



Reference: 275072

August 1, 2023

VIA EMAIL: louisepedersen@orc.bc.ca

Louise Pedersen, Executive Director
Outdoor Recreation Council of BC
PO Box 763
Revelstoke, British Columbia
V0E 2S0

Dear Louise Pedersen:

Thank you for your letter of July 20, 2023, to Ministers Ralston and Heyman. I have been asked to respond on their behalf.

I understand your concerns with the deactivation of the East Twin and the Dore Forest Service Roads (FSRs). The Ministry of Forests takes these decisions and the impacts that they will have on local communities very seriously.

The Prince George Natural Resource District (district), which includes the Robson Valley, has an extensive FSR network, which is managed in accordance with our provincial policies and legislation. We appreciate the importance of this industrial infrastructure to local communities and recreationalists.

District staff have been working with the community of McBride as well as other local stakeholders (including the Fraser Headwater Alliance) and BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails staff for over five years to discuss the options that may be available for the East Twin and Dore FSRs. East Twin and the Dore FSRs are all aging and deactivation is required due to the safety and environmental risk. The cost to replace the structures, repair the roads and perform the annual maintenance would be significant. The bridges that are scheduled to be removed are all rated at 0 tonnes. The bridge at approximately 1 km on the East Twin will not be deactivated.

While the Provincial Government supports the objectives of increasing tourism and recreational opportunities in the Robson Valley, we currently have limited funds available to continuously maintain all FSRs to adequately address all the associated safety and environmental concerns within the district. The district is committed to continuing to meet with the Village of McBride to discuss the status of the roads in the Robson Valley and their associated priority.

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Louise Pedersen, Executive Director

At this time, the district has reduced the amount of deactivations it will complete on the Dore FSR. The bridge that crosses the Dore River is rated at 1 tonne and will not be deactivated. However, this decision will need to be revisited in the near future as the structures age.

If you have any further questions, please contact Shawn Rice, District Manager, Prince George Natural Resource District, at 250-617-7456 or by email at shawn.rice@gov.bc.ca.

Again, thank you for writing and sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Borth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Borth
Regional Executive Director
Omineca Natural Resource Region

pc: Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests
Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Shawn Rice, District Manager, Prince George Natural Resource District