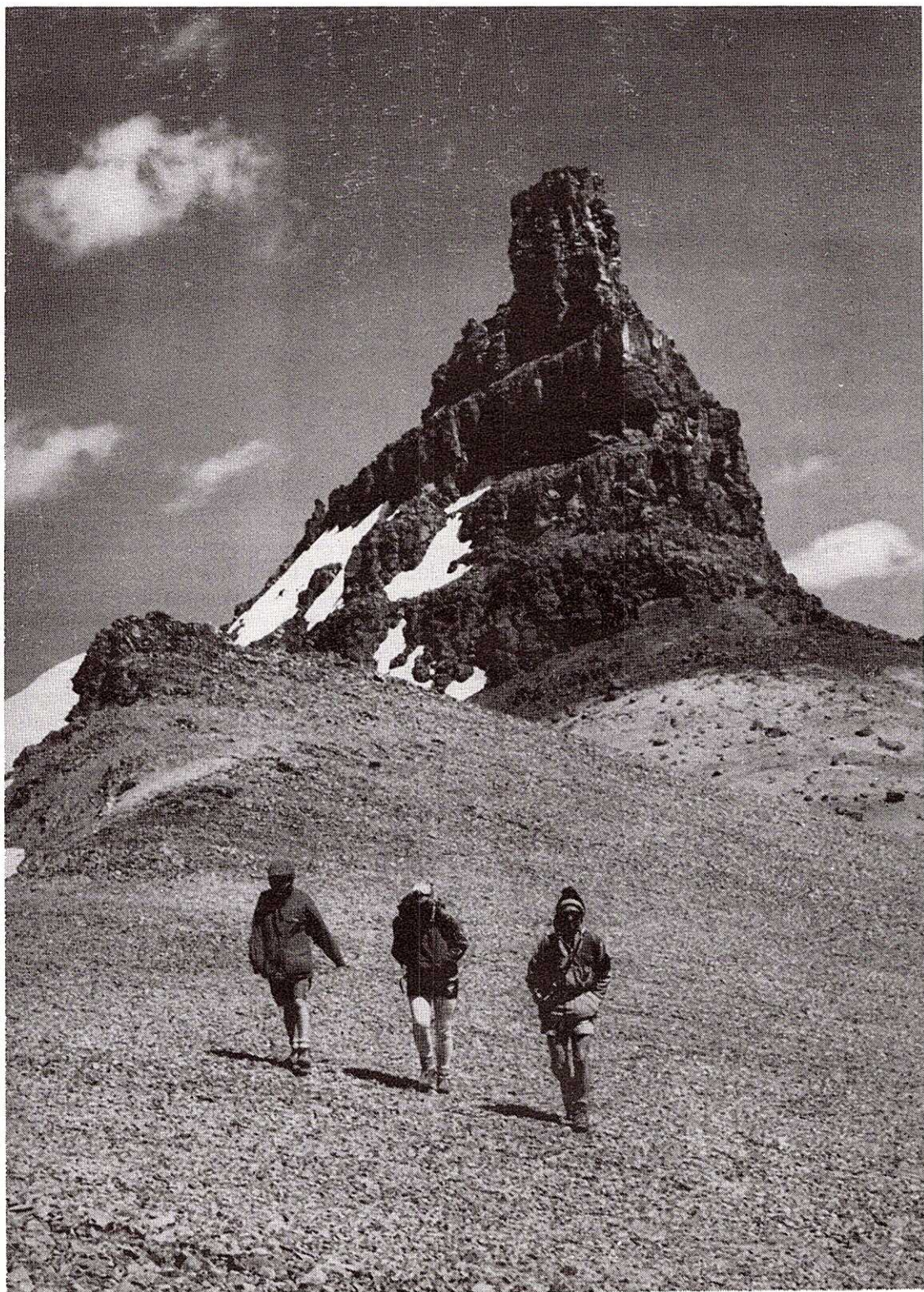


CLOUDBURST

Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Newsletter

Winter/Spring 1989



FMCBC

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

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

Membership in the FMCBC 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

President: John Randall

Treasurer: Ian MacLean

Directors: Len Dudley, Brian Gavin, Paul Kubik, Suzanne Mazoret, John Howe, Anita Miettunen, Larry Lowden, Judy Wigmore.

Executive Director: Jim Rutter

Committees:

Recreation and Conservation:
Roger Freeman, Jay MacArthur

Safety and Education:
Simon Tooley

Trails:
Gabriel Mazoret, Peter Westlake

CLOUDBURST

Cloudburst is published quarterly by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia, 336 - 1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9.

Phone (604) 737-3053

Editors: Jim Rutter, Maggie Paquet.

Layout: Jan Mazereeuw

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.

Assisted by B.C. Recreation and Sport.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I am so encouraged that 14 of the FMCBC clubs have voted to support the membership fee increase. Though two clubs will not be with us next year, Club Tread (Victoria) and the Kamloops Outdoor Club, the vote of support by our members not only guarantees the survival of the Federation, but provides my staff and me with the means to do an even better job.

My message, when I speak to member clubs, is to affirm the need they have to be represented by an organization with a province-wide mandate. To illustrate this necessity, consider the following.

A series of land use decisions recently made by agencies of our present government clearly show how issues regarding outdoor recreation, the care of our wilderness environment, and long-term planning for the use of our province's resources are largely ignored when current land-use decisions are being made (see articles in this newsletter).

To our members, hiking is essentially a free activity. If you have boots and rainwear, the hike itself does not cost any money. A small charge to join a club is acceptable because it covers the costs of a club schedule and newsletter, and the direct benefit of activities organized for club members to enjoy.

I know our members will experience an erosion of existing opportunities if they do not have a Federation to represent their interests.

Because most of the Federation's work is at the policy change, land-use decision, and park planning levels, even I find it difficult to say to any one club: "This is what we do for you." It requires, in fact, some effort on your part to read this newsletter and then follow the stories through the newspapers and T.V. news. Each of us is naturally most impressed by events close to home. Site-specific issues are easy to represent, and support is usually forthcoming from those most affected. The FMCBC is well able to help our members with their local concerns, but only if we know what the problem is. So there is a responsibility for clubs to approach us when they need our help. Similarly, I encourage you to write to *Cloudburst*, to share your newsletters -

especially if you're still receiving two, and be involved with your Federation as a pro-active supporter.

I know that what we would all prefer to do is just go skiing and hiking in the mountains, use the trails and the parks, and be confident that "firm hands are in control" and "the world is unfolding as it should." Unfortunately, however, this is not how it is. But *your* support through *your* membership fee means there is someone, full time, working on your behalf.

Sometime in March you will receive in the mail an application for a "PUR-SUIT" TD Visa affinity credit card. If you accept this card, \$1 will go to the FMCBC. After that one-quarter of 1% of all you spend using the card will also go to the FMCBC. Remember - you pay no more than usual; it's just that a portion of what you would normally pay using a credit card goes to the Federation.

You do not have to have a Toronto-Dominion bank account. If enough members take the card this will be an important source of sustained funding for the work of your provincial organization.

On December 14 and 15 (1988), the FMCBC was the licensee of a casino. The net proceeds were \$15,680, of which \$14,000 has already gone to the Smoke Bluffs Fund. The balance will go to further fundraising. Another casino license has been applied for with the same charitable objective: the creation of Smoke Bluffs Park. Twelve volunteers gave their time to this project. Because they had to be there from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. and endure a smoky atmosphere, they deserve a strong vote of thanks. You can volunteer for the next one. Call me soon.

Jim Rutter

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Members of the FMCBC's Chilcotin Backpacking trip traversing a rocky alpine ridge below Castle Peak.

J. Rutter

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FEE INCREASE

Dear Jim,

On behalf of the members of the Valley Outdoor Association, I want to thank you for speaking at our January 4th meeting.

Because of the recent fee increase, the Federation has certainly been a major topic of conversation in our club. Although our delegates to the Federation have always tried to keep us up-to-date, we soon realized that there was a great deal we didn't know or understand about the workings of the Federation. The size of the fee increase, combined with the fact that the increase was put into effect with such short notice, led to a lot of discussion among our members. One memorable comment was, "What are those guys doing?"

Well, in your chat with us, you were able to let us know just what "those guys" (translate that to mean the FMCBC) were doing. You shed light on specific areas of the work of the Federation and, more importantly, you were able to put into perspective the long term effect the Federation will have on environmental and conservation issues within our province, issues which are of major importance to all of us.

I know that our members left the meeting with a far more positive attitude about the work of the Federation. Your visit provided a direct line of communication which was invaluable and I hope that it will become a regular event. It is also our hope that in future the Federation will be working from a long-range plan which will preclude the need for sudden decisions on fee increases.

I hasten to add that now that our members are more knowledgeable about the Federation, they will probably be watching things with an even more critical eye...but I'm sure, Jim, that you wouldn't have it any other way! We are all looking forward to your June 7 Strathcona Park presentation.

Sincerely yours,
Carol Monaghan, President
Valley Outdoor Association

NEW NAME?

Dear Editor,

I propose changing the name "Cloudburst" to "B.C. Mountain News."
Jay MacArthur
Vancouver, BC

B.C. NEWS ONLY?

Dear Editor:

It is unfortunate that the Fall 1988 edition of *Cloudburst* featured two pages of arguments supporting a fee increase to the member clubs which was followed by a one-page article entitled "Hut Hiking in the Dolomites." I don't see how the latter article relates to the activities of the Federation here in British Columbia.

The benefit to our members from articles on overseas hiking and climbing trips is minimal, I feel. There are many significant local and provincial concerns that are more worthy of our attention.

As an example, I would like to see articles about the activities of our member clubs. Extracts could be taken from our member clubs' newsletters and be inserted into *Cloudburst*. Many of our clubs offer summer camps in various parts of B.C. Surely B.C. articles are of more interest to our members than those featuring European areas which few of us have a chance to visit.

Yours truly,
Paul Kubik
(B.C. Mountaineering Club)
Director, FMCBC

Ed. reply: I believe these types of articles help us to improve our understanding of how trails, parks, hut systems and clubs have developed in other countries, where there is usually much heavier use of mountain areas than we see in BC.

They help us to see how these areas have been managed in order to preserve the mountain environment and provide a quality recreation experience. This enlargement of experience and understanding is vitally necessary if we are to benefit from their experience rather than recreate their mistakes. But - maybe I'm wrong. What do you readers think?

AVALANCHES

Dear Editor,

In response to a query in the Fall 88 *Cloudburst* "Heli-Skiing Question."

Helicopters have been known to trigger avalanches of extremely unstable snow at the moment of landing or maximum rotor downwash. In 9 years of heli-ski guiding and over 5000 mountain-top landings, I have witnessed 2 avalanches triggered by these means, and not the sound vibrations.

If the snow is so unstable to be avalanching off the mountainsides while the helicopter lands on the flat top, the avalanche hazard is exceedingly high, requiring backcountry skiers to be precise in their route selections just to survive.

The sound of helicopters poses no more danger to skiers than does the European myth that yodelling brings down avalanches.

Scott Flavelle,
Certified Mountain Guide and
Avalanche Consultant
Squamish, BC

SMOKE BLUFFS

Dear Mr. Rutter,

I have been told it is a fine cliff and one of your supporters suggested that I re-direct a debt to you for these cliffs. Herewith find our donation for the Smoke Bluffs Fund.

You may be interested to know that the Austrian, together with the German Alpine Clubs have purchased over 350 square kilometres in the Austrian Alps and feel this is the only way to assure that no development can take place.

Please make out the tax receipt to
Mrs. G.I. Microys

Helmut F. Microys, Ph.D.
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Sirs:

I greatly appreciate the times I have spent on the routes at the Smoke Bluffs, and likewise appreciate the cooperative efforts being made to preserve that experience for myself and others. I was upset when access and environment were threatened in the recent past, but with the stabilization of the land situation, I hope to enjoy many future outings to the area.

continued...



...more letters

...continued

Please keep in mind as you make progress toward your goal of an "official" park the fundamentally anarchic nature of rockclimbing and its keenest practitioners. Rules, restrictions, fees and oppressive bureaucracies are anathema to full enjoyment of the rocks for the varied yet kindred souls one finds there. I sincerely hope such burdens will be kept to the absolute minimum possible.

Herewith my donation toward making the Smoke Bluffs Canada's first official rockclimbing park.

Sincerely,
David A. Dornian
Calgary, Alberta

A PERSONAL OPINION...

Dear Editor,

We might as well start by looking at the hard numbers. The mortgage on the Bluffs is \$65,000. How much has been paid off? The ACC will be able to throw about \$7,500 into the pot shortly. The Federation's efforts thus far have netted about \$4,500. Put those two sums together and you get less than the interest payment on the first two years of the loan from MEC.

The bulk of the money donated so far has come from the conservative rearguard, the loyal bunch who plunk down their dues every year, not because they're in love with the idea of organizations or bureaucracy, but because they recognize that one of the

ways to get the things done is to maintain the clubs that have shown over the years that they have the skills and the commitment to make a difference when great issues are at stake - like the founding of Garibaldi Park or the saving of Strathcona.

I invite you to look at that list of contributors in the June *Echoes* (ACC) and ask yourselves how many of those people will never climb at Squamish at all, but gave, notwithstanding, because they have the sense of community that leads them to make a sacrifice when an issue of importance to the fraternity demands it. A lot of that sense of community was picked up from the fact that a club existed to foster it.

The person who climbs in the Bluffs has got to make this campaign his or her campaign, or we are wasting our time.

Down in the Shawanagunks in New York, you buy a button or you don't climb. Bill Durtler tells me that a few years ago a button there cost thirty bucks - and that was good for *half* a season. Does anyone think the American climbing scene has been irrevocably damaged because climbers have to pay to use those crags? The land squeeze is on, and we are competing users, with no special claims, and maybe less than others. At the Bluffs, it's us or condominiums and, frankly, I think the condominiums are winning.

So I think we should try a button; twenty bucks for a season, put it on your chalk bag, and show everyone that you did your bit. It would be strictly voluntary, and the "policeman" would be simple peer pressure.

I just don't see where else the money is going to come from. A button will bring the issue into the open so that the Bluffs campaign can become part of life in the Bluffs themselves, and not just an issue that lives in those planning and hand-wringing meetings the few soldiers are turning out for. Let's give them a chance to find out and be a part of this great possibility.

Bruce Fairley
ACC

Ed: Since this article was written, the FMCBC has directly raised \$14,000. The Smoke Bluffs Committee is producing a 1989 button for \$10 each, with support from all the rock climbing clubs.

NEW STIKINE PLAN PROPOSED BY BC FORESTS MINISTRY

(Ed. Note: The following article has been adapted from an article in the Vancouver Sun, 25 Jan. 1989.)

In Costa Rica last year, the International Union for Conservation of Nature singled out B.C.'s Stikine River as one of North America's last wilderness rivers of international importance. They are calling for the establishment of an international park throughout the Stikine watershed.

In British Columbia, the Forests ministry has proposed a recreation corridor for the area which, while they say such designation *could* lead to wilderness designation in the future, would allow for mining, road construction and limited logging activity.

A draft management plan for the proposed recreation corridor was unveiled at a public meeting in Vancouver in January. It covers a 170-km stretch of the lower Stikine from Telegraph Creek to the Alaskan border.

Much of the remaining upriver portion of the Stikine comes under the jurisdiction of the Parks ministry. Portions of the river are included in the Mt. Edziza and Spatsizi Wilderness recreation areas. These recreation areas are also subject to various resource extraction activities, particularly mining.

Brian Downie, Forest Service manager for the Prince Rupert region says, "It's better than nothing. Without the plan, the lower river's recreational potential would have 'no formal significance. There are mining values and extensive properties there, and we have no way of anticipating when roads might be developed.'"

The proposed plan would also allow helicopter logging of 20% of the merchantable timber in the lower portion of the recreation corridor, with downriver rafting of the logs from riverbank depots.

Both the WCWC and Friends of the Stikine have criticized the plan, essentially saying that once the area is opened up to resource extraction it will be impossible to stop it. Peter Rowlands of the Stikine protection group says: "It gets no more protection than the rest of the valley bottoms in B.C."

Downie says that if the area is designated as a recreation corridor it would be opened up to campsite and other tourist facility development. The plan does not prevent any of the traditional activities of the local Tahltan native people.

THE GREENDROP LAKE CASE: AN UPDATE

BACKGROUND

In the summer of 1987, logging was accelerated at the north end of Greendrop Lake in the Chilliwack Forest District along the Centennial Trail. The FMCBC and the Outdoor Recreation Council had upgraded the Post Creek section of the trail to the south end of the lake. We also had an interest in the trail as part of the likely route of the National Trail. A site visit led us to the conclusion that the trail could have been better protected from logging impact if there had been consultation. The FMCBC then reluctantly took the (for us) unique step of bringing a legal action against the Ministry of Forests.

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee brought a separate action (using the same lawyer, which caused some confusion) related to the wilderness values of the area. The focus of our action, however, was on the ministry's failure to consult to maximally harmonize industrial and outdoor recreation uses (following the ministry's own stated objectives of multiple use).

RESOLUTION

As was reported in the Summer '88 issue of *Cloudburst*, almost a year of negotiation with the ministry seemed to be bringing us no closer to resolution (the logging was already completed). Despite frustration, we avoided publicity in order to retain maximum flexibility of action for ourselves and the Forests ministry. Gordon Erlandson, public involvement consultant for the ministry, then took over the effort to solve the problems that had led to our discontent. He worked hard to develop a system that was acceptable to the forest district, region and Ministry of Forests executive committee, as well as to ourselves. I am happy to report that this eventually resulted in a 2-year pilot project being put in place for the Chilliwack district, which should prevent a repetition of a Greendrop Lake type of situation. Because of our satisfaction we then discontinued our legal action.

THE PROJECT

The system to be described here briefly is not revolutionary. It should be clearly understood that it has nothing

to do with *preservation* of areas within provincial forests. Rather it is an evolutionary improvement of existing policies and procedures, taking into account the shift of responsibility from the Forests ministry to the licensees.

1. Interested groups request a meeting with district staff to register recreational interests and concerns. They discuss the impact of 5-Year Development Plans, then confirm their concerns in writing to the district.

2. Information provided becomes part of the district recreational inventory, and is used in developing Small Business Forest Enterprise Program, 5-Year Development and District Recreation plans.

3. Interested groups are referred to the specific forest licensees whose activities may have an impact on registered recreational interests; the district manager advises the licensee that *cooperation is expected*.

4. Groups contact the licensee and establish a working relationship during the development of 5-Year Development Plans, and provide documentation of their interests and concerns to the licensee.

5. The licensee documents interactions with groups, its consideration of their concerns, and its efforts to satisfy their concerns. *Where their concerns cannot be satisfied, the rationale for refusal must be provided in writing.*

6. If still dissatisfied, groups may contact the district manager to seek adjudication of the issue.

7. Draft 5-Year Development Plans (considering comments by groups) are submitted by the licensees to the district for approval.

8. Significant impacts of amendments to the 5-Year Plan will result in district staff *requiring the licensee to contact the interest group directly for further consultation.*

9. Revised plans are re-submitted, as above.

IMPORTANCE

Why is this pilot project important for all our members?

First, we now know exactly what procedure to follow to ensure consideration of our interests. Second, we can count upon receiving written replies if these concerns are not accepted. Third, it is a plus that revisions of plans (and most plans are revised) lead to further consultation. (In the past, we often did not find out about amendments.)



If we provide the input and follow through on consultation in the Chilliwack district, then the formal review will show that the process can be helpful and not too ponderous (a concern of both the ministry and the industry). The system will then be considered for extension to other forest districts.

At present, we have initiated contact with the district; we do not expect that more than a few trails will be affected within the 2-year period.

CONCLUSION

Patience appears to have paid off in this instance. Good faith was necessary to succeed. We did cause some hurt feelings and confusion in the process, and regret that this was necessary.

Roger D. Freeman
Co-chairman
Recreation and Conservation
Committee



QUALITY BOOT REPAIR

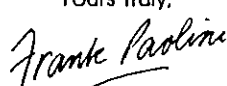
by mail

I offer expert boot repair with over 15 years experience, specializing in boot resoling of:



- HIKING BOOTS
- SKI TOURING BOOTS
- TELEMARKE BOOTS
- E.B.'S, FIRES AND OTHER ROCK BOOTS

I guarantee efficient, quality service

Yours truly,



GOLDSTAR SHOE REPAIR
4236 Dunbar Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6S 2E9
Phone for a quote!
734-7477



THE CHILCOTINS: A SMORGASBORD OF RECREATIONAL VALUES

By Maggie Paquet

Ahh, the Chilcotins. The very word conjures up a host of enjoyable visions: skiing and climbing in the towering glacier-clad mountains, fishing in some of the world's best salmon rivers, walking upon the rainbow-hued carpet of a wildflower meadow, paddling and rafting through a myriad of watersheds, striding through the enormously peaceful tree-studded open parklands of its more easterly reaches, riding horseback over the wide undulating stretches of golden grasslands. The list is endless in the Chilcotins, because the variety of landforms, climate, vegetation and wildlife habitats is exceedingly diverse.

The name "Chilcotin" was that given to a southwestern branch of the Athapaskan natives (related to the Carrier and Sekani people), and refers to a vast area bounded by the Pacific Ocean on the west and the Fraser River on the east, and by the lower part of

Tweedsmuir Provincial Park in the north and the Pemberton/Lillooet area in the south.

Physiographically, it encompasses the Coast Mountains - including Mt. Waddington, at 13,177 feet the highest peak in that range - and the Fraser Basin and Fraser Plateau portions of the great Interior Plateau.

At least six biogeoclimatic zones occur in the Chilcotin region: Coastal Western Hemlock, Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir, Mountain Hemlock, Sub-boreal Spruce (or Cariboo Aspen-Lodgepole Pine), Alpine Tundra and glaciers. Climatically, the area ranges from very wet along the coast to the dry, rolling grasslands in the east. The easterly mountainsides and high valleys lie in the rainshadow of the Coast Mountains, creating the wonderful open-timbered parklands and wildflower meadows for which the Chilcotin is widely noted.

Volcanic formations are in evidence everywhere. The huge complex in-

trusive batholiths of the Coast Mountains abut folded and faulted volcanic and sedimentary rocks in the central and eastern portions of the region. Ancient volcanic vents and old cinder-cones can be found, and hot springs, such as those at Meagher Creek, give proof of subterranean forces at work now and in the past. The Bridge River area contains massive volcanic ash layers, and to the north are flat-lying lava deposits. The entire region has been gouged by Pleistocene glaciers and the land to the east is heavily overlain by glacial till.

Wildlife has been abundant. But populations of mule deer, big horn sheep and moose now compete with cattle for grazing areas. Wolverines are still to be found, as are foxes, wolves, lynx and cougar. Marmots and pikas are plentiful, and grizzlies and black bear are fairly common. The entire region is a birdwatchers paradise.

continued...

FMCBC JOB CREATION PROJECTS

The FMCBC is currently seeking funding support from Federal and Provincial government sources for the following proposals. These projects involve Federation member clubs and/or local community groups, and are designed to protect and enhance hiking opportunities for residents and visitors.

Vancouver Area:

1. Tourism promotion brochure

To produce the first brochure in a series that will promote non-mechanized mountain recreation tourism in areas within two days travel from Vancouver. Hiking trails, parks and mountain access routes from a circular Vancouver/Pemberton/Lillooet/Hope/Vancouver route will be featured.

2. Seymour Demonstration Forest

To continue the construction and development of trails, recreation facilities and interpretation displays within the Seymour Demonstration Forest.

3. Lynn Headwaters/Upper Hanes

To complete construction of the Hanes Creek loop hiking route from Grouse Mountain to the entrance of Lynn Headwaters Regional Park.

Squamish-Whistler Corridor:

4. Squamish:

To continue upgrading and developing trails in and around the proposed Smoke Bluffs park and the Squamish Chief massif.

5. Pemberton:

To continue trail development work in and around the Village of Pemberton. To complete One Mile Lake route and Nairn Falls access trail.

Vancouver Island:

6. Della Falls:

To develop easier hiking access to Della Falls in Strathcona Park by constructing a new trail and parking area, eliminating the need for boat access.

7. Comox Glacier:

To enhance hiking access to the Comox Glacier by constructing the trail from Comox Creek to Lone Tree Pass.

Fraser Valley:

8. Mt. Outram:

To work cooperatively with the Chilliwack Forest Service staff to upgrade the existing Mt. Outram trail located in the Skagit River Valley.

Bulkley Valley:

9. Smithers:

To assist the Smithers Cross Country Ski Club in the development of skiing and walking trails in the newly created Smithers Community Demonstration Forest.

British Columbia:

10. Explore B.C. - B.C. Youth Council

To introduce socially and financially underprivileged youths in three regions of the province - namely, Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland and Okanagan/Kootenays - to some of B.C.'s finest wilderness areas through a program of extended backpacking trips and training in wilderness survival skills.

All of the above projects are subject to funding approval.

Chilko...continued

The specialness of this land pre-dates history. Since ancient times it has been a land of plenty, offering up its wealth to those who traversed its length and breadth. Prehistoric peoples created tools and weapons from obsidian found here, and traded this valuable commodity far and wide, as the network of ancient trails attests.

In later times, prospectors, moving further and further up the Fraser River, found gold in these hills. Engineers and surveyors accompanied the swarm of prospectors, looking for an approach to the Cariboo goldfields which would avoid the treacherous gorge of the Fraser Canyon.

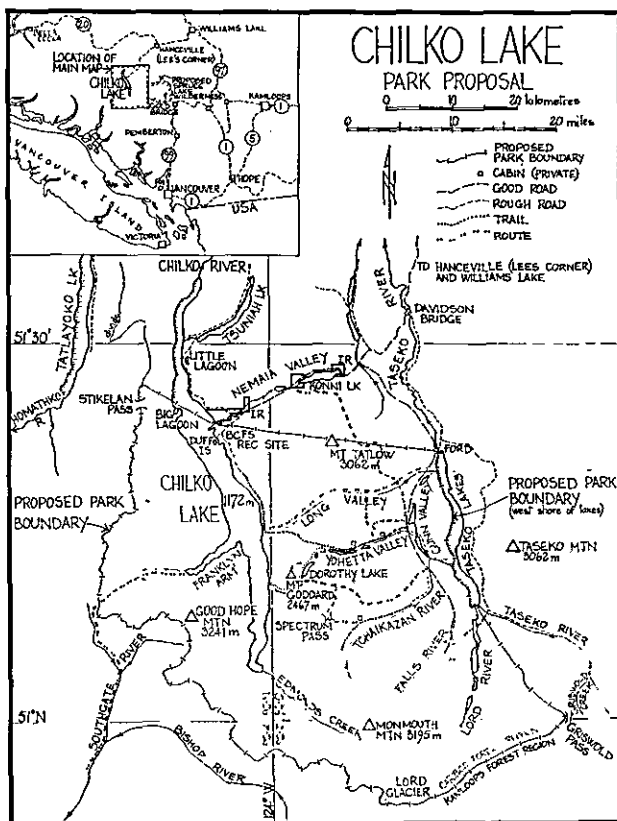
The need to feed all these hungry, hardworking people became paramount. Cattle drovers pushed their herds up from Oregon and found the eastern regions of the Chilcotin to be excellent grazing country. People settled in and ranches were built. Remnants of some of the very earliest ones can still be discerned.

Logging, mining and ranching were added to trapping, hunting and fishing as the resource consumptive activities in the region. Tourism and recreational activities increased, even though the area remained largely unknown to the general public. When it was realized that these pressures were beginning to have a serious impact upon the Chilcotin, various conservation proposals were put forward. After nearly 20 years there is still no effective program in place to protect any part of this vast wilderness.

A number of studies conducted throughout the seventies culminated in the identification of the Chilko Lake-Tchaikazan as possessing features and values of provincial and national significance for a potential park. In 1976, the Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia presented an inventory of recreational features in the Chilko study area to the then Minister of Recreation and Conservation, and the Environment and Land Use Committee.

In 1981, the Chilko Lake-Tchaikazan area was placed in a Deferred Area Planning Program subject to joint plan-

ning by the ministries of Lands, Parks and Housing, and Forests. The Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing's study team concluded that "...protection and special management of the natural features and values is more important than optimizing the development of all resource values in the area." Today, this 300,000-hectare area's status is still in limbo.



There are three separate areas in the Chilcotins being considered for park or wilderness status:

- 1) The Southern Chilcotin Mountains Wilderness (or Spruce Lake area) is being studied by both the Ministry of Forests' Kamloops and Williams Lake offices and the Ministry of Parks' Kamloops and Prince George offices.
- 2) The Chilko Lake area is being studied by the Ministry of Parks' Prince George office.
- 3) The large area west and northwest of the Chilko Lake "park reserve" is being studied by the Ministry of Forests' Williams Lake office.

New pressures in the form of mineral exploration have been brought to bear on the area recently, causing the immediate threat of degradation of

its wilderness value by increased road construction. In view of the recent joint announcements by the Minister of Parks (Dr. T. Huberts) and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (Mr. Davis), (see article herein "BC Parks Announcements") it would seem that much of the area, if it does become designated as any type of park or wilderness, will continue to have mineral exploration claims over it.

Presently the area is excluded from Provincial Forest designation, and is not included in the Annual Allowable Cut of the Lillooet Timber Supply Area. At latest report the Minister of Forests (Mr. Parker) has announced that wilderness proposals in this region will be on hold, pending the outcome of the Stein issue. The FMCBC's position is that each of these areas should be assessed on their individual merits.

The FMCBC urges the provincial government to proceed immediately to preserve the wilderness resource values by designating the Chilko Lake area as a Class A Provincial Park, and further supports the Southern Chilcotin Mountains Wilderness Society in their drive to have the Southern Chilcotin Mountains Wilderness (also known as the Spruce Lake area) preserved as a park or wilderness area.

The Federation has prepared a full-colour Education Report on these areas in the Chilcotin. A copy of this report will be sent to all of its members, and is free for interested parties wishing to drop by our office to pick up a copy.

This summer the Federation will conduct guided backpacking trips into the Tchaikazan and southern Chilcotin regions. Contact the office for further details.

We urge you to write to your MLA and to Dr. Terry Huberts, Minister of Parks, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4 NOW! Let them know that this area needs to be represented among the regional landscapes that it is our park system's mandate to preserve.

B.C. CONSERVATION UPDATE

Wilderness Map Produced by the Valhalla Society

How much of British Columbia's wilderness should be protected? The Valhalla Society has tried to answer this question by producing a map showing the 13% of B.C. that they would like to see protected as national and provincial "Class A" parks.

The map has been endorsed by the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Sierra Club of Western Canada and the Friends of Ecological Reserves.

The FMCBC approves of most of the map's proposed park areas, but does not necessarily endorse the editorial comments.

For a copy of this high quality map, write to The Valhalla Wilderness Society, Box 224, New Denver, B.C. V0G 1S0; or to the WCWC, 103-1520 West 6th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V6J 1R2.

Carmanah Still Under Study

Since last spring, when the tallest known Sitka spruce (95 m) was found in the Carmanah Valley, it has become the focus for many environmentalists. The Carmanah Valley is on the west coast of Vancouver Island, adjacent to the West Coast Trail and Pacific Rim National Park.

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee has been very active building a trail in Carmanah, and have produced three educational reports and a video. For further information, write to the WCWC.

MacMillan Bloedel released a draft development plan for Carmanah in October, and held public meetings in Port Alberni, Vancouver and Victoria during November, 1988. Soon MB will present a "final" development plan to the Port Alberni District Forest Service office. The Forest Service plans on holding public meetings to get further public input.

BCMC SUMMER CAMP

Banff National park - July 8-23
Contact Paul Kubik: 876-0764

NEWSLETTER

If you are not currently a paid-up member of a Federation club, or an FMCBC individual member, this will be your last newsletter. We encourage you to rejoin your club now, in time to plan your spring and summer activities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WELCOMES ITS FIRST ADVISORY MEMBER

At its recent retreat, the Board of Directors discussed the increasing complexity of the FMCBC's activities and projects. Several committees have benefitted from input by interested non-members from government, industry and other groups. Our Board is the one exception, and it was felt that this arrangement could be quite helpful. Accordingly, we are pleased that our invitation was accepted by W.G. (Gerry) Burch, formerly a Vice-president of B.C. Forest Products (now Fletcher Challenge). Recently retired, Gerry is now an associate at Stewart & Ewing (forest resource consultants) and a guest lecturer in the UBC Faculty of Forestry.

BC PARKS ANNOUNCEMENTS

An announcement in December 1988, by the ministers of Parks (Dr. T. Huberts) and Mines (Mr. Davis) that "nearly 250,000 ha. of recreation area will be upgraded to full park status..." seems like great news at first reading. However, in the same breath they also say "...about 1,000,000 ha. will be opened to mineral exploration."

"A park is a park," says BC Parks Minister Huberts. "Therefore, we will not permit mineral exploration in parks, nor will we permit new claims to be staked in parks."

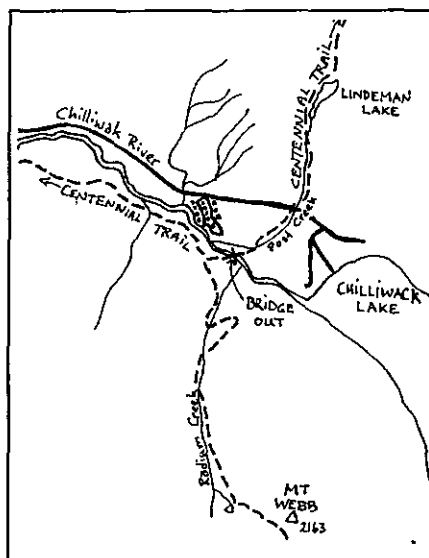
Two significant areas in the park system are not affected by the announcement: the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy and the Skagit-Cascades Recreation Area. These are currently undergoing a public planning process.

Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Minister Jack Davis confirms that Sec. 19 of the 1988 Mineral Tenure Act applies in all recreation areas outside provincial parks created since 1986. The Mineral Tenure Act provides for exploration of NOT LESS THAN TEN YEARS duration in recrea-

tion areas which may become parks in the future.

Says Mr. Davis, "We will authorize exploration in these areas beginning February 15. This will give mining companies time to plan their work for the 1989 field-season. In areas where high mineral potential is discovered, mines may be established."

"My ministry will work closely with Parks. This way we hope to avoid land use controversies which have frustrated mineral resource development in the past," Davis said.



TAIGA WORKS CONTRIBUTIONS

In 1988, Taiga Works made two charitable donations to the FMCBC. These will fund two very exciting projects:

A) \$2,000. Along with a grant from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, this will fund a study of the rockclimbing areas and access trails of Squamish.

B) \$5,000. To finance the replacement of a bridge over the Chilliwack River, restoring the Centennial Trail and opening hiking access from Post Creek to the Radium Lake Trail.

See Map at left.

Outdoor Recreation Council NEWS

Editor's Note: Though the proposal to convert the Mackenzie Timber Supply Area (TSA) into a TFL, and the proposed expansion of TFL 19 (centered on Gold River) using land from the Strathcona TSA have both been put on hold by the Ministry of Forests - due to the very strong public reaction - this is not going to stop the move to create larger TFLs. The Outdoor Recreation Council has prepared the following comments and recommendations.

The Ministry of Forests has proposed to convert many of the timber harvesting tenures into Tree Farm Licenses (TFLs), thereby transferring a greater portion of forest land management responsibilities to the timber companies. This move is of significance to outdoor recreation because it involves giving greater responsibility to forestry companies for recreation management.

The Forests ministry has received over 100 applications from timber companies for new Tree Farm Licenses in response to this program. In all, the minister anticipates that the area of TFLs will more than double in the province in the next five years. Two applications - one for the Mackenzie Timber Supply Area (TSA), and one for the Strathcona TSA - have already been circulated for review; yet public hearings on these were postponed due to public concern about the new TFLs, and because of a lack of preparation by the applicants and the government for the hearings.

Last week the Minister of Forests, Dave Parker, announced that the TFL expansion program was on hold until he could conduct a public review of the program. This review will comprise eight public meetings to be held throughout the province, which the minister intends to chair. As well, he will consider written submissions on the TFL expansion program until approximately mid-March.

From an outdoor recreation perspective, several concerns arise regarding these TFL applications:

- The Ministry of Forests has not completed its wilderness designa-

tion program. Until such areas are identified and excluded from timber harvesting, the ministry cannot make a valid commitment to a TFL proposal which specifies an Annual Allowable Cut.

- The Ministry of Forests' stated policy and procedures for TFL proposals specifies that "TFL proposal areas should not include extensive areas where non-timber resources are the predominant values." However, applications may not always follow this policy in the Mackenzie TFL, where blocks of over 400 square kilometres in size which are not producing merchantable timber were included in the proposed new TFL.
- Although the ministry has given direction that the process give "...full consideration of non-timber resources and land uses...", this typically does not occur within company TFL proposals. While timber harvesting and processing plans are clearly quantified and elaborated upon, recreation is not measured nor are there clear commitments to specific recreation programs. Furthermore, in TFL applications, no references have been made to previous park proposals for the area. Importantly, the process has not included analyses to determine where other forest values may be in excess of timber harvesting values.
- Although TFL holders are required to prepare a recreation inventory for their areas, financial responsibility for recreation planning, maintenance and development has not been clarified between the forest industry and the Ministry of Forests. Consequently, neither party is able to make firm commitments to manage recreation on TFLs.
- If companies do take on more responsibility for recreation management in TFLs, this may create difficulties for recreationists in contacting the relevant people managing the area they are interested in. For instance, it may result in hikers having to deal with two or

three different companies regarding a trail which crosses several TFLs.

- It may be a conflict of interest for a timber company to harvest and manage timber, and also inventory, plan and develop recreation opportunities in the same area.
- The public hearing process for each TFL application follows minimal requirements specified in legislation. Although applications have been of regional and provincial significance, hearings have only been scheduled for small local communities, making it difficult for others to become involved. Unless a submission on an application is presented at the hearing, it does not have to be considered as evidence in the TFL application review.
- A TFL application referral process has not been established to allow the Ministry of Forests, Recreation Section and ministries such as Tourism, Parks and Environment to review specific applications and make their comments known.

If your members are involved in recreation activities in forests, alpine areas or along shorelines, please inform them and encourage them to let their views be known during this TFL expansion process. Public review hearings for the TFL expansion program will be held on the following dates:

Smithers	Feb. 13
Fort St. John	Feb. 15
Prince George	Feb. 20
Williams Lake	Feb. 23
Kamloops	Feb. 27
Nelson	March 6
Vancouver	March 8
Parksville	March 10

If you have any questions on this, please don't hesitate to give me a call at the Outdoor Recreation Council: Liz Osborn, ORC, (604) 737-3059

NOTE: On Jan. 30th, Liz Pope and Jim Rutter met with Bruce Devitt, Chief Forester of Canadian Pacific Forest Products, to discuss their application for TFL 19 expansion and the need to have outdoor recreation concerns better represented.

NEW STRATHCONA PARK STEERING COMMITTEE

In December, 1988, BC Parks Minister Terry Huberts appointed a Steering Committee to manage the future of Strathcona Provincial park. Said Huberts: "The most important task of the steering committee is to establish an ongoing and interdependent relationship between the communities and citizens who are concerned about the park and my ministry...."

Members of the steering committee are:

Anne Fiddick, Mayor of Gold River
Peggy Carswell, Director, Comox-Strathcona Reg. Dist.

Jim Rutter, Exec. Dir., BC Fed. Mountain Clubs and former member of the Strathcona Park Advisory Committee

Ron Lampard, BC Parks District Manager, Parksville

Derek Thompson, BC Parks Manager of Planning and Ecological Reserves, Victoria

George Trachuk, BC Parks Regional Director, Vancouver

Jake Masselink, Assistant Deputy Minister of Parks, Victoria

Masselink will chair the committee; Fiddick, Carswell and Rutter will ensure public input.

The committee's mandate is to ensure that all planning and management activity is directed toward the vision of Strathcona Park as a wilderness reserve focused on outdoor recreation and tourism. Its priorities are:

- to publish a regular information bulletin about Strathcona issues;
- to reactivate the park master planning process, which will result in an approved master plan for the park by 1990;
- to resolve short-term issues, such as critical boundary priorities, recreation facility developments, and restoring areas impacted by industrial use and hydro generation.

The specific mandate of the public members of the steering committee will be to plan and coordinate public involvement in the master planning process, as well as to provide advice on all matters before the steering committee.

A SEASON OF ADVENTURE

Sea Kayaking
and
Trekking Holidays

- Barkley Sound •
- Meares Island •
- Gulf Islands •

- Stein Valley •
- Mt Assiniboine •

Lodge-based trips
or
Camping Expeditions

Five Seasons Adventure Tours

620-1033 Davie Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6E 1M7
(604) 682-6022

SOUTHERN INTERIOR PARKS UPDATE

The Southern Interior Region, BC Parks Planning Department sent the following information in response to Jay MacArthur's questions about new management plans for parks in that region.

HAMBER: Management plan approved and operational from July 1987.

VALHALLA: Agreement between representatives of local and regional governments and the Valhalla Wilderness Society has resulted in a plan with somewhat tighter controls on air access to this Wilderness park. The Minister of Parks still needs to sign the plan.

CATHEDRAL: A draft plan is still awaiting ministry approval.

MT. ASSINIBOINE: A final draft plan is pending ministry approval.

KOKANEE GLACIER: A draft plan is essentially complete, with new revisions relating to the minister's December announcement regarding no new mineral explorations.

PURCELL WILDERNESS CONSERVANCY: The information given about

this park was difficult to decipher; something to do with "mineral policy developments" and "a narrowing of our original terms of reference to focus on the existing unit." In any event, they say April will be the month to "present background material and issues to the public for initial comment..." and to expect a final plan sometime in mid-1990.

ST. MARY'S ALPINE: This park is being treated separately from Purcell. The planning process will proceed in 1989 by contract.

MONASHEE: Plan initiation deferred until later this year.

TROPHY MOUNTAIN (WELLS GRAY): Interim Management Statement complete and awaiting approval.

CLEARWATER CORRIDOR (WELLS GRAY): Draft Interim Management Statement completed, reviewed and presently under revision, with a completion target for March.

FLOURMILLS (WELLS GRAY): Same as above.

McANDREW LAKE (WELLS GRAY): Same as above.

ELK LAKES: Interim Management Statement completed and awaiting ministry executive approval.

AKAMINA-KISHINENA: Same as above.

KOOTENAY LAKE SYSTEM: Essentially the same as above.

COLUMBIA LAKE: Work temporarily deferred.

OKANAGAN MOUNTAIN: On schedule. (?)

BIG BAR AND CHASM: Interim Management Statement still under progress.

SILVER STAR: Draft Master Plan under revision by consultant.

SOUTH CHILCOTIN: Proposed joint management planning with Forest Service still needs to be approved; will keep you posted.