



MUSKWA-KECHIKA ADVISORY BOARD

October 21, 2024

Lori Halls,
Deputy Minister,
BC Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship
Victoria, BC

Re: M-KAB Advice Letter regarding Blueberry River First Nation's Restoration Project:

Good afternoon, Lori:

At our last Executive Committee meeting on October 3, 2024, Lynea Abourmrad, on behalf of Blueberry River First Nation, joined our meeting to discuss their restoration project of legacy seismic lines. They are planning to restore habitat and address lines of sight to protect caribou and other ungulate populations, by building brush fences, felling and planting trees, and soil reclamation. Most of the seismic line restoration work is outside of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA), however about 10 kilometers of seismic lines are located within the M-KMA.

Lynea said they need to start this project quickly preparing access trails in December and starting this first stage of restoration work in January. The Nation is currently working through the permitting process and is looking for support from the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Advisory Board.

The Executive Committee discussed this situation, acknowledged the importance of the restoration project, and all agreed that this work doesn't conflict with the M-KMA Act and Regulation, the M-KMA Management Plan and the Advisory Board's M-KMA Vision Statement. The Executive Committee is of the opinion, however, that maintaining existing access routes for recreationalists, trappers and other tenure holders is very important.

The Executive Committee's advice, based on the M-KMA's legislation, is as follows:

1. The M-KAB Executive supports this restoration project of legacy seismic lines within the M-KMA.
2. The M-KAB Executive encourages the various ministries involved in the permitting process to fast track this restoration project so the Nation can begin work in January.
3. The M-KAB Executive recommends that all recreationalists, trappers and other tenure holder access should be maintained before, during and after this restoration project.

We look forward to discussing this with you and hope a solution can be arrived at to assist the Blueberry River First Nation in their endeavour.



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Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S Killam".

Stephanie Killam, Chair, Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board

cc: Lynea Abourmrad, Restoration Project Lead, Blueberry River First Nation
cc: David Luff, Board Vice-Chair, Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board
cc: Craig Sutherland, Executive Director/Secretariat, Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board