

POST



CLOUDBURST

the newsletter of the

FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

P.O. BOX 33768 · STATION D · VANCOUVER, B.C. · V6J 4L6

representing hiking, climbing and conservation groups

RECEIVED

AUG 10 1983

Vol I, Issue 3
Summer, 1983

OUTDOOR RECREATION COUNCIL

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Terry Chow	- Communications Committee

Editorial

This issue covers many environmental issues, all of which require your support and a little effort to sit down and write to those concerned with making your decisions. These long wet summer evenings offer an ideal opportunity to put pen to paper.

Government restraint is going to make it more important for us to voice our concerns about environmental protection.

Coming soon from the Island Protection Society is a book on South Moresby. I have seen some of the photographs which will be going in and they are amazing. I didn't realize that such a variety of marine and plant life inhabited and thrived on the windy, rainswept shoreline of the Queen Charlotte Islands.

That's it for now. Constructive criticism would be gratefully received -- in fact any criticism would be greeted with handstands and yells of glee, at least it would show that someone, somewhere bothers to read our newsletter.

FEDERATION COURSE REPORTS

Map & Compass Course, June '83: Course coordinator, Geoff Pinnington

The course was attended by twenty people on Mount Seymour. It was a one day course covering the basics of map reading and compass use. The morning comprised of theory and short practical sessions. The afternoon session saw the participants navigating themselves through the wooded areas.

The feedback from the course was good and comments from the local mountaineering stores seem to indicate that there is a great need for more of these courses.

It is hoped to run a further course in August and September. Contact Berni or Ross if you are interested.

Thanks to Ross for his assistance in setting up the navigation course and for being around on the day of the lectures. Thanks too to Berni for being around on the day.

TRAIL & ACCESS WATCH

Lillooet River Forest Road

There are impending road restrictions on the Lillooet River Forest Service Road. This is the road that provides access to Meager Creek Hot Springs.

These restrictions apply between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on workdays and are necessary due to increased public use of the road during the day. The road beyond the Hot Springs that leads in the direction of Meager Lake and Overseer Glacier will be gated to combat the high incidence of vandalism to logging equipment in the Meager Creek South fork. The contact for access through the gate (not installed as of this date) is C.R.B. Logging, Squamish. Telephone 892-3501.

The B.C. Forest Service is restricting public use of the Lillooet River Forest Service Road (F.S.R.) on weekdays between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. This restriction will apply to the F.S.R. beyond the Huyrley Road junction (Mile 5). This restriction takes effect immediately.

The restrictions are required due to the growing safety hazards to both public and industrial users resulting from both expanding use of the road by the public on weekdays and active logging operations alongside the road.

During the fire season, the Forest Service will be patrolling the road and The Hot Springs area for fire prevention purposes. Logging Companies will also have patrolmen in the area for fire and equipment protection. Some branch roads will be closed to the public in the interests of safety and fire hazard increase may necessitate closing the entire road beyond the Hurley Road junction.

All users are asked to cooperate with the Forest Service and industry by reporting to the RCMP all cases of misuse of fire, recreation facilities and vandalism to facilities and logging equipment.

FOCUS:

SOUTH MORESBY -- QUEEN CHARLOTTES

"...gradually I became aware of the old island here that flowered once for Dutch sailors' eyes -- a fresh, green breast of the new world. It's vanished trees...had once pandered in whispers to the last and greatest of all human dreams; for a transitory enchanted moment man must have held his breath in the presence of this continent, compelled into an esthetic contemplation he neither understood nor desired, face to face for the last time in history with something commensurate to his capacity for wonder."

So wrote Scott Fitzgerald of Long Island, N.Y., in The Great Gatsby, more than half a century ago.

Today, Windy Bay on Lyell Island, which lies off the east coast of Moresby in the southern Queen Charlottes, is a place to inspire wonder.

There is grander scenery on the West Coast, wider vistas to the north. A fine river empties into the bay through a grassy meadow, an old Haida village site lies at the edge of the forest, marked only by the lush grass that distinguishes the places where the people once lived.

Hundreds of generations of human beings have been nourished by the land and seas of the South Moresby area. The area provided, and continues to provide an abundance of all the essential ingredients for sustenance and growth.

Readily accessible foods allowed the development of a complex society and the creation of a highly regarded art form. Cedar bark and spruce root baskets, of all shapes and sizes were made for the harvesting of foods.

Cedar was and still is the primary medium of artistic expression and is vital to sustaining the Haida culture. Massive cedar monuments in the form of poles and impressive cedar houses displayed the crests of their owners and dominated the shorelines of the Haida lands. The engineering and artistic design of the Haida canoe has established its place in the world of boat-building. Through these artistic expressions and other traits, the Haida people developed a culture of their own.

Initial contact with Europeans, less than 200 years ago, brought revolutionary, and later, devastating change. The Haida Nation was abruptly brought into world trade by an economic system spurred on by the industrial revolution. Haida technology and social structure were permanently changed. Contact with Europeans brought their attendant plagues of smallpox and other diseases, nearly annihilating the Haida Nation. Once numbering in the many thousands of people, only a few hundred survived.

The Haidas survived, carried and adapted their cultural heritage into the mainstream of Twentieth Century North American Society. Today, emphasizing the better traits of both cultures, and taking active part in a wide variety of lifestyles and careers, traditional hunting, gathering, and the preparation of native foods is still a part of everyday life. Feasting, giving and sharing is still the Haida way "to make one's name good". Song and dance is still a necessary part of social ceremonies.

The Haida culture is inextricably meshed in Nature and the forests.

Industrial resource extraction, in the last few decades, has paralleled the last two Centuries in many respects. It has compromised traditional food sources and the inherent quality of the land. As a result of these practices, many parts of the Islands have already lost their natural integrity. Today, a person must go further from his home to gather foods and materials, to get away from urban values, to witness the wonders of an intact land, and to relate himself to part of a diverse living system. Internationally acclaimed Haida art requires such land for its inspiration & provides a respectable livelihood for many Haidas. As a result of dwindling salmonid stocks, many spawning streams have been turned into hatcheries. Abalone beds have been cleared out by commercial harvesting. Cedar, the cornerpost of Haida culture will be practically non-existent in second growth forests. Where it will survive, the small size and poor quality of the second growth cedar will render it unsuitable for cultural use. The average age of totem pole and canoe cedar is several hundreds of years. In the second growth forest, the cedar will be logged before the first century has passed.

While it may have been thought at one time that the Haida culture would continue as long as there were Haidas, it is now clear that this is not the case. Having survived the cultural domination and diseases of the past, and looking forward to more enlightened times, there is a substantiable fear that continued industrial expansion has the capability of putting Haida cultural heritage to an end.

A considerable part of the Queen Charlotte Islands has already been given over to industrial resource extraction and development. Aspects of traditional culture have been diminished proportionally. A balance between traditional and industrial values has been reached which can be sustained by the realization that South Moresby represents one of two essentially intact yet distinct wilderness areas on the Islands which have been identified as being essential for the preservation of traditional Haida cultural values. The South Moresby area is capable of supporting many forms of life, while at the same time, sustaining Haida culture.

The fate of Haida cultural heritage parallels the fate of the land.

Some steps have been taken to maintain the Haida heritage by the setting up of Haida Tribal Park No. 1 in the N.W. corner of Graham Island.

Setting aside small areas of these beautiful islands for cultural use or conscience clearing is not enough. Every effort must be made to save the South Moresby area for the Haidas to use and embrace and others to enjoy.

Currently, a rehabilitation program is underway in the Queen Charlottes using the South Moresby area. Groups of young people, both Haida and non Haida youths, some with social problems, others from a happier background; are brought by canoe to South Moresby in an attempt to bring about a change by embracing Nature and rediscovering the Haida culture. The program is a successful use of this beautiful area.

What else makes South Moresby so special? No other place in the world combines this diversity of geographical, cultural and biological features in such a small area. There is nowhere else in Canada and few places in the world where such a small acreage of land set aside will preserve so much productive coastal shoreline.

South Moresby is an incredibly rich and complex web of terrestrial and marine environments; the monetary value of resource industries must be viewed within the context of the area's outstanding national, and indeed, global significance as an area of World Heritage stature.

New information is coming out year by year, month by month. Last summer, for the first time, it was recorded that seven types of whales went through Houston Stewart Channel in a two week period -- a migration UNKNOWN anywhere else in B.C. coastal waters.

There were more than double the humpback whale sightings in South Moresby as there were in Glacier Bay National Monument in Southeast Alaska, which is world famous for its humpbacks.

With respect to many of the biological values of South Moresby, we don't even know what's there yet. It's not just an archipelago, it is Canada's Galapigous.

Ornithologists are convinced that an endemic subspecies of red tail hawk inhabits the area, but this has yet to be conclusively demonstrated. We continue to learn.

Seven species of alpine flowering plants are found nowhere else in the world. South Moresby is turning out to be even more unique than it had originally been thought to be.

Tourism went from the number three industry to number two last year and will soon be pushing forestry for the number one generator of revenue in B.C. We have a big advertising campaign promoting "Supernatural British Columbia". But if the present trends of resource extraction and population expansion continue unabated, we may find that natural beauty we take for granted slipping through our fingers, and with it will go the dollars that this scenic grandeur brings into the province and keeps within the province.

Thus, you can see from the cultural, sociological, natural and economic standpoints, saving this area from devastation IS IMPORTANT. It truly is a forest of great wealth, yet what is happening here resembles a desperate attempt to loot a treasure house before the owners, you and I, take measures to stop it.

We must ask the question, do we care enough to save it -- or are we indifferent to our grandchildren's capacity for wonder?

Please read the attached leaflet put out by the Island Protection Society and write to those concerned on making your decision.

KIANUKO CREEK 1983 -- RESOURCE CONFLICT

Kianuko Creek and valley are rich in resources such as wildlife, fisheries and wildland recreation, as well as having significant timber values. Therefore, it is a perfect example of an area, which is suitable for various forms of resource management. The problem lies in determining which resource or resources should have priority in management. To determine priorities and formulate a management plan, we must first become familiar with the quantities within each resource and the amount of interest from the community in each. In this article, I propose to present the facts as objectively as possible and describe my reactions to them.

Resource Information and Public Input

Timber Values

The Kianuko Valley is located in the West Kootenays of British Columbia, approximately 50 kilometers north of the town of Creston. The easiest access is via the Sanca Creek Forestry Service Road, which begins near the town of Sanca (on Kootenay Lake) and heads east northeast along Sanca Creek.

The area of concern in Kianuko Valley is approximately 8,618 hectares (ha.), of which 35% or 1395 ha. is considered to be operable; i.e. able to be logged economically with existing logging technology and minimal environmental effects.

There are spruce bark beetle infestations in the north end of the Kianuko drainage, which are reducing the merchantable timber volumes; therefore, the general feeling from industry is to harvest as soon as possible, before wood quantity and quality is significantly reduced. There is some question to the extent or percentage of trees under attack from the spruce bark beetle and whether beetle populations are endemic or epidemic. Harvesting would negate a spruce bark beetle research opportunity.

The access to the merchantable volumes is relatively easy, if compared with other areas within the Kootenay Lake Timber Supply Area (T.S.A.). But road access development would require extensive ditching and culverts and may be highly susceptible to spring avalanches. Therefore, there is some concern regarding damage to other watershed resources due to road development and that the economic values of the timber may be marginal compared to the costs.

Timber Resource Use

The Kianuko Valley is presently within the chart area of Crestbrook Forest Industries Ltd.; therefore, being Crown land that C.F.I. had planned to schedule harvesting between years 1990 and 2001. The spruce bark beetle activity has led to C.G.I.'s higher or sooner prioritization of this area.

Timber Supply

The total operable mature volume determined by Crestbrook Forest Industries Ltd. ($127,133\text{m}^3$) and that determined by the Ministry of Forest ($125,310\text{m}^3$) are within 1.5% of each other. In the T.S.A. analysis conducted in 1978 and 1979, it was assumed for planning purposes, that the Kianuko Creek volume contribution to the 20 year timber supply would be based on a harvesting

prescription of 40% cut, 60% leave, with a 20 year interval between successive harvests. This would represent 4.0% of the short term timber supply for the Goat River Supply Block and 0.3% for the Kootenay Lake T.S.A. About 50,124m³ (\$2,674,115 at \$260 per thousand board feet) would be harvested in the first cut (40%).

Mining

There are notable values of uranium, tungsten, molybdenite and silver in the area. New upgraded access is favoured for prospecting purposes.

Recreation

Regarding the recreation resource of the drainage, input has been received from the Creston Rod and Gun Club, Hikers and Backpackers Club, Creston Survival Group, Nelson Rod and Gun Club, Creston Writers' League, Guide - Dave Burr, Regional District of Central Kootenay and Creston Small Business Enterprises.

The general feeling from the public input, is that the Kianuko Valley has high recreation importance to the people of the Creston district, thus worth preserving. It is one of the last two undeveloped drainages providing a "wilderness" experience in the Creston area. The majority of the recreational users are local Creston district residents, many of whom visit the valley a number of times a year. Approximate user figures for the Sanca Creek trail are 200 (sign-ins) hikers. The upper plateau, in the north end, has trails of historical value that should be protected.

The Kianuko drainage is also one of the preferred hunting localities, with an estimate of between 25 to 50 user days by the Creston Rod and Gun Club. The guiding service in the valley brings in another 200 users per summer and fall seasons. The total user figure for the summer-fall seasons would be approximately 1,000 user days. There is some use in the winter also.

Activities that public input feel should be prohibited are snowmobiles, motor-bikes and all-terrain vehicles. Horse use has been considered a valid and acceptable form of recreation in the drainage.

In summary, the area is unique compared to others, in that it provides opportunities for dispersed and varied forms of recreation within a single drainage, with minimal or no road access.

Wildlife

As already obvious, the area is valuable as wildlife habitat and therefore hunting and fishing. The valley is especially valuable as a prime breeding and denning area for a number of grizzly bear family groups. Other ungulates using Kianuko are goat, elk, caribou, deer and moose; but their populations levels are not known. Logging may enhance wildlife habitat for browsers and grazers, but may seriously debilitate populations which require old growth forests (i.e. woodpeckers). Fish populations are also a major concern, since road development could be prone to avalanche damage and require extensive ditching and culverts. Some reaches within Kianuko Creek are considered as the most valuable spawning habitats in the entire Goat River system; therefore, being extremely susceptible to stream sedimentation from logging activity.

COMMENTARY

From the information presented, we have learned that Kianuko Valley has marginal timber value and high recreational and wildlife values. The mineral resources may be economically important, but no real facts are available.

I personally feel, from the facts presented, that more long term benefits could be obtained by preserving the timber and not harvesting. Many of the ungulates mentioned have no other virgin drainages to substitute the loss of habitat, if Kianuko is logged. If preserved, the drainage will provide recreational opportunities to the Creston district for several years to come. Providing activities such as hunting and horse-back riding are carefully monitored. Logging will provide only short term benefits, of at most 20 years. If Kianuko Creek cannot be removed from the Annual Allowable Cut (A.A.C.) of 900,000m³, maybe a trade could be performed saving this drainage, with the sacrifice of the other drainage. The forest industry has been spoiled too long by the people of British Columbia. It does have a right to some of the timber, but not all of it! The forests of British Columbia can offer many other benefits besides timber.



"HM... I thought this was supposed to be a hiking trail"

FROM BIG BEND RESOURCE COUNCIL: (Elizabeth Delong, Box 2021, Golden, B.C.
VOA 1H0)

B.C. Parks Branch is planning to do a study of the FAIRY MEADOWS/ADAMANTS and CLEMENCEAU areas.

The Federation and Council would greatly appreciate your support of this study. Send a letter, and or copies to the following to encourage such a full study.

- 1) Mr. Milt Goddard, Regional Director
Parks & Outdoor Recreation Division
Ministry Lands, Parks and Housing
612 Front Street, Nelson, V1L 4B7
- 2) Hon. James Chabot, M.L.A.
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
- 3) Mr. J.C. Johnston, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing
1019 Wharf Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y9
- 4) Mr. T.M. Apsey, Deputy Minister
B.C. Ministry of Forests
1450 Government Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 3E7

Thank you!

Since the editors are not getting any mail (or help with ideas or articles) we have started a letter to the President section.

Letters to the President

Letter #1

WE ARE NOW ON THE BRINK OF LOSING THE B.C. KAKWA AS A WILDERNESS -- the 1500 square km pristine wilderness which is in the same league of magnificance and beauty as Mt. Assiniboine, Lake Louise - Mount Temple, and Mount Robson.
Please take action now.

In January of this year, the B.C. Regional Resource Management Committee (RRMC) supported Option 3 for the Kakwa Deferred Planning Area (DPA) which covers 22% of the original "park study area"; a decision made without the benefit of full assessment (including an economic assessment of all values -- tourism recreation, logging and mining) of the entire "park study area" nor even of the DPA, and without any preparation of a regional recreation plan (to include wilderness values, tourism potentials, the desires of regional recreationalists and land use monitoring guidelines) which was recommended in 1979 by a Ministry of Environment study.

Instead, the RRMC passed the resolution.

"That the report be received and the Board endorse division of the area into Provincial Park and PROVINCIAL Forest designation, with timber harvesting, mining and recreation as allowable uses".

Hope for this area now rests on you through (a) widespread local and national action, (b) raising the profile of this major issue through the media, and (c) dialogue at the ministerial level.

Please contact the Hon. Anthony Brummet, Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing, and Hon. Steven Rogers, Minister of the Environment and Chairman of the Environment and Land Use Committee; both at Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4 -- write, call, or telegram. (Remember to send copies of correspondence to the Hon. Bill Bennett, Premier and Mr. Dave Barrett, Leader of the Opposition).

Request:

- a delay in the final decision on the Deferred Planning Area, and referral to the Environment and Land Use Committee until such time as a full assessment of the entire "park study area" and a regional recreation plan is completed. (i.e. the same quality of assessment which was afforded the Valhallas).
- a moratorium on resource development, including mineral claims, and a suspension of the all-weather road to Babette Lake (i.e. halt it before McGregor Pass) until the above requested assessments are completed and properly reviewed.
- public meetings on the RRMC resolution, and on the RRMC assessment of the Deferred Planning Area and the public input. As well as request public involvement in the assessment of the " park study area" (note: Lands, Parks and Housing is responsible for the Deferred Planning Area process and Mr. Brummett has remarked that there was no request for a public meeting on the DPA in Prince George, hence implying there is not sufficient public interest in the Kakwa).
- a meeting with the Minister to discuss the Kakwa.

Additionally, it would be very useful to distribute press releases to the local media on this whole issue.

Attached are copies of pertinent correspondence to assist you in your actions. For background information, please refer to the "Action Alert" paper (Winter 1983) on the Kakwa and Valhallas which has already been sent to you. Please feel free to contact us in Calgary at (403) 283-2025 (collect, if you wish). Another contact is Kreg Sky of the B.C. Chapter, National and Provincial Parks Association, phone (604) 374-5105 in Kamloops.

Thanks for your urgently needed assistance. Sincerely, Cheryl Bradley,
President

Letter #2

Dear Sir:

Re: Volunteer Campground Host Program

The Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division will introduce a Campground Host Program in a limited number of Provincial Parks this summer on an experimental basis. The program consists of an individual agreeing to spend a minimum amount of time in a specific park as a volunteer host.

The Division is now interested in receiving applications to fill the various positions. Basically, we require people with previous camping experience, some knowledge of Provincial Parks and the out-of-doors in general, and an interest in providing a service to the camping public.

I am confident these individuals exist within your organization and its member clubs and that they would be a valuable asset to this new program.

It would be appreciated if the attached information could be brought to their attention as soon as possible.

We look forward to hearing from interested individuals at the offices whose addresses and phone numbers are listed.

The Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division of the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing will introduce a Campground Host Program in a limited number of Provincial Parks on an experimental basis, this summer.

The program consists of a number of individuals working as volunteers who agree to spend a minimum of four weeks during July and August in a specific Provincial Park. Throughout the summer, Campground Hosts will provide information about services, facilities and recreational opportunities in their area; explain the park fee collection system to users; advise and explain the reasons for camping etiquette and park regulations; and inspect facilities and report any problems. Other activities may depend on the Host's individual interests and expertise and the park supervisor's specific requirements.

In return for their contribution, Hosts are provided with a campsite at no charge. Hosts will also have an opportunity to increase their awareness of Provincial Park management by participating in part of the day to day operation of a particular campground.

Campground Host programs have operated for a number of years in U.S. National Forests, U.S. National Parks and many State Parks. These programs have improved relations and service between the camping public and park staff and have contributed to a decrease in rowdiness and vandalism. There has also been a marked increase in self-registration compliance, and adherence to park regulations, in those areas where this program is in operation.

The Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division is interested in hearing from individuals who would like to be Campground Hosts this summer. Preference will be given to mature individuals who have previous camping experience, some knowledge of Provincial Parks and familiarity with the out-of-doors in general.

Anyone interested in more information about the program, a list of parks where the Host Program will be implemented, and an application form should write to:

Outdoor Recreation Branch
Parks & Outdoor Recreation Division
208, 633 Courtney Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1B9
Phone: 387-5002

Parks & Outdoor Recreation Division
1610 Indian River Drive
North Vancouver, B.C.
V7G 1L3
Phone: 929-1291

or the following Regional Offices:

Parks & Outdoor Recreation Division
203, 290 Wallace Street
Nanaimo, B.C.
V9R 5B1
Phone: 754-4297

Parks & Outdoor Recreation Division
612 Front Street
Nelson, B.C.
V1L 4B7
Phone: 352-2211

Letter #3

We are conducting a recreation inventory of the Squamish Forest District and would like to receive your club's comments on areas of concern, and interest as well as where you might go (e.g. any navigable 4 WD roads, old routes etc. that you might know about). This is intended to give us a better idea of the overall recreational use of this District and help us establish some new objectives for our program here.

Our District's boundaries are: Lion's Bay in the south; D'Arcy in the north; the Elaho River, Clendenning Creek and the Upper Lillooet River in the west; and the north end of Harrison Lake following the height of land (east side of Lillooet L/River) to Duffy Lake for the eastern boundary.

Any and all information and maps that you can furnish us with would be greatly appreciated. I await your reply.

Yours truly, Nanci E. Zalubniak, C.E.T., Recreation Resource Technician,
Squamish Forest District

All inquiries regarding the Newsletter should be direct to the editors:

<u>Geoff Pinnington:</u>	1917 Trafalgar Street Vancouver, B.C. V6K 3S4	Phone: 732-5335
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<u>Terry Chow:</u>	Box 391 Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R2	Phone:
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