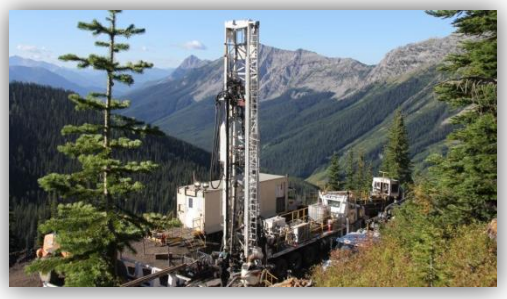
Appendix 4-M

Public Consultation Report – August 2016

NWP Coal Canada Ltd

Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project

PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT



August 2016

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project (the Project) is a proposed open pit metallurgical coal mine in the Elk Valley coal field in the East Kootenay Region of south eastern British Columbia. The Project proponent is NWP Coal Canada Ltd. (NWP Coal), a wholly owned subsidiary of Jameson Resources Limited (Jameson). The proposed Project is subject to an environmental assessment (EA) under both the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) 2012 and the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act* 2002. Provincially, the Project is considered a Reviewable Project given that the production capacity of the mine will be greater than 250,000 tonnes per year of clean coal and will result in a disturbance greater than 750 hectares (ha) that was not previously permitted for disturbance. Federally, the Project is considered a Designated Project under the CEAA 2012 *Regulations Designating Physical Projects* as the mine will have a production capacity of more than 3,000 tonnes per day. Details on the Project are provided in the Project Description on the BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) Project Information Centre (e-PIC) and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Registry.

As part of the Pre-Application phase of the BC provincial environmental assessment process, NWP Coal has undertaken a range of consultation and engagement activities related to the draft Valued Components for Environmental Assessment document. This document outlines the proposed Valued Components (VCs) that will be evaluated during the environmental assessment and also describes the methods and assessment boundaries that will be used for conducting baseline studies. This Public Consultation Report outlines consultation activities completed as part of the Pre-Application phase, with a focus on the comments received through the open house and public comment period on the Valued Components Document.

2.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION PLAN

A Public Consultation Plan was prepared for the Project and is available online through the EAO e-PIC site. The plan, dated and approved June 2016, has not changed since posted to e-PIC; however, as the Project progresses the Public Consultation Plan may be updated, as required. Changes to the plan will be summarized in future consultation reports, as necessary.

3.0 PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

The Pre-Application phase of consultation includes engagement undertaken up to the submission of the Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) Application. Consultation during this phase includes introduction of the Project to public stakeholders, including local communities, local and regional governments and regulatory agencies, recreationalists, industry, and community and public interests groups, and seeking public input on the draft Valued Components for Environmental Assessment document. To engage with the public on the draft VC document during the Pre-Application phase the following activities were undertaken:

- Public comment period on the draft VC document;

- Public open house;
- Making the draft VC document available publically;
- Response to public comments on the draft VC document; and
- Development of a Public Consultation Report.

The above activities are described in detail in **Section 3.1** and additional activities conducted during the Pre-Application phase that were not directly related to the draft VC document are outlined in **Section 3.2**.

3.1 Valued Components for Environmental Assessment Document

Valued Components serve as the foundation for the environmental assessment. The VCs selected for a project depend on the type of project (e.g., mining, transportation, oil and gas), the geographic region the project is located in, as well as the potential effects on any of the five (5) 'pillars' noted by the EAO: environment, economic, social, heritage, and health. The purpose of the draft VC document is to:

- Identify candidate VCs and describe the methods for selecting potential VCs that may be part of the environmental assessment;
- Outline the selected VCs and describe the rationale for VC selection;
- Describe intermediate components and measurement indicators that will be used to understand potential impacts to selected VCs; and
- Describe the spatial and temporal assessment boundaries that will be used for conducting baseline studies related to each VC.

Stakeholder input and engagement is a key step in the development of the VC document and the associated selection of VCs to be carried forward for environmental assessment. As such, consultation activities in the Pre-Application phase focus on obtaining stakeholder input on the draft VC document.

3.1.1 Public Comment Period

As per the requirements detailed in the Project Section 11 Order, the EAO provides a public comment period of at least 30 days on the draft VC document. The draft VC document was posted to the e-PIC on May 5, 2016 and the public comment period for the draft document extended between May 13 and June 13, 2016. During the public comment period, the EAO facilitates public comment by fax, mail, and through online submissions.

The public comment period and associated community open house was advertised in local newspapers, including:

- The Fernie Free Press;

- Kootenay News Advertiser;
- The Elk Valley Herald;
- The Crowsnest Pass Herald;
- The Columbia Valley Pioneer;
- The Cranbrook Daily Townsman; and
- The Creston Valley Advance.

Copies of the advertisements and tear sheets are included in **Appendix A**. Additional details on the newspaper advertisements are provided in **Section 3.1.3**.

The EAO received 14 online comments on the draft VC document. Responses to the comments received during the public comment period were developed by NWP Coal and provided to the EAO. The comments and responses form part of the Public Consultation Plan and are included in **Appendix B**. Common themes that were raised as part of the public comment period on the draft VC document included:

- Study area boundaries (e.g., Local Study Area);
- Wildlife (e.g., Potential VCs such as wolves and landscape connectivity); and
- Recreational (e.g., Potential visual effects).

Many of the comments received during the public comment period were related to the Project in general and not directly to the draft VC. Comments were related to the following topics:

- Cumulative effects and associated cumulative effects assessments;
- Access to recreation areas, such as those areas used for hunting or snowmobiling;
- Potential impacts to terrestrial and aquatic habitat (e.g., migration corridors, wildlife habitat);
- Potential impacts to surface water quality;
- Dust generation; and
- Project components and location of infrastructure.

These topics will be addressed in detail in the Project Environmental Assessment Application and further engagement conducted as appropriate by NWP Coal over the course of the Project.

3.1.2 Open House

A community open house was held during the Pre-Application phase on May 25, 2016 at the Causeway Bay Hotel in Sparwood (102A Red Cedar Drive) to allow the community and stakeholders an opportunity to review the draft VC document and discuss the Project with NWP Coal. The open house was held during the 30-day public comment period for the draft VC document and the event was advertised in local newspapers before and during the public comment period and over a week in advance of the open house. Copies of the advertisements and tear sheets for the public comment period are included in **Appendix A**.

For the open house, NWP Coal developed presentation materials for the open house, which included poster boards describing the Project, Valued Components, and baseline studies completed to date. Posters presented at the open house are provided in **Appendix C**. The EAO offered attendees information on the provincial EA process and instructions for providing online comments for the draft VC document.

Representatives from the BC EAO, NWP Coal, and NWP Coal's environmental assessment team were present at the open house to engage with the community on the draft VC document and answer any questions related to the document or the Project. While CEAA representatives did not attend the open house in person, information on the federal environmental process and relevant Project information from CEAA was made available to attendees. A total of 35 people attended the open house, with many attendees coming from the surrounding communities of Sparwood, Fernie, and Elkford, as well as Cranbrook, Hosmer, and Crowsnest Pass. A summary of open house attendees is provided in **Appendix D**.

Topics of discussion during the open house included:

- Archaeology (e.g., presence and potential for of archaeological sites in the Project area)
- Cumulative effects;
- Land use and access, including access to areas used by recreationalists;
- Wildlife habitat and potential impacts associated with the Project (e.g., moose, elk, mule deer, bear);
- Fish and fish habitat;
- Waste rock management strategy;
- Surface water quality (e.g., concerns regarding selenium);
- Surface and groundwater management;
- Project components and infrastructure, as well as mining procedures;

- Project timelines
- Job creation; and
- Environmental baseline studies.

3.1.3 Newspaper Advertisements

To advertise the VC document public comment period and community open house, NWP Coal published advertisements in several local and regional newspapers. **Table 1** outlines the newspapers used for advertising and the dates advertisements were issued. Tear sheets for each of the advertisements are provided in **Appendix A**. The advertisements provided details on the open house, the process for providing comments on the draft VC document, and the location of hardcopy draft VC documents available for public viewing.

Table 1: Newspaper Advertisement Dates

Newspaper	Dates Advertised
The Fernie Free Press	May 12, 2016
Kootenay News Advertiser	May 5, 2016 and May 12, 2016
The Elk Valley Herald	May 4, 2016 and May 11, 2016
The Crowsnest Pass Herald	May 4, 2016 and May 11, 2016
The Columbia Valley Pioneer	May 6, 2016 and May 13, 2016
The Cranbrook Daily Townsman	May 11, 2016
The Creston Valley Advance	May 12, 2016

3.1.4 Publically Available Information

To facilitate responses and feedback from the public and stakeholders on the draft VC document, the document was made available through a variety of means during the 30 day public comment period, as detailed in the newspaper advertisement. Availability of the document included:

- Draft VC document was made available by the EAO in electronic format on the EAO Electronic Project Information Centre (e-PIC) website;
- Paper copies were made available at libraries in local municipalities, including the Sparwood Library, the Fernie Heritage Library, and the Cranbrook Public Library; and
- Paper and electronic copies were made available at the open house held in Sparwood on May 25, 2016.

3.2 Other Consultation Activities during Pre-Application Phase and Next Steps

A summary of consultation activities that have taken place during the Pre-Application phase are provided in **Table 2**. Also listed in Table 2 are other consultation activities completed by NWP Coal that were not related to the draft VC document.

Table 2: Summary of Pre-Application Phase Consultation Activities to Date

Group or Member of the Public	Activity	Desired Outcome(s)	Anticipated Completion Date
Fernie Council of the Whole	Presentation to the Council to introduce the Crown Mountain Project	Engagement and dissemination of Project information to local municipality	February 23, 2015 (complete)
Elkford Town Council	Presentation to the Council to introduce the Crown Mountain Project	Engagement and dissemination of Project information to local municipality	February 23, 2015 (complete)
Municipality of Crows Nest Pass – Town Council	Presentation to the Council to introduce the Crown Mountain Project	Engagement and dissemination of Project information to local municipality	March 10, 2015 (complete)
Sparwood Council of the Whole	Presentation to the Council to introduce the Crown Mountain Project	Engagement and dissemination of Project information to local municipality	March 30, 2015 (complete)
CBC (Kelowna) - Jamie Taylor, Host of "Daybreak South"	Radio Interview	Provide information regarding the Project and to outline NWPs philosophy towards responsible development.	April 2,2015 (complete)
District of Sparwood	Advertisement in the annual "Coal Miner Days" publication of the Fernie Free Press	Public engagement – advertisement noted availability and willingness to discuss project with public	June 11, 2015 (complete)
Sparwood Fish & Wildlife Association	Telephone Discussion regarding funding of Elk tracking Project	Active sponsor of the on-going Elk tracking /collaring project: GPS tracking on cow elk.	October 19, 2015 (discussion) Study on-going for next 3-4 years
Public	Public comment period on draft VC document	Obtain input from the public on the draft VC document	May 13 to June 13, 2016

Public	Community Open House	Introduce and discuss the Project with the public, discuss the draft VC document	May 25, 2016 (complete)
Elk River Alliance	Data sharing	Provided surface water quality baseline data collected for the Project in Alexander Creek	June 1, 2016 (complete)
Public	Public Consultation Report – Pre-Application Phase	Provide the EAO with the Public Consultation Report for Pre-Application phase engagement activities completed to date	August 15, 2016
Elk Valley Cumulative Effects Management Framework Working Group	Meetings	Participate in the Elk Valley CEMF, share baseline data collected for the Project, understand cumulative effects assessments	On-going participation
Public	Submission of the EAC Application	Inform the public that an EAC Application has been submitted to the EAO	2017
Public	Public Consultation Report – Application Review	Provide the EAO with the Public Consultation Report for Application Review phase engagement activities completed to date	TBD
Issues Tracking and Reporting	Issue tracking	Manage and maintain log of issues brought forward by the public and responses to each issue by NWP Coal	On-going, as necessary
Consultation/Communications Log	Communications logging	Maintain log of all communications with the public	On-going, as necessary

4.0 SUMMARY

A variety of engagement activities have been completed to date during the Pre-Application phase for the Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project, with many of the activities focusing on discussing the draft Valued Components for Environmental Assessment document with the public. A public comment period was held on the draft VC document from May 13 to June 13, 2016 and a community open house was

held in Sparwood on May 25, 2016. The public comment period and open house were advertised in a number of local newspapers.

Approximately 35 members of the public attended the open house. NWP Coal's environmental assessment team and the BC EAO participated in the event and discussed Project-related topics with the public, which included attendees from many of the local communities. Information from CEAA was also made available to the public during the open house. A total of 14 comments were received online by the EAO during the public comment period.

NWP Coal has received helpful feedback from the public on the Project and the draft VC document and will continue to use information gathered through future public engagement to inform the Project. NWP Coal is committed to creating and maintaining constructive dialogue and relationships with local and regional public stakeholders to support the environmental, social, and economic sustainability of the Project.

Appendix A

Newspaper Advertisements

Arson investigated in northern B.C. fires

BLACK PRESS

As many as 10 wildfires in northeast B.C. this spring may have been deliberately set.

Environment Minister Mary Polak said Tuesday evidence an apparent string of arsons has been turned over to conservation officers to track the source of the fires.

The B.C. government has tripled the fine for not complying with burning restrictions to $1,150, but deliberately set fires are more serious.

"Arson would result potentially in criminal charges, and if somebody was convicted, they would see jail time," Polak said.

Rapid snow-melt and an early warm spell created high fire hazard in areas of dry grass, sparking forest fires north of Fort St. John that forced hundreds of people to evacuate.

Evacuees were allowed to go home on Sunday after rain and snow slowed the fires. Crews and aircraft in Alberta and B.C. continue to work on the Siphon Creek fire, which grew to more than 50,000 hectares as it crossed the provincial border.

B.C. WILDFIRE SERVICE

The Siphon Creek fire spread from northern B.C. into Alberta on the weekend, and by Tuesday was estimated at 58,000 hectares, 20 per cent under control.

B.C. schools open to Alberta kids

BLACK PRESS

B.C. schools are preparing to take in some of the 12,000 children of school age who have been forced to evacuate Fort McMurray due to wildfire.

Education Minister Mike Bernier said he has been in touch with the Alberta minister to keep track of students who come to B.C., so they can return to some of their normal routines.

"We sent a letter to all of our school districts that when we have students coming from Alberta into B.C., that we're going to open our arms, make sure that they're welcomed into the school system and try to help them complete the end of the school year," Bernier said.

The Fort McMurray fire destroyed homes and businesses as it swept through the town, but schools were spared, as were the hospital and airport.

B.C. Mounties heading to help Fort McMurray

CANADIAN PRESS

Mounties from across British Columbia are heading to northern Alberta to help in fire-ravaged Fort McMurray.

B.C. RCMP spokesman Staff Sgt. Rob Vermeulen says about 150 tactical troop members and traffic service officers are being sent.

He says the Alberta RCMP requested help from their B.C. counterparts.

The officers will come from communities across the province to make sure local detachments aren't left short-handed.

Vermeulen says the officers are used to being redeployed on short notice for serious events.

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley says Fort McMurray is not yet safe for residents to return after a wildfire ripped through the city, torching 2,400 buildings.

Protect our earth.

The Cranbrook Daily Townsman and the Kimberley Daily Bulletin promote recycling.

We use vegetable-based inks, and our newsprint, tin and aluminum waste is recycled.

Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project

Open House and Invitation to Comment

NWP Coal Canada Ltd. (Proponent) is proposing to develop an open pit metallurgical coal mine in the Elk Valley, referred to as the Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project (proposed Project). The proposed Project would be located approximately 12 km northeast of Sparwood, British Columbia, and it is estimated that it would produce 3.7 million run-of-mine tonnes per year.

The proposed Project is subject to review under British Columbia's *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Proponent must obtain an Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) before work can be undertaken on the proposed Project. Prior to the submission of an Application by the Proponent for an EAC, the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) must approve the Application Information Requirements for the proposed Project.

As part of the Application Information Requirements, Valued Components must be identified, which are environmental, economic, social, heritage, and health components that may experience potential effects as a result of the proposed Project. The Valued Components are outlined in the Valued Components for Environmental Assessment document, which details components to be studied and the areas in which the studies would occur.

Open House

EAO invites the public to attend an Open House about the environmental assessment process, the proposed Project, and the draft Valued Components. An open house will be held:

At: **Causeway Bay Hotel**
Emerald Room
102A Red Cedar Drive, Sparwood, BC

On: **Wednesday, May 25, 2016**

From: **4:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

EAO and the Proponent will be present to provide information and respond to questions about the proposed Project at the Open House.

The comment period for the submission of comments by the public in relation to the draft Valued Components document is 30 days. **The comment period will begin May 13, 2016 and end June 13, 2016. All comments received during this comment period in relation to the draft Valued Components document will be considered.**

The intention of seeking public comments is to ensure that all potential effects – environmental, economic, social, heritage and health – that might result from the proposed Project are identified for consideration as part of the assessment process. At this stage of the process, the primary intent is to receive feedback on studies or information required for a comprehensive assessment.

After taking public comments into account, the Valued Components document will be finalized.

EAO accepts public comments through the following ways:

- **By Online Form at**
  http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca
- **By Mail:**
  Terry Pratt
  Project Assessment Manager
  2nd Floor – 441 Columbia St.
  Kamloops, BC, V2C 2T3
- **By Fax**:
  Fax: 250-387-2208

An electronic copy of the draft Valued Components document and information regarding the environmental assessment process are available at **www.eao.gov.bc.ca.** Copies of the draft Valued Components document are also available for viewing at the following locations:

Sparwood Public Library
110 Pine Avenue, Sparwood, BC

Fernie Heritage Library
492 Third Avenue, Fernie, BC

Cranbrook Public Library
1212 2nd Street North, Cranbrook, BC

If you are unable to participate at this time, there will be an additional comment period during the Application Review stage when you will also be able to provide comments to EAO on the proposed Project.

NOTE: All submissions received by the EAO during the comment period in relation to the proposed Project are considered public and will be posted to the EAO website.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Housing market remains resilient in Crowsnest Pass

John Pundyk

Our slow and steady real estate market keeps defying the negative economic forces which are crippling the rest of the province and there are very good reasons for this.

Alberta Real Estate Association sends us complete market statistics each month and the latest to land in my in-box, on April 20, makes for bleak reading. Declines are everywhere right across the province but our local numbers tell a different story.

Up until the end of April this year, we had a total of 37 MLS sales. In 2015, during the same period, we had 36 MLS sales and in 2014 we had 37. Stats which go all the way back to 2005 are interesting.

Our real estate market peaked in 2005, held steady for 2006 and 2007 and then declined with the rest of the markets as the financial crisis and recession took hold in 2008 and 2009.

As Alberta emerged from the recession, we saw a rapid acceleration in the volume of sales and price increases almost everywhere but not here in Crowsnest Pass.

An important reason for this is because our market is tied more to what is happening in British Columbia than in Alberta. As you recall, the price of metallurgical coal retracted much sooner than the collapse of the price of oil.

> "While no one has a crystal ball to predict the future, our slow and steady market statistics tell us the Crowsnest Pass is a very good place to be".
>
> **- John Pundyk**
> - Realtor, Royal LePage

TECK, our major employer, has been coping with the low price of met coal for a few years now, and this has been a time which has witnessed the closure of many mines throughout North America and elsewhere. Teck, on the other hand, is emerging not only as a survivor but also as a global met coal industry leader.

Metallurgical coal is slowly recovering for the simple reason: the world needs steel.

Just imagine, more than 100 tonnes of met coal goes into manufacturing steel for just one windmill. And the amount of steel re-bar needed for the world's infrastructure projects is hard to envision. Anyone who has seen a foundation poured under a windmill, or an overpass being constructed, has a good idea of the steel needed.

So, while our community missed much of the oil fuelled price rises in housing, we are not missing the economic contraction which is now underway in the rest of Alberta.

Since the recession of 2009 our prices have not changed much and we remain very affordable when compared to anywhere else in the province. Since our housing market is reasonable, we continue to attract buyers.

While no one has a crystal ball to predict the future, our slow and steady market statistics tell us that Crowsnest Pass is a very good place to be.

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Open House and Invitation to Comment

NWP Coal Canada Ltd. (Proponent) is proposing to develop an open pit metallurgical coal mine in the Elk Valley, referred to as the Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project (proposed Project). The proposed Project would be located approximately 12 km northeast of Sparwood, British Columbia, and it is estimated that it would produce 3.7 million run-of-mine tonnes per year.

The proposed Project is subject to review under British Columbia's *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Proponent must obtain an Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) before work can be undertaken on the proposed Project. Prior to the submission of an Application by the Proponent for an EAC, the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) must approve the Application Information Requirements for the proposed Project.

As part of the Application Information Requirements, Valued Components must be identified, which are environmental, economic, social, heritage, and health components that may experience potential effects as a result of the proposed Project. The Valued Components are outlined in the Valued Components for Environmental Assessment document, which details components to be studied and the areas in which the studies would occur.

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NOTE: All submissions received by the EAO during the comment period in relation to the proposed Project are considered public and will be posted to the EAO website.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Artists' Tour

EZRA BLACK
Pass Herald Reporter

The Crowsnest Pass Allied Arts Association is organizing the community's first ever self-guided tour of over 30 artists' studios and other venues on May 7 and 8 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The free event allows the public to enter normally private workspaces of the artists who live and work in the Crowsnest Pass.

"I was inspired to organize this tour after a spring visit to Victoria B.C. where we went on numerous art studio tours," said event organizer Lynnette Jessop. "It was so cool to see where and what the artists were working on. I loved the interaction with the artists and seeing artworks in progress."

Jessop said the studio tour will increase awareness of the artistic community in the Pass. It will also be an opportunity to see techniques such as how a piece progresses from preliminary sketches through to final work.

"We have a strong community of incredibly talented artists in the Crowsnest Pass. With more people moving here because of the beauty and affordability. We are also fortunate to have a fantastic art gallery and numerous locations that promote local artists," she said.

A second tour is to take place July 30 and 31 during the Doors Open and Heritage Festival. For more information contact Lynette Jessop at (403) 563 – 8829 or visit www.cnpstudiotour.ca.

Town Talk

Seniors come first?

RENEWED

As most people in the community will remember my mom Gail Sygutek had a weekly column called "Town Talk." It was probably the most widely read article every week in the paper. My mom had no issues telling people exactly what she thought about anything. Whether you agreed with her or not, you had to respect her upright, honest ability to tell everyone exactly what she thought – such a rare commodity in today's world of hypocritical passive aggressives.

There are issues in the community that need to be addressed, so I'm considering a Town Talk resurgence. Not weekly, probably not monthly but whenever I feel passionate about an issue I'll pipe up. Similar to my mom, I have big shoulders – figuratively speaking – and I'm willing to put myself out there and give you an opinion. Not everyone is going to like it, but I'm okay with that.

Location of the new lodge:

I am upset with the decision to build the seniors' lodge that will replace York Creek in the old trailer park in Coleman. I have yet to speak with any senior who thinks this is a good idea. My mom lived at the York Creek Lodge for a period of time before having to go to long term care at the hospital. Let me tell you straight, it's difficult for a person when they're forced to leave their home and move into any of these places for medical reasons. It can be a traumatizing experience. After a lifetime of autonomy, these seniors are forfeiting their independence and their homes. They are at the mercy of staff, doctors and their own failing bodies.

I understand that many of these seniors can no longer take proper care of themselves but I bet it still sucks.

It was one of the hardest days of my life to watch my mom leave her home, her life and move into those places. It hurt to watch it unfold.

One of the only solaces was her proximity to her family. York Creek Lodge is in the heart of Blairmore. It's close to a doctor's office, drug stores, the mall, a grocery store, and the post office, a park, the pool, a beautiful river to listen to and main street Blairmore.

True, some residents of York Creek Lodge are bed bound but a good number like walking or scootering about. Some have families that can take them for walks in their wheelchairs while some are independent enough to travel on their own.

Our community has the oldest population in the province and I celebrate the federal and provincial governments for stepping up and building a new lodge. I would have loved for my mom to have lived in a new facility.

But they want to build this new facility up a hill in Coleman, far from anything, in the old trailer park by the Sports Complex that was initially torn down to make room for parking. Yet, this place is good enough for our seniors. Sure, there's a good view but the seniors I've spoken to say they'd rather a walk around the community than stare at pretty things out a window. It feels like we're shunting our seniors away on top of some hill.

These seniors might not be as self-possessed as they once were but remember that today's seniors were yesterday's leaders. They have worked, raised children and paid taxes in this community for many years. These same seniors built this community from the ground up. They deserve this facility. They deserve to spend the last part of their lives in a clean, safe and beautiful environment, close to amenities, close to the hub of the community.

There has been no official announcement on the exact location of the new lodge though provincial employees have confirmed that it will be built in Coleman but our sources have confirmed that the old trailer park is the place.

There has been a conspicuous lack of transparency from the Crowsnest Pass Senior Housing Board and the municipality on this issue.

The municipality would say nothing. York Creek Lodge wouldn't talk. If the people in charge of making important decisions insist on making them in the dark instead of using honesty and transparency, then maybe they shouldn't be making those decisions.

The Senior Housing Board's ad we ran a few weeks ago announcing the new lodge made no mention of the new location. Instead it focused on how the new lodge would be sustainable and green. Well, slow clap for the greenies but why did the ad fail to mention something as important as a plan to locate our seniors at the top of a hill?

Were the existing residents even consulted about the move? Were they told they were being sequestered away from anything? One source said to me, "It's fine," the seniors are provided three meals a day so really they don't need to leave. Are you kidding me? It's not a jail, this is their home and in some cases it'll be their last home.

If putting the seniors in Coleman is a money issue because the muicipality own the land, we need to rethink the plan. I don't care what it costs. We as a community can fundraise for a better spot. I would lead the fundraising myself. This is a priority. I don't care if we get a brand new pool. I would give all that up for our seniors to have a home in a centrally located place where they can access life.

This is not a Blairmore vs. Coleman vs. the rest of the Pass. This is an issue of what is best for our seniors and I highly doubt being put on a hill in Coleman is the answer.

Does the government of Alberta think this is the best place? Does council? I don't care if the Crowsnest Pass Senior Board thinks this is the best place and I don't care if the people running the lodge think this is the best place. It's not the best place for our seniors.

I suggest the people of the community stand up and say this is not right. They need to be vocal for the people who can't. When my mom was in long-term care I had many wonderful caregivers and many who were not. I often told the ones who were terrible that I hoped that when they get older, that they had someone like themselves to care for them. Karma can be fickle that way. God willing if we all live long enough to have to move away from our homes into these institutions. I pray for all our sakes' that it'll be located in a place that is central to help give us a modicum of independence.

Government leaders will come and go, municipal leaders and staff will come and go but a building can last a lifetime. I urge those making this important decision to remember that.

In the words of Mahatma Ghandi, *"A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members."*

Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

Events galloping along at Creston Flats Stables

BY FRANCES COLLISON

Joanne Peters runs Creston Flats Stables (CFS) and puts on gymkhanas in her huge indoor arena on Indian Road. These events include different kinds of horse racing like pole bending, figure eights, barrel racing and a dash for cash.

I have been to one of the gymkhana events to watch my sister, Erin Collison, on her own horse, Banjo. She is a loving, caring horse who loves attention. I had fun watching all the riders and events.

Peters also holds a variety of horse clinics, as well as cattle sorting. Sometimes in the summer, these events host barbecues as part of the event, with music. This makes them more enjoyable to watch and participate in.

She mainly offers western riding but also English riding at CFS. The stables have been running since 2008. On her 30 acres, she provides lessons for beginners all the way up to professionals, as well as horse boarding. She has an indoor arena (200 feet by 80 feet) for when the weather is bad, but enjoys the open outdoor arena more. It is hard to believe that Peters lives right next to the stables with her horses.

Submitted

Creston Flats Stables owner Joanne Peters (left) with this article's writer, Frances Collison.

Thirty-five years ago, Peters started her path with horses. She began training in Langford, Victoria and Chilliwack. She also trains with Jim Anderson, a two-time world champion, through the clinics.

Peters likes to start training horses using groundwork. She believes in building up a relationship of respect with the horse on the ground before getting in the saddle. In 2015, Peters won tenth in the world at the Extreme Cowboy Challenge competition in Texas.

The Creston Valley Blossom Festival is coming next week, and Peters is putting on an exciting event called the Extreme Cowboy Challenge on May 21 and 22. She sets up an obstacle course in the arena and the fastest riders get a chance to win prizes and money. The judges will come from Alberta and anyone can enter.

The CFS near Lower Wynndel Road is a beautiful place to ride horses. There are green grass, straight blue skies and sand filled arenas. There are large white fences housing her horses, plus the boarding ones. The indoor arena can be rented for private functions too. Horse lovers can enjoy all the many opportunities at Creston Flats Stables.

It is a wonderful place to watch many events. For music she has country, pop and rock. I enjoyed watching these events, which include a jackpot for the first, second and third place winners in each division. The jackpot allows riders to win prize money. You have to pay a fee to enter the gymkhana and those who run the fastest times win. Watching these events makes the Creston Flats Stables a better place to be!

For more information on CFS and its upcoming events, visit www.crestonflatsstables.com.

Come see us at the 2016 Blossom Festival
COWBOY CHALLENGE HORSE SHOW

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

Modern day voyageur honours veterans with epic trans-Canadian paddle

EZRA BLACK
Elk Valley Herald Reporter

A gregarious modern day voyageur made his way through the Elk Valley and into Crowsnest Pass last week on a cross-country voyage.

Wearing a birch bark hat and accompanied by his dog Spitzii, trans-Canadian paddler Mike Ranta hauled his canoe along Highway 3 before putting in at Crowsnest Lake on May 6.

The 44-year old is canoeing his way across the country to honour the nation's veterans and to raise funds for his hometown's youth centre.

"Next time you see a veteran, shake their hand, say thank you," said Ranta as he rested on the shores of the lake. "They didn't serve for the money, they served for our country."

Hailing from Atikokan, Ontario, which bulls itself as the "Canoeing Capital of Canada," Ranta's kevlar canoe is covered with the signatures of over a hundred veterans. More are collected from the servicemen and women in Royal Canadian Legions that he visits along the way.

In 2014, he crossed the North American continent solo, by canoe, in seven months. Canoe and Kayak magazine recognized the accomplishment as the longest solo canoe expedition in a single season in history.

"It was quite the haul," he said.

This time he wants to break his own record by reaching Dominion Beach in Cape Breton in six months.

Ranta left on the cross-country journey on April 1 from Richmond B.C. He battled strong currents on the Fraser River and faced an uphill battle after leaving Hope B.C. about two weeks ago.

A group of cadets gathered by the highway to greet him as he passed through Sparwood, B.C.

"They were clapping for me as I walked by," said Ranta. "All these kids clapping in uniform and I was taken aback by it. That's what I live for, that's what we have in Canada."

And now, with the continental divide behind him, it'll be a mostly downhill paddle through the river systems that will take him all the way to Winnipeg and beyond.

For the next leg of his journey, Ranta said he'd shoot down the Crowsnest River, portaging the Lundbreck Falls and paddling to Lethbridge.

Ranta said he'd be paddling through Ottawa to lay a specially crafted wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. He'd also like to drop by Hamilton and take Spitzii for a walk in at the Cpl. Nathan Cirillo Leash Free Area, a dog park named after the fallen reservist.

Herald staff photo

Mike Ranta and his dog Spitzii are paddling across the country in honour of veterans.

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Contact Rick Allen to discuss your project at **1.250.417.3665** or **1.800.505.8998.**

Learn more about this program at **cbt.org/recreationapply.**

Deadline for this intake is **Monday, July 11.**

Connect with us

cbt.org/recreationapply

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Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

Happy Cow is back in Sparwood

Herald staff photo

Tis' the season for ice cream. The Happy Cow ice cream truck is back at the Sparwood Chamber parking lot.

Coming events for Coalminer Days

JEFF CHAMBERS
Elk Valley Herald Reporter

There are many events and activities coming to the Elk Valley at the beginning of May to help kick-off Coal Miner Days and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sparwood.

Paint it Night is a fundraiser held at the Sparwood Recreation Centre on May 6. Local artist Sue Hanlon will be showing people every step involved in creating a painting with her expertise and guidance.

"This events theme is tulips, the cost is $45 for a drink, some food, a canvas, brushes and Sue will show attendees how to re-create a painting using her techniques. There will also be a bar so people can have a drink and paint at the same time," said Event Coordinator, Justine Bowen.

This will be the second Paint it Night held, with the first one a great success in February. Both events sold out with 40 attendees eager to learn a few things about the craft of painting.

"We are looking at running a third one in the fall and hope to see the same attendance."

Another event that will be taking place is an Anniversary Party and Cake Cutting on May 12. The party will be from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., followed by a Sock Hop Dance Later in the day from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

"May 12 will be the anniversary of the incorporation of Sparwood which happened in 1966. We are celebrating that day at the Chamber of Commerce so all of the kids from the high school and elementary school will come up although it is open to the public as well. We will be having a barbecue and we plan on doing an arial photograph as well. There will be a sock hop that evening at Frank J. Mitchell Elementary which is also open to the public. There will be prizes for the kids and decorations done by high school and elementary school kids," said Bowen

There are many events coming up in the near future so be sure to check your event calendars and help support the community by coming out and joining in the celebration.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

Conservation officer warns of chronic wasting disease

By Leah Scheitel
Free Press Staff

With the warmer temperature, more people are venturing outside for recreational activities, including hunting.

Currently it is open season for many species, including black bears and bearded turkeys. There are some things to be aware of before hunting, including obtaining a proper hunting license.

BC Conservation Officer, Frank deBoon, says there are regulations in place to protect B.C. wildlife, including a ban on bringing animal carcasses in from other provinces.

"From out of province, any ungulates, like moose, elk or deer, hunters can't bring any into B.C. They have to be cut and wrapped and then the antlers can be brought in but they need to be bleached out of the skull so there is no brain tissue that comes along," said deBoon.

This is protection from Chronic Wasting Disease, a disease similar to Mad Cow Disease.

"That is what most people relate it to. If it does reach B.C., there is just no way to stop it. Just animals coming into contact with each other can spread it or the pathogens can be dormant in the ground for 10 years or more so the animals feeding would pick it up," said deBoon.

Conservation officers regularly patrol the Alberta/B.C. border to check for people failing to respect this regulation. The disease spread into Alberta from Saskatchewan, and authorities are hoping to keep it out of B.C.

deBoon wants to remind anglers that fishing on the Elk River is currently closed to allow for spawning. However, fishing in lakes is permitted with fishing at Summit Lake on the Alberta/B.C. border is popular at this time of year.

Greenhills Operation receives safety trophy

Submitted

Teck's Greenhills Operations has been awarded the John T. Ryan National Safety Trophy as the safest coal mine in Canada for 2015. This is the third consecutive year that the Greenhills steelmaking coal operation has received the award, which goes to the mine that experienced the lowest reportable injury frequency per 200,000 hours worked in Canada.

"This award recognizes the hard work of employees at Greenhills Operations to ensure their safety and the safety of their coworkers," said Robin Sheremeta, Senior Vice President. "I commend everyone at Greenhills for this outstanding achievement, which demonstrates their commitment to achieving the goal of everyone going home safe and healthy every day."

This is the fifth time that Greenhills has received the John T. Ryan National Safety award since its inception.

Boats intercepted with zebra mussels

By Jeff Nagel
Black Press Staff

Authorities remain on high alert for invasive species after intercepting four boats in recent weeks that arrived in B.C. infested with live zebra mussels.

One contaminated boat was towed by a vehicle that failed to stop for inspectors on Apr. 28 near Elko, where many vacationers pass by while travelling through B.C. from southwestern Alberta and northwestern Montana.

A conservation officer tracked down the vehicle and diverted it back to the inspection station, said Chris Doyle, deputy chief of provincial operations for the B.C. Conservation Officer Service.

"The boat it was towing was found to have zebra mussels on it," Doyle said. "That watercraft was detained and impounded and as well the driver was charged for failing to stop at the inspection station."

Inspection teams have checked 1,200 boats so far this year. Of those, 64 were flagged as coming from high-risk locations, resulting in 12 decontaminations.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

Hungry for Life Gala celebrates 13 years

On the wall outside the Zanmitay Health Center in Grand Goave, Haiti, the plaque reads:

"Haiti Arise Ministries desires to express our sincere Gratitude and Honor to Dr. Robert and Jill Cutler and the Cranbrook Community for your Heart, Vision and Partnership in building and establishing The Zanmitay Sant Sante/ Friends Helping Friends Health Center to provide excellent health care and education to the communities of and around grand Goave Haiti. Dedicated on this Day, November 13th, 2014.

On February 3rd of this year, Dr. Cutler received the Governor General's

*see **Gala** page 4*

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On: **Wednesday, May 25, 2016**

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

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3 FACTS *You Need to Know About…*

Hunting Licenses

With MLA, ***Bill Bennett***

1 The government has launched a new online portal that will make it easier for hunters to access a number of services, such as limited-entry applications and, eventually, hunting and guide licenses.

2 The portal gives hunters access to apply for their resident hunting credentials and the new Fish and Wildlife Hunter ID. Hunters who want to apply in person can also continue to do so at Service BC, FrontCounter BC, or an authorized vendor.

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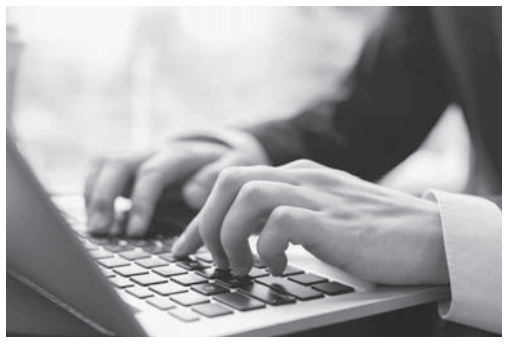

BRITISH COLUMBIA
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Boats intercepted with zebra mussels

by Jeff Nagel

Authorities remain on high alert for invasive species after intercepting four boats in recent weeks that arrived in B.C. infested with live zebra mussels.

One contaminated boat was towed by a vehicle that failed to stop for inspectors on April 28 near Elko, where many vacationers arrive in B.C. from southwestern Alberta and northwestern Montana.

A conservation officer tracked down the vehicle and diverted it back to the inspection station, said Chris Doyle, deputy chief of provincial operations for the B.C. Conservation Officer Service.

"The boat it was towing was found to have zebra mussels on it," Doyle said. "That watercraft was detained and impounded and as well the driver was charged for failing to stop at the inspection station."

Inspection teams have checked 1,200 boats so far this year. Of those, 64 were flagged as coming from high-risk locations, resulting in 12 decontamination orders and seven 30-day quarantines.

Bears emerging from their dens and searching for food continue to be a problem, particularly when people fail to secure their food and garbage, Doyle said.

He said conservation officers are continuing to respond to reports of "bear jams" where vehicles are stopped on a highway where people are deliberately feeding bears or taking photos.

Even when the bears aren't being fed there's concern that people in close proximity may make the bears habituated.

There have also been multiple complaints in Kitimat of grizzly bears feeding on garbage, he added.

He urges people not to remove fawns or other wildlife babies but instead contact conservation officers if there's reason to suspect they're abandoned.

Animal rescues are a regular part of the job for conservation officers.

One of the latest operations saw Kamloops officers join forces with local volunteers to retrieve 1,000 rainbow trout that had become stranded in a field after Jacko Lake flooded on April 24.

"Those live rainbow trout were all returned to Jacko Lake."

Hefty fines have been handed out in recent months against poachers who shot wildlife illegally.

About $2,500 in fines were issued to a group found hunting without licences April 29 in the Kispiox River area.

Another $5,800 in fines were handed out to two Lower Mainland men convicted of hunting deer in a closed season near Rose Prairie in 2013. Conservation officers used DNA evidence to link the poachers to the scene.

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Open House and Invitation to Comment

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The proposed Project is subject to review under British Columbia's *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Proponent must obtain an Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) before work can be undertaken on the proposed Project. Prior to the submission of an Application by the Proponent for an EAC, the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) must approve the Application Information Requirements for the proposed Project.

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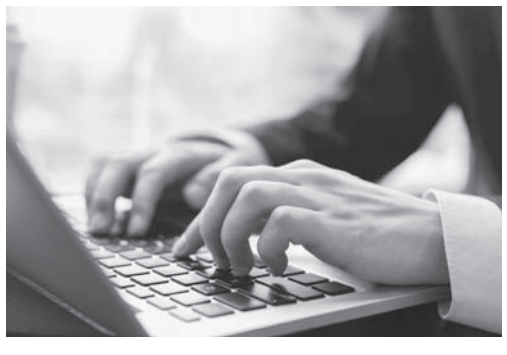

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LETTERS

In defence of dandelions

Dear Editor:

I wanted to respond to a letter last week written by Doug Tyson regarding this issue of Mecoprop being used in our community.

There was some interesting information presented in his letter that left me feeling more alarmed than ever before. To know that this chemical treatment being applied to our weeds is tested on animals, causing death to half (the animals) and likely severe problems and prolonged suffering to the rest, makes me wish such products were never invented or certainly not used because some people don't like a few unsightly dandelions (or other weeds growing amongst their grass).

To quote author Robert Fulghum: "Dandelions are everywhere and don't need us and kind of do what they please. So we call them 'weeds', and murder them at every opportunity. Well, I say they are flowers, and pretty fine flowers at that. And I am honoured to have them in my yard, where I want them. Besides, in addition to every other good thing about them (including the fact that bees favour them and the result is high-class honey), they are magic. You can blow their seeds off the stem and make a wish, or twine them nicely into a wreath for your friend's hair. I defy my neighbour to show me anything in his yard that compares with dandelions."

Our town is so innovative and forward-thinking that surely we could come up with a more natural way to reduce weeds and help put an end to chemical testing on animals.

I am also still not convinced that these animal-killing chemicals are as friendly as you make them out to be, Doug. Anything that can be sprayed once and have such a lasting impact to kill the weed for most of the season surely has to stick around for a while. And although, as you state, it requires very high doses of Mecoprop to kill the animals they test on, doesn't the accumulation of chemicals used by various people throughout the valley, region, province and country all leach into the same soil, the same groundwater, the same ecosystem and lead to a cumulative toxic effect? I, for one, would rather we simply not take a chance.

One last comment before I close. I would like to applaud the efforts of all employees at *The Pioneer* and *Echo* newspapers for working constant overtime trying to produce balanced and fair articles on the issues concerning our valley. It would appear you do a tremendous job trying to reach a variety of sources to provide us with such great newspapers and it's no doubt that, with such tight deadlines every week, not all stories might be to the best of your abilities. Cheers, for your hard work and commitment to our community!

Kind regards,

Jenny Hillman
Invermere

We want to hear from you

Email your letters to info@columbiavalleypioneer.com or visit our website at www.columbiavalleypioneer.com.

Mail your letters to Box 868, Invermere, V0A 1K0, or drop them in at #8, 1008-8th Avenue.

Letters to the editor should be sent only to The Pioneer, and not to other publications. We do not publish open letters or third-party letters.

Letters for publication should be no longer than 400 words, and must include the writer's address and phone numbers. No attachments, please.

Letters may be shortened for space requirements. We reserve the right to edit for space, clarity, civility and accuracy.

Please state your connection to the subject you're writing about so that readers can judge your credibility and motivation. Please ensure that the facts cited in your letter are accurate. You are entitled to your own heartfelt opinion, but not to your own facts. Errors of fact mean either that we can't run your letter or that we will have to run it with an accompanying correction.

Opinions expressed are those of the writer, not The Pioneer.

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NWP Coal Canada Ltd. (Proponent) is proposing to develop an open pit metallurgical coal mine in the Elk Valley, referred to as the Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project (proposed Project). The proposed Project would be located approximately 12 km northeast of Sparwood, British Columbia, and it is estimated that it would produce 3.7 million run-of-mine tonnes per year.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

Four artists featured

Whassup at Pynelogs

By Joey Vanderwel
Pioneer Columnist

Looking for a fantastic night out on the town? Head on down to Pynelogs Art Gallery this Thursday, May 19th and check out our bi-monthly art opening! The gallery opening runs from 7 until 9 p.m., and is located at the historic Pynelogs Art Gallery at Kinsmen Beach.

We have works hung by four featured artists: Rita Rankin (Northern Alberta), George Oliver (Invermere), Paula Cravens (New Denver), and Patrick Markle (Fernie), all of whom are fantastic and experimental in their treatment.

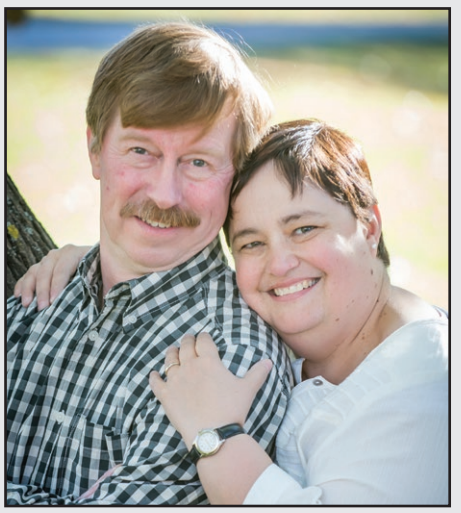
The breadth of the show will include portraiture, photography, pastel work, paintings, and p… well, sculpture. Get a cold beer or a glass of wine from our cash bar and spend the evening rubbing shoulders with our local artists. If you can't make the opening, there is no need to fear, this exhibit will be running from May 17th to May 29th with all pieces being available for purchase.

Still looking for that perfect Mother's Day gift? (You can only use the excuse that it's in the mail for so long!) We have a fantastic array of local products and printed cards available for purchase at our gift shop. Feel good knowing that your purchases are supporting local artists and craftspeople, and feel even better that you're getting unique one of a kind East Kootenay treasures. Remember to pick up a CV Arts Membership while you're here, and support great art in the Columbia Valley with ease-L.

Joey Vanderwel is the Assistant Gallery Curator at the Pynelogs Art Gallery and Cultural Centre. Email pynelogs@telus.net or call 250-342-4423.

Contractor can do it all

By James Rose
Special to The Pioneer



ON VALLEY TIME — David Webster of Fjordland Contracting has moved his business to the valley from Calgary with his wife Jolene. Photo submitted

After operating Fjordland Contracting for many years in Calgary, David Webster is glad to establish his company in the Columbia Valley as part of a full-time move to the warmer side of the Rocky Mountains that he and his wife recently made.

"My wife and I wanted to slow life down a little and we were familiar with the valley already as we have been coming out to the valley for the past 15 years, so for us it was either moving to the Columbia Valley or to the north end of Vancouver Island to semi-retire, and I think we made the right choice," Mr. Webster said with a laugh.

With experience working as site supervisor for a major Calgary homebuilder early in his career, Mr. Webster felt confident in the early 1990s to establish his own contracting company and forge ahead as an independent contractor.

"Nineteen ninety-three was when Fjordland was first established and I knew that even if I didn't have the expertise in a particular matter, that I could still reach out to the many contacts I already had in the business for help," Mr. Webster recalled. "Luckily, I tied in with a property management company within the first six to eight months on my own and they kept me busy with all their properties and homes over the years, as well as all my other clients, too."

Continued on page 29 . . .

Appendix B

Public Comments and Responses on the Draft Valued Components Document

VC-PC-# - Identifier for VC comments received by EAO during public comment period

Identifier	Source Organization	Theme	Comment	Response	Status of Issue/Concern
VC-PC-01	Personal Information Withheld	Cumulative effects, wildlife habitat, recreation	I cannot support a project of this scope in this area. We currently have five operational and ever growing coal mines in the Elk Valley which lead to a number of negative impacts on wildlife, the environment, and our ability to recreate. Critical ungulate winter range will be destroyed. High quality sheep, grizzly bear, and moose habitat will be lost. Travel corridors will be disrupted or eliminated. Access for all outdoor activities (hunting, hiking, snowmobiling and "ATV-ing" etc. will be gone. What about the Selenium issue? How can we add to that problem before a proven solution is implemented? At what point do we establish a threshold to the industrial activity within the Elk Valley? The cumulative effects of our existing logging and mining operations are piling up and they need to be dealt with, not multiplied.	Thank you for your comments. A wide range of baseline studies have been conducted in the Local Study Area to assess and characterize terrestrial habitat that may be impacted as a result of the proposed Project, which includes areas of ungulate winter range and travel corridors for wildlife. Existing conditions and potential impacts on wildlife will be described in detail in the Application as well as appropriate mitigation measures that will be implemented to reduce anticipated potential impacts. Surface water quality monitoring has been on-going since 2012 in various watercourses in the LSA to characterize existing water quality conditions. The proposed waste rock management strategy for the Project is focused on decreasing oxygen diffusion, inhibiting oxygen transport into the waste rock storage area, limiting water infiltration, lowering volumes of water seepage, and promoting selenium sequestration as a means of reducing the potential for selenium to be released to the aquatic environment. NWP believes that through good project design potential water quality issues can be managed effectively and in compliance with the ABMP. The assessment of cumulative effects will be a key component of the final Application. NWP Coal is currently a member of the Elk Valley CEMF. NWP Coal is committed to working with the CEMF, technical specialists, regulators, stakeholders, and First Nations to adequately assess cumulative effects that may occur as a result of the Project.	
VC-PC-02	Elk Valley Mountaineers	Recreation, land use, wildlife, fish habitat	To whom it may concern, This coal mine is a great concern to the Elk Valley Mountaineers. The Elk Valley Mountaineers is a Sparwood based snowmobile club. This club was founded in 1968 and has had a cabin and a land tenure at the base of Crown Mountain since 1969. Our club has worked very hard to minimize any effects on wildlife and the environment through the years and we are very proud of what we have accomplished. We respect the road closure and protect the waters of the valleys. This coal mine would affect a huge area, impacting both summer and winter activities, plus closing a corridor that would stop access to areas that are not accessible by any other ways. Plus this mine will effect all wildlife in the area were they want to have a load out spot is winter range for the elk. This mine will affect all the other wildlife in the area such as moose, grizzly bear just to name a few. We already have five mines in the area do you really think it is a good idea to put another one in that will close all of the back country off, please think of all the wildlife habitat you are destroying and the access that would be lost that people love to enjoy doing out in the back country such a hiking, snowmobiling, riding horses and quading.	Thank you for your comments. NWP Coal acknowledges the use and importance of the area to the Elk Valley Mountaineers. NWP Coal does not intend to restrict access to key areas used by recreationalists, with the exception of those areas where access may pose a threat to human and wildlife safety. NWP Coal is committed to working with local groups and stakeholders to ensure that the site is developed in a manner that maintains, as best as possible, access to recreational areas. Baseline studies have been completed to characterize existing terrestrial habitat within and surrounding the Project area and additional studies may be completed in the future. These have included furbearer surveys, aerials surveys for ungulates, and terrestrial ecosystem mapping. Information from these studies will be used to evaluate potential impacts of the Project on wildlife and wildlife habitat and will also be used to conduct cumulative effects assessments if residual effects of the Project are anticipated on wildlife.	

VC-PC-# - Identifier for VC comments received by EAO during public comment period

Identifier	Source Organization	Theme	Comment	Response	Status of Issue/Concern
VC-PC-03	Sparwood & District Fish & Wildlife Association	Wildlife, recreation, selection of Valued Components, potential impacts, visual aesthetics, Project components and infrastructure, study areas	The SDFWA are extremely disappointed in the location proposed by NWP for the rail and load out facility. The Grave Prairie lands are part of the Grave Prairie Wildlife Enhancement Plan established in 1988 and to which significant public funding and resources have been allocated for the protection and management of the critical habitat these lands present. Our wildlife cannot continue to lose quality winter range in the Elk Valley. Further, it is our understanding that neither the land owner nor the Ktunaxa Nation supports the development by NWP on these lands. Finally, it has come to our attention that NWP have suggested several options for alternate locations for the facilities, none of which are presented in the Project Description, evaluated with regard to their potential impact to valued components (VC's) or described in enough detail to understand their feasibility. In the absence of clarity of where the rail and load out facility and supporting infrastructure will be located, neither an informed decision of what the VC's should be considered nor the potential for the project to interact with those VC's can be made. NWP have not presented a complete project and should be required to do so before further question or comment is made or process is advanced. Regarding the VC's selected by NWP (Table 4) we offer the following: - The LSA as defined for Air, Aquatic, Terrestrial and Socio-economic are in our opinion too broad (i.e. not reflective of local effects potential); the result of this will be a diluted effects assessment. - We request a realignment of these LSA's to reflect the local scale effects that the assessment should report on -As the project will completely remove valley bottom access to an important migration corridor by wildlife and farther ranging carnivores, connectivity is not adequately addressed as a critical VC. - Connectivity needs to be an endpoint Landscape VC, specifically in regards to Grizzly bears, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goats, Wolves, and Wolverines. - The project is located in one of the few relatively undeveloped valleys in the region. As such recreational quality and experience are important to our group. Air Quality as a VC does not adequately consider the impact that this "greenfield" project will have on visual impacts. -Visual effects need to be included as an endpoint VC -Wolves will be impacted by the project. The west Alexander is an important corridor for movement and the development proposed will focus wolf into more concentrated areas in the valley. - Wolves should be considered an endpoint VC -It is not clear how Environmental Flow Needs (EFN) will be considered as an endpoint for the project. The Water Sustainability Act of BC requires that EFN be considered. - EFN needs to clearly be indicated as an endpoint VC -With respect to water quality, the proposed spoil is experimental and does not adequately address further leeching of selenium and nitrates into our watershed. Two significant drainages are to be impacted by this project. Recreational opportunity is extremely important to our group. The mine site including load out and canyon haul route are in a very traditional areas for fishermen, hunters and other outdoor users. We stand to lose angling access to Harriet & Wilemena lakes, and quality hunting experiences for many valued species. The sustainability of waterways, wildlife and habitat in the Elk Valley is a major concern and as such we simply cannot support this project.	Thank you for your comments on the Project and the Valued Components document. Alternatives for the Project will be presented in the Environmental Assessment Application and discussed thoroughly, including alternative locations for infrastructure, including the rail loadout. An in-depth presentation of project alternatives is beyond the scope of the Project Description and the Valued Components for Environmental Assessment Document. A discussion of alternatives will be provided in the Application; once more thorough engineering and other relevant studies have been performed. Regarding comments regarding selected VCs: - The terrestrial and aquatic Local Study Areas were chosen based on the layout of the proposed Project and those areas that may experience changes or impacts as a result of the Project. For the aquatic LSA, watercourses that have an immediate potential to be directly or indirectly impacted by the Project were selected as part of the LSA and have been and will continue to be monitored to establish existing environmental conditions. The terrestrial LSA includes habitat areas that may experience changes at an ecosystem level as well as changes in the connectivity between ecosystems, such as migration corridors. - Connectivity was not selected as a VC as it is a component of wildlife habitat that can be used to evaluate habitat availability and distribution. Potential changes in habitat connectivity for both aquatic and terrestrial species will be used as a measurement indicator to evaluate potential changes in selected VCs. Potential changes in connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species may indicate changes in the quality of habitat for species. - Visual quality is a selected VC for the Project. Measurement indicators for this VC include view corridors and visual quality, which includes potential changes to air quality. - Wolves were not selected as a VC for the Project. The exclusion of this species is consistent with other Projects in the area. Potential concerns related to this species will be addressed under assessment of other mammals, including wolverine and lynx. - An instream flow needs assessment will be completed as part of aquatic baseline studies. We agree that this is an important component of the aquatic environment to characterize. Surface water quantity is indicated as a measurement indicator for the Aquatic Health VC. NWP Coal acknowledges the use and importance of the area to recreationalists and does not intend to restrict access to key areas, with the exception of those areas where access may pose a threat to human and wildlife safety. NWP Coal intends to work with local groups to establish open communication of the Project and proposed closures during construction and operations.	

VC-PC-# - Identifier for VC comments received by EAO during public comment period

Identifier	Source Organization	Theme	Comment	Response	Status of Issue/Concern
VC-PC-04	Ryland Nelson, Fernie, British Columbia	Project components and infrastructure, Project timeline	Wildsight abstains from commenting. This project footprint is not certain i.e. access and loadout. Different locations would change the valued components. We also feel this is not appropriate timing or location.	Thank you for commenting. NWP Coal appreciates the feedback on the Project. The final proposed Project footprint will be presented in the EA Application, as well as alternatives that were considered for the Project.	
VC-PC-05	Personal Information Withheld	Potential impacts, wildlife habitat, fish habitat, recreation, land use	I am against this crown mountain mine project for numerous reasons such as major wildlife winter ranges between grave lake, grave prairie, grave creek canyon, and crown mountain itself will be destroyed, the pollution of water coming from grave creek and Alexander creek, and access for any valley sportsmen or recreational users will be destroyed. Crown mountain has its own closure to any motorized vehicle right? Now you tell me what the purpose of this closure is... Conservation of land, wildlife and vegetation? So how is it okay for this to be abused for a chunk of coal? What is going to happen to wildlife? The grave creek canyon is a major highway for all big game animals to access the elk valley, Alexander valley, and the Ericson valley. How will you keep grave creek and Alexander creek from being polluted? Many of us drink the water that flows by the Elk Valley Mountaineers cabin right below crown mountain. Would you drink it after this mine started? The Elk Valley mountaineers thrive in this exact area on crown mountain and Alexander valley. The cabin has been there since 1969, well maintained, clean, and very user friendly. Same for the trail systems that the club built, maintained and kept clean since the same date. The amount of snow that accumulates on crown mountain varies from 8-12 feet depending on the winter, which makes for a very high spring runoff. I do not know how you're going to fit, a gas line, power line, haul road, and whatever else in that canyon, while managing that extreme of a run off that comes through that canyon, without polluting the water. The walls of that canyon sluff every year due to the run off. As a valley sportsman, I hunt, fish, and use the land for all recreation purposes in this elk valley. Between the towns of Sparwood and Elkford, the grave creek canyon is the ONLY playground we have on the east side of this valley. You take that away from us then what do we have? A straight wall where all 5 Teck mines and this new mine will be all touching each other border to border. This mine will ruin so many things, for wildlife, fish, water qualities, and us people. It will be taking away a huge piece of history from this valley as well. There will be an unlimited amount of unhappy campers if this were to go through. All these topics need to be addressed closely.	Thank you for your comments on the Project. NWP Coal acknowledges the importance of terrestrial and aquatic resources in the Elk Valley and is committed to reducing the potential for impacts to these resources over the course of the Project. A wide range of baseline studies have been completed and others are planned to be undertaken to characterize wildlife and fish habitat within and surrounding the Project to allow for an in-depth analysis of potential Project impacts. NWP Coal is committed to meeting the requirements of the Elk Valley Area Based Management Plan over the course of the Project and intends to monitor water quality regularly to assess contaminants of concern in watercourses surrounding the Project, including Grave Creek and Alexander Creek. Construction and operation of the Project are not likely to result in impacts to the Elk Valley Mountaineers cabin east of the Project area. NWP Coal intends to maintain access to backcountry areas over the course of the Project, with the exception of areas that may pose concerns to public safety. NWP Coal is aware of the potential hazards in the area, including avalanche chutes and watercourses that experience high melt waters during the spring freshet. The Project will be designed and constructed in a way that takes these hazards, as well as others, into account to ensure public safety, as well as the safety of the environment (including fish species and wildlife). NWP Coal is aware that some areas are used for recreational purposes. The intent is not to restrict access to key areas, with the exception of those areas where access may pose a threat to human and wildlife safety. NWP Coal intends to work with local groups to establish open communication of the Project and proposed closures during construction and operations.	
VC-PC-06	Scott Kozler	Wildlife habitat	Local government and wildlife organizations have closed the top of Crown Mountain because of its wildlife value. Now we want to completely ignore the importance of its value for a coal mine. This area is of great importance to what we have left in any natural habitat. Great care must be taken as our wildlife are in need of historical migration routes to maintain herd health with natural breeding selection.	Thank you for your comments. NWP Coal acknowledges the importance of this area to wildlife and migration corridors, and the existence of the Access Management Area you refer to. Several baseline studies have been completed to characterize existing terrestrial conditions in the area and a detailed assessment of potential impacts and effects will be completed and presented in the Application. NWP Coal is committed to the development of mitigation and monitoring programs to reduce potential impacts to wildlife and existing migration corridors used by wildlife in the area.	

VC-PC-# - Identifier for VC comments received by EAO during public comment period

Identifier	Source Organization	Theme	Comment	Response	Status of Issue/Concern
VC-PC-07	Scott Kozler	Recreation, land use and access	This is the last valley that is usable for hunters and recreation access. From the Fording River Mine to Coal Mountain, all access to the east is closed in some shape or form. Crown Mountain Coal is wanting to use a narrow canyon that cannot handle two roads. If the canyon is used for the mine only, this will stop any recreation access to behind Grave Lake mountain, Soap Creek, Nine Mile, Northfork Pass, West Alexander and in between.	NWP Coal acknowledges the use of the area by recreationalists and hunters and NWP Coal intends to maintain access to backcountry areas over the course of the Project, with the exception of areas that may pose concerns to public, wildlife, and/or worker safety. The team recognizes that the Grave Creek valley is narrow and does provide challenges for a new road if built along the north side of the creek. NWP Coal is currently evaluating options to expand and use the existing road by providing proper operational safeguards, and will be discussing any alternatives it deems appropriate with interested parties.	
VC-PC-08	Scott Kozler	Recreation, land use and access, safety	The Elk Valley Mountaineers (Snowmobile club in Sparwood) has a land tenure at the base of Crown Mountain and has not been notified in any way. The club has a cabin in the area and has maintained a trail system for approximately 46 years in that area. Common courtesy of a notification or a meeting in regards to the safety concerns of the mine would be wise.	Thank you for your comments on cabins and trails in the area. The Elk Valley Mountaineers land tenure occurs to the east of the Project coal license tenures. NWP Coal intends to provide notification of Project activities that have the potential impact local recreation users in the area. Information will also be released on the NWP Coal website. NWP Coal does not intend to restrict access; however, during construction key areas of the main Project area may be restricted for public safety concerns. During the Application stage of the environmental assessment, NWP Coal will hold an open house to discuss the project with the public and potential access restrictions.	
VC-PC-09	Scott Kozler	Wildlife habitat, moose, cumulative effects	Crown Mountain is important Moose habitat. Our moose populations are suffering with no known cause. The cumulative effect of industry in the Elk Valley has already had serious effects on water, wildlife, and other habitat. To open another mine in an important wildlife area would be unwise. We need to keep some natural areas natural until such a time as we understand and stabilize our moose populations.	Thank you for your comments on moose. NWP Coal acknowledges the presence of moose and moose habitat within and surrounding the Project area. Baseline studies have been completed to characterize existing terrestrial ecosystems within and surrounding the Project and these will be presented and discussed in the Application. NWP Coal will complete detailed impact and effects assessments to evaluate the potential impacts of the Project on wildlife species and is also committed to working with the Elk Valley Cumulative Effects Management Framework as well as technical specialist, regulators, stakeholders, and First Nations to adequately assess potential cumulative effects on wildlife that may occur as a result of the Project.	

VC-PC-# - Identifier for VC comments received by EAO during public comment period

Identifier	Source Organization	Theme	Comment	Response	Status of Issue/Concern
VC-PC-10	Personal Information Withheld	Cumulative effects, selenium, wildlife habitat, dust	The possibility of another coal mine in the Elk Valley is absolutely sickening. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. Is it the almighty dollar? The loss of habitat for wildlife and loss of recreational areas due to logging and mining are happening at an alarming rate. Crown Mountain is a major movement corridor for wildlife breeding of bighorn sheep, mountain goats and especially the declining grizzly bears. All tributaries from Crown Mt end up in the Elk River which already has high selenium levels due to mining and presently there does not seem to be a solution. The Elk River is a known world class river that brings thousands of tourist dollars to the community. Crown Mountain is used by many recreational groups. The Elk Valley Mountaineers have held a tenure on Crown Mt since 1968. Crown Mt also is a pathway for the Trans Rockies Mountain Bike race. It is a pristine area for hikers, campers, ATV's, snowmobilers but mostly for its spectacular views. There are areas on Crown Mt where you can view for miles into Alberta, all the way north to the Fording. Has any EA personnel actually toured Crown Mountain, Grave Creek, Grave Prairie, etc. Within the last 3 to 4 months the coal dust is so visible hanging over the Elk Valley, especially if travelling on Highway 3, approximately 14 kms east of Sparwood. If anyone was looking for a small community to retire in, this would be the last choice. Please just come out to the area, tour the beauty of Crown Mountain, the animal habitat before you consider another coal mine. Please consider the wildlife, water quality, air quality. This area cannot sustain another coal mine.	The purpose of the EA process is to directly address issues the question of whether or not the area can sustain another coal mine. With existing selenium and wildlife concerns, there is a high bar for the Crown Mountain Project and projects that are proposing to construct new and/or expanded mining operations. The EA will provide a comprehensive and lengthy description of how a potential mining operation can extract resources and not adversely affect the environment. If NWP Coal is to succeed in acquiring approval to operate a mine in the Elk Valley, we must propose methods that are new to the area and do not simply repeat what has already occurred (and the associated effects). NWP Coal has much evaluation, engineering, and design work to do before it can determine even if an Application will be submitted. Comments from the public and stakeholders, such as you, will be invaluable as we move through the environmental assessment process. NWP Coal acknowledges the importance of the area for wildlife movement and the presence of wildlife corridors, as well as the diverse set of fish species supported by the Elk River. Baseline studies have been completed for the Project that characterize existing conditions of a variety of terrestrial and aquatic species and this information will be used to complete detailed impact and effects assessments and determine if the Project has the potential to impact these natural resources. NWP Coal is committed to reducing the potential for impacts to the natural environment as well as meeting the requirements of the Elk Valley Area Based Management Plan over the course of the Project. NWP Coal is aware that some areas are used for recreational purposes. The intent is not to restrict access to key areas, with the exception of those areas where access may pose a threat to human and wildlife safety. NWP Coal intends to work with local groups to establish open communication of the Project and proposed closures during construction and operations. An baseline air quality assessment will be completed for the Project to determine existing air quality conditions. An air quality monitoring plan will also be developed for the Project and discussed in the Application, and will outline commitments to reducing the potential for dust generation.	
VC-PC-11	Guy Gioia	Wildlife habitat, land use and access	I am AGAINST The Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project! It is Prime Big Horn Sheep range and also a migratory route for Elk, and deer through their winter range. I do not want this area disturbed! We will lose access on the entire west side of the Elk Valley from HWY #3 to the north side of Line Creek.	Thank you for your comment. Baseline studies were conducted within and surrounding the Project area to characterize existing big horn sheep habitat. These studies included multi-season ungulate aerial surveys. Information collected as part of the baseline surveys will be used to assess potential impacts the Project may have on big horn sheep, as well as other ungulates. The evaluation will include and assessment of migration routes and habitat connectivity. As noted previously NWP Coal is aware that some areas are used for recreational purposes, including hunting. The intent is not to restrict access to key areas, with the exception of those areas where access may pose a threat to human and wildlife safety. NWP Coal intends to work with local groups to establish open communication of the Project and proposed closures during construction and operations.	

VC-PC-# - Identifier for VC comments received by EAO during public comment period

Identifier	Source Organization	Theme	Comment	Response	Status of Issue/Concern
VC-PC-12	Personal Information Withheld	Surface water quality, fish habitat, wildlife habitat, dust, recreation, land use and access, safety, reclamation	Effects to water quality is a huge concern for both the Health and Environment pillars. Another source of selenium, nitrates and other toxins to our water system is unacceptable. We do not yet understand the success of water treatment efforts underway at other Valley mines. Determine the effectiveness of these processes before approving another mine. Fish and wildlife effects from this proposal will be negative. Both Alexander Creek and Grave Creek drainages will be affected with the addition of mine infrastructure. These are important wildlife corridors. Grave Prairie is the primary wintering area for ungulates. The addition of infrastructure, roads etc. will adversely affect the habitat. Sediment load in the creeks flowing from this project will increase, especially during peak flows. At times they will exceed the guidelines put forth by government. Ultimately this will have a negative impact to fish and other aquatic life downstream. Dusting will be significant and is overlooked when out of sight of local communities. Mining and dumping activities generate dust. High winds, which are common in the Valley, carry that dust long distances. Coal stockpiling at multiple locations will generate dust. Dust suppression by watering roadways only curtails a small portion of the dusting problem. Do we need another source of mine dust in the Valley? Recreational opportunities will become restricted. Safety concerns for the Public and workers will dictate these restrictions. Company concerns related to liability will support restrictions. Ultimately this will reduce opportunity for back country use by recreationalists, including snowmobilers, anglers, hunters, ATV users, and a host of other visitors currently accessing the area. Other commercial land use, such as Trapping will be affected by this project. Impacts to fur bearer habitat, access restrictions, water quality concerns dust, noise will have adverse impacts. My concerns about this project are numerous. There are currently 5 operating mines in the Valley, with applications in place for expansion pending approval. There are associated water quality issues that need to be fully understood. Water treatment needs to be proven successful before we move forward approving another mine. Mine closure reclamation plans need to be realized. We haven't seen a mine completely decommissioned and the intended land use values demonstrated, as of yet. The issues around reclamation bonds and how this is managed needs to be understood. The BC taxpayer could be on the hook for this work. Politics have been known to overrule environmental recommendations - this needs to be resolved. The Valued Components Report is well done. I expect it meets all of the required guidelines. Regardless, for the reasons discussed above I do not support this project. Thank you for the opportunity to respond.	NWP Coal agrees that water quality is an important consideration in the Elk Valley and relevant to both the health and environmental pillars, as well as the economic and social pillars. NWP Coal is committed to using an effective waste rock management strategy that reduces the potential for the release of selenium, nitrate, cadmium, and sulphate (and other water quality parameters) and successfully reduces impacts to local watercourses and aquatic resources. The effectiveness of NWP Coal's proposed approach to waste rock management will be discussed with stakeholders, technical specialists, and regulators and will be presented in detail in the Application, with its effectiveness being proven prior to implementation on site. If NWP Coal cannot submit a plan to operate a mine and waste rock management within the requirements of the ABMP, it will not submit a plan at all. Our intent is to utilize spoil and refuse disposal methods that do not allow the type of water quality degradation the Elk Valley has witnessed to-date. NWP Coal acknowledges the array of aquatic and terrestrial resources in the area and is committed to reducing potential impacts to these resources that are associated with the Project. Baseline studies have been completed to characterize existing environmental conditions, including fish and terrestrial species, and several more studies will be completed. Detailed mitigation measures and monitoring programs will be presented in the Application and implemented over the course of the Project to reduce the potential for sedimentation of creeks and disturbance to wildlife corridors. In addition, dust suppression and reduction strategies will also be presented in the Application and used regularly over the course of the Project. Our design will guarantee significant mitigation regarding dust: we have no open stockpile at the loadout area (only an enclosed silo) and our wash plant will be located at the mine site instead of in the valley bottom. In addition, our mining plan is to maximize the use of ripping versus blasting (i.e., less blasting means lower dust generation and importantly a lower potential for nitrate generation). The project team is aware that the area is used for a variety of recreational purposes, including hunting and trapping, and with that in mind, NWP Coal will work with stakeholders, such as recreationalists over the course of the Project to limit impacts associated with potential temporary or permanent closures of access routes. NWP Coal acknowledges the use and importance of the area to recreationalists and does not intend to restrict access to key areas, with the exception of those areas where access may pose a threat to human and wildlife safety. Potential impacts to recreational and commercial land use in the area will be assessed in detail in the Project Application. NWP Coal acknowledges the importance of mine closure plans and proper site decommissioning. The Application will detail proposed decommissioning and reclamation plans for the Project and NWP Coal is committed to preparing and implementing a site-specific approved plan for the Crown Mountain site. NWP Coal is also committed to working with appropriate agencies to ensure suitable levels of bonding are associated with the Project. The Application will also provide details regarding the waste rock management strategy including an assessment on potential impacts to water quality and proposed mitigative measures. Thank you for your comments on the Project and the VC document.	

VC-PC-# - Identifier for VC comments received by EAO during public comment period

Identifier	Source Organization	Theme	Comment	Response	Status of Issue/Concern
VC-PC-13	Personal Information Withheld	Wildlife habitat, project components and infrastructure, dust, visual aesthetics, surface water quality, cumulative effects	I am against the proposed coal mine in the Crown Mountain area for a number of reasons. The most obvious concerns are related to the mines plans for a load out on Grave Prairie. This is not acceptable. Grave Prairie is key winter range, and historically significant for First Nations. It is also on private land set aside for conservation. The mine plan calls for power, gas, mine access, and a large haul road that also goes through this conservation land. The Grave Creek canyon cannot support this infrastructure. It is a major corridor for Bighorn Sheep, and Mountain Goats among others. The north side of the creek where the proposed road would be is prime Bighorn winter range. A busy haul road would restrict wildlife. Outdoor users would also be affected and likely lose access. Public safety on the road to Grave Lake and through the canyon would be compromised by mine traffic. The area sees lots of traffic from hunters and other groups. Dust, noise, and visual pollution on Grave Prairie and through the canyon would be a concern. The mine site itself presents a number of issues as well. The plan for water seems weak and not sustainable long term. The location of the proposed pond is prime moose habitat at a time when the BC government is just starting a moose recovery plan. Water quality is a major concern in the Elk Valley. The plan to restrict selenium from entering Alexander Creek is experimental and cannot guarantee more pollution in this water shed. Grizzly bear numbers are down 40% in this area, and this mine site is in excellent bear country. In addition connectivity would be greatly affected at the mine site and canyon. The Elk Valley has five major coal mines, heavy logging on both private and public lands and a number of environmental concerns as a result. The addition of more coal mines is not sustainable, and not compatible with healthy wildlife habitat, connectivity, and water quality. The BC government needs to put more worth into these things and quit catering to industry. The EA should determine that this mine is not acceptable, and the government must not overrule.	Thank you for your comments on the Project. NWP Coal is aware of the significance of the Grave Prairie area to the Ktunaxa. The Project lay out presented in the Project Description and the VC document is conceptual only and may change for the EA Application, pending further studies such as an Archaeological Impact Assessment. As mentioned in previous comment responses, NWP Coal acknowledges the presence of wildlife corridors in the area and is committed to working with stakeholders, regulators, and First Nations to develop mitigation strategies to reduce potential impacts of the Project on wildlife movement, and importantly, to perform post-mining reclamation in a manner designed to enhance wildlife habitat for the long term. Access to the site and linear support infrastructure (power, gas) would follow established routes and would not be expected to result in significant impacts to conservation lands. The Grave Creek valley provides some challenges for a new road if built along the north side of the creek, and as a result NWP Coal is currently evaluating options to expand and use the existing road; any such alternative will be discussed with all affected parties well before an Application is submitted. NWP Coal intends to maintain access to backcountry areas over the course of the Project, with the exception of areas that may pose concerns to public, wildlife, and/or worker safety. NWP Coal is committed meeting the requirements of the Elk Valley Area Based Management Plan over the course of the Project. The Project's approach to waste rock management is expected to reduce the potential for release of various constituents such as selenium and it is intended to meet the strict requirements of the ABMP. In addition, a detailed surface water management plan and monitoring program will be presented in the Application and will describe how surface water will be managed and monitored during for the duration of the Project. The final Application will be extensive and evaluate potential effects to terrestrial and aquatic habitats as well as existing land use. The Application will also include a detailed assessment of potential cumulative effects.	
VC-PC-14	Personal Information Withheld	Cumulative effects, surface water quality, project components and infrastructure, wildlife habitat, land use and access	Regarding the Crown Mountain Coal project, I am concerned both on a level specific to this project, as well as on the broad scale considering how this will contribute to the cumulative effects here in the Elk Valley. The Elk Valley has five existing coal mines, and four proposals for other projects including Crown Mountain. The Elk Valley also has a large tract of privately owned land held by Canwell (Jemi Fibre), who are currently clear cutting at an alarming rate. The Elk valley has three communities, with a high demand placed on the environment through motorized recreation. The question arises as to what government values, or wants to continue to see on our landscape? Is it full out mining and development, or will the environment and wildlife be considered. I believe we are already past the balance with the five current mines, logging, development, etc. and an additional mine would demonstrate governments disregard for wildlife and the environment. Recently, Garth Mowatt and Clayton Lamb released a study indicating the southern Rockies gbpu was down 40% from 2006. Recommendations were to study non-hunting mortality, make bear spray	Understanding and assessing cumulative effects are very important in the Elk Valley and NWP Coal is committed to participating and using the Elk Valley Cumulative Effects Management Framework to determine potential cumulative effects associated with the Project. Baseline information collected for the Project, including social and economic information as well as information on the natural environment (e.g., terrestrial and aquatic environments) will help to inform impact and effects assessments related to the Project and potential cumulative effects. NWP Coal intends to work with stakeholders, regulators, and First Nations to gain insight into concerns related to the Project and gather feedback on best approaches to mitigating potential impacts. NWP Coal cannot speak to the government's stance on grizzly bear or the resource industry. NWP Coal's goal is to responsibly construct and operate a coal mine in the Elk Valley, which includes a responsibility to reduce potential impacts to the physical and social environments.	

VC-PC-# - Identifier for VC comments received by EAO during public comment period

Identifier	Source Organization	Theme	Comment	Response	Status of Issue/Concern
			mandatory, and use electric fences. The results of the study will likely affect the annual allowable harvest for hunters as well, yet here we are with more coal mine proposals and roads being built for logging. Does government truly want to continue seeing grizzly bears on the landscape, or is further resource extraction the priority? The real issue here is secure habitat, not mandatory bear spray. Responsible coal mining would be to determine the tonnage that can be sustainably extracted from the Elk Valley, and not exceed that. New projects would only be considered when current reserves were exhausted. Water quality is of huge concern. The selenium treatment plant at Line Creek has not proved its effectiveness. It is still the only plant operating. How can we start another mine when we haven't got control of the current situation? Now on issues specific to Crown Mountain here are a few concerns. The infrastructure and haul road go through prime Bighorn sheep winter range. The mining operation and spoil area is productive range for grizzly bears, elk, sheep, goats, and moose etc. The loss of habitat cannot be mitigated. The operation is located in the north end of Alexander Creek, and obstructs that corridor necessary for wildlife movement, and identified as a key grizzly bear movement area. The proposed load out area is on wildlife winter range, as well as Teck's Conservation Lands. In fact the canyon where power, gas, and the haul road are located is all in the Teck conservation lands. This kind of development would not be compatible with the values the conservation lands are trying to maintain. The area is popular with locals for hunting and other forms of recreation. Access will be greatly affected. The lifestyle of residents will be negatively affected by further displacement from the landbase.	As with cumulative effects, NWP Coal is fully aware of concerns around water quality. As mentioned in the previous comment response, NWP Coal is committed to using an effective waste rock management strategy that reduces the potential for the release of selenium, nitrate, cadmium, and sulphate and successfully reduces impacts to local watercourses and aquatic resources. The effectiveness of NWP Coal's proposed approach to waste rock management will be discussed with and will be presented in detail in the Application. NWP Coal agrees that it is important to prove the effectiveness of a strategy before implementation and intends to work with stakeholders, technical specialists, and regulators to ensure the proposed approach to waste rock management will work and be effective in the Elk Valley. On that note, if NWP Coal cannot design a project that meets the requirements of the ABMP, then an Application will not be submitted. Potential impacts to wildlife including ungulates and grizzly bear will be evaluated in the Application. The assessment will include evaluations of potential changes to wildlife movement and corridors. With respect to your mention of "Teck conservation lands", we are well aware of this issue and will be working with all interested parties, including Teck, to attempt to find the best situation whereby the project can proceed without adversely affecting the issues you described. For example, the rail loadout (as currently proposed) will be directly adjacent to the existing rail line, in an already previously cut for timber. There will be no coal stockpile at this site and instead a completely enclosed silo. If the rail load out location is proposed, there are several key studies required to determine if the location is suitable without compromising the issues you and others have presented. The area is used for a variety of recreational purposes, including hunting and trapping, and with that in mind, NWP Coal will work with stakeholders, including recreationalists over the course of the Project to limit impacts associated with potential temporary or permanent closures of access routes. NWP Coal acknowledges the use and importance of the area to recreationalists and does not intend to restrict access to key areas, with the exception of those areas where access may pose a threat to human and wildlife safety.	

Appendix C

Open House Posters

Welcome

Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project

Public Open House

May 25, 2016
Causeway Bay Hotel
4:00 - 8:00 pm

NWP Coal Canada Ltd

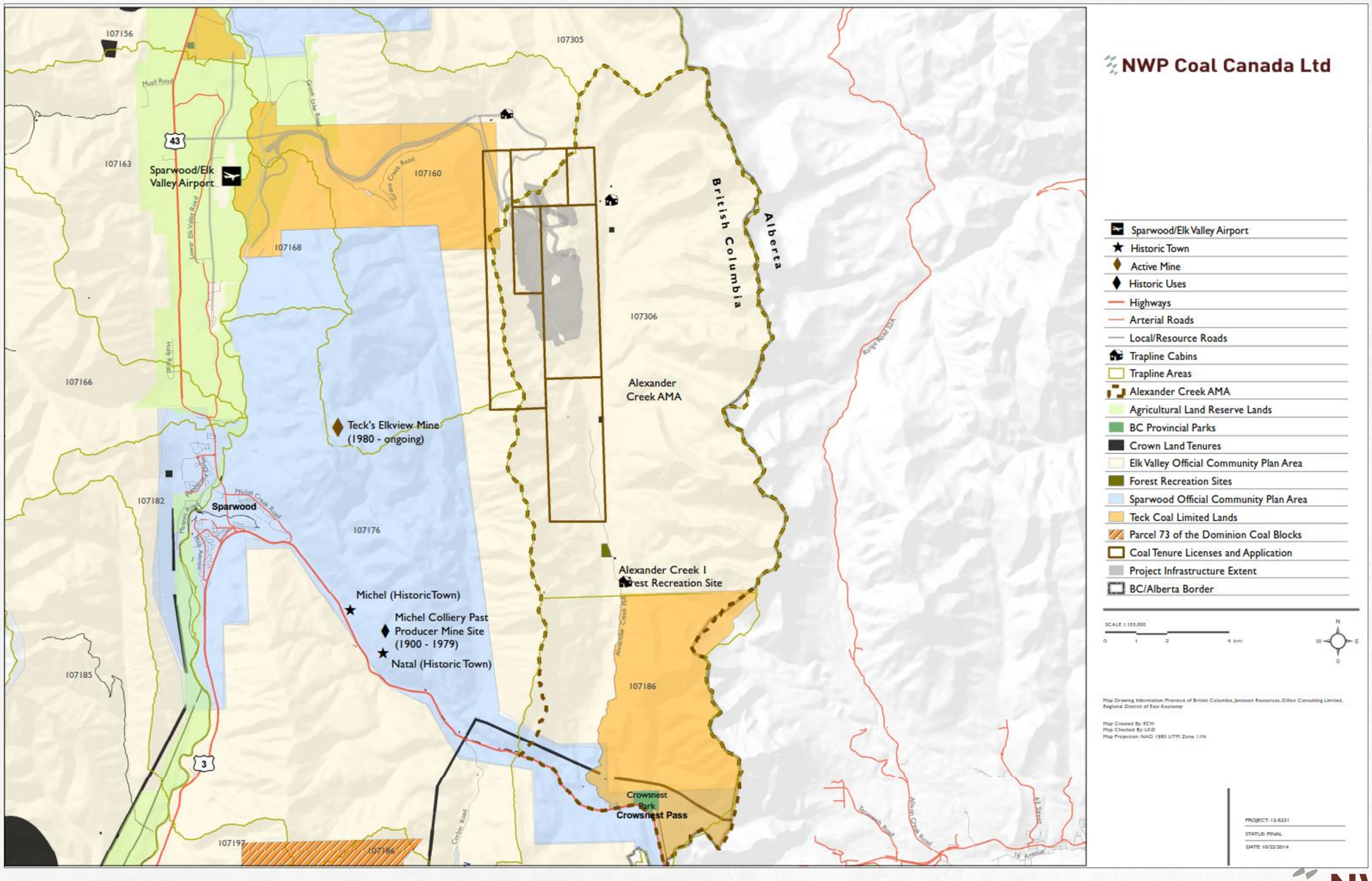
Purpose of the Open House

Why Are We Here Today?

- NWP Coal Canada Ltd. (NWP Coal) is proposing to develop a new open pit metallurgical coal mine in the Elk Valley coal field.
- The proposed Project is subject to review under British Columbia's *Environmental Assessment Act*, as well as the federal *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.
- As part of the provincial Application Information Requirements (AIR), NWP Coal, with input from agencies, First Nations, stakeholders and the public, must identify **Valued Components**
- **Valued Components** (VCs) are environmental, economic, social, heritage, and health components that may experience potential effects as a result of the proposed Project
- VCs are outlined in the "Valued Components for Environmental Assessment" document, which details components to be studied and the areas in which the studies would occur

NWP Coal would like to hear your comments and respond to your questions on the Valued Components Document

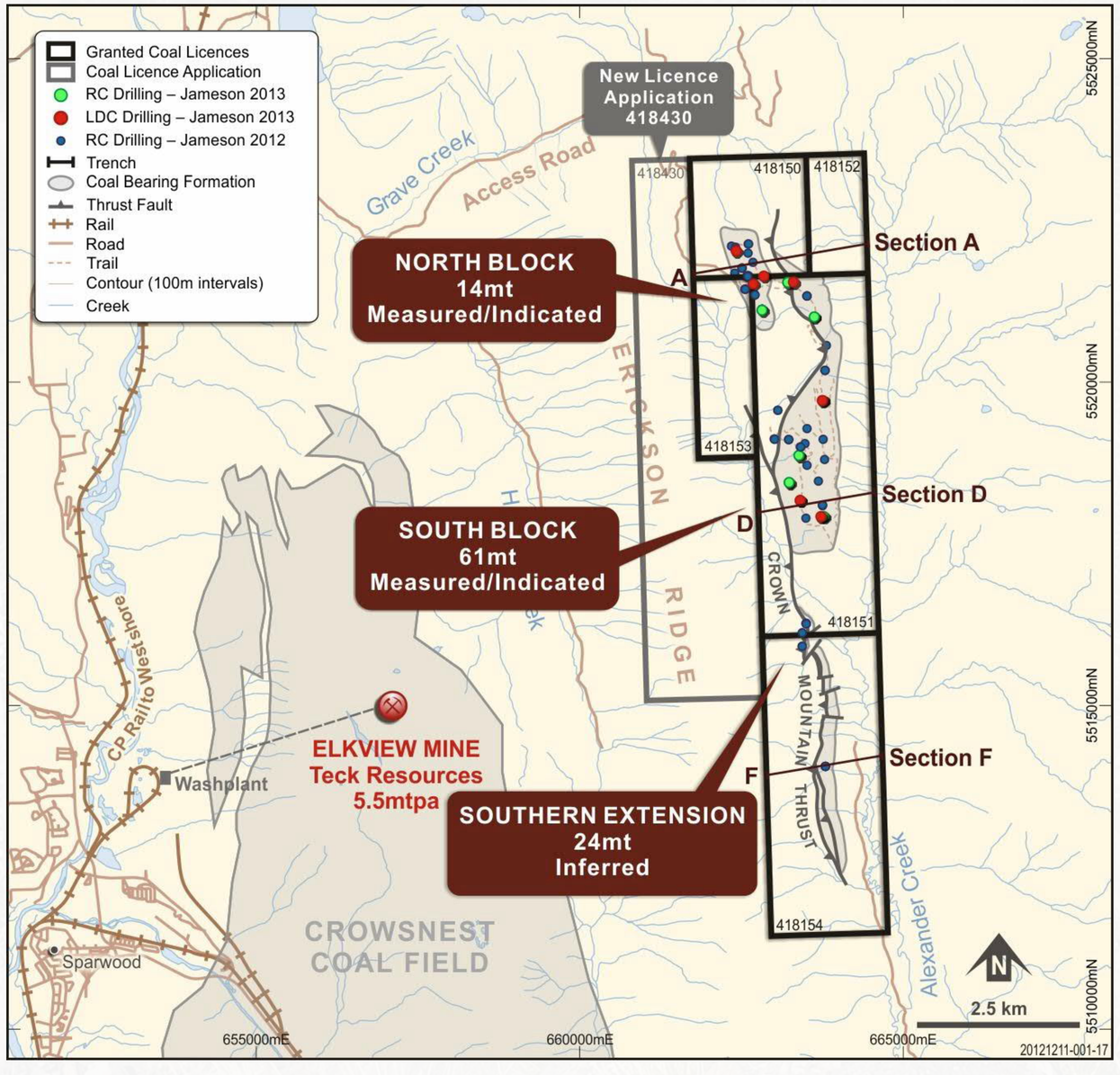
Project Location



The proposed Project would be located approximately 12 km northeast of Sparwood, British Columbia.

Project Overview

- The proposed Project consists of 5 coal exploration licenses covering a total area of 2,588 ha and one license application (975 ha).
- The anticipated production capacity of the Project is 3.7 million run-of-mine tonnes (M ROMt) per annum (approximately 10,150 tonnes per day [tpd]) for 16 years (not including site decommissioning).
- Run-of-mine coal reserves are estimated at 56 million tonnes, of which 50 million tonnes are proven and 6 million tonnes are probable.
- NWP Coal intends to design and construct a state-of-the-art coal operation utilizing industry best practices in full compliance with all applicable regulations and governing documents, such as, but not limited to, the Area-Based Management Plan known as the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan.
- The estimated capital costs of the proposed Project are $370 million.
- Employment during Project operation is estimated to average approximately 240 hourly full-time positions and 58 salaried staff.

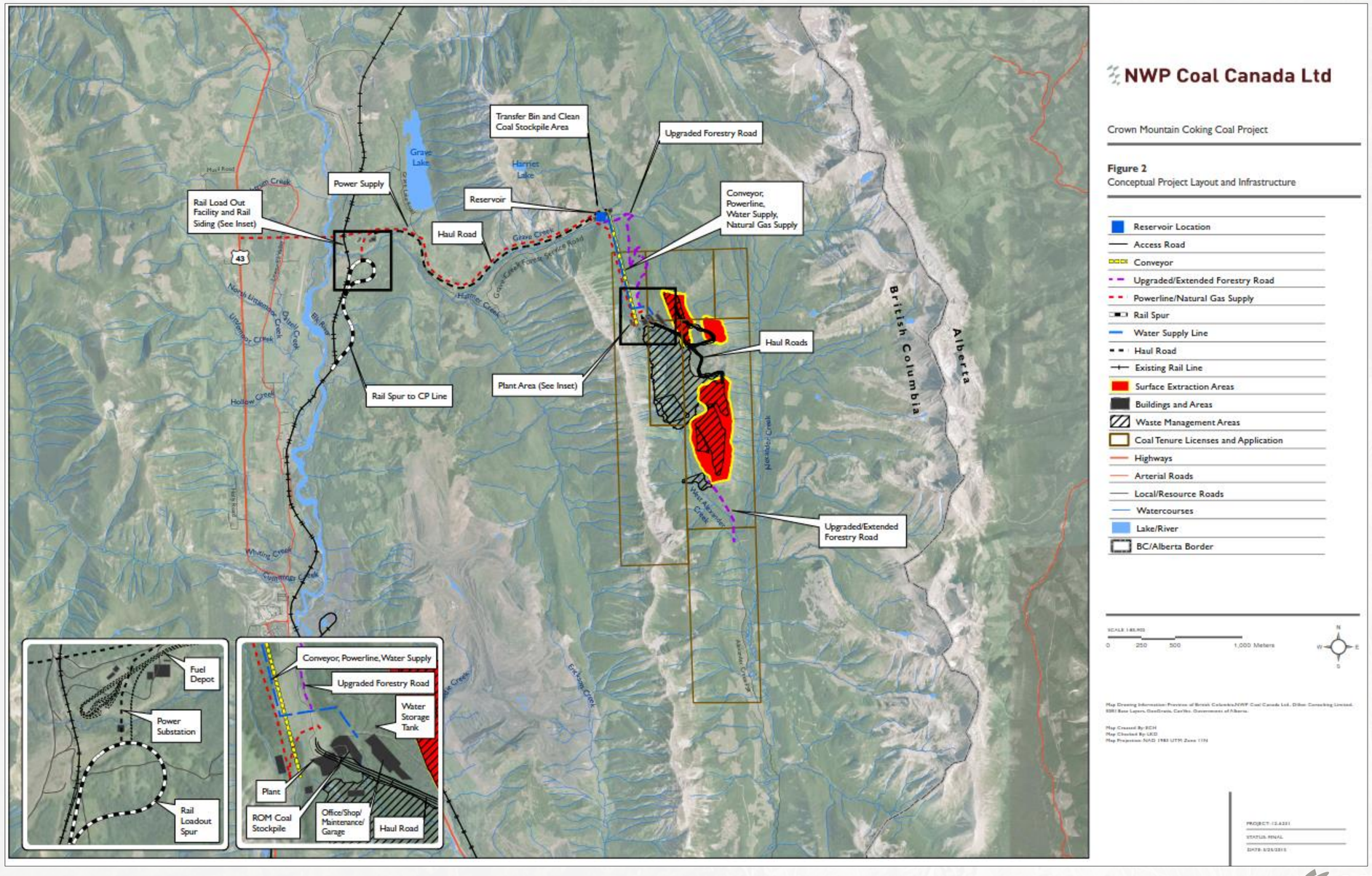


Site Geology

NWP Coal Canada Ltd

NWP Coal Canada Ltd

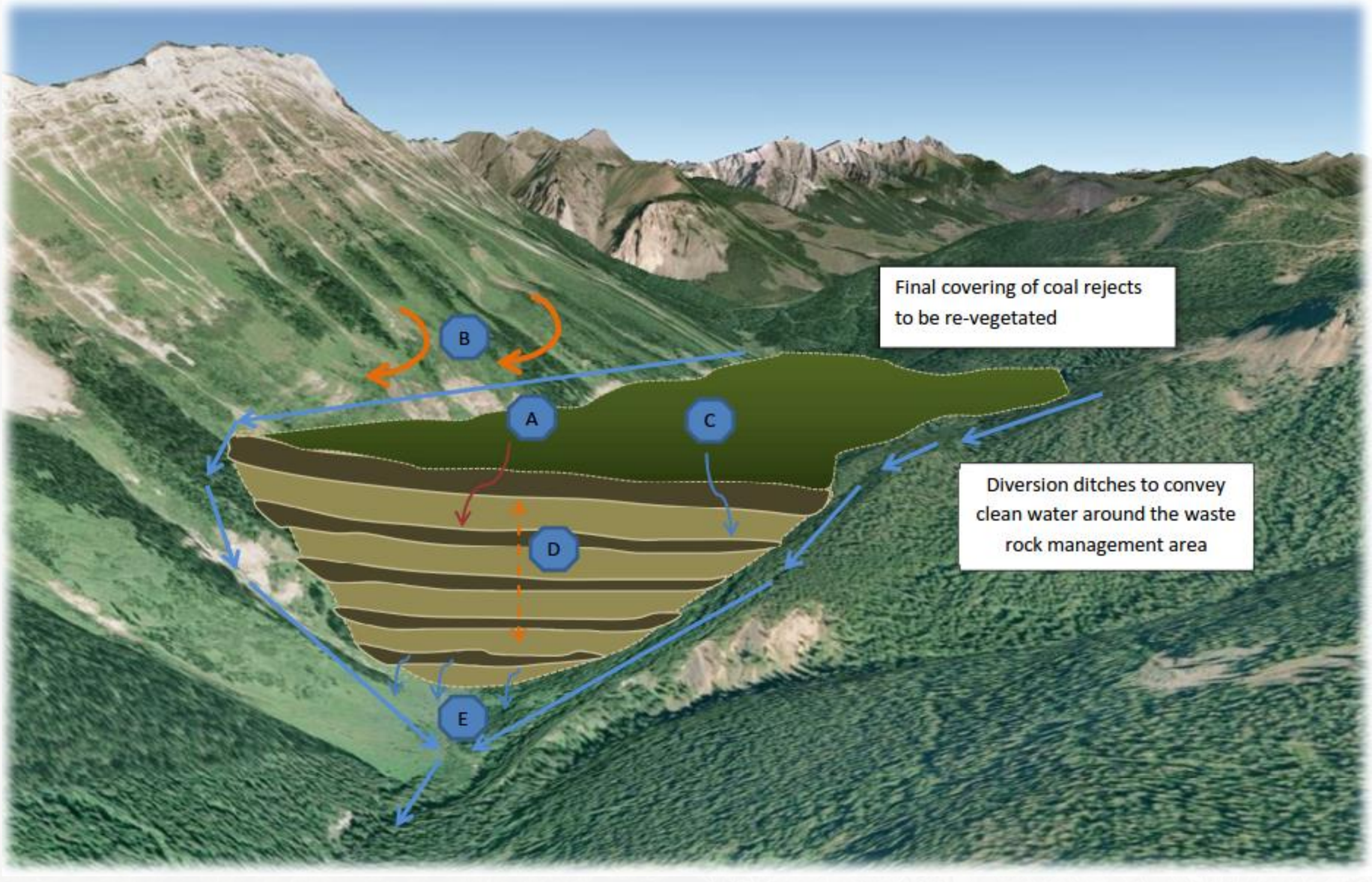
Conceptual Project Layout



Key project components include:

- Surface extraction areas (three pits - north pit, east pit, and south pit);
- Waste rock management areas;
- Plant area (includes raw coal stockpile area, a processing plant, and site support facilities);
- Clean coal transportation route (overland conveyor and haul road);
- Rail load out facility and rail siding (includes various auxiliary facilities such as a guard house; light vehicle wash; drug and alcohol testing/ orientation building; and a small dry)
- Power supply;
- Natural gas supply;
- Explosives storage;
- Fuel storage;
- Sewage treatment; and
- Water supply.

Waste Rock Management – Layered Approach



Conceptual Model:

- Decrease oxygen diffusion (A)
- Placement against valley walls decreases or inhibits oxygen transport into storage area (B)
- Limit water infiltration (C)
- Promote selenium sequestration (D)
- Lower volumes of seepage for management (E)

Coal Rejects

Waste Rock

Valued Components

Valued Components (VCs) serve as the foundation for an environmental assessment and represent aspects of the natural and human environment that are of greatest importance to society and have the potential of being impacted by a proposed project.

The purpose of the **Valued Components for Environmental Assessment** document is to outline proposed VCs that will be evaluated during the environmental assessment and to describe the methods and assessment boundaries that will be used for conducting baseline studies.

The selection of VCs includes:

- Issues scoping;
- Identification of candidate VCs;
- Evaluation of candidate VCs; and
- Selection of VCs.

Selected VCs for the Project include:

Discipline	Valued Component
Air Quality and Climate	• GHG emissions
	• Common air contaminants (CACs)
Noise	• Noise and vibration levels
Aquatic Health	• Benthic Invertebrates
	• Fish Species occurring within the RSA (represented by westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, burbot, longnose sucker, mountain whitefish, and Kokanee)
	• Amphibians within the RSA (represented by Columbia spotted frog
	• Waterbirds within the RSA (represented by Harlequin duck, Red-winged Blackbird, Spotted Sandpiper, Mallard, and American Dipper)
	• Westslope cutthroat trout
	• Bull trout
	• Kokanee
	• Burbot
	• Mountain whitefish
	• Longnose sucker
Landscapes and Ecosystems	• Avalanche chutes
	• Grassland ecosystems
	• Wetland ecosystems
	• Riparian habitat
	• Old growth and mature forests
Vegetation	• Listed and sensitive plant communities and species
	• Limber pine
	• Whitebark
	• Culturally significant plants and ecosystems

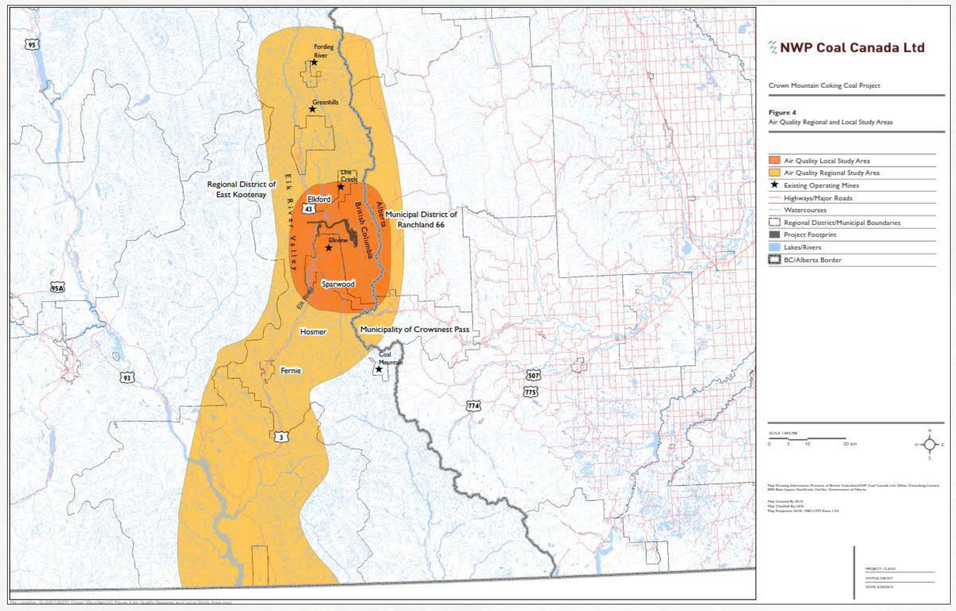
Discipline	Valued Component
Wildlife	• American badger
	• American Dipper
	• At-risk bat species (Little brown bat, Northern myotis, and Eastern red bat)
	• Bighorn sheep
	• Canada lynx
	• Elk
	• Gillette's checkerspot
	• Grizzly bear
	• Migratory birds (Barn Swallow, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Woodpeckers)
	• Moose
	• Northern Goshawk
	• Western toad
	• Wolverine
Archaeological Resources	• Archaeological resources (e.g., materials, sites)
Economy	• Economic Conditions
Socio-economics and Community Health	• Housing and community services and infrastructure
	• Community health and well-being
Land Use and Tenure	• Land use and access
	• Recreation and tourism
Visual Aesthetics	• Visual quality
Human and Terrestrial Wildlife Health Risk Assessments	• People (including local communities, First Nations, and temporary residents at recreation areas)
	• Wildlife

Atmospheric Environment

Selected Valued Components:

- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGs)**
- **Common Air Contaminants (CACs)**
- **Noise**

Climate station installed for the Project, May 2012

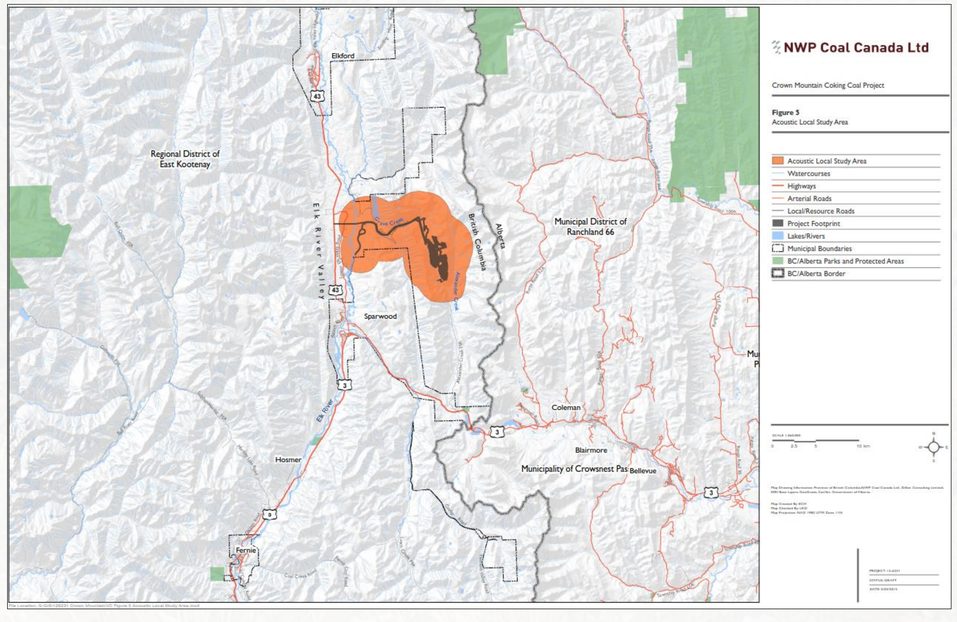


Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

- To be measured through emissions assessments
- Measurement indicators to include GHG emissions and fine particulates
- **Potential impacts:** GHGs and dust may be generated through operation of equipment, roads, mining activities
- **Potential effects** to terrestrial and aquatic environments and human health

Noise:

- To be evaluated through a baseline noise assessment
- Measurement indicators to include noise and vibration levels at selected receptors
- **Potential impacts:** Project construction and operation may result in increased noise levels
- **Potential effects** include sensory disturbance to noise receptors (e.g., humans, wildlife)



Aquatic Environment – Groundwater and Geochemistry

Intermediate Valued Components:
- Groundwater Quality and Quantity

- **Groundwater quantity and quality are Intermediate Components:**
  - Related to effect pathways of several VCs
  - Changes in quantity and quality to serve as measurement indicators for aquatic health, human and wildlife health, fish, terrestrial ecosystems, and vegetation
  - To be measured through groundwater levels and flow rates, analyte concentrations in groundwater

- **Potential impacts:** Associated with mine dewatering activities and the location of proposed mining areas, waste rock management areas, and mine infrastructure

- **Potential effects:** Changes in groundwater quality/quantity may result in changes to stream flow, impacting surface water quantity and quality

- **Geochemistry is related to several Intermediate Components:**
  - Terrain (terrain type, slope, and aspect)
  - Groundwater
  - Surface water quality
  - Sediment quality

- **Potential impacts:** Changes in the way waste rock, process waste, and geology are exposed to the atmosphere

- **Potential effects:** Changes in the exposure of waste rock, process waste and geology to the atmosphere have the potential to impact groundwater, surface water, and sediment quality. VCs impacted may include:
  - Aquatic health, terrestrial ecosystems (e.g., vegetation, wildlife), and people

Aquatic Environment – Surface Water

Intermediate Valued Components:

- **Surface Water Quantity**
- **Surface Water Quality**

Surface Water Quantity:

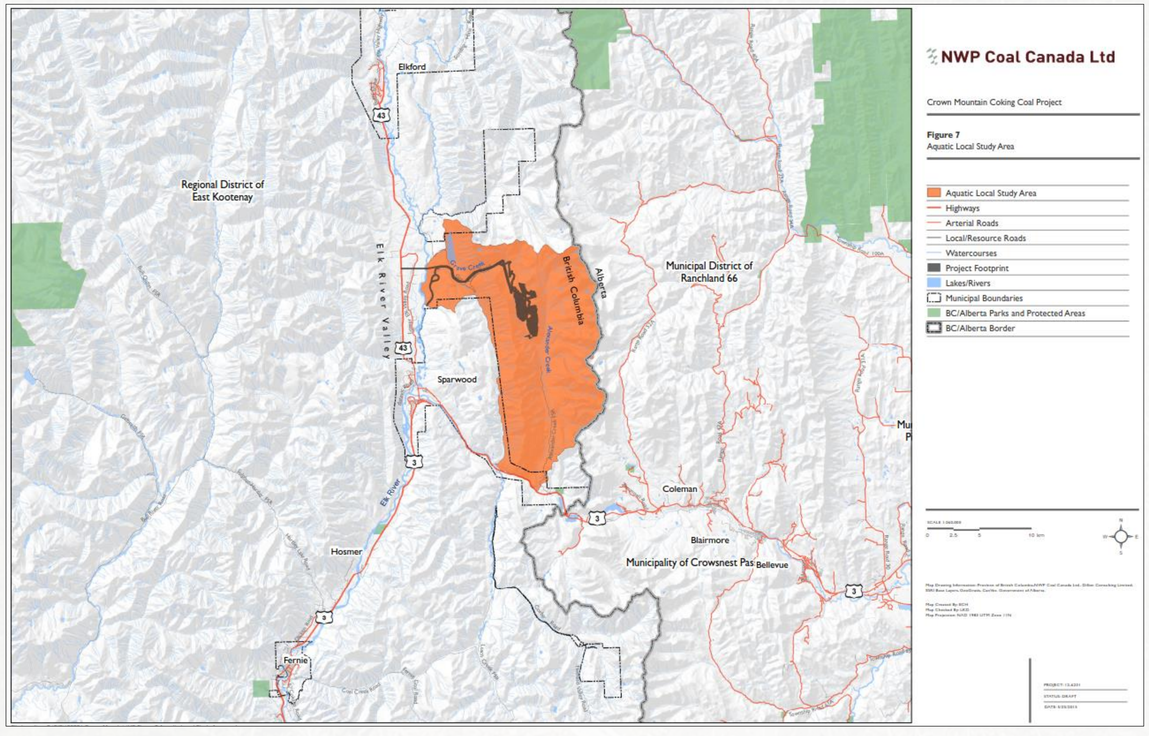
- To be measured through surface water levels and flow rates
- Component that is potentially affected along effects pathways of selected VCs (e.g., aquatic health, fish, terrestrial ecosystems, people)

- **Potential impacts:** Reduction in flow rates and alteration of natural flow regimes associated with water withdrawal
- **Potential effects:** May result in changes in aquatic health such as fish and benthic invertebrates as well as riparian and wetland ecosystems.

Surface Water Quality:

- Component that is potentially affected by Project activities, including water withdrawal and waste rock management
- Changes in water quality may impact selected VCs such as aquatic health, fish, people, and terrestrial environments
- Measured through metal and non-metal concentrations in surface water

- **Potential impacts:** Withdrawal of water from Grave Creek, waste rock management
- **Potential effects:** Water contamination (e.g., metal leaching) and sedimentation in watercourses



NWP Coal will meet the requirements of the Elk Valley Water Quality Management Plan as it develops mitigation measures for the Project and is committed to protecting the aquatic environment over the course of the Project

Aquatic Environment – Aquatic Health

Selected Valued Components:

- **Aquatic Health (benthic invertebrates, fish species within the Regional Study Area, amphibian species, and waterbirds)**

Benthics Invertebrates:

- Benthic invertebrate communities will be used to assess potential changes in water and sediment quality
- **Measurement indicators** include: water quality parameters; benthic invertebrate metrics (e.g., abundance); growth, survival and reproduction; sediment quality; groundwater and surface water statistics; and metal concentrations.

- **Potential impacts:** Changes in the aquatic environment related to waste rock management and the removal or alteration of surface water environments
- **Potential effects:** Reduced complexity of benthic invertebrate communities, adverse effects to fish, reduced water quality

Waterbirds:

- Representative species include Harlequin Duck, Red-winged Blackbird, Spotted Sandpiper, and Mallard
- **Measurement indicators** to include: water quality parameters (which incorporates assessment of air, groundwater, and surface water)

- **Potential impacts:** Elevated levels of selenium in water resources as a result of site development
- **Potential effects:** Increased selenium in surface water may impact aquatic prey which is consumed by waterbirds, resulting in impacts to waterbird species

Amphibians:

- Amphibians within the RSA to be represented by Columbia spotted frog
- **Measurement indicators** to include: water quality parameters, sediment quality, amphibian presence/not detected, and metal concentrations in tissues

- **Potential impacts:** Changes in water quality/quantity and sediment quality as a result of Project activities
- **Potential effects:** Changes in amphibian habitat or amphibian populations (e.g., impacts to reproductive success)

Fish Species:

- All fish species that occur within the RSA, represented by: Westslope cutthroat trout; bull trout; burbot; longnose sucker; mountain whitefish; and kokanee
- **Measurement indicators** include: water quality parameters; sediment quality; habitat quality and quantity; fish population matrices; fish growth, survival, and reproduction; and metal concentrations in fish

- **Potential impacts:** Changes to surface water quality and quantity (e.g., increased levels of selenium associated with waste rock management)
- **Potential effects:** Impacts may result in changes in fish reproduction

Aquatic Environment – Fish

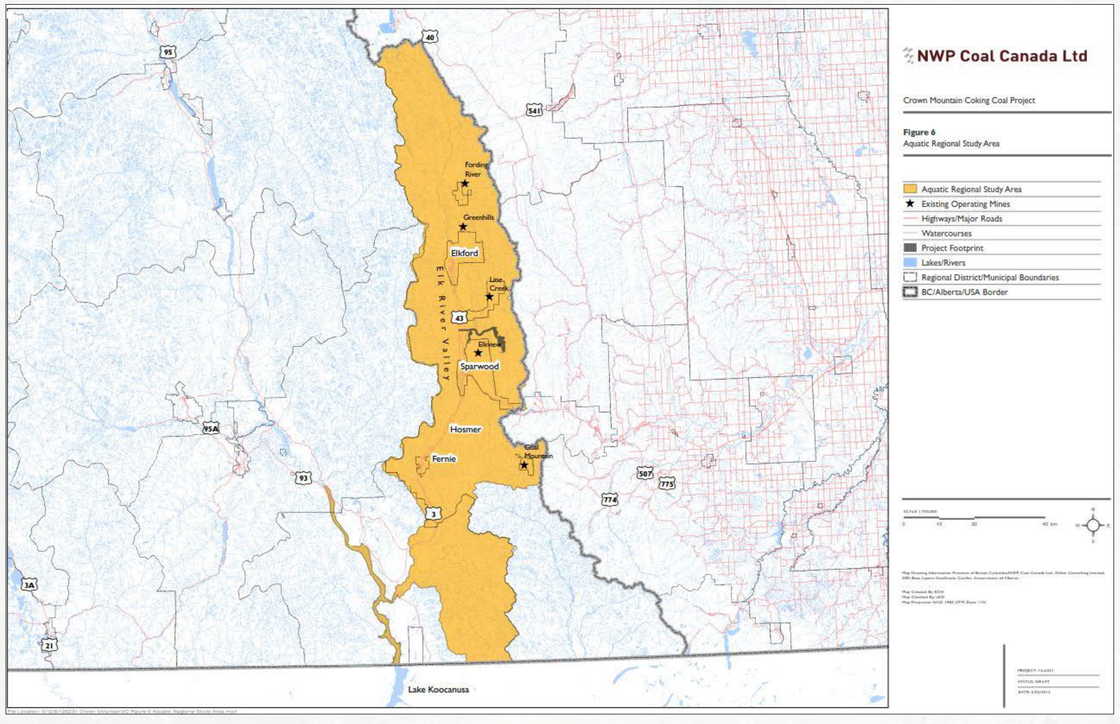
Selected Valued Components:

- **Fish species:**
  - Westslope cutthroat trout
  - Bull trout
  - Kokanee
  - Mountain whitefish
  - Longnose sucker

- **Measurement indicators:** Fish presence/not detected as compared to baseline studies, habitat quality and quantity, water quality parameters, and fish population metrics

- **Potential impacts:** Changes to fish habitat as a result of removal of habitat (e.g., West Alexander Creek), changes in surface water quality and quantity (e.g., in-stream flow changes as a result of water withdrawal, increased levels of selenium associated with waste rock management)

- **Potential effects:** Reduction of productive capacity of watercourses for fish, loss of habitat (e.g., West Alexander Creek), changes in water quality and quantity, exposure to deleterious substances

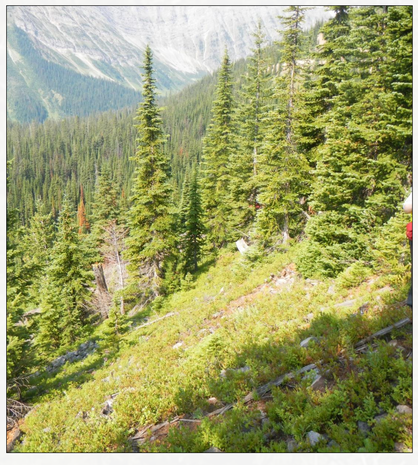


Terrestrial Environment – Ecosystems and Vegetation

Selected Valued Components:

- **Avalanche Chutes**
- **Grassland Ecosystems**
- **Wetland Ecosystems**
- **Riparian Habitat**
- **Old Growth and Mature Forests**

- **Potential impacts** to these VCs to be measured through:
  - Ecosystem abundance and distribution;
  - Compositional changes (e.g., species richness)
- **Potential effects:** Removal and/or fragmentation of ecosystems, resulting in changes



Selected Valued Components:

- **Listed and Sensitive Plant Communities and Species**
- **Limber Pine**
- **Whitebark Pine**
- **Culturally Significant Plants and Ecosystems**

- **Measurement indicators** to include:
  - Community and ecosystem abundance and distribution relative to baseline
  - Community changes measured through species richness, rare species, invasive plant presence
  - Habitat availability and distribution
  - Known occurrence and abundance
  - Whitebark pine health

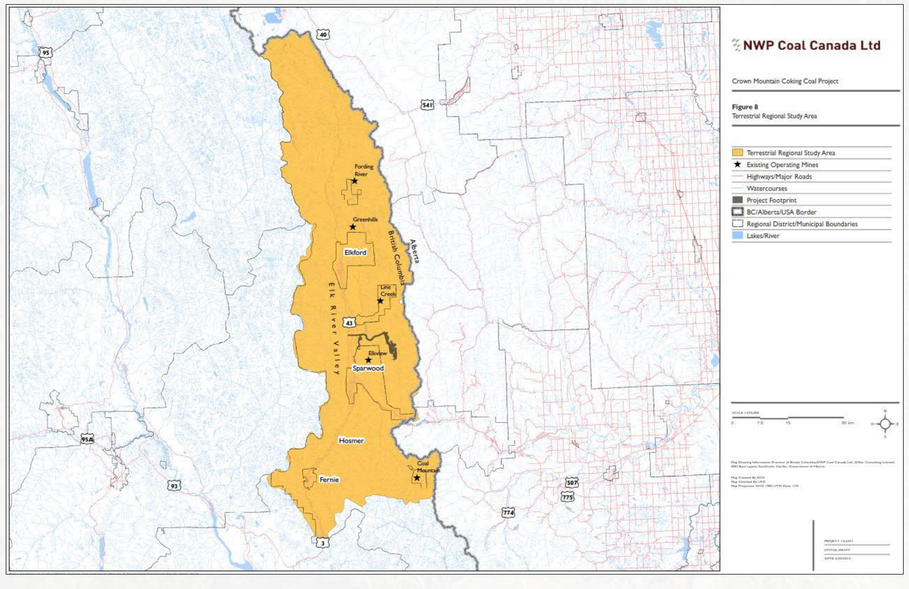
- **Potential impacts:** Vegetation removal associated with site development, alteration of drainage patterns, introduction of invasive species
- **Potential effects:** May result in structural and functional changes to plant communities

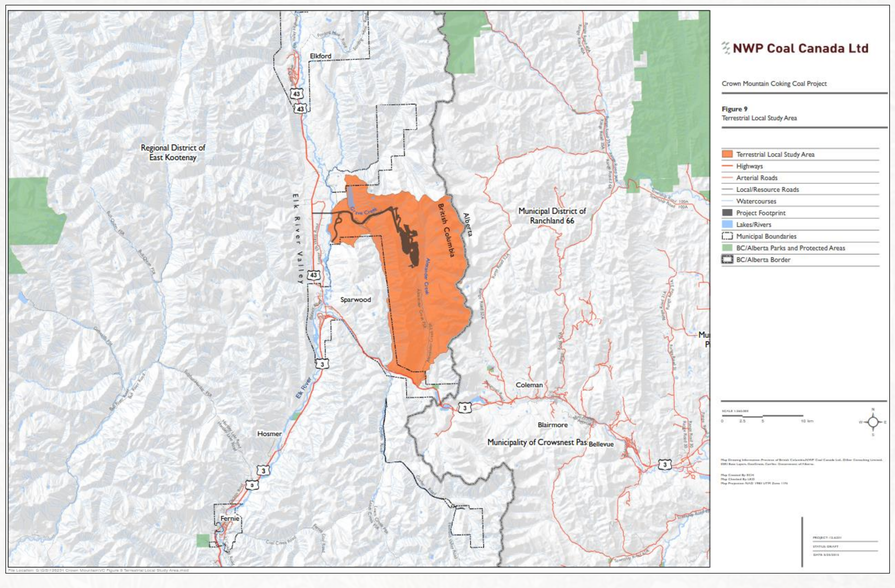
Terrestrial Environment – Wildlife

Selected Valued Components:

- **American Badger**
- **American Dipper**
- **At-risk Bat Species**
- **Bighorn Sheep**
- **Canada Lynx**
- **Elk**
- **Gillette's Checkerspot**
- **Grizzly Bear**
- **Migratory Birds**
- **Moose**
- **Northern Goshawk**
- **Western Toad**
- **Wolverine**

- **Measurement indicators include:**
  - Habitat availability and distribution relative to baseline (e.g., changes in the available habitat and distribution of habitat for this species)
  - Known occurrence and abundance (e.g., changes to the number of documented occurrences relative to baseline, changes to individual populations)
- **Potential impacts:** Indirect and direct impacts may occur as a result of Project development and operations activities
- **Potential effects:** Sensory disturbance, wildlife mortalities, habitat fragmentation, changes in wildlife use of the area and predation associated with alteration in habitat structure and availability





Archaeological Resources

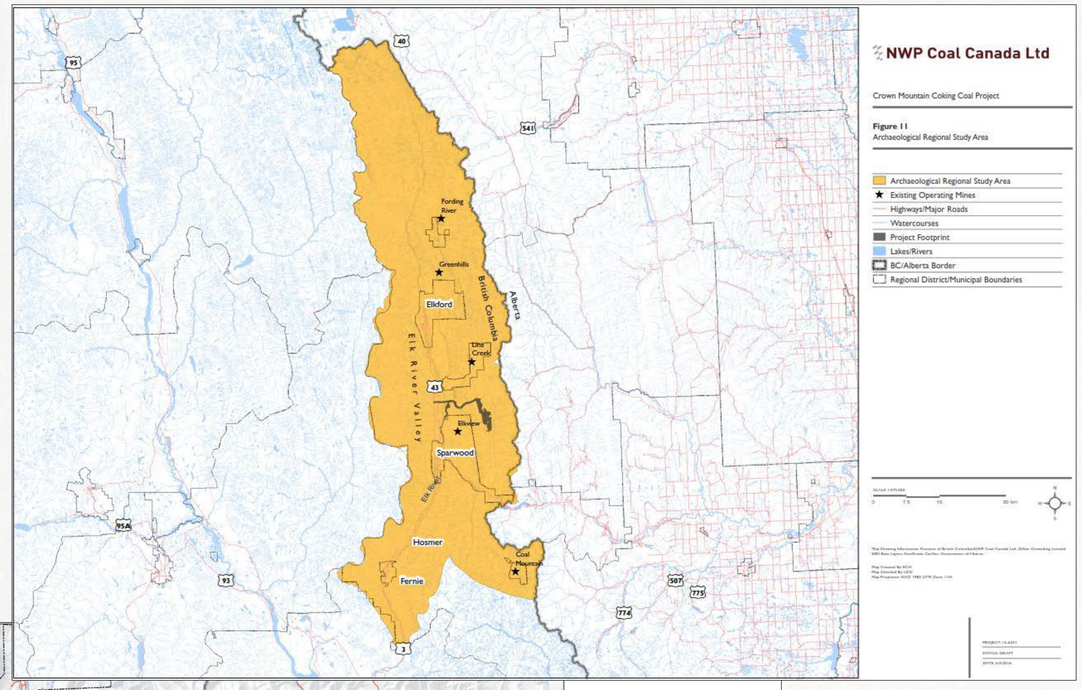
Background:

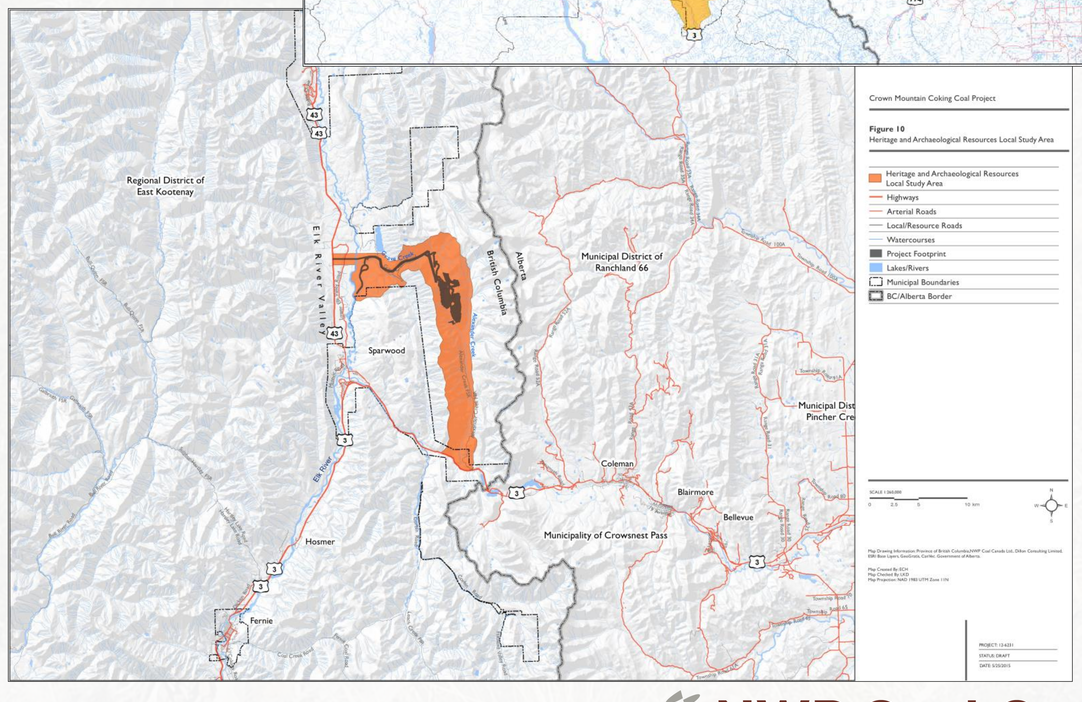
- The Project is located within the asserted traditional territory of the Ktunaxa Nation
- The Elk River Valley has been historically used by local Aboriginal Groups
- Heritage resources and archaeological sites are know to occur in the vicinity of the Project

- **Measurement Indicators:** Presence, number, type, significance, and location of resources

- **Potential effects:** Archaeological resources may be uncovered or disturbed during the Project as a result of ground disturbance during construction.

- Cultural and heritage sites are protected by the provincial *Heritage Conservation Act* (1996)





Social and Economic Environment

Selected Valued Components:
- Economic Conditions
- Housing, Community Services and Infrastructure
- Community Health and Well-being

Economic Conditions

- **Measurement Indicators:**
  - Opportunities for training and skills development
  - Employment opportunities generated by the Project
  - Income generation
  - Revenue generation
  - Generation of business for local enterprises
  - Local and provincial government revenue

- **Potential effects:**
  - Increased local demand for labour
  - Opportunities for local businesses
  - Opportunities for capacity building with the Ktunaxa Nation

Housing, Community Services and Infrastructure

- **Measurement Indicators:**
  - Housing supply and demand
  - Community services (e.g., education and emergency services)
  - Infrastructure (e.g., water/wastewater, transportation infrastructure)
  - Population demographics

- **Potential effects:**
  - Increased demand for housing
  - Increased demand for local services (e.g., community centres, emergency services

Community Health and Well-Being

- **Measurement Indicators:**
  - Various health indicators (e.g., drug /alcohol abuse, shift work schedules, worker conditions)
  - Public safety (e.g., health and safety related to the Project site or in vicinity, crime rates)

- **Potential effects:**
  - Changes in crime rates
  - Current worker schedules and conditions

Land Use and Access, Recreation and Tourism, and Visual Quality

Selected Valued Components:
- Land Use and Access
- Recreation and Tourism
- Visual Quality

Land Use and Access

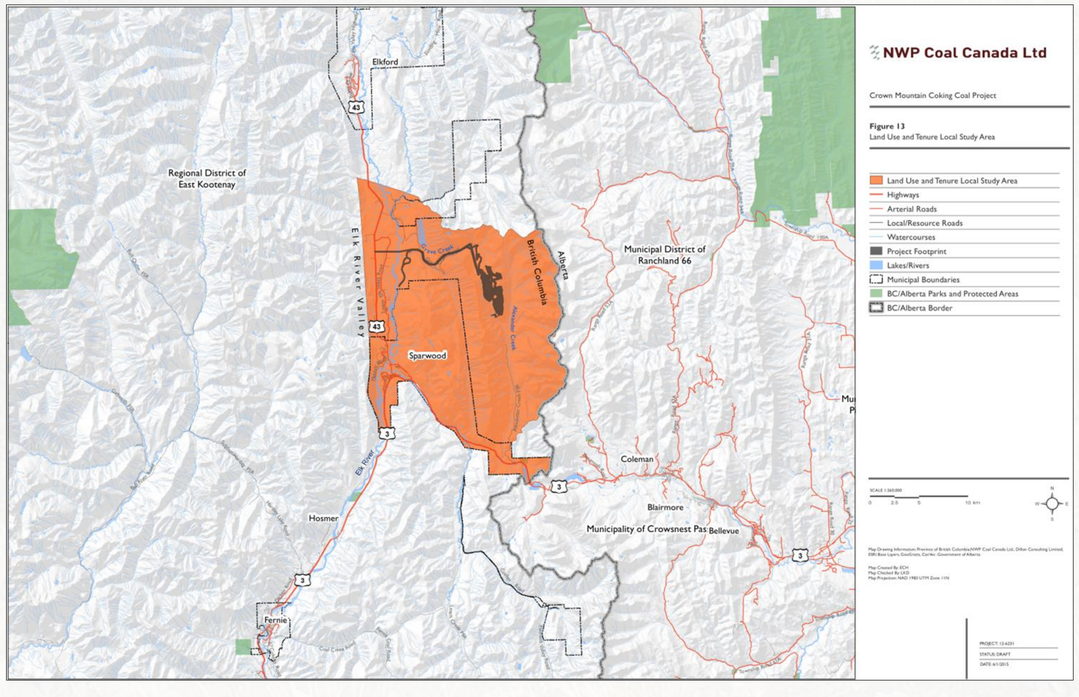
- **Measurement indicators** include: Implementation and consistency of land use designation; implementation and use of land use policies; access to resource harvesting areas for recreation purposes; and quality of recreational and tourism experience
- **Potential impacts**: The Project has the potential to change access to existing land base as well as result in the addition of Project components to the landscape (e.g., haul roads, mine infrastructure)
- **Potential effects**: Changes in the land base may restrict access to areas used for recreational or tourism purposes, as well as for resources harvesting and extraction (e.g., forestry)

Recreation and Tourism

- **Measurement indicators** include: Recreational use (e.g., hunting, ATV trails, fishing, hiking); noise and air quality; quality of recreational and tourism experiences
- **Potential impacts**: Community use of the existing land base may change as a result of Project construction and operation as well as the restriction of areas used for recreation (e.g., restricted access to ensure public safety)
- **Potential effects:** Changes in existing land use and access to the land base

Visual Quality

- **Measurement include**: View corridors; visual quality, including changes to air quality (e.g., dust generation through mining and vehicle traffic)
- **Potential impacts**: The Project is located in an area that is used for recreational purposes and thus the Project may result in localized changes to the visual landscape during construction and operation (e.g., addition of mine infrastructure to the landscape, pit areas)
- **Potential effects**: Changes to visual aesthetics for backcountry recreational users well as view corridors in the Grave Creek and Alexander Creek



Human and Terrestrial Wildlife Health Risk Assessment

Selected Valued Components:

- People (local communities, First Nations, temporary residents at recreation areas)

- Wildlife

Measurement Indicators:

- Hazard Quotients (will be determined based on intermediate components and other measurement indicators)
- Incremental Lifetime Cancer Risk (human health)

Key Data Inputs:

- Surface water
- Sediment quality
- Groundwater quality
- Air quality
- Contaminant levels in vegetation (including country foods) and tissues (e.g., fish, amphibians)

Approach:

- Species to be part of the health risk assessment (RA) include, but are not limited to, selected birds, ungulates, bats, and furbearers
- Approach for risk assessment (RA) will be finalized in association with regulators and the RA will follow established provincial and federal protocols
- Information from local communities, trappers, and guide outfitters is expected to be import source of information for the RA

Consultation and Engagement Activities

Activities To Date:

- On-going engagement with the public
- Meetings and discussions with the Ktunaxa Nation Council
- Meetings with local municipalities (e.g., Sparwood Committee of the Whole, Fernie Committee of the Whole, Elkford Town Council)
- Meetings and discussions with provincial and federal regulators

Involvement with Elk Valley Initiatives:

- Active member of the Elk Valley Cumulative Effects Management Framework Working Group
- Sponsorship of the elk migration radio collar study led by the Sparwood & District Fish & Wildlife Association
- Collection of fur-bearer hair samples to support the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations' DNA study

Meaningful engagement is important - NWP is committed to continually working with interested parties as the Project moves forward.

Appendix D

Summary of Open House Attendees

Summary of Regulator and Proponent Attendees at the May 25, 2016 Open House

- Terry Pratt (BC EAO)
- Amy Thede (BC EAO)
- Kevin Jardine (BC EAO)
- Art Palm (NWP Coal Canada Limited)
- Laura Dilley (Dillon Consulting Limited)
- Richard Pope (Dillon Consulting Limited)
- Chris Kennedy (SRK Consulting)
- Mike Keefer (Keefer Ecological Services Ltd.)
- Ian Tamasi (Tipi Mountain Eco-Cultural Services Ltd.)
- Sara Wilkins (Norwest Corporation)
- Mike Robinson (Lotic Environmental Ltd.)

Summary of Public Attendees

- A total of 35 people signed in at the open house, of which 13 were from Sparwood, 9 from Fernie, 2 from Elkford and others from Cranbrook, Hosmer, and Crowsnest Pass.
- Members from the Elk River Alliance and local government (e.g., Councillors) attended the open house.