# CLOUDBURST

Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Newsletter OCTOBER 1984

# News from the Executive Director

This morning I raised the blind of my VIA Rail sleeper on the magnificent sight of dawn over Shushwap Lake, the slate grey of the water offset by the rich orange-yellow forests of cottonwood and aspen which cover the slopes of the surrounding mountains. A few early morning fishermen are out, drifting by the lakeshore cabins now equipped for satellite TV. A leisurely breakfast from Salmon Arm to Revelstoke rekindled both an awe for the scale and magnificence of our province, and an appreciation of the train as the most relaxed way to travel. Sitting up high, every moment is a photograph from Beautiful B.C. magazine; one rarely sees the highway. More coffee, sir?

This evening and all tomorrow I will be attending the second meeting of the National Trail Association, and presenting the FMCBC/ORC route suggestion for the B.C. section of the future cross Canada hiking trail. Federal government funding has made this meeting possible. I'm hoping that the Alberta rep. has their route going to Banff as we do; so much easier if the provincial sections meet each other.

Revelstoke, and the first snow already on the ridge top across the valley. At the Vancouver office we're advertising a full winter of weekend avalanche courses, with the N.S. hikers in early with a group booking. Last year 160 people took this safety programme; this year, thanks to the Lottery Fund, the FMCBC has 22 Pieps available for rental during the course. Numerous requests have prompted us to offer, for the first time, a Snow Camping and Winter Survival Course. The Safety and Education Committee is anxious to offer these programmes throughout B.C. through our member clubs. A phone call to our office is all it takes (687-3333).

This summer the Federation ran five, 6 day mountaineering courses plus an Intermediate Rock course at Leavenworth (Washington). This month still has one mountaineering course to go, and an experimental 2-day Beginners Rock which will be offered next spring and summer if it proves to be a successful formula. Credit must go to Simon Tooley whose personal skill, natural teaching ability and sense of humour have made these courses so successful, and created so many new, safe climbers.

Simon is also involved, along with John Manuel, Don Serl, Stephan Fuller (FMCBC president) and Ross Peterson (Safety Committee Chairman), in the production of the new FMCBC Mountaineering Course manual. Funding from the Vancouver Foundation has enabled us to employ Sarah (Masters Degree in Journalism, Climbing Instructor Outward Bound USA, comes with her own word processor) Locke as writer and producer, and Blair Ketcheson as photographer. This funding also provides for the production of a new FMCBC Avalanche Course manual in cooperation with Frank Baumann of Squamish.

Last year the B.C. Government, through the Physical Fitness and Amateur Sport Fund, gave the FMCBC $10,000 assistance, mostly for the Safety & Education programmes. A supplementary grant yielded a further $5,000. This week we received our June 84/85 grant. The B.C. government has shown strong support for the work of the FMCBC with this grant of $27,900.

Our first Environment 2000 project is now over. The first section of the Lynn Wilderness Park access trail is complete, finished on time and under budget. The FMCBC plans to apply for numerous Canada Works projects which will all start in January. These do not have to be restricted to trails.

Coast Mountain Sports ran a free 1-page ad for us in their most recent cataloque. This included an applicaion form for individual membership in the FMCBC for $5/yr. Each day we receive more requests (see ad this issue).

Between now and the Annual General Meeting in November I expect to meet with the Okanagan delegates at our first regional meeting for that area. Telephone responses indicate a good turn out for our AGM. The Federation is trying to assist with travel costs, and with two clubs already generously agreeing to share the travel costs for their rep, we should have the best provincial representation of all time.

Now that we have this new degree of financial support from the provincial government, I urge you to match it with your enthusiasm and your attendance at the AGM. This is your opportunity to help decide the priorities of the FMCBC for 1985.

And lastly, unless this is censored, a welcome to Liz Pope as the new editor of Cloudburst. Organizations such as ours depend almost completely on the willing volunteers. Without such generous involvement there would not be an FMCBC. Thank you, Liz, and thank you to all those not mentioned here.

Jim Rutter
Executive Director

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Cloudburst is published four times a year by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia. The Federation represents hiking, climbing and conservation groups.

1200 Hornby Street
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Jim Rutter, Executive Director

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## SEND CLOUDBURST YOUR NEWS

The deadline for material for the next issue of Cloudburst is December 15, 1984.

## COVER PHOTO

Photographer Liz Pope caught two backpackers pausing after the season's first snowfall near Deer Pass in the Southern Chilcotin Mountains.

The Southern Chilcotin Wilderness Society is working to have this recreation mecca established as a park. See this issue of Cloudburst for details.

# Recreation and Conservation

## OLD-GROWTH: GOING, GOING ...

Those towering veteran cedars and firs -- the ones with enough wood in them to build two 3-bedroom houses -- you occasionally hike past to get to the mountain tops are a dwindling natural resource. In fact those ancient trees are so invaluable the Forest Land Use Liasion Committee, of which FMCBC is a member, has a special sub-committee devoted to old-growth forests.

The sub-committee's current undertaking is to identify the significant old-growth forests left in B.C. Chairman Will Pawlik explains, "We are hoping to publish a citizen compiled inventory of these areas which would assist in negotiations to achieve their protection."

Pawlik requests anyone who knows of significant old-growth stands to forward a map of the area to his committee. He is especially interested in natural, mature stands of trees at least 175 years old. The forest should have ecological, tourism, heritage, landscape or some other value.

Information for the old-growth inventory can be forwarded to Will Pawlik at SPEC, 2150 Maple St., Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3T3. Phone (604)736-SPEC.

## RECREATION ROUTE PROTECTION STARTED

Rivers and historic trails often fail to fit neatly inside box-shaped parks. To protect these routes for recreation, Lands, Parks and Housing minister, Tony Brummet, announced Sept. 27, that his ministry has established a Recreation Corridor policy.

Already the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail, running from the Fraser River to Bella Coola, is being considered as a corridor candidate. Portions of the Thompson River and Upper Stikine are two other possibilities. So far the program has shied away from the rivers that really need protection -- those with strong logging and development conflicts.

Outdoor Recreation Council chairman, Juri Peepre, calls the program which has taken 17 years to prepare "a good start in a positive direction".

Details of the Recreation Corridor policy are carefully outlined in a brochure, Recreation Corridors, available from the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing. Although the policy allows for corridor proposals from the public, Peepre notes that recreation and conservation groups have not been consulted so far. "The challenge will be whether government allows public groups to get involved in corridor management."

Peepre also points out a problem with implementing the program. It relys on the Regional Resource Management Teams for its management, yet these were recently disbanded by the Socred government.

## DECISION FOR STEIN IMMINENT

An 18 month moratorium on logging development in the Stein watershed ended this summer when the Stein Public Advisory Committe completed its reports to the Ministry of Forests. "I expect within a month or two we'll have a decision on the Stein's future," says committee member, Roger Freeman.

Joining the Fraser River near Lytton, The Stein is the last unlogged watershed within 160 kilometers of Vancouver. The Ministry of Tourism's 1982 Traveller's Handbook promoted the Stein as a wilderness recreation area noted for "undisturbed terrain, wildlife viewing and area heritage."

Despite lobbying by the Save the Stein Coalition, including FMCBC, to keep it that way, Cabinet decided in 1976 that the Stein would be logged. Now with logging roads about to be constructed into the valley, the Ministry of Forests will soon decide on which end of the drainage the roads will enter.

The Ministry negated a decision made over two years ago to haul logs out the mouth of the Stein, the route they deemed most economical for logging purposes, after members of the Public Liaison Committee for the Stein protested that the decision was based on inadequate information. Kamloops Forests Regional Manager, Tony Robinson then formed the Stein Public Advisory Committee to provide information and recommendations to help him remake the decision.

The report of the Recreation Task Subcommittee, completed August 1984, has found that a road up the Lower Stein is the option least preferable for recreationists. Subcommittee members, Roger Freeman, Bev Ramey and David Thompson concluded, "There is a very large recreational value that can be attached to the Lower Stein in a roadless condition."

They presented their case in economic terms, estimating the revenue that recreation in the Stein would produce under three scenarios. With a logging road built along the Lower Stein, $67,000 would be generated annually from campers, hikers and horsepackers. If the Lower Stein was left roadless and logs hauled out the 'back door' to the Duffey Lake Road, recreation revenue would be nearly five time higher, amounting to $329,310 annually. Under a third option, delaying logging for ten years, recreational opportunities would generate $148,000 annually.

In addition to these revenues, the subcommittee points out, "It is an impossible task to interpret the net return -- in dollars -- to an individual for the pleasant satisfaction that accrues from the opportunity to continue to visit an area safe from the hazards and noise of industrial development.

We consider areas like the Stein to be of significant inspirational and mental value to many British Columbians and probably to many more in the future as the Province becomes more crowded."

# B.C. GOVERNMENT BEGINS LAND SELL-OUT

by Mike Feller, BCMC

reprinted from the B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter, Aug-Sept. 1984

The B.C. government has recently begun a widespread program to "privatize" or sell off our publicly owned land and facilities to groups or organizations who desire to make a buck out of our land and facilities. The consequences of these actions will have important ramifications throughout our society and we, through our mountaineering recreational pursuits, will certainly be affected.

Thus, the government recently (25 June) announced that the village of Pemberton was given about 25 ha of our land to extend their airport facilities. The local MLA stated that this would provide an alternative form of access to Whistler. A company wants to run regular Vancouver to Pemberton flights for skiers, despite the fact that it would generally be just as fast, if not faster, for lower mainland residents to drive to Whistler rather than fly there, contrary to the advertising claims of the flight proponents. Anyway, one result of the establishment of such flights would be an increase in noise from aircraft in the Squamish-Pemberton region and an increase in the development of the whole region which would make the wilderness user the inevitable loser.

The sell-out of provincial parks and their resources continues. The policy which the government is supposed to be following for parks was printed in our last (June-July) newsletter. However, on 6 June the government announced that it had sold the Manning Park lodge and Gibson Pass ski facilities to a group of 10 businessmen from Hope, Chilliwack and Penticton. This group stated that they were convinced that effective marketing would, among other things, increase use of the park. Hence, more people and congestion are in store for us at Manning Park, courtesy of privatization. The group also stated that they wished to expand the lodge and add a beauty salon. The idea of a beauty salon in a place like Manning Park is incredible. It illustrates the thinking of the government and the businessmen to whom our land and facilities are being sold.

**Perhaps the biggest sell-out in the province is of our publicly owned forests to the timber companies**

Recently in Manning Park a trail clearing crew working on the Skagit-Manning Park trail cut down a large number of the pink Rhododendrons. Is this the result of a park staff so badly depleted that adequate supervision of such maintenance crews is not possible? What is in store for Cypress Bowl?

Perhaps the biggest sell-out in the province, however, is of our publicly owned forests to the timber companies. This will have far reaching effects on all of us who visit forests. Details of the sell-out are given in the following comments which were extracted from an article by Richard Overstall which appeared in a recent (winter 1983) issue of the Telkwa Foundation newsletter:

The final transfer of British Columbia's forests from public to corporate control is underway. The plan was given to Premier Bennett by the province's forest companies in a July, 1983 confidential brief. Many elements of the plan have been implemented and a public relations campaign is being orchestrated to sell the rest to the public.

Just three weeks after his May, 1983 election success, Bennett asked the Council of Forest Industries of B.C. (COFI) for their views on how to make the Ministry of Forests more cost-effective. Within a month the forest corporations sent their answer. Their concept of cost-effectiveness was to strip the government of its powers to regulate critical logging activities. The companies want a major say in setting the rate of harvest and assessing timber for stumpage payments. A copy of the COFI brief was recently obtained by NDP forestry critic (now NDP leader) Mr. Skelly. Many of its recommendations have already been acted upon by the Bennett government.

The corporations' first move was to neutralize any opposition that may remain in the provincial resource agencies. First, they advocated combining all forest-related agencies under the Ministry of Forests roof (Recommendation 1). Then they suggested staff should be cut from the ministry's policy-making offices in Victoria and the six regional resource centres. By pushing for decentralization down to the district level, the centralized companies, operating provincewide, would be able to dominate policy decision making (Recommendations 3 to 7).

As background for these recommendations, COFI said that forest companies had reduced their staff levels by as much as 20 percent over two years. But when pressed for details on the industry reductions, COFI staff member Brian McCloy said they got the figure from newspaper reports. "I am not aware of any definitive analysis that was done to develop that number," he said. This February the government cut Ministry of Forests staff by another 506 people, bringing one year's reduction to 25 percent. The ministry seems therefore to have been significantly more weakened than industry.

### Harmonized objectives

When forest-use questions are resolved in the public interest, conflicts are bound to occur. But COFI sees them only as leading "to lengthy and costly public debates, major delays in reaching decisions and less than optimal multiple-use management decisions". Industry would do away with all this by establishing "a single forest resource management agency (that) would facilitate faster, more cost-effective decision-making internally, by groups of civil servants operating under one common set of harmonized objectives."

One of the harmonized objectives under the COFI plan would be the "acceptance of a defined risk factor" by government when holding companies accountable for contract obligations under crown timber licences (Recommendation 12).

Acceptance of a "defined risk factor" is a bit of double-think meaning the companies should be allowed to cheat. To facilitate this, the brief recommends that timber cruising and log scaling be taken out of government hands and be privatized.

The rewards to the companies of government accepting a defined risk can apparently be considerable. A recent report from the Ombudsman, Karl Friedmann, revealed a major forest company, B.C. Forest Products, gained between $4.5 and $6.3 million from its contractors and between $1.3 and $2 million from the government over a three-year period because of inadequate log scaling procedures. Scaling is the measurement of log volume to determine government royalties and other transactions.

**Scaling deficiencies**

The Ombudsman's report shows the government is bending over backwards to avoid making the company pay its bill. When B.C. Forest Products refused to comply with a legal order to supply log tallies, the Ministry of Forests did not enforce compliance. The ministry was well aware of the scaling deficiencies and, according to Friedmann, has the authority to correct the problem.

**Allowable cut effect**

This is a controversial technical sleight of hand called the Allowable Cut Effect. In theory it works like this: a forester tries to make young trees grow bigger and faster with fertilizers, thinning, genetic engineering and so on. He then argues that because the growing forest will yield more wood in the future it is permissable to cut more of the old-growth forest today. Unfortunately for the theory, there are not enough data to honestly allow its implementation. There is insufficient information on the gains to be had from intensive forest management techniques on enough different trees species, over a wide enough range of climatic zones, and for a long enough period of time.

The conversion of volume-based forest tenures to company-controlled, area-based tenures is already underway. A September 1983 ministry discussion paper outlined a "Forest Management Partnership Proposal". Its stated purpose was to explore opportunities "to increase the role of the private sector by assignment of more responsibility and accountability for managment of certain types of harvesting agreements". The paper proposed the privatization begin with Tree Farm Licences but eventually cover all tenures.

"But the Ministry has refused to exercise this authority," Friedmann concludes, "apparently because the sole beneficiary of this deficient scaling process is not willing to be billed."

"In my mind, this position is not only contrary to the spirit and intent of the Forest Act, but also contradicts any proposition that the ministry might be managing the province's forests in the public interest."

Besides the elimination of "constant and costly checks" on their activities, the corporations also want to set the rules. Today, forest licencees are given a portion of a government-calculated allowable annual cut volume. In future, the companies want the option to get a licence for a given area and be allowed to set the cut themselves (Recommendation 11). COFI leaves no doubt that this will lead to increased rates of logging. They call for "the opportunity to obtain the full harvesting benefits accruing from their intensive forest management activities (Recommendation 10).

The ministry discussion paper groups government management responsibilities under a dozen headings and suggests significant transfer of power to the companies for most of them. In exchange for the loss of professional monitoring, industry would be expected to put on a public meeting once a year.

The forest partnership proposal has yet to be implemented. But already the government is processing applications for 32 additional Tree Farm Licences, many of them in the interior.

**Emotional trigger**

Bennett and the companies know there will be resistance to the handing over of B.C.'s forests to industry. That resistance is being overcome by using reforestation as a public relations lever. In the public mind all forestry issues tend to be reduced to one simple question: are enough trees being planted? The other side of that question -- is the old growth forest being over-cut? -- is less frequently raised. Reforestation is to forest management what baby

seals are to wildlife management -- an emotional trigger which gets things moving, if not always in the right direction.

In early 1984 the forestry establishment started to pull in earnest on the PR lever. Chief forester Bill Young got the public in the right frame of mind by detailing the serious impact of fiscal restraint on forest renewal and calling for an end to disputes, charges and countercharges between government and industry. "It's a time for some joint visionary and innovative development of financing alternatives," he said.

**It is patently obvious who has the political clout in influencing government decisions about forests**

Then a federal-provincial reforestation program was postponed for no reason that B.C.'s forests minister Tom Waterland could explain. The program would have put $37 million into renewing B.C. forests this year, producing more than 200 seasonal jobs in the northwest alone.

### Pious rhetoric

In mid-February the B.C. professional foresters held their annual meeting, always an occasion for pious rhetoric denouncing government's forest practices but rarely those of industry. This time it was the turn of Noranda Mines president Adam Zimmerman who runs 20 percent of B.C.'s forest industry through MacMillan Bloedel and Northwood Pulp. Zimmerman thought foresters were too retiring. "But that is no longer the way of the world. The world demands articulate, forceful and convincing people. Those who are, get their share of the lolly, those who aren't, are also-rans."

Zimmerman soon heard that the corporations had been convincing enough to get their share of the lolly. B.C. deputy forests minister Mike Apsey told the foresters what their bosses already knew -- the COFI position was official policy. He said they were mistaken if they believed recent changes in forest management are all in the name of restraint.

"They involved a major rethinking of our role. We will be backing away from direct involvement in operational forestry... We will be more concerned with results than methods."

A few days later a Vancouver Province editorial delivered the punch line to the industry-government alliance.

"If Victoria can't accept its responsibility, we must consider the unthinkable. Would corporate ownership of forest lands, rather than the present share-cropper tenancies, result in better forest management?"

A postscript to this article must be added now that deputy forests minister Apsey has announced he is leaving the ministry to become the new head of COFI. Apsey will now become a lobbyist "working on his former colleagues" according to a Vancouver Sun editorial (28 June) which expressed concern over Apsey's defection, as also did a business analysis article in the Sun the day before. Many Ministry of Forest's employees will give you their views of the situation which can not be put into print for fear of libel. It is patently obvious who has the political clout in influencing government decisions about forests.

It should also be patently obvious from the above comments that if the goverment sell-out of the forests continues according to COFI's plan, then we will be faced with the following in the mountains:

1) Greater rates of road construction, clearcutting, and loss of wilderness;
2) Greater visual blights in the form of erosion, and hillsides scarred by logging;
3) Even worse road washouts as road construction is done even more cheaply, thus restricting access in roaded areas;
4) Less money being spent on non-timber forest uses, i.e. less on forest recreation, etc.;
5) More Tree Farm Licences and increasing control of crown land by timber companies whose primary concern is making money out of the timber present and which are generally not interested in managing forests for the recreational values we consider important.

These things, and others, are all generally detrimental to our mountaineering activities, although there may be some debate on the road access issue. Your editor believes strongly that we must start to defend our interests against this "privatization" onslaught. As a start, get involved. Do so while you still have some forests and parks worth being involved over.

## Trails

### BRUMMET COMES TO FEDERATION'S AID

In a June letter to Lands, Parks and Housing minister, Tony Brummet, Federation President Stephan Fuller pointed out, "We are continuing to have difficulty establishing the right of public access to the watershed areas above the Municipality of Lions Bay. ...On various occasions our members have been confronted by officers of the Municipality who have in essence attempted to verbally mislead them about the status of the watershed." Fuller urged Brummet to clarify the situation with Lions Bay's officers.

In response, Brummet sent this letter to Lions Bay mayor, Douglas Pollock:

Re: Lions Bay Community Water Supply Watersheds
Public Access

"Attached are copies of correspondence regarding access to Harvey and Alberta Creek watersheds. In order to avoid unnecessary conflicts among users of these watersheds, I feel that you should reconsider your efforts to restrict access to these recreational areas through road gates and other means. With the installation of chlorination facilities, the appreciation of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia for the importance of these watersheds as a source of high quality water, plus the fact that you have no legal grounds for restricting access, I suggest that a more cooperative approach would benefit all in the long term."

"I would be happy to have my staff discuss this matter further with you at your request."

# Vancouver Island News

## ISLAND REGIONAL MEETING FOCUSES ON STRATHCONA

by Stephan Fuller, FMCBC President

Vancouver Island regional members of the FMCBC held their third combined meeting of 1984 in Nanaimo on September 15th. Meeting for an "in-camera" session during the morning, the clubs delegates discussed a series of issues focused in part on Strathcona Provincial Park. The afternoon session included discussions with representatives of Westmin Mines and the Provincial Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division (PORD).

The clubs continued to provide comment and advice to PORD planner Bill Munn who is responsible for development of the Strathcona Park Master Plan. Unfortunately, PORD continues to refuse to allow the interested clubs access to the Draft Master Plan for comment. It is not clear why this refusal is necessary but it is apparent that new Parks Branch policies with respect to redesignating Parks will be used to significantly reduce the size of Strathcona. The potential controversy would seem to inhibit PORD's willingness to share the Master Plan with interested groups at this time.

It was emphasized by FMCBC President Stephan Fuller, who chaired the day long session, that we believe the Park Master Plan to be a public document, publicly financed and that we should be afforded access, as a matter of course. Given the extensive island club cooperation with PORD we have a clear interest in the Master Plan Process.

Westmin Mines representative Bob Hallen reintroduced further modification to the Westmin Park Use Permit. There will be a new dam project to augment the hydroelectric generation for the mine. While the Club delegates were upset that the changes were not communicated more promptly to FMCBC, there was generally a good response to the announcement that Westmin has agreed to a proposal by PORD that 20 percent of the compensation fund ($100,000) be allocated for capital projects in the Paradise Meadows area. Vancouver Island clubs are still concerned, however, that the remaining funds will not be used for alpine trail upgrading (Flower Ridge). PORD will not commit themselves to such a project. Once again, there are no reasons provided.

Decisions on a PORD proposal to develop an Adopt-A-Trail program with clubs providing volunteer labour (supplemented by PORD funds for equipment and supplies) were deferred until individual clubs could be consulted. It was suggested, however, that one pilot project on the Phillips Ridge trail be undertaken.

Access to information and better communication of news from PORD to FMCBC remain serious issues for the island clubs and the FMCBC generally. If we are to continue to invest time and money to assist PORD in Parks planning activities then it is only fair that there be some return favours. Consultation can only be successful if undertaken bilaterally. Obtaining information from PORD and Westmin on a timely basis should not have to be like pulling teeth.

# The Federation Grows

## FMCBC WELCOMES INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

The B.C. Federation of Mountain Clubs is the only provincial organization which exclusively represents the interests of the hikers, climbers, and conservation groups who use the B.C. mountains. The FMCBC is made up of the organizations listed below. If your club is listed you are a member of the FMCBC. Five clubs were added to the ranks of the FMCBC this past year, and membership is now approximately 6,000.

It is estimated that club members make up only a small portion of B.C. mountain users (about 10%). There are many other hikers and climbers wanting to support any lobby group which represents their interests. To date the FMCBC has only represented organized clubs. Now it is possible to join the FMCBC as an individual member for $5 a year, which includes four copies of the newsletter. This has up-to-date information on the B.C. environmental issues being represented by the FMCBC.

ALBERNI VALLEY OUTDOOR CLUB, ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA (VANCOUVER), ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA (VANCOUVER ISLAND), BCIT OUTDOOR CLUB (BURNABY), B.C. MOUNTAINEERING CLUB, CALEDONIA RAMBLERS (PRINCE GEORGE), CHILLIWACK OUTDOOR CLUB, CLOUDRAKER OUTDOOR CLUB (VANCOUVER), COMOX DISTRICT MOUNTAINEERING CLUB, FORT NELSON X.C. SKI AND OUTDOOR CLUB, FRASER VALLEY HIKERS, HIGH TYMERS (YMCA), ISLAND MOUNTAIN RAMBLERS (NANAIMO), KELOWNA MOUNTAIN CLUB, KLISTER OUTDOOR KLUB (BURNABY), KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (CASTLEGAR), KOOTENAY NORDIC OUTDOOR CLUB (CRANBROOK), NORTH SHORE HIKERS (VANCOUVER), NORTH SHORE RESCUE TEAM (VANCOUVER), OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN PARKS SOCIETY, OUTDOOR CLUB OF VICTORIA, OUTSETTERS CLUB (VANCOUVER), OUTWARD BOUND B.C., PENTICTON OUTDOOR CLUB, SHUSWAP OUTDOORS (SALMON ARM), SIERRA CLUB OF WESTERN CANADA, SIMON FRASER OUTDOOR CLUB (BURNABY), SQUAMISH SKI AND OUTDOOR CLUB, TIMBERLINE TRAIL AND NATURE CLUB (DAWSON CREEK), VALLEY OUTDOOR ASSOCIATION (SURREY), VANCOUVER NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, VARSITY OUTDOOR CLUB (VANCOUVER).

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FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF B.C.

Application for Individual Membership

☐ I wish to join the FMCBC as an individual member. I enclose $5 for a 12 month membership which entitles me to 4 issues of the FMCBC newsletter.

☐ I am a member of the FMCBC; my club is _____

I enclose $2 which will add my name to the mailing list and entitle me to receive 4 issues of the FMCBC newsletter.

Name _____

Address _____

_____

(please print)

Return to FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF B.C., 1200 Hornby St., Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E2.

# An American Perspective

## "Logging threatens to uproot the preservation of historic cascade trails"

reprinted from
Seattle Post Intelligencer
August 5, 1984

by Joel Connelly
P-I Reporter

Merchants in the towns of Whatcom and Sehome had the glint of gold in their eyes in 1858 when they commissioned Capt. Walter Washington DeLacey to build a trail linking Bellingham Bay and the mines of the British Columbia interior.

Capt. DeLacey constructed the Whatcom Trail along a steep, completely impractical route through the mountains of British Columbia and Washington. It was abandoned after a single summer of use.

The Whatcom Trail quickly returned to wilderness, although B.C. historical buffs recently cleared and marked part of the route. Today, not even Whatcom and Sehome can be found on a map. The former towns are neighborhoods in Bellingham.

Whatever his failings as an engineer, Capt. DeLacey did discover a mountain pass in British Columbia that ranks as one of the North Cascades' great beauty spots. A snowfield above 6,000-foot-high Punch Bowl Pass marks the extreme headwaters of the Skagit River.

As visitors lie in the peaceful, sun-drenched pass, it's hard to believe that Capt. DeLacey's trail and other early gold rush and fur trade routes have become the centerpiece of a land use controversy which -- like the Skagit -- spans the U.S.-Canadian border.

Punch Bowl Pass and nearby Paradise Valley are among the highlights of a Skagit-North Cascades International Peace Park envisioned by conservationists in the United States and Canada.

The park proposal comes in the wake of Seattle's Ross Dam settlement with British Columbia. The agreement preserves the upper Skagit Valley in British Columbia from flooding, and establishes a $3 million endowment to pay for environmental and recreational improvements.

### Mellower monument to international cooperation

The international park would safeguard five historic trails as well as mountain wilderness on both sides of the frontier. Advocates say it would also provide a mellower monument to international cooperation than the taverns and blue movie houses of Blaine.

The preservation job is largely complete in the United States, with land protected in the North Cascades National Park, Pasayten Wilderness and the newly created Mount Baker Wilderness.

That's not so north of the border. Key terrain at the headwaters of the Skagit River, including several historic fur trade and prospectors' routes, has been left out of Manning Provincial Park and the Skagit Valley Recreation Area.

The B.C. government has rejected proposals for creation of a Cascade Wilderness in the area. It has plans to log both Paradise Valley and upper Snass Creek at the headwaters of the Skagit.

The controversy is moving quickly to a head.

A prime point for viewing the Cascade Wilderness historic trails, high places and proposed logging roads is Warburton Peak. It is named for Ada Mary Warburton, an eccentric English nurse who became lost in Paradise Valley early in this century. She was rescued, only later to permanently disappear in the interior.

At the summit of Warburton Peak, visitors can observe five different routes used in the early and not-so-early settlement of the Northwest. Not until 1949 was a road built across the Cascades in southern British Columbia.

"My dad came out from the Okanagan to attend college during the 1920s. He rode a horse through the mountains, sold it in Chilliwack, and took the trolley into Vancouver," recalled Peter Hatfield, a Vancouver naval architect seeking to preserve the area.

### A fat black bear waddles away

In a meadow below Mount Warburton, deer surround a salt lick while a fat black bear sniffs the air and then waddles away from human intruders. A nearby bugling sound marks a bull elk's summons of his womenfolk.

In trees behind the meadow, however, pink ribbons on trees mark the route of a future logging road while yellow and blue ribbons denote the boundaries of proposed clearcuts.

Gene Leduc of the B.C. Forest Service said a road is already being engineered and built into the Cascade Wilderness.

The road will follow a portion of the Hudson Bay Co. trail, which was used in the fur trade from 1849 to 1860. Parts of the trail have already been obliterated by logging along Peers Creek, east of Hope.

**A road is already being engineered and built into the Cascade Wilderness**

"We've got planning pretty much finalized in there," said Leduc. He predicted logging could begin in some areas as early as this fall, and that roads could reach the Paradise Valley area in three to five years. Leduc added that the forest service is considering a recreation site in the valley, but said its size and location haven't been determined.

"We've looking at a mature and overmature stand of merchantable timber in the whole area," said Leduc.

In Snass Creek, B.C., conservationists may face a Hobson's choice. The forest service has indicated it may spare the valley, but on condition that it be allowed to log downstream in the popular Skagit Recreation Area. "We're still in the discussion stage," said Jack Carradice of the B.C. Forest Service.

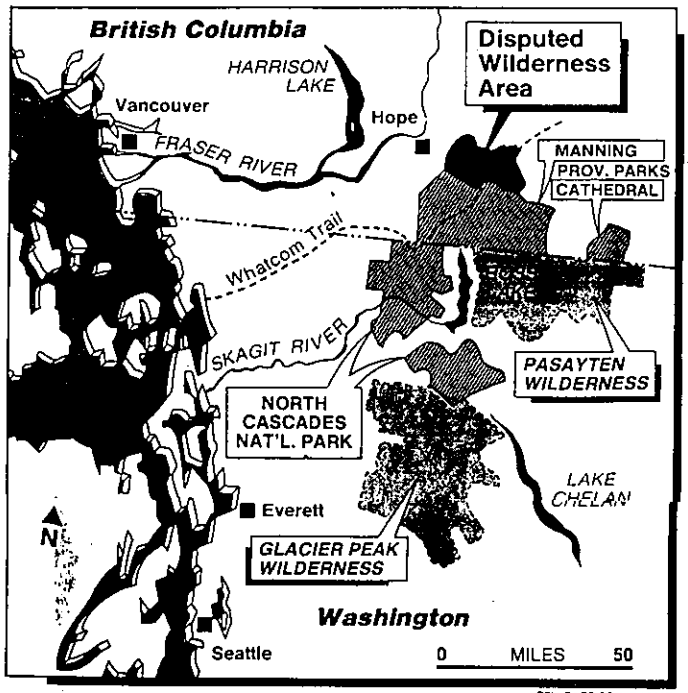
The controversy at the headwaters of the Skagit underscores British Columbia's approach to land management. In contrast to the United States, preservation and recreation have been given limited attention in the B.C. Cascades. Few trails are maintained. Car camping is limited. Several valleys have been clearcut right up to the U.S. border.

The B.C. government has openly suggested that local residents who don't like such management can take refuge south of the border. They do. An estimated 75 percent of visitors to the Mount Baker area, with its ample trails and campgrounds, are Canadians.

B.C.'s fish and wildlife conservation groups have been treated to some memorable rejoinders by cabinet ministers. In the early 1970s, British Columbia's then-forests minister Ray Williston told one group protesting a proposed clearcut: "We only want to use this area for a single year. You can have it for the next century."

Tom Waterland, British Columbia's current tough-talking minister of forests, is fond of saying that the province's logging industry would go out of business if he granted every request by conservationists to preserve a "unique" valley.

However, the B.C. logging industry admits it may be on the skids without any help from environmentalists.




BEN GARRISON/P-I MAP

**Wilderness lands** on the U.S. side of the border are largely protected, but a key area on the Canadian side is slated for logging. Conservationists dream of an international "peace park."

## Parts of the province seriously overcut

Although it's difficult to believe in an area so vast -- British Columbia is nearly twice the size of Texas -- parts of the province have been seriously overcut. And the province's logged-over forests have been replanted at a slower pace than private and public timberlands in the United States.

Jack Munro, president of the International Woodworkers of America, has warned that the province must restock its forests.

"We've got to start moving," Munro said recently. "We are not going to be able to supply the demand if we don't start harvesting and replenishing our forests properly."

Jack Toovey, chief forester with British Columbia Forest Products, recently observed that nobody has paid much attention to the problem.

"We're still living in an era that says we've got more trees than we need," said Toovey.

As British Columbia runs short of trees, even the high-elevation spruce and alpine fir forests of Paradise Valley, located more than 100 miles from the mill where they will be processed, have been earmarked for cutting. By contrast, alpine areas of Washington are largely committed to recreation or wilderness.

Lacking the political clout of their U.S. counterparts, and cut off from American conservationists' tactic of delaying court suits, Canadian conservationists are mounting a last-ditch effort to save upper reaches of the Skagit and such adjoining areas as Paradise Valley.

Borrowing a tactic from U.S. environmentalists, they plan an effort to get more hikers, fishermen and horse enthusiasts to use the threatened area. Directors of the B.C.-Seattle environmental endowment will be asked for money to restore and improve old trails.

Conservationists have invited B.C. cabinet ministers to visit the region while it's still intact, and to reconsider their 1982 rejection of the Cascade Wilderness proposal.

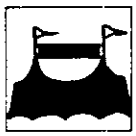
John Fraser, an influential member of Canada's federal parliament from Vancouver, also has begun a quiet lobbying campaign to preserve the area. In 1977, Fraser convinced B.C. Premier Bill Bennett to pursue a Ross Dam settlement with Seattle.

The Canadian federal government has been unreceptive to the Skagit-North Cascades park proposal. But its attitude could change if Canada's Sept. 4 election puts Fraser in the national cabinet.

In a recent letter, however, Parks Canada said a natural ecosystem similar to the mountain peace park had already been set aside -- Pacific Rim National Park on Vancouver Island. The park consists largely of ocean beaches.

Based on experiences elsewhere, preservationists wince at what the future might hold.

"When they logged over one old trail not long ago, the timber company came to us and said, 'Want us to restore it? We'll take a bulldozer and go wherever you want,'" said Bill Johnston, president of the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society.



# Events

## MEETING DATES SET

FMCBC club delegates plan to meet regularly this winter. Their meetings, held at 7:30 p.m. in Meeting Room A, at Sport BC, 1200 Hornby St., Vancouver, are scheduled for:

Oct. 24, 1984
Jan. 23, 1985
Feb. 27
Mar. 27
Apr. 24
May 22
June 26

In addition, the Federation's Annual General Meeting will be held Nov. 24th, 1984. "This year we need club attendance at the AGM, perhaps more than ever before," says FMCBC executive director, Jim Rutter. "The FMCBC is changing so quickly, and in so many ways, that input is required from all our members."

## MOUNTAIN FILM FEST

The ninth annual Banff Festival of Mountain Films is scheduled to be held at The Banff Centre in Banff, November 2-4, 1984. The only one of its kind in Canada, the Festival is now recognized among the world's most prestigious mountain film competitions.

Entries this year will be for categories covering environmental issues, mountaineering, other mountain sports, promotion, history and mountain safety. Also attracting crowds at the festival will be Austrian mountaineer, Peter Habeler, best known for his first ascent of Everest without oxygen.

Based on last year's sell-out, Festival organizers are recommending those wishing to attend to purchase tickets early. Weekend or day passes to the event are available from The Banff Centre Box Office, Box 1020, Banff, Alta., TOL 0C0, phone (403) 762-6362.

## ART FOR MOUNTAINS' SAKE

Artists Harold Lyon, Karl Wood and Kathleen Dawson are holding a special exhibition of their paintings for The Southern Chilcotin Mountains Wilderness Society.

The paintings can be viewed Friday, November 30 from 5:00 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 1 from 1:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the Westin Bayshore, International Suite in Vancouver.

Each artist has donated a painting to the Society for auction Saturday evening. The rest of the exhibit will be for sale by the artists.

## B.C. PLACE HOSTS FMCBC

Recreation enthusiasts will flock to B.C. Place Stadium, November 22nd to 25th to see the Fitness and Leisure Show. The FMCBC will be there too, with a booth, informing people about our activities.

## IAN WILSON & SALLY TATLOW PRESENT

A MULTI MEDIA SLIDE PRESENTATION

"FOURTEEN MONTHS OF WILDERNESS ADVENTURE IN NORTHERN B.C."

A vivid, colourful portrait of the scenery and wildlife in an area that is still wilderness, where moose, bear, and wolf are as wild and free as the land.

Share the challenges, adventure and excitement of building a cabin in remote wilderness, rambles through pathless pine forests, across mirrored alpine lake, down rushing rivers, and across a winter landscape blanketed in white.

LOCATION: John Oliver Secondary School
530 E 41 Street, Vancouver
DATE: November 1, 2, 3
TIME: Starts at 7 p.m. NO LATECOMERS admitted
TICKETS: $4.50 at Coast Mountain Sports, or at all Concert Box Office centres, limited tickets at door

## REPORTS FROM THE NORTH

The Sierra Club is hosting two slide-lectures this fall on Canada's North. Both presentations begin at 8:00 p.m. in Vancouver's Robson Square Theater. There is a nominal admission fee to cover room rental.

### CALL OF THE YUKON WILDS
October 20 - with John Lammers

A well-seasoned environmental activist, journalist and outdoor guide of the Yukon, John Lammers will visually share some of the beauty of the wilds of the Yukon - both landscapes and wildlife. He will speak on some of the major resource management issues threatening the delicate ecosystems and wildlife habitats, such as the recent 'green light' given to continued and more intensive exploration activity in the Beaufort, and the associated infrastructrual development to support it. He will also discuss some of the unique problems in dealing with wildlife management issues in a territory, highlighting the headlines recently crying out against the killing of wolves and grizzlies in the Yukon.

### ESSENCE OF THE NORTH
November 19 - with Bob Semeniuk

Bob Semeniuk breathes of the North: In 1978, on behalf of the National Geographic Society, Semeniuk spent nine months living traditionally among hunting and gathering Inuit families of Foxe Basin, N.W.T. He has monitored the Porcupine Caribou herd for the past four years, and has rafted the Firth River to the Arctic Ocean three times. And, his current personal project involves writing and photographing: The Last of the Original People. He has completed numerous assignments for publications such as EQUINOX, FORTUNE, Camera Arts, GEO, and LIFE. With photos that are both aesthetically pleasing and communicative, Bob Semeniuk will portray the world through the eyes of the Igloolike people of Foxe Basin.

## GROUP URGES PARK STATUS FOR SOUTHERN CHILCOTINS

Northwest of Gold Bridge (200 km north of Vancouver) is a spectacular combination of mountains, valleys, lakes, creeks, snowfields, forests, and meadows that are known as the Southern Chilcotin Mountains. This wilderness area is fantastic country for hiking, horseback riding and packing, fishing, hunting, photography, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. Since these mountains divide the Coast Mountains from the Interior Plateau the climate is relatively dry, resulting in sparse timber which is easy to travel through. The extensive areas of prime wildlife habitat are populated by deer, moose, mountain goats, marmots, bears, and other animals. In fact these mountains are the home of one of the largest bands of California Big Horn Sheep in existence.

The Southern Chilcotin Wilderness Society has been formed to educate the public about the area's striking natural beauty. Before incorporation as a society we were known as The Coalition to Protect The Southern Chilcotin Mountains. With your support we hope to convince the provincial government to designate the area as a Class A Provincial Park.

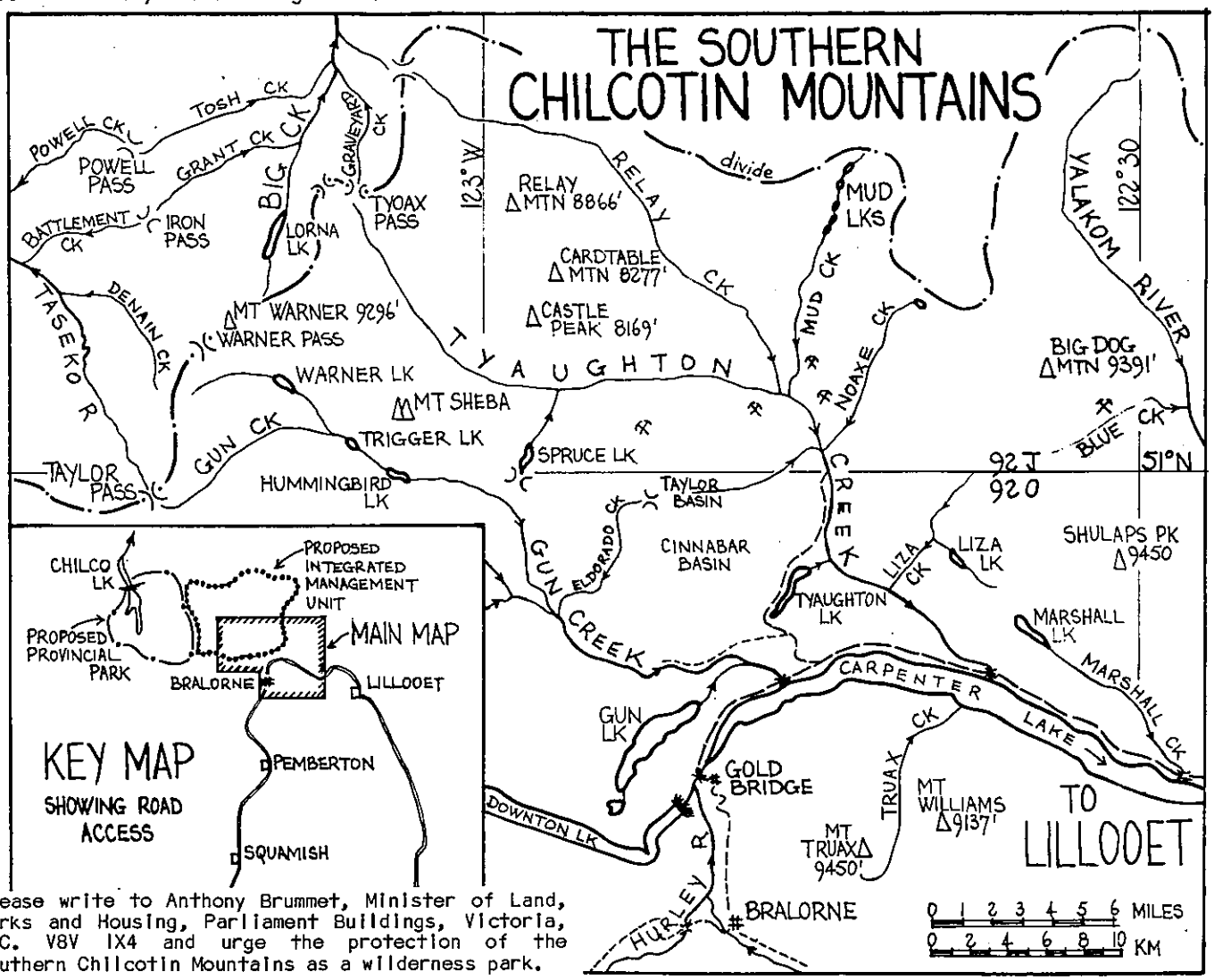
The area was originally proposed as a park in the early 1970's. In 1976 the Environment and Land Use Secretariat prepared the Chilcotin Wilderness Park Study which described the area as having outstanding wilderness park potential. Unfortunately, there are some land use conflicts which have delayed this designation.

The Ministry of Forests completed the Spruce Lake Integrated Resource Management Plan in 1981. This plan proposes the logging of all economic timber within 15 years. We feel that some logging could occur in the eastern plan area without degrading the core wilderness area. Meaningful discussions between the Forest Service, the Parks Division, and the public could produce an acceptable park boundary.

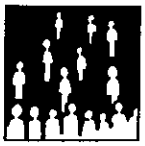
Problems with the mining industry are not so easy to solve. The area has been classified by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources as having moderate to high mineral potential. However, no economic ore bodies have been found in 60 years of mineral exploration. We are concerned that mineral exploration roads or a mine would destroy the wilderness character and the recreational values of the area. We must convince the government that recreation is the best use to which this land can be committed for both the citizens of British Columbia and the growing number of tourists.

We also need your help to tell more people about this spectacular wilderness area. Become a member of our society with a minimum donation of $5.00. We will soon be producing a trail guide and a brochure with colour photographs which will be mailed to all members. If you require a receipt for income tax purposes, please make your cheque payable to the Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC)-SCMWS. Mail with your name and address to The Southern Chilcotin Mountains Wilderness Society, General Delivery, Gold Bridge, B.C., V0K 1P0.

by Jay MacArthur, SCWS




Please write to Anthony Brummet, Minister of Land, Parks and Housing, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4 and urge the protection of the Southern Chilcotin Mountains as a wilderness park.



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION... Lessons from the failures

reprinted from Sierra Club's Bulletin

Controversy over a variety of land use issues in British Columbia in the 1970's, particularly differences between the forest interests, industry and others, led the provincial government to initiate a series of "public participation" groups in an attempt to achieve compromise and consensus - or so it was claimed.

The Ministry of Forests led the way with the committees set up to review conflicts in the Stein Valley, Greystokes, Meares Island, Moresby Island, and Spruce Lake in the Chilcotin. After the government directed the Ministry of Forests to look after the Cascade Wilderness, a public participation program got underway there as well. The forest industry became involved with the creation of the Forest Land Use Liaison Committee (FLULC).

What lessons can be drawn from these experiences, and what do they hold for the future? The opinions expressed here are based on evaluation of the results, rather than personal involvement in the programs. Let us consider the results. The government is now proceeding with the design for a new bridge across the Fraser River, which will initiate the construction of a road through the Stein Canyon. It is fair to say, I think, that all that has been accomplished by the Stein participation process is a longer period in which to enjoy the pristine Stein and an agreement by government and industry to plan a little better than usual in the, apparently inevitable, logging of the Stein.

With regard to Meares Island, the committee laboured long and hard to achieve a compromise solution. This was ignored by the provincial government, whose edict was, essentially, log it.

The Committee for the Spruce Lake Integrated Resource Management Plan Area also worked hard to develop a plan which all parties could accept. This plan has yet to be acted on by legislation or regulation.

Public participation in the Cascade Wilderness argument had two phases. The Cascade Advisory Committee was formed by representatives of the public and government agencies, such as the heritage conservation branch. The public representatives engaged consultants, produced two reports, and made a strong presentation to the Ministry of Forests.

The ministry did not respond other than to establish the second phase of public participation by forming resource planning groups for the areas in the Vancouver and Kamloops forest regions. These groups met several times, without reaching agreement. In July 1984 the public interest groups gave up when they realised the ministry staff was interested only in protecting opportunities for logging, with little regard for protection of historic trails. The advisory process in the Cascade Wilderness is now aborted.

The South Moresby public participation program completed its work, but the government has yet to react. The Greystokes group worked out a detailed plan; however, this has been virtually discarded in implementation.

The only public participation plan known to have been adopted is the redesign of logging plans on the Blewett slopes near Nelson to protect domestic water supplies.

Overall, the results of public participation in government planning have been very limited, if you are an optimist - or virtually zero if you are a pessimist. Yet the members of the various citizens' committees have made amazing expenditures of energy, money, and even earning opportunities, to participate. They embodied a wide range of expertise and raised legitimate questions. Why hasn't this effort produced results?

I believe the answer lies in the lack of trust placed in the consultation process as well as the government's orientation to the short-term view. So far, government has never committed itself to accepting the results worked out by any planning team involving the public. It has been my view for a long time, albeit a cynical one, that it's a waste of time to participate in the various studies unless advance knowledge is had of the extent to which government is prepared to forego logging in favour of partial or full preservation options.

**It appears the public representatives were enmeshed in a fraudulent consultation program**

The Stein example justifies this cynicism. The lengthy public participation process started without the government reducing the annual cut in the local Timber Supply Area (TSA). While the consultative process was going on, the forest industry was cutting elsewhere in the TSA at a rate based on inclusion of the trees of the Stein Valley. Inevitably, the crunch has come, after some 10 years of delay, when the Stein has to be logged unless the government is prepared to see people put out of work in the local mills, which is totally contrary to their intent. It would appear, therefore, that the public representatives were enmeshed in a fraudulent consultation program that served to sap their energies and determination, while at the same time keeping them quiet, because any criticism of the situation could always be deflected by saying it was being studied. My conclusion is the same in the Cascade Wilderness case.

It is my opinion that public participation only really works where the conflicts being considered can be resolved by minor adjustments to logging or development plans and do not compromise the overall intent, merely adding cosmetic improvements.

Where a public group wishes to change a land use designation, such as to prohibit logging, I see the public participation process as a trap designed to exhaust the participants and to shield politicians and civil servants from discomforting confrontations.

Our politicians have control of major changes in the use of Crown lands and on project approvals. I recommend strongly that those members of the public who desire changes in land use designations or projects focus all their energy directly on established regulatory processes and the

politicians. I recommend they walk away from any proposed participation process. In my view, civil servants should manage government policies in accordance with professional ethics. If in execution of government policy individual professionals abandon, or transgress, their professional code of ethics, then those adversely affected should use established processes to bring the matter to light, such as a complaint to the appropriate professional society with regulatory powers.

Argument should also focus directly on the politicians, for it is their policies that are at the root of the conflicts. The politicians create public participation forums to shield themselves from the flack. If you contribute to that shield, you will probably contribute to your own failure. The public is actually being stonewalled by the public participation process. The remedy is not to play their game, but to concentrate on direct political pressure.

Ken Farquharson

# Publications

## HOTSPOTS MAPPED

Unquestionably it is near impossible to keep track of all our environmental issues. Chilko, Cascades, Kakwa, the Stein, Stikine and Souther Chilcotins are enough to make your head spin, and that's only the beginning of the list. Help is now available in the form of a wall chart just produced by the Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC) with assistance from Environment Canada.

Their 'Environmental Hotspots Directory' outlines the natural resource conflicts brewing in B.C. and the Yukon. Included in the list are 39 parks and ecological reserve proposals.

"Unfortunately, the directory misrepresents the issues and jeopardizes the positive aspects of the relationship between the Outdoor Recreation Council and the province," says ORC chairman, Juri Peepre. Although ORC is mentioned several times in the directory, the Council does not endorse the publication's inflammatory stance, says Peepre, nor does ORC have any official connection with the Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

The chart pinpoints half a dozen outstanding general problems, among them, our inadequate parks system. "Every year, as conflict grows with resource development and more Canadian wilderness disappears forever, it becomes increasingly difficult to set aside park areas," the directory notes. It recommends putting another two percent of B.C.'s land base into park, bringing B.C.'s park area to seven percent of the province. "This addition would expand the tourist industry, the most renewable and growth oriented of all economic sectors."

As with each resource conflict included in the directory, this one is accompanied by mailing addresses of non-government organizations working to solve the issue. "The next step is up to you," the directory urges. "Get involved."

For copies of the "Environmental Hotspots Directory" contact Environment Canada at P.O. Box 1540, 800 Burrard St., Vancouver, B.C., V6Z 2G7.

## WILDERNESS CAPTURED

Islands At The Edge, Islands Protection Society, Douglas & McIntyre, 144 pages, $29.95 cloth, published October 1984, ISBN 0-88894-425X.

review by Liz Pope

On the eve of the cabinet's decision concerning South Moresby's fate: wilderness park or logged, The Islands Protection Society has attempted, in a coffee table tome, to capture the Islands' essence. In doing so, ISLANDS AT THE EDGE: A Legacy of Change in the Queen Charlotte Islands, presents a forceful case for their preservation as wilderness.

In it, Haida artist Bill Reid gracefully examines wilderness. "Without South Moreseby and other places like it, we may forget what we once were and what we can be again, and lose our humanity in a world devoid of the amazing non-humans with whom we have shared it."

Other chapters in the book are written by four biologists, including Bristol Foster, former director of B.C.'s Ecological Reserves. They interpret the islands' natural history after many years of fieldwork. Despite their PhDs, a sense of awe pervades their writing. Over 100 colour photos and reproductions of paintings by Toni Onley, Emily Carr and others provide a glimpse of where that wonder comes from.

Islands Protection Society director, John Broadhead, adds a sobering tone to the volume with his account of the issues and struggles surrounding the archipelago. "It is important that we be as well informed as possible about what is at stake and that we focus keen attention on the decision-making process," he warns.

In that spirit, Islands at the Edge is a fine tribute to the South Moresby wilderness. Let's hope it is not all our future generations will have.

# Recreation and Conservation

## HERITAGE CAUCUS PLANS FOR CONSERVATION

One of Canada's most significant heritage anniversaries will be the Centennial of our National Park System in 1985. This provides a rare and significant opportunity to recognize, review, promote and improve our national and provincial heritage in all its natural and historic forms. With this in mind Canada commissioned in December 1983, a program of Caucuses in 1984-85 leading to a Canadian Assembly on National Parks and Other Protected Areas in Banff, September 4-8th, 1985. The official theme for the Canadian Assembly is "Heritage for Tomorrow: Canada's National Parks and Other Protected Areas in the Second Century". This major conference will have a strong influence on the future direction for heritage conservation areas in Canada. The program of the Caucuses which is formative to the Canadian Assembly, called for the establishment of six Regional Caucuses throughout Canada, British Columbia being one of those regions.

The British Columbia Caucus, Heritage for Tomorrow was commissioned February 19th, 1984 with an eleven member Steering Committee. The B.C. Caucus Steering Committee consists of six regional and five at-large members representing natural resource conservation, outdoor recreation, and resource-oriented tourism interests throughout British Columbia. The Vancouver Lower Mainland regional member is FMCBC President, Stephan Fuller. The term "Caucus" refers to a wide ranging consultation process for recognition of heritage conservation issues and concerns and for differences as well as points of agreement.

**The Canadian Assembly on National Parks will have a strong influence on the future for heritage conservation areas in Canada**

The goals of the British Columbia Caucus are basically two: Firstly, to prepare, through a wide ranging consultative process, a paper on heritage conservation issues, policy concerns and recommendations. Secondly, to prepare a List of Heritage Conservation Candidate Areas; those areas considered to be of critical importance to the establishment of a system of protected heritage areas which could be designated as parks or equivalent reserves. Priority ranking of areas, provincial and national scales of significance are to be included in the review. The attainment of these two goals are to be sought more specifically through the following five objectives:

1) To identify a province-wide network of parklands and similar protected areas to cover all terrestrial natural regions and regional landscapes of British Columbia.

2) To identify marine, coastal and freshwater protected areas for inclusion into the province-wide network.

3) To identify needs as to improve the ecological and managerial quality of existing protected areas.

4) To identify the full range of wildland management categories necessary for improved heritage conservation management within British Columbia, recognizing them as our most precious natural assets for landscape and wildlife, tourism and recreation.

5) To identify appropriate linkages between protected area management and sustainable development.

For further information, contact British Columbia Caucus Heritage for Tomorrow, Room 270, 2337 Main Mall, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C., V6T 1W5.

## FMCBC RESPONDS TO STIKINE PLAN

by Stephan Fuller, FMCBC President

A Resource Planning Report produced by the Ministry of Forests for the Lower Stikine Valley presents three options for consideration. Two extreme options are clearly intended to be discarded (full development or full preservation). The middle option (some development with recreation values considered) is quite general. While the report recognizes a set of divergent opinions about the best use for the valley, it is deficient in its analysis of the value of recreation and wilderness benefits. Fifteen pages establish a very marginal economic basis for logging (whole logs for export unprocessed) while two pages discuss other values in extremely general terms. There is no real acknowledgement of the international recognition of the area nor is there any mention of the provincial Corridor Policy and, of course, the province refuses to participate in the National Heritage Rivers System. The FMCBC presented these concerns in a short response to the document. Detailed analysis was not possible given the insufficient time the Ministry of Forests allowed for response.

The Ministry announced early October it has decided to allow logging along the Stikine River.

## NEW RECREATION AREA IN BABINE MOUNTAINS

The Provincial Government has designated 32,400 hectares (80,060 acres) located 15 kilometers east of Smithers as the Babine Mountains Recreation Area. The area is accessible from Highway 16 and the town of Smithers and offers extensive opportunities for both summer and winter recreation. Many people currently enjoy hiking, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in the area.

The Recreation Area is the alpine and subalpine core of the Babine Mountains Integrated Management Unit, established in 1976. Vehicle access controls established at that time will be easier to enforce as a Recreation Area. Motorized vehicle access will continue to be restricted unless authorized by a permit. Established snowmobile use in the Big Onion Mountain area will continue. Recreation Area status under the Park Act will allow proper management of the recreation values while still allowing carefully controlled mineral exploration and development. Management of the Recreation Area will be the responsibility of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division of the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing.

# Parks News

## NEW PARK POLICY RELEASED

by Stephan Fuller, FMCBC President

The new Parks Acquisition Policy issued by the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing provides for only two types of Park Act designation in the future: Class A and Recreation Area. The current Master Planning process will be used to reclassify many existing park areas by either upgrading to Class A; downgrading to Recreation Area; or deleting from the Provincial Park System. All Class B parks will be reclassified and no new Class B parks will be created. No new Class C parks will be developed.

All FMCBC members with an interest in park preservation in B.C. can obtain a copy of this policy statement. It is available from Jim Rutter, 687-3333.

## GVRD PARKS NEED SUPPORT

The Greater Vancouver Regional District presently has eleven parks open to the public, but budget limitations have meant that the development of even basic facilities - trails, parking lots, picnic tables, toilets and signs - are struggling to keep up with demand.

Of special concern to the FMCBC is a proposed 9,000 hectare park and recreation area encompassing Lynn and Seymour watersheds of North Vancouver. Both watersheds traditionally have been closed to the public. Lynn Creek used to supply North Vancouver's water and is still a roadless, semiwilderness area. The opening of this area as a park hinges on a funding increase for GVRD Parks.

The regional district is considering increasing park funding by $1.00 per person for the next five years, bringing the average annual cost to $3.40 per person. The decision will be made by the GVRD Board of Directors in November 1984.

"We need your support to ensure all parks are operated and maintained in a manner which will improve accessibility and enhance the enjoyment of one and all," says GVRD Park Committee Chairman, Dr. Hal Weinberg. "Send a letter to let us know your views."

The FMCBC has already written GVRD to support an increase in park funding. Member clubs interested in Lower Mainland recreation are encouraged to do the same.

## NEW PARK ANNOUNCED

One of Liberal Environment Minister Charles Caccia's last tasks was to announce the establishment of a new national park. Comprising 6,050 square kilometers, North Yukon National Park stretches from the Yukon north slope along the Alaskan border to the Babbage River in the east. Caccia describes the area as a superlative wildlife habitat, harbouring three bear species -- grizzly, black bear and polar bear -- along with waterfowl and migrating caribou.

## PARKS CANADA INVITES PROJECTS

Next year, 1985, marks the Centennial of Canada's National Parks and we of Parks Canada invite you to participate in the celebrations.

From its modest beginnings at Banff in 1885, our country's system of national parks and national historic parks has grown to preserve a legacy that extends from sea to sea. "One hundred years of heritage conservation" -- that's the theme of the 1985 National Parks Centennial. It's something to celebrate and Parks Canada is happy to host many festivities that will occur in the parks and the communities during this year.

This 100th anniversary is special to all of us. It proudly commemorates a century of care and appreciation of the vast natural and historic heritage we share as a nation. Join us in events that will range from historic re-enactments of voyageur brigades to folk dances and photo contests, from antique auto outings to sand castle building on the beach.

The community spirit is catching on. If you would like to participate or have a project or an event that would tie in with the 1985 National Parks Centennial, we would like to hear from you. Just write or call Mr. Greg Belland at:

Parks Canada, Western Region
#520, 220 - 4th Avenue, S.E.
P.O. Box 2989 - Station M
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3H8
(403) 231-5100

We will supply you with more information. We are also available to meet with you and explore ways to get invoived in this very special anniversary.

Steve Kun
Director
Parks Canada
Western Region

## VALHALLA TRAILS IMPROVED

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club reports that Valhalla Park received some trail improvements this year under the able supervision of Dave Smith. If you are planning a trip into the area and need up-to-date information on hiking conditions, contact the Parks Division at 825-4421.

## THE FEDERATION GROWS

FMCBC extends a hearty welcome to four new member clubs. The Kootenay Nordics have rejoined us and new to the Federation are Shuswap Outdoors Club, Kelowna Mountaineering Club and Cloudraker Outdoor Club of Vancouver.

# Courses

AVALANCHE SAFETY COURSE

This course is a practical course aimed primarily at the winter recreationist who travels in avalanche prone terrain. The first day is theory oriented and is followed by a full day field excursion. Persons taking this course should be able to ski adequately and bring X.C. skis for the field day.

Cost is $40 20 persons maximum
Pieps rental $5

Dates:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dec. 15 & 16 | Jan. 5 & 6 | Feb. 2 & 3 | Mar. 2 & 3 |
| | 12 & 13 | 9 & 10 | |
| | 19 & 20 | 16 & 17 | |
| | 26 & 27 | 23 & 24 | |

Topics covered include:

- Snowpack Formation
- Avalanche Formation
- Terrain Evaluation
- Stability Evaluation
- Avalanche Safety
- Avalanche Rescue
- Snow Pits and Stability Tests
- Avalanche Transceiver (Pieps) Practice

The above course was very popular last year, with 160 attendees. You are advised to book early. People were still asking for courses in March and April last year. If you only take one course, take this one.

SNOW CAMPING AND WINTER SURVIVAL

Cost is $50 12 persons maximum

| | |
|---|---|
| December | 1 & 2 |
| January | 5 & 6 |
| | 26 & 27 |
| February | 9 & 10 |
| | 22 & 23 |

This course is designed to demonstrate all aspects of preparation for back country winter travel. Topics include clothing, tents, packs, snow caves, cooking, foods, use of ice axe, snow belays and rappels, navigation, avalanche hazard, hypothermia, fire lighting, survival kits, and signals.

One Thursday evening lecture and a Sat/Sun overnight on a local mountain. Snowshoes and/or X.C. skis are necessary. No equipment supplied by the FMCBC.

The FMCBC reserves the right to refuse persons with inadequate equipment.

AVALANCHE AWARENESS INSTRUCTOR'S WORKSHOP

A 3-day workshop on teaching avalanche awareness is being planned for the end of November. It is aimed at those, already knowledgeable in avalanche safety and backcountry travel, who want to teach avalanche awareness courses in their community. The course is open to both club members and non-members at a cost of about $30.00. Contact Jim Rutter for details.

PHONE - Jim Rutter, F.M.C.B.C. Office, Sport B.C., 1200 Hornby St., Vancouver, V6Z 2E2 687-3333

Liz Pope photo.

# News

FMCBC PRESENTS BRIEF

by Stephan Fuller, FMCBC President

FMCBC and the Outdoor Recreation Council will be presenting a brief to the Federal Inquiry on Water Policy later this fall. While stressing the general issues of water management and policy in British Columbia, the brief will make reference to the need to preserve wilderness and recreation areas. It will also urge the province to participate in Parks Canada's Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

If FMCBC members wish to have input to the brief, please contact Stephan Fuller (w) 734-7603, (h) 732-3438.

COAST RANGE SPARED PIPELINE

By Stephan Fuller, FMCBC President

The B.C. Utilities Commission recently recommended that the B.C. Hydro proposal for a new gas pipeline should proceed and that the Westcoast Transmission alternative through the Southern Coast Range should be refused by the Provincial Cabinet. The FMCBC had argued against the Westcoast proposal in a brief to the Utilities Commission on the basis that we did not wish to see new corridors opened through the Coast Range, particularly in areas with near wilderness conditions. The Outdoor Recreation Council and the Coalition to Protect the Southern Chilcotins argued similar points but the final decision of the BCUC was based on economic considerations. The environmental arguments were afforded only passing notice in the BCUC decision document.