



Reference: FOR 277559 / WLRS 33259

February 29, 2024

VIA EMAIL: bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca

Brian Thomas, President
BC Cattlemen's Association
4-10145 Dallas Drive
Kamloops, British Columbia
V2C 6T4

Dear Brian Thomas:

Thank you for your letter of December 11, 2023, expressing concerns that increasing unregulated recreational use of Crown land is potentially creating permanent damage to ecosystems and impacting the ability of range agreement holders to operate effectively on Crown range.

We acknowledge that the BC Cattlemen's Association is suggesting the development and introduction of new measures to protect the Crown range and maintain public enjoyment of recreational activities. Managing Crown land for diverse ecological, social, and economic values and multiple use continues to increase in complexity.

The need to balance appropriate and respectful public access with the interests of First Nations and the rights of authorized users is critical, and a collective exploration of the scope of the issue, and the potential solutions available currently, would be beneficial. It may also serve as an opportunity to identify gaps and examine the value of thoughtful access management. There are existing legislative tools to manage access under the *Land Act*, *Wildlife Act*, and *Forest and Range Practices Act*, that may offer paths to address some of your current concerns. We would also like to acknowledge that our government has decided not to proceed with the proposed amendments to the *Land Act*, and we thank you for your input on that file.

However, we recognize there are no quick answers and welcome your input and any solutions that you may have to this complex problem. As you know, it is important for government, First Nations, industry partners, communities, and stakeholders to collaborate on strategies to educate users and protect these valuable resources.

We appreciate your continued identification of emerging issues and management ideas for addressing the impacts and look forward to being part of the conversation going forward.

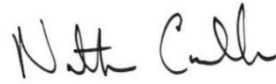
Brian Thomas, President

Again, thank you for writing to share your concerns on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Bruce Ralston
Minister of Forests



Nathan Cullen
Minister of Water, Land
and Resource Stewardship

pc: Peter Pokorny, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Food