

NEWSLETTER



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FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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MEMBER GROUPS	Alpine Club of Canada (ACC)	Mountain Rescue Group (MRG)
	Vancouver Section	North Shore Hikers (NSH)
	Vancouver Island Section	Outward Bound (B.C.)
	B.C.I.T. Outdoor Club	Sierra Club of B.C. (SC)
	B.C. Mountaineering Club (BCMC)	Simon Fraser Outdoor Club
	Canadian Youth Hostel Assn.	Univ. of Victoria Outdoor Club
	Island Mountain Ramblers	Valley Outdoor Association
	Kamloops Outdoor Club	Vancouver Natural History Society
	Kootenay Mountaineering Club	Varsity Outdoor Club ((VNHS)

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

At present the Federation represents 17 groups stretching from Victoria to the Kootenays and from Prince George to Keremeos. Our Newsletter provides the means to share and communicate our interests over this vast area and can supplement the exchanges that take place at our monthly meetings of delegates and the other meetings that we sponsor.

The major function of the Federation is to communicate the purposes and concerns of its members and in reaching beyond the internal activities of the clubs, to express those aspects that unite us, as well as clarifying those areas in which we may differ. As such our Newsletter can and must play a valuable role. If we are to find or help develop a Provincial perspective that can modify or encompass the various club interests without suppressing or ignoring any of them it is vital that we should maintain good communications. Without them we will become a meaningless and monolithic body.

The Federation has been the vehicle for a very active and effective Trail Committee, the popular Basic Mountaineering Course offered to the public at large each spring, a number of outdoor recreation management conferences which embrace a wider participation than just our own members, and a most worthwhile series of Mountain Rescue Conferences which have clarified the roles and capabilities of the Armed Forces, the RCMP, the Provincial Emergency Program and the various volunteer groups. The Province would be the poorer for our absence. Our Newsletter should demonstrate our contributions to the quality of life in British Columbia.

The decision-making bodies in the Province are appreciating the value of the Federation which is developing a good liaison with the Department of Recreation & Conservation, with the Forest Service, and through the Public Liaison Committee of the Council of Forest Industries with logging companies. Our Newsletter distribution includes all of these and can act as a useful means of communication among us.

These are the reasons why I welcome the Newsletter and I ask you, the reader, to use it as the vital instrument that it can and must be if the Federation is to serve its purpose.

John Hasell, President

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS NEWSLETTER: BCFS = B.C. Forest Service; ELUC = Environment & Land Use Committee; FMCBC = Federation; PB = Parks Branch; R & C = Recreation and Conservation; VFD = Vancouver Forest District, BCFS; 103H = "103 Hikes" Guide.

- 2 -

CONFERENCE ON RECREATIONAL USES OF WILDLAND

In cooperation with the B.C. Sports Federation and B.C.I.T., the FMCBC is co-ordinating a Provincial conference on April 12-13. Regional seminars are being held in Vernon (8 February), Castlegar (15 Feb.), B.C.I.T. (22 Feb.), Victoria (1 March), Prince George (8 March), and Terrace (15 March). Delegates from the regional seminars will attend the Provincial Conference to develop a consensus. Objectives have been set by an advisory committee of all wildland user groups, government, and industry. Among the areas covered will be: clarification of administrative jurisdiction over wildland, including zoning; access and trails; public input into planning; education and safety programs. Information has been sent to member groups and others; for more information, contact your FMCBC delegate or Alan Carter, Conference Coordinator (942-0830).

NEW RESOURCE FOLIO SYSTEM

All readers should become familiar with this system, which offers us the opportunity to participate constructively in plans for Crown land. Essentially, the BCFS Zone Foresters coordinate information on forest cover, soil, geology, climate, water resources, mining, fish and wildlife, recreation, and agriculture prior to the development or approval of logging plans. This system was begun in the Prince George District in 1973, but now covers the entire Province. If we wish to have input into the recreational (or other) component of the folio, we can do so, thereby hopefully avoiding last-minute protests through timely study and communication. That the Zone Forester does the coordination and may be responsible for decisions may indicate a built-in bias to some, but it is certainly a large step toward desirable environmental impact studies.

Your R & C Committee has reviewed the areas proposed for folio development in the VFD, and has selected three (marked * below) for further study and submissions to the BCFS. We have a minimum of one year (and up to 5+ years) of lead time on these. Our Committee is not knowledgeable about all of them; some are very large areas and logging plans may affect only a part of them. THE PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW IS THIS: if you are actively interested in an area, contact the Zone Forester listed below at the VFD office, 355 Burrard St. (684-2321) to find out if base maps and applications are available yet. If so, we recommend you contact us first and then arrange to talk with him. Similar procedures may be used in other Forest Districts. The list (subject to change) follows:

ZONE 1 (Don Kinnear)	Two Mile Creek	Mamquam River/Raffuse Creek
	Upper Silverhope Creek	Log Creek
	Railroad Creek	East Anderson River
	Brandywine Creek*	Gowan & Roger Creeks
	Anderson River/Siwash Cr.	Lizzie Creek*
	Twin-One Creek*	Pebble Creek
	Rutherford Creek	
ZONE 2 (S. G. Hynd)	Mill-Woodfibre Creeks	Phillips River
	Upper Bishop River	Sechelt Peninsula
	Homathko River	Orford River
	Lois River	Quatam River
	Clowhom River	
ZONE 3 (Ken Ingram)	Barr Creek	Ehatisaht Creek
	Artlish River	Clanninick Creek
	McDougal Lake	
ZONE 4 (R.T. Ostby)	Koprino River	San Josef River
	Buck Creek	Wakeman River
	Memekay River	Seymour River [not one on N.
	Ahta River	Ahnuhati River /Shore]
	Stranby River	Kingcome River

A useful reference on folios is "All Resources Considered in Logging Plans," by J.G. Bullen, reprinted from ForesTalk, Vol. 2, No. 2 (1974), available from Information Officer, Information Division, BCFS, Victoria V8V 1X5.

TRAIL NEWS

ALOUETTE MTN. [MTG 45; 103H-138; 92G/8W; PB]. Error on page 2 of last Newsletter; hiking time should read 7-8 hours, not 2 hours.

BLACK MTN. [103H-20; 92G/6E&W]. Parking will not be reinstated by Highways Dept. at base along new highway junction, as trail is still "illegal" because of watershed.

CYPRESS BOWL FROM SUNSET BEACH. [103H-48; 92G/6E; NSH]. Despite description in 103H, the beginning is over private, posted land. Owner has been subjected to some unpleasantness. Route for relocation has been found, will be done on 2 March under Bill Hughes' direction. New route through public land; new signs will be placed at old and new start.

DEPOT CREEK to MT. REDOUBT CROSS-BORDER ROUTE. We have been asked by the Chief Forester (28 Nov.) to inform members that an illegal route put in from near Chilliwack Lake onto this U.S. mountain has been an embarrassment to the government and should not be repeated, as it gives us a bad name too (though not sanctioned by any member group.)

REXFORD, MT. [MTG 50; 92H/4E; BCMC]. Space prevents telling this story in its entirety. We found out about logging plans at the last moment; met with logging company and BCFS; went out on the ground with them, exploring alternatives. BCFS decision: follow original logging plan which will obliterate lower end of trail; we got our second choice - BCFS to reconstruct trail on W side of Nesakwatch Cr. in 700' leave strip, crossing creek and ascending through leave strip between logging settings to present route. Trail work, with our assistance in location, probably will be done next summer. We're sorry to see it go, but this is an example of what we hope to avoid with proper trail protection legislation and the Folio System.

FOREST ACT - PLEASE NOTE: The Chief Forester wishes all members to be informed that it is an act of trespass under the Forest Act [Part II, Section 10, para. 1 & 2] to construct a trail without prior authorization of government department concerned. (Although not enforced in the past, we can hardly press for saving a trail which is illegal in the first place.)

REORGANIZATION OF TRAIL COMMITTEE

At the Delegates' Meeting on 5 Feb. it was decided to divide responsibilities by re-designating the Trail Committee, which meets with government personnel, as the "Recreation & Conservation Committee" (R. Freeman, Chairman), with the specific trail work being done by a "Trail Subcommittee" chaired by Paul Binkert; the two groups will partly overlap and work closely together and with the Trail Clearinghouse. Minutes of the R & C Committee are available from your FMCBC Delegate.

TRAIL CLEARINGHOUSE REQUESTS ERRATA FOR ALL GUIDEBOOKS

Please let the Coordinator, Elizabeth Walker (#108 - 4875 Valley Dr., Vancouver V6J 4B8; 261-5383 evenings) have any corrections for 103 Hikes, Dick Culbert's Alpine Guide, or any others. These will be published in June issue; some already received.

CONSERVATION NEWS IN BRIEF

Blackcomb Ski Development. Nancy Greene and Al Raine have proposed development of some 340 acres of Garibaldi Park N of Whistler for alpine skiing. We received reply to our inquiry, saying final decision will be by ELUC and will develop out of total Squamish-Lillooet Study on which there will eventually be public hearings.

Pacific Rim Nat'l. Park/West Coast Trail. Protective strip for Trail will be only 1/2 to 1 mile wide; logging to boundary may provide massive public access across Trail to coast.

We are consulting BCFS about this and involving Vancouver Island clubs.

Purcell Wilderness Conservancy & Fry Creek Canyon Recreation Area. Established end of 1974 [B.C. Gazette: Vol. CXIV, # 51, p. 1975 (Dec. 19); Vol. 17, # 26, p. 1227 (Dec. 24)].

Stein River Basin Moratorium. Requested news of progress on study; some work was done, more will be done this summer; technical input welcome from FMCBC; final decision by ELUC perhaps next year. We may run a small trip in this coming summer.

Strathcona Park Mining. Golden Hinde Mines have applied to mine near Della Falls area [B.C. Gazette Vol. CXIV, #51, p. 1975 (Dec. 19)]. Have contacted Vancouver Island groups.

INFORMATION COORDINATORS

Ross Wyborn (Box 18, R.R. #1, Whonnock) (ACC-BCMC) suggested the concept and has volunteered to serve as Information Coordinator on Hut Policy. If you have an interest in some other area for which you would like to see FMCBC policy developed, check with R. Freeman. Coordinator's role will be to collect as much information and opinion on all sides as possible so that policy may be developed by the R & C Committee or the Delegates' Meeting. Other Coordinators will be announced in forthcoming Newsletters.

FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

About 40 people spent November 30th discussing the future thrust of the FMCBC. A new feature was inclusion of Club executive members as well as delegates. Detailed minutes are available from your FMCBC Delegate.

WELCOME TO NEW CLUBS!

The Kamloops Outdoor Club which has a large membership in the Okanagan region, and the Valley Outdoor Association from the Fraser Valley have been welcomed to membership.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

R.H. Ahrens from Director, PB, to Associate Deputy Minister, Dept. of R & C, replacing E. Vernon; Charles Velay from Asst. Director i/c Park Systems Development to Acting Director, PB...Don Kinnear to Zone 1 Forester, VFD...Doug Herchmer to Forester 3 position in charge of recreation for VFD (He's an ACC member)...Harry Drage from Forester 3, Zone 1 to assist Harry Marshall in recreation for BCFS, Victoria.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

A DIRECTION FOR DIAMOND HEAD, by Mel Turner, 1974, 9 pp., 3 maps, 2 with overlays [PB].

DEPT. OF RECREATION & CONSERVATION ANNUAL REPORT, 1973, just published.

BLACK TUSK 1980, by Mel Turner, 1975, 7 pp., 2 maps with overlays [PB internal document].

HUT USE STATISTICS - BCMC HUTS, Fall 1974, 3 pp. [unpublished].

OUTDOOR RECREATION IN THE SQUAMISH-LILLOOET REGION - Brief for the B.C. Parks Branch,

by ACC (Vancouver Section), BCMC, NSH, Sept. 1974, 8 pp. [unpublished].

PRINCE GEORGE AND DISTRICT TRAIL GUIDE, edited by Bob Nelson, 1974. Describes 8 trails

with maps. Pub. by Regional Development Commission, Regional District, Prince George, 25¢. *SKI TOURING TRAILS*, brochures with maps, Cypress Provincial Park; Manning Provincial Park, 1974, PB.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES, A Brief Prepared by the Conservation Committee of the Federation of B.C. Naturalists, October 1974, 11 pp.

TRAIL STANDARDS, PARKS BRANCH, 1974. Internal document.

TSITIKA-SCHOEN RESOURCES STUDY SUMMARY REPORT, by North Island Study Group coordinated by Howard Paish, Feb. 1975, 42 pp. with 2 maps. Limited printing for ELUC.

COMING IN FUTURE ISSUES: New Airplane Creek Trail to Baby Munday Mtn...Conference report...extensive trail condition and access report (June)...new logging guidelines...and more.