

Okanagan
TRAIL RIDERS 

February 1, 2006

Dear Hon. Rick Thorpe MLA,

I would like to thank both yourself and Mr. Reed for your time and professionalism in meeting with Ron Irnie and myself as representatives of OTR. It was gratifying to find you had previously visited the area first hand and was well informed about all the issues. In our view your approach to issues facing the Bear Creek area was one of knowledge, common sense and fairness which is all any stakeholder should expect.

Your support and emphasis of the collaborative process was very important to OTR. Our organization cares very much for the watershed and has proven to be capable solution oriented stewards. We thank you for following through with all the relevant decision makers so that OTR can continue to be part of the solution.

OTR is very supportive of the Coalitions' Proposed Legislation for ORV's in the Province recently submitted - provided the enacted legislation represents these recommendations in their entirety. If this proves to be the case, this legislation will provide organizations such as OTR the essential tools to solve many of the issues between the sport of off-road motorcycling and other stakeholders.

Thank you for your direction in sourcing funds to enhance the Bear Creek RMZ area with a network of signed **sustainable** trails and staging/camping area improvements.

I will await your decision/direction with regard to the enforcement issue. Priority issues are firstly to limit riding on Bear Lake Main. As discussed we believe it is very important for all parties to take this matter seriously as it is only a matter of time before an unnecessary fatality occurs. In addition, we need to ensure that bikers ride in designated areas with proper mufflers including spark arrestors to reduce noise and mitigate fire hazards. OTR has and will continue to educate riders in these responsible practices. We ask that government take the lead to insure appropriate enforcement occurs.

I came away from our meeting with some constructive thoughts and direction. Our organization remains at the service to off-road riders and the community at large.

Yours in sport,

Ken Umbarger
President
Okanagan Trail Riders Association