

CLOUDBURST



Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Newsletter FEBRUARY 1985





from the Executive Director

Just when it seemed that the snow was finished and spring might be nearby, here we are sliding through the crud again. Those who have benefitted from an FMCBC avalanche course will immediately recognize the danger of this new fluffy cover on top of the compacted and glazed-over base snow. If you don't know what I mean you can still sign up for a course until the middle of March, or even later in Central B.C. With courses run at Courtenay, Smithers, Grand Forks, and Salmon Arm (see article) the provincial role of the Federation is becoming effective. Your club needs to think ahead now in order to plan winter courses for yourselves or your community next season.

I'm sure you are impressed, as I am, with the enclosed brochure of courses for 1985. The Safety and Education Committee is benefitting from the presence and energy of the new co-chairman John Manuel of Alpine Club fame. The new courses are an obvious extension of the basic programmes offered in the past, climaxing this year in our most adventurous trip to date, a climbing course at Yosemite. But, the emphasis is still on the provision of basic courses designed to develop safe mountain travel skills in all users whether old or young, climbers or not.

At this stage there is no getting away from the necessity to plan our courses from the population centre of southwest B.C. If your club wants to run any of the listed courses, it can be arranged, whether you live in Port Alberni or Prince Rupert. Please call us.

A major worry about running courses outside the province is the need for accident and liability insurance, especially in the U.S. The FMCBC carries liability insurance - but course participants have been required, in the past, to take out their own extended-health coverage. If you read the fine print on almost all policies you will see that though they may cover hiking, they do not cover rock climbing or other mountaineering activities. Were you covered? This year all out-of-province courses will be insured through the FMCBC for extended health benefits. To find out how your club, and you, can be adequately insured, please read the article on Club Insurance.

The Federation has successfully applied for 5 Canada Works projects, which are in progress and employing 52 workers, plus a full time administrator Bruce Blackwell, Chairman of the Trails Committee. Future job creation projects will be sought by the FMCBC.

A recent meeting of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division of LP&H to discuss the proposed Master Plan of the Valhallas was attended by the FMCBC President, Stephan Fuller. A similar meeting for Wells Gray Provincial Park will be held Feb. 26. You can be assured that the Federation represents to the Government the interests of its member clubs. Park plans concern us all. It is the continued efforts of Stephan, Judy Wigmore on Vancouver Island and others which may eventually give organizations such as ours the opportunity to fully participate in the production of government plans for our parks (see article on Four Mountain Parks Planning). The next meeting between Vancouver Island clubs and PORD is at Malaspina College March 2nd.

A thank you to the clubs which attended the first Okanagan/Kootenays meeting in Vernon Oct. 27. Five clubs were represented, including Vernon Outdoors Club which I'm hoping will decide to join the Federation.

And lastly, the AGM. What a day! Delegates from all over Vancouver Island, Salmon Arm, Prince George, plus the best turnout ever from the Lower Mainland. The day flew by, and Mike Nash of Prince George presented slides of the Kakwa for our enjoyment. Such enthusiasm and idea sharing. Thank you to all the delegates who came and contributed to a most successful AGM.

My congratulations to Steven Threndyle, the new Vice-President, and already a chairman for the delegates meeting.

Spring is surely just around the corner, so oil your plastic boots, dust off your mac-tac covered maps, de-mold your pack and return your course application form filled in - OR - (and here's a deal) give it to somebody who needs it.

Happy spring.

Jim Rutter
Executive Director

Jim Rutter

[A change of Editor is the reason for the delay in publishing Cloudburst. We apologize to all our subscribers.]

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

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Assisted by **BC Recreation and Sport**
Hon. James Chabot, Minister Responsible



Vancouver Island News

It is with some personal pleasure that I see this edition of Cloudburst feature the clubs of Vancouver Island. This part of the world is not known to most of B.C.'s mountain users, but what a treat it is. Back in my long past I was, for a few years, a resident instructor and Joe-everything at Strathcona Lodge. Those who drive the road through Strathcona Park will pass the Lodge, located on the east shore of upper Campbell Lake, and be impressed with the view of King's Peak across the water, and the long vista down Buttle Lake to the mountains behind Flower Ridge, 35 miles (56 km) to the south. But those who manage any of the trails up the 3,500 ft to the subalpine are the chosen few who really know the grandeur of this, the oldest provincial park in B.C.

For 74 years this keyhole shaped park of 231,000 hectares has preserved its central wilderness of mountain peaks, flowered alpine meadows, and abundant wildlife despite the trading and gobbling at its boundaries, the threats of logging and the development of a major mine site.

Raised like the jewels of a crown these island peaks look down on two oceans, and across to the coast range with Mt. Waddington on the skyline. Travellers through here are treated to alpine ridge walking as it always was, trail-less - and barren of signs except for the small rock cairns which sometimes show the way in doubtful places.

No easy rescues from here, three days from a road. The heavy pack, the measured tread and the ability to respect the power of nature are the essentials of the rare visitor. But rewards are heaped on the appreciative. From the almost fearless elk, to the summit climb of the Golden Hinde - from the seven days of solitary travel, to the river crossings in the Elk River Valley, this queen of parks protects her own from the busy world below.

The Vancouver Island clubs are concerned with the new Park Land Designation Policy and its effect on their beloved Strathcona. Club input into the Master Plan for Strathcona is being sought, and is actively supported through meetings between LP&H, VI clubs and the FMCBC.

A PRESENTATION ON STRATHCONA PARK

Sponsored by the Alpine Club - Victoria

March 19th
8:00pm
Newcombe Auditorium

Cover Photo: Looking north from the Comox Glacier to Mirren Lake and Rees Ridge. Climbers are Jim Rutter (Glacier Course Instructor-Strathcona Lodge 1979), and student.
Photographer - Doug Spotowski

VANCOUVER ISLAND CLUBS REGIONAL UPDATE

"The Parks, they are a changing..." 1984 was a year of increased involvement by island clubs in park and outdoor recreation issues. Our efforts have focussed on Strathcona Park, B.C.'s first provincial park established in 1911. We hope to review the Park's draft Master Plan before it is finalized this spring.

Due to LP&H budget and staff cutbacks, island clubs are considering LP&H's proposed "adopt-a-trail" program which involves a club's commitment to maintain a trail (or trails). Some clubs, the Outdoor Club of Victoria, already maintain trails on a volunteer basis.

LP&H's new land designation policy will affect island parks and Strathcona Park in particular as this park contains Class A and B, Nature Conservancy Areas and an operating mine (Westmin Resources Ltd.) Of real concern is the possibility that Westmin may be removed from the Park. This is unacceptable because, if removed, LP&H will have no authority over Westmin's claim areas.

To date, Westmin has been very responsive to island clubs and FMCBC concerns. However, it is critical that LP&H maintain authority to ensure public access to important back-country linkages and day-use hike areas.

As an approval condition, Westmin will give LP&H a total of \$500,000.00 (1983\$) to be used for recreational facility development in the Buttle Lake corridor. (This is an obvious recognition of Westmin's interrelationship with Strathcona Park.) This fall, due to island clubs and FMCBC requests, LP&H and Westmin agreed to allocate \$100,000.00 for trail maintenance next year in the Paradise Meadows/Forbidden Plateau high use area of Strathcona Park.

"Privatization" has come to the one major commercial ski operation on the island, Mount Washington Ski Resort Ltd. (MWSR). This past year MWSR applied for approval to construct and operate groomed, cross-country ski trails in Strathcona Park. The island clubs provided LP&H with very useful, practical advice when the Park Use Permit was being drafted. Most of our suggestions have been incorporated into the September 9, 1984 PUP verbatim. MWSR can charge for the use of the groomed trails; \$4.50 is this season's rate.

However, unlike Westmin who recognizes the benefits of keeping user groups informed, MWSR will not allow any copying of its permit. While the permit is available for review at LP&H offices, this is proving unworkable for many interested islanders who cannot get to an LP&H office during working hours. MWSR and the Minister of LP&H have been asked to reconsider this "no xerox" policy as it clearly thwarts the dissemination of information to citizens who are interested in the management of Crown land. We are prepared to pay a nominal fee to cover administrative/xerox costs.

The island clubs have come a long way since our first meeting in Nanaimo last January. 1985 will be an interesting year, particularly for our parks as they are a changing. Clubs with regional concerns are encouraged to get organized and get involved. It works!

Vancouver Island Clubs

1. Alberni Valley Outdoor Club
2. Alpine Club, Vancouver Island Section
3. Comox & District Mountaineering Club
4. Independent Hiker's Association
5. Island Mountain Ramblers
6. Outdoor Club of Victoria
7. Sierra Club

Alpine Club

The Alpine Club, Vancouver Island Section, was founded about 12 years ago. It is based in Victoria and has about 130 members. It is affiliated with the Alpine Club of Canada.

The ACC is concerned about the future of Strathcona Park and other areas such as the Mackenzie Range.

Further information can be obtained from the president, Brian Money (479-2161) at 3766 Seaton, Victoria, or Gary Allen in charge of trips and climbing (478-8004) at 3215 Wilshire, Victoria, or Margaret Brown (479-7824) at 328 Stewart Ave., Victoria, V9B 1R8 - the FMCBC delegate.

Independent Hiker's Association

Based in Victoria, and having about 20 members, the Independent Hiker's Association became a member group of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. in 1984. The IHA's members are also members of the outdoor activities group of the Victoria District of the Canadian Hostelling Association but have gained recognition as a separate entity under the name IHA.

Most of the IHA's single-day activities occur within an hour or two's drive of Victoria. However, weekend destinations range farther afield -- to Strathcona Park on the Island, and occasionally to the Olympic Mountains in Washington. In the FMCBC, the IHA shares with other Island outdoors groups a keen interest in safeguarding the future of our Provincial Parks, most notably Strathcona Park.

Contact: FMCBC delegate Dennis Haller,
41-477 Lampson St., Victoria, B.C.
V9A 5Z4 tel. 383-1760

Island Mountain Ramblers

The Ramblers, founded in 1958, has about 60 members over Vancouver Island.

The Ramblers are involved with other Island clubs and the FMCBC on Island issues, including Strathcona Park's Master Plan, Mount Washington's cross-country park use permit and Westmin's Upper Thelwood hydroelectric development in Strathcona Park.

Anyone who is interested is always welcome to come and ramble!

Club Schedule Info: c/o IMR, P.O. Box 691, Nanaimo, B.C., V9R 5M2

FMCBC Delegate: Judy Wigmore, 310-964 Heywood Ave., Victoria, B.C. V8V 2Y5
386-2139 (evenings)

Outdoor Club of Victoria

The O.C. of Victoria was founded formally in March 1942 but started in an active unofficial way in 1940. The club is located in Victoria and there are presently about 230 members, the majority living in Victoria.

The club has been actively involved in the Federation and has participated in meetings of the Vancouver Island Section. Members continue to write letters over current conservation issues including Meares Island, South Moresby and Strathcona Park.

Information on the O.C.V. may be obtained through the newsletter in the Public Library of Victoria or by contacting the Club president or FMCBC delegate.

President - Ron Weir 477-4335
FMCBC delegate - Jane Tonis 598-3417

Sierra Club

The Sierra Club was founded in California in 1892. It became established in Western Canada in the late 1960's and early 1970's, with the initial creation of groups in Vancouver and Victoria. The Western Canada Chapter of the Sierra Club currently has two groups on Vancouver Island, the Victoria Group and the Cowichan Group. Total Vancouver Island membership is over 400.

Contacts for the two groups are:

John Newcomb	Joan Best
2-1326 Yates Street	RR 1, Site 14, #29.
Victoria, B.C.	Gabriola Island, B.C.
V8S 1Z0	VOR 1X0
tel: 382-6781	tel: 247-8439

Comox District Mountaineering Club

Founded in 1928 in Courtenay, B.C., when several Brits gathered in the City Hall to form a Club "to preserve the fauna and flora in and to enjoy hiking and climbing in Forbidden Plateau."

Our Club carries out an annual trip list of hikes, canoe trips and trail work parties, as well as joining with other Clubs in trying to prevent or slow down desecration of scenic treasures by industry.

Guests may join our trips. We try to set a good standard of safety and outdoor ethics.

Contacts for trip lists or information are:

Don Apps	Scott Larsen	Ruth Masters
RR No. 2	Murdoch's Men's Wear	RR 3
Courtenay, BC	324 Fifth Street	Courtenay, BC
V9N 5M9	Courtenay, BC	V9N 5M8
338-5130	334-4532	334-2270

Alberni Valley Outdoor Club

The club was founded in the early 1970's. The club promotes all non-mechanically propelled activities - canoeing, walking, cycling, cross-country skiing, etc. for the people of Port Alberni and the surrounding area. There are about 40 members. We are affiliated with the FMCBC.

Club President - Gary Cheatham, 4168 Craig Street, Port Alberni, B.C. tel: 724-3140

FMCBC Delegate - L. Greenhalgh, RR 3 Faber Road, Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 7L7
tel: 724-0788



Recreation and Conservation

The FMCBC invited the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing to prepare a statement of its policy on heliskiing, which was promised space in this newsletter.

That statement is presented in full below.

Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Commercial Mechanized Ski Guiding Policy

On November 15, 1982, the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing implemented a policy to provide for and regulate commercial mechanized ski guiding use of Crown land.

Prior to implementation of the policy, ski guiding operations were taking place on Crown land without authorization. The intent of the policy was to "get a handle" on the nature and extent of existing operations and to encourage the identification and consolidation of operating areas through the provision of tenure.

Due to the difference between the Park Act and the Land Act, somewhat different requirements apply to the administration of tenures within and outside provincial parks. However, these requirements have been coordinated to the maximum extent possible to provide for a consistent approach to administration of ski guiding tenures.

Operators are required to delineate areas which they intend to use for ski runs and apply for licence of occupation tenure for those runs. This means that action can be taken against operators who utilize areas which they are not authorized to use. Previously, there was no way of dealing with this situation.

Individuals and groups who have specific knowledge of environmental constraints (i.e. wildlife habitat), which should be given consideration in the allocation of ski guiding tenures, are now given the opportunity to make representations to the Ministry. The mandatory advertising of ski guiding applications allows such groups and individuals the opportunity to indicate any concerns they may have prior to the adjudication of the applications.

The policy has now been in place for two years. A review of its terms and conditions was conducted during August of this year, with the result that the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing confirmed that its role was to administer land tenure, and not to regulate operational safety. To this end, safety considerations ensured by the Ministry are now limited to land-related items such as avoidance of known avalanche hazard areas. The mechanized ski guiding industry is being encouraged to develop and maintain its own strict standards of operational safety (i.e. competence of helicopter operators, communication requirements, guide certification, etc.).

Since this is a relatively new policy area, some initial difficulties with implementation and enforcement of requirements are anticipated. At this point, however, the Ministry is satisfied that the land tenure aspects of ski guiding operations have been improved significantly by the introduction of this policy.

RECREATION CORRIDORS — A PROGRAM FOR IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT

British Columbia contains many trail and waterway corridors possessing significant recreational historic and/or scenic values. The Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing, through consultation with resource users and management agencies as well as the public, has developed a program for the identification and management of selected recreation corridors in the Province.

The goal of this program is to identify, establish, protect, develop, maintain and interpret the values therein, of a number of recreational corridors in British Columbia accessible to and for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors to the Province.

The FMCBC, through the Outdoor Recreation Council, has assisted in the submission of candidate names for recreation corridor status. The final list of trail candidates, published Feb. 20, 1985, is printed below. The FMCBC sees this initiative as a most positive contribution to the planning and safeguarding of the trail and river recreation resources in British Columbia.

Recreation Corridor Candidate Analysis

Trails

Candidate	Lead In Planning
Athabasca Pass Trail (historic)	PORD
Cariboo Marathon Ski Route	?
Chilkoot Pass Trail (historic)	Fed
Dewdney Trail (Cascades)(historic)	BCFS
Dewdney Trail (Kootenays)(historic)	BCFS
Earl Grey Trail (historic)	BCFS
HBC Brigade Trail (Cascades)(historic)	BCFS
Hope Pass Trail (Cascades)(historic)	BCFS
Kamloops - 100 Mile Snowmobile	BCFS
MacKenzie Trail (historic)	PORD/BCFS
National Trail (Cent. & Baden Powell)	ORC to lead
West Coast Trail	Fed
Whitcom Trail (Cascades)(historic)	BCFS

SKAGIT TREATY SIGNED

B.C. Intergovernmental Relations Minister Garde Gardom called it "a good deal for everyone."

It was the signing of the final agreement in the Skagit River Treaty, ending 40 years of international bickering and ensuring that B.C.'s Skagit Valley will not be flooded.

The agreement, signed at the Robson Square cabinet offices by Gardom, Clark, federal Environment Minister Suzanne Blais-Grenier and provincial Environment Minister Tony Brummet, "crosses the Ts and dots the Is" of the international Skagit pact, Gardom said.

The first part of the treaty, between B.C. and Seattle, was signed March 30. A second agreement between Canada and the U.S. was signed April 2.

The final part, between B.C. and Canada, spells out federal and provincial responsibilities under the treaty.

Under the treaty, Seattle agrees not to flood the Skagit Valley in return for electrical capacity and energy roughly equivalent to that which would have been produced by raising the Ross Dam.



Federal Parks Plan

Parks Canada has hosted a series of meetings across Canada to discuss its Draft Planning Scenario for the four mountain parks of Banff, Kootenay, Jasper and Robson.

The President of the FMCBC, Stephan Fuller, attended the Vancouver meeting of Dec. 7th and 8th. The FMCBC, with 33 member clubs and representing 6,000 British Columbians, constitutes a major client group for Parks Canada, as they represent many traditional users of the area in question.

Fuller identified a number of major objections which have been presented to Mr. Steve Kun, Western Region Director of Parks Canada. The content of his statement is presented below.

The FMCBC does not believe that the Draft Planning Scenario sets an appropriate and/or necessary future direction for the Four Mountain Parks. This opinion is based on several major objections to the Draft Planning Scenario.

Substantive Objections (see enclosure for detailed comments)

1. Basic Direction

We are opposed to the major new tourism facilities developments that you propose, which run counter to the preservation/conservation purpose of the Four Mountain Parks. This FMCBC position is consistent with our previous statements, which are largely ignored in the Draft Planning Scenario.

2. Contradictory Statements

Although the documentation states the importance of various wilderness and wildlife resources within the Four Mountain Parks, several of the proposed facilities, either expansions or new, directly impact these resources. This is unacceptable.

3. Incrementalism

Incremental impacts of new developments are not considered in any historical context. There is no apparent awareness in the document that there should be a final threshold, beyond which new developments would be prohibited. We, of course, believe such a threshold has already been reached.

4. Cumulative Impact

There is no apparent consideration of the cumulative effects of development. Each Block Statement is considered in isolation. Not only is this a poor planning approach, it is folly to believe that your management activities should be so subdivided.

5. Management Capability

Parks Canada's ability to manage environmental resources is being diminished by the present federal government. Your normative planning scenario cannot be implemented without more intensive management unless there is a reduction in your commitment to environmental conservation. We are completely opposed to such reductions.

6. Shift in Goals and Objectives

The "direction" proposed in the Draft Planning Scenario seems to suggest a shift from "tourism as a result" of conservation objectives to one where tourism is the "intent" of the Four Mountain Parks. This may suit the development interests who would prefer a "mountain playground" available for the Olympics, etc., but is entirely contrary to the intent of the National Parks System. We are completely opposed.

Procedural Objections

1. It was difficult for the FMCBC to participate in closed meetings concerning this document and we urge you to reconsider and reverse this approach to planning. Nevertheless, we did attend because if we had not you may have assumed some implied support for your document.
2. You have apparently ignored public opinion in the process, which is overwhelmingly opposed to the proposed new development focus. This does not give us confidence that further participation is worthwhile.

We regret that our growing cynicism about the planning process causes us to distrust your intentions for the future of the Four Mountain Parks. The expression of the development focus so pervasive in the planning documentation apparently reflects a hidden agenda far removed from the original intent or expressed objectives of these parks.

We urge you in the strongest possible terms to reconsider and reverse these decisions.

Sincerely,

FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF B.C.

Stephan Fuller
President

This concern was also presented directly to the Federal Minister, the Hon. Mme. Blais-Grenier, in the following letter.

FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

December 18, 1984

Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier, Minister
Environment Canada
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Minister,

Attached is correspondence concerning the Four Mountain Parks planning process which we wish to bring to your attention.

From our perspective, the new directions proposed by your officials run counter to the intent and purpose of the National Parks System, and these decisions deserve debate at the most senior government levels.

We would appreciate your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,

FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF B.C.

Stephan Fuller
President



Ministry News

The Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing has produced a new "Park Land Designation" policy which will affect forever the quality and quantity of park land in B.C. This policy will be reviewed in the next newsletter. The essentials of this policy are presented below and should be a concern to all recreation groups.

PURPOSE OF POLICY

- o To clarify the use of each land designation of the Park Act.
- o To clarify the general management principles applied to lands established under each designation of the Park Act.
- o To define strategies for reclassification of lands currently under the designations to be discontinued.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF POLICY

- o In the future only two types of Park Act designations will be used.
 - a) Class A Park where the natural environment and recreational values are protected and no alienation of interest in the land or use of resources is permitted except that necessary to the preservation or maintenance of recreational values.
 - b) Recreation Area where land and resources are managed to protect recreational values with alienation of interest in the land and/or non-recreational use of resources permitted in a controlled manner.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Class A Park -

Crown land established as a Class A Park under the Park Act which contains provincially significant natural, historic, and recreation values and is to be managed to protect and provide for the public enjoyment of those values.

Recreation Area -

Crown land established as a Recreation Area under the Park Act where the highest and best use of the land is management for public recreation in association with an interim or continuous non-recreational use of resources and/or alienation of interest in the land, or with an interim commitment to further evaluation of non-recreational resource values.

Master Plan -

A specific management plan for a Park or Recreation Area that defines the purpose of the area and the policies for recreation and resource management. Details of management action will be contained within specific zoning plans developed as part of each master plan. Zoning plans will define user and resource management principles for each part of a Park or Recreation Area. All evaluations of resource interests undertaken in the Master Planning process will be based on implications to recreation and conservation values.

POLICY

1.1 Designating Land as a Class A Park

Class A Parks will be designated to serve the following purposes:

- a) To protect and present provincially significant unique, special, and outstanding natural and historic features and best representative examples of the natural landscapes of the province.

1.2 Managing Land Designated as a Class A Park

The Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division will manage, develop, and administer Class A Parks to preserve their natural environments for the inspiration, use, and enjoyment of the public. Impacts will be limited to those necessary to the preservation, public enjoyment and recreational use of these areas. No use of resources or alienation of interest in land will be permitted unless necessary to the preservation or maintenance of the recreational values involved.

1.3 Current Commitments in Class A Parks

Current commitments to non-recreational resource use or existing alienations of interest in land within Class A Parks will be evaluated as part of the master planning program. Upon evaluation one or more of the following options may be employed:

- a) acquire the interests;
- b) reclassify all or part of the Park to Recreation Area status;
- c) delete all or part of the Park from the Provincial Park system.

4.1 Designating Land as a Recreation Area

Recreation Areas will be designated to serve one or more of the following purposes:

- a) to protect lands appropriate for designation as Class A Parks but which have current commitments to the use of land and/or resources for non-recreational purposes which will be accommodated on an interim basis;
- b) to protect lands appropriate for designation as Class A Parks but for which further evaluation of other non-recreational resource values is required before a final land use decision is made;
- c) to protect lands of Provincially significant recreation value where it is demonstrated that the highest and best use is management for outdoor recreation, but where it is also desirable to allow compatible, continuous utilization of resources for non-recreational purposes;
- d) to protect lands of Provincially significant recreation value where it is demonstrated that the highest and best use is management for outdoor recreation, but where it is also desirable to allow an alienation of interest in land for the development of commercial recreation facilities.

4.2 Managing Land Designated as a Recreation Area

The Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division will manage, develop, and administer Recreation Areas to ensure that the recreational values are retained to permit the non-recreational use of resources and/or the alienation of interest in land as noted in the stated purpose(s) for the area.

- a) Recreation Areas or portions of Recreation Area designated to protect lands appropriate for designation as Class A Parks but which have current commitments to be accommodated on an interim basis will be managed to permit the commitments to be fulfilled and the area rehabilitated with minimized impact on park values. No new alienations of interest will be permitted. Upon expiry, lapse or acquisition of interest in commitments the area will be redesignated as Class A Park.
- b) Recreation Areas or portions of Recreation Area designated to protect lands appropriate for designation as Class A Park but which require further evaluation of non-recreational resource values before a final land use decision is made will be managed to accommodate the decision-making process. Upon evaluation of these Recreation Areas one or more of the following options may be employed:
 - i) reclassify to Class A Park status where evaluation has determined the highest and best use to be management for park purposes (Section 1.1);
 - ii) continue Recreation Area status where evaluation has determined the highest and best use to be management for park purposes but commitments to non-recreational resource use are to be made and fulfilled before reclassifying to Class A status (as in Section 4.2a);
 - iii) continue Recreation Area status with the redefined purpose of permitting compatible, continuous utilization of resources for non-recreational purposes;
 - iv) delete the area from the Provincial Park system.
- c) Recreation Areas or portions of Recreation Areas designated to permit compatible continuous utilization of resources or an alienation of interest in land for the development of commercial recreation facilities will be managed for that purpose and as defined in a Master Plan. Each Master Plan will contain a zoning plan to permit and guide the non-recreational use of resources and/or the alienation of interest in land.

Wilderness Policy

The FMCBC recently completed its formal Wilderness Policy. This statement recognizes Wilderness as a resource in itself and recommends its protection through a proposed Wilderness Act. The FMCBC is grateful to the volunteer committee members who gave so much time in private and committee meetings, in particular Peter Jordan (ACC), Mike Feller (B.C.M.C.) and Stephan Fuller (FMCBC President). The objectives of the policy are as follows:

"the purpose of this Policy statement is to further specify the FMCBC position with respect to wilderness and to provide the basis for FMCBC wilderness preservation activities".(1)

[(1) Introduction, FMCBC Wilderness Policy]

There is a need to have wilderness recognized as a resource in and of itself rather than just a non-productive "wasteland" to be rendered uninhabitable by logging or mining operations. In order for the wilderness to receive such recognition, the Federation is proposing that a Wilderness Act be passed by the Legislature in order to preserve such pristine land as still exists.

Three principles should be followed in designating Wilderness Reserves under the proposed Wilderness Act.

First, "the area should appear to have been primarily affected by natural forces alone. Second, the area should be large enough to provide for the preservation and continuation of natural ecosystems and ecological processes unmodified by man. Lastly, the area should provide non-mechanized wilderness recreation opportunities and should be large enough to provide the users with a sense that they are in a wilderness."(2)

[(2) Wilderness Area Designation, FMCBC Wilderness Policy]

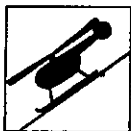
The United States has had a Wilderness Act for twenty years. It took ten years of lobbying by conservation and preservation groups before it passed. Approximately one-thirtieth (1/30) of the U.S. is now designated as Wilderness. This represents 35.4 million hectares or an area slightly larger than ten Vancouver Islands. In Washington State alone there has been 2.5 million acres (1 million hectares) designated as Wilderness. This is a figure totally separate from National and State park acreages.

Alberta and Newfoundland also have Wilderness Acts, but they have not been used to the same extent as their American counterpart.

In closing, here is a quote from the U.S. National Wilderness Act as a tribute to the many conservation agencies and individuals who persevered for ten years to have this wording passed into Law.

"Wilderness is 'an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man. It is land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation. It has been affected primarily by the forces of Nature, with the imprint of man's works substantially unnoticeable. It provides outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.'"(3)

[(3) U.S. National Wilderness Act]



Heliskiing-The Situation

The FMCBC has been closely monitoring the development of heliskiing in British Columbia. Towards the end we have been allowed to review proposed changes in Provincial heliskiing policy. However, with the most recent set of revisions we were excluded from this public vetting process. Although logistical problems were cited as being the reason for departure from established procedure, the FMCBC feels this is unacceptable and requests written assurances that such "logistical problems" won't occur again.

We remain concerned that various heliski operators are not limiting their runs to their licensed areas, particularly in the Powder Mountain area. Lands, Parks and Housing believes that self-regulation is adequate but the FMCBC does not have Lands, Parks and Housing's confidence in the operators' ability to monitor themselves. We believe that Lands, Parks and Housing personnel should actively monitor the performance of the industry.

The FMCBC is also seriously concerned with safety regulation in the heliski industry. We feel that if government leaves safety regulation enforcement up to the operators then economic circumstances will tend to influence operator behaviour. Tradeoffs will likely be made away from maximum safety standards. Many of our members are volunteer participants in mountain rescue groups and those services are virtually "free of charge". At the very least, the heliskiing operators should be completely liable for the costs of the rescue. If the government is going to promote development of the heliski industry, they should take complete responsibility for public safety.

We also must restate our position that we are opposed to licensing of mechanized recreation of any form in wilderness areas within provincial parks in accordance with the recently passed FMCBC Wilderness Policy.

For further information, contact Jay MacArthur, FMCBC Past President at 738-0123.

Following presentation of these ideas to the Lands Programs Branch of the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing, the following two letters were received from the Ministry.

FELLER ON HELISKIING

Since last July's Cloudburst we have had quite a bit of communication concerning Mr. Mike Feller's heliskiing article. In particular, Mr. Don van der Horst, Senior Planner at LP&H, sent us a comprehensive reply to the issues discussed in Mr. Feller's article. Mr. van der Horst's reply was forwarded on the Mr. Feller who, in turn, responded. At present we have sent a copy of Mr. Feller's response to Mr. van der Horst and are awaiting his reply. When we have all the facts we shall publish a complete article detailing all the contentious issues as seen from both points of view.

Dear Mr. Fuller:

Thank you for your recent letter. I found our October 25, 1984 meeting both informative and productive.

I will address your points in the order presented. Every attempt will be made in future to solicit input and comments from your organization through the Executive of the Outdoor Recreation Council when changes are made to the commercial ski guiding policy. It is clearly desirable that organizations such as yours be given the opportunity to participate as fully as possible in the policy development and review process.


As stated in our meeting the Ministry requires assistance from members of groups such as yours and the recreating public for information respecting any observed abuses of ski guiding tenures. Please have your members contact the local regional directors when problems are discovered.

I note that you have written to the Honourable A. J. Brummett on the subject of safety. A response to that concern will be forthcoming directly from the Minister.

Your last point, respecting the licensing of mechanized ski guiding operations in wilderness areas of Provincial Parks is a valid one, and I believe that the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division of this Ministry is actively discouraging this type of use in such areas. Exceptions may occur if provided for in a park master plan, to control and facilitate existing use, or to reserve the right to issue permits on a special use basis.

I trust that my response to your letter, as well as the recent submission to your newsletter on the Ministry's heliski policy, will provide sufficient clarification to alleviate your concerns. Your efforts to keep abreast of the policy and to offer constructive criticisms are appreciated.

Yours sincerely,


R. L. Mitton
Director
Land Programs Branch

Dear Mr. Fuller:


Thank you for your recent letter and accompanying correspondence to Mr. R. L. Mitton, Director of the Land Programs Branch on the subject of the Ministry's commercial mechanized ski guiding policy.

I understand that the Ministry's position on regulation of operational safety within the industry was given by Mr. Mitton at your October 25, 1984 meeting between the Outdoor Recreation Council Executive and Ministry staff. My letter will confirm that position.

The Ministry makes every effort to ensure that safety considerations related to apparent natural hazards are addressed when reviewing tenure applications, and that the Crown is protected against third party insurance claims. The Ministry does not believe its role should extend to regulation of actual field operations through provision or enforcement of safety standards. Since its inception, a basic objective of the ski guiding policy has been to encourage self-regulation of industry safety standards, and has supported the B.C. Heliski Operators Association in developing an operators manual for that purpose. The Ministry has been actively encouraging the Association to establish an internal committee to monitor and discipline its members with respect to safety. The Association has also been encouraged to promote its safety standards among the general public so that potential customers will patronize companies who adhere to such standards.

I trust this letter will serve to clarify the Ministry's position on this matter.

Yours sincerely,


Anthony J. Brummett
Minister

[Editor's Comment: The provincial government position diverges significantly from that of the FMCBC. Our efforts to influence their position and approach will continue.]



Trails

from the Chairman of the Trails Committee

I am currently in the process of trying to come up with a new structure for the Trails Committee. In discussions with the Executive it was felt that a change in format of the meetings was necessary. What I mean by a change in format is rather than the committee functioning solely as an information exchange network I would like to see individual situations like Lions Bay, Cypress Bowl, Mountain Bikes, etcetera, dealt with more aggressively by the committee. This would help the Recreation and Conservation Committee to function more effectively as well as giving the Trails Committee a much higher profile in the Federation.

The new format would involve more volunteer effort in letter writing campaigns, phoning land agency representatives and possibly meeting with representatives of groups with conflicting interests.

I would still like to continue the information exchange that has been very valuable and informative for our member clubs. However, instead of this exchange being verbal and recorded in the minutes of the Committee I would like a section to be printed in each issue of Cloudburst describing important trail related information.

All this will not be easy and as Chairman I cannot do it all myself. The Committee is still in desperate need of a secretary or someone who will take the minutes regularly at each meeting.

If you have any comments with regard to this format, please feel free to talk to myself or Jim Rutter at 688-4734 or 687-3333 local 2232.

If you know of any other interested individuals within the Federation who would like to get involved with trails, please feel free to contact me. The more people that get involved actively, the more that can be accomplished.

I hope to have an agenda and a meeting scheduled for mid-February.

Bruce Blackwell

YALE SUPPLY BLOCK PLAN

January 9, 1985

A third meeting was held to discuss the Yale Supply Block Plan.

Represented at the meeting were:

- all concerned Government agencies
- various logging companies and contractors
- Ross Committee
- Field Naturalists
- B.C. Snowmobile Federation
- Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society
- B.C. Four Wheel Drive Association
- Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C.
- Steelhead Society

THE PRINCE GEORGE AND DISTRICT TRAIL GUIDE

This compact and up to date guide book, now in its 10th year, is edited by Bob Nelson and published by the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club of Prince George. No space is wasted on photographs - the entire 68 pages being devoted to maps, drawings and text. The book documents 30 hikes in some detail, and has sections on environmental concerns, equipment and safety and user club contacts in Prince George. Five of the hikes are easy local walks close to Prince George, while the remainder are mountain hikes ranging west to Fort St. James, south to Barkerville, north to the Pine Pass and east to McBride and Valemount. It is not without some hesitation that we publicize the mountain country in this area, particularly after being approached at the Federation AGM for information on areas where groups of 60 people could camp! PLEASE.....none of this alpine backcountry can withstand that kind of impact without being permanently scarred. Groups of 3 to 12 people are best from the standpoint of both safety and protection of the land.

The book is available in Prince George sporting stores and book stores, or can be ordered from:

The Caledonia Ramblers
P.O. Box 26, Station "A"
Prince George, B.C. V2L 4R9

Price: Book & postage \$ 6.00

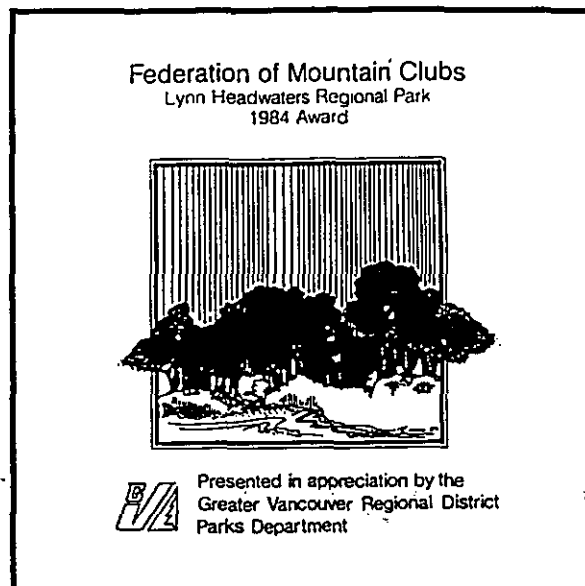
Cheques should be made payable to The Caledonia Ramblers.

[Ed. Note: The FMCBC is organizing a 7-day visit to the Kakwa Wilderness Area (north of Mt. Robson). The group will be limited to 12 environmentally concerned people.]

FMCBC RECEIVES AWARD

The Greater Vancouver Regional District recently awarded the FMCBC a service award in recognition of its services in the development of the new Lynn Headwaters Park, North Vancouver.

In 1984 the FMCBC sponsored a trail building project there under the Environment 2000 programme. This is being continued currently under the federal Canada Works programme (see article). The award is reproduced below.



CLOUDBURST TRAILS UPDATE

A. CANADA WORKS PROJECTS

The Federation has again been awarded some major trail construction contracts under the Federal Government's Canada Works job creation initiative. The projects include:

1. LYNN CREEK - continued construction of the trail in Upper Lynn Creek which is soon to open as a designated GVRD Wilderness Park.
2. BUNTZEN LAKE - this project includes two phases. The first is to construct a bridge across the west side of the lake to link up with existing trails. The second phase includes construction of a new trail on the east side of the lake creating a loop trail system.
3. SQUAMISH CHIEF - in conjunction with Lands, Parks and Housing and the municipality of Squamish, this project will upgrade the existing back-side trail as well as develop the primitive access areas at the front of the Chief.
4. CHILLIWACK TRAILS - under the guidance of Frank Ullman and the B.C. Forest Service the objective of this project is to upgrade the existing Centennial Trail as well as the construction of new x-country ski trails at Post Creek.

B. CORRIDOR POLICY

Through the input of many of its member organizations, including the Federation, the Outdoor Recreation Council has prepared a list of provincially significant trail and river corridors. This list will be presented to government representatives from Lands, Parks and Housing and the Forest Service at a February meeting. These significant trails and rivers will be considered during the first implementation of this new policy.

C. NATIONAL TRAIL

John Hawthorne, a practicum student from Capilano College, is currently working on a systems plan for the development of the trail through B.C. The National Association is now taking applications for membership in the Association at a cost of \$5.00. A second Annual General Meeting has been tentatively scheduled for May 13-14, 1985. This will be the first AGM bringing together the official provincial delegates.

D. TRAIL INVENTORY

The Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C., under Canada Works, has hired an individual to work on a B.C. trail inventory.

The next Trails Committee meeting will be held at 7:30pm at Sport B.C. Meeting Room "B". All are welcome.

VALHALLAS MASTER PLAN UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division (PORD) planners recently convened a public meeting in Vancouver (the last of six in a series held throughout B.C.) which allowed the FMCBC to provide comment on proposed components of a Master Plan for the Valhallas Provincial Park. Our member group, the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, also provided input during other meetings in the local area.

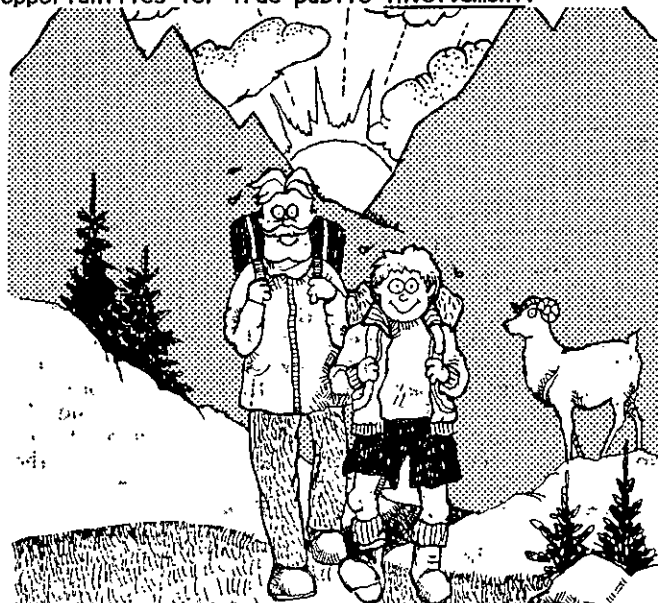
For the most part, the plan appears to be proceeding with the utmost regard for the ecological and wilderness values and themes found within the boundaries of the area. It is also clear that the Park affords excellent opportunities for complementary economic development within the Slocan Valley, which was a major reason that there was public support for Park designation several years ago.

Unfortunately, some of the management directions suggest that there should be air-access facilities in a few areas of the Park. While peripheral developments of this nature are debatable and problematic, it is entirely undesirable for these to occur in the heart of the Park, at Evans Lake in particular. The FMCBC is on record as opposing these proposals.

The FMCBC Wilderness Policy opposes mechanized travel in true wilderness areas in British Columbia. The wilderness values and near wilderness conditions within this particular Park are spectacular and deserve the designation they have received. It will be inappropriate to provide "hardened" facilities in the Park that are geared to stimulate new mechanized use (above the private, uncontrolled use that already occurs).

A further written response will be made on an issue by issue basis after consultation with the Kootenay Mountaineering Club.

PORD are to be congratulated on the quality of their presentation, the excellent visual aids, and the open, convivial attitudes brought to the table. As usual, however, it is not clear if the public is to be allowed access to or comment on the Draft Plan prior to formal acceptance by the government, and the Federation regards this as unacceptable. Hopefully, PORD Regional Managers and the Minister will see fit to extend their public information meetings into a system that allows multiple opportunities for true public involvement.



The FMCBC Wilderness Policy (6 pages) is available through the FMCBC office for \$1



Safety and Education

WINTER COURSES - A REVIEW

The FMCBC Basic Avalanche course continues to accrue accolades as the office staff documents the course questionnaires returned by participants.

The most frequent comments are on the practicality of the snow condition tests, the enthusiasm and expertise of the instructors and assistants, and the dollar value of the course. Most course participants seem to be X-C skiers of some kind, and all expect to use the new skills on their trips.

This year the avalanche course has been taught outside the lower mainland - which is consistent with the FMCBC policy of offering its courses throughout B.C.

On Vancouver Island, Rob Orvig (in charge of the patrols and safety at Mt. Washington) has taught two Federation courses, with one more planned. Contact Rob at 338-7166.

In Smithers, a course was taught in November by Les Priest - former mountaineering course instructor for the FMCBC. In Grand Forks, Selkirk College has organized its first FMCBC course for the second weekend of March. Peter Jordan will be flying in to instruct, and the staff at Apex will have a course March 23-24.

* * *

The Winter Camping and Survival course has run thrice to date with participants seemingly happy in their snow caves overnight on Mt. Seymour. An evening lecture and two field days is just enough time to cover the course content. Jim Rutter (FMCBC) and Dave McCashim (of Coast Mountain Sports) have been the instructors. A course is planned for March for the Shuswap Outdoor Club at Salmon Arm - phone Connie Crowley for registration (832-8729).

* * *

Fourteen Avalanche courses and four Winter Camping and Survival courses this season indicates that the demand for these winter skills is increasing. Any group in any community can host one of the above courses.

An Accolade

My name is Dennis Brown and I recently participated in the FMCBC's beginners rock climbing course under the supervision of Simon Tooley. I can't offer enough praise on the value and importance of this course. The instruction level was second to none - I have taken a mountaineering course in the Rockies. The emphasis on Safety was beneficial in that it built both a sense of caution and confidence in the course participants. My only regret is that it won't be until next spring that I can continue learning in this field. However, I do intend to take the avalanche course as I am an avid skier. Also please find enclosed a cheque for the individual membership in the FMCBC. My address is #307-1080 Guilford St., V6G 2P4, Phone 682-3447.

Please keep up the great work,

Thanks

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

According to the Societies Act, the FMCBC is only able to have club memberships, not individual memberships as recently advertised.

On the advertising for newsletter subscriptions the term individual membership will now be deleted. An application for a subscription will be the same advertised rate of \$5 for non-members, \$2 for members.

Your support is appreciated, and the FMCBC apologizes for any confusion. All applications processed as Individual Memberships will be recognized as newsletter subscriptions.



ORC FALL FORUM - November 17, 1984

I attended the Outdoor Recreation Council's Fall Forum as the FMCBC delegate. Listed below is information describing the wide range of topics discussed.

- 1986 Congress on Trail and River Recreation Robin Draper brought us up to date on his plans for this conference to be held during EXPO 86.
- Leadership Program Brian White gave a report on the status of the leadership course under consideration by ORC.
- B.C. Recreation Corridor Policy The Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing has asked ORC to provide a list of recreation corridors that should be studied for possible designation. The FMCBC will provide input to ORC and MLPH.
- Tourism Policy A draft tourism policy was discussed and agreed upon. The policy will be ratified early in 85.
- Wilderness Policy A draft wilderness policy was discussed and agreed upon. Even the Four-Wheel Drive Association agreed with the policy which was based in part on the work done by the FMCBC.
- Outdoor Recreation Foundation Draft objectives and bylaws for an independent Outdoor Recreation Foundation of British Columbia were presented. The idea of a foundation was put forward at last year's A.G.M. and the main objective is to provide an independent source of funds for the development and improvement of outdoor recreation in British Columbia.

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