

From: Kamloops Stockmen's Association [mailto:kamstock@hotmail.ca]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 10:16 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Letter re Moderization of Water Act

Good Evening,

Find attached our input regarding the modernization of the Water Act.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Kari Lynn Dundass
Kamloops Stockmen's Association
Secretary/Treasurer
250-374-6151
kamstock@hotmail.ca

February 19, 2011

Water Act Modernization Submission
Ministry of Environment, Water Stewardship Division
By Email: livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca
Victoria, B.C.

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Importance of Water to the Ranching Industry

The Kamloops Stockmen's Association, which represents approximately 150 livestock producers in the area bounded by Vavenby, Logan Lake, Chase and Cache Creek, is writing to express the concerns that we would like to have addressed when modernizing the Water Act. Ranchers have a critical need for water in order to be a sustainable industry in the future. Water access, water licensing, water conservation, water stewardship and water storage issues for ranchers must be addressed in order for cattle ranching to remain a viable industry in British Columbia.

It is critical to ensure that agricultural land and the agricultural industry has a secure source of water that is reserved now and into the future. Ranchers need confidence that they can continue ranching without the concern of losing their water access. Without water, the ranching industry cannot continue.

Water licenses need to be issued to ranchers to order to ensure that livestock present and future need for in-stream watering is met. If for whatever reason, these livestock are not allowed access to in-stream water facilities, then the existing water license must apply to the off-stream water facilities. Historical water access for both livestock and irrigation must be continually recognized along with adequate water security for the future for both livestock and irrigation.

Water is vital to every cattle operation and ranchers are committed to water stewardship and water conservation. The Provincial government needs to recognize ranchers' conservation and stewardship actions. Financial support and incentives on behalf of the Province would be beneficial and important to support ranchers with these tasks.

Storage facilities to capture high flows for use later in the season can be beneficial as fish habitat and recreational fishing opportunities. The Provincial government needs to work with ranchers to enhance the ecological values of these storage facilities.

Ranchers need to have a secure source of water now and into the future in order to remain viable and to continue to provide a food source for British Columbians. When modernizing the Water Act, please consider the importance of the above issues to ranchers. If you have any questions regarding our request or would like to speak with us, we can be contacted at the above address or

KSA Kamloops Stockmen's
Association

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at kamstock@hotmail.ca. Thank you for your service to our communities. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Kari Lynn Dundass

Kamloops Stockmen's Association
c/o Kari Lynn Dundass
Secretary/Treasurer