertinent in the case of South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park, for which comments on the final draft of

the management plan are due on June 13. Mountain bike use in the park has increased significantly in recent years. M. Allen asked if it would be necessary to distinguish between electric and fossil fuel motors. T. Kraushar said motor assisted bikes cause no more erosion on trails than regular bikes and banning motor assisted bikes in parks could cause conflict between groups. Also, with an aging population older people would be able to enjoy the parks with motor assisted bikes. D. Lock said BC shouldn't necessarily follow the example of the Bureau of Land Management in the U.S.A. A comparison was made with the use of prosthetic limbs by climbers, a situation where mechanical assistance is accepted.

Moved & seconded **(**P. Crewe/N. Spratt) That ORC Resolution 2016 – 07 be tabled. **Motion tabled.**

10. Election of Executive Board of Directors for 2016 - 2017

A summary of the current and proposed members of the Executive Board of Directors with brief resumes was distributed to the attendees at the meeting. D. Reid proposed the following:

Continuing incumbents

Dennis Webb. Affiliation: Quad Riders ATV Association of BC. Director from June 2012. In second year of a two year term (Years 4 & 5).

Gordon Weetman. Advisory Member. Affiliation: Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia. Director from June 2015. In second year of a two year term (Year 2).

Incumbent nominees

Rose Schroeder. Director from June 2011. Affiliation: Back Country Horsemen of British Columbia. Elected for a third term of two years in 2014 (Years 4 & 5). Nominated for a one year term (Year 6).

Penelope (Penney) Edwards. Director from June 2013. Affiliation: BC Nature. Elected for a second term of two years in 2014 (Years 2 & 3). Nominated for a two year term (Years 4 & 5).

Dave Wharton. Director from June 2013. Affiliation: Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC. Elected for a second term of two years in 2014 (Years 2 & 3). Nominated for a two year term (Years 4 & 5).

Kim Reeves. Director from June 2015. Affiliation: Four Wheel Drive Association of BC. Nominated for a two year term (Years 2 & 3).

Roxanne Rousseau. Director from June 2015. Affiliation: Sea Kayak Association of BC. Nominated for a two year term (Years 2 & 3).

Additional nominees

Penny Cartwright. Affiliation: BC Snowmobile Federation. Nominated for a one year term.

Jeremy McCall. Affiliation: Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society. Nominated for a two year term.

Ciel Sander. Affiliation: Trails Society of BC. Nominated for a one year term.

Article III, Section B, Paragraph 8 of the By-laws states that additional candidates may be nominated from the floor. Don Reid called for nominations from the floor three times. There were no additional nominations.

Motion: Moved/seconded (D. Reid/P. Harrison) That the slate of eight nominees be elected as directors for the 2016 – 2017 year. **Motion carried**

11. Other business

None

12. Adjournment

The Annual General Meeting was adjourned at 1.05 PM.

Draft - To be approved by members at 2017 AGM
Jun. 27/16
jm

Appendix A

Chairman's Report

Welcome honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen and fellow board members.

I'm seeing a number of familiar faces and some new faces at our AGM this year. We will endeavour to keep you as involved as we can because it is only with your continued involvement that we move forward to our goal of keeping the back country of British Columbia environmentally sustainable, open and safe for all. As I have stated in past reports the job of keeping the pace of mutual cooperation by all is a top priority.

Touching on only a few items we accomplished that I am sure will be covered by in depth by our Executive Director in his reports.

I want to personally thank all our Directors past and present for their time and commitment and dedication. ORC achievements are made from their expertise and knowledge applied year round. We will surely miss one of long standing director as he has reached his 6 year tenure. Don Reid has served the ORC and his individual member organization with great effect and has been invaluable as hard working and outstanding a friend to every one of us.

This year, again, we are attempting to carry the ORC to the next level. We are proposing a new set of by-laws to better serve our members and to comply with the new Societies Act. These changes are well thought out and let me tell you well debated by your ORC board. I have lost count of how many revisions we went through and some very heated discussions we had on what was correct and what needed adjustments. My personal gratitude to Don Reid and to Jeremy for your untold hours of frustration as you worked so very hard to bring these new bylaws to life.

Also the new constitution has been brought up to date and should carry us far into our future as an organization.

The Provincial Trails Advisory Body is now fully operational and is evolving into a very powerful and useful tool for inter-member and inter-provincial viewpoints to be brought to each other's tables for joint discussion and problem solving. This group of supporting individuals will be the future of how we get things done.

Now I get to talk about our Executive Director, Where would we be and where we are going are all mostly his vision and I want to thank him on behalf of the entire BOD. He continues to carry on, even with his recent brush of ill-heath, with the daily office work and never ending meetings at all levels - local, provincial and national, all on a limited budget. Our thank you, Jeremy, is heart-felt!

I will say that the past year has been another busy one and I am pleased with the achievements of the ORC, some of which include:

- Monthly meetings of the Executive were held throughout the past year with good representation and active participation from most directors.
- Participation in various advisory committees, programs, conferences and workshops
- Co-Hosting of the Trails workshop with The Horse Council of B.C.
- Ongoing distribution of various government notifications and information on impending projects on crown land to our member groups.

Every year now I quote from a former Chair, Bob Gunn, from his 2013 AGM Report. I have tried in vain to rewrite his statement and can't think of how anyone could possibly improve his words as they are as true now as they will be in the future.

"It remains apparent to ORC that outdoor recreation continues to remain important to British Columbians. It is also apparent that protecting our natural resources, ensuring access for all types of outdoor recreation and adequately resourcing the various agencies and organizations that contribute to the stewardship and management of outdoor recreation in BC (which also includes ORC) will continue to be a challenge in the years ahead. I believe that the role for a provincial organization like ORC continues to be relevant and is more important than ever."

My thanks to all for your commitment to our cause on the future of outdoor recreation in BC, I thank you!

Sincerely
Dennis K. Webb
Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

THE YEAR AS A WHOLE

During the year following the last AGM in June 2015 the National Trails Coalition's trail funding program was brought to a successful conclusion. In the non-motorized segment of the NTC program, thirteen of the ORC's member organizations received total funding of $400,000, with grants ranging in size to $68,000. Projects funded by that program are now in the process of being audited by Infrastructure Canada and it is to be hoped that a similar program will be proposed by the Government of Canada in due course.

The year was also notable for being the first full year of the Provincial Trails Advisory Body (PTAB) in which ORC plays a significant role (see detailed comment below). ORC also succeeded in bringing several issues of importance to the outdoor recreation sector to the attention of decision makers and others.

THE PROVINCIAL TRAILS ADVISORY BODY (PTAB)

The Provincial Trails Advisory Body was formed to implement the *Trails Strategy for British Columbia*. ORC is a partner of Recreation Sites & Trails BC in the PTAB and plays a significant role because ORC's Executive Board of Directors appoints five persons to represent public outdoor recreation. As Executive Director of ORC, I also act as one of the PTAB's two co-chairs. ORC also provides space on its website to post the minutes of PTAB meetings and other documents of public interest resulting from the PTAB's work.

After its first face-to- face meeting in March 2015, the PTAB has had one other face-to-face meeting and three meetings by conference call. During the past year different members of the PTAB have begun to tackle about half of the 22 so-called Key Components in the *Trails Strategy for British Columbia* with varying levels of success. In the case of Component 7, reducing red tape, a number of hard-to-find BC Government procedures have been identified and directions to them are posted on the PTAB pages of the ORC website. In the case of Component 13, the consolidation of trail standards in the Province, it has become apparent that it is a significant project which is beyond the capabilities of the part-time members of the PTAB. It is planned to put this Component and perhaps others out to contract.

Members of the PTAB are learning that it takes time to get used to working together, so that their appointment terms may need to be extended, and the tasks required to implement the *Trails Strategy* are probably too demanding for the PTAB members to undertake without additional resources. The basic mandate of the PTAB is such that the number of current issues which it will address in addition to the Trails Strategy is likely to be somewhat limited.

ORC'S MEMBERSHIP

The NTC trail funding program in 2014/2015 brought ORC a number of new members from many different parts of BC which was a definite benefit. Thankfully, most of the new members who joined the as a result of the NTC program have subsequently renewed their memberships.

Using the classification set out in the current bylaws, ORC now has 21 Provincial Group Members, which are essentially unchanged from earlier years, five Regional Committees, including two regional districts, and about 25 Participating Group Members

(subject to renewals currently under way). It is notable that a significant number of the member organizations which joined recently are in the mountain biking sector.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Executive meets monthly for most months of the year to discuss issues of current interest or concern to ORC's member organizations. Out-of-town members are able to participate by telephone. Current issues under review include the access to Garibaldi Provincial Park via the Singing Pass Trail and the Draft Management Plan for the South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park. Other current issues are reflected in the resolutions being proposed for the 2016 AGM.

ORC WORKSHOPS

On May 11, 2016, ORC was pleased to be able to partner with the Horse ORC of BC in sponsoring the highly successful *Sharing the Trail* workshop in Salmon Arm. This workshop, which was attended by over 50 members and others, was co-hosted by the Shuswap Trail Alliance which went to great lengths to ensure that the indoor and outdoor programs were a success. The precedent of holding this type of workshop outside the Lower Mainland was obviously popular and will be a useful example for future planning.

2016 ENDANGERED RIVERS LIST

ORC`s Rivers Chair Mark Angelo and the Endangered Rivers Committee decided that ORC`s annual Endangered Rivers campaign should be reintroduced in 2016 after a two year absence. The 2016 list with a detailed backgrounder are posted on the ORC website.

FUNDING FOR BC PARKS

Since it was suggested to ORC during the Union of BC Municipalities Conference in the Fall, ORC put considerable effort into advocating a sorely needed increase in the funding for BC Parks. Thanks to the efforts of many of our member organizations we were successful in getting a positive recommendation by the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. Despite those efforts, that recommendation did not succeed in getting an increase in the BC Parks funding in the 2016/2017 Provincial Budget. As a result Resolution 2016-04 is being proposed for consideration at the 2016 AGM so as to ensure that a similar campaign is undertaken in the run up to the 2017 election.

ACCESS TO PRIVATE FOREST LANDS

After hearing anecdotal evidence of restricted access to private forest lands, especially on Vancouver Island, for many years, we decided to commission a study of the problem and possible solutions by students of the Environmental Law Centre at the University of Victoria. In March 2016 they produced their report, with the title *Enhanced Access to Privately Owned Wild Lands*. The report provides a thorough description of the issues involved and offers a number of possible solutions based on experience in other jurisdictions in Canada, the United States and Europe. This report is posted on the publications page of the ORC website. We believe this report could be the basis for a campaign to get legislative action to improve access to private forest lands in BC.

ONGOING SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Notification of Crown Land tenure applications by adventure tourism operators

ORC continues to notify its member organizations about FrontCounter BC`s Referrals for Crown Land tenure applications submitted by adventure tourism operators.

Notification of Environmental Assessments

ORC continues to notify member organizations about public open houses and public comment periods for the assessment of significant projects We publish information which we obtain from the BC Environmental Assessment Office and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

BC Parks Management Plans

ORC notifies members when BC Parks is seeking public input for new or updated park management plans or other parks policies. The Draft Management Plan for the South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park is open for comment until June 13.

Rivers Day

ORC continues to sponsor BC Rivers Day on the last Sunday of September each year (September 25 in 2016). Members are invited to organize events by or on their local rivers and register the events on the Rivers Day listings accessible through the ORC website. The Great Shoreline Cleanup also occurs in September so there is a choice of ways to celebrate the day.

ORC`s GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS

Recreation Sites and Trails Branch - Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO)

ORC continues to work closely with the Recreation Sites & Trails Branch on trail issues especially with respect to the PTAB.

Ministry of Environment & BC Parks

ORC will continue to liaise with BC Parks when appropriate, especially for Park Management Plans and BC Parks policies.

REPRESENTATION BY ORC

Canadian Trails Federation (CTF)

ORC is a member of the CTF and participates in its regular Board meetings, whether physical or by conference call. ORC has been a strong advocate for the CTF to move faster with implementing its Vision, Mission Statement and Goals, which can be viewed on the CTF website at www.ctf-fcs.ca .

Jeremy McCall

Jun. 10/16