

REQUEST FOR A CATEGORY 3 PROVINCIAL PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

STAGE 1: INITIAL PROPOSAL

1) PROPONENT

SPIKE ELK FARM LTD which owns two, contiguous parcels: PID #016-533-283 and 016-533-305 located at Spike Elk Farm, 1675 Blaeberry River Road East, Golden, BC

Legal Description: Part of N ½ of NE¼, Section 20, TWP 28, Range 22, MW5, Kootenay Land District, Except Plan 633B and; Part of S ½ of SE ¼, Section 29, TWP 28, Range 22, MW5, Kootenay Land District except Plan 633B.

2) Type and Purpose

Type 3: "Adjustments where a proponent is interested in a boundary adjustment to allow for a development or activity not allowed by authorization under the protected area legislation." Whereas, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) wishes to decommission the Moberly Marsh project over the next 5-10 years and under the current Parks Legislation, they would be required to remove all of their infrastructure including a pump, gates, power and dikes critical to both allowing snow melt to drain into the Columbia River during the early spring freshet and controlling flooding of the private land by the Columbia River during the late spring and early summer high water.

We are proposing a land exchange (see attached maps) which would involve approximately 4.7 ha of park area adjacent to the south boundary of the private land comprised of a cross dike, elevated and buried power-line, water pump and manual gate installation, and excavated drainage ditches. This infrastructure was planned, funded and constructed by Ducks Unlimited Canada several decades ago with ongoing maintenance. DUC has also maintained close relationship with the landowners during the entire life of the project to present.

The private land proposed for the exchange a 6.7 ha wedge of land along the southwest side of the property comprised of relatively natural, undisturbed wetland habitat experiencing seasonally flooding by the Columbia River and drying during periods of low river levels (late fall through early spring).

3) Project Location

Burges and James Gadsden Provincial Park and Private Land to the north and east of the park.

4) Project Footprint

Central, east portion of the park accessed via the TransCanada Highway, 13 km northwest of Golden, Blaeberry River Road East and laneway through the private land.

5) Preliminary Description

Provincial Parks:

The land exchange would benefit the park by exchanging a parcel of land with significant man-made disturbances and infrastructure that has no benefit to the park or its objectives, with a slightly larger parcel of wetland habitat that is more or less, naturally functioning and would result in a more contiguous protected area along the Columbia River.

Ducks Unlimited Canada

DUC would like to decommission the Moberly Marsh project area in a manner that is cost effective, does not negatively impact their Private Land Owner Partners and is amenable to BC Parks.

Private Land Owners

The private land owners would obtain ownership of the land with the dike, powerline and pump installation that is absolutely critical to the continued operation of the farm. Without this infrastructure intact and functioning, the land would be flooded for much of the growing season in most years thereby making farming the property, untenable. Without the ability to farm effectively over much of the property, the owners would experience losses to their farming income and potentially, their Farm Taxation status, increasing the costs of ownership. The flooding would also greatly reduce the value of the land and result in a significant loss of investment the owners have made in purchasing and improving the property. The land is within the Agriculture Land Reserve which limits the options for acceptable uses and if farming is no longer viable, then the value of the land, becomes further reduced.

BC Wildlife Federation

The BCWF has partnered with the landowners in a project to restore/create/improve wetlands on the private land. The "Spike Elk Farm Wetland Restoration Project" was initiated last summer by Irene Manley - Wildlife Biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program - Section, Kootenay - Boundary Region, Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The planning and layout phases were completed last summer with assistance from the following participants:

- Landowners;
- Wildlife Biologist & Wetland Ecologist, Wetland Restoration and Training LLC from Morehead, Kentucky, USA
- Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program;
- Wildlife Ecologist, LGL Limited Environmental Research Associates
- Contractor, BC Hydro, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program.

The final project report was completed by Wetland Restoration and Training LLC in the fall of 2017 and is available upon request.

In March of 2018, the actual works began through funding provided by BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF), and supervised by the Wetland Restoration Project Manager, with the partial construction of 3 wetlands. Completion of the project including finishing the original 3 wetlands plus an additional 4 wetlands, is scheduled for August of 2018. To date, well over \$50,000 has been spent on this project as well as in-kind labour.

The land owners have made a long-term commitment to the BCWF, to maintain these wetlands on the property and the removal of DUC's flood and water control infrastructure from the area immediately adjacent to the private property, would likely have a significant and negative impact the wetland project's viability.

- 6) The flood and water control infrastructure critical to the maintenance of unflooded, arable

private land is located on the Protected Area to the immediate south. The cost to construct a similar array of dikes, gates, power line and pump on our existing private land, would be prohibitive and wasteful considering that DUC is expected to make significant expenditures to remove them on heavily disturbed land immediately adjacent.

- 7) The following First Nations and local governments have been contacted and any comments, letters of support, etc, will be forwarded to your office:
- Shuswap Indian Band;
 - Ktunaxa Nation Council;
 - Columbia Shuswap Regional District Area A director;
 - Town of Golden Mayor
- 8) The following community groups have been contacted and any comments, letters of support, etc, will be forwarded to your office:
- Ducks Unlimited Canada;
 - BC Wildlife Federation;
 - Wildsight;
 - Golden and District Rod and Gun Club.
- 9) In my opinion, the proposal will result in no additional or increased environmental impact and will most likely involve less impact than if DUC is pressured to decommission/remove all of its existing infrastructure.

Proponent address: Spike Elk Farm,
1675 Blaeberry River Road East
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BC Parks contact:
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