

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
VEDDER MOUNTAIN TRAILS ASSOCIATION (VMTA)
AND
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP BRANCH, COAST REGION
MINISTRY OF TOURISM, SPORTS AND THE ARTS (MTSA)
AT
VEDDER MOUNTAIN, COAST RECREATION AREA
CHILLIWACK, B.C. CANADA**

PURPOSE:

To establish a stewardship cooperative between the Vedder Mountain Trails Association (VMTA) and Environmental Stewardship Branch, Coast Region, MTSA, to assist with conservation and protection of the Vedder Mountain conservation & recreation area in Chilliwack, B.C.

BACKGROUND:

The Trails Stewardship program of MSTSA is intended to provide rewarding opportunities for organizations to help in the conservation of our Province's conservation & recreation areas.

MUTUAL COMMITMENT:

Guiding Principles

The parties to this agreement embrace the concept of environmental stewardship in shared recreation areas in BC – the responsibility assumed by a group of individual to knowledgeably, carefully, and effectively conduct volunteer conservation activities within a specific protected area.

VMTA and MTSA commit to work together in the spirit of cooperation to complete the agreed objectives.

Conservation & Recreation Stewardship Commitments

VMTA will provide training to volunteers in effective conservation & recreation management to provide ongoing management of conservation & recreation stewards.

VMTA will recruit, train, supervise and monitor individual Conservation & Recreation Stewards.

Implementation

Both parties recognize the limited climate facing public enterprise. As such, joint initiatives will attempt to maximize cost savings to both parties. Financing of any specific

project or activity stemming from this Cooperative Agreement may be negotiated by the parties.

The parties commit to establishing an appropriate action plan for the conservation & recreation project(s) named in the conservation & recreation commitments above. No project will be initiated without the approval of the Environmental Stewardship Area Supervisor.

MSTA will provide, but not limited to the VMTA, the parking areas on the east side of Vedder Mountain (above Cultus Lake) as suitable parking and staging areas for recreational and conservational use of Vedder Mountain.

Terms of Agreement

This cooperative agreement is intended to indicate the parties' intention to work together on areas of conservation and recreation.

This agreement will be in effect for 1 year from the date of signing. The agreement will be formally reviewed by the parties each year. This agreement may be cancelled, in writing, by either party.

The parties agree that changes may be made to the agreement at anytime, if mutually acceptable.

The parties recognize and respect that the ultimate responsibility and accountability for the management of all recreation areas in the province rests with the Minister of Tourism, Sport and the Arts.

Date: _____

MSTA Representative

VMTA representative