

CLOUDBURST

Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Newsletter



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**.

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Executive Director: Jim Rutter

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Roger Freeman, Jay MacArthur

Safety and Education:

Richard Howes

Trails: Gabriel Mazoret

CLOUDBURST

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

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Editor: Jim Rutter

Layout: Five Seasons Designs

Unsolicited manuscripts are welcome and will be considered for unpaid publication. Submissions should be typed, double spaced, signed and accompanied by a SASE for return. Your ideas are welcome.

Assisted by B.C. Recreation and Sport.

COVER PHOTO

Bob McGregor

M. DeJong Photo

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The long weekend of August 6 promised new life as I awaited the birth of my first child. Instead the holiday brought sadness and loss with the death of a friend in the mountains.

Bob's accident brought home to me anew the frailty of humans when measured against the grandeur and crushing might of the very slabs and peaks we visit and enjoy.

As beginners we enter this unpredictable wilderness with a respect founded on fear; not really confident in the stability of ice, or the strength of ropes or our newly-learned skills - and we follow the rules all the time. With experience we learn the right to make value judgements about what is safe, and where to go, and what may happen next. We balance familiarity with caution and savour the freedom that is mountaineering.

Mostly we get it right, and travel well - being rewarded with the vistas, the colours and the companionship that we seek and which the mountains richly supply.

Getting it wrong, we either thrill ourselves escaping or, as the elephant rolls on the ants below, we lose... an unnoticed victim of a mountain's whim.

This chance and challenge flavours with adrenalin our forays into untamed nature. If we can learn anything from Bob's death, we may be reminded of our insignificance when we climb, and think to evaluate afresh our skills and confidence and not take for granted anything.

I am usually diplomatic. Here's my candid reaction to some complaints I've received. Our members never cease to amaze me - this time with their reaction to our credit card fundraising appeal.

You might think we were promoting arms sales, not representing your recreation interests on a shoestring, the way some have objected to a piece of mail at your door. When I saw that at no cost and for no effort you could help us raise operating capital, I thought we had a winner move. I still think so.

If you do not use credit cards - this project does not apply to you. But if you do, all we're asking you to do is use one which puts money into the FMCBC instead of the bank.

To label this initiative as "commercial" is unfair. Do you complain to department stores when their junk mail comes to your door unsolicited? Why do you get wild about the Fed trying to do better? After all, we are your organization, we're not the bad guys. I would have expected apathy, which is what we usually get; I am staggered to get criticism for this one. Our members should be helping the Fed on this one. It will give us, for example, more staff and allow us to do even better.

Get behind the Fed, get the card, and help give us the tools to do the job.

James Rutter

NEW OFFICE PROJECT

Starting August 28, a Federal Job Development project will provide 3 Job Creation positions at the FMCBC offices until the end of December.

The Project Manager - Sara Kammerzell - will be developing a new information and filing system, assisting in bringing online a new computerized course bookings system, making improvements to existing mailing list, liaising with clubs, public and the media, creating a policy manual for the Federation, and supervising the other staff on the grant.

Vic Marchiel as Program Planner 1 will be focussing on Fed instruction courses - planning a program for next season and developing brochures, graphics and other course related materials.

The second program planner position, unfilled to date, will work closely with the Adopt-A-Trail project and liaise with the National Trail Association and their cross Canada trail project.

As well as assisting the FMCBC, these positions will provide comprehensive training opportunities for these three clients.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This is the first of what is intended to become a regular feature in *Cloudburst*. In a general sense, the objective is to keep you informed of the activities of your Board of Directors and the issues we are dealing with.

First though, it may be appropriate to relate how I became involved with the mountains of B.C. Before leaving eastern Canada, I had been introduced to backpacking in the High Peaks region of the Appalachians near Lake Placid, New York. After arriving in Vancouver, I continued my interest in hiking but soon discovered most trails led uphill. In 1976, a friend introduced me to rock-climbing at Murrin Park and on the first afternoon dragged me up Slab Alley at the Squamish Chief in mountaineering boots!

The following summer he left for Calgary and I was without partners and experience. Not knowing about clubs or the FMCBC, I somehow heard of a course offered by Alpine Crafts through Capilano College, and spent two years climbing with friends made during that course. A minor injury diverted my interest to whitewater kayaking and volunteer ski patrolling for a few years. By chance, a business associate told me about the BC Mountaineering Club - just as my interest in patrolling was waning. My enthusiasm for the mountains was rekindled as I became an active club member, subsequently an executive committee member, and am now completing my fourth term as president of the BCMC.

During my involvement with the BCMC I began to hear about this Federation of Mountain Clubs and wondered who they were? What did they do? In the fall of 1986 I attended their AGM and in the fall of 1987 became a member of the Board of Directors. Increased involvement has certainly made me more aware of this group of dedicated volunteers and their work-efforts that continue to become broader as in the case of the Smoke Bluffs Park Initiative. The accomplishments of this group are important to the members of our clubs. Consequently, it is my feeling that it is a group that is worth

putting some energy into. Because I have been elected as president of the Board of Directors of the FMCBC as of June 28, I will be stepping down as president of the BCMC at that club's AGM in November.

Although the Federation of Mountain Clubs has reached one level of maturity since its modest beginnings, it is still a very young organization with many stages of evolution before it. While a recent member of the Board of Directors, I identified the need for a long term strategy. This has been called the "Five Year Plan" and the sketchy outline presented at the 1989 AGM in June represented our first cut. The next step is another all-day session planned for October 27/28 to develop this strategy to a level for presentation to club delegates in November and December. It should be recognized that this is the first time we have undertaken such an initiative. As such, feedback and input from the delegates and club executives is very important. This is seen as establishing a framework for growth.

Perhaps the evolution of the Board and the Federation is reflected in the

latest administrative developments. The Federation has had three key, standing sub-committees for a number of years: Trails, Recreation & Conservation, and Safety & Education. However, there are always "special projects" that come along which require different levels of time and effort. Since our June AGM, a number of these "special projects" have been adopted by members of the Board of Directors: Corporate fund raising for Smoke Bluffs, Parks Master Plans, Constitution and By-laws, Management Committee, Membership Fees/Relations. It is my feeling that this is a reflection of the commitment of the Directors to its members - and that we appreciate your support.

Your Board of Directors recognizes a need to also strengthen ties to clubs. A number of things will help improve our communication - the circulation of minutes of Board of Directors meetings to all club presidents and delegates, the circulation of minutes of all committee meetings to club delegates, and hopefully improved attendance at delegates meetings by both Directors and club delegates. Our objective is to increase club involvement. From this perspective we would encourage clubs to have their delegates attend club executive meetings and/or be a member of their executive committee. The Board also recognizes that, at the moment, our representation is not as province-wide as we would like it to be. Improvement of this is one of my objectives for the immediate future. We look to the clubs for input as to what we can do for you and how can we best represent your interests in your area.

Certainly I am coming to the FMCBC as an active club member and with a strong club perspective. More than ever your Board of Directors is made up of members from many clubs. We would encourage your comments, your assistance on any of a number of sub-committees and your active participation. We are your Federation of Mountain Clubs.

Brian P. Gavin

TELEMARK LESSONS

Make this the winter to learn the graceful telemark turn with professional instruction.

This year Carleton Recreational Equipment and Five Seasons Adventure Tours are working together again to provide both groomed and backcountry telemark instruction beginning in December.

**Call Five Seasons at 682-6022 or
Carletons at 438-6371
for more information.**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Guiding Certification

Dear Jim Rutter

I do feel that the time has come for professional mountain guides to be certified, in order to ensure a certain minimum level of proficiency. We should not wait until serious guiding accidents force the government to take action in this regard.

Certification is something that has become part of our daily life in our modern society. Medical doctors are certified, lawyers are certified, electricians are certified, first aiders are certified and so on - and just about all of us are certified operators of a motor vehicle.

So to think that professional mountain guides, who have a lot of heavy responsibilities when they take people into the wilderness, should be treated differently from other people holding positions with responsibilities, is just wishful thinking on our part.

In closing, it could be said that it would be more suitable for the independent minded guides to be able to obtain their certification from a government agency rather than a professional association such as the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides. However, it is amazing how often we find that for an individual to practice his/her trade, he/she has to belong to an umbrella organization - like it or not. So, here again, the situation now proposed for the guides is no different from what most of us have to face in today's society.

Yours truly

E. Grenager (V.O.A. member)

FOR SALE

Sierra Designs 2 & 3 person self supporting tents for sale.

These tents have been used for 1 season and are in excellent shape.

Contact:

**Five Seasons at
682-6022**

Fine Tuning

Attention: The Editor of Cloudburst
I read with interest your excellent article titled "Trip Leaders and Leadership Skills" (Summer Cloudburst). This should be required reading for all trip leaders. However, I question the wisdom of putting slower members at the front of the party. While this will speed them up, I know for a fact that in our group, travelling at too fast a pace has discouraged several potential members from coming back.

In this regard, some trip leaders seem to forget at times that they can make or break a novice hiker. After all, enjoyment is the name of the game "Isn't it!"

Keith Seguin

Comox District Mountaineering Club.

Ed. Note: The act of putting slower members of a group at the front is intended to keep the pace of the group at the pace of the slower members, thus keeping the group together. Slower hikers following a faster group tend to exert themselves, often beyond their 'comfort level' in order to keep up.

Stein Valley

Dear Sir:

I was interested to read Dr. Roger Freeman's article, "No Federation, No Stein! A Lesson In History," in the Summer 1989 issue of *Cloudburst*. He makes a very important point, which is the inestimable value of long-term dedication to conservation issues. The Stein is a fine example, where I believe we will see a conservation solution as the final outcome, but only because a number of individuals have stuck with it through the years and new people have picked up the baton when others became too fatigued to carry on!

I hope we will see some similar progress on other conservation issues dear to the FMCBC, such as the Chilcotin - Chilko Lake Park proposal, and the need for more sensitive logging practices in recreational areas in the lower mainland.

Three cheers for FMCBC and your fine synthesis of commitment to conservation with enjoyment of the wilderness.

Tom Perry

M.D., M.L.A. (Vancouver-Point Grey)

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Congratulations to those who have already adopted a trail, and to all those unsung types who have anonymously looked after trails for years. For instance, various sections of the North Shore Hikers and the Valley Outdoor Club have actively cleared trails for a long time. Recently, the Varsity Outdoor Club has adopted part of the Howe Sound Crest Trail, and many others have signed up as well. Adopt-a-Trail is launched!

However, with well over two hundred trails in the area, we still need a lot of groups. Terrain varies greatly, as do trails. There is bound to be one that will suit your groups' abilities and number of people available. Application forms and information are available from any Trail Committee member or from the FMCBC office.

This is a very good year for trails. Along with the increased volunteer work, both Parks and Forestry have an active trail clearing program. For example, the Chilliwack Forest District has at least ten trails being cleared and reworked this summer. Lucky the adoptee of any of those trails, the first years' work is already done for you.

The Adopt-a-Trail Program will succeed, be a part of it!

Neil Grainger

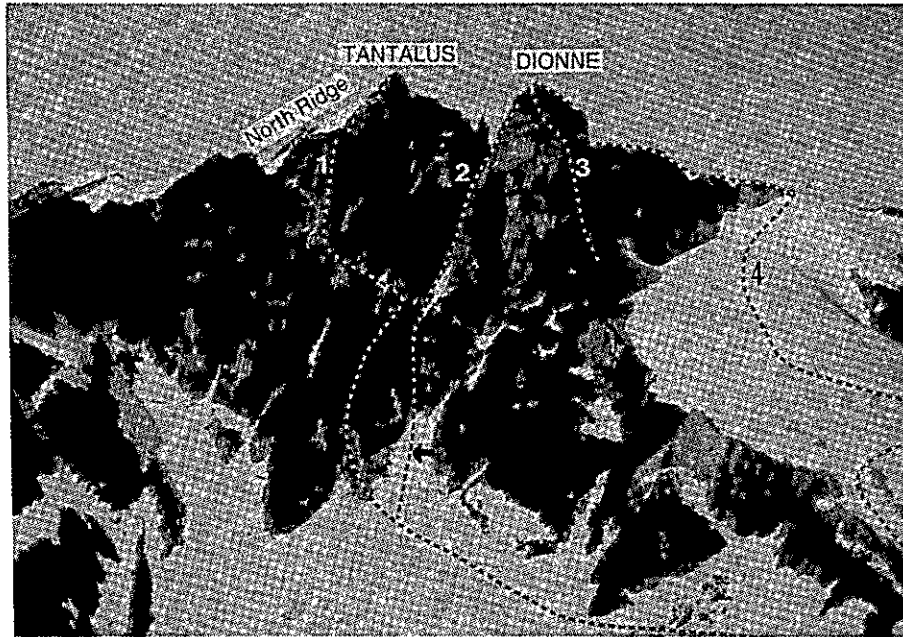
In Memory

By now, many of you have probably heard of the tragic death of a respected member of the local climbing community. Bob McGregor, 28, a volunteer member of the North Shore Rescue Team and a part-time Instructor for the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC), died August 5th following a six hour rescue on Tantalus Mountain northwest of Squamish.

Bob was "a very good instructor for us. He didn't push limits and he loved climbing" says Jim Rutter of the FMCBC. While traversing an easy portion of a snowfield, Bob fell through a snowbridge covering a bergschrund - a space between the glacier and a rock wall.

Every year the mountains claim lives. Remember this next time you're out enjoying the freedom of the hills and play safe.

The accompanying photo shows the location where the accident occurred.



A PRAYER

High above existence. I'm tied in, but I can't sleep on this narrow. I've no food and I'm cold. I know the reason now why I am here. I've thought all night and realize many things.

I've discovered life. My soul's well has started to flow again. My thoughts no longer are forced at one moment and spill out in petty profusion in the next, I will never again talk much and say little.

I've discovered the capabilities and limitations of my body. I'll try not to abuse it needlessly, I need it here. I've learned satisfaction. It's a personal thing. No one ever again has to praise me.

I don't search for "happiness" anymore. It is an occasional reward for my efforts.

I know patience. I understand discomfort and pain. They serve to put comfort and pleasure in perspective.

I fear, but I can handle its massiveness. I appreciate your hospitality. Your manners are faultless but I won't underestimate your cleverness, or your frustrations.

I climb. My body is past exhaustion and my mind is moving upward, hand in hand with my soul.

My bivouac is a home. Any food here is a feast. I'll be frightened if you take my life, I'll understand though. You are not my servant; I am yours.

I am also a simple person. You made that of me; I'm no longer occupied with theories. I know a few truths instead.

What I see here was no accident. It was intended; whoever you are is inconsequential. It is beyond my comprehension.

I am a guest in your house and it's more than I deserve.

Thank you.

By James Segerstrom

VISA/PURSUIT CREDIT CARD

This issue was first presented in a brief column in the Fall 1988 Cloudburst. The concept is an affinity credit card whereby the financial institution undertakes to share its cardholder fees with the affinity group in exchange for increased market share. This is a relatively new idea in Canada, but has been well developed in the United States in the past few years.

The entire reason for presenting this initiative is to develop a fundraising vehicle for the Federation of Mountain Clubs. The longterm objective is secure stable funding independent of political whim. The last such venture was the Cadbury's Campaign. Although accepted by club delegates at the FMCBC AGM in November 1986, it failed to realize support from club executives. (Cloudburst Spring 1987)

One important area should be discussed here. The Federation of Mountain Clubs provided its membership list to the Canadian Amateur Sport Fund for a one time only use. The list was not sold, nor may it be used again. The C.A.S.F. also obtained the use of the Mountain Equipment Co-op membership list on the same basis.

So why use a VISA/PURSUIT Card? Simply because it is a means for you to directly support the Federation of Mountain Clubs at no direct cost to yourself. While no member is encouraged to be in debt, if you regularly make credit purchases and the features of this card suit your needs, then we

would be pleased to have you accept this offer.

The following letter is reprinted from the BC Mountaineering Club August 1989 newsletter to further explain this offer.

VISA OR MASTERCARD WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

You have probably recently received or will receive information in the mail offering you two affinity credit cards:

VISA/PURSUIT through Toronto Dominion Bank for the Canadian Amateur Sport Fund

MASTERCARD - Outdoor Recreation Foundation through the Bank of Montreal.

You may be interested in the difference between them.

The **VISA/PURSUIT** card is a means for you to directly support the Federation of Mountain Clubs at no direct cost to you. On your regular VISA, the bank gets 2% of the gross sales as its commission. In the case of a **VISA/PURSUIT** card, the bank gets 1-3/4%, the FMCBC gets 1/4%. Why? The TD bank views the value of converting you from someone else's VISA to theirs as worth something rather than nothing. If you regularly make credit card purchases, you could help support the FMCBC at no cost to you. FMCBC is one of the 18 organizations that participated in the Canadian Amateur Sport Fund.

The **MASTERCARD** - **ORF** card is similar to the **VISA/PURSUIT** card except that your 1/4% goes to the Outdoor Recreation Foundation. This foundation is a spinoff of the Outdoor Recreation Council which is the umbrella group of the Federation of Mountain Clubs. Their apparent purpose in life is to establish funding methods which can be directed to support various projects or initiatives of the Outdoor Recreation Council. The funding of those initiatives however is at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Outdoor Recreation Foundation. So any funding of FMCBC efforts is unlikely or at best uncertain.

At any rate, **VISA** or **MASTERCARD** - the choice is yours. In either case you do not need to move your bank accounts from whichever institution you already use.

If you already have a TD **VISA** or **M/C** you can change it over.

If you are interested, application forms are available from the Federation of Mountain Clubs office. Call 737-3053 between 8:30 - 5:00 Monday through Friday.

Brian P. Gavin

FREE SLIDE SHOW


A **FREE** multi-projector slide presentation featuring wildlife of Canada's north will be given Thursday, October 5, 1989 at the Robson Square Media Centre at 7:00pm and 9:00pm.

The show will be presented by the authors of the Canadian bestseller "Wilderness Seasons" Ian and Sally Wilson to celebrate the publication of their second book "Wild and Free, Living with Wildlife in Canada's North" who have given more than 200 shows across Canada.


"Wild and Free" is the culmination of several years of adventures in the north. From caribou, bear and wolves to shorebirds, ducks and small mammals, this show has something for nature-lovers of all ages.

"We take the audience mountain climbing for goats, petting porcupines and wading through marshes with moose. We also describe how we took the photographs, and include interesting facts about the animals' habits and habitats" says Sally Wilson.

We would suggest you arrive early, as seats are on a first-come basis.



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SMOKE BLUFFS PARK - PROGRESS

This project was but a dream when the possibility presented itself in early 1987 (see Cloudburst Spring 1987). With the cooperation of the Mountain Equipment Co-Op in the form of a \$65,000 mortgage, the first step toward reality was taken. From those modest beginnings, the Smoke Bluffs Committee was formed made up of one member from each of the Vancouver Section of the Alpine Club, the BC Mountaineering Club, the Squamish Rockclimbers Association, the Varsity Outdoor Club (of UBC) and the FMCBC.

Brief updates have been included in a number of issues of Cloudburst. In summary, progress has been made as follows:

Mortgage Repayment

The mortgage was interest free for the first 9 months but the current interest rate is 14%. So far in 1989, we have managed to make progress payments totalling \$33,000 with the bulk of funds being generated as follows:

- the first casino licence raised \$15,700 in December 1988

- the Alpine Club of Canada presented a \$5,000 cheque from the National Club endowment fund to the

FMCBC at the May social of the Vancouver Section

- the second casino licence (staffed 100% by BCMC volunteers) raised \$7,000 in July 1989

- the first \$1,000 payment from the BCMC "Climb-On" shirt program was made (current potential is \$10,000)

- the Smoke Bluffs '89 Button Sales continue mixed with the largest individual salesman being Dave Jones (SRA) at \$700

Progress Towards a Park

The Federation of Mountain Clubs originally submitted its own proposal to the Ministry of Parks in 1988. Subsequently, the FMCBC retained the services of a planning consultant—Mr. Ken Youds of Victoria, BC—to evaluate the recreation and tourism benefits of the climbing areas at Squamish. This resulted in the "Granite Monoliths of Squamish" report which was circulated to the key provincial ministries, MLA's, Squamish Council and Parks. As a result, the assistant deputy ministers of Parks and of Municipal Affairs met in early July to discuss a review of the study and how to proceed in a coordinated manner. A second meeting is

planned for October. In the meantime, Jim Rutter is planning a meeting with members of Squamish council in late August, and recently had a very positive meeting with the mayor - Mr. Phil Turner.

Park Issues

The Smoke Bluffs Committee organized a work party on the June 3/4 weekend with 12-15 turning out to collect litter, remove graffiti, clean trails and sell buttons. Squamish council has finally approved John Drenka's plans to develop his property on top of Burgers and Fries (lot 5A) within the regulations of its current zoning for single family dwellings. No doubt the progress will be obvious if you have been climbing on the Bluffs in August. We are still searching for suitable arrangements whereby we can access the Bluffs from the north end near Crag X. In the meantime, please **DO NOT USE** this access as it is across private land.

There is much to do. The Smoke Bluffs Committee could use help. If you have some time, ideas, energy why not call the Federation office. You can be given names to contact.

RECREATION & CONSERVATION

Roger Freeman, Co-Chairman of Recreation and Conservation, is one of eleven members of the permanent *Forest Resources Commission of B.C.* established in June by Forests Minister, Dave Parker. The Commission is charged with independently reviewing and making recommendations on forestry issues referred to it by the Minister. Its initial tasks are to:

- advise on the suitability of tree farm licences as a form of tenure,

- recommend ways of improving public participation in forest planning and management,

- recommend improvements to forest harvesting practices, particularly clear-cutting.

"I feel very good about the Commission," says Freeman, "although the tasks assigned to us will be a great challenge." In carrying out their duties, Freeman stresses that Commission members "are going to go out and talk

to all sorts of people on these topics, not just develop ideas on our own."

To conduct its investigations, the Commission may use powers of formal inquiry under the *Inquiry Act*. It can also establish sub-committees on specific topics, hire consultants and conduct research. Parker also announced that the Commission's reports will be public documents.

Others appointed by Parker to the Commission are University of B.C. Law Dean, Peter Burns; mayor of Lillooet, Joyce Harder; Dean of Forestry at the University of B.C., Bob Kennedy; IWA president, Jack Munro; former B.C. Wildlife Federation president, Carmen Purdy; former B.C. Lieutenant Governor, Bob Rogers; former MLA, Cyril Shelford; Registered Professional Forester, John Szauer; and executive director of the Gitksan Wet'suwet'en Government Commission, Matt Vickers. Chairing the *Forest Resources*

Commission of B.C. is Don Munroe, former chair of the Labour Relations Board. The *Forest Resources Commission* will begin its work in September, based out of offices in the Vancouver area.

From the Outdoor Report (ORC)

FORESTRY PLANS UNDER REVIEW

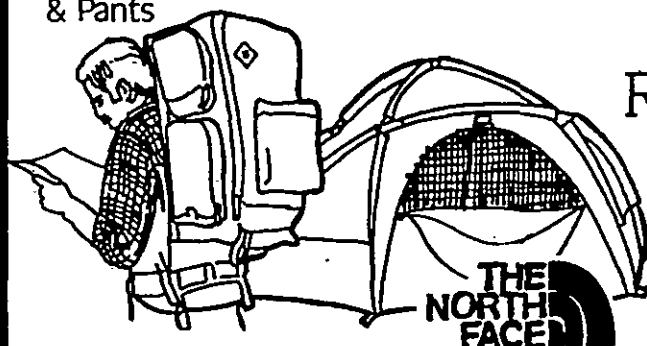
Under new regulations, the public may review and comment on forestry plans for each site before it is logged. Although *Preharvest Silviculture Prescriptions* mainly describe how a site will be reforested after logging, the plan must also specify how recreation, views, fish, wildlife and other values will be accommodated. Written comments are to be considered before the plan is approved by the Ministry of Forests. Future *Prescriptions* will be published in Cloudburst.

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