
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

TRUST FORMED TO MONITOR BABINE WATERSHED

VICTORIA – The Babine Watershed Monitoring Trust (BWM Trust) has been formed to oversee the management of natural resources in the area, Bulkley Valley-Stikine MLA Dennis MacKay announced today.

“With dedication and spirit, Bulkley Valley groups have come together to ensure that the resources surrounding in the Babine Watershed are properly maintained,” said MacKay. “Through the BWM Trust, local residents will have better management of economic and environmental values in the Babine Watershed for years to come.”

Six land use plans encompass 400,000 hectares of the Babine Watershed. These land use plans include objectives for biodiversity, water quality, wildlife, mining, tourism, recreation and timber. The BWM Trust will research and monitor these six land use plans as well as educate the public on natural resource management to enable continuous improvement of management in the Babine Watershed.

“The BWM Trust was developed with all Bulkley Valley residents in mind,” said Rosemary Fox, Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board. “The trust not only provides a governance structure for monitoring natural resources within the Babine Watershed but it will also collect information on all aspects of the monitoring and make it available to anyone interested.”

“Land Use Plans are uniquely designed to meet the needs of the local community”, said Minister of Sustainable Resource Management George Abbott. “The BWM Trust will ensure that the existing land use plans in the Babine Watershed consistently meet those needs while striking a balance between economic development and environmental values.”

The trust will seek donations and grants to continue monitoring the land use planning areas. The trust has received \$56,000 from individual groups contributing to the Babine River Foundation as well as \$65,000 from the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management and Water Land and Air Protection. Government contributions to the Trust will be matched 2:1 by the private sector.

The trust was developed by the Babine River Foundation, Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board, Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Sustainable Management, Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection and West Fraser Mills. Anyone with an interest in the Babine Watershed Monitoring Trust, please visit: <http://www.nexusbc.ca/WildlandNexus/BabineMonitoring.html> online.

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Media contact: Mike Long
Communications Director
Ministry of Sustainable Resource
Management
250 387-4965

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