

January 12, 2017



COMMENTS INVITED ON RECREATION USE OPTIONS IN KOOCANUSA AREA **Open houses begin January 31**

(East Kootenay) – The public will have a chance to discuss and provide feedback about recreation management in the KooCANUSA area at four open houses and through an online survey this January and February.

The KooCANUSA Recreation Steering Committee and the KooCANUSA Recreation Public Advisory Group are hosting the open houses to gather feedback on management options, appropriate recreational uses and stewardship activities around the KooCANUSA Reservoir. The KooCANUSA area is an important tourism and recreation area, attracting outdoor enthusiasts for a wide range of activities. It is also an area of traditional use and interest for the Ktunaxa Nation.

The open houses are from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at:

- January 31 at the Cranbrook Heritage Inn
- February 1 at the Grasmere Pioneer Hall
- February 7 at the Fernie Family Centre
- February 8 at the Jaffray Community Hall

Those unable to attend an open house can review the *KooCANUSA Recreation Management Options* report at: www.koocanusarecreation.ca. The survey is also available online at www.koocanusarecreation.ca/survey.

Beginning January 23, copies of the report can be picked up, and completed surveys can be dropped off at:

- Baynes Lake - Baynes Lake General Store
- Cranbrook - Front Counter BC Office
- Elko - South Country Services
- Grasmere - Grasmere General Store
- Jaffray - Jaffray Post Office
- Tobacco Plains Indian Band Office

The management options aim to maintain the important recreation opportunities while reducing the issues arising from increased tourism and recreation on Crown land. These issues include degradation of sensitive grasslands and wildlife habitat, impacts on important cultural and archaeological resources, excessive litter and garbage in the backcountry, and growing public health and safety concerns.

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Share your views by attending an open house, completing the survey, or submitting comments info@kooocusarecreation.ca or by mail to Kooocusa Recreation Management Options, 1902 Theatre Rd, Cranbrook, BC V1C 7G1.

All comments and surveys must be received by February 17, 2017.

The Kooocusa Recreation Steering Committee formed in 2014 to help address recreation issues on Crown lands around the reservoir. The group includes representatives from the BC government, Ktunaxa National Council, Tobacco Plains Indian Band, Regional District of East Kootenay and Columbia Basin Trust.

For more information, visit kooocusarecreation.ca.

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Contact:

- Jeff Zukiwsky, Coordinator, Kooocusa Recreation Management Steering Committee, info@kooocusarecreation.ca