



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

Media Release

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For immediate release

Taghum/Blewett Boat Launch Feasibility Study results to be shared at public meeting

Nelson, BC: The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) invites community members and other stakeholders to attend a public meeting to discuss the results of the Taghum/Blewett Boat Launch Feasibility Study. The public meeting will be held on **Monday, September 17, 2018, from 6:00 to 8:00pm**, at Blewett Elementary School, 2665 Blewett Road.

“We initiated the feasibility study to examine the potential for a public boat launch on the Kootenay River to serve the needs of users in the Taghum and Blewett areas, and community consultation is an essential part of finding the right solution,” said Tom Newell, Director of Electoral Area F. “We need the community’s input to help determine if the RDCK should proceed to the next stage of conceptual design and additional investigation.”

The Taghum/Blewett Boat Launch – Phase 1 Feasibility Study was completed by WSP for the RDCK to further the planning of a boat launch on either the north or south side of the Kootenay River to service the Taghum and Blewett areas. The community had historically launched boats from an informal gravel site off Fisherman’s Road on lands owned by Teck Metals Ltd. known as the Kenville Tailings Area. Access to this area and launching activities were not authorised by the land owners and the site was closed to public access. Community members and RDCK Directors and staff have been working together to find a solution for a new river access for local boaters.

“A key message received from the consultation was to develop a solution that would accommodate the local community and be accessible to both motorized and non-motorized boaters,” said Ramona Faust, Director of Electoral Area E. “As there is currently no other opportunity to launch a boat in this section of the river, there is a desire in the community to proceed with the project as soon as possible. We need further input from the community on the study results to make sure we are going in the right direction.”

The feasibility study incorporates consultation with local stakeholders, community members, and elected officials. The study includes a short list of potential sites to evaluate the technical feasibility and the needs of the local boating community. The public meeting will consider the various opportunities and challenges at each of the sites identified in the study.

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Resources:

- For more information about the Taghum/Blewett Boat Launch Feasibility Study, visit the project page here: <https://rdck.ca/EN/main/services/parks/taghum-blewett-boat-launch.html>
- The draft Feasibility Study can be found here: <https://rdck.ca/assets/Administration/Documents/Taghum%20Blewett%20Boat%20Launch%20Feasibility%20Study%20Phase%201%20Report.pdf>

Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit www.rdck.ca.

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