



NEWSLETTER

FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Volume 2, Number 1 Non-member Subscription \$1/year September-November 1975

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MEMBER GROUPS	Alpine Club of Canada	North Shore Hikers (NSH)
	Vancouver Section (ACC)	North Vancouver Emergency Measures
	Vancouver Island Section	Organization
	B.C.I.T. Outdoor Club	Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society (OSPS)
	B.C. Mountaineering Club (BCMC)	Outward Bound (B.C.)
	Caledonia Ramblers	Sierra Club of B.C. (SC)
	Canadian Youth Hostel Association	Simon Fraser University Outdoor Club
	Island Mountain Ramblers (IMR)	Strathcona Park Lodge
	Kamloops Outdoor Club	Valley Outdoor Association (VOA)
	Kootenay Mountaineering Club (KMC)	Vancouver Natural History Society (VNHS)
	Mountain Rescue Group (MRG)	Varsity Outdoor Club [UBC] (VOC)

LETTER FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

This has been a most exciting and stimulating two years which has made me very proud of the Federation. Our charter has been to foster and promote cooperation and coordination between clubs and groups throughout the Province who enjoy the mountains. While our membership is confined to those who are self-propelled, our actions have in fact embraced many other groups who take their pleasure in our wildlands. We have contributed to their safety through the production of a safety booklet, the running of our Basic Mountaineering Course, and through a series of Mountain Rescue Conferences which have brought the RCMP, emergency measures organizations, Air-Sea Rescue, and the Provincial Emergency Program together with the amateur mountain rescue groups.

A key function of the Federation has always been concern over trails and their location, construction and maintenance for the good of all. This has continued to be a major area of interest, and the establishment of a Trail Clearinghouse has been a successful innovation. The original Trail Committee under the effective leadership of Paul Binkert broadened its interests and has been reorganized into the Recreation & Conservation Committee under the chairmanship of Roger Freeman, with Paul continuing to deal with trail construction, maintenance, and standardization as Chairman of the Trail Subcommittee. The larger Committee has become a most effective forum which now includes representatives of Government from Parks, the Forest Service, and Lands, while industry is represented by the Council of Forest Industries. The Stein River Watershed Study produced by this Committee is a monument to hard work, careful study and deliberate thought, and David Thompson the Project Director, aided by Roger, have my admiration and thanks.

Roger Freeman has also done a very fine job as Newsletter Editor and the expanded circulation and the number of subscriptions proves the value of his efforts. The manner in which the Federation has involved so many other people and groups has more than justified its existence and one cannot but be impressed by the talents and commitment which we have been able to draw upon and mobilize.

(Continued on p. 2)

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS ISSUE: BCFS = B.C. Forest Service; Cr. = Creek; ELUC = Environment & Land Use Committee; FBCN = Federation of B.C. Naturalists; FMCBC = Federation; PB = Parks Branch; R&C = Recreation & Conservation; VFD = Vancouver Forest District, BCFS

One of the most significant actions of the Federation has been the setting up of the Provincial Conference on the Recreational Uses of Wildland. This was a truly professional affair and effectively brought together the viewpoints of all the regions through regional seminars. The Conference led directly to the establishment of the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C., of which we are a charter member.

As I hand over the chair I want to express my very real thanks to the other members of the Executive and the delegates who have backed me so well and who in reality have done all the work. My chief concern is that others should now come forward and share the load and take the Federation on from here. I can see very clearly where we have come from. The new Executive will be concerned with where we are going. I wish you every success in these endeavours.

— John Hasell, President

FMCBC BRIEF TO ROYAL COMMISSION ON FOREST RESOURCES

R. Freeman and D. Thompson appeared before the Commission on 20 November. Major points:

- We need more adequate funding and staffing of agencies responsible for resource management, such as BCFS, PB, Fish & Wildlife Branch, etc.
- There is an inadequate data base for proper resource studies; this includes recreation.
- A mechanism is needed for settling conflicts over withdrawals from timber production, between the EIUC Secretariat level and that of the BCFS Resource Folio System.
- Legal protection for trails and access might reduce some demands for park status; different procedures would be necessary for historic and for ordinary trails.
- Establishment of Provincial Trail Inventory (hiking, skiing, canoeing, ATVs, etc.).
- Legal mandate for environmental study prior to planning of resource extraction.
- Need for clarification and up-grading of role of recreation in BCFS.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION NEWS-IN-BRIEF

- Valhalla Proposal. Public meeting sponsored by SC held in Vancouver on 6 November. Since two FMCBC groups differ (SC and KMC), FMCBC plans no endorsement at this time.
- Historic Trails. On 27 November R&C Comm. will discuss protection of Brigade and other historic routes, and possible publication of guidebook. PB Director Tom Lee will be among govt. personnel attending. Minutes will be available from Delegates.
- Winter Recreation. January meeting of R&C Comm. will concentrate on self-propelled winter recreation such as cross-country skiing. Cliff Parker (VOA Past-Pres.) is leading a study of potential use areas. Blue Mountain is first area in Lower Mainland zoned for both cross-country and snowmobile use.
- Standard Trail Signs and Marking. Paul Binkert is continuing to develop ideas for "portal signs" which govt. agencies might erect at trailheads, and standard markers.
- Form Letters. Elizabeth Walker has designed a letter to answer info requests on trails, maps, & guidebooks in B.C. Concept will be developed further and reported here.
- Hope Pass Trail Cleared. Thanks to Bill Hughes (NSH) trail is now cleared to within 2 miles of Pass; last bit has some blowdowns but is passable. Details in summer issue.
- Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. is new name for what started as "Provincial Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee." Regional committees are being set up; John Hasell is Chairman; Alan Carter, Coordinator.
- Stein Watershed Study in two volumes was made possible by traverse of watershed by FMCBC party in late August. Submitted to govt. in October; decision expected within 2 mos.
- New Hut in Golden Ears Park. A Batzer-type hut has been placed on Panorama Ridge on the Golden Ears Trail by a high school group and the PB.
- Mt. Robson Horse Use. Funds have been requested by PB to improve sections of Berg Lake Trail because of heavy impact from both horses and hikers.
- Detailed Notice of Folio Developments has also been started by KMC in their Newsletter for their region; this is one useful way of ensuring Club expertise is not ignored.
- Hut Questionnaire Results from Vol. 1, Number 3, will be published in the next issue.
- An Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Committee of Government agencies has recently been established in Victoria, and will pursue some research. (More on this next time.)

WHERE DOES MINING STAND IN COMPARISON WITH FORESTRY?

In recent years relationships between environmental groups and the forest industry have noticeably improved. There is general agreement, for example, on the usefulness of a fully-implemented Resource Folio System and the need for public participation in decision-making. Unfortunately, the same progress is less obvious with mining, perhaps because of the secrecy involved, perhaps because we have not felt so obviously affected by it and have not tried.

The Mining Association of B.C., in their brief to the Royal Commission, demand "as a matter of right" that there be almost no interference (or ministerial discretion) with regard to exploration and cutting of roads, grids, and timber. Although stating that they support "responsible resource management," they also assert: "It is imperative that the mining industry be allowed to clear necessary land within the time frame which it has established for the economic development of an orebody. Delays of months waiting for the bureaucratic process to issue a license to cut is often intolerable." (p. 6) With major open-pit projects planned for several areas of B.C., perhaps it is time for us to begin a dialogue with the mining industry so that a proper consideration can be given to values other than resource extraction. Anyone have any ideas?

KEYS FOR LOGGING ROAD GATES

The Royal Commission is considering problems of public access to logging roads; there is no general Provincial policy; vandalism is a big problem. Requests have ranged from maintaining public access in winter and extending roads to nearby lakes (Steelhead Society) to closing many of them after logging ceases (FBCN). While this is being discussed, let US know if you encounter any problems; we can try to help.

Cattermole Timber Ltd. will provide (on advance notice) key to its Nesakwatch, Centre, and Paleface Cr. gates; call locally 823-6525 or toll-free from Vancouver 526-1533.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

- A PROPOSAL FOR MONASHEE PROVINCIAL PARK, by Conservation Committee, North Okanagan Naturalists' Club (Box 473, Vernon V1T 6M4), 6 June 1975. 3 pp. + map.
- A SURVEY OF SELECTED SNOWMOBILE OWNERS IN THE LOWER MAINLAND, by Hugh Price, submitted to A. Cuthbert, Forestry Resource Technology, BCIT, 13 April 1975. 42 pp., biblio.
- BURKE MOUNTAIN: A STUDY OF RECREATIONAL CONFLICT: SNOWMOBILING AND SKI TOURING, by Jim Boyde for District of Coquitlam (Main Office 1111 Brunette Ave.), 1974. 49 pp., 6 maps, biblio.
- CROOKED RIVER P.S.Y.U. - ANNUAL REPORT 1974, by Prince George Forest District, BCFS, 1975. 8 pp. + 1 map including recreation points of interest.
- DEWDNEY P.S.Y.U. - ANNUAL REPORT 1974, by VFD, BCFS, 1975. 15 pp. + 1 map.
- DISCOVER SOUTHEAST ALASKA WITH PACK AND PADDLE, by M. Piggott. Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1974. (\$5.75 at Mountain Equipment Co-op in Vancouver)
- ECOLOGICAL RESERVES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA (4th ed.), by E.R. Program, Lands Management Branch, Dept. of Lands, Forests, & Water Resources, Victoria, 1975. 9 pp. + 1 map.
- NAHMINT WATERSHED: INTEGRATED RESOURCE STUDY, by J.B. Nyberg (Project Coordinator), VFD of BCFS, August 1975. 56 pp. + 2 maps.
- PARKS BRANCH FREE BROCHURES, avail. from PB, Victoria (all 1975 unless specified): British Columbia Provincial Marine Parks (1/74); Bowron Lake; Bugaboo Glacier; Cape Scott; Cathedral; Fraser Canyon Okanagan Provincial Parks; Garibaldi; Golden Ears; Kokanee Glacier (12/74); Manning; Mt. Assiniboine; Mt. Robson; Provincial Parks on Vancouver Island; Strathcona; Tweedsmuir; Wells Gray.
- PRINCE GEORGE AND DISTRICT TRAIL GUIDE, THE, edited by Bob Nelson. Prince George: Regional Development Commission, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, May 1975. 36 pp. + maps, price not known (revised edition of guide listed in NEWSLETTER Vol. 1, No. 4).
- RECREATION CAPABILITY INVENTORY, revised edition, by ELUC Secretariat, June 1975, 18 pp.
- RECREATIONAL VEHICLES: SITE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS, by Michael G. Powers, 15 Jan. 1975. Vancouver: Greater Vancouver Regional District. 18 pp. + 1 map.
- REPORT ON A MEETING AND FIELD TRIP TO HAT CREEK VALLEY, by Will Paulik, B.C. Wildlife Federation, 19-21 September 1975. 6 pp.

SELLING OF THE SKAGIT (THE), in Alternatives: Perspectives on Society and Environment, Spring 1975. [Quarterly pub. by Trent Univ., Peterborough, Ont.; \$1/issue; 75¢ at Co-op.]

SQUAMISH CHIEF GUIDE, by Gordon Smail. Vancouver: Hard Core, 1975. [\$4.00 at Co-op.]

STEIN RIVER WATERSHED, VOL. I: A RECREATIONAL RESOURCE STUDY, by FMCBC, Oct. 1975. 100 pp. + 31 pp. of appendices; 30 maps, 5 drawings, 2 graphs, 1 table, 16 photos (15 in colour).

STEIN RIVER WATERSHED, VOL. II: OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, by FMCBC, Oct. 1975. 25 pp. + 14 pp. of appendices; 4 maps, 6 colour photographs, biblio.

SUBMISSION TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE COMMITTEE RESPECTING DISPOSAL AND USE OF THE TSITIKA-SCHOEN AREA, by FBCN, 1 April 1975. 4 pp.

SUPPLEMENT NO. 2, CAPILANO COLLEGE WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP REFERENCE GUIDE, 1975. 5 pp.

TRAILS TO THE SHUSWAP, by Don Barz et al. Salmon Arm: The Salmon Arm Observer, 1973. 56 pp. illus., maps, no price given [OFY Project: guide to hiking, canoeing, cycling].

VANCOUVER ISLAND LOGGING ROAD TRAVEL, VOL. 1: VICTORIA TO CAMPBELL RIVER, by Alec & Taffy Merriam (rev. 1975). Sidney: Saltair Pub. Ltd. 185 pp., maps, illus. \$3.95.

YUKON'S BURWASH UPLANDS: THE NEED FOR INCLUSION IN KLUANE NATIONAL PARK, by J.B. Theberge & S. Oosenbrug for National and Provincial Parks Assn. of Canada, Canadian Nature Federation, & Federation of Ontario Naturalists. March 1975, 14 pp. + 3 maps, illus. No price given.

SUBMISSIONS TO ROYAL COMMISSION ON FOREST RESOURCES. Hundreds of briefs have been submitted. We have seen some and list a few here which are of special interest. Where place & date are not specified, it is Nov.-Dec. 1975 in Vancouver. (Not listed in order of importance)

- (1) Environment & Land Use Committee Secretariat. 39 pp. + 20 pp. of appendices.
- (2) "Forest Recreation in British Columbia," by FMCBC. 12 pp. + 4 of appendices.
- (3) Steelhead Society of B.C. 4 pp. + 3 pp. of appendices.
- (4) Dept. of Recreation & Conservation. 60 pp. + many tables & maps [important brief]
- (5) Federation of B.C. Naturalists. 6 pp.
- (6) B.C. Wildlife Federation. 56 pp. + 5 pp. of appendices [very well done brief]
- (7) "Retracking British Columbia," by V.O.I.C.E. [Victims of Industry Changing Environment]. 32 pp. + 12 pp. of appendices; cartoons. [very interesting radical proposals]
- (8) "Forest Resource Planning in British Columbia," by BCFS (Sept., Nelson). 31 pp. + 2 pp. of appendices. [important, self-critical analysis of own functioning and needs]
- (9) Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. 28 pp. [proposals for public involvement]
- (10) Mining Association of B.C. 24 pp. [see comment on p. 3 of this NEWSLETTER]
- (11) Ken Farquharson. 12 pp. + refs.
- (12) "Sustained Yield Timber Management and Public Land Use Allocations in British Columbia," by Jerry Fagerlund for Vancouver Group, Sierra Club of B.C. 10 pp. + refs.
- (13) Council of Forest Industries of B.C. 36 pp.
- (14) "Environmental Legal Aspects of Forest Management in British Columbia," by West Coast Environmental Law Association. 17 pp.
- (15) Canoe Sport British Columbia. 2 pp.
- (16) J. L'Orsa & H. Kruisselbrink (Prince Rupert, Sept.) 8 pp. + refs.
- (17) "The Role of the Citizen and Citizen Groups in the Allocation of Forest Resources in British Columbia," by Cam Murray (Kamloops, Sept.) 9 pp.

EDITORS' NOTE

This is the fourth issue of our Newsletter. Each one has been somewhat different. If you would like to see it changed, if you have items of general interest, if you know of other publications or studies we have not listed, please let us know.

SPECIAL NEWS FLASH!

SEX AND MOUNTAINEERING FOUND INCOMPATIBLE!

The BMC September Newsletter advertises a trip to "a very ascetic area south of Keremeos with lots of opportunity for a variety of climbs."