



## CORPORATE REPORT

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee

Date: 2018-02-15

From: David Urban, Manager of Outdoor Recreation Planning

File No: 6140-35-009

**Subject: Sumas Mountain Interregional Park – Mineral Claims Overlaying the Park Boundary**

---

### INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Regional and Corporate Services Committee that mineral claims overlapping Sumas Mountain Interregional Park have no rights and are a result of an information gap in the Province's information database. Staff is not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should members want more clarification to discuss the item further.

### STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Environmental Stewardship  
Foster a Strong & Diverse Economy  
Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

### PRIORITIES

Priority #4 Tourism  
Priority #5 Outdoor Recreation

### BACKGROUND

Last year, the Board responded to the Minister of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources strongly objecting to a referral for the development of a quarry and mining activity on Sumas Mountain adjacent to and within Sumas Mountain Interregional Park. As a result of this referral, the Board was also seeking that all mineral tenures overlapping into the regional park be extinguished.

### DISCUSSION

Sumas Mountain Regional Park was established in 1995 under the New Democratic Party of British Columbia's Lower Mainland Nature Legacy Program and became official in 2001 by way of the Sumas Mountain Regional Park Creation Agreement between the Fraser Valley Regional District and Province. Staff have determined that four mineral claims were issued since then that overlap with the regional park. In December, a letter was written to the Province outlining this concern, see attached letter from Chair Lum. The Province replied last month stating "if a claim appears to partially overlap a park in the Mineral Titles Online Registry, and if the claim was registered after the park was created, the recorded holder of the claim acquires no rights within the

area of apparent overlap with a park. Claims that have such apparent overlaps only confer rights to the area of the claims that are outside a park boundary.” See attached letter from Minister Mungall.

It appears these overlaps are the result of the Province not having the park’s boundary within their geographic information system (GIS) database. Therefore, when applications are reviewed by the Province our regional parks are not shown. Staff is looking into addressing this information gap with the Province since this may be true for all regional parks that interface with Crown land.

## **COST**

There are no cost implications at this time.

## **CONCLUSION**

Mineral claims that overlap with Sumas Mountain Interregional Park have no rights and are a result of an information gap in the Province’s GIS database. Staff is working with the Province to rectify this situation to ensure that future claims don’t overlap with our regional parks.

## **COMMENT BY:**

**Stacey Barker, Deputy Director of Regional Programs**

Reviewed and supported.

**Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services**

No further financial comments.

**Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer**

Not available for comment.