

CLOUDBURST

Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Newsletter

Fall 1987



CLOUDBURST

CLOUDBURST is published quarterly by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C., 1200 Hornby Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E2,

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The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMC) is the official sport governing body for mountaineering in B.C., representing the interests of all hiking, climbing, and outdoor clubs and individuals in the Province.

The FMC operates as a non-profit organization addressing mountain-related conservation issues, promoting safety and education through courses of instruction, and constructing and maintaining trails throughout B.C.

Membership to the FMC is open to any individual or group involved or interested in non-mechanized outdoor activities and conservation concerns. Membership includes a subscription to CLOUDBURST.

EXECUTIVE

Executive Director: Jim Rutter
President: John Randall
Treasurer: Dale Harper
Past President: Stephan Fuller
Director: Bruce Blackwell
Director: Mike Down

COMMITTEES

Recreation & Conservation:
Roger Freeman and Jay MacArthur
Safety and Education:
Simon Tooley and Jim Sibley
Trails: Bruce Blackwell ?

Unsolicited manuscripts will be considered for unpaid publication. Submissions should be typed or neatly handwritten, double-spaced, signed and accompanied by a SASE for return. Your ideas are welcome. Contact the Editor.

Assisted by B.C. Recreation and Sport.

Tourism

Recreation and Culture
HON. BILL REID, MINISTER

The cover photo of Bud and Lee Write was taken by Jim Rutter during the FMC guided backpacking trip to Strathcona Park last year.

Executive Director's Page

Smoke Bluffs Park Fundraising

The major unresolved financial obligation of the FMC concerns the development of the proposed Smoke Bluffs Park at Squamish, B.C. This is the most popular rock climbing area in Canada, attracting many thousands of climbers a year from throughout North America.

Unfortunately, the climbing areas are threatened because much of the land, especially access areas, is privately owned. Last spring the Federation purchased three key lots and set in motion the opportunity to save the area through the formation of a rock climbing park. A loan for this purchase was made by Mountain Equipment Co-op, and this must be paid back soon.

It seemed unlikely that any single fundraising effort would be adequate to obtain the entire \$68,000 needed to repay the loan, so a multi-effort approach has been developed. This includes a raffle for two South Moresby visits, the Gareth Wood (South Pole) slide programme on October 16th, and a program with Gareth Wood and Sharon Wood (Mt. Everest) on February 11th. In addition, the Alpine Club (Vancouver Section), the B.C. Mountaineering Club, and the Squamish Rock Climbers Association are all working on fundraisers for repayment of the loan.

There is one more element in our effort, and that is direct donations. Our efforts, those of several of our member clubs, and your direct contributions can enable us to repay the loan and get on with the task of establishing Canada's first rockclimbing park.

It is possible to make a donation to the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. for which you will receive a tax deductible receipt.

If you are able to make a major contribution, you are asked to call the Executive Director or the President and discuss it with them. We will be pleased to consider any appropriate recognition of your generosity.

Join Us

The last issue of CLOUDBURST was almost ready when I had my last wonderful idea — at least I thought it was wonderful at the time.

The ad for the Moresby Raffle was ready to be mailed to our members. As it was the same mailing list as CLOUDBURST, I thought: "why not put the ad and newsletter together? Our members will get everything about the same time, and we can get an extra page into the newsletter."

Because our mailing regulations limit us to ten pages or less my new scheme did mean that we needed a staggered post drop so that you would receive your centre fold the day after you received your newsletter. A brief note would enable you to combine the two mailings into a single, 12 page newsletter.

But no, it was not to be so easy. Some of you got the middle first, some of you didn't get a middle, some got the two sections days apart. Sorry, it did seem like a good idea.

We had a few complaints, which is to be expected. We can take the complaints and do better. But I was especially struck by a phone call from a very annoyed member of the North Shore Hikers who told us in no uncertain terms that because he received two envelopes I had wasted 36 cents which could be better put to trail building in this province. His friend was mailed four envelopes because he's on our list twice.

While reflecting on the nature of the call, it occurred to me that the basic issue is that we want to do more than money or paid staff can do. So, I would like to outline the areas in which we can use your assistance.

Mailing is a good place to start. During the past year we have spent dozens — if not hundreds — of hours getting our various mailing lists into a dBase III Plus computer program. There are still many hours of corrections and updates to input. Want to help?

CLOUDBURST comes out four times a year, and there are a number of major mailings in addition to this. Why not have your club volunteer for a mailing every once and a while. A mailing can be done in one day if we have eight people.

During the next few months there will be a vacancy at our front desk, so we need a volunteer to help out with meeting the public, answering questions, and booking courses. It's fun, and if you can do it please call Glenda in our office for an interview.

Our newsletter editor, Hoke, made a request for volunteers in the Summer CLOUDBURST, and four people (listed on the masthead) responded. It has been very gratifying to meet these people as they begin working together as a team and freeing our regular staff for other work.

There is still a need for one more person — someone with a little writing or editing background, or someone who wants to learn these skills. Contact Hoke at our office or at 736-4057 if you're interested.

Our committees do a lot of work, and they are entirely staffed with volunteers. You can almost certainly find an appropriate use for your interests and talent on one of the following committees: Recreation and Conservation, Trails, and Safety and Education.

Finally, there are a lot of one-time efforts required for specific projects. You could catalogue our climbing equipment, design some promo posters, or organize our slide collection, or maintain the FMC display at the Mountain Equipment Coop. Volunteers are needed for the Gareth Wood slide show on October 16th (you'll get in free), and we need someone to help with the A.G.M. for November 28th.

Give us a call.

Squamish Re-bolting Programme

Bolt technology changes constantly, and those bolts placed just a few years ago may not be reliable.

At Squamish, B.C., the smooth granite not only makes for high quality climbing but also poses a particular challenge when placing protection. The many thousands of feet of blank rock requires bolt placement.

The original climb of the Grand Wall of Squamish Chief took place 26 years ago, in the days of pitons and clinkered boots, long before the days of chocks and E.B.'s. In order to climb right up the face, the daring duo placed bolt after bolt, aiding their way up.

To date, most bolts at Squamish have been placed by climbers in exposed positions tap-tapping a bolt drill for 15 minutes a bolt, which can encourage the drilling of a shallow hole and less than optimal protection. Fewer bolts than necessary may be placed.

Some bolts placed awhile ago will pull out of the rock easily, due to poor placement or even the effects of weathering.

Last year John Howe of the Squamish Rock Climbers Association, approached the FMC with a proposal to re-bolt routes which are at present dangerous and/or extremely popular.

Funding requests for this project were all unsuccessful, but the Federation has managed to acquire a battery-powered portable rock drill which it will use for a re-bolting programme this September.

This carefully monitored programme will systematically re-bolt fourteen high-priority routes with Hilti 3/8" expansion bolts and SMC heavy duty hangers. Belay stations will have multiple bolts connected by chains and shackles. Eleven second-priority routes will be completed too, if possible.

The FMCBC obviously feels responsible to provide what service it can to its members. Usually this amounts to environmental issues, park boundary changes, user-group conflicts, etc., making this re-bolting project a new direction. We hope it is one which will provide our member clubs with a broader perspective of what its provincial organization can do for them.

Completed Circles

Once upon a time (79-82), I spent three years in residence at Strathcona Park Lodge. Those years were perhaps the most formative in my life and provided a broad range of experiences from canoeing swollen rivers with snow still capping the boulder tops of the rapids, to introducing school children of all ages to survival overnights under the huge cedar and fir trees of Elk Mountain across the lake.

Jim Boulding was the dominant spirit of all things there as he still is, even though he passed on a couple of years ago. His influence lives on in those who knew him, as it lives on in all those who visited "the lodge" whether as a worker or guest,

Legal Actions in Chilliwack Forest District

Two separate legal actions have been brought against the B.C. Ministry of Forests and Lands (MOFL) in reaction to logging operations in the Chilliwack Forest District. The two actions are not identical, but they have common roots.

The area involved includes forests of wilderness value in the Greendrop Lake region and surrounds part of the Centennial Trail. A January 1986 Ministry of Parks study of the area stated that "the proposed addition to Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park is supported by the Ministry of Forests." According to Joe Foy, spokesperson for Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC), officials of the Chilliwack Forest District had stated early this year that "if there was any logging the first cutting was to take place in 1989." However, heavy logging has been going on in the area for several months.

The Chilliwack Forest District not only failed to inform the WCWC and FMC of the accelerated logging schedule, but Ministry of Parks and Recreation officials were also apparently surprised by the action.

The WCWC moved to get an injunction against Whonnock Industries and have the logging stopped. On September 3rd the B.C. Supreme Court accepted the WCWC affidavits, but they were thrown out on the grounds that WCWC has no standing. That is, that the conservation group has no right to be involved in the decision between the Forest Service and logging contractor, or even to attempt to force the Forest Service to adhere to its own policies.

In a separate action the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia has filed a petition of standing in an effort to demonstrate that the Chilliwack Forest District erred in not seeking FMC input in the logging decision.

The basis of the Federation legal action is the issue of public participation in land

use decisions. There is a thirteen year history of cooperation between the Chilliwack Forest district and several outdoor groups that dates back to early planning for the Centennial Trail in 1964.

The perception of FMC personnel who have worked with the Forest District since 1974 was that much progress had been made in promoting cooperation among the Forest District and user groups other than the logging industry. Dr. Roger Freeman, Co-chairman of the FMC Recreation and Conservation Committee said in a phone interview that because of this progress the current legal action "is being initiated with regret." He notes, however, that the logging is "a flagrant violation of Ministry [of Forests and Lands] guidelines and the history of cooperation with user groups."

Stephan Fuller wrote in the article "The Promise of Bill 40" in this issue of CLOUD-BURST that "neither does the legislation provide a process for the public nomination, or evaluation, of wilderness areas". This statement is clearly illustrated by the two legal actions being discussed here.

The fact that the WCWC effort to have the MOFL follow their own guidelines was thrown out in less than three hours and that the judge actually referred to them as "busybodies" clearly shows the need for a legislative guarantee of public participation in land use decisions.

If the Federation petition is thrown out, the case for legislative action will be made even stronger. A favorable decision, on the other hand, would be as great step forward. It would establish a legal precedent for public participation in land use decisions involving public land. It took a number of legal actions like the one taken by the FMC before legislative action requiring public participation in land use decisions was passed in the United States.

whether actually meeting him in person or just picking up the idea of living in harmony with nature as we were designed.

Jim's gone, the trees on Elk Mountain are gone, and so are a few years, but there's still a lodge there, and a healthy programme for school kids. The things I learned and the people I met at Strathcona keep coming back into my life, and it seems at times that I never completely left.

Strathcona staff show up here and there, or I go back for a trip. Gareth Wood recently returned from the South Pole, and I was reminded of the day in the lodge office when a tall, dark and well groomed young man with a Clark Gable moustache walked in and announced — "I work with A.B. Dick, servicing copying machines and I'd like a change. Would you tell me about your four-month apprentice programme." The next day he signed up, and it was a delight to introduce Woody to the mountains and glaciers on the Island.

After I left, he ran the school programmes. We didn't see each other very often, just a phone call some Christmases later. He was serving in the bar at Plas Y Brenin, the climbing centre in Wales, so we shouted greetings through the noise of glasses and orders for pints. The pole trip came soon after.

Now he's back, and on October 16th at John Oliver High School, Gareth Wood will show his slides at our program to raise funds for the Smoke Bluffs Park project. He'll tell his stories of the time in the Barrier Mountains of the south polar cap, including the wolf seal that crashed up through the ice biting his leg to the bone in an almost successful attempt to have a good feed.

Woody has done well; Jim Boulding would be pleased, and I'm glad to have him back for our fundraiser. Note the date and be there, you will enjoy his presentation.

Jim Rutter

Hey old man ... ever skied the
Setkirk's? Ice and rock everywhere.
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shows yours truly heading out
toward Grizzly last year. Best
powder Bill and I ever skied.
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Letters

May 29, 1987

Dear Friends,

After years of living and hiking in this area, I've just discovered delightful, wonderful Lynn Headwaters Park. I had visited your office for some club information and left with a copy of Ethel and Roger Freeman's great guidebook.

Half an hour after leaving my West End apartment, I was on one of the most lovingly-crafted trails it has been my pleasure to travel. I've since learned that FMCBC has been deeply committed to developing the park and trail system, and that many hours of its staff and members' time have been invested in this living jewel.

Thank you all so much for such a special gift.

Sincerely,
Nancy Dorgan,
808 - 1250 Burnaby St.
Vancouver, B.C.

Attention: Jim Rutter

Thank you for your letter of August 4, 1987 concerning the Mamquam Road and public access.

The Mamquam Road beyond the Valleycliffe junction is deemed to be a private industrial road owned by MacMillan

Bloedel Ltd. As the deemed owner, they have the responsibility to ensure public safety. MacMillan Bloedel has posted the following schedule for public access:

Normal Weeks

Monday evening to Friday morning 7pm-4am
Friday evening to Saturday morning 7pm-8am
Saturday evening to Sunday morning 7pm-4am
Sunday evening to Monday morning 4pm-4am

Long Weekends

August —
Friday evening 7 pm to Tuesday morning 4am
September —
Friday evening 7pm to Monday morning 4am

At other times, public access may be approved by contacting MacMillan Bloedel's logging contractor, Triple C Logging, at their office west of the highway at the junction of Mamquam Road (phone: 892-3445).

The signs which are presently posted at the start of the Mamquam Road will be replaced by August 28.

Your letter outlining public access concerns has been forwarded to MacMillan Bloedel, Stillwater Division in Powell River with this response.

Yours truly,
D.R. Sluggett,
District Manager
[B.C. Forest Service]

4WD Road in MacGillivray Pass?

The following is excerpted from a FMC letter to Trevor Hancock, Inspector of Mines, Mineral Resources Division, Kamloops.

Dear Mr. Hancock:

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. wishes to register its strongest objection to the application by Armeno Resources Incorporated and Transatlantic Resources Incorporated to construct a 4WD access road into their mineral claims at MacGillivray Pass.

This still pristine area is of very high recreational value to hikers in the summer and skiers in the winter. Although alarming, the current presence of exploration crews and their drill operations is, under current legislation, permissible — and even understandable. However, there must be a reasonable limit to the extent to which a sensitive and much visited wilderness area be disturbed.

We understand that the claim owners have a legal right to access their claim, and this is being exercised satisfactorily by helicopter.

It is our case that the current operation is being conducted at a level of compromise midway between the choice of the recreation community for no development of this valued area, and that of the companies involved who would want road access [to expand beyond their present development]. We believe the current level of operations to be fair and reasonable to both sides — especially when developable resources are yet to be proven.

Jim Rutter,
Executive Director

Photos Needed for Southern Chilcotin Book

Trevor Jones writes us that he is working on a Southern Chilcotin picture book and is in need of photographs. He has asked us to request that people hiking in the area "take a few shots with the aim of publication in a book." We have a list of the subject areas he is interested in at the office (horses crossing scree on Gun Creek trail, upper Denian, old Lucky Strike cabins, etc).

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Early Registration Required for Some Winter Courses

The schedule for winter courses and trips will be available sometime in October, but there are a few events in early December that you might like to think about now.

The FMC is cooperating with Golden Alpine Holidays to offer a hut based guided ski tour in Glacier National Park for intermediate eskiers. The first trip starts December 11, and the second one is in early April. The \$300.00 trip includes one night's accommodation before the trip, helicopter fly-in to the 2260 metre level, seven days of skiing in Selkirk Powder, hut services, avalanche awareness instruction, and avalanche safety equipment. Meals will be prepared communally; participants must provide their own transportation to Roger's Pass, ski equipment, and sleeping bag. A brochure on this tour is available from the FMC office.

As in past years the winter program includes back country skitouring, spring ski camps, and snow camping and survival courses. The basic avalanche safety course, which has been taken by 458 people during the last three winters will also be offered. In addition, a modified course will be offered for people who have already acquired some basic avalanche knowledge. This new course will include an overnight and more field work than the traditional course.

A Basic Avalanche Safety I courses will be offered in Smithers on December 5 and 6, and the first Vancouver course is December 12 and 13.

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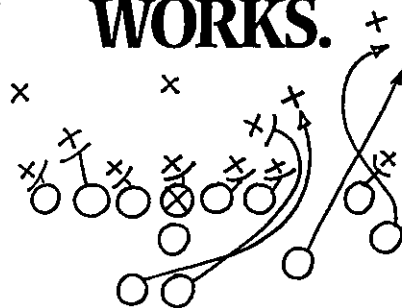
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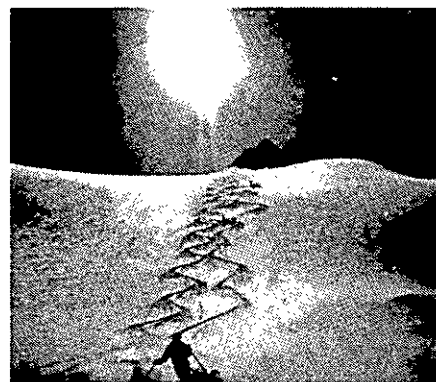
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Tourism



Recreation and Culture

IRON: BILL REID-MINISTER



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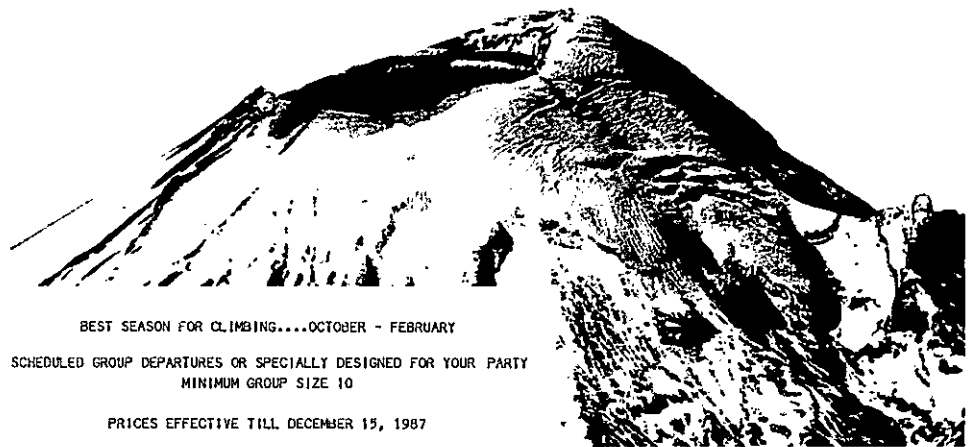
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Goodnews

Jim Rutter Elected New President of National Trail Association

World-renowned environmentalist Maurice Strong nailed a green and yellow marker on a tree near Parliament Hill on June 5 to formally inaugurate a 10,000 kilometre, coast-to-coast hiking trail. The marker, which is the official logo for the National Trail Association of Canada (NTA), was put up near the start of the Rideau Trail, part of which will be incorporated into the National Trail.

"Hikers are conservationist by nature and are a powerful force in the preservation of our world environment," Mr. Strong said. "Those who work to bring about the dream of a footpath from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island can be counted on to support measures to protect the lifeblood of spaceship earth."

The FMC was represented at the ceremony by Executive Director, Jim Rutter who was elected President of the NTA on the following day. Rutter replaces Doug Campbell of Calgary who initiated the National Trail idea and has been Association President for the past ten years. Also present was Bruce Blackwell, who is a Director of the FMC and on the NTA Executive.

The National Trail Association was formed in 1977 to research the idea of a recreational trail from the Atlantic to the Pacific and to organize support across the country. Three years ago a truly national agency was formed with a board of directors representing hiking trail organizations in all provinces.

Most of the route of the trail through British Columbia has been selected, and negotiations have been initiated with a number of agencies to formalize the route. Much of this work was done by Poyin Ayeung, working for the FMC on a Job Development grant from January to December 1986.

Dave McCashin and Bruce Kay Receive ACMG Certification

Dave McCashin and Bruce Kay have passed the rigorous exam given by the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides last month and are now certified ACMG summer guides. Of the six candidates who completed the three days of testing, they were the only two to receive certification.

Dave has been instructing with the FMC for three years and has just completed directing the six month guides training program. He will begin directing a winter guides training program in October. Bruce occasionally instructs for the Federation and hopes his recent certification will enable him to spend a greater part of his time guiding.

New Cross Country Trails Near Headly

We received a letter and map from Dr. Brad Houston of the Penticton Outdoors Club describing a new series of trails for a cross country ski area in and around

Nickel Plate Provincial Park. A number of trails should be available at the 2000 to 2200 metre level this winter and another group of trails have been proposed.

A federal Job Development crew and a provincial JobTrac crew are working with the Penticton Outdoors Club on the trail development.

Details of the project can be obtained from Dr. Houston, 124 Barrington Pl., Penticton, B.C. V2A 1S4.

Height-of-the-Rockies Backcountry Area Established

A 73,000 hectare backcountry recreation area has been set aside in the Rocky Mountains. The new site is in the East Kootenay area immediately adjacent to Alberta and northwest from Connors Lakes to the Albert River. Forests and Lands Minister Dave Parker notes that this is the first area designated for protection under the new Forest Amendment Act (Bill 40).

For a related article see "The Promise of Bill 40" in this issue of CLOUDBURST.

Skookumchuck Park Expanded

Skookumchuck Narrows Provincial Park, near Sechelt, has been increased to more than twice its original size by the addition of 88 hectares. The park now includes Brown Lake and surrounding area, seven unsurveyed islets in the Sechelt Rapids, and a parcel of land across from the original park on the east coast of the rapids.

Environment and Parks Minister Bruce Strachan says "the expanded boundaries of the park will help to preserve the natural

beauty of the area, and will also offer increased recreation opportunities in a natural park setting."

Coquihalla Canyon Recreational Area Opened in July

On July 18 the Coquihalla Canyon Recreational Area was officially opened on the Othello Tunnels eight kilometres east of Hope off the Coquihalla Highway. The area includes a scenic canyon setting, forested uplands and river banks, and a section of the 1858 Hope-Nicola Cattle Trail as well as the four tunnels and two bridges of the Kettle Valley Railway.

Mackenzie Heritage Trail First Fruit of New Agreement

Bill Reid, Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Culture, has announced the designation of the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Conservation Act.

This action gives formal protection to the overland portion of the route followed by Alexander Mackenzie in 1793 from the Fraser River near the mouth of the West Road (Blackwater) River to the Bella Coola River at the mouth of Burnt Bridge Creek.

The designation comes following a four-year, Canada-British Columbia agreement for Recreation and Conservation on the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail. It is the first action to result from a recently-signed memorandum of agreement between the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Forests and Lands that ensures that heritage and recreation values will be preserved on heritage trails on MOFL administered lands.



On January 11, 1986 Canadian Gareth Wood and two companions completed an 883-mile walk in the first unsupported trek to the South Pole. There they were greeted with the news that their support ship had been crushed in the sea-ice.

Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia
Smoke Bluffs Parks Fundraiser

Hear & See
Gareth Wood's Own Account of His Historic Trek to the South Pole

October 16th, 1987

7:30 PM

John Oliver School, Vancouver
(corner 41st & Fraser)

Tickets \$6.00

The Promise of Bill 40

The new Forest Amendment Act 1987 (Bill 40) provides an interesting new opportunity to protect the remaining wilderness areas of British Columbia. A Mandate is provided for government designation of wilderness areas within Provincial Forests and wilderness is partially acknowledged as a resource in the Forest Act for the first time.

A Step in the Right Direction

The changes to the Forest Act were apparently stimulated by the work of the Wilderness Advisory Committee. This select committee, which was appointed in 1985 to provide a comprehensive overview of B.C. wilderness issues, recommended the creation of a Natural Areas Act styled on the United States' Wilderness Act. Such a proposal is being resisted by our provincial resource management agencies, and the Ministry of Forests and Lands (MOFL) has brought forward Bill 40 as a partial step in the direction of legislated protection for wilderness.

For several years MOFL had been toying with a "natural areas policy" that had no teeth at all. It provided an administrative zoning for "wildland recreation areas," but it contained no legislative protection and did include the word "wilderness" at all.

The sudden arrival of Bill 40 is a major concession to the criticism that has been justly leveled against this toothless policy.

We congratulate the MOFL for going as far as they have.

Improvements Needed

It isn't perfect, however. The protection for wilderness areas will be provided through Order-in-Council (similar to the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy). This is not full protection; the area could be deleted without any consideration by the legislature.

The new bill also does not provide any limits on mining exploration and development in wilderness areas; other than through the existing regulatory process. There are myriad examples throughout the province where the existing review process for mining roads does not work at all (e.g. McGillivray Pass — see the Letters section of this issue of CLOUDBURST). The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources is understaffed and most road applications receive a discouragingly limited review. Bill 40 provides no new method to improve on the present inadequate situation. Wilderness is not protected.

Neither does the legislation provide a process for the public nomination, or evaluation, of wilderness areas. The Act says the government can designate wilderness areas but does not say anything about the process that would be used. This is precisely the situation we face with the Park Act; the government can designate parks, but in recent years it has taken

public pressures, often adversarial, to persuade them to make the designations. There is no trigger mechanism that would require the government to respond to wilderness area proposals.

We do know that MOFL is extending their recreation inventory to new areas of the province and is involving the FMC in the process. However, a recreation inventory is not a wilderness inventory and the MOFL is, frankly, understaffed to do a systematic evaluation of the wilderness resource.

The fact that the FMC has felt obligated to take MOFL to court as explained in the 'Legal Action' article in this issue of CLOUDBURST clearly shows that simply having the legislation does not guarantee it's speedy or complete implementation.

On balance, we should be pleased that the Forest Amendment Act has arrived. The Height of the Rockies Wilderness proposal has been implemented under this program and will be designated as the first such area. It is a flawed Act, however, and does not implement the spirit of the Wilderness Advisory Committee recommendations for wilderness legislation. While supporting Bill 40 as far as it goes we must continue to press for fully designated wilderness areas.

Stephan Fuller

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Profile: Bud and Lee White

On the cover of this issue of CLOUD-BURST is a picture of Bud and Lee White on the Golden Hinde snowfield during the FMC's ten-day Strathcona backpacking trip last year. Until a few years ago the Whites had done a lot of outdoor sports — skiing, bicycling, scuba diving — but no mountain climbing. What is it that leads a couple in their late fifties to begin learning mountaineering skills?

Lee says it started in 1985 a little over a year after they had moved here from Ontario. She recalls "our cholesterol was getting a bit high and I said to Bud that since we had all these wonderful mountains we should take a little walk in them." One of their early "little walks" was on the Howe Sound Crest trail and they encountered snow on some steep pitches of the trail. Even with their lifetime of outdoor recreation — including lots of skiing — they weren't quite sure of themselves on the snow. Lee suggested that "we should be learning more about what we are doing."

They were discussing the incident with a neighbor who pulled out his copy of the Federation's course brochure. They signed up for the snow and glacier travel course, and since then they have taken a number of courses and participated in several trips. Bud, in fact, has taken almost every FMC course including the Intermediate Rock course at Leavenworth. In addition he climbed Mt. Baker last fall and Mt. Waddington this summer. He was chosen as a "practice student" when the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides tests were held in the Tantalus Range last August.

The Whites figure that by the end of the summer of 1986 they had spent 40 days hiking and climbing in the North Shore Mountains. Lee has recently had increased demands on her time at work, and Bud has caught the rock climbing "bug," but in spite of this they managed to get out together about 20 days this summer. Bud has logged about a month and a half on trails and mountains this season.

While working on this article, I was reminded of a comment that one of the people in charge of selecting astronauts once made. He said that astronauts were "super normal" people. After a luncheon interview with Bud, a phone conversation with Lee, and talks with instructors who have been with them on courses and trips I have come to see them as "super normal" Federation students. One is not dazzled by their brilliance, struck by any kind of compulsive drive, or overawed by their physical prowess. But somehow they seem to make doing things well look easy.

Lee, in spite of the arthritis in her knees, kept up with the rest of the group on the Strathcona trip last year. I was in the office when Jim Rutter, who led the trip, came back; he was wiped out for two days. Bud doesn't think Waddington "was particularly tough or technical" even though only about 50% of those who attempt it get to the top. When asked why he made it

when so many fail he simply replied that "they get weathered out."

The ease they show on Federation courses and trips seems to have graced them throughout their lives. They have raised four children, toured France on bicycles with their two daughters (when the youngest was ten), and camped for five weeks on the island of Cyprus. Lee, who is a registered nurse, rejoined the work force with the encouragement of her daughters soon after moving to Vancouver and has already been promoted to manager of care at an intermediate care nursing home.

Bud graduated from the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario and has been successful in both the military and in private industry. As a qualified engineer test pilot with the Aerospace Engineering Test Establishment he was project leader and prime test pilot during the 1967 Canadian assault on the Russian-held world altitude record. He is retired from the RCAF and is in the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame.

During time on loan to the USAF/NASA space program, he participated in the last two Mercury and first four Gemini launches. He has a strong record in business and manufacturing having spent the past eight years as a senior executive in Canadian nuclear and aircraft industries.

In spite of the story book sound of some of these achievements, the human side of Bud and Lee is always present. There is no attempt to portray themselves as flawless, and references to rough spots in the marriage or difficulties at work come through as a normal part of their lives.

Although climbing certainly has its technical side, and Bud's career has been at the edge of technological innovation, he is no left-brain technocrat. He says that "what I've enjoyed most about [Federation courses] is the people."

While reflecting on the Federation courses he has taken, his interest in people was again evident. He can detail the performance of every instructor he has had. While he does not hesitate to point out an instructor's weaknesses, he still has strong praise for everyone who has taught him and Lee over the past three years.

When asked what he considered the strongest part of our program he said "courses I've taken with the Fed have really delighted me because when conditions weren't right there was a real willingness to say 'let's go back'. In the work I've been in I have buried a lot of my buddies. They were guys with a strong mind set to do something and an excess of pride. To be able to put your mind set and pride aside at the right moment is probably the most important lesson you can learn."

Hoke Holcomb

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