

Fred Schneider

Pouce Coupe, BC V0C 2C0

April 15, 2024

Peace River Regional District

Re: Concerns regarding 'Extreme Mudfest'

To whom it may concern,

The local consideration of the temporary use permit 24-001 to host 'Extreme Mudfest' at 187 Riverside Road has recently been brought to my attention. I am a long-time farmer and rancher living on Riverside Road and the thought of a large event like this being hosted in my neighbourhood is extremely concerning for a variety of reasons. Leading my concerns would be safety issues with regards to the suitability of the proposed site, as well as the noise and litter caused by this invasion of our rural community.

Safety:

- Riverside Road is a dead end road that was not built for the volume of traffic proposed for the event, some places are already limited in terms of meeting oncoming traffic.
- The extent of dust from this much traffic would negatively affect both residents and livestock in the area.
- Timing of the proposed event would mean that developers would be needing to use Riverside Road simultaneously with farmer's busy season; hauling livestock, hay and grain.
- In the current drought conditions an unintentional grass fire could easily start from a hot exhaust or carelessly discarded cigarette butt.
- In the event of a fire, the property is surrounded by an unmaintained dry forest. Regardless of the Pouce Coupe Fire Department's promise to be on the proposed site (which is outside all fire protection areas), the ability to control a fire in dry conditions on a hilltop location, with a lack of a good water supply/distance to one would make things extremely difficult and dangerous.
- There are two active well sites in the neighbourhood which are already cause for concern when it comes to safely evacuating residents of only Riverside Road, as there have been two leaks in the fairly recent past, let alone participants and spectators of a large event.
- Perhaps most importantly, Riverside Road is a **dead end road**. An emergency evacuation of residents, participants, spectators and livestock would be a feat in itself, to say nothing of first responders needing to simultaneously gain access to the property in question.

Noise:

- The level noise from this 'mud and music festival' as well as the additional traffic pertaining to it will be both disruptive to all residents of Riverside Road and distressing to any livestock in the surrounding area.
- It should also be noted that the traffic concerns would be an issue for far more than the 4 days of the proposed event, as the development of the site would require all water and materials for infrastructure to be hauled in.

Litter:

- There will be a significant increase in litter all along the roadside; which becomes a problem for residents when it blows into pastures where young livestock may consume it and get sick and/or die or onto hay land where it plugs up expensive farm equipment

In summation I believe it is clear that 187 Riverside Road is not a suitable location for 'Extreme Mudfest'. An event like this would be much better suited to a venue like the Dawson Creek Exhibition Grounds as they already have existing infrastructure for large events, safety measures in place and multiple evacuation routes. I ask that you carefully consider all aspects and concerns of the local residents when making a final decision on the matter of Temporary Use Permit number 24-001 for 'Extreme Mudfest'. Riverside Road is not only a peaceful, rural home for many but also my place of business.

With Respect,

Fred Schneider

