

Gilpin Newsletter, Nov. 2008

The Gilpin file remains active. The good news is that the former 317 acre P&T property is now public. I am including maps to show why the purchase was important.

Last year there was modest improvement in range management but this year same old. Morrissey Creek, one of six watersheds in the WMA proposal has been hammered by cows and 80-90% of critical winter feed for ungulates is gone and the first stop on all my field trips 100 meters north of the 3km board on Gilpin logging road is dramatically worse. Rather than describe the damage further I will send pictures for those who follow the story

I submitted an official complaint to The Forest Practices Board and subsequently spent the day early November with employees, Al Peatt and Daryl Spencer. I don't expect much to happen but I wanted my complaint on record. Al is a former Fish & Wildlife biologist in Penticton and we both agreed we didn't see this degree of damage during field trips in the 80's.

The Draft Wildlife Management Area proposal for Morrissey-Gilpin is an important asset in the ongoing fight to have Gilpin responsibly managed. Although lengthy you can get a good understanding of the importance of a WMA by reading the rationale on page 1 and the description and merit of the three conservation zones on pages 14 and 15. The priority Conservation Zone (grassland) is approximately 68% of the WMA proposal and the Special Habitat Feature Zone is approximately 9% of the proposal. These two zones represent approx. 77% of the WMA proposal and regardless of land designation there will be continual pressure to ensure responsible access management in these two

zones. After all, the grassland ecosystem is the most threatened in B.C.

The new Quad Bike Club in Grand Forks has made a lot of noise demanding their right to unlimited vehicle access even though their pathetic argument can only be directed at the approximate 23% General Conservation Zone. This is the forest/ logging area where the ungulates live or die every Feb. /March. Wildlife gravitates towards space and road density is so high that the area is not wildlife friendly.

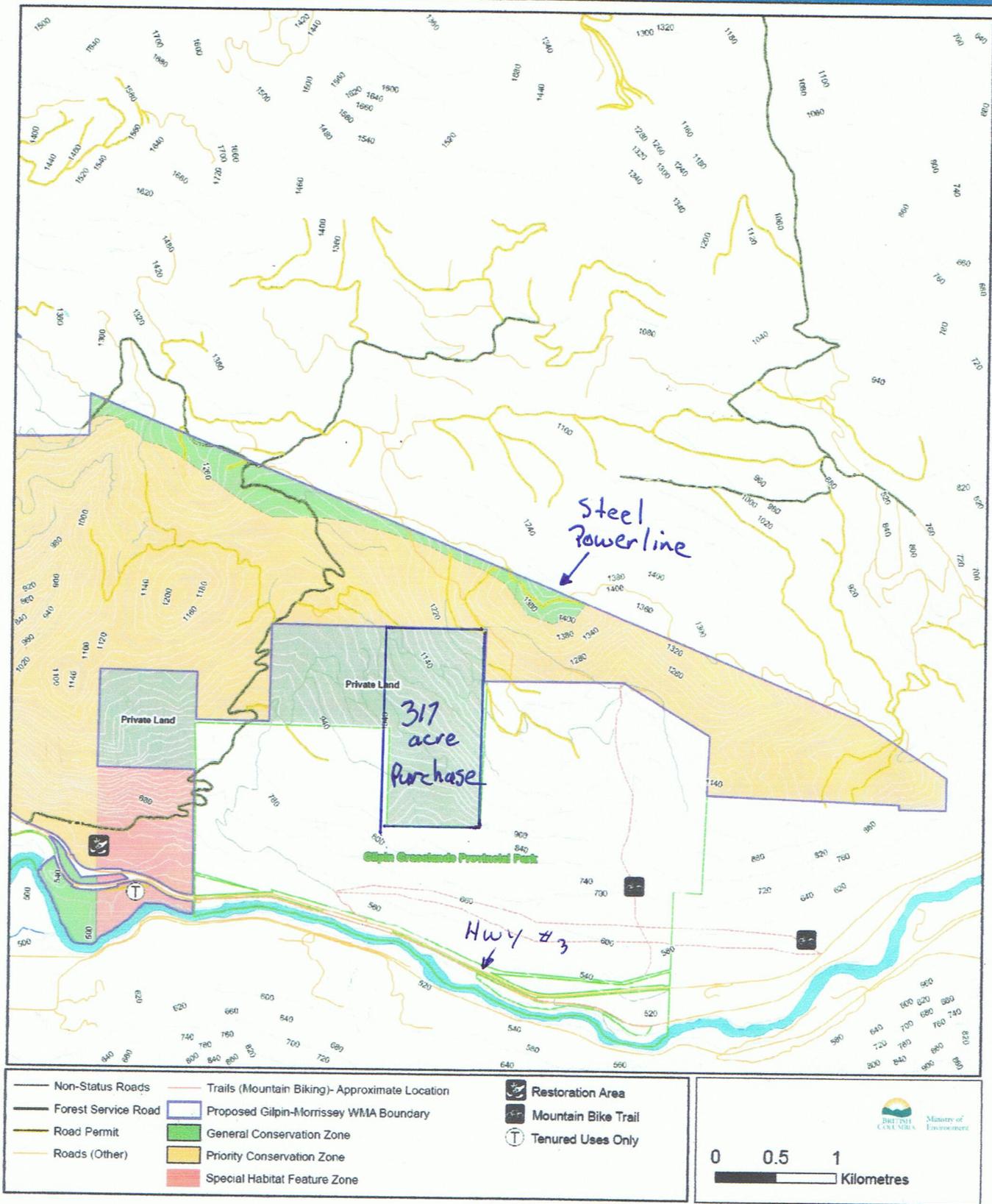
I am pleased to hear that Ministry of Environment Stewardship division is putting pressure on Ministry of Forest range to keep cows off the 470 acre Nature Trust land and also the recent 317 acre purchase. If there is any hope of working with MOF range this will be the test.

I have been asked a number of times if we are making progress. We certainly are. Whether we are going to get necessary change in one swoop or by inches time will tell.

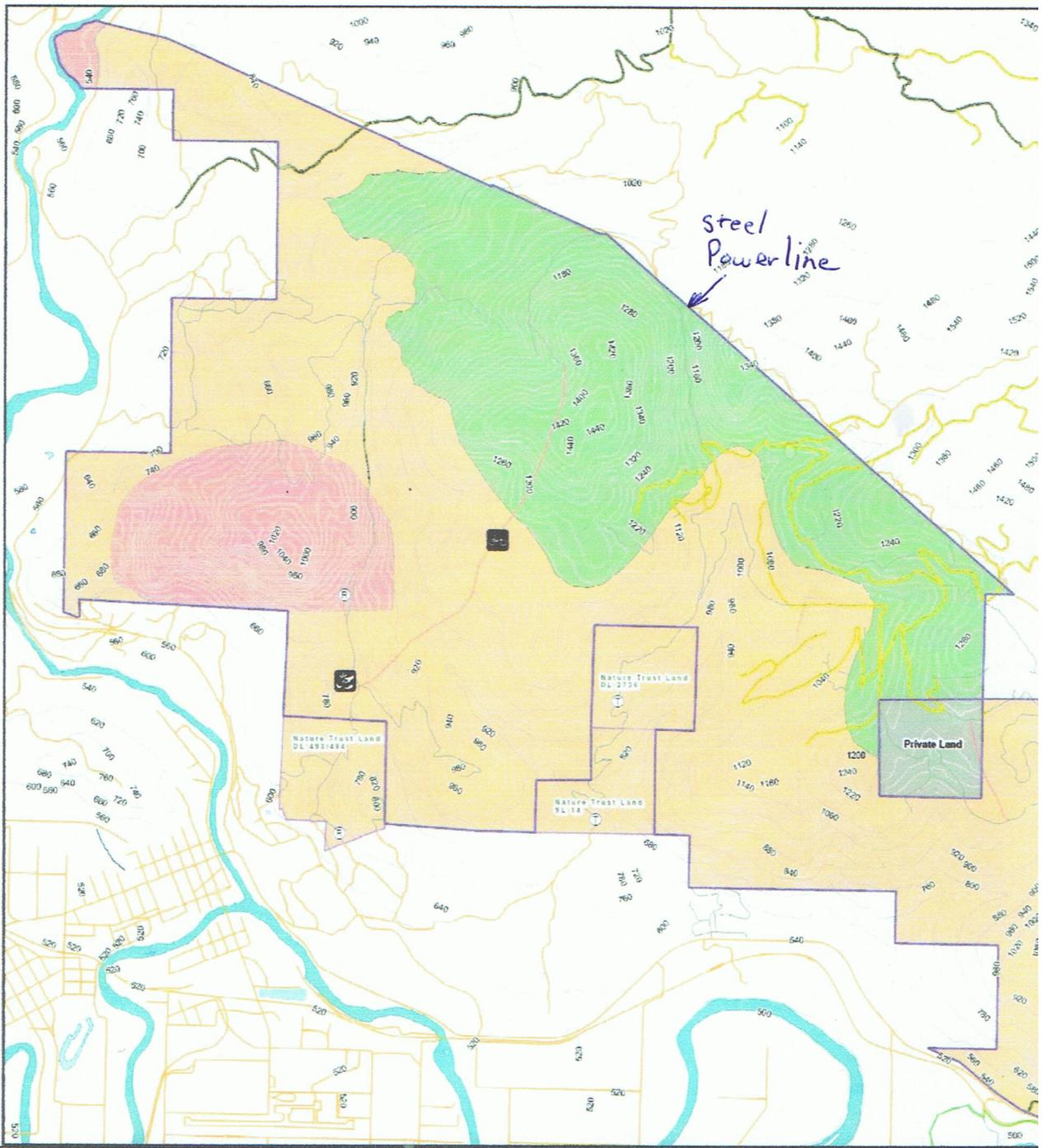
Thanks to Al Grant in Rock Creek I have a web page in its infancy: www.boundaryalliance.org which challenges the Grand Forks good ole boy logic that I hear all the time; "He wants it for himself – there is only one guy".

Barry

Proposed Gilpin-Morrissey WMA: East Unit Access/Zoning



Proposed Gilpin-Morrissey WMA: West Unit Access/Zoning



Non-Status Roads	General Conservation Zone	Restoration Area
Forest Service Road	Priority Conservation Zone	Mountain Bike Trail
Road Permit	Special Habitat Feature Zone	Redundant Road
Roads (Other)	Proposed Gilpin-Morrissey WMA	Tenured Uses Only
Trails (Mountain Biking)- Approximate Location		

Ministry of Environment

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 Kilometres