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For immediate release
June 22, 2007

Top-Rated Okanagan Recreation Area Gets Boost in Funding

OKANAGAN – The Okanagan Trail Rider Association will receive \$275,000 from the provincial government for its Bear Creek Off-Road Vehicle Park project, Okanagan-Westside MLA Rick Thorpe announced today.

“Bear Creek offers one of the best off-road riding areas in British Columbia,” said Thorpe. “This funding is critical in maintaining these exceptional grounds in a responsible way while encouraging community members and visitors to take advantage of this wonderful recreation area.”

The funding will be used to plan, construct and maintain a sustainable network of trails in the Bear Creek Motorized Recreation Resource Management Zone. The funds will also allow further collaboration on rehabilitation of impacted areas and the construction of a sustainable trail network to disperse riders away from sensitive areas, including wetlands and residences.

Some of the highlights of this 30,000-hectare project include:

- a mixture of 400 km of MC/ATV trails;
- 200 km of new trail constructed;
- about 100 km of de-activated roads converted to trails;
- 100 km of existing trails will be rehabilitated; and
- two trail heads and camping/staging facilities will be built.

“The Regional District places a very high priority on protecting our environment for the benefit of all residents. We’re pleased that this grant will assist the Trail Rider Association and other parties to work together in preserving sensitive areas while recognizing the multiple uses within the Resource Management Zone,” said Regional District of Central Okanagan Chair Robert Hobson.

“On behalf of all the volunteers in the Okanagan Trail Riders Association we are enthused and committed to protecting valuable resources and enhancing riding opportunities through sustainable trail systems. With genuine, collaborative and considerate effort between all stakeholders we can achieve a model of sustainable and multiple use opportunities for Crown

Land for generations to come,” said Ken Umbarger, president of the Okanagan Trail Riders Association.

“The Lakeview Irrigation District greatly appreciates this government's support of our initiative to keep Lambly Creek Watershed healthy and accessible for all forms of enjoyment and recreation. With this partnership, we will be able to increase public awareness and encourage best practices, in order to keep BC watersheds healthy and accessible for all forms of enjoyment and recreation,” said James Moller, manager of the Lakeview Irrigation District.

Implementation of this project will span 3-4 years.

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Visit Rick's website at www.rickthorpemla.bc.ca

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