

## **Webinar Response – Wildsight**

January 7, 2022

The more we learn about the proposed development on the Galloway lands the more alarmed we become about its potential impact on wildlife habitat and connectivity. The one-way webinar hosted last night by the developer raised more questions than it answered.

People in Fernie will recall how often entire parks need to be closed to accommodate moose. Putting an entire sprawling subdivision, call it conservation or not, will effectively drive moose, grizzly bears and others from this habitat. These animals need space, wide corridors where they can live, move and avoid human activity. Some will argue that the animals can go elsewhere, there is lots of space in this valley. While there is some truth in this, wildlife also needs to move from one habitat area to another. The Galloway lands development is right in the middle of a critical connectivity corridor without the wide spaces that these animals require.

Permanent human settlement has one of the greatest impacts on wildlife habitat and the ability of animals to thrive and survive. In the face of no plan for grizzly bear connectivity in the Elk Valley we are witnessing a death by 1000 cuts. Increasing cumulative effects due to an increasing human footprint destroys the homes and habitat of grizzly bears, moose, elk, wolverines and more.

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