

**From:** Sara Golling \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2011 4:19 PM  
**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
**Subject:** New Water Act

One of the highest priorities identified by Rossland's Water Stewardship Task Force is one that we are utterly powerless to implement: PROTECTION OF ROSSLAND'S WATERSHEDS.

(Watersheds" is plural because the City of Rossland depends for its water supply on three small streams which are in turn entirely dependent on precipitation, preferably in the form of a healthy wintertime snowpack.) All of our watersheds are contain a large number of mineral claims which are as yet inactive, and are partially within an active ski hill – a controlled recreation area (Red Mountain Ventures), and are wholly within a forest tenure (Atco Wood Products).

**We ask that, rather than merely requiring that water be “considered” in land-use planning and decisions, the provincial government enacts provisions in the new Water Act and all the legislation governing mining, mineral exploration, and forestry, which provisions must give the preservation and protection of watersheds priority over other resource extraction that could threaten the quality or quantity of water in communities’ drinking watersheds.**

It is too easy, otherwise, for unenlightened authorities to “consider” water and dismiss as unimportant any concerns raised about the impacts of mining within watersheds or deforestation of those watersheds and the resulting loss of water-retaining soils.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sara Golling, Chair  
Rossland Water Stewardship Task Force  
Visions to Action ( [www.visionstoaction.ca](http://www.visionstoaction.ca) )