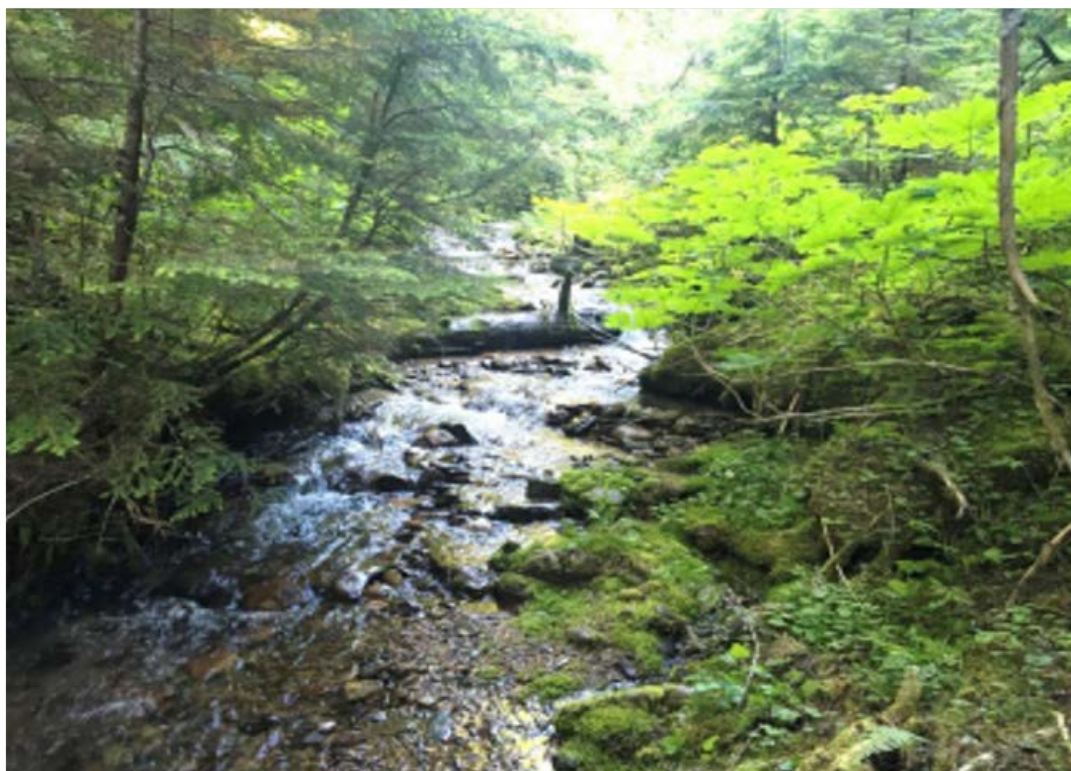




WYNNDEL IRRIGATION DISTRICT

5127 A Wynndel Rd.
Wynndel B.C. V0B 2N2

Tel/Fax: 250-866-5312
email: wynndelid@gmail.com



It would appear the last Newsletter prepared and sent out to the Irrigation Community was in March 2021.

While it is not clear what the Policy is on preparing Newsletters, our Community input has suggested the Newsletter is the preferred method of sharing information through both Email and Mailout. To that end, the Board is listening and thank the Community for their input and will endeavour to prepare Newsletters in a timely manner.

Additionally, the Website will be an interim message centre for the Irrigation Community. <https://www.wynndelirrigation.com/>

Wynndel Irrigation District Board of Trustees are committed to:
- Providing and transmitting clean and safe water to the Community.
- Serving the Public Interest

Irrigation District Database update

Our database records show a large gap in some contact detail primarily Emails. We have launched a campaign to reach out and invite your participation in updating your address, contact numbers and emails. To date we are approximately 50% short of emails from our community and uncertain for primary phone numbers per account.

[Please take a few minutes and Email \(preferred\) or Mail in your current contact information if you haven't already done so in this Campaign:](#)

- [Account member name\(s\)](#)
- [Address](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Primary contact number \(cell or land line – your choice\)](#)



Website upgrade

WID is planning to update the Irrigation District web site in Q3 of 2022 for both appearance and functionality.

Do you have Website design/formatting experience?

We would greatly appreciate your skills and would like to put together a design committee to prose fresh, new ideas for updating the Wynndel Irrigation website.

Please express your interest to Wynndelid@gmail.com

Looking for
Website talent

Customer Portal

WID will be looking into the feasibility and effectiveness of setting up and providing a Customer Portal. Like other customer portal services you have experience with, you will have access to your account via website to access your account information including contact, billing status and requests or questions.

This should offer a huge time saving to you the Customer as well as WID Administrative duties.

Customer Portal
via Website

Logging File

The Board has spent much time investigating and confirming information around logging in our watershed.

This includes the review of legislation, conversations with the Province, Ministers, our local MLA, RDCK Directors and our partner community groups.

Additionally, we are in contact with Blue Mountain Logging via Monticola Forestry and Canfor to understand their priorities and evaluate any impact to our watershed if and when the Ministries grant approval to log.

Blue Mountain

Blue Mountain has requested permission through Wynndel Irrigation lands to access their privately owned forest blocks.

There are three possible access points through WID:

- Elsie Holmes Road
- Duck Creek Road
- Cory Road.

Elsie Holmes Road

The Board will not grant access through Elsie Holmes as we have great concerns over geographical and geological disruptions to Huggard Creek. Blue Mountain does not appear interested in the Engineering investigations that would be required to ensure their viability.

Duck Creek Road

Blue Mountain is no longer interested in proposing the crossing of Duck Creek via Duck Creek road due to the intense environmental sensitivity associated with this potential crossing.

Additionally, our water plant assets are at the top of Duck Creek Road so accessing through there is not an option.

Cory Road

The lands at the top of Cory road are privately held. Blue Mountain would have to acquire a crossing agreement with the Private Land owner. The WID Board is currently monitoring this progress and at this point have no decision to make regarding access.



Support your
community by
reaching out to
your MLA and
Ministers

Wildsight / Canfor Field trip July 11_22

Final Observations and comments provided by Jim Smith

Folks,

Thanks for your feedback and discussions. Here are the **main points of concern** we've identified from our field trip with Canfor staff on July 11th. These can be taken to your respective organizations as a report on the field trip. Note: Our organizations consist of WID, LKB, CV Rod and Gun Club and Wildsight.

1. Primary value: We agree that water is the primary value in the Duck Creek watershed. However, wildlife habitat, views, intact natural ecosystems (i.e. concerns with invasive species, protection of old growth and monoculture plantations) and "limited"* recreational access are all important to the public.
2. Watershed assessment: Canfor corporate policy refuses to divulge the watershed assessment once it is complete. How can we be assured the public interest will be protected if we don't have the information? This policy is not acceptable on public land.
3. Cumulative effects: We have to assume that the cumulative effects of the proposed private land logging combined with the proposed Canfor logging will put the watershed at an unacceptable risk. With the climate crisis creating more and larger wildfires, we are concerned that a significant margin of safety is applied (precautionary principle) when determining the level of any forest management activity in the watershed.
4. Harvesting (silvicultural) prescriptions: Canfor will not consider more "watershed friendly" harvesting prescriptions. They prefer to use smaller clear cut blocks with minor reserves. These cut blocks still contribute 100% Equivalent Clearcut Area. We do not know the final number, size and location of the blocks.
5. Roads: Additional road construction, maintenance and equipment safety are a concern. We need specifics as to Canfor's standards and proof that they will perform once their operations are complete.
6. First Nations traditional ecological knowledge, land management objectives and practices are critical guidelines to forest management in our watersheds.

Next Step: As a next step I think we should consider a letter to Ministers Katrine Conroy, Forests and Josie Osborne, Land and Water Resource Stewardship, with appropriate cc's to their senior staff and RDCK expressing our concerns. We should ask for a moratorium on any Crown land logging in Duck Creek until we're assured that the watershed and other public interests will be protected. I'm willing to work with others in drafting such a letter. Question: Should we do this as a group or individual organizations?

We should also see what is in the works for watershed sustainability planning in the RDCK. That has the potential to synchronize watershed planning in the region. Coordinated public concern seems to be a key to getting action from this government.

* "Limited" recreational access needs to be defined given the variety of interests/concerns.

Additional comments ...

Something I believe is of primary importance that we need to keep in mind, in Canfor's case at least, is that Crown land is owned by all citizens and we are all stewards of our land. It should not be up to any profit driven Corporation to dictate what they will and will not do to our watershed to the potential detriment of our and future generations.

. If we say we're concerned about the high likelihood of wildfire we need to address fire protection. So folks, let's **add fire protection to our list of concerns**. We don't want a watershed looking like that photo Paul passed about last week of Duck creek following the 1942 fire.

Crown Land Acquisition into Wynndel Irrigation District (see map)

The Board had prepared a letter and email campaign to express our position with three asks in May 2022.

This campaign was directed to:

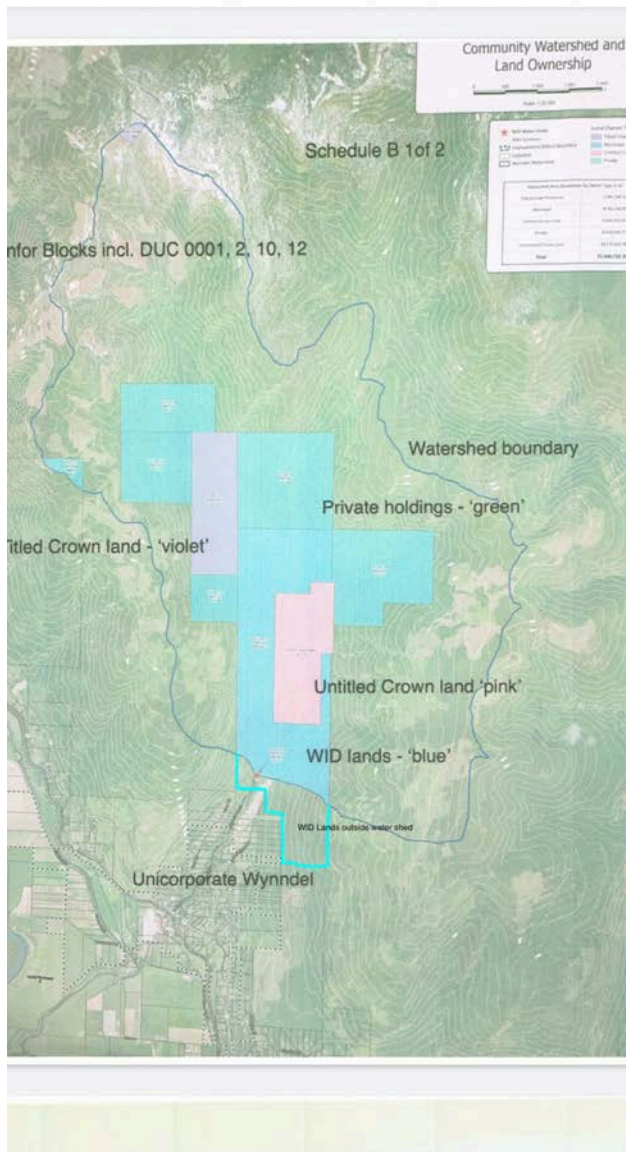
Ministry of Forests
Honourable Katrine Conroy
PO Box 9049 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC. V8W 9E2
(250) 387-6240
FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship
Honourable Josie Osborne
PO Box 9012 Stn Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC. V8m 9L6
(778) 405-3094
LWRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca

MLA Brittny Anderson
c/o Anna Bundschuh
Constituency Assistant to Brittny Anderson
433 Joesphine Street
Nelson, BC V1L 1W4
(877) 388-4498
Brittny.Anderson.MLA@leg.bc.ca

The asks were as follows:

1. *Obtaining long term lease and control to two crown blocks that reside within the Duck Creek watershed boundary.*
2. *A moratorium on any logging in the Duck Creek Watershed within the two private crown parcels we wish to lease as stated above.*
3. *A Watershed Risk Management Framework (WRMF) be conducted and provided to the Community (WID) and Ministry for consideration along with any Ministry approvals or recommendations to the Logging company proposal. The WRMF takes into account a variety of values i.e. community views / vistas, social impacts, economic impacts and valuation of providing safe drinking water to a community, etc. This report could be completed in advance of any actual logging activity and a condition of the logging permissions to proceed.*



Community Partnership in Action

A huge thanks to the efforts of the Irrigation Community for organizing a +400 signature Community Petition expressing the concerns of Watershed logging.

WID was given assurances from MLA Anderson she will present the Petition to the floor of the Legislature.

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Minutes and Board meetings

Further from the feedback form our 2022 AGM, the Board has been testing the technology needed to have our meetings on Zoom and record meetings for later viewing by the Irrigation Community.

One of the biggest issues we just discovered is the reliability of the internet interface. This has been resolved so we will continue to experiment with the Online meeting option. Please stay tuned for further development.

The Agenda is posted two days ahead of the meeting and once the minutes are approved at the next meeting a month later, they too are posted on the website.

Administration & Operations

The following are the highest priorities for the Board in no specific order:

- Arrange to conduct a Strategic Planning session to determine priorities, Vision and Mission statements.
- Develop an Asset Management Plan that prioritizes infrastructure, buildings, support systems for renewal and replacement over a time period, eg.: 3-year, 5-year Capital Asset and an Operations Plan.
- Subdivision applications and preparation.
- Revamp and update communications ie.: call management, newsletter, website.
- Identify liability risk to WID watershed from logging, resource extraction and public access for board consideration.
- Conduct a Policy review and provide a list of past motions that may have relevance to current and future Boards.
- Continued assessment of liability; insurance protection.

Administration

Operations

Mountain biking proposal

Mountain Biking Proposal

Justin Vance, organizer and proponent representing the mountain bike group has presented to the Board on three occasions addressing liability and safety points around the development of a mountain biking track near and in WID lands.

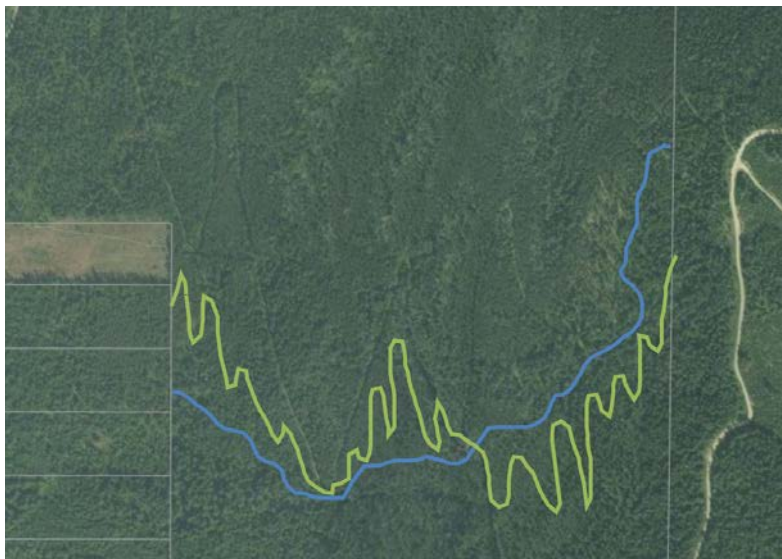
A parking area has been tentatively approved by the Town of Creston on the town's land.

The WID Board has verified the proposed track would not be within the watershed proper and lie outside but partially on WID lands.

Mr. Vance has provided timely responses to the WID board including a business plan mitigating risks and providing appropriate permissions and insurance coverage.

The Board is welcoming any and all feedback from the Irrigation Community on Support, Non-support or further questions on the proposed project before the Board renders a decision on this proposal.

If approved, course preparation and signage would commence in the fall of 2022 with an opening later to follow.



Wynndel Irrigation Board (Latest submission by Justin Vance)

I have attached a picture of the approximate location of the trails. The location could change somewhat as I did not walk the land. At this point I do not want to invest more time until at least verbal approval is given, after which I could walk and flag the trails accurately for the written agreement.

These trails would be a very positive addition to our community, a win for Wynndel and the board. Every community but this valley has a vast network of mountain biking trails supporting active and healthy lifestyles. Encouraging all people but especially youths to embrace physically activity and time in nature, which boosts physical, mental, and emotional health, should be a goal of all community members. My 14-year-old son is in excellent physical shape because he loves mountain biking, he wants to ride down (the fun part) so he must ride up (the hard part)! Or better yet, put a shovel in their hands to encourage kids to be community builders such as yourselves as you serve the people of Wynndel on the WID board.

There is a significant amount of money available for trail networks. CBT has for years asked the cycling club if they could give funds towards bike trails. The Wynndel trail network is such a project. I mention that because I do not want to invest time and money into a project in which it's future is tentative. If you agree to these trails, can you do so in such a way that there will be future assurance for the continuing existence of these trails? As a Wynndel resident I want to see investment in this area, and I also think this area is an exceptional spot for bike trails. Thank you for the time you have put into this project, and I sincerely hope we can work out an agreement.

Justin

Your input matters ... Mountain Bike Track

Please provide your feedback to the Wynndel Irrigation Board in via Email or in writing and drop off at our office by August 26th, 2022. Please state your name and address.

Looking for
Community
feedback

Mountain biking
course

Thank you for your support from the Wynndel Irrigation District Board of Trustees.