

Good afternoon everyone, I am Anya sitaram Harshan, I'm in third grade and I go to The Fernie Academy.

Early this year as part of my science fair, I had the opportunity to identify and research an environmental issue that is affecting our community. The issue was the long term effect of housing development on wildlife.

During my research I learned that housing development causes habitat fragmentation, and habitat fragmentation causes stress for the bears. Because they won't have a healthy supply of food, they won't be able to survive and thrive. The grizzly bear is an umbrella species which balances the population of plants and animals. What is good for the bears is good for the other species.

This proposed development is also bad for westslope cutthroat trout.

Wich is an endangered species.

A development like this would mean more roofs, more driveways and more roads. Wich would mean more impervious surfaces. Impervious surfaces reduce the amount of water being absorbed into the soil and increases the amount of water runoff into the creek.

Because of the excess water runoff, the dirt will cover the fish eggs. Wich are only protected by a thin layer of rocks. If this happens, the eggs will suffocate and die. Lizard creek is one of the last remaining homes of the westslope cutthroat trout. If this development goes through, the trout will no longer spawn in Lizard creek and this will be a huge loss to wildlife and our community.

My Family and I used these trails a lot in summer and winter. I have enjoyed exploring and watching the wildlife like birds, deer and moose. With the housing development this will no longer be possible and trail users like me will very sad.

The

This proposed development will mean more human and wildlife conflict. And humans are not the ones being shot in wildlife encounters, it's the animals that are shot, they are the ones that die and not us. And it is not fair!

CONCLUSION or appeal

This development would be harmful to our community. So all the adults in the room, please make the right decision and not let the proposal for the galloway development go ahead.

also I heard that there is ~~property~~ other interest in this property. This means the grizzlies can survive and thrive in one of the few safe places they have left. so again I sincerely ask the adults here to consider working with the province instead of housing developments. IF we build a big park for bears to survive not only we children will get to grow up in a beautiful place, but our children as well.