December 12, 2023
Updated: June 24, 2024 (See Notes Below)

Re: Land Tenure Application Update

Good evening once again!

Here is an update on the Club's current application to expand its License of Occupation to include adjacent Crown land.

As posted in the September newsletter, the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club (CNSC) prepared an application to expand its License of Occupation to include ~84 hectares of land extending south along the Cranbrook Hill Greenway (see maps below for details). This application was sent to the Ministry of Forests for approval in August, and the Club expects to receive the Ministry's decision soon.

The Club's steps to date in the application process:

- Informed our membership of the proposed application (September 1st).
- Presented the proposal to the City of Prince George and Regional District of Fraser Fort George.
- Received letters of support from the City and Regional District.
- Received a letter of support from the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation **(Withdrawn January 9, 2024)**
- Received letters of support from various members and user groups in the community.

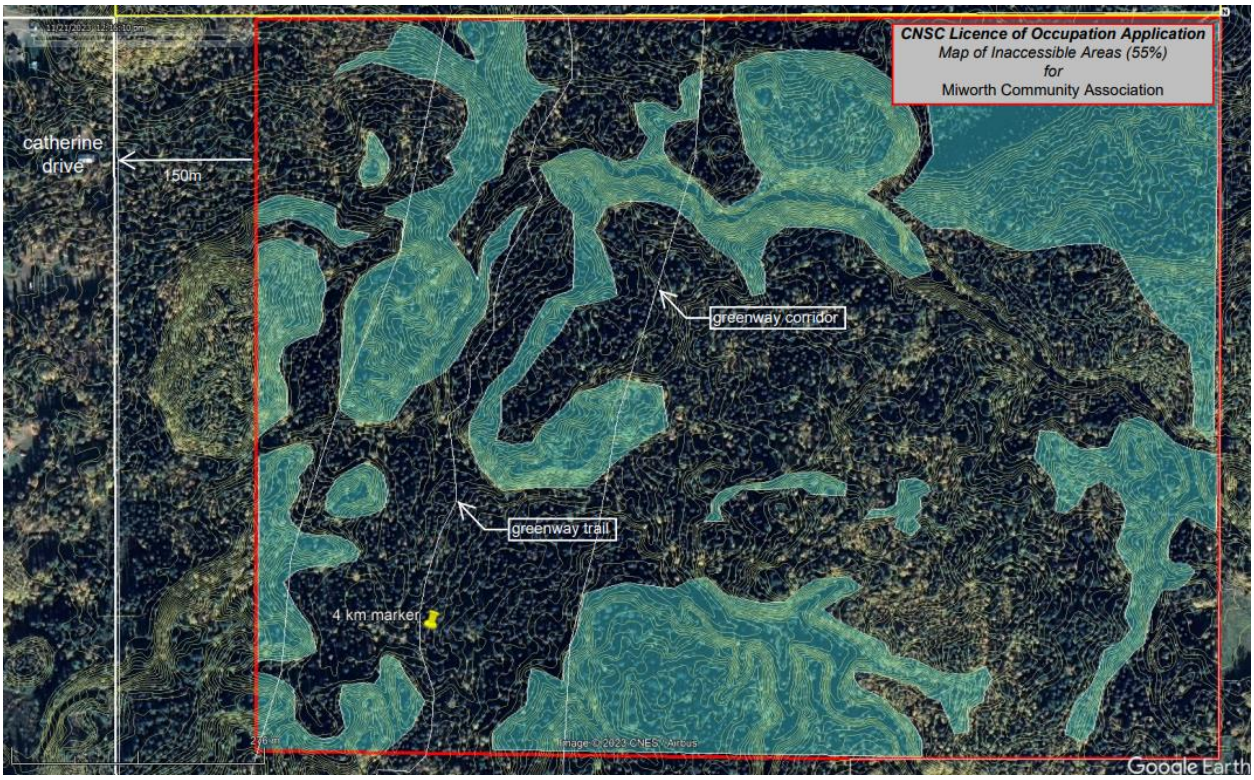
- Contacted all immediately adjacent private landowners explaining application and received no objections.
- Met with representatives from the Miworth Community Association to provide further information.
- Reached out to the Cranbrook Hill Greenway Society – the Club is looking forward to a meeting with them soon.

Land Survey:

As part of the application process, the Club completed a ground-based survey of the forest in the area we are applying for to determine forest type, forest composition, and tree ages. The survey found the area is composed of mixed conifer and deciduous trees. Many of the conifers were left behind when the area was last harvested and are now quite large. Any future trail development would consider such trees in proposed routes, also take advantage of existing open areas (old skid trails and areas of sparse vegetation growth, including regeneration) and minimize disturbance to ecological resources in the area.

The survey also determined the area is hilly, which means approximately half of the ~84 hectares is not suitable for ski trails and will remain untouched by any future development.

(See map below, turquoise areas considered inaccessible).



Next Steps:

There are many steps to complete before any trail development plans are made, then finalized, and ultimately trails constructed. Some of these steps include:

1) An archaeological impact assessment done by a qualified professional.
2) Detailed site inspections for trail planning.
3) A trail development plan that balances ecological impact, the wishes of neighbouring communities, and the recreation needs of all users.
    a. A plan for land use (including trail development) will be done with ongoing consultation of our membership, the Cranbrook Hill Greenway Society, and the Miworth Community Association through newsletters, surveys, meetings, and public forums.
    b. Any proposed trail development will be reviewed by the CNSC Trails Committee. The Committee will report to the CNSC Board of Directors and the Club management as per the CNSC Trails Building Policy.

The Club invites your comments and suggestions. If you wish to review the application details and share ideas, please visit the BC Government website (License of Occupation Application). In addition, you can contact the Club's General Manager, John Bowes (gm@caledonianordic.com), or Club President, Lanita Horning (president@caledonianordic.com), at any time.

If you wish to review the application details and provide comments, please visit the BC Government website (License of Occupation Application)

Note: On January 9, 2024, the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation decided to withdraw their letter of support for the application based on some concerns raised by their Natural Resources Department related to the expansion.