

Submitted values are:

Name(s) of person(s) speaking: Mike Manara and Erik Holbek

Organization Information

Organization you are representing: United Riders Of Cumberland

Primary purpose of the organization: Recreational trail management and Land Access Agreements

Number of members: 780

Mailing Information: Mailing address: Box 197 City: Cumberland

Postal code: V0R1S0

Contact name: Mike Manara

Meeting Details

Subject matter: In 2015 the United Riders of Cumberland (UROC) entered into an access agreement with private land owners, and assumed the responsibility for the management of trails surrounding Cumberland. This agreement has allowed significant improvements to the safety, quality and diversity of this 180km trail network. These trails have become an important recreation asset for residents of the Comox Valley Regional District, as well as, a significant contributor to the regional economy. As non-motorized groups from mountain bikers, to trail runners, to those out for a hike in the woods can enjoy this amenity.

The organization has made significant progress in it's trail management role, by addressing a backlog of maintenance, and management issues. However, existing funding creates challenges to efficiently manage the trail network. Despite maximizing volunteer efforts, there is a struggle to adequately address trail maintenance needs, given the increased demand and participation from Comox Valley residents.

Trail counter data indicates that there will be approximately 127,000 trail visits in 2018 and that trail use has grown by 19% year over year for the last 3 years. The 2018 Trail User Survey indicated that approximately 50% of visits come from Courtenay, Comox, and areas A, B and C, 30% from Cumberland, with the remaining 20% are coming from other parts of the Island, the Lower Mainland and from abroad.

This rapid increase in trail usage, diversity of trail users, changes in technology such as ebikes, as well as, increased third party events, and the need for strategic planning are just some of the foreseeable challenges in the future. Increased funding will allow UROC to continue to address inherited liabilities, engage in strategic planning to ensure the same challenges aren't perpetuated. Additional benefits of this investment include increased community engagement, which ultimately drive other revenue streams such as membership sales, events and donations. The above contributes to a vibrant user experience, which will ensure trails are maintained to a high standard for all Comox Valley residents to enjoy.

Specific request of the regional district, if any (i.e. letter of support, funding):

The United Riders of Cumberland would like to request an increase in Recreation Grant funding to \$25,000 per annum.

Requested meeting date: Dec 18 2018

Audio-visual equipment needed: Power point presentation

Information for contact purposes only

Telephone number: