

Joe Rich Forestry Trails and Watershed (JRFTW)

Committee Report

JRRATS AGM March 27, 2022

“We are a committee that monitors resource extraction on crown land within the Joe Rich community boundaries. Our intention is to protect community interests while promoting environmentally sustainable practices to the local and provincial governments.”

1. The committee continues to actively negotiate with both Tolko and Gorman Brothers regarding proposed logging in Joe Rich. One of our directives is to hold logging companies accountable specifically in areas that have potential slope stability issues, and in watersheds which may be compromised because of disruptive logging activity.
2. In November 2021, two members of the committee met directly with Gorman Bros. in West Kelowna, plus they met with MLA Renee Merrifield and the CEO Nick Arkle in January 2022. After many years, and these two recent visits our voices were finally heard!! We are excited to announce that Gorman Brothers Lumber has agreed to **a 2 year deferral of the planned logging in the forested area** directly east of the High Rim Trail close to Mission Creek. This will allow all interested individuals and the JRFTWS committee to work towards conservation of the trails and surrounding areas. We have started the many emails and phone calls needed to make this incredible opportunity come to fruition! Please watch for further details in ways to get involved in this worthwhile project.
3. We are still waiting to hear back from Tolko regarding their proposed harvesting above Philpott road. Tolko did provide a field trip in early October 2021 for the possibly affected residents on Philpot Road however Tolko has not reached out to us since then. We are also waiting on updates on any further logging that may be done above Cardinal Creek/Sunvalleyroads.
4. BC has a long history of protecting it's watersheds including Mission Creek however it seems this watershed protection is not as good as it used to be in the past. Therefore one of the directives of this committee is to contact various levels of government to press them as to why these protections have seemingly become less important.

If there are residents in Joe Rich that would like to more information about this committee, please contact:

JRFTW facebook page
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