

TRAILS STRATEGY FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

Strategy Action 7 - Reduce Red Tape

by Robert Holland

Reduce Red Tape has at least two different tracks:

1. Clarify the application process, what is needed, where the supporting documentation and forms can be found and samples of completed documents.
2. Resolve legislative inconsistencies

Overview

Many of the Non Profit organizations are not equipped to meet the objectives that are placed with FRPA Sec 56 / 57 applications. There is an expectation that Non Profits have the same level of expertise and access to systems that would mirror that of a major organization. The process needs to be simplified or clarified to meet the capability of the non profits.

In today's linked world, the first source of information is now the internet, or other social media platforms.

"Most people will rely on the internet to obtain information. Unfortunately, the information provided on government websites about resource roads is often inconsistent, easily misconstrued, out of date or simply wrong. Given that many people get their information directly from government website, it behooves government to ensure that what little information is provided is at least clear, consistent and correct" FPB/SR/49 - 7

Application Process

What information is available to an individual or group to prepare an application and where can it be found

- **BACKGROUND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

- References to Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) Section 56 and 57. FRPA document available at http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/02069_01
- Forest Recreation Regulation. This regulation is available at www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/16_2004
- Document titled: "**Outdoor Recreation and the Forests & Range Practices Act.**" Available at www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca/documents/outdoor-rec-and-frpa-2005-03-17.doc does a thorough job of explaining the act, regulations and their impact on recreation. A good resource.
- Document titled "**The Forest & Range Practices Act, Section 57 and the Application Process Information Package**". Filed under

“Information Package Trails registration.pdf”. Status of public access to this document not known.

- Document filed under “S57-Application_Form.docx” and titled “**PROPOSAL FORM FOR TRAILS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**” is a simplified Section 57 Application form. The link to this document is https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/dck/.../S57-Application%20_form.doc This form also contains an 8 page information package that helps to explain the process
- Provincial Trail Strategy – a link to the Provincial Trail Strategy is available at www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca/about/provincial-trail-strategy.aspx
- Chapter 10: Recreation Trail Management. A link to this document can be found at www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca/about/site-and-trail-maintenance.aspx. Access is restricted to the document folder within the sites and trails web site and therefore not available to most users.
- Document Titled “**Application Information and Guidelines for Proposal Form for Trails and Recreation Facilities**”. Filed under “S57-Application-Info-Guides.PDF” or possibly “Application Information and Guidelines_Revised-Feb-2012.docx”. Status of public access to this document not known.
- Document titled “**Proposal Form for Trails and Recreation Facilities**”. Filed under “Trails and Recreation Facilities Proposal Form-Jan-2012.docx”. Status of public access to this document not known.

- **APPLICATION PROCESS**

- **Part 4 of Forest Recreation Regulation establishes trail application process**
 - (1) For the purposes of section 57 (1) of the Act, a person who is required to obtain the authorization of the minister before constructing, rehabilitating or maintaining a trail or recreation facility on Crown land must deliver a proposal regarding the matter to the minister.
 - (2) A proposal must contain
 - (a) the name and address of the person making the proposal,
 - (b) the description of the proposal, including the purpose, location and date of the proposed work, and
 - (c) the action requested of the minister.
 - (3) A person submitting a proposal must satisfy the minister that the proposal will not cause one or more of the following:
 - (a) significant risk to public safety;
 - (b) unacceptable damage to the environment;

- (c) unacceptable conflicts with other resource values or users.
- (4) The minister must notify the person named in the proposal of the minister's determination to grant, or to refuse to grant, the authorization that is the subject matter of the proposal.

Recommendation

Have RSTBC official responsible for the RSTBC website maintenance review how to make the documents available to the general public within Government policy guidelines.

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