

From: Raelynn Gibson [raelynn@ecosociety.ca]
Sent: April-30-10 3:48 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX; Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Atamanenko.A@parl.gc.ca; Mungall.MLA, Michelle LASS:EX
Subject: WAM Comments Submission
Attachments: WestKootenayEcoSociety WAM Comment Submission _2_.pdf

Attached is Comment Submission from the West Kootenay EcoSociety.

Thank You,

Raelynn Gibson
West Kootenay EcoSociety
250-354-1909



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April 30 2010

Water Act Modernization
Water Stewardship Division
Ministry of Environment
P.O. Box 9326 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9M2

Dear Minister Penner and the Living Water Smart Team:

Re: Water Act Modernization (WAM)

Cc: Premier Campbell, Alex Atamanenko MP, Michelle Mungall MLA

The West Kootenay EcoSociety promotes water as a fundamental component in maintaining biodiversity, healthy communities and healthy ecosystems. We believe a commitment to ecological sustainability and environmental stewardship will help ensure a promising future for generations to come. Factors such as climate change, urban growth and industrial development have had, and will continue to have, damaging effects on our water sources if measures are not taken to protect this valuable resource.

The West Kootenay EcoSociety supports the provincial initiative to evaluate and modernize British Columbia's Water Act. However, we see the lack of public consultation after this initial comment period a critical issue.

The new Water Act should involve the citizens of BC at all stages of its development. We request that there be a commitment from the provincial government to maintain ongoing public participation throughout the Water Act Modernization process to ensure a democratic decision-making process is upheld.

Additionally, there must be commitment from the province to fund and implement the changes proposed to the Water Act if we want to effectively secure our water resources.

Sincerely,

Raelynn Gibson
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