

File # 2.7139.0186
Reg. #1911

JAN 24 2018

Mr. Albert Williams
Plateau Outfitters Inc.
36 Cabot Avenue
St. John's NL A1A 1B7

Dear Mr. Williams:

RE: Buchans Plateau ATV Trails

Your proposal has been reviewed by an interdepartmental screening committee and an opportunity to comment has been provided to the public as required by the Newfoundland and Labrador *Environmental Protection Act*, SNL 2002, cE-14.2. Please be advised that this undertaking is **released** from further environmental assessment subject to the following conditions:

- A minimum 50-metre naturally vegetated buffer must be maintained along all waterbodies and wetlands to protect sensitive wetland complexes as well as riparian and aquatic species, and their habitat; and,
- An Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) must be submitted for Trails #1 and #2 to provide more information on how these trails are to be constructed and maintained, identify the potential adverse impacts, outline mitigative measures to minimize impacts on the sensitive habitats and local wildlife in the area, and address the long-term maintenance of these trails as they are within areas identified as core caribou, rock ptarmigan and arctic hare habitat.

Although the undertaking, as proposed, is released from further environmental assessment, it is still subject to other relevant legislative requirements. In particular please note that the Crown land under consideration for your proposal for Trail #3 is not available due to concerns raised by the Wildlife Division, Department of Fisheries and Land Resources. Therefore Trail #3 as described in your registration document and in Crown land application #151164, is not permitted to proceed.

The Water Resources Management Division of this department advises that a permit is required under the *Water Resources Act*, 2002, specifically Section 48 for any work in any body of water (including wetland) including but not limited to culverts, bridges, diversion channels, etc.. Contact: Mr. Amir Ali Khan, Manager, Water Rights, Investigations, and Modelling Section at (709) 729-2295.

The Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment supports Environment and Climate Change Canada's recommendation that in order to avoid nest destruction and to accommodate the breeding season of migratory songbirds and waterfowl, operations should consider nesting locations between April 15th and August 15th in this region. However, as some species protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA) do nest outside of this time period, it is the responsibility of the proponent to ensure that project activities are in compliance with the MCBA and associated regulations. For further information, please contact the Canadian Wildlife Service at (709) 772-2154.

Although the undertaking, as proposed, is released from further environmental assessment, it is still subject to other legislative requirements. A summary of the comments received from government agencies during the review is attached to provide an indication of likely applicable permits, approvals and legislative requirements. Please note that you must comply with all relevant legislation and obtain all necessary permits and approvals. You are required to inform this Department of any proposed significant changes to the undertaking.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Dr. Susan Squires, Director, Environmental Assessment Division, at (709) 729-0673 or susansquires@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,



EDDIE JOYCE, MHA
District of Humber-Bay of Islands
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

Attachment

Cc. Allan Hawkins, MHA
District of Grand Falls-Windsor – Buchans
Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour