

April 28, 2025

Hon. Ravi Parmar  
Minister of Forests  
Government of British Columbia  
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9E1

Sent via email: [FOR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FOR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Parmar,

**Re: Forest Service Road Closures and Decommissioning**

As the leading organization for mineral exploration in British Columbia, the Association for Mineral Exploration (AME) is writing to raise the issue of forest service road closures and recent communications and surveys about future of road closures.

Our members explore for minerals and hold mineral tenure claims in remote and hard-to-reach areas in all parts of BC. Forestry and mineral exploration have a symbiotic relationship, and the roads that are created for forestry are also used for mineral exploration – from initial work by hand to more advanced mechanized work. They allow our sector to move people and equipment without the need for other expensive and limited forms of transportation, such as helicopters.

Recently, there have been efforts to close roads where there are active mineral claims and exploration projects. This is being done in a seemingly haphazard and unjustified way without consideration for the impact on other road users. AME would like to see a plan for what roads are to be decommissioned and work with the Ministry to find creative solutions to keep access open to active users.

Additionally, last month, the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) released a [survey about recreational forest service road](#) use in southeastern BC. This survey did not include mineral exploration as a considered activity and was not sent to our members. Thanks to the work of the East Kootenay Chamber of Mines and our membership we have been made aware of this survey. In correspondence with the Ministry, we established that the survey was directed at recreational users; however, WLRS also advised that the survey had also been sent to some community forest organizations, forestry and mining companies and trapline holders.

Moving forward, no decisions should be made about planning and road closures without the consultation of our industry. This includes relevant regional groups such as, in this case, the East Kootenay Chamber of Mines and Chamber of Mines of Eastern BC. We expect the same for all land use planning initiatives in the province.

We request that your ministry, WLRS and the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) coordinate and provide clear plans that show your government's land use planning efforts and plans related to the decommissioning of forest service roads. We encourage you to incorporate mineral explorers and tenure holders along with other users of Crown lands in this work. To ensure transparency and accountability to our members who are active in all regions of the province, AME is sharing a copy of this letter with its members.

We call on your ministry, MCM and WLRS to meet with AME and regional exploration groups to discuss this challenge across the province and work to ensure that access to exploration is maintained. Please advise on a date that we could arrange this meeting. To ensure transparency and accountability to our members, AME is sharing a copy of this letter with its members.

Sincerely,



Trish Jacques  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Association for Mineral Exploration

cc: Hon. Jagrup Brar, Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals  
Hon. Randene Neill, Minister of Water Land and Resources Stewardship  
Nathaniel Amann-Blake, Deputy Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals  
Lori Halls, Deputy Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship  
Makenzie Leine, Deputy Minister of Forests  
Jason Jacob, President, East Kootenay Chamber of Mines  
David Johnston, President, Chamber of Mines of Eastern BC  
Jane McCaw, Kamloops Exploration Group  
Justin Trockstad, Vancouver Island Exploration Group  
Ted Vanderwart, Smithers Exploration Group  
Melissa Ramsden, Vancouver Mineral Exploration Group