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January 4, 2024

Project/File: 123222483

Erik Meertens, Senior Director, Mountain Operations

Sun Peaks Resort

Sun Peaks, BC

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Dear Erik,

Reference: McGillivray Highlands Nordic Trails Preliminary Field Reconnaissance Report

At the request of Sun Peaks Resort (Sun Peaks), Stantec Consulting Ltd. (Stantec) conducted a desktop review and preliminary field reconnaissance (PFR) of the proposed McGillivray Highlands Nordic Trails Expansion (the Project). The Project includes the development of three nordic trails within the municipality of Sun Peaks, British Columbia (BC) for cross-country skiing and winter recreation activities. Though the planned trail will have a width of 10 m, for the purpose of this study a 30 m-wide buffer on either-side of the proposed trail centreline was subject to in-field inspection during the PFR (the study area). The trails measure approximately 4 km long by 10 m wide (4 ha) and are planned for development in 2024.

The study area is located approximately 40 km northeast of Kamloops, 13 km northeast of Chase, and 350 m south of Valley Drive in the Sun Peaks Resort East Village area (Figure 1). The area is located within the traditional territories of the Adams Indian Lake Band, Little Shuswap Lake Band, Neskonlith Indian Band, Skeetchestn Indian Band, and Tk'emlups Nation¹.

Study Objectives

This study included a desktop review and PFR to assess archaeological resource potential in general terms within the project area and identifies baseline archaeological concerns that may arise from proposed project works within it. The objectives of this desktop review and PFR are to:

- Provide an overview of archaeological resource potential within the study area
- Document the distribution of known archaeological sites
- Summarize previous archaeological studies within and adjacent to the study area
- Identify potential conflicts between archaeological resources and the project
- Identify lands that have the potential to contain archaeological resources within the project area
- Recommend additional studies or other measures to identify and mitigate potential impacts to protected archaeological resources, as required

¹ Consultative Areas Database <https://maps.gov.bc.ca/ess/hm/cadb/> accessed November 28, 2023.

Reference: McGillivray Highlands Nordic Trails Preliminary Field Reconnaissance Report

The PFR was limited to a visual survey and did not include subsurface investigation or artifact collection. As such, an HCA Permit was not required for the study. Heritage permits were acquired from Adams Lake Band, Little Shuswap Lake Band, Neskonlith Indian Band, and Tk'emlups Nation Indigenous groups.

The PFR was undertaken on October 25, 2023 by Kirsten Boettger (Stantec), Dylan John (Adams Lake Indian Band), and Angus Manuel (Sk'atsin Resources LLP). Erik Meertens and Barney Mouat with Sun Peaks accompanied the crew during the survey.

Background

In 2022, Stantec completed an archaeological overview assessment (AOA) with a PFR on behalf of Sun Peaks for land parcels 27, 56, 57, and 68 in the vicinity of McGillivray Creek, immediately adjacent and overlapping with the north of the current study area Figure 2; Grieve 2022; Scott 2022). With the exception of one area exhibiting archaeological potential these parcels were assessed as having low archaeological potential based on the results of the AOA and in-field observations during the PFR (Grieve 2022). The terrain within parcels 27, 56, 57, and 68 was observed to be uneven and/or gently to moderately sloping to the west (5-25°) with low-lying and poorly drained areas at the base of slopes and in proximity to water sources. Previous disturbances were identified throughout the area as a result of activities include timber harvesting, vegetation clearing, and ongoing recreational use to the area.

One area of archaeological potential (AOP) was identified within parcel 56, a relatively level to gently sloping (0-4°) knoll. This area falls within the northern portion of the westernmost trail, immediately adjacent to the east of the centreline of the proposed trail. Avoidance of ground disturbing activities within the AOP was recommended (Figure 2; Grieve 2022).

Methods

Pedestrian survey was conducted by a crew of 3 people at 10 m spacing. Surface inspection for visible archaeological features (e.g. cultural depressions, burial cairns, lithic scatters, etc.). Ground surface exposures including tree throws, existing access trails, and sediment exposures within the surveyed areas were examined for the presence of cultural material. In addition, standing and/or fallen trees within the surveyed areas were inspected for evidence of cultural modifications characteristic of traditional use sites. The survey was documented through photographs and field notes during the field assessment. Mature trees with the potential for cultural modification were inspected where observed to identify any fallen or standing culturally modified trees (CMTs).

Areas with elevated archaeological potential were defined based on proximity to water courses as well as soil characteristics (e.g., well-drained) and terrain features (i.e., well-defined landforms, terraces, etc.). Areas of low archaeological potential were defined based on undifferentiated, sloping terrain, and lack of defined landform features indicative of settings suitable for past habitation or subsistence activities.

Reference: McGillivray Highlands Nordic Trails Preliminary Field Reconnaissance Report

Results

The topography of the study area is generally undifferentiated and moderate to steeply (20-30°) sloped terrain with a western aspect (Photo 1–Photo 5). The area generally lacks defined features typically associated with archaeological resources and few hydrological features were identified. Portions of the study area have been previously disturbed by timber harvesting activities and existing recreational trail construction and use throughout (Photo 1). Three areas of archaeological potential were identified and recorded during the PFR but no archaeological sites with surface visibility were identified.

The majority of the proposed trail route follows an existing approximately 5 m-wide cleared trail or crosses through areas that have been previously cleared of vegetation at different stages of regrowth. Vegetation throughout the study area consists of an overstory of subalpine fir, spruce, and alder, and an understory of black currant, huckleberry, grasses and moss.

Two AOPs were identified in proximity to a southwest-northeast oriented unnamed creek which bisects the easternmost trail at its approximate midpoint (Figure 2 and Figure 3). AOP KB-AOP-001 is a relatively level bench area adjacent to an ephemeral drainage (Photo 6). The landform measures 16 m x 13 m (NE/SW x NW/SE) with a descending slope toward the ephemeral drainage to the south.

As a result of AOP KB-AOP-001 being identified within the easternmost trail, a potential alternate route to cross the creek was assessed (Figure 3). The proposed alternate route measures approximately 575 m long and diverts the trail to the east of the originally proposed creek crossing, avoiding the three identified areas of archaeological potential (Figure 3). One AOP (AOP KB-002) was identified within the proposed reroute area in proximity to the southwest-northeast oriented unnamed creek. AOP KB-002 is a relatively level bench area adjacent to an ephemeral drainage to the north (Photo 7). The landform measures 17 m x 13 m (N/S x E/W). Lands within the reroute are assessed as exhibiting low archaeological potential due to the presence of uneven, hummocky, continuously sloping terrain with a 30 degree slope and no defined landforms along the creek edge.

Further south within the easternmost trail a third AOP was identified (Figure 3). AOP KB-AOP-003 is a gentle rise that measures 4 m x 1.5 m (N/S x E/W) with a series of large boulders along the edge of a 30° slope with a western aspect (Photo 8).

During the 2022 PFR assessment, one area of archaeological (AOP 1) was identified within parcel 56, which overlaps with the northern portion of the westernmost trail (Figure 2). This AOP was re-visited as part of the present study to assess potential impacts to the AOP by the proposed McGillivray Highlands Nordic Trails. The assessment of AOP1 has not changed but the trail may be adjusted to avoid impacts to the ground at this location.

Reference: McGillivray Highlands Nordic Trails Preliminary Field Reconnaissance Report

Summary and Recommendations

Based on the results of the PFR Stantec makes the following recommendations:

- For the three AOPs identified as part of this study (KB-AOP-01, KB-AOP-002 and KB-AOP-003) and AOP 1 previously identified during the 2022 PFR (Grieve 2022) avoidance during Project ground disturbance activities is recommended. Avoidance may be achieved through project redesign or through engineering modifications to work such as placement of ground matting during clearing to avoid ground disturbance.
- If avoidance of impacts to the AOPs is not feasible the areas should be subject to an archaeological impact assessment under a Section 12.2 permit issued under the *Heritage Conservation Act* prior to construction commencing.
- For the areas assessed as low potential, no further work is recommended. If the proposed development footprint expands to include unassessed areas, a qualified archaeologist should review the change to determine if additional work, such as the completion of an archaeological impact assessment in unassessed areas, may be warranted.

Closure

We trust this information meets your requirements. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,

Stantec Consulting Ltd.

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Archaeologist
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Attachments: A: Figures
B: Photos

Sarah Smith MA, RPCA
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sarah.smith@stantec.com

Reference: McGillivray Highlands Nordic Trails Preliminary Field Reconnaissance Report

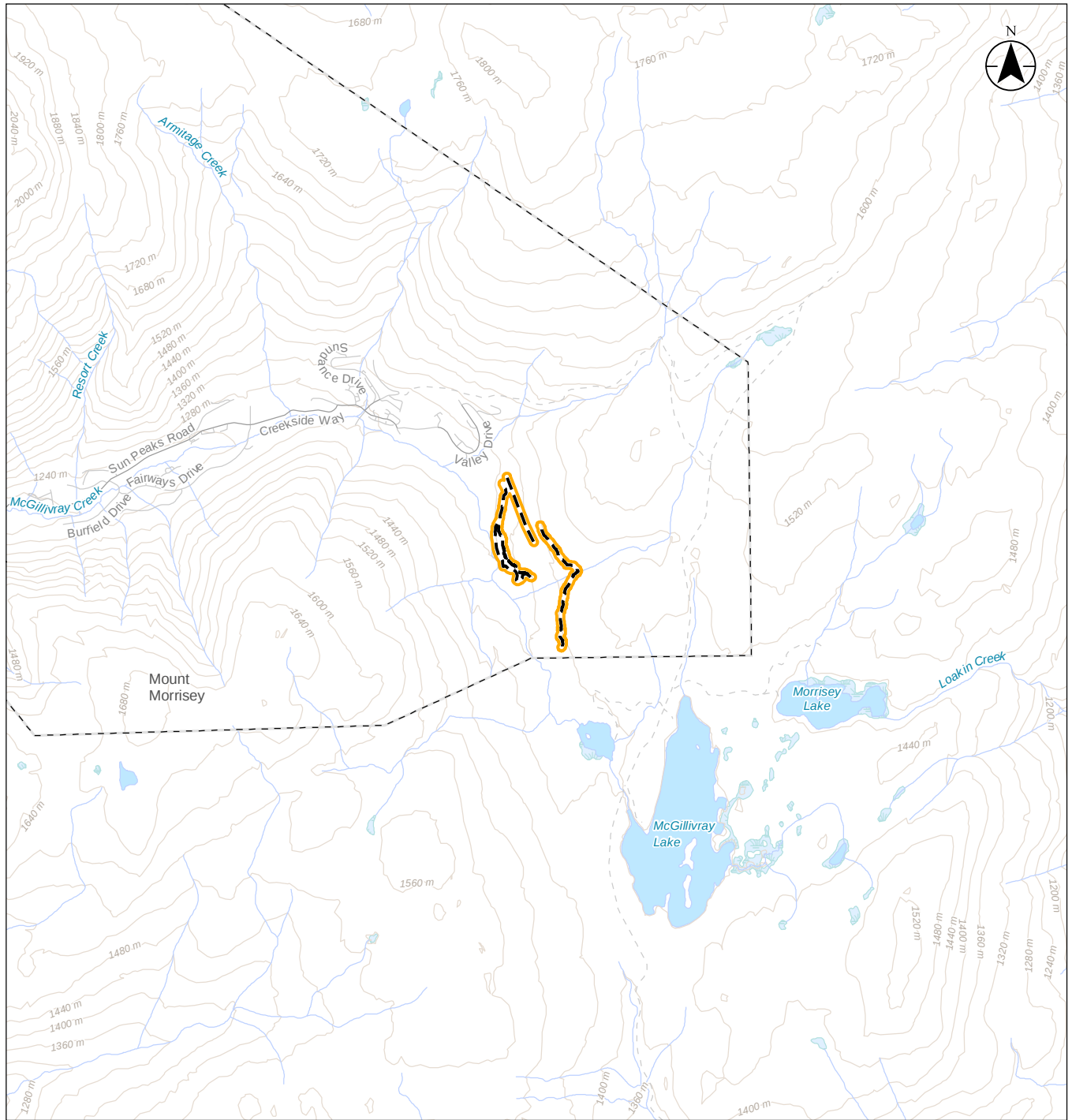
References

Grieve, J. 2022. Preliminary Field Reconnaissance for Sun Peaks Resort's Proposed Parcel 12, 27, 55, 56, and 68 Developments. Letter report on file with Sun Peaks Resort.

Scott, M. 2022. Archaeological Overview Assessment – Parcels 27, 56, 57, and 68, Sun Peaks Resort. Letter Report on file with Sun Peaks Resort.

Reference: McGillivray Highlands Nordic Trails Preliminary Field Reconnaissance Report

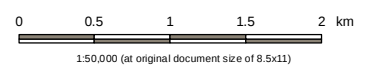
Attachment A Figures



Notes
 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
 2. Data Sources: DataBC, Government of British Columbia;
 Natural Resources Canada

- Road
- Local Street
- - - Resource Road
- - - Topographic Contour
- Watercourse
- Waterbody
- Wetland
- - - Municipal Boundary

- - - Proposed Nordic Trail
- Study Area



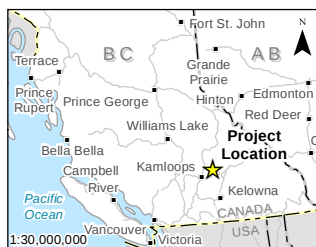
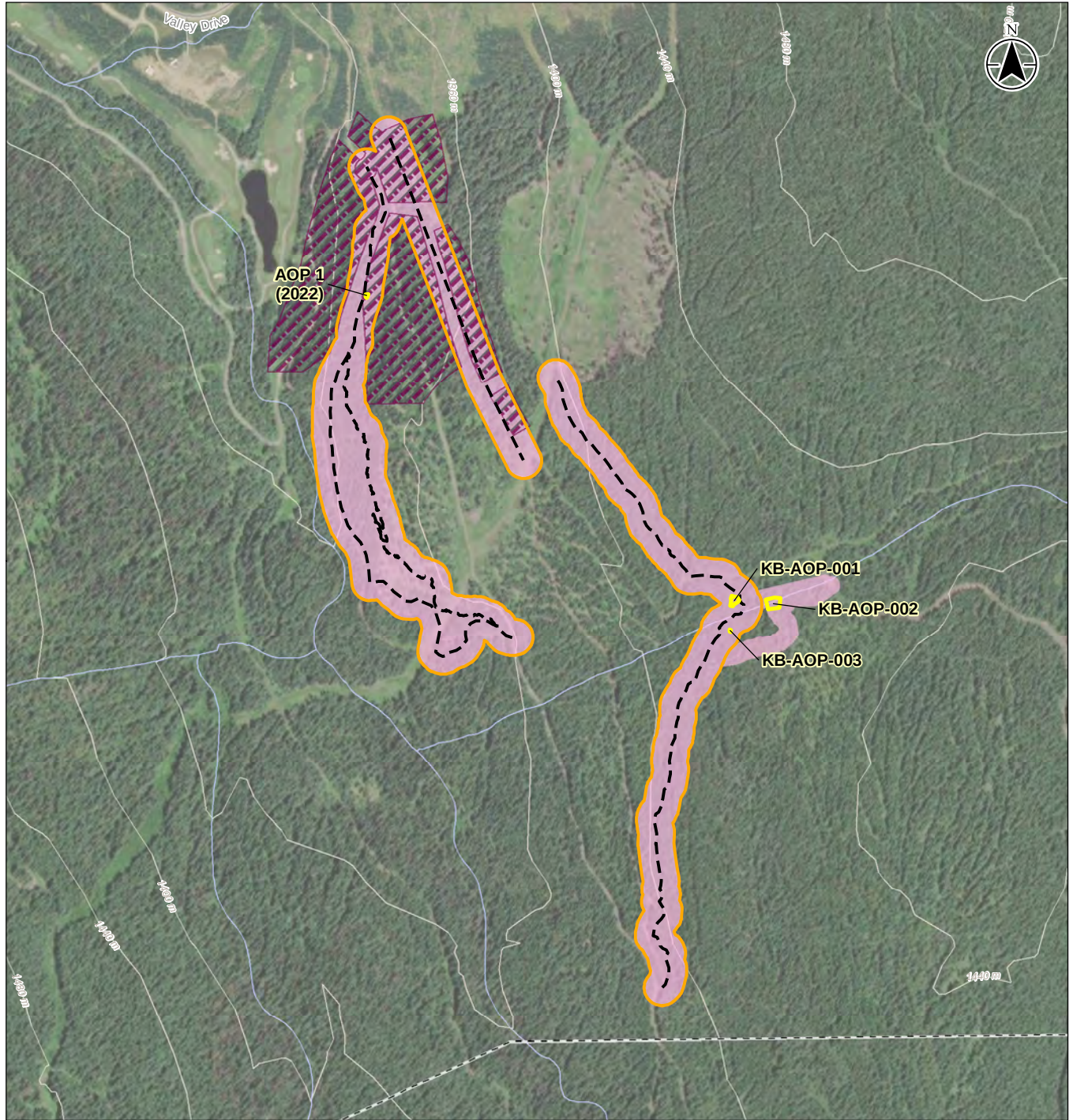
Project Location: Sun Peaks, BC
 NTS Mapsheet: 82L/13
 Project Number: 123222483
 Prepared by VWORDINGTON on 20231208
 Requested by KBUDEYNE on 20231201
 Review by SSMITH on 20231214

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 Sun Peaks Resort
 Preliminary Field Reconnaissance Report
 McGillivray Highlands Nordic Trails

Figure No.
1
 Title
Project Overview Map

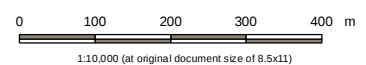
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Notes
 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
 2. Data Sources: DataBC, Government of British Columbia; Natural Resources Canada; ESRI World Imagery

- Road
- Local Street
- Topographic Contour
- Watercourse
- - - Municipal Boundary
- - - Proposed Nordic Trail
- Study Area
- Previously Assessed Area (Grieve 2022)
- Area of Potential (field verified)
- Assessed as Low Potential



Project Location:
Sun Peaks, BC
NTS Mapsheet: 82L/13

Project Number: 12322483
Prepared by VWORTHINGTON on 20231208
Requested by KBURDEYNE on 20231201
Review by SSMITH on 20231214

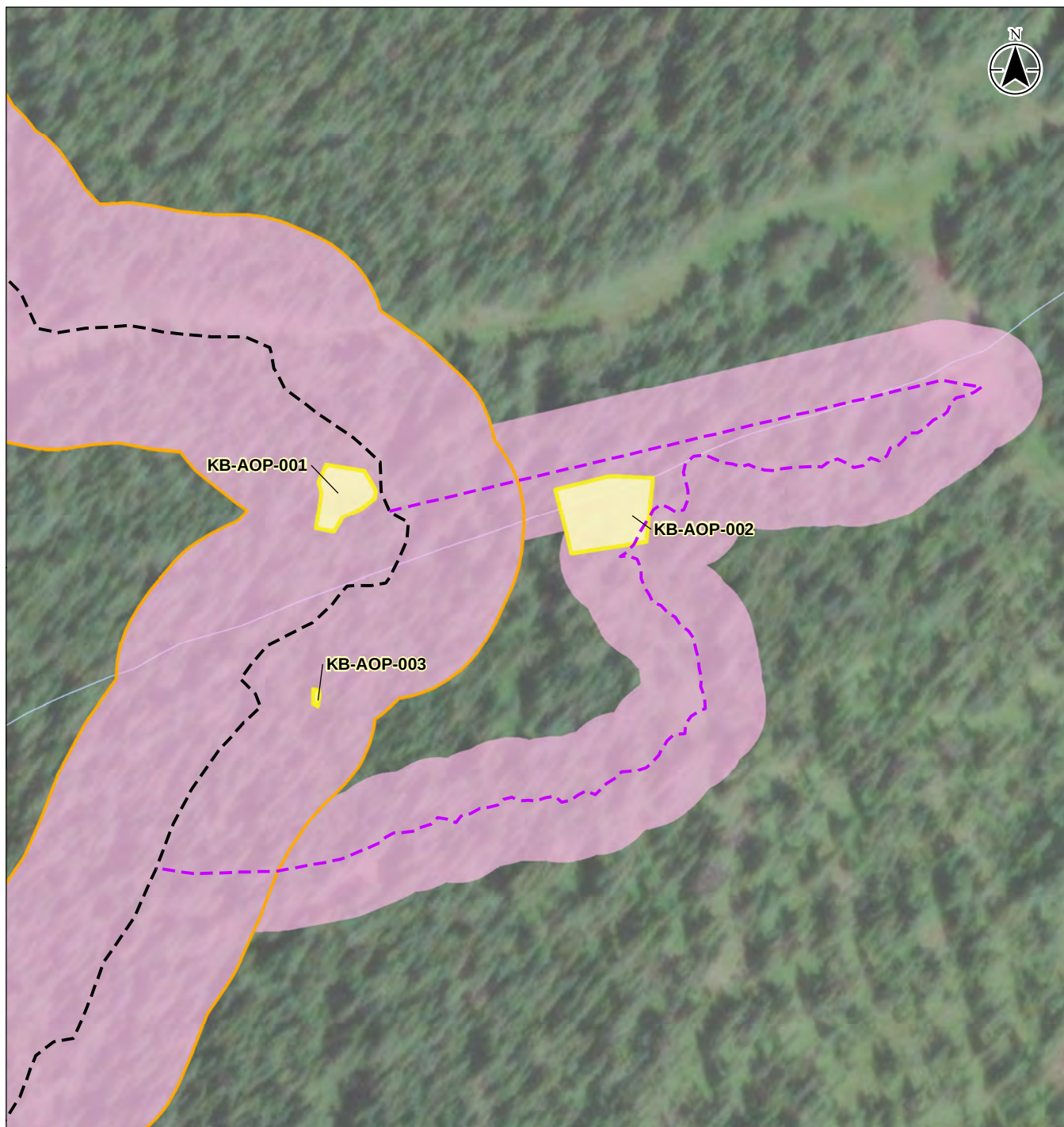
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Figure No.
2

Title
PFR Results Midrange

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Notes
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
2. Data Sources: DataBC, Government of British Columbia;
Natural Resources Canada; ESRI World Imagery

- Topographic Contour
- Watercourse
- Municipal Boundary
- Original Trail
- Proposed Reroute
- Study Area
- Area of Potential (field verified)
- Assessed as Low Potential



Project Location: Sun Peaks, BC
NTS Mapsheet: 82L/13
Project Number: 123222483
Prepared by VWORDTHINGTON on 20231208
Requested by KBURDEYNE on 20231201
Review by SSMITH on 20231214

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Sun Peaks Resort
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McGillivray Highlands Nordic Trails

Figure No.

3

Title

Detailed Results

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Reference: McGillivray Highlands Nordic Trails Preliminary Field Reconnaissance Report

Attachment B Photographs

Reference: McGillivray Highlands Nordic Trails Preliminary Field Reconnaissance Report



Photo 1 View north showing generally undifferentiated, sloping terrain in the northern portion of the westernmost trail. Existing recreational trail visible in photo right.



Photo 2 View east of generally undifferentiated, sloping terrain in the central portion of the western-most trail.

Reference: McGillivray Highlands Nordic Trails Preliminary Field Reconnaissance Report



Photo 3 View south of generally undifferentiated, sloping terrain in the southern portion of the western-most trail.



Photo 4 View west of generally undifferentiated, sloping terrain in the southern portion of the central trail.

Reference: McGillivray Highlands Nordic Trails Preliminary Field Reconnaissance Report



Photo 5 View southwest showing generally undifferentiated, sloping terrain in the southern portion of the easternmost trail.



Photo 6 View looking northwest of KB-AOP-001 showing a generally level area adjacent to an ephemeral drainage.

Reference: McGillivray Highlands Nordic Trails Preliminary Field Reconnaissance Report



Photo 7 View looking north showing edge of KB-AOP-002 adjacent to an ephemeral drainage.



Photo 8 View looking west-northwest of KB-AOP-003 showing large boulders at top of sloping terrain.