



November 29, 2018

Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia (FESBC) Board of Directors

c/o Steve Kozuki

Executive Director

Sent via email: skozuki@fesbc.ca and office@fesbc.ca

Dear FESBC Board of Directors:

RE: Support for Panorama's Ski Resort's FESBC Wildfire Proposal

This letter is in support of the proposal by Panorama Resort to receive funding under the Forest Enhancement Program for wildfire risk reduction activities.

Funding will be utilized to assist the resort in the development and planning of treatment prescriptions designed to abate the fuel hazard associated with dead pine and other high risk stand types. The outcome of this proposed project will provide protection against wildfire to the resort and its associated infrastructure within their Controlled Recreation Area (CRA). These treatments will be designed to establish fuel breaks on the landscape level as well as within the structural interface zone of the resort. Treatments will be prescribed in a manner that balances visual esthetics, wildlife habitat, recreation and environmental values.

Many ski resorts in British Columbia are expanding their recreational activities into the spring and summer months in order to become all-seasons resorts. The millions invested in all-seasons activities and infrastructure, such as golfing, mountain biking and hiking, is a business decision that is encouraged and supported by the Ministry to increase tourism in rural and resort communities. As a result, these non-winter activities increase recreational use within CRAs during the wildfire season, which in turn increases the risk for human caused fires. GIS analysis carried out by BC Wildfire Service indicates that the wildfire threat risk is high for many resorts and CRAs, including Panorama Resort.

Mountain Resorts Branch is highly supportive of FESBC approving Panorama Resort's application for project funding. Upon FESBC funding approval, the required forest license/ tenure applications will be submitted and processed by our branch. During this time, the appropriate level of First Nations consultation will occur when processing the license applications associated with these proposed treatments. If successful, Mountain Resorts Branch will be responsible for approving and issuing a License to Cut (LTC) for the prescribed timber removal treatment.

Sincerely,

Laurie Hirtle, RPF

Land and Timber Manager

Mountain Resorts Branch

MFLNORD

pc: John Davies john@davieswildfire.com

