

Mark Rushton  
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Kevin Walker, RPF PAg  
Resource Authorizations  
South Coast Regional Office  
Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations

Via email: [kevin.walker@gov.bc.ca](mailto:kevin.walker@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Sir:

Please register this as a profound objection to Land file # 24106612 : disposition of Crown Land for a crown lease for Quarrying Purposes covering that part of Township 20 New Westminster District situated on provincial crown land located on Sumas Mountain".

I speak from the perspective of a member of the provincially-mandated "advisory committee" to Abbotsford City Council to ease the transition of the former Electoral Area H (Sumas Mountain) into the City of Abbotsford, and as a member of the Fraser Valley Regional District's resident committee which created the original Official Community Plan for Sumas Mountain.

I also speak as a long term resident (25 years at my current location) of Sumas Mountain. Since I first moved to the mountain in 1968, I have seen it grow virtually from wilderness to what it is today.

From the perspective of a former newspaper editor and publisher, I have long viewed and advocated Sumas Mountain as Abbotsford's residential growth area. My opinions have been borne out with the existing developments now ranging up the slopes of Sumas Mountain and now within what is known as 'Straiton Bowl'. There are now hundreds of new homes located in Auguston, which is now encroaching on Sumas Mountain Road. There is a 68 home subdivision under construction on Sumas Mountain Road, and a further adjacent 25 lot development planned. Abbotsford recently determined it has a sufficient current residential water supply for an additional 1,000 homes.

All provincial government and municipal population forecasts call for an additional million residents to come to the province in the next 20-30 years. Most of those newcomers will settle primarily in Surrey and Abbotsford. Abbotsford's future urban development is curtailed by surrounding Agricultural Land Reserve, leaving only Sumas Mountain as appropriate for development.

It has been projected that the serviceable area of Sumas Mountain within the confines of the City of Abbotsford is capable of, over perhaps the next 50 years, housing up to 80,000 people.

Due to topography, the only routes in and out of this future development area will remain the Sumas Mountain Road/ Dawson-Clayburn Road/McKee Road corridors and adjacent feeder streets.

Currently flowing past my property today, each and every weekday and often on Saturdays, are hundreds of truck/transfers travelling to and from Highland Quarry, located approximately 1,200

meters northeast of my location. Access/egress from Highland Quarry is at the top of a hill on Sumas Mountain Road that begins at Dawson Road and climbs some 1,500 metres, at grades that average 14 per cent but are, I argue, at some points approaching 20 per cent.

This route has no runaway lanes, and none are possible due to topography, should the brakes or other components fail on these 100,000 pound vehicles fail.

This is, obviously, a mountain, and it receives snow and icy conditions throughout the late fall, winter and spring. The mountain is also home to many young families, well in excess of 200 residences, and thus there are at least three school buses travelling Sumas Mountain Road each day, plus considerable residential traffic at all times of the day or night.

Based on the above, it is patently obvious that the road cannot, now or ever, handle more heavy truck traffic. The current industrial use is dangerous, and the potential for disaster constant.

The proposal of 266531 BC Ltd of Kamloops to create a 300 acre rock quarry, with a projected 'life' of 100 years and the heavy industrial traffic it will generate over that incredibly long time-span is in direct conflict to the safety and lifestyle of the thousands of future residents who will call Sumas Mountain home over that time period.

The proposed quarry and land application bounds Sumas Mountain Regional Park on two sides. The provincial government has also declared more than 1,000 acres of the mountain as park/protected area reserve.

This parkland, along with the remaining crown land on Sumas Mountain, is the only large parcel of crown land that is easily accessible to the entire Lower Mainland for recreational and environmental appreciation purposes. As the population grows dramatically over the next 20 to 50 years, the recreational value of this land will increase exponentially.

However, if this land disposition is approved and the mine permitted to proceed, it will eliminate access to the park, and the use of the road by industrial truck traffic on daily basis will render unsafe and impossible access to the rest of what could be a magnificent wilderness recreation area.

1. Will render unsafe and eliminate (locked gates to protect equipment) access to last remaining large block of recreational-purpose crown land in the Lower Mainland.
2. Is in direct conflict of the long-term projected population growth of Abbotsford
3. Due to topography road access inadequate now, and in the future, to handle additional industrial traffic
4. Current industrial traffic already a safety hazard to existing residents
5. Environmental damage/contamination to existing water sources
6. In direct conflict of long term plan (currently underway by provincially-mandated advisory committee, the City of Abbotsford, Fraser Valley Regional District and ministries of the provincial government) to create a recreationally based use, along with First Nations forest harvesting, of current crown land
7. Will cause a significant decline in current and future residents ability to enjoy a peaceful, quiet and safe home environment, in addition to affecting land values
8. It is incomprehensible to believe, given the 300-acre size and 100-year lifespan of the proposed quarry/mine, that production will be limited 25 trucks per day. Due to the size

and scope of the quarry/mine and the potential profit it is conceivable that this project, once it receives government approval, will be purchased by other well-funded parties who will greatly increase the exploitation of the resource and dramatically increase its output and thus its delivery traffic

9. Approval of this land disposition and development of this, any other future, mine/quarry on Sumas Mountain is a decision that does not take into consideration the best interests of current and future Sumas Mountain residents, the recreational potential for the City of Abbotsford and the rest of Lower Mainland residents, and is in conflict with potential tourism goals of the provincial government.
10. Lodging a protest against this application, based on information contained within the ministry's Legal Advertisement was/is impossible. Only after a search for the numbered company

<http://www.arfd.gov.bc.ca/ApplicationPosting/index.jsp?PrimaryStatus=any&keyword=266531%20BC%20Ltd>.

proposing this land disposition did I find the application, which is curiously described as "Lower Mainland, Surrey" rather than Sumas Mountain or Abbotsford. Not at any point in my search using the website address [www.arfd.gov.bc.ca/ApplicationPosting/index.jsp](http://www.arfd.gov.bc.ca/ApplicationPosting/index.jsp) was there provision to provide response/objection to this application, despite that ability/option being clearly indicated in the Legal Advertisement published in the *Abbotsford New*. Therefore, the ability of the ministry to determine the degree of protest to this disposition cannot be valid. People who attempted to respond through your website may have simply given up the attempt as being too difficult/impossible.

Confirmation of receipt of this objection to Land file # 24106612 – disposition of crown lands – is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mark Rushton