Adventure Tourism Tenure Management Plan Replacement DRAFT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Established as a snowmobile tour company under the name Canadian Snowmobile Adventures in 1993, Canadian Wilderness Adventures (CWA) operates in the Callaghan Valley and on Blackcomb Mountain. In the past 20 years, the company has grown from a small operation with six snowmobiles, to a multi-sport adventure tourism operator, providing outdoor experiences to over 20,000 guests in 2013.

CWA is currently offering a variety of adventure tourism activities, including snowshoe, dogsled, ATV, snowmobile, snow cat, backcountry ski, horseback tours, hiking and nature tours; as well as mountain dining and logistical support for film projects. CWA plans to refine its offerings to include activities recognized under its current Management Plan, such as mountain biking, ATV, Jeep, canoe/kayak tours, camping and accommodation. As part of this resubmission, CWA plans to add river rafting, zip lining and canyoning to its tour options and is applying to marginally adjust its tenure area to include lands previously rescinded for the Olympics and to allow for these opportunities.

CWA currently has prior approval or approval in principal for the following existing and planned improvements and facilities:

- Callaghan Adventure Base Area, a central lodge (Mohabi Lodge) with 36 auxiliary cabins, spa, washrooms and showers and dog kennels;
- Staff accommodations;
- Mechanized base of operations, including parking, a storage shed, security cabin, reception and change facility, woodshed, snowmobile/ATV compound as well as a horse corral, shelter and shed;
- Maintenance Shop and fuel storage;
- Warming hut (Sproatt Lake Hut) with a dock on Sproatt Lake, and
- Celestial observatory.

Additionally CSA intends to construct the following:

- Trapper's Camp cabin on Totem Pole Lake;
- Lower Gold Mine Site Cabin;
- Northair Lodge at North Air Lake;
- Harry Hut, shelter;
- Sproatt Lake Cabin ancillary guest cabins;
- Zip lines, canopy walks and suspension bridges, and
- Storage Barn for river rafts and equipment.

CWA is a locally-owned Whistler-based operation that provides 45-60 jobs and helps diversify the regional economy. With the inclusion of planned and proposed activities, CWA will employ up to 100 area residents. CWA is committed to growth and job creation, promoting stewardship and appreciation of nature by offering fun nature experiences for staff and guests alike. The objective of this commercial recreation renewal and expansion is to allow Canadian Wilderness Adventures to adjust its operating area, to continue to grow its product mix and to safely provide a lasting contribution to both Whistler's and BC's tourism economy by creating new visitor experiences and resident career opportunities. CWA provides clients with a variety of recreation experiences through a diversity of remote, varied terrain.

CWA's operations focus on environmental values and overlapping uses including:

- Ensuring wildlife encounters are managed according to the 2006 Wildlife Guidelines for Backcountry Tourism/Commercial Recreation in British Columbia.
- Ensuring overlap with other resource interests are identified and mitigated.

