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FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

representing hiking, climbing and conservation groups

RECEIVED

MEMBER GROUPS OF THE F.M.C.B.C.

JUL 15 1980

OUTDOOR RECREATION COUNCIL

Alberni Outdoor Club	North Shore Hikers
Alpine Club of Canada	North & West Vancouver Search
- Vancouver Section	and Rescue Society
- Vancouver Island Section	Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society
B. C. Mountaineering Club	Outdoor Club of Victoria
B. C. I. T. Outdoor Club	Outdoor Club of Victoria - Trails
Caledonia Ramblers	Information Society
Canadian Hostelling Assoc. (BC)	Outsetters Club
Comox District Mountaineering	Outward Bound (BC)
Club	Penticton Outdoor Club
Fort Nelson Cross Country Ski	Sierra Club (BC)
and Outdoor Club	Simon Fraser Outdoor Club (S.F.U.)
Hygh Tymers	Squamish Ski and Outdoor Club
Island Mountain Ramblers	Timberline Trail and Nature Club
Kelowna Outdoor Club	Valley Outdoor Association
Klister Outdoor Klub	Vancouver Natural History Society
Kootenay Mountaineering Club	Varsity Outdoor Club (U.B.C.)
Kootenay Nordic Club	Vernon Outdoor Club

NEWSLETTER

Volume 3; Number 2,

July 1980.

EDITOR: Leon Kolankiewicz

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Simon Priest

The function of the F.M.C.B.C. is to foster and promote cooperation and coordination between outdoor oriented groups throughout the province of British Columbia. It presently concentrates on organizations that are directly involved with self-propelled mountain activities such as hiking, backpacking, climbing, ski touring and especially conservation; hence the name: Federation of Mountain Clubs.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REPRODUCE ANY OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

This is the primary purpose of our bulletin. Member Groups are asked to submit a copy of their newsletter to the assistant editor c/o the above address. In addition, please send any and all information that you would like to share with the Federation membership and your fellow outdoorpersons! If you happen across an item of interest in this bulletin, please reproduce it for your member's interest. THANKS!

WORDS OF WISDOM WELL REMEMBERED IN THE DAWN OF A NEW DECADE...

"Most residents of British Columbia know their province is a large and rugged land, but I venture to say that few, even among those of us who have called it home all our lives, have much sense of its enormity, its remarkable diversity, and its awesome wilderness. This is not surprising, because it is not an easy province to know beyond the few main highways....It is probably safe to say that only a fraction of the province's population has ever set foot in the northern half of British Columbia--that vast territory north of Prince George larger than the States of Washington and Oregon combined--or have more than a vague impression of what it contains. The same is true of the huge region west of the central Interior....

"The experience of an investigation such as this forces one to reflect on the basic premises that govern our approach to natural resource development and use. Unlike those of more developed timber-producing countries, our forests are still mostly virgin--the legacy of natural processes virtually undisturbed by man through geological time. When one contemplates the rugged expanse of this undeveloped land, the majesty of its mountains, the unspoiled beauty of its valleys and plateaus, one cannot escape some feeling of apprehension about the implications of our 'progress.' As we press further into this wilderness--building roads, logging timber, controlling fire and other natural forces, and managing the land to serve our needs--we must recognize that we are changing it permanently.

"Our range of choice is unusually wide....we are in a position to make the irreversible choice, in specific situations, between wilderness preservation and resource development." - Peter H. Pearse, 1976, Timber Rights and Forest Policy in British Columbia
Report of the Royal Commission on Forest Resources.

EDITOR'S SPACE

Entering the Eighties

Finally, almost everyone agrees we are in or approaching an "Age of Limits," although few can agree on precisely what these limits are. (For good reason: it's a complex question lending itself to myriad interpretations depending on your own persuasion.) Why, even my janitor at UBC, a worthy debating adversary and long a proponent of the "Why Worry?" school of thought, talks about shortages of this and problems in meeting future needs of that. Admittedly, it's on the abstract level--he's still proud of his petrol-pig (ie. luxury automobile)--but 10 to 15 years ago even the idea of possible limits and conflicting demands seemed known only to a fairly select circle of academics, "doomsday" scientists, shrill conservationists, and a few far-sighted resource managers. It was fodder for lively cocktail conversations and table talks for that sort of person who, as one prominent ecologist put it, enjoyed "preaching apocalypse in the comfortable knowledge that he will have been gathered to his fathers before the lights go out." Beyond the ivy-covered walls, it was still business as usual--the headlong rush to a future that would undoubtedly be bigger, better, and more glorious. One day, work would be obsolete. Some day, humans might.

Now it all seems like a dream. What shattered these illusions (or delusions) of grandeur? OPEC price hikes? To some extent, for really, in the western world precious little has actually changed materially. More smaller cars on the road is hardly the sort of deep-seated change one would expect from a bona-fide Age of Limits. Stagnating incomes? Perhaps, but for what it's worth, I've heard few economists attribute this to widespread natural resource problems. Is it the realization that technology is not always good per se, that it can create monsters as well as marvels? Once again, partly. We're discovering that technological solutions often usher in new complications themselves, that we can't often have our cake and eat it too, that trade-offs are unavoidable. Thus, the same technical and economic accomplishments that have made us wealthier have also made the world a less simple, less stable, more interdependent place in which to live.

My own belief is that we are less in an era of limits than a time of a growing awareness of approaching limits. The bitter conflicts associated with the real limits of society and the earth to provide for and sustain ever-increasing levels of consumption that decades of economic growth have made us come to expect and depend on (when growth stalls, unemployment climbs and economies stagger), have only just begun. No one can be sure of just how well human adaptiveness and ingenuity will enable us to weather the difficult times ahead. In the long run, there is room for both hope and despair. But the next, say, 30 years promise to be stormy.

Perhaps just a brief look at some current trends in B.C. alone will bring the matter closer to home for outdoor recreationists and conservationists...

...we will continue cutting our remaining virgin timber, moving into more remote (i.e. wild) and sensitive (high elevation or steep slope--both ecologically and and visually sensitive) areas. Market forces may well dictate pressure to increase cuts, while in some regions timber shortfalls are predicted, disrupting local economies and threatening protected areas containing merchantable timber.

...an increasing world demand for minerals as an essential raw ingredient for industrial society, and diminishing stocks in already developed locations will likely result in rising prices for most minerals and accelerated pressure to explore and develop ore bodies and fields in the province's wild areas, as we now see happening.

...in the last few years, B.C.'s population has been increasing at somewhere between 1% and 2% annually (down from the frenetic pace of the 60's and early 70's). If this continues through the remainder of the century, by the year 2000 we will have in the neighborhood of 4 million people in B.C. On top of this, there is a long-standing trend in North America of increasing recreational use of wildlands at several percent per year. Crowds, or regulations, will undoubtedly begin to appear even where they haven't already.

...fuel could conceivably become much more expensive by decade's end, shortening trips, reducing use of remote areas, and increasing it in nearby ones. Two other possible effects are that higher costs will encourage even more people to take up cheaper self-propelled recreational activities like our own, and that fewer visits to more remote wilderness areas will result in less of an aroused clientele to fight for them when they're threatened.

...at the moment, to my knowledge, B.C. Hydro is using a 5.8% annual load growth figure to plan their future power projects. At this rate of increase, which itself is down drastically from the wild 60's and early 70's, we will have to double our generation capacity in just 12 years. That's the equivalent of all dams and thermal generating stations that we have already! Peace Site C, a couple of sites on the Stikine, a site on the Iskut, something on the Liard, and who knows what else are slated to do the job. What will do the job to meet the next doubling of demand 24 years from now?

None of these trends, as I have presented them, are very encouraging. Ah, but trend, as Lewis Mumford once said, is not destiny. Still, that sagacious remark is hardly cause for complacency, for to change trends of great inertia and momentum is not something lightly and painlessly accomplished. Whatever comes to pass, the eighties will hardly be a dull decade for those of our ilk. In all likelihood, we have things as nice right now as we will for some time. In the foreseeable future, it'll get harder to see what's left, and there'll be less left to see. --LK

Anyone out there with a more optimistic view? (I tend to be a worry-wart.)

GENERAL NEWS BRIEF

- : Delegates' meetings have been held on 26 March, 23 April, and 28 May.
- : Welcome to the Fort Nelson Cross-Country Ski & Outdoor Club and the Hygh Tymers of Vancouver, the two newest members of the Federation.
- : Forest and Range Resource Analysis and Five-Year Program: Under the 1978 Forest Act, the Ministry of Forests conducts analyses of its activities every five years. The first of these is now completed, and is described in four volumes:

- Forest and Range Resource Analysis Technical Report, 802 pp + appendices.
- Forest and Range Resource Analysis Report, 27 pp.
- Forest and Range Resource Analysis Program, 31 pp.
- Forest and Range Resource Analysis and Five-Year Program Summary, 21 pp.

Copies are available from the Information Services Branch, Ministry of Forests, Victoria, B.C. V8W 3E7 or 355 Burrard St., Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2H1.

- : GRANTS: The FMCBC applied for three provincial government grants:
 - 1) to the Recreation and Fitness Branch of the Ministry of Provincial Secretary and Government Services for a grant from the Physical Fitness and Amateur Sports Fund. It has been recommended that we receive \$5,800 of the \$26,602 we requested for various proposals and operating expenses. Last year we received \$7,342 from the same fund. A misunderstanding that developed concerning the allocation of some of last years funds may account for the decrease.
 - 2) to the Ministry of Education to hire an instructor for the purpose of teaching outdoor safety principles to public school teachers. We do not yet know the outcome of this request, as educational grants are still apparently the subject of debate in the House.
 - 3) to the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division for money to aid in the distribution of safety pamphlets to member clubs. In lieu of an outright grant, the government has allotted funds to the Outdoor Recreation Council to print 10,000 avalanche safety pamphlets which we will distribute at the AGM in November.

- : The Forest Land Use Liaison Committee met on March 1, 1980. Major items on the agenda included new off-highway vehicle regulations, a review of the situation in the Akamina-Kishinena with mountain pine beetle infestations and salvage operations, and a discussion of how mining legislation interacts with forestry.
- : Coalition to Protect the Southern Chilcotin Mountains: This group recently made a presentation to ELUC in Victoria. A bid was made to enlarge the area now under study to include land of concern outside of the Kamloops Forest District, and to have the Secretariat head up a formal resource study. Impressions are that this was not well received. Meanwhile, the Kamloops Forest District is organizing a "planning team" representing a wide range of interests. (The Coalition represents recreation interests.) The goal is to construct a preliminary integrated resource management plan for the area by the fall. About four meetings have been held to date.
- : TELL US ABOUT YOURSELVES! The September issue of this newsletter will feature short descriptions of all those clubs who respond to the editors' request for a one or two paragraph account of your aims and activities. Here's a chance to learn about each other. Don't pass it up!!

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

- : Meetings were held on 10 April and 12 June.
- : Cheakamus/Whistler Advisory Committee: The Chairman of the Rec & Con Committee, Roger Freeman, has been attending meetings of this group on behalf of ORC. They have been trying to develop aesthetic logging plans that will reconcile a shortage of wood in the area with the importance of views to the recreational character of the Resort Municipality of Whistler.
- : Chilliwack Valley - Dewdney P.S.Y. Unit Plan: The Forest Service is continuing the development of this plan. Recreation is being given a fair amount of attention in this process and there is reported accord between non-motorized and motorized recreationists as to the use of various areas.
- : Stein Valley: David Thompson attended the most recent meeting of the Public Liaison Committee on June 7 in Lillooet. Biggest news is that logging is appearing more and more imminent. B.C. Forest Products made a presentation on possible harvesting patterns and has a person conducting an access feasibility study this summer. They may well conduct detailed timber cruises next summer and apply to cut the following one. According to sources in the Stein Coalition, it could soon be time to begin political activity again. A battle is shaping up, because timber seems to be running out elsewhere in the region, and companies are understandably eyeing the Stein's resources, estimated to be 15% of the original standing volume in the Botanie P.S.Y.U. Nor is this the most immediate threat. An associate of the miner who had attempted to build a road across the valley ostensibly to access a vesuvianite claim near the watershed's southern boundary has reportedly restaked claims along the road route that were illegally staked the first time, and has apparently applied for permission to build the road. We are not sure how coincidental it is that the route passes through some of the Valley's best timber stands.
(FLASH!! The Mines Branch has rejected the application.)
- : Off-Highway Vehicles: The Federation and various member clubs have responded to a request by ORC to send letters to the government asking them to assign a higher priority to the issuance of new regulations for the use of OHV's. On March 31 the government issued a release promising action on registration and penalties under the existing Act as well as educational funds to OHV organizations. Regulations governing motorcycles and four-wheel drives are forthcoming.
- : B.C.--Resort Haven? : The provincial government appears to actively endorse the idea of attracting investors to B.C. to capitalize on the world-wide boom in ski resort development. A "Ski Area Development Approval Process for New Proposals" has been devised within the Ministry of Lands, Parks, and Housing. An associated document emphasized the desirability of minimizing delays in the approval procedure, sounding quite accomodating in tone. FMCBC delegates raised fears that such a "streamlined" process might not allow adequately for public response or possible objections. These concerns were subsequently voiced in a letter from Federation President Arno Schortinghuis to Minister James Chabot. Chabot's response assured us that at least three mechanisms for public input did exist. He briefly described each of these.

On the same topic, advertisements appeared in major newspapers soliciting bids from developers to develop downhill skiing facilities at Brohm Ridge and Powder Mountain. A report by a consulting firm, Sno-Engineering Company, has apparently suggested that both areas are poorly suited to ski development. Among FMCBC delegates, many felt that since Brohm Ridge was already significantly affected by

logging and a past attempt at developing ski facilities, it offered few objections from an environmental standpoint. Safety was a concern however. We have since learned that Brohm Ridge has been withdrawn from consideration. While something appears to be afoot with Powder Mountain, it has not yet been made public.

- : Cascade Wilderness Proposal: ELUC has approved a moratorium on all development in this area while the Secretariat conducts a comprehensive resource study. The moratorium/study area is reportedly even larger than that proposed by the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society. The OSPS deserves recognition for its dedicated efforts on behalf of this area. (See Appendix.)

"Elusive Nature"

At last, beloved Nature! I have met
Thee face to face upon thy breezy hills,
And boldly, where thy inmost bowers are set,
Gazed on thee naked in thy mountain rills.
When first I felt thy breath upon my brow,
Tears of strange ecstasy gushed out like rain,
And with a longing, passionate as vain,
I strove to clasp thee. But, I know not how,
Always before me didst thou seem to glide;
And often from one sunny mountain-side,
Upon the next bright peak I saw thee kneel,
And heard thy voice upon the billowy blast;
But, climbing, only reached that shrine to feel
The shadow of a Presence which had passed.

--Henry Timrod, 1828-1867

TRAILS COMMITTEE

- : Meetings were held April 17 and May 22.
- : Mel Turner, parks planner, and staff from the Parks & Outdoor Recreation Division held a trail construction/maintenance seminar on May 31 at Mt. Seymour Prov. Park. Between 25 and 30 members of Federation clubs participated. Tools and techniques were demonstrated outdoors after a preliminary indoor session which included a slide show on Parks trails and use of aerial photographs and stereoscopes as planning tools. Coffee was served gratis!
- : At the encouragement of chairman Rick Sheppard, this summer the Forest Service will be investigating the possibility of running a trail up Phelix Creek near Birkenhead Park. Such a trail would provide easy access to an excellent alpine area in the vicinity of Mts. Taillefer and Aragorn. Records show an old mining trail already paralleling the Creek that could possibly be put to use.
- : FREE LESSONS! : Paul Binker* has served notice that he is available (263-4360) for personalized trail-building instruction. He'll be working on Lower Mainland trails most weekends this summer and is always looking for volunteers.
- : In view of the recent success of "Riverfest '80", at the AGM of the Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC) in mid-April it was proposed to hold a similar event in the next couple of years in celebration of British Columbia's mountain majesty. The FMCBC will be expected to assume a leading role in bringing this idea to fruition. The location is not yet decided upon. The name-to-be? MOUNTAINFEST, of course!
- : Munro & Dennett Lakes: Genstar Development Co., the owner of these two man-made lakes in the Burke Mountain area of the Lower Mainland began removal of the dams containing them this past winter. These structures were deteriorating and removal was considered cheaper than upkeep. Concern was voiced by some members about the loss of a trail which runs along the lakes and then up a ridge to nice country. We have been assured this point will be considered in the Coquitlam Mountain Study.
- : Coquitlam Mountain Study: The Greater Vancouver Regional District is conducting a comprehensive land use study in this area, which stretches from Eagle Ridge to the UBC Research Forest. One of the three major components is a recreation study for which the input from all interested outdoor groups is being solicited. The Valley Outdoor Association is already involved on their own, and the Federation is considering preparation of a joint brief.

"To see the night sky in all its divinity of beauty, the world beneath
it should be lovely too, else the great picture is split in halves
which no mind can ever really weld into a unity of reverence."

--Henry Beston, The Outermost House, 1928

SAFETY AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

: Meetings held March 31, April 29, and May 29.

: Federation courses: The popular basic mountaineering course was quickly filled and has now been completed. It culminated with an attempt on Mt. Baker. Barry Hodgins was the course coordinator. The basic backpacking course has been held in June and finishes in early July. The beginner's hiking course is being held throughout the month of July. Simon Priest is instructing these with the assistance of others.

: Mt. Seymour fatality: FMCBC VP Gordon Swan and Safety and Education Comm. Chairman Simon Priest have been continuing their dialogue with provincial officials over the accidental death of a skier on Mt. Seymour last winter. The matter has not yet been resolved to their satisfaction.

: Insurance: The chairman is investigating the possibility of a blanket insurance policy covering all members of all Federation groups not already covered. Two insurance agents of Sport B.C. appeared at a recent committee meeting to discuss the details of such a plan. A formal proposal will be made to Federation delegates for their consideration in November at the AGM.

: The chairman has compiled a report on "Legalities, Liabilities, and Insurance" that was appended to the minutes of the 26 March 1980 delegates' meeting. This 6 page paper is based on legal opinions of such subjects as car travel, instructional courses, waivers & disclaimers, medical disclosures, club trips, and insurance. Anyone wishing a copy should contact Simon Priest.

: Arnold Heine, representing the Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC) of New Zealand appeared at the March 31 meeting of the committee and shared thoughts with those present. Many of their problems with safety and environmental concerns seems remarkably akin to our own. There are about 90 clubs in the FMC with an overall membership of about 14,000. Their activities are as diverse as firearm certification and TV film-making. Their present budget is about \$340,000 (annually of course!). This is spent on 3 field staff, publicity and reprints, and district committees (into which the FMC is organized).

The FMC introduced a wilderness bill to legislature based on the 1964 American Wilderness Act, but pressure from other interests has thwarted it for the time being. Mr. Heine also discussed the Mountain Safety Council, an offshoot of the FMC that is actively involved in trying to promote sensible attitudes and practices with regard to mountain-based recreation. Their philosophy is that while risk can be reduced through education, training, and judgement, it will never be entirely eliminated in the mountains, because of their very nature.

: Symposium on Mining Legislation: On Saturday, April 26th, twenty-seven members of various clubs attended a long-awaited seminar on legislation and regulations which affect the activities of free miners. Roger Freeman acted as chairman and after welcoming the guest speakers and attendees he announced that representatives from the Ministry of Lands, Parks & Housing and the Mining Association of B.C. would not be participating because of the controversial subject.

The formal presentations commenced at 10:30 am with a broad overview of the topic by Kriss Boggild, Staff Counsel with the West Coast Environmental Law Association. Next, John Phillips, Chairman of the Southern Chilcotin Mountains Coalition, described how the Coalition was cooperating with mining and forestry interests through participation in a recently formed public committee. This particular process was still new so that John couldn't yet say how it would work.

The way in which the Ministry of Forests processed the applications of miners to operate in Provincial Forests, cut timber for mining support activities, and explore on BCFS managed land was described by Hugh Bancroft, Manager of Timber Tenures. He also explained the role of the Lands Branch as a coordinator in processing the mining applications.

Dr. Jim Fyles, Senior Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources, was able to clear away many misconceptions about the laws which affect mineral exploration and development. An active question period followed his presentation when many more "gray areas" were clarified.

It is impossible to attempt to detail any of the presentation but all in attendance thought that it had been very useful. Copies of the minutes should be available from Roger Freeman c/o FMCBC some time this summer at a cost of several dollars apiece. -- David Thompson

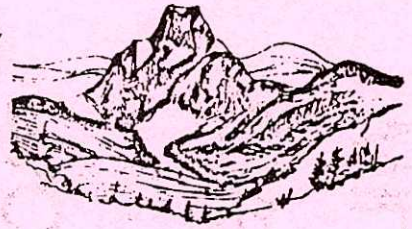
"It's one thing to boast to yourself how many hundreds of miles you are from such civilized amenities as a doctor when you are well, and quite another when you are not."-Edward Hoagland, Notes from the Century Before: A Journal from British Columbia

APPENDIX

OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN PARKS SOCIETY

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA

POST OFFICE BOX 787, SUMMERLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA V0H 1Z0



PRESS RELEASE

May 16, 1980

The Okanagan and Similkameen Parks Society has received encouraging news in a letter from the Provincial Government's Environment and Land Use Committee. ~~It seems that~~ In answer to a request made to that committee by OSPS president Dr. Juergen Hansen, a moratorium on all logging, and a mineral reserve to prevent possible claim staking, has now been placed on ^{the} approximately 90-100 square miles of crown land north and west of Manning Park. *proposed as the Cascade Wilderness Conservancy.*

The request was made last October when Dr. Hansen and members of the Trails and Wilderness Committee of OSPS, together with Dr. Bert Brink and Norman Purcell of the Federation of BC Naturalists, met with the Government officials to discuss making this particular area into a Cascade Wilderness. The Parks Society are anxious to protect five historic trails in the area which have been relocated, cleared and marked, in a joint effort carried out by OSPS and the Okanagan Historical Society. They also wish to protect endangered wild life and the forest habitat.

Dr. Hansen says that last summer the OSPS sponsored a Young Canada Works crew which walked and cleared 62 miles of the trails, and by this summer, with help from the Parks Branch there will be a high-way access, access road, and trailhead signs in place to direct residents and tourists to each of the trails in the Cascade Wilderness.

He adds that anyone wishing to travel the Hudson's Bay Trail which is the premier trail in the wilderness, can contact Harley Hatfield of Penticton for information. A trek through the area is to be made August 2-9 sponsored by the Okanagan Historical Society.

The Environment and Land Use Committee has approved a program for comprehensive study of all forest, mineral, heritage, and park and outdoor recreation values in the proposal area, and has promised that evaluation of resources will be undertaken. Non-destructive methods will be used in carrying out the studies so that there will be a minimum of disruption to the environment.

Meanwhile the moratorium and mineral preserve will hold at least until results of the status report are published, and all members of the OSPS and the Okanagan Historical Society are delighted.

APPENDIX

