



Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce

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November 21, 2019

Forest Enhancement Society of BC

Re: Whitewater Ski Resort

Dear grant review committee;

The Nelson and District Chamber wholeheartedly support the application by Whitewater Ski Resort in Nelson BC.

In reviewing the grant application focus the three main components including, wildfire mitigation, reducing carbon initiatives, and habitat restoration are extremely important to our region.

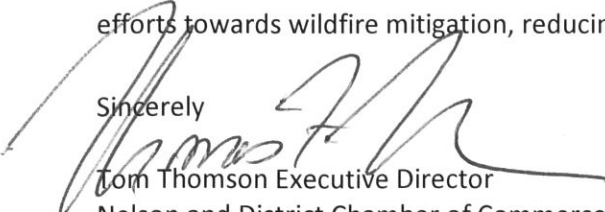
Developing and completing a comprehensive wildfire mitigation plan is crucial to our region as we have been severely impacted by local and regional wildfires the past few years. It is vitally important that our community, as well as regional businesses actively begin wildfire mitigation efforts. We applaud Whitewater for their efforts, and with the support of the FESBC grant they can begin taking the critical steps required.

Wildfires in and around communities threaten the economic livelihood of many residents and businesses, but a wildfire in an outdoor recreational area such as Whitewater would be devastating. Nelson and area has already seen the adverse economic impact in recent summers where wildfires and the related smoke saw accommodation/tourism dollars drop by as much as 50%.

The City of Nelson relies heavily on Whitewater through the winter months to support our local retail businesses, food and beverage and accommodation sector. It is safe to say that Whitewater is a key economic driver and any loss of operation would have a significant economic impact.

The Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce is fully supportive of this application, as any efforts towards wildfire mitigation, reducing carbon and restoration of habitat is highly important.

Sincerely



Tom Thomson Executive Director
Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce