



Regional District of Central Kootenay
NELSON, SALMO, E, F, AND G REGIONAL PARKS COMMISSION
Open Meeting Agenda

Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026
Time: 10:30 am
Location: RDCK Meeting Room
Nelson & District Community Complex, 305 Hall Street, Nelson, BC

Directors will have the opportunity to participate in the meeting electronically. Proceedings are open to the public.

Pages

1. ZOOM REMOTE MEETING INFO

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

Meeting Time:

10:30 a.m. PDT

Join by Video:

<https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/94689831356?pwd=Zp1UfnY6wVRO9Zk4fVci6iheDw1mCv.1>

Join by Phone:

833 958 1164 Canada Toll-free

*6 to unmute or mute

*9 to raise or lower your hand

Meeting ID: 946 8983 1356

Meeting Password: 672792

In-Person Location: Nelson & District Community Complex - 305 Hall Street - Multipurpose Room

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Page called the meeting to order at [Time] a.m.

3. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION:

The Agenda for the July 22, 2026 Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting be adopted as circulated.

5. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

4 - 6

The June 10, 2026 Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission minutes, have been received.

6. DELEGATE

There are no Delegates scheduled for this Commission meeting.

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.1 TAWKROC – CIC Bluffs Request

7 - 8

The Commission Report dated July 22, 2026 from Mark Crowe, Regional Park Planner, re: TAWKROC - CIC Bluff Requests, has been received.

7.2 Delegation Follow-Up: Nelson Nordic Ski Club

9 - 10

The Commission Report dated July 22, 2026 from Craig Stanley, Regional Manger of Operations and Asset Management, re: Delegation Follow-Up: Nelson Nordic Ski Club, has been received.

7.3 Delegation Follow-Up: Blewett Community Society

11 - 12

The Commission Report dated July 22, 2026 from Trisha Davison, General Manager of Community Services, re: Delegation Follow-Up: Blewett Community Society, has been received.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Nelson Cycling Club - Letter of Support

13

The e-mail dated June 9, 2026 from the Nelson Cycling Club, re: A Letter of Support has been received.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Nelson, Salmo, Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission send a letter of support to the Nelson Cycling Club for grant funding purposes.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Blewett Community Society Proposal

14 - 17

The Rink Development Proposal at Morning Mountain dated June 18, 2026 from Lukas Armstrong, President of the Blewett Community Society has been received.

9.2 Letter from Nelson Cycling Club

18 - 19

The Letter dated June 29, 2026 from Wendy Lewis, Manager of Nelson Cycling Club, on behalf of the Nelson Cycling Club Board of Directors has been received.

9.3 Nelson Nordic Ski Club

20 - 24

The letter dated April 23, 2026 from John Bowden, General Manager of the Nelson Nordic Ski Club has been received.

10. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair will call for questions from the public and members of the media at _____ a.m./p.m.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDATION:

The Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting be adjourned at [Time].



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

NELSON, SALMO, AREAS E, F AND G REGIONAL PARKS COMMISSION OPEN MEETING MINUTES

9:00 a.m.

June 10, 2026

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Commissioner K. Page	City of Nelson
Commissioner D. Lockwood	Village of Salmo
Commissioner C. Graham	Area E
Commissioner T. Newell	Area F
Commissioner H. Cunningham	Area G

STAFF

Trisha Davison	General Manager – Community Services
Craig Stanley	Regional Manager – Operations & Asset Management
Cary Gaynor	Regional Parks Manager
Alana Jenkins	Meeting Coordinator

5 out of 5 voting Commission/Committee members were present – quorum was met.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Page called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

The Agenda for the June 10, 2026 Nelson, Salmo, Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The April 8, 2026 Nelson, Salmo, Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission minutes, have been received.

5. DELEGATE

5.1 Blewett Community Society

Jacob Cloutier, Lukas Armstrong and Coordinator Valerie May Evans with the Blewett Community Society will present a presentation and budget for a permanent rink at Morning Mountain Regional Park.

The delegates provided an overview of the submitted report and answered questions from the Commission regarding;

- Potential construction materials
- Potential ownership of assets
- Ongoing operational funding
- Asset management planning

The Commission advised the Blewett Community Society to submit a letter to the Commission regarding the project and discussed potential project considerations.

5.2 Nelson Nordic Ski Club

John Bowden and Peter Holton with the Nelson Nordic Ski Club to present a proposal to extend the current grooming program for 2km South of the Euphrates Shelter to the Commission.

The delegates provided an overview of the submitted report and participated in discussion with the Commission regarding;

- Trail maintenance
- Machine access on non-motorized trails
- Any current partnership between the Nelson Nordic Ski Club and RDCK
- A potential future larger expansion
- Previous correspondence sent to the Commission regarding the project

STAFF DIRECTION: That the Commission direct staff to refer the Nelson Nordic Ski Club matter to a future meeting of the Nelson, Salmo, E, F, and G Regional Parks Commission for Consideration.

STAFF DIRECTION: That the Commission direct staff that upon receipt of a written request from the Blewett Community Society to refer the matter to a future meeting of the Nelson, Salmo, E, F, and G Regional Parks Commission for Consideration.

6. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair called for questions from the public at 10:30 a.m.

The Nelson Cycling Club expressed their concerns regarding the Morning Mountain Rink proposal and requested information on when and how they will receive funding previously allocated to the club by RDCK.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting will be at Commission discretion.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

The Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting be adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Carried

Digitally Approved

K. Page, Chair

RECOMMENDATION(S) TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. N/A.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE PROVIDED FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY AND WILL BE CONSIDERED AT ITS APPROPRIATE MEETING AS STATED.

Future Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission Meetings

1. *That the Commission direct staff to refer the Nelson Nordic Ski Club matter to a future meeting of the Nelson, Salmo, E, F, and G Regional Parks Commission for Consideration.*
2. *That the Commission direct staff that upon receipt of a written request from the Blewett Community Society to refer the matter to a future meeting of the Nelson, Salmo, E, F, and G Regional Parks Commission for Consideration.*



Commission Report – For Information

July 22, 2026

TAWKROC – CIC Bluffs Request

Author:	Mark Crowe, Regional Park Planner
File Reference:	7015-20
Electoral Area/Municipality:	Nelson, Salmo, E, F, G
Services Impacted	S202 - Regional Parks Nelson, Salmo, E, F, G

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise the Commission that staff are preparing a more detailed report regarding RDCK ownership of CIC Bluffs, including a draft agreement for consideration at a forthcoming meeting. The report and agreement will outline options for the Regional District to retain ownership and high-level oversight of the CIC Bluffs climbing area while delegating day-to-day management and stewardship of the climbing resource to the Association of West Kootenay Rock Climbers (TAWKROC).

2.0 BACKGROUND AND UPDATE

At the June 10, 2025 Commission meeting, Yann Troutet, representing the Association of West Kootenay Rock Climbers (TAWKROC), presented a request that the Commission consider formalizing recreational climbing use on Regional District owned properties commonly known as the CIC Bluffs. Commission discussion at that time focused on potential traffic, public safety, and insurance considerations. No decision or follow up direction was provided.

On April 29, 2025, Regional Parks staff met with Mr. Troutet to further clarify TAWKROC's request. Through that discussion, staff understood the following:

- TAWKROC is interested in assuming a stewardship and management role for the CIC Bluffs climbing area, which is owned by the RDCK.
- The proposed scope would focus on the ongoing maintenance, safety, and sustainable use of the climbing resource, while supporting public access and environmental protection.
- Key elements of this interest may include coordination of climbing route development and maintenance, risk management measures related to climbing activities, signage and user information, and volunteer coordination.
- Any management role would be subject to a formal land tenure or management agreement (TBD) outlining roles, responsibilities, authorities, and liability considerations acceptable to both parties.

Parks staff believe there is a potential path forward that would allow the Regional District to retain ownership and high-level oversight of the CIC Bluffs while delegating management of the climbing resource to TAWKROC. This would be achieved through an appropriate agreement that provides delegated responsibility without a transfer of ownership.

The Regional District has broad authority to provide services and regulate activities it considers necessary or desirable, including parks and recreation. This authority supports the delegation of management responsibilities for park resources where the Board deems it beneficial. It is common practice across British Columbia for regional districts and municipalities to:

- Retain land ownership
- Issue a licence, permit, or occupation agreement
- Delegate management of specialized recreation assets to competent user groups

This approach offers several potential benefits, including:

- Safety oversight without parks staff specialization
- Improves asset sustainability
- Maintains public accountability
- Reduces regional district operational burden
- Specialized expertise is required

Staff are of the view that meaningful evaluation of this proposed approach requires review of a draft agreement. Discussion of potential arrangements alone provides limited value without the ability to assess specific terms related to roles, responsibilities, and risk allocation.

3.0 NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINE

For the September 9, 2026, Commission meeting staff will bring forward a proposed agreement for Commission consideration that outlines the delegated management responsibilities for the CIC Bluffs climbing area without an ownership transfer. It is anticipated that this approach would not involve Regional Parks assuming direct operational management of the climbing area, preparation of a full regional park management plan, or the establishment of Regional District volunteer agreements.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Crowe

Mark Crowe
Regional Park Planner

CONCURRENCE

Trisha Davison – General Manager of Community Services 

Kristi Calder – Regional Manager of Recreation & Client Services 

Craig Stanley – Regional Manager Operations & Asset Management 



Commission Report – For Information

July 22, 2026

Delegation Follow-up: Nelson Nordic Ski Club

Author:	Craig Stanley, Regional Manager – Operations and Asset Management
File Reference:	01-0520-50
Electoral Area/Municipality:	City of Nelson, Area E and Area F, Salmo, Area G
Services Impacted	S202 - Regional Parks Nelson, Salmo, E, F, G

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek direction from Commission on the appropriate follow-up action to the Nelson Nordic Ski Club's (NNSC) proposal to extend their current trail grooming, and use on the Great Northern Trail (GNT) by two kilometers.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND UPDATE

Background

The GNT is owned by MOTT and managed by the RDCK. The NNSC currently groom and use approximately six kilometers of the GNT from Cottonwood Lake to the crossing of Highway 6. At the June 10, 2026 meeting, the NNSC proposed that they be permitted to groom and use an additional two kilometers of the GNT beyond the Highway 6 crossing. Part of their reason was due to the loss of five kilometers of trail that is on private land.

The request from the NNSC considered that they needed approval to have the work started in September. The cycle of Commission meetings does not permit a follow up in a timely manner. Staff are requesting direction to start to move forward on this.

Considerations

At present, the Commission has not considered the feasibility, financial implications, governance model, ownership structure, operating responsibilities, insurance requirements, or long-term maintenance obligations associated with the proposal.

While the Club is requesting additional access and maintenance and subsequent use of the site, any approvals would likely require further analysis and discussion regarding:

- RDCK ownership and land use considerations;
- Long-term tenure or site-use arrangements;
- Capital funding requirements and funding sources;
- Operating and maintenance responsibilities;
- Insurance and risk management considerations;
- Impacts on other users;
- Community and stakeholder engagement requirements; and

- Alignment with existing recreation service priorities, approved work plans, and other recreation infrastructure projects.

Workplan Prioritization

This would have an impact on the workplan for RDCK Parks staff. Specifically, this would require the following work by RDCK staff and/or the NNSC:

- Brushing and rock removal on the trail
- Construction of a 7m x 7m turn-around area
- Installation of trail gate
- Enforcement of a restrictions on dogs

Commission Options

1. Receive as Information: That the Commission receive the Information Report titled for information and direct staff to take no further action at this time.
2. Staff Response: That the Commission direct staff to liaise with the Nelson Nordic Ski Club to start the process of implementing changes to the operations and maintenance of the GNT to facilitate grooming of the ski trail, and that any financial implications in addition to approved budgets be brought back to the Commission for consideration.

3.0 NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINE

The next steps will be dependent on the direction provided to staff from Commission.

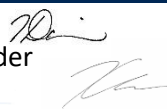
Respectfully submitted,



Craig Stanley, Regional Manager, Operations & Asset Management

CONCURRENCE

Trisha Davison, General Manager of Community Services
 Regional Manager, Recreation & Client Services – Kristi Calder
 Manager Regional Parks and Trails – Cary Gaynor





Commission Report – For Information

July 22, 2026

Delegation Follow-up: Blewett Community Society

Author:	Trisha Davison, General Manager of Community Services
File Reference:	01-0520-50
Electoral Area/Municipality:	City of Nelson, Area E and Area F
Services Impacted	S202 - Regional Parks Nelson, Salmo, E, F, G

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek direction from Commission on the appropriate follow-up action to the Blewett Community Society proposal to upgrade the existing seasonal ice rink at Morning Mountain into a permanent four-season facility incorporating a refrigerated ice surface, permanent rink boards and a roof structure.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND UPDATE

Background

On June 10, 2026, representatives of the Blewett Community Society appeared as a delegation before the Commission regarding the future of the Morning Mountain outdoor rink facility. The Society subsequently provided a written proposal to the RDCK Board requesting support in principle for the continued use of the existing rink site and the exploration of a permanent facility.

The Society advises that the existing rink was established in 2017 through a partnership involving the Blewett Community Society and Selkirk College and has operated with support from community funding sources and RDCK Electoral Area grants. The Society notes that the facility has become a valued recreation amenity but that increasingly variable winter weather is reducing the reliability and duration of the skating season.

The proposal contemplates upgrading the existing seasonal rink into a permanent four-season recreation facility that could include refrigerated ice, permanent rink boards, and a roof structure. The Society indicates that an in-principle statement regarding continued use of the site is needed before it proceeds with detailed design work, fundraising, grant applications, and further project development.

Considerations

At present, the Commission has not considered the feasibility, financial implications, governance model, ownership structure, operating responsibilities, insurance requirements, or long-term maintenance obligations associated with the proposal. For approximately nine (9) months of the year, the site in question is primarily used as a mountain bike location since 1996. Changes to the site would need to consider impacts to other activities and users.

While the Society is requesting support in principle for continued use of the site, any future redevelopment proposal would likely require further analysis and discussion regarding:

- RDCK ownership and land use considerations;
- Long-term tenure or site-use arrangements;
- Capital funding requirements and funding sources;
- Operating and maintenance responsibilities;
- Insurance and risk management considerations;
- Impacts on other users of the Morning Mountain recreation area;
- Community and stakeholder engagement requirements; and
- Alignment with existing recreation service priorities, approved work plans, and other recreation infrastructure projects.

The Society has indicated its willingness to lead fundraising, community consultation, partnership development, and project planning should it receive support to continue exploring the concept.

Project Prioritization

While the proposal presents a potential opportunity to enhance recreation services in the Blewett area, the Commission is currently managing a number of recreation, parks, and facility initiatives that are competing for finite staff time, funding capacity, and organizational resources. Should the Commission wish staff to undertake further work on this proposal, staff would report back on the project's relative priority within existing work plans and recreation infrastructure priorities, as well as any implications for other planned projects and initiatives.

Commission Options

1. Receive as Information: That the Commission receive the Information Report titled *Blewett Community Society Proposal for Morning Mountain Rink Development* for information and direct staff to take no further action at this time.
2. Staff Review: That the Commission direct staff to undertake a preliminary review of the Blewett Community Society proposal regarding the Morning Mountain rink site and report back to the Commission with analysis and options for consideration at a future meeting.

3.0 NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINE

The next steps will be dependent on the direction provided to staff from Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

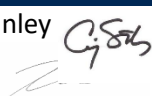


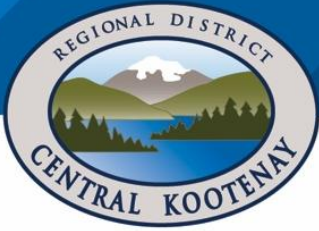
Trisha Davison, General Manager of Community Services

CONCURRENCE

Regional Manager, Operations & Asset Management – Craig Stanley

Regional Manager, Recreation & Client Services – Kristi Calder





July 30, 2025

Wendy Lewis, Nelson Cycling Club

Via email: nelsoncyclingclub@hotmail.com

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR NELSON CYCLING CLUB – 2025 BC COMMUNITY GAMING GRANT

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is pleased to support the Nelson Cycling Club (NCC) in their 2025 application to the BC Community Gaming Grant.

The NCC has been a long-standing community partner, supporting trail stewardship across the region for over three decades. Their work benefits a wide range of users — mountain bikers, runners, hikers, and walkers — and plays a central role in promoting active lifestyles and safe access to outdoor recreation throughout the area.

A well-maintained and accessible trail network contributes directly to both community well-being and economic vitality. In particular, NCC's stewardship of high-use areas like Morning Mountain Regional Park supports local tourism and generates consistent economic activity for small businesses, accommodations, and services across the region. These trails have become a regional draw and an important asset for our communities.

With their thoughtful, safety-focused approach to trail development and maintenance, the NCC continues to bring aging trail infrastructure in line with current standards, all while balancing environmental sustainability and long-term use. However, securing flexible operational funding remains one of the biggest challenges facing volunteer-driven non-profits. The Community Gaming Grant stream is essential to bridging that gap, helping to sustain critical maintenance and support equitable access for all users.

The NCC's year-round programming, events, and volunteer initiatives promote active participation, community-building, and trail stewardship. We are proud to endorse their efforts and encourage your full support of their application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aimee Watson".

Aimee Watson
RDCK Board Chair



June 18, 2026

TO:

Chair Aimee Watson and Members of the Regional District of Central Kootenay Board

CC:

Area E Director Cheryl Graham

From:

Lukas Armstrong (President)
Blewett Community Society
250-219-1878
3457 Bedford Road
Nelson, BC V1L 6X7
lukas@standarchitecture.com

Re: Rink Development at Morning Mountain

Dear Chair Watson and Members of the Board,

I am writing on behalf of the Blewett Community Society (BCS) to request the RDCK's support, in principle, for the continued use of the existing Morning Mountain rink site to allow the Society to proceed with exploring the next steps in feasibility of creating a permanent upgrade facility which we would plan, fundraise for, secure grants, and develop.

The existing Morning Mountain rink is an established community recreation facility, established in 2017 by the Blewett Community Society in partnership with Selkirk College, and has operated continuously since that time with support from RDCK Electoral Area E and F grants and other community funding sources.

During its nine seasons of operation, the rink has become a valued regional recreation amenity, serving up to 100 skaters per day under favourable conditions. It benefits from existing parking, washroom facilities, water line and electrical service, and an experienced volunteer operations team. However, increasingly warm winters are making natural ice progressively less reliable and are reducing both the quality and duration of the skating season.

The Society is now at the point where we have the capacity to invest significant volunteer effort, professional design work, fundraising, and bolster the community engagement that would be



required to advance the project. Clarification from the RDCK regarding the continued use of the existing rink site is therefore an essential first step.

Request

As presented by the Blewett Community Society on June 10, 2026, the Society proposes to upgrade the existing seasonal rink into a permanent four-season recreation facility incorporating a refrigerated ice surface, permanent rink boards, and a roof structure.

The Society respectfully requests that the RDCK confirm its support, in principle, for the continued use of the existing rink site at Morning Mountain, subject to the successful development of future agreements regarding ownership, insurance, maintenance, stewardship, funding, and any other matters the RDCK considers necessary.

Such support would allow the Society to move forward with the substantial work required to develop the project, including detailed design, fundraising, community consultation, partnership development, and resolution of long-term operational responsibilities.

The Blewett Community Society is committed to working collaboratively with the RDCK, Morning Mountain user groups, neighbouring residents, and all other interested stakeholders throughout this process.

We believe the proposed rink structure can become a key element in the continued evolution of Morning Mountain as a four-season, multi-use public recreation destination.

Speaking personally as a resident of Area E, I regularly use Morning Mountain with my family for skating, sledding, hiking, and biking. My experience reflects what I believe many residents value about the site—it is already a well-used community recreation destination.

The weather currently limits the site's potential throughout the year. During the winter, the absence of a roof substantially increases ice maintenance requirements while reducing ice quality and shortening the skating season. During the summer, the open area becomes extremely hot and provides little opportunity for comfortable public use.

The proposed roof, together with refrigerated ice (roll out chiller) and permanent rink boards, would significantly increase available ice time while reducing maintenance demands. During the remainder of the year, the covered facility would provide a shaded, weather-protected public gathering space capable of supporting a wide variety of recreational and community activities, including flat-ground bicycle skills instruction, roller sports, dance and community events, educational programming, and other uses that will continue to evolve over time.



We also believe that thoughtful site design and grading can minimize impacts on the existing trail network while creating opportunities to improve trail connections into the central recreation area as part of the overall project.

The Blewett Community Society respectfully requests that the Board provide direction supporting continued discussions regarding the long-term use of the existing rink site and the development of an appropriate framework under which this project can be evaluated and advanced.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working collaboratively with the RDCK and the broader community as this opportunity continues to develop.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lukas Armstrong", with a stylized, flowing script.

Lukas Armstrong, President
Blewett Community Society



June 29, 2026

Attn: Regional District of Central Kootenay: Nelson, Salmo, Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission

Re: Proposed Permanent Outdoor Rink at Morning Mountain Regional Park

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding the proposed permanent outdoor rink at Morning Mountain Regional Park by the Blewett Community Society. While the Nelson Cycling Club (NCC) is primarily known for its mountain biking heritage, we are responsible for the asset management of more than 250 km of trails serving multiple user groups. As such, we advocate for the broader trail community and the long-term sustainability of shared recreational spaces.

We recognize the value of diverse outdoor opportunities and appreciate the efforts of the Blewett Community Society (BCS) to expand access to outdoor skating activities. However, we have significant concerns regarding the suitability of a permanent rink within a regional park which defining qualities are its natural setting, trail network, and multi-use character. This proposal would dedicate a flexible, shared public space into infrastructure dedicated primarily to a single activity.

Morning Mountain is designated and valued as a multiple-purpose Regional Park that supports a wide range of activities, including skating, walking, hiking, mountain biking, trail running, nature appreciation, and passive recreation. The proposed development would introduce substantial permanent infrastructure, including a concrete slab, boards, foundations, roofing, lighting, and refrigeration equipment. While these elements support skating, they also represent a fundamental change to the character and function of this area of the park. Many people are drawn to Morning Mountain because of its natural, forested setting and flexible recreation space. The proposed rink would occupy nearly all of the existing open area at the trailhead, eliminating one of its few shared gathering spaces, regardless of whether the rink is actively in use.

This trailhead is a key recreational asset for the region. It serves as the starting point for a trail network that attracts tens of thousands of visits annually from residents and visitors alike and contributes to an outdoor recreation economy supporting an estimated 53 full-time equivalent jobs and millions of dollars in annual economic activity. As visitation continues to grow, protecting the multi-use space that supports this network is an investment in both recreation and the local economy.

The open area also functions as the park's primary event and community gathering space. It hosts youth mountain biking programs, instructional clinics, local races, the Fat Tire Festival - which has operated from this location for three decades, and the Tackle the Toad trail running race, which attracts participants from across Canada and internationally. Converting this area into a permanent rink would remove the park's most versatile community space and established

Nelson Cycling Club

*nelsoncyclingclub@hotmail.com
nelsoncyclingclub.org*



recreation event venue, and reduce future opportunities for recreation programming, public gatherings, and community use.

We encourage the Commission to consider the broader opportunity cost of this investment. The question is not whether skating is a valuable recreational activity, or whether a refrigerated rink would extend the skating season in a changing climate. Rather, the question is whether a permanent rink is the best use of one of the park's few flexible community spaces, or whether it would eliminate a multi-use area that has supported recreation, community events, and outdoor tourism for decades.

We respectfully request that the Commission undertake meaningful consultation with park users and community organizations before making a decision on this proposal, to ensure its impacts on recreation, community programming, and the long-term function of Morning Mountain Regional Park are fully understood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wendy Lewis

Manager, Nelson Cycling Club

On behalf of the Nelson Cycling Club Board of Directors



John Bowden, General Manager
Nelson Nordic Ski Club
gm@nelsonnordicski.ca
(250) 354-4299

RDCK Nelson, Salmo, Areas E, F, and G Reg. Parks Commission
% Regional District of Central Kootenay Regional Parks Dept.
parks@rdck.bc.ca

Re: Grooming expansion proposal on Nelson-Salmo (Great Northern) Rail Trail

April 23, 2026

We are writing to request permission to expand our existing Nordic ski trail grooming operations on the Great Northern Rail Trail for approximately 2 kilometers south of our Euphrates Warming Hut.

Currently the Club grooms 7 km of rail trail from Cottonwood Lake to the Euphrates Warming Hut. Implementation of this proposal would add 2 km (4km return) of scenic ski terrain to our system.

The rationale for this proposal reflects recent changes to the Club's trail network and snow reliability. The loss of 5 km of trail on private land, combined with increasingly unreliable snow on other segments, has prompted the Club to evaluate alternatives. This option emerged as a low-cost solution that provides suitable terrain for the club's members, guests, and numerous school groups.

Some minor brushing and rock removal and construction of a 7 x 7 meter grooming machine turn around area would be required. The Club is prepared to complete these improvements.

Access management at the south end of grooming could be similar to the existing north entrance, near Cottonwood Lake, where a partial gate with signage and a QR code to facilitate online payment of trail fees is seasonally placed.

We believe that this project can significantly add to the experience of our Club's many skiers by adding a scenic and well-located portion of trail to our system.



Below are some representative pictures of the Rail Trail in the project area, and a map outlining the project area. We would welcome the opportunity to present our proposal to the Commission and / or Parks staff.



Figure 1. Photo taken April 4, 2026 approximately 500 meters north of Hall siding looking south with a view of the Salmo River.



Figure 2. Photo taken April 4, 2026 approximately 500 meters north of Hall Siding looking north. Approximately 30 cm of snow base was remaining.



Figure 3. Photo taken April 4, 2026 showing a few rocks that would require moving.

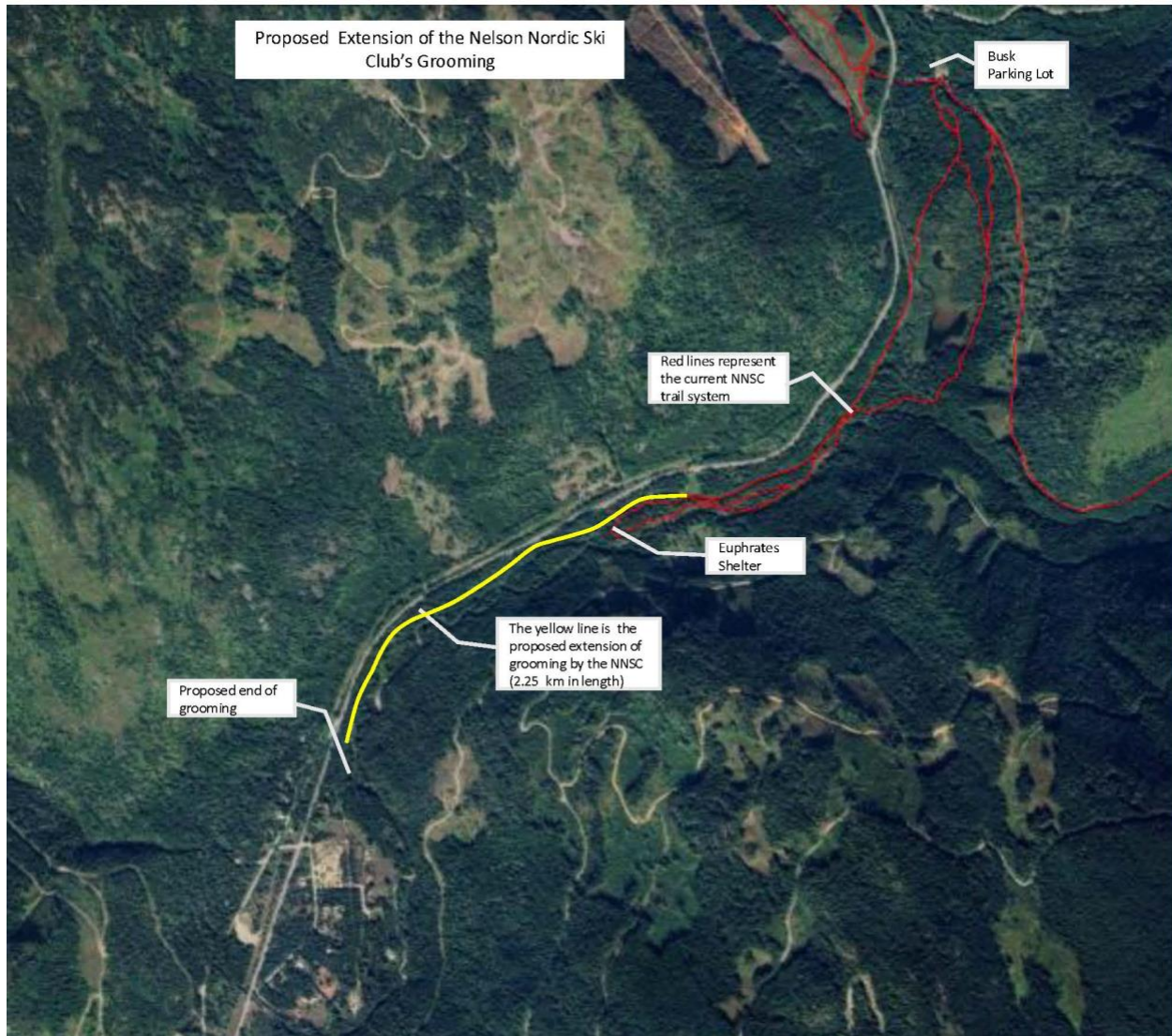


Figure 4. Map of the southern half of the NNSC's current trail system (red lines) with the proposed extension to the south shown as a yellow line.