

# B. C. TAP WATER ALLIANCE

Caring for, Monitoring, and Protecting  
British Columbia's Community Water  
Supply Sources



Email – [info@bctwa.org](mailto:info@bctwa.org)  
Website – [www.bctwa.org](http://www.bctwa.org)

June 4, 2013

Mayor and Council,  
Revelstoke City

## Re: Watershed Reserve Tenure Status of Greeley Creek

Dear Mayor and Council,

In recent concerns raised with the provincial government on the protection status of BC's drinking watershed sources in southwest BC, (<http://www.bctwa.org/PrRel-Mar21-2013-DemotingReserves.pdf>) we subsequently began conducting a background check on all of BC's drinking watersheds. We thereby discovered that the Watershed Reserve tenure status that protected Greeley Creek, by way of a Section 16 Map Reserve under the *Land Act*, is no longer status registered as such with the Ministry of Lands in its data system (Front Counter, Cranbrook Region). Without such a registered reserve tenure status, Greeley Creek is unprotected, and is therefore vulnerable to inadvertent dispositions, such as the current "adventure tourism" tenure application within portions of the lower Greeley community watershed (Application File No. 4405329).

We are familiar with the general protection history file of Greeley Creek. A contextualized narrative on this history is about to be published in our upcoming report on the history of the Big Eddy Waterworks District. (<http://www.bctwa.org/BigEddyPreview-WatershSent.pdf>) The following is an outline of the protection history of Greeley Creek:

- Following entreaties by the Revelstoke Board of Trade and the City in 1909-1910, the federal government protected Greeley Creek with a statutory Departmental Reserve in 1917 from logging, access and commercial uses, fourteen years before Greeley was tapped as a water source. That Reserve was created when Revelstoke City was situated in the Railway Belt lands, also referred to as the Forty Mile Limit.
- In 1930, when the Railway Belt lands were reverted to the provincial government, the status of Greeley Creek remained as a protected Reserve.
- In 1946, when a Timber Sale proposal was forwarded to the BC Forest Service, and after letters of referral about the proposal were sent by the Kamloops District Forest Manager to both the City and the City's Health Officer for consideration and comment, the Forest Service rejected the said Timber Sale because of Greeley Creek's status as a Watershed Reserve.

- In 1969, when the City of Revelstoke was confronted with a tenure proposal for “horse riding trails” in the Greeley drainage, the City asked the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources to help protect the watershed. The City stated that it could not locate its files on the protection tenure history of Greeley Creek. According to government records, the Greeley Creek Reserve file had somehow been misplaced, and another Reserve, a Section 16 Map Reserve, was re-established over Greeley Creek on August 25, 1969, which protected the watershed from the said recreation tenure application. (See attached Files)
- When the provincial Task Force on community watersheds (1972-1980) created and re-created Watershed Reserves for BC’s water purveyors from 1973 following, Greeley Creek was on a June 1973 list of 63 Watershed Reserves that were established over the West Kootenays. According to the Greeley Creek Reserve file (No. 0291521), the Reserve was recognized in a memo as the one re-established as such in 1969.
- In a recent inspection of a provincial list of Watershed Reserves forwarded to the B.C. Tap Water Alliance in late 1997, both Greeley Creek and Dolan Creek (Big Eddy) were not included. Similarly, in a May 2013 list of provincial Watershed Reserves, Greeley and Dolan were also absent.

We would advise the City of Revelstoke to make immediate inquiries with both the Ministry of Lands and the Ministry of Environment about the Reserve status history of Greeley Creek, and to immediately request the government to reinstate or re-register Greeley Creek as either a Section 16 Map Reserve, or as a Section 15 Order-in-Council Reserve, over its hydrographic boundaries in order to protect your vital interests.

Sincerely,  
Will Koop,  
Coordinator.

*Specimen*  
*9/6/1910*  
Report  
on  
Additional Water Supply  
for  
Redstone City Council  
June 7<sup>th</sup> 1910

FR  
e DECEMBER 3, 1910

## BOARD OF TRADE.

### Important Requests to be Made to Provincial Government

The regular meeting of the Board of Trade was held on Thursday night

#### WATER CONSERVATION.

The matter of the reservation of certain areas north of the city for the conservation of the city's water supply was taken up and the letter which the city council had written to the Dominion government asking for the reservation and water records was endorsed.

M.  
**Department of the Interior,**

**DOMINION LANDS AND CROWN TIMBER OFFICE,**

Revelstoke, B. C., March 8th., 1917.

Sir:-

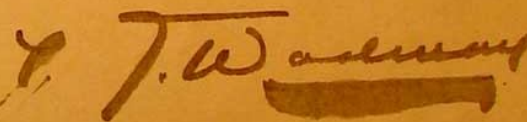
With reference to yours of October 19th last, respecting the resolution passed at the regular meeting of your Council on October 18th to the effect that you make application for the reservation of land required to protect water sheds on Bridge Creek, Hamilton Creek and Greely Creek, I beg to advise

In regard to the Greely Creek Water Shed, I would say that the reservation has been noted in the records both at this office and at Ottawa, in accordance with the plan submitted. This reservation covers the following lands:-

TOWNSHIP 23, RANGE 1, WEST OF THE 6TH MERIDIAN.

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13,  
14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25,  
26, 27, 28, 34, 35 and 36.

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Yours obediently,



Agent, Dominion Lands.



# CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS



World Wide Communications

W.D. NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS, MONTREAL

Day Letter	
Night Letter	
Evening and Sunday Messages	

Please mark an X opposite the class of service desired.

CHECK
TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the conditions on the back thereof, which are hereby agreed to.

July 12, 1946.

The District Forester,  
Kamloops, B. C.

The Council urgently request you to refuse sale of Sections 22 and 27 which is within two sections of Greely Water Shed. Such action would impair, if not destroy, Revelstoke's water supply if sold for logging purposes.

Your safeguarding of this utility is essential to the health of the community and the Council would appreciate telegraphic assurance of your refusal to sell or dispose of the rights on this water shed.

B. R. Reynolds  
City Clerk

# CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS



World Wide Communications

W.D. NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS, MONTREAL

CLASS OF SERVICE	
Full Rate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Day Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Night Message	<input type="checkbox"/>
Night Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evening and Sunday Message	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please mark an X opposite the class of service desired.

CHECK
TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the conditions on the back thereof, which are hereby agreed to.

KAMLOOPS B.C.  
JULY 13, 1946

John Berarducci  
REVELSTOKE B.C.

B. R. REYNOLDS  
City Clerk, Revelstoke

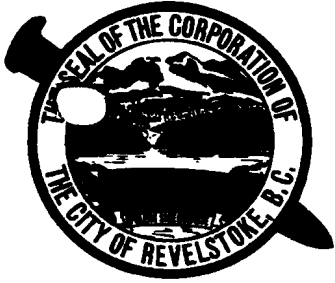
YOUR APPLICATION TO PURCHASE CEDAR POLES ON PORTIONS OF SECTIONS TWENTY TWO AND TWENTY SEVEN IN TOWNSHIP TWENTY THREE RANGE ONE DISALLOWED AS THESE AREAS WITHIN REVELSTOKE WATERSHED RESERVE

*Water*

A. E. PARLOW  
District Forester

10.30 a.m.

FOR MESSENGER  
Telephone 197



*The Corporation of*  
**THE CITY OF REVELSTOKE**

P.O. BOX 170, REVELSTOKE, BRITISH COLUMBIA . TELEPHONE 837-2161

August 13th 1969

DEPT. OF LANDS FORESTS  
AND WATER RESOURCES  
LANDS SERVICE

Dept. of Lands, Forests & Water Resources,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Victoria, B.C.

**AUG 18 1969**

MAIL ROOM  
VICTORIA, B. C.

Dear Sirs:

Re: Revelstoke Water Supply.

In a search of our files we have found we were unable to locate any documents which might indicate that the City of Revelstoke has any rights insofar as control of our Greely Creek watershed. The area of concern is shown on the attached plan.

It has been rumoured that horse riding trails are proposed for this area and we feel that this would be extremely undesirable.

If your department could give us some information as to how we could obtain control of this very important watershed it would be sincerely appreciated.

Yours truly

D.J. Brown  
Public Works Officer.

DJB/plw

File: 3 291521

Attention: FR 3

Date: 25.7.69

Please prepare a clearance sheet, particulars of which are as follows:

<u>Reserve</u>	MAP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Order-in-Council <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>DEPARTMENT OR BRANCH</u>		<u>PURPOSE</u>
Lands Branch <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alienation <input type="checkbox"/>	U.R.E.P. <input type="checkbox"/>
	U.R.E.P. & Grazing <input type="checkbox"/>	Watershed Res.
Parks Branch <input type="checkbox"/>	U.R.E.P. <input type="checkbox"/>	Marine Parks <input type="checkbox"/>
Game Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		Game Reserve <input type="checkbox"/>
Department of Highways <input type="checkbox"/>	Gravel Pit <input type="checkbox"/>	H/way R/W <input type="checkbox"/>
	Reloc.of H/Wy <input type="checkbox"/>	Bridge Site <input type="checkbox"/>
	Ferry Site <input type="checkbox"/>	
Forest Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Lookout Site <input type="checkbox"/>	Access Road <input type="checkbox"/>
	Administration Site <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Patrol Cabin Site <input type="checkbox"/>	
Grazing Division <input type="checkbox"/>	Stock Watering <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Stock Breeding Pastures <input type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIPTION: See LI Aug 13/69 *Greeny Creek*

Stamp Plan.

C.W. House  
0291521

August 25, 1969

The Corporation of the City of Revelstoke  
P.O. Box 170  
Revelstoke, B.C.

Attention D.J. Brown, Public Works Officer

Dear Sirs:

Reference is made to your letter of August 13, 1969 regarding your request for a watershed reserve at Greely Creek. This matter is receiving our attention and you will be advised in the near future of the results.

Yours truly

  
W.R. REDEL  
Director of Lands

CWH:jd



APPLICATION — MAP RESERVE

Dept. File 0291521  
25

G.A. File

Date AUG 25 1969

Agency

Applicant LANDS BRANCH

O.K. Co.'s Office

Address

Purpose WATERSHED RESERVE

Return

App. Book

Index Card

Register

Description (as applied for)

AREA OUTLINED IN RED ON LI AUG 13/69  
VIC OF GREELY CREEK, KOOTENAY DISTRICT

Previous applications

19-7-73

Is application in order?

Unsurveyed first and last appearance in Gazette and Appn. No.

Surveyed.

Reverted: Tax sale Asst. Dist. Date cleared

Description of reversion

L.R.O. clearance

Conflicts noted in Register

FOREST

Grazing

Examination required: Yes  No  Date Requested by

For previous examination see Report dated on File

7652  
64 WATER

Received

Apparently Clear

Cleared by

Date

SEP 12 1969

PROTESTS: L.I.

REMARKS \$ on file. Checked in Mines Department

ADJUDICATION

Passed by Date Approved by Date

Survey instructions requested by

DO NOT FILE AWAY—Please pass file to Legal Surveys when adjudicated

Water Investigations Branch  
Department of Lands, Forests, and Water  
Resources  
Office of Chief Engineer  
Buildings

C. W. House

July 12,

73

0291521  
0305037  
0309757

Attention: B. E. Marr, Chairman, Task Force  
on Multiple Use of Watersheds of  
Community Water Supplies

We are forwarding you our file and would draw your attention to the fact that a reserve was established September 15, 1969, on Greely Creek for the City of Revelstoke. We would appreciate your advice as to whether or not this is satisfactory or that you wish the borders changed.

CWH:pb

  
C. W. HOUSE  
for Director of Lands

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO:  
CHIEF ENGINEER



0305037  
PLEASE REFER TO FILE NO. 0309757  
YOUR REF.: 0319695

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, FORESTS, AND WATER RESOURCES  
WATER RESOURCES SERVICE  
WATER INVESTIGATIONS BRANCH  
OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, VICTORIA, B.C.

June 26, 1973

DEPT. OF LANDS, FORESTS  
AND WATER RESOURCES  
VICTORIA, B.C.

JUN 29 1973

RECORDS ROOM  
VICTORIA, B.C.

Director of Lands  
Lands Service  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, British Columbia

Attention: Mr. C. W. House

Dear Sir:

Re: Watershed Reserves

On behalf of the Task Force on Multiple Use of Watersheds of Community Water Supplies, I am requesting that map reserves be placed on the community watersheds located in the Revelstoke, Kaslo and Nelson Water Districts. Attached is a map, scale 1 inch = 10 miles, showing the locations of the watershed areas in these three Water Districts. In addition, maps at 1:50,000 or 1:250,000 scale are attached showing the boundaries of the requested map reserves that are listed below:

Water District	Watershed Number*	Source	User	Reserve Area Requested**
Revelstoke	1a	Clachnacudainn Creek		15.3 ✓
"	1b	Greely Creek		20.3 029/521
"	1c	Hamilton Creek	City of Revelstoke	5.6 ✓
"	1d	Bridge Creek		1.7 ✓
"	1e	Napoleon Creek		1.2 ✓
"	2	Dolan Creek	Big Eddy W.W.D.***	1.7 ✓
Kaslo	1	Batys Creek	Trout Lake I.D.***	1.5 ✓
"	2a	Kaslo River	Kaslo I.D.	164.0
"	2b	McDonald Creek	Kaslo I.D.	0.8
Nelson	1a	Kuskanax Creek	Nakusp I.D.	135.5
"	1b	Wensley Creek	Nakusp I.D.	1.1
"	1c	Brouse Creek	Nakusp I.D.	1.6

- 2 -

Water District	Watershed Number*	Source	User	Reserve Area Requested**
Nelson	2	Whatshan River	Needles W.W.D.***	233.9
"	3a	Rashdell Creek		0.05
"	3b	Aylard Creek	New Denver	0.06
"	3c	Simpson Creek	(Village)	0.18
"	3d	Mountain Chief Creek		0.32
"	4	Bartlett Creek	Silverton (Village)	2.2
"	5a	Gwillam Creek	Slocan (Village)	30.8
"	5b	Springer Creek	Slocan (Village)	19.2
"	6	Duhamel Creek	Duhamel Creek W.W.D.	22.0
"	7	Blunt Creek	Ridgewood I.D.***	0.3
"	8	Four Mile Creek	Nasookin I.D.	1.3
"	9a	Isac Creek	North Shore Water	
"	9b	Sutherland Creek	Utility Nelson Ltd.	0.6
"	10a	Anderson Creek		5.2
"	10b	Five Mile Creek		18.4
"	10c	Cottonwood Creek	City of Nelson	14.9
"	10d	Whitewater Creek		9.1
"	10e	Clearwater Creek		19.2
"	11	Quartz Creek	Ymir Water Utility	2.6
"	12a	Smoky Creek	South Slocan I.D.	1.9
"	12b	Watts Creek	South Slocan I.D.	0.3
"	13a	Langill Creek	Krestova I.D.	1.3
"	13b	McDermid Creek	Krestova I.D.	0.9
"	14	Norns Creek	Raspberry I.D. Robson I.D.	62.9
"	15	Merry Creek	Kinnard	2.1
"	16	Blueberry Creek	Blueberry Creek I.D.	56.6
"	17	China Creek	Genelle I.D.	10.2
"	18	McNally Creek	Oasis I.D.	2.3
"	19	Hanna Creek (lower)	Riverdale Water Utility	8.8
"	19a	Hanna Creek (upper)		4.0
"	19b	Elgood Creek		0.7
"	19c	Murphy Creek		1.7
"	19d	Topping Creek	City of Rossland	2.7
"	19e	West Little Sheep Creek		1.5
"	19f	Little Sheep Creek and West Fork		1.0
"	19g	Josie Gulch Creek		0.02
"	20a	McQuarrie Creek		0.5
"	20b	Randall Creek		0.4
"	20c	George Creek	City of Trail	1.6
"	20d	Cambridge Creek		5.2
"	20e	Tiger Creek		3.4

. . . . . 3



- 3 -

Water District	Watershed Number*	Source	User	Reserve Area Requested**
Nelson	21	Casino Creek	Casino W.W.D.***	0.7
"	22	Bath Creek	Beaver Falls W.W.D.	1.1
"	23	Kelly Creek	Fruitvale	9.3
"	24a	Duck Creek	Wynndel I.D.***	20.1
"	24b	Wynndel Creek	Wynndel I.D.	1.3
"	25a	Arrow Creek	East Creston I.D. and Creston	30.7
"	25b	Glaser Creek	Creston	0.6
"	26	Sullivan Creek	Erickson I.D.	2.5
"	27	Camp Run Creek	Canyon I.D.	2.2
"	28	Lister Creek	Lister I.D.	1.0

\* See attached maps.

\*\* In square miles.

\*\*\* W.W.D. - waterworks district; I.D. - improvement district.

It should be noted that the following users have had reserves placed on their watershed areas that may cover the reserve areas requested herein:

Genelle I.D.	0274522
East Creston I.D.	045432
City of Nelson	0134406
Blueberry Creek I.D.	0306115

Your kind cooperation in this matter is requested.

Yours very truly



B. E. Marr  
Chairman, Task Force on  
Multiple Use of Watersheds  
of Community Water Supplies

Attachs.

cc Mr. J. E. McMynn  
Deputy Minister of Mines