



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 Constitution which can be provided separately. We also summarize ORC's purpose and its 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 provides 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
 - Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) Advisory Committee and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. Meetings of this committee are not being held currently.
- 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.
- 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.

- As a member of the former Off Road Vehicle Coalition ORC is an active member of the Joint Advisory Group for the Off Road Vehicle Management Framework initiative. The ORV JAG is currently engaged in finalizing the Regulations for the Off Road Vehicle Act which was passed earlier in 2014.
- 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 annual BC Endangered Rivers list each spring.
- ORC publishes its newsletter *The Outdoor Recreation Report* twice a year (Spring & Fall), depending on funding available. It is distributed to any individual who is a member of its member organizations who asks to be on the mailing list, to all public libraries in BC and to selected government employees involved with outdoor recreation in BC.
- 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 through on the resolutions. Provincial Group Members and Regional Committee Members have a vote at ORC's AGM. All members are invited to send delegates and all members, 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 Executive Board of Directors are posted on the ORC website at www.orcbc.ca once they have been approved. Annual General Meeting minutes are 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's Provincial Group (voting) Members have the right to nominate one of their members for one of up to the eight designated positions in the annual election of ORC's Executive Board of Directors.

The Executive Board of Directors is proud of the fact that ORC presently performs most of these functions with a volunteer Executive Director. 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, some by e-mail and some by means of the semi-annual newsletter. We maintain 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.

Jeremy McCall
Executive Director

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