



CLOUDBURST

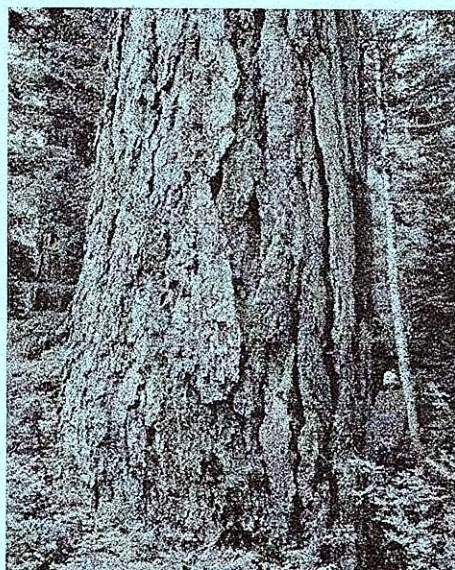
The Newsletter of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.
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AGM a Positive Step Forward

FMCBC Makes Zoning Proposal to SFD

Mt. Arrowsmith Park Concept Moving Forward



Tree in Elaho Valley

Photo submitted by

Elaho Trail Society

In this issue....

AGM Reports	3	BC Issues	17
Lower Mainland Issues	10	Canada West Mountain School ...	20
Vancouver Island Issues	14	Meeting Notices	21
North Central Issues	16	Clubs	24

CLOUDBURST

Articles: We welcome articles which inform our readers about mountain access, recreation, and conservation issues or activities in B.C.

Word Limit: 500 words

Advertising: The FMCBC invites advertising or classified advertising that would be useful to our members. Please contact the Editor or Fed office for a rate sheet.

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MEMBERSHIP

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) is a non-profit organization representing the interests of non-mechanized hikers and climbers, and outdoor clubs throughout British Columbia. The FMCBC 1) Addresses mountain access, recreation, and conservation issues; 2) promotes outdoor education and safety through courses of instruction and Cloudburst articles; and 3) builds and maintains hiking trails throughout B.C. by its member clubs. **Membership** in the FMCBC is open to any individual or group interested in non-mechanized outdoor activities, and access, recreational, and conservation concerns. Those interested in joining the FMCBC have two options:

Club Membership:

Please contact the FMCBC office to receive a list of clubs that belong to the FMCBC (See back cover)

Individual Membership:

Call the FMCBC office at 604 878 7007.

Membership for individuals is \$15 per year.

The FMCBC accepts VISA and MasterCard for payment.

You may also send \$15 along with your name and address to the FMCBC at the above address.

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AGM REPORTS

AGM UPDATE

by Pat Harrison, E.D.

Once again the Caledonia Ramblers of Prince George did a spectacular job of hosting the Annual General Meeting on 17th June 2000. Judith Robertson did an outstanding job of organizing the details of the meeting: meeting room, billeting, and transportation. Dave King was the fearless trip leader. Dave, Judith, Ute, and Dave Parrish were kind enough to provide billeting. Dave and Judith hosted a wonderful Friday night welcoming social while Doug Perkins provided the space at his house for the Saturday night gathering.

There were delegates from ten clubs as well as proxies from five clubs. Many thanks to these clubs for allowing the Fed to carry out its mandate for another year. In addition to the delegates, there were members and guests from ACC Prince George, Caledonia Ramblers, Fraser Headwaters Alliance, Smithers, and North Shore Hikers. In all, twenty-seven people attended the AGM.

The mandate for the coming year was straight forward: work on advocacy to eliminate ATVs from fragile environments (e.g. alpine areas), promote zoning of backcountry areas between motorized and non-motorized, continue to promote and work on the National Trail, and continue to improve communication with members clubs. Most members were most supportive of the List Server, but indicated that we need to continue to work on categorizing the topics. Six clubs have now requested a subwebpage on the Fed website. There was mixed reaction as to the usefulness of Cloudburst with many of the outlying clubs most support of the publication. Delegates will take this issue to their respective clubs to discuss. The issue surrounding Cloudburst is its cost effectiveness. It is the second most expensive item in the Fed's budget; second only to salary commitments. The National Trail continues to be supported by most of the clubs.

The AGM was a very positive meeting and was a most helpful set forward in rebuilding of the Fed. This past year the Fed has been doing what it was supposed to be doing: advocacy on behalf of hikers and climbers in the areas of access, recreation, and conservation. We can only hope that this coming year will be even more productive and positive.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Lesley Bohm

This year we are tackling the emerging problem of mechanization in the backcountry. This is a problem that concerns all of us in every part of the province, so time spent on specific local issues can set precedents. The disappointing experience of Bulkley Valley backcountry skiers with uncompromising snowmobilers and unhelpful forestry ministry will influence our approach to the Sea to Sky corridor initiatives. The recent banning of snowmobiles from U.S. National Parks, such as Yellowstone, also points the way to the future, when conditions become intolerable. Self propelled recreationists are being increasingly affected by the noise and pollution of motorized intrusion into traditional areas of use, and regulation is now necessary. We are in favour of zoning to exclude motorization from a reasonable proportion of the landscape, and have prepared a proposal for Sea to Sky to that effect.

We have participated in meetings with BCAL on commercial recreation, ORC and LUCO in the trail stewardship meeting on May 27, 2000, and meetings with BC Parks and Forest Ministry. We have made a concerted effort to get the issue into local media, and we welcome initiatives by the government to deal with the problem.

Areas of concern

- ATV incursions into alpine
- Snowmobiles in alpine (cooperation needed in planning)
- Motorized commercial operations functioning illegally or contravening BCAL zoning
- Motorized alienation of all our traditional use areas
- Commercial emphasis on motorized vs. non-motorized recreation
- Bicycle conflicts with hikers
- Bicycle degradation of landscape and trails
- Parks to remain non-motorized
- Our policies exclude no one—only machines

People we support require no special equipment or lots of money—witness Bus to Trails brochure. We wish to treat the outdoors with respect, and promote good health through exercise in our amazing British Columbia outdoors.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Pat Harrison

It has been an extremely busy and fruitful year for the Federation of Mountain Clubs. I am more convinced than ever that the Federation would soar with a full-time Executive Director. I have outlined below the major activities I was involved in this past year.

Fundraising: I was successful in securing \$15,000 from the Gaming Commission.

Club Liaison: One of my goals was to get out and visit our members clubs. In the first six months of this year, I have visited the following clubs:

Varsity Outdoor Club - January (executive)

Outsetters Club - February (executive)

Valley Outdoor Association - March

Comox District Mountaineering Club - April

Chilliwack Outdoor Club - April

Klister Outdoor Klub - June

Lower Mainland Delegates: 4 meetings: Sep, Nov, Feb, and Apr.

Island Delegates: attended April 2000 meeting.

Trail Database: I am hoping that our trail database can be put on a GIS programme in order to map our trail system. I hope to take a course this coming year on GIS.

Attendance at Committee Meetings: I have attended all the R&C committee meetings (except February) and all the Trail Committee meetings in order to make sure the board was kept informed and that Federation policies were consistent.

Associate Members: This is a new category that I proposed and was approved by the Board. It is one way of linking together like-minded organizations by exchanging newsletters.

Affiliate Members: This is another new category I proposed to attract new members to the Fed by giving one year membership at a greatly reduced cost to give new clubs a chance to sample the Fed.

National Trail System: Met in Prince George in May with members from Caledonia Ramblers, Fraser Headwaters Alliance, Alexander McKensie Heritage Trail Society, Friends of

Barkerville, UNBC Outdoor Club, BC Forest Service, and BC Parks. Reached consensus in four hours.

Rec and Con Committee Activities: The committee has worked hard on Cayoosh Resort/Melvin Creek and zoning for Sea to Sky Corridor. I have also met with the Liberal Opposition to push for more funding for MELP as well as the Assistant Deputy Minister of MELP and of Tourism for the same purpose. Lesley and I also met with Joan Sawicki to push for more funding for MELP.

Cloudburst Membership List: I have spent considerable time updating the Cloudburst List. After removing duplicate names, it appears that total Fed membership is up by 300.

Subwebpages: Several of our clubs requested that we set up webpages that they could manage. We had to find a new ISP who was willing to do this service. I finally found AIS of Whistler. VOA, VOC, NSH, and the Outsetters have taken advantage of this service.

List Server: At the request of the Lower Mainland Delegates at their meeting in November 1999, I reactivated the Fed List Server. There are now close to 100 people on the server. Much discussion has happened on various Rec and Con and Trails issues as the result of the list server. It has really helped to formulate Fed policies.

Budget: Both the Fed and the Canada West Mountain School have arrived at the end of the fiscal year in the black. My congratulations to all who help achieve this goal even with the loss of our provincial grant of \$50,000 per year.

REVIEW OF FMCBC ACTIVITIES (SEP 1999 - JUNE 2000)

- 1) Met with Al Raine and John Crooks in Sep to discuss our position on the proposed Cayoosh/Melvin Creek Resort.
- 2) Met with Charles Littledale and Elisabeth Eldridge of BCAL to discuss our concerns over the BCAL planning process.

- 3) Met with Joan Sawicki to tell her our concern over MELP budget and set what actions she wanted us to take. She stated that only coalitions and large groups were listened to by the government.
- 4) Ken Rodonets of CDMC has had ongoing talks with Timber West regarding access issues. CDMC also was involved in the Strathcona Park master plan review process.
- 5) Peter Rothermal has been working with the Nanaimo Regional District promoting Mount Arrowsmith as a new Regional Park. It looks like it will happen within the next two years.
- 6) Roy Howard of the Fraser Headwater Alliance has worked on promoting the National Trail. He has also attended the hearings for the new parks just north of Bowron Lakes. He stated that the environmental groups were totally outgunned. He is asking for our help in heading off logging and motorized activities in these new parks.
- 7) Wrote Ken Langdale of the Chilliwack District Forest regarding the Williamson Lake trail being destroyed by logging. He returned call and said there was a new trail, but it wasn't signed and no one seemed to know it was there. He will follow up and let us know what is happening.
- 8) Have reactivated our quest via Linda Coss to solve the parking problem at Lions Village. Will meet with the Village Council sometime this summer or fall.
- 9) Met with Park Planner Brian Bawtinheimer in January regarding new parks and park problems. We offered our concerns to him. He stated that the mountain community is pretty quiet in writing its opinions about parks.
- 10) Met with 10 user groups, MOF, and PS in April to discuss proposed route of National Trail. Hammered out a proposed route in four hours.
- 11) In March the Fed made its submissions to



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- 12) BCAL regarding zoning of the Sea to Sky backcountry.
- 13) In June, the Fed will be submitting its position on the Sea to Sky corridor as it regards outdoor recreation zoning.
- 14) Attended Trails Stewardship Conference on 27 May 2000.
- 15) Attended ORC AGM on 3 June 2000.
- 16) Met with the Liberal caucus in early May to expression concerns over the lack of funding for MELP.
- 17) Met with the ADM of MELP to express our concerns over the lack of adequate funding for MELP.

- 17) Presented our analysis of the MELP Budget to Ujjal Dosanjh at the NDP party meeting in Kamloops in late May.
- 18) Have joined the Concerned Conservationists Coalition, and help found the Land Softly, Sea Clearly Coalition with the BC Naturalists.
- 19) Wrote BCAL about our concerns regarding allowing Powder Mountain Snowcats to use Tri-couni Mountain, even though BCAL has zoned that area non-motorized.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

by Jay MacArthur and Roger Freeman,
Co-Chairs

Commercial Recreation Conflicts

Many of our discussions in the past year have centred on increasing conflicts with snowmobiles. Our members in the Vancouver area have been most concerned about the area around Whistler where there has been a large increase in commercial snowmobiling in the past five years. Other areas in the province are not immune to this problem.

The BC Assets and Lands hired a consultant to do a study on existing recreational use in the Whistler area to determine the best areas for issuing permits to commercial operators. Our members participated in this process and we are glad that some areas have been zoned for non-mechanized use. However, many areas that have been traditionally used by our members have been zoned for commercial mechanized use.

The provincial government is still trying to develop a framework for planning. The Forest Service has completed an inventory of existing public recreational use and are interested in developing recreational zones but they have not progressed very far. The Land Use Coordination Office (LUCO) is considering starting a land-use plan for the Squamish to Pemberton corridor. The Recreation and Conservation committee has prepared a position paper that outlines our recreational interests in the Squamish Forest District.

Lillooet LRMP

Brian Wood and Jay MacArthur have been representing the FMCBC on the Lillooet Land and Resource Management Plan. We've been meeting in Lillooet for three years now with not much progress to report. Three environmentalists (including Jay) are meeting with three people from the forest industry and a negotiator for two days in June to try to break the deadlock.

On May 27th, the Federation had the largest representation of any group at the Trails Stewardship Symposium at UBC that brought out over 100 people. Roger gave the long, rather sad history of trail protection in BC over 26 years, and Patrick Harrison was a panel speaker. No one at the Symposium challenged the implication of the history: we cannot depend upon Government to provide leadership in any sustained effort to protect or maintain trails.

Although the purpose of the Symposium, sponsored by LUCO and Trails BC, was not entirely clear, we managed to shift the responsibility for the next step to ORC (from Trails BC) to convene a meeting of interested groups, mechanized and non-mechanized, to look at ways of protecting trails. The obviously important issue of separation or zoning of conflicting uses was not addressed at this point. It is not clear what can come out of this process, but if it results in a shift of responsibilities the Federation will be well represented.

TRAILS COMMITTEE

by Alex Wallace and Pat Harrison,
Co-Chairs

The Trails Committee has been very busy this year dealing with a multitude of issues. Membership in the Trails Committee has risen and that is a positive aspect.

The North Shore area near Vancouver continues to be a constant problem with urban and rural clashing, as well as mechanical vs. non-mechanical issues. There was also the issue of commercial interests using public park land for snowshoe areas in both the Grouse Mountain and Cypress Provincial park areas. Gabriel Mazoret continues to work on the Seymour watershed trails issue as well as advocating for the Lynn Headwaters - Seymour loop trail.

The trails committee is in the process of contacting its Adopt-A-Trail coordinators to update our database information. Bill Greer of Delta has taken on Section A replacing Gabriel Mazoret. We thank Gabriel for all his work as coordinator.

The Squamish Trails Committee has joined the Federation in its Adopt-A-Trail Programme in the Squamish area. On the weekend of 27 May, the STC signed up 30-40 volunteers for the AAT Programme. We thank them for all their effort.

The National Trail took a giant leap forward with the meeting in April in Prince George. In four hours, the main participants (BCFS, BCPS, Caledonia Ramblers, UNBC Outdoor Club, The Friends of Barkerville, and the Fraser Headwater Alliance) were able to come up with a viable route from Bella Coola to the Willmore Wilderness in Alberta. Thanks to Dave King for organizing the event and to Roy Howard for a great presentation.

Many thanks to John Otava for his years of service as Co-Chair of the Trails Committee. His is stepping down as of June. Pat Harrison will assume the co-chairship with Alex.

LOWER MAINLAND REGIONAL REPORT

by Shane Koscielniak, Regional
Director

This has been an inspiring year for the FMCBC. At the last AGM, only a year ago, there was inevitably some "doom and gloom": Provincial grant funding down

to zero dollars and the possibility/prospect of the Fed becoming a pure volunteer organisation running out of somebody's basement. There had also been the usual cyclical mutterings from some member clubs that the "Board is out of touch", "that we don't know what the Fed does" and both these gripes allied to the assumption that it is the Board's one-way responsibility to communicate with member clubs.

A year later, and despite no extra provincial dollars, the Fed is still alive and kicking and I would say much healthier than a year ago. Largely this achievement lies with Patrick Harrison who has performed minor miracles throughout the year for the FMCBC. The media and political profile of FMCBC has risen from near obscurity, a year ago, to one where direct meeting with ministers is possible. At a more immediate level, there has been much progress in restoring the trust of member clubs. This has come about in two ways. Firstly, Patrick has volunteered extra time to visit member clubs in their "home" locals. Secondly, initially on an experimental basis, the Board invited the Lower Mainland (LM) clubs delegates to attend a Board meeting directly and build more personal relationships with Board members than is possible at the separate delegates meetings. Since that time, the LM delegates have had one further direct meeting with the Board; and based on those two experiments I think we may say the concept has been successful and needs to be given a more formal context.

Firstly, let me say that the joint meeting of Board and LM delegates is only possible thanks to the grace and goodwill of other regions, such as Vancouver Island and Northern B.C., who have not once suggested that this new meeting format might constitute preferential treatment but rather who have seen this new development as a means of forging stronger internal links that overall strengthen the FMCBC. The continuing forbearance of non Lower Mainland clubs is essential to the joint meeting concept, and the Board must continue to acknowledge this fact and to consider ways of further strengthening communications to other regions. It is for that reason, that Patrick has visited clubs on the Island and in northern BC, and it is for that reason I am attending the Prince George AGM.

Whereas the Board meets monthly, the LM joint meetings are bimonthly and omitted during "prime time" July and August. Nevertheless, the new meeting format might, to some minds, blur the distinctions between director and delegate; and if necessary the FMCBC must find ways to adjust to this. But, for the time being, I would like to resurrect a description of the delegate function prepared by the Board many moons ago; a job description which I suspect few have seen.

Delegates, generally:

- ◆ Are the official voting representative of their Clubs who should attend Delegates Meetings, the Annual General Meeting and other meetings as necessary.
- ◆ Should be familiar with the general goals, organization and activities of the Federation
- ◆ Should identify for the Board, ideas or concerns expressed by their clubs and shall accurately represent their clubs in such discussions.
- ◆ Should communicate to their clubs, information, ideas, or issues that have been identified by the Directors to review, and bring back discussion or feedback to the Directors from their clubs.
- ◆ May voluntarily participate on various committees and assist where needed
- ◆ Should encourage volunteer development and involvement by:
 - Encouraging club members to become involved in FMCBC committees
 - Identifying and assisting with leadership training opportunities
 - Encouraging club members to submit articles to Cloudburst.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with club delegates in the coming year.

VANCOUVER ISLAND REGIONAL REPORT

by Richard Keltie, Regional Director

Vancouver Island Delegates reports to the Annual General Meeting Island delegates to the FMCBC meetings in 1999 were focusing again on Mt Arrowsmith. Peter Rothermal organized trail cleanup with member clubs on the major routes improving family access and therefore public awareness of the area. The Regional District of Nanaimo park planning staff continued their efforts to encourage political decision makers to designate it as a wilderness park. And on the mountain the ski hill operator finally gave up and closed down leaving the mountain to hiking, ski touring, and climbing. We held successful meetings with TimberWest forestry company and BC Parks operational staff, both giving and receiving points of view on Island land use issues. The Island land swap with M&B failed as a result of considerable public criticism. Support for the Fed continues strong within the Island clubs with our focus on lobbying for improvements in recreational access to the backcountry.

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL REPORT

by Dave King, Regional Director

The Fraser Headwaters Alliance based in the Robson Valley joined the FMCBC in 1999 thereby doubling the number of clubs in this region. The group is really an umbrella organization for a few smaller outdoor groups in the Valley. The focus of this group is both conservation and trails and they have taken a lead in the re-establishment of the historic Goat River Trail that was used by miners entering the Barkerville area in the 1800s. More recently, the group has taken a leading role in the identification of a route for the National Hiking Trail.

Discussions are ongoing with the Prince George chapter of the AAC and it is likely they will join the Federation as an affiliated member. This group's focus in mountaineering, however, it also has an interest in the maintenance of access to trails and wilderness by non-motorized backcountry users. Like the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club, it is an active member of the PG Backcountry Recreation Society.

In the past year considerable progress has been made on the identification of a route for the National Hiking Trail through the Central Interior. A meeting earlier this year of government and non-government groups led to agreement for the primary route which goes from the north part of Jasper Park to Crescent Spur then follows the Goat River Trail to the Bowron and then the 1861 Goal Rush Trail from Barkerville to Likely. From Likely the route will follow the Quesnel River to Quesnel, the Telegraph Trail from Quesnel to the Blackwater River and, thereafter, the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail to Bella Coola. Several other trails will be intersected so several side trips will be possible.

The various LRMPs that have been completed in the Central Interior are slowly being implemented. Very recently many of the Protected Areas identified in the Plans have been included in legislation that will establish them officially as provincial parks. Of particular interest is the designation of the Fang Mtn/cave area as the Evanoff Park in the memory of George Evanoff who died in 1998 and who dedicated so much of his time to the LRMP process and to the protection of the wilderness for everyone's use and enjoyment.

Conflicts with other user groups, especially snowmobilers, was a dominant theme through the past year. More recently concerns have also arise regarding ATV

users entering the alpine, and with proposed commercial backcountry recreation operations and proposals. The PG Backcountry Recreation Society is the leading the discussions on these issues with the Forest Service and others. It is anticipated that in the coming year these kinds of issues will be taking up a lot of time.

All in all it was a good year with progress being made on a number of fronts. The Caledonia Ramblers looks forward to hosting this year's Federation AGM and hope all member clubs of the Federation will be attending.

THE WILDERNESS EDUCATION PROGRAM

by Lisa Baile, Program Coordinator

Our Mission

To inspire youth to make nature part of their hearts and environmental stewardship their responsibility

About the Wilderness Education Program (WEP)

WEP was founded in 1996 in response to the growing need to educate youth about the vital importance of wilderness for British Columbians and its role in the history and heritage of Canadians. WEP provides in-school talks and slide presentations, field trips to local wilderness areas, and workshops for teachers' conferences and professional days. At the centre of WEP is John Clarke, BC's legendary explorer and mountaineer. John brings wilderness to youth - many of whom have never been outside an urban setting - stimulating their curiosity and sense of wonder about our wild places.

Progress

To date WEP has been exceptionally effective in reaching thousands of students and their teachers with a unique opportunity to learn about British Columbia's wild places. In less than four years, John Clarke has presented some 900 classroom-based lectures and slide shows to over 23,000 British Columbia youth. Over 1,300 youth have also been part of one-day to multi-day field trips to local wilderness areas. In addition, John has prepared and presented approximately 18 workshops for teachers at conferences and professional development days.

Numbers of participants in the WEP program

1996-1997	6,938
1997-1998	4,227
1998-1999	8,108
1999-2000	4,646
TOTAL	23,919

Recognition

The success of WEP is evident from the many positive comments we continue to receive from students and teachers, and also from the formal recognition from educators and the government: In May of 1999 WEP received the prestigious *BC Minister's Environmental Award* from the BC Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks. For the last 4 years John Clarke has been an invited speaker at the BC science teachers' annual conference. WEP has also attracted considerable media attention through national and local TV and radio, and the local press.

Credits!

A special thanks to those of you who made a personal donation – without your support this program just wouldn't happen! Thanks also to the Alpine Club and BC Mountaineering Club for their financial and moral support; to FMCBC for being there, and for their generosity, support and constant encouragement.

A heartfelt thank you to the generous, resolute, energetic and dedicated volunteers who keep WEP running.

For information about WEP phone (604) 732 0509, or visit our web site at www.biviouac.com/jcwild.

TREASURERS REPORT

by Kenneth Legg, CA

Back in Black

For the year ended March 31, 2000 the FMCBC recorded a consolidated surplus of revenues over expenditures of \$16,029, compared to a deficiency of \$15,730 last year. This is the first time that the Federation has re-

corded a surplus for several years and is a reflection that the Federation has worked hard to come to grips with its present fiscal reality.

The general activities of the Federation resulted in a surplus of \$8,936 (1999 deficiency \$13,874), despite the elimination of all grant revenue. This result was achieved by reducing the number of paid staff hours, thereby reducing salaries by almost \$25,000. Other general activity changes include the end of the International Wilderness First Aid management fee revenue and the introduction of a CWMS student fee payable to the Federation.

Revenues continue to be derived from the annual Casino (\$15,578) and from memberships (\$40,760). Membership fee revenue increased \$9,623 due to an increased number of members, getting

up to date with collecting dues, and the prepayment of dues by one club. The new \$10/student CWMS student fee contributed \$4,500, and donations, interest, Environment Fund, Visa, contributed smaller amounts.

On the expense side, the newsletter cost increased \$7,456 due to higher postage and production costs, but there has been a general belt tightening in other expenditure categories. Our largest single expense remains salaries at \$22,851 (1999 – \$47,513).

Canada West Mountain School recorded an overall surplus of \$7,093 (1999 deficiency of \$6,542), despite also seeing an end to its grant funding. Course revenue increased 15% (1999 – 23%) indicating continued growth in course attendance. Course instruction expense has decreased significantly as efforts are made to make the school more viable, and due to Brian teaching many of the courses. See the Canada West Mountain School Report for more detail.

Financial Position

The Federation's General Fund financial position at March 31, 2000 shows net unrestricted equity for the use of the society of \$71,028 (1999 – \$ 54,999). This equity is invested in cash and term deposits, less any amounts required for working capital (including deferred CWMS course fee revenue and deferred casino revenue).

The Wilderness Education Program received donations and grants of \$30,480. During the year \$14,897 was disbursed for honorariums and general expenses, leaving a

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net balance in this restricted fund of \$15,583 (1999 - \$4,823).

There have been no significant changes during the year in the Smoke Bluffs Fund.

Now that grant funding has been eliminated, the Federation is dependent on its Casino and membership revenues to continue to provide its current level of service.

LOWER MAINLAND ISSUES

Proposed Backcountry Recreation Zoning for Squamish Forest District

Produced by the Recreation and
Conservation Committee

Draft 1.8
2000 06 14


1. Introduction

The members of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) have been using mountain areas in the Squamish Forest District (SFD) for almost 100 years. Two of the FMCBC's clubs, the BC Mountaineering Club and the Alpine Club of Canada, pioneered mountaineering and ski touring in the area and were the original proponents of Garibaldi Provincial Park.

Since the FMCBC's formation in 1972, we have worked with the provincial government on various land-use plans for the SFD. Recently we participated in the Protected Areas advisory committee that resulted in a few areas being protected as provincial parks. Because of the importance of logging to the local economy, we understand that not all areas can be protected as parks. However, the extensive recreational use in the SFD requires better management than we have seen in the past.

In the past 20 to 30 years we have lost many of our traditional non-motorized recreation areas to motorized recreationists (see Table 1.1). We acknowledge that other groups can legitimately use land for recreation purposes, but we believe some areas must be spared from motorized recreation. The lack of effective planning processes, zoning, regulation or enforcement is frustrating

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our members and all non-motorized backcountry users.

1.1 Examples of former wilderness areas lost to other uses

Area	Present Use
Brohm Ridge	Snowmobiles, four wheel drives, logging
Brandywine Creek Brandywine Peak Mt. Brew Metaldome Peak	Snowmobiles, logging In 1995, Blakcomb Snowmobiles started a commercial snowmobile operation here with no meaningful public input
Callaghan Lake	Snowmobiles
Whistler-Blackcomb	Downhill skiing
Rutherford Creek-Ipsoot Creek	Snowmobiling and heli-skiing
Spearhead Range	Heli-skiing

To preserve areas for non-motorized recreation in or close to the Lower Mainland and to prevent further

displacement from our traditional areas, we believe the areas listed below in Section 4 (and also shown on the enclosed map) should be off-limits for motorized recreation. The areas listed in Section 4 represent our selections of prime backcountry recreation areas that are suitable for trips lasting from one day to about one week for residents of the Lower Mainland.

We believe zoning areas for non-motorized wilderness recreation is necessary to ensure little or no intrusion of motor-powered vehicles such as snowmobiles, trail bikes, conventional road vehicles, all terrain vehicles, fixed winged aircraft, and helicopters. In non-motorized wilderness zones, motor-powered vehicles may be used for access purposes, for example driving along a gravel road or landing an aircraft on a glacier, after which the vehicle is parked or leaves. Motorized access should be limited to a prescribed maximum distance of 300 m from the sides or end of a road. This is to restrict random motorized activity in proximity of the road that commonly occurs with snowmobiles and trail bikes. Such motorized activity severely detracts from enjoyment of the natural setting, disturbs wildlife, and damages the environment.

2. Existing Recreational Use

The Outdoor Recreation Council has worked as a contractor for the BCALC and the Forest Service to inventory the present uses in most of the SFD. Much more work is needed to further clarify the existing uses and carrying capacities of areas, and to document comments on existing and future use of areas.

3. Zoning for Wilderness Recreation

The FMCBC recommends zoning areas for wilderness recreation, where use is designated for non-mechanized and non-motorized backcountry recreation activities. With the rapidly growing population in the Lower Mainland, increased interest in wilderness recreation, and greater access to sensitive and remote wilderness and mountainous areas of the province, wilderness sensitive mountain environments and wilderness recreation is in need of preservation and conservation. The FMCBC wants to be proactive in participating in planning that preserves these values.

The steady increase of mechanized (e.g. mountain bikes) and motorized use of wilderness areas over the past years has displaced FMCBC members from areas traditionally used for non-motorized recreation. The unregulated mechanized and motorized use of these areas is also impacting the environmental quality of these areas, many of which are sensitive in nature.

To ensure that opportunities for non-motorized and non-mechanized recreation in a wilderness setting remain in the SFD, we believe that government must make a major commitment to zoning for wilderness/outdoor recreation

Our members want to maintain a wilderness experience for non-motorized backcountry users in which there is little or no intrusion of motor-powered vehicles such as snowmobiles, trail-bikes, conventional road vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, fixed wing aircraft, or helicopters. Motor-powered vehicles destroy the wilderness recreation values of peace and quiet in the backcountry. The noise and fumes from motorized vehicles severely detract from the wilderness experience that our members value. Motorized vehicles in these areas also threaten related values such as wildlife and sensitive wilderness environments (often these impacts are evident for decades).

4. Proposed Zoning

The following sections describe areas in the SFD that are important to our members and have traditionally been used for both winter and summer backcountry recreation. We have put forward appropriate zoning for each of these areas.

By stating a mountain peak or group of peaks, we are designating an area surrounding the summit(s) and descending approximately to tree-line, i.e., the main alpine area of the peak(s), typically above 1200 – 1500 metres.

By stating a creek or lake, we are designating an area delineated by the drainage boundary or watershed. If the drainage is roaded, the lowermost boundary of the area would be defined by a line generally perpendicular to the creek and about 300 metres upstream from the present end of the road.

Some of the areas listed occur outside the actual SFD. We have designated them non-motorized to restrict access to the areas selected within the SFD.

We recommend that a non-motorized "buffer zone" approximately 2 kilometres wide should be provided around all parks to protect park areas. If a buffer zone of this width were provided around all parks, it could reduce the widespread trespassing into parks by motorized recreationists that is presently occurring [**Buffer zones are not shown on the map**]. In addition, all parks must remain non-motorized.

According to surveys conducted by the Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks, and the Ministry of Forests (Recreation Branch) in 1993 and 1995 to assess the attitudes of British Columbians towards various wilderness issues, there is strong public support for most non-motorized forms of recreation in provincial parks or des-

ignated wilderness areas. On the other hand, most forms of motorized or mechanized recreation such as snowmobiling, all terrain vehicles, motorized boating, helicopter access, or plane access were sometimes acceptable or never acceptable. The respondents distinguished between motorized-access to parks (i.e. float plane landings or helicopter landings) and motorized travel within parks (i.e. snowmobiling or use of all terrain vehicles). Please see "Public Views about B.C. Parks: Summary Report", dated December 1995; "Wilderness Issues in B.C., Results of a 1993 province-wide survey of households" (FRDA Working Paper WP-6-010); and, "Economic value of wilderness protection and recreation in British Columbia" by R. Reid, M. Stone, and T. Whiteley.

HOWE SOUND AREA

- a) **Mount Habrich, Skypilot, Copilot, Deeks, Brunswick, Harvey, Lions, Capilano: Non-motorized Summer and Winter**

WEST OF SQUAMISH RIVER

- b) **Ashlu Ck. drainage: Non-motorized Summer and Winter**
Comments: Above the 300 m contour and more than 300 m from a road.
- c) **Exodus – Blanca Lakes area: Non-motorized Summer and Winter**

WEST SIDE OF GARIBALDI PARK

- d) **Alice Ridge (a.k.a. Cheekeye Ridge and Mashiter Creek): Non-motorized Summer and Winter**
Comments: Alternate access to Diamond Head area in Garibaldi Park
- e) **Singing Pass access road: Non-motorized Summer and Winter**
Comments: BC Parks and the Resort Municipality of Whistler have decided not to maintain the old logging road. ATVs and snowmobiles should not be permitted on the access road to the trail.

SQUAMISH/CHEAKAMUS DIVIDE

- f) **Cloudburst Mountain (above the 900 metre contour) / Tricouni Mtn / Tricouni Lakes Area / High Falls Creek (above the 1200 metre contour) / Mt Fee / South of Brandywine Creek / Mt Brew / Roe Creek (above the 700 metre level): Non-motorized Summer and Winter**

NORTH AND WEST OF WHISTLER VILLAGE

- g) **Madeley Creek (drainage area above the 900 metre contour) / 21 Mile Creek drainage - Rainbow Lake Trail / 19 Mile Creek (Alternate winter access to Rainbow Creek): Non-motorized Summer and Winter**
- h) **Brandywine Creek / Metal Dome Peak - Brandywine Mtns (Metal Dome / Brandywine above the 1500 metre contour and to a N-S line one kilometre west of the summit of Brandywine): Non-motorized Summer and Winter.**

BIRKENHEAD AREA

- i) **Drainage of Birkenhead River upstream of confluence with Tenquille Creek, and drainages of and divides between Sockeye Creek (Park) and Phelix Creek east to Prospector Peak into the McGillivray Creek area: Non-motorized Summer and Winter**

UPPER LILLOOET RIVER VALLEY (MAIN DRAINAGE)

- j) **North side of Lillooet River: Non-motorized Summer and Winter**
Comments: Railroad Creek to Salal Creek, including Pebble (Boulder) Creek and North Creek, north to the divide defined by Face Mtn., Mt. Sessel, Mt. Thiassi, Mt. Fasp, Mt. Etherweard, and Mt. Ochre.

And the area defined by White Cross Mountain, Lillooet Glacier, Lillooet Mtn., Mt. Dalgleish, and Upper Lillooet Park which links the North side of Lillooet River to the South side of Lillooet River west of Meager Creek;

and, South side of Lillooet River west of Meager Creek: Non-motorized Summer and Winter

Comments: Marlin Peak, Dugong Peak, and the alpine area east of Manatee Creek and north of the 1500 metre contour in the Meager Creek Valley including Mr. Capricorn, Mt. Job, Mt. Meager, and Pylon Peak.

k) South side of Lillooet River south and east of Meager Creek:

Non-motorized Summer and Winter.

Comments: North end of Pemberton Icecap defined by alpine area east of Meager Creek and north of a line projected west from the Ryan/South Creek divide, providing a large "buffer zone" near VOC Overseer Hut.

l) South side of Lillooet River and east of Ryan River: Non-motorized Summer and Winter.

Comments: The alpine area centred on Miller Creek (above the 900 m contour), Wasp Creek (above the 900 m contour), and the valley immediately west of the headwaters of Wasp Creek (above the 1200 m contour):

LILLOOET LAKE AREA

- m) **Snowspider Mt., Meadow Dome, Lizzie Lake, upper Douglas Creek, Cloudraker and upper Rogers Creek: Non-motorized Summer and Winter**

WEST ENDS OF CAYOOSH RANGE AND DUFFEY LAKE CORRIDOR

- n) **North of Highway 99: Non-motorized Summer and Winter**

Comments: Headwater drainages of Spetch Creek, Place Creek, Eight Mile Creek, North Joffre Creek and upper Cayoosh Creek, including Place Glacier, Mt. Marriot and Mt. Rohr.

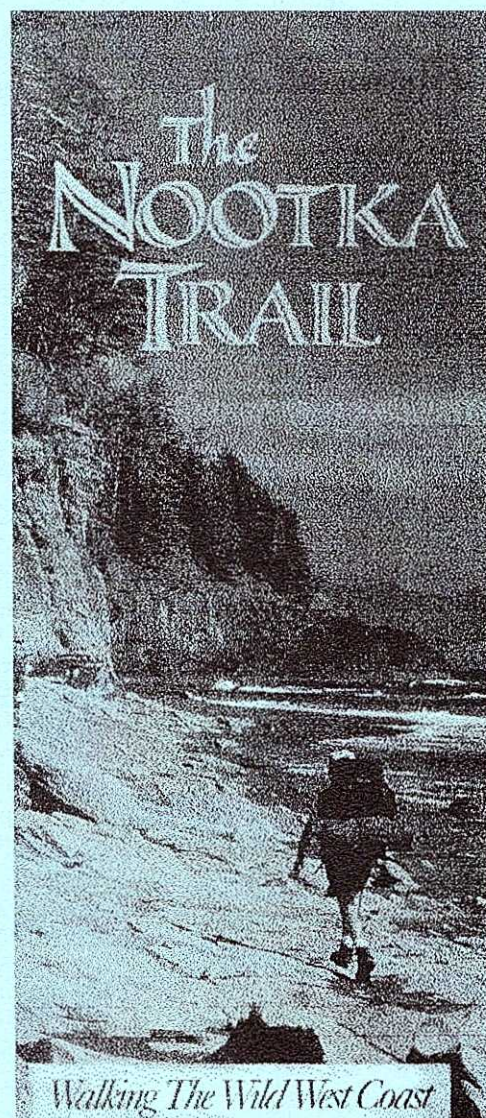
- o) **South of Highway 99: Non-motorized Summer and Winter**

Comments: Joffre Lakes Provincial Park, Cerise Creek, Casper Creek, and Van Horlick Creek except for limited road access to the illegal Snowspider cabin.

PARKS WITHIN THE SQUAMISH FOREST DISTRICT AREA

- p) **Provincial Parks located in the Squamish Forest District Area: Non-motorized Summer and Winter**

Comments: Limited motorized access should be allowed in the Tantalus Provincial Park area only for dropping people off. Flights over Tantalus Provin-



cial Park should be permitted without landing privileges. All other parks, including Callahan, Garibaldi, Birkenhead, Sockeye, Clendenning, Duffy Lake, Joffre Lakes, Cerise Creek, and Upper Lillooet, should be free of motorized recreation and activity.

COAST MOUNTAIN TRAVERSE

(A new long-distance hike for the
Coast Mountains near you)

by Annette Muttray, Elaho Trail Society

The Coast Mountains in BC have been lacking in easy long-distance hikes, save for the Southern Chilco- tins perhaps. You have to be a John Clarke-type to be able to run along the rugged ridges and glaciers and endure days-on-end bushwacking.

But things change: There is the Elaho-Meager Creek Traverse - a new and exciting trail that combines it all: (So far) untouched old-growth forests with magnificent stands of over thousand-year old Douglas Firs - easily accessible without bushwacking, the deep Elaho Canyon along which the trail winds itself up the valley and finally the alpine meadows, crystal-clear lakes and superb views on the Hundred Lakes Plateau. Mountains around the plateau are fairly easy assents. And to top it all up: Meager Creek Hotsprings at the end of a knee- knuckering decent into the Lillooet Valley. The traverse is 30 Km involves about 1,000 meters of elevation gain and can be done in 3-5 days.

The Elaho River is the main tributary to the Squamish and the trailhead is 100 Km north of the town of Squamish. The road is an active logging road (caution!) that our little Toyota has been able to manage for years. The drive from Vancouver takes about 3 hours. Check the Squamish District Ministry of Forests web site www.gov.bc.ca/for or call (604) 898-2100 to avoid disappointment due to road closures (you may otherwise have to walk the last 11 km of the road to Meager Creek Hotsprings).

The best thing about the trip is the feeling of being in a vast untouched old-growth forest that expands before your eyes from all the viewpoints, until it meets the mountains. And if you are into bush-whacking, try the route to the Clendenning Park Lookout and your hard

work will be rewarded with an unforgettable view into the otherwise secluded and un-roaded new provincial park. The Elaho forest has revealed some rare and endangered species, such as Spotted Owl, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Grizzly, and plants including orchids. Grizzlies frequent the valley and Mountain Goats can be seen along the ridges. Many different orchids, including the delicate Fairy Slipper litter the forest floor.

It is important that you make a trip to the Elaho this summer, even if you just wanted to camp for one night on the volcanic cliffs above the confluence of the Elaho and Lava Creek canyons, and visit the 1,300 year-old Doug Firs and the Bear Bluff Lookout on a very easy half-day hike. If Interfor has its way it may be all gone any day now.

A trail map and guide is now available for \$5 from the Elaho Trail Society (a new FMCBC member) or the Western Canada Wilderness Committee's stores, or at the Mountain Equipment Co-op. You can also get extensive information on the area at www.elahotrail.com or www.wildernesscommittee.org (archives, Stoltmann Wilderness). The Elaho Trail Society has also surveyed a route to a spectacular Clendenning Park viewpoint, a 5 hours hike with only 200 meters elevation gain. The Elaho Trail Society's purpose is to conserve endangered and irreplaceable resources such as the Elaho Valley Douglas-fir ecosystem and associated habitat through economic activities, including ecotourism and forestry, but only if carried out through an ecologically sustainable landscape level plan. Call the Elaho Trail Society in Vancouver at (604) 873-5504 for information on self guided hiking, or call 1-877-93-ELAHO

(1-877-93-35246) to book a one-day non-profit guided trip to the Douglas Fir Loop trail from Vancouver, Squamish or Whistler (\$10 - \$30 donation).

VANCOUVER ISLAND ISSUES

MT. ARROWSMITH UPDATE

by Peter Rothermel, Mid-Island Director

The Regional Ski Park, owned by the Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot (RDAC), has run into difficulties. After opening for only three days this past winter season, just before the new year, they closed permanently. The investors, Step Financial Group, pulled their

support. Their reasoning, in a letter to RDAC, "It is clear that the operation of Mt. Arrowsmith is impractical without a gondola connection to Lockwood Village." Lockwood Village was a proposed residential "alpine" village on Cokely's northeast slopes at about 500 metres elevation, within the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN). The RDN Regional Growth Management Plan stipulates no permanent residences in the area Lockwood was proposing to develop. It seems none of these developers or investors had done their homework. Gurther, while a small ski operation like Mt. Cain might be compatible within the area, I maintain a large Washington-type operation will never work, if for no other reason than the Arrowsmith massif lacks the quality and quantity of snow needed. According to the Ministry of Environment snow surveys, one year in five will have a metre or less in snow base.

According to the contract between the RDAC and the ski hill developers, the hill has to be open for the minimum of ten days by the end of May. Therefore, the developers are in breach of contract now and one would hope the RDAC will rewrite the contract into one that retains more control for the RDAC and the general public.

On a brighter note, the proposed park status for the rest of the massif is going well (block 1380). The Arrowsmith Massif Advisory Committee (AMAC) has drafted a regional park management plan to "provide for the stewardship of park land and trail systems for the protection, appreciation, and enjoyment of regionally significant landscapes and natural features." This draft management plan has been approved by the RDN board of directors. Our committee members have also had meetings with Weyerhaeuser and Timber West concerning the Historic Arrowsmith Trail and both companies have agreed to lease a portion of their lands to protect the trails. It's up to the lawyers to hammer out a contract now. TW has also committed to helping volunteers replace the bridge over McBey Creek. In our meetings with BC Assets and Land Corporation (BCALC) and the Ministry of Forests (MF), they favour a phased in approach towards park status and wish to work with us. It may take time but we're on our way and on track. A special thanks goes to Jeff Ainge, RDN Parks Coordinator, for compiling the committee members's information into an excellent management plan.

Our next step will be getting the trails and routes officially recognized by BCALC and MF. This is where you can help. We're looking for volunteers to help with trail maintenance and erosion control. The Alpine Club of Canada has scheduled a two-day affair (Aug 12-13) to do erosion control on the "Saddle" route and the "bumps" with a climb up the "Nose" to the summit on day two.

Maybe you or your club or group would like to commit to a day or two. If you wish to help, please contact me: Peter Rothermel by phone or fax at (250) 752-8792.

Lastly, the Arrowsmith Massif saw a lot of hiking and climbing activity this past winter and spring. The summer is shaping up to be a busy one, with whisperings of some multi-pitch climbing routes to be established. Stay tuned.

BROCHURE ON NOOTKA WEST COAST TRAIL RELEASED

by Markus Kellerhals
(reprinted with permission from Wild Isle Magazine)

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMCBC) recently produced a brochure entitled "The Nootka Trail: Walking The Wild West Coast", describing the Nootka Trail, a scenic coastal hiking route that follows the western coast of Nootka Island. Nootka Island is the largest island off the west coast of Vancouver Island. The purpose of the brochure is two-fold: to provide useful information for people wanting to hike the route, and to focus attention on the threat that proposed development (including logging) poses to this unique wilderness hike. The trail passes through a rich and diverse coastal ecosystem, bordered by a fringe of old growth forest that needs to be protected. The Nootka Trail rivals the famous West Coast Trail in both scenery and wildlife viewing opportunities. But because few people are aware of the area, it has received no publicity and little protection from development.

Heather and Rolf Kellerhals, who provided some of the trail information, have hiked the west coast of Nootka Island several times since the early 1980's. They hope the brochure will bring more visitors, who will in turn demand more adequate protection for an area of incredible diversity and beauty. A private logging road now leads right onto the coast, more planned cutblocks are clustered along the coastal fringe, commercial applications are pending ... Although publicizing wilderness areas may ultimately compromise those values, hiker Paul Horvath who knows the area well and has led groups there, believes that logging poses a more immediate threat.

Publication of the brochure was made possible

through funding from the Mountain Equipment Co-op's Environment Fund. Copies of the brochure appear in this issue of Wild Isle and available on request from the FMCBC office. Phone: 604-878-7007; www.mountainclubs.org; or they may be picked up at various Vancouver Island tourist information centres or outdoor stores.

THE FMCBC: WORKING FOR YOU

(reprinted with permission from Wild Isle Magazine)

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) has sponsored the development of the Nootka Trail brochure (see issue #12 of Wild Isle Magazine) through its advocacy role in wilderness access and preservation.

The FMCBC, a non-profit society, comprises a diverse group of non-mechanized mountain and wilderness recreationalists including hikers, mountaineers, backpackers, rock climbers, skiers, snowboarders, and snowshoers with an interest in the protection and preservation of the mountain and other wilderness environments. The FMCBC currently has 18 (20) Member Clubs, including a number on Vancouver Island: the Alberni Valley Outdoor Club, the Alpine Club of Canada (Vancouver Island Section), Club Tread, Comox District Mountaineering Club, Island Mountain Ramblers, Outdoor Club of Victoria, Vancouver Island Trails Information Society.

The FMCBC conducts advocacy activities through its committees. The Trails Committee works to have BC hiking trails recognized, protected, and maintained. It runs an Adopt-A-Trail program, promotes trail construction practices and maintenance, and identifies grants for trail projects.

The Recreation and Conservation Committee identifies and promotes the protection of natural and recreation areas. This Committee represents FMCBC members' interests in resource management issues and processes, develops policies, and ensures awareness of conservation issues through communications with FMCBC members, industry, government, and public.

The Education and Safety Committee promotes safe hiking and mountain travel through effective leadership and education programs.

If you are interested in more information, contribute to Committee work, or would like to join the FMCBC, either as an individual, or through one of its

member clubs, please call: 604-878-7007, or view the Website: www.mountainclubs.org.

NORTH CENTRAL ISSUES

CASSIAR ISKUT-STIKINE LRMP-SUPPORT LETTER FROM FMCBC

Tom Soehl,
Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP Coordinator,
Prince Rupert Inter-agency Management Committee,
Bag 500,
Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0

We are writing to endorse to the recently completed Cassiar Iskut - Stikine LRMP, which we have been monitoring over the last year or so. Our Federation represents the interests of 20 outdoor recreation clubs located throughout the province, with a total membership of about 4000. Our members have visited the area covered by the LRMP for decades, and have completed many memorable extended trips, usually mountaineering and/or backcountry ski trips. Personally, I have completed canoeing and rafting trips on the Spatsizi, Stikine and Chutine Rivers, a mountaineering trip along the Chutine drainage, and a month long ski traverse north from the Great Glacier.

We were delighted to hear that the LRMP came to a consensus, and that many of these great recreational areas, the extensive wildlife habitat, and the remarkable geological features would be protected for future generations. The guaranteed protection of these areas would also encourage and give some certainty to the expanding adventure tourism industry, which is helping to expand the economic base of the area. Our organization extends our sincere thanks and gratitude to those dedicated people (many of whom are volunteers) who made this happen.

We were then shocked and dismayed to hear of the recent objections to this plan by the mining and minerals sector. Clearly, as this was a consensus process, every party to the process had to give up many areas or interests that were important to them, and consequently we feel that there should be no disturbance of this agreement.

Yours truly,

Brian Wood,
Co-Chair
Rec and Con Committee

BC ISSUES

PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL TRAIL

ROUTE ENDORSED FOR

BC

(A hiking trail across Canada)

At the Federation of Mountain Clubs' 29th Annual General Meeting held in Prince George on 17 June 2000, the club delegates gave unanimous approval to the FMCBC's proposed route of the BC section of the National Trail. This National Trail was conceived in 1969 and is well established in eastern Canada. It differs from the other national trail running through southern BC (Trans Canada Trail) in that it is essentially a non-motorized foot trail as opposed to a multi-use trail. The trail uses existing trails where possible, and connecting trails will be built where necessary. The trail will be maintained by local hiking clubs through the Federation's Adopt-A-Trail Programme.

The BC section endorses the heritage of interior BC. Starting near Bella Coola, hikers will begin their journey on the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail, a trail used by First Nations people and by Alexander Mackenzie in his explorations in the early 1800's. The Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail Society maintains this trail. At the terminus of the AMHT, hikers will proceed along the old telegraph trail to Quesnel. Hikers will then proceed east along the Quesnel River until they pick up the 1861 historic Goldrush Pack Trail, a trail maintained by the Friends of Barkerville. As they end their journey on the GPT, they will proceed along a deactivated road just north of Bowron Lakes. Near Isaac Lake, hikers will pick up the Historic Goat River Trail. This trail dates back to 1880's when it was a major route between Barkerville and the upper Fraser. It is currently maintained by the Fraser Headwater Alliance. The NT will cross the Fraser River at Crescent Spur and head

east into the Rocky Mountains and the Willmore Wilderness.

Visitors to the BC section of the National Trail can experience the heritage and history of early BC, as well as some of BC's most exciting wilderness scenery.

For more information, please contact Pat Harrison, Executive Director, FMCBC.

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE --

AUGUST 7TH/2000

HELP MELP CAMPAIGN

SEEKS AUDIENCE WITH

PREMIER

Leaders of a campaign to restore funding to Provincial Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (MELP) Programs are trying to arrange a meeting with Premier Dosanjh. The campaign is being conducted by 84 environmental, conservation, labour and business organizations speaking on behalf of over one million citizens. Says Pat Harrison, Executive Director of Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC, "This is the largest, most inclusive assembly of outdoors users and interests ever put together. Knowledgeable folks are deeply unhappy with this government's dismal performance with environmental matters, in particular the drastic cutting of those programs delivering services related to wildlife, fish, habitat protection and parks."

The Campaigners are alarmed at the staff and budget cuts which have taken place over the past 5 years. Federation of BC Naturalists president Anne Murray comments, "The four Programs have sustained 50% cuts to both staff and operational budgets. We've lost 1,400 person/years and \$181 Million to environmental management efforts. There's no research or inventory funding. All across the province we are losing habitats, populations and genetic diversity. Government seems oblivious to the harm they have done".

Gil Arnold, spokesperson for BC Spaces For Nature points out, "We've met with almost everyone else - frontline and senior staff, Ministers of Environment, Lands and Parks, and of Agriculture, Fish and Food, the Liberal Environmental Critic and other Liberal Caucus members, and most recently the NDP Sustainable Economic Development Committee of Caucus. We've had no luck trying to meet with the Finance Minister or

members of the Treasury Board. To date all our work has had relatively little impact. This attempt to meet with the Premier is really our last effort. If we can't impress upon him the nature of our concerns, the urgency to fix them, and obtain his commitment to restore staff and funding, then we pretty much have to give up on this government and advise our supporters accordingly."

HELP MELP CAMPAIGN LETTER TO PREMIER

Premier Ujjal Dosanjh
Office of the Premier
PO Box 9041
Station Prov. Govt.
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E1
August 8 2000

Dear Premier Dosanjh

Re: Meeting with Conservationists concerning funding for Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

I wrote in May requesting that you meet as soon as possible with some representatives of the 84 organizations (see list below) that have stated their support for increased funding for the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, and in particular for four specific programs: Wildlife, Habitat Protection, Fisheries and Parks. I was most surprised to receive a response from Joanne Moody, your Scheduling Manager, that due to previous commitments, you are unable to meet. These 84 organizations represent the views of hundreds of thousands of British Columbians, who believe that protection of our natural environment is an essential role of government. We feel that it is most important that you meet with representatives of at least some of the groups who are active in this campaign, and as I said before, we can be very flexible in the time and location of our meeting. I sincerely hope that you do not have previous commitments from now until the election.

I would like to suggest a meeting, at your earliest convenience, to discuss in greater detail how you will restore staff and budgets to the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, how the Parks Legacy Recommendations regarding Parks' budget can be implemented, and how the Environment can be made a higher budget priority. The Ministry currently receives less than 0.8% of the provincial budget, a completely inadequate amount for

the protection of our natural heritage, wildlife, habitat, clean air, clean water and the care and management of our provincial parks. The 83 organizations that have so far professed their support for this cause, and the hundreds of thousands of members that these organizations represent, are looking for a significant increase in budget this year, in the four key programs of Wildlife, Habitat Protection, Fisheries and Parks.

When you spoke with Tom Burgess, a Federation of BC Naturalists representative, on the CFAX radio phone in program on July 12, you advised him to speak to Ms Sawicki about these concerns, and requested him to send you a letter about the matter. Our groups have in fact met with Ms Sawicki on three occasions in the last six months, and also with MELP staff members, to ensure that our information on the budgets was accurate. We have also met with the NDP Sustainable Economic Development committee, with Liberal Caucus members and with the Hon. Gordon Campbell. We have written regular letters to all MLAs, to yourself and to Paul Ramsey. We would now like to meet with you, in person.

We are calling for restoration of resources in Wildlife, Habitat Protection, Fisheries and Parks Programs, over a five year period, starting this year. This would call for five cumulative annual increases of \$15 million, directed specifically to these programs. While we appreciate that MELP staff cuts were stopped this time last year, and that \$5 million was restored to the MELP budget, this money ended up in such program areas as tire recycling, which should be self-financing. Our groups feel it is very important that money is directed by this government to the protection of our wildlife and habitat, and to the provincial parks, which are seriously under-staffed.

We are aware of the various measures your government has taken to conserve nature in our province, particularly the increase in parks acquisition, which we applaud. It seems contradictory, therefore, that you should be ignoring the request for adequate funding for the Environment Ministry, particularly since several other Ministries have been awarded sizeable increases in budget. We feel strongly that it is time for your government to reaffirm a commitment to natural ecosystems and the Environment, and to show this by giving the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks a higher budget priority.

I look forward to meeting with you very soon, to discuss these issues in more depth.


Yours sincerely,

Anne Murray
President, FBCN

The following groups have stated to the FBCN their support for an increase in funding for the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks and specifically for the Wildlife, Habitat Protection, Fisheries and Parks programs:

Arrowsmith Naturalists, Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment, BC Endangered Species Coalition, BC Government Employees Union (BCGEU), BC Spaces for Nature, BC Wildlife Federation, Boundary Bay Conservation Committee, Boundary Naturalists Association, Burke Mountain Naturalists, Burns Bog Conservation Society, Canadian EarthCare Society, Canadian Endangered Species Campaign, Canadian Nature Federation, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - BC Chapter, Carmanah Forestry Society, Central Okanagan Naturalists Club, Central Valley Naturalists, Chetwynd Environmental Society, Chilliwack Field Naturalists, Columbia Valley Field Naturalists, Comox Valley Naturalists, Cortes Ecoforestry Society, Cowichan Chemainus Conservation Coalition, Cowichan Valley Naturalists, CWS/NSERC Research Chair of Wildlife Ecology, David Suzuki Foundation, EACT Watershed Committee, East Kootenay Environmental Society, EKES Creston Valley

Branch, EKES - Elk Valley Branch, EKES Golden Branch, EKES Kimberley/ Cranbrook Branch, Environmental Mining Council of BC, Federation of British Columbia Naturalists, Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C., Forest Watch of British Columbia, Fraser Headwaters Alliance, Friends of Cortes Island Society, Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society, Friends of Ecological Reserves, Friends of John Dean Park, Glen Valley Conservation Association, Granby Wilderness Society, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Island Natural Growers, a chapter of Canadian Organic Growers, Kootenay Land Trust, Labour Environmental Alliance Society, Langley Field Naturalists, Living Oceans Society, Mittenatch Field Naturalist Society, Nanaimo Field Naturalists, Pacific Initiatives, Pender Harbour and District Wildlife Society, Quesnel Naturalists, Rivershed Society of B.C., Salt Spring Island Conservancy, Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club, Sargeant Bay Society, Savary Island Land Trust, Shuswap Naturalists, Sierra Club of British Columbia, Sierra Club of Canada, Sierra Legal Defence Fund, Society Promoting Environmental Conservation, South Okanagan Naturalists Society, Squamish Estuary Conservation Society, Stanley Park Ecology Society, Steelhead Society of B.C., T.Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation, The Cariboo Chilcotin



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**MOUNTAIN
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CO-OP**

Conservation Society, The Forest Caucus of BC Environmental Network, The Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society, Turtle Island Earth Stewards, Vancouver and District Labour Council, Vancouver Natural History Society, Victoria Chapter - Council of Canadians, Victoria Natural History Society, Watershed Watch Salmon Society, West Coast Environmental Law Association, Western Canada Wilderness Committee, White Rock and Surrey Naturalists, Zeballos Fish and Wildlife Association.

CANADA WEST MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

SUMMER UPDATE

by Brian Jones, Manager

Here we are well into the summer of 2000 even though the weather this season hasn't been the most summer like! Despite a late season snow pack though, our mountaineering programs have been doing quite well, with most managing to avoid any truly miserable weather. A continued interest in outdoor rock climbing has ensured a steady demand for beginner and advanced level rock climbing courses, in addition to many private and custom programs on the crags.

This season we launched a very successful trial program of free refresher clinics for climbers with background in rock or mountaineering skills. Four separate mountaineering refreshers were held in late May, 2 each on snow travel and crevasse rescue. In April a total of 8 Rock climbing clinics were conducted over two weekends at the Smoke Bluffs in Squamish. All of these sessions were fully subscribed with waiting lists!

Sponsorship from local retailers made these valuable skills refreshers possible. **Coast Mountain Sports** sponsored 7 of the Rock and Mountain clinics, **Altus Mountain Gear** sponsored 2 Rock clinics and the Mountain Equipment Co-op sponsored 3 Mountain and Rock clinics. Many thanks to these stores for supporting this excellent cause and helping many climbers to upgrade their skills in anticipation of a safe and enjoyable summer on the crags and in the hills!

CWMS will be conducting a similar program in the fall and winter season for Avalanche safety refreshers, be sure and look out for information coming out in October.

Other new developments at the school include our recently launched website www.themountainschool.com. Please take a few minutes to check us out, and stay

tuned for updates. You will be able to view our complete offering of courses, plus in the near future there will be slide shows to check out, valuable links, info on trips, gear and many other cool features.

MISCELLANEOUS

HORSE SENSE

by Pat Harrison, ED

I was recently talking to my sister-in-law and brother-in-law, who are ardent horse riders, about backcountry conflicts. I asked them as horse riders what are some of their concerns regarding other backcountry users. They replied that their biggest headache came from mountain bike riders startling horse riders by their great speed. They did say that hikers often did not know how to respond to a horse and rider on a trail. I asked them to give me a list of the do's and don'ts and that I would publish it in our newsletter.

Here are their suggestions:

- 1) When meeting a horse, hikers should go downhill in case the horse reacts. Most likely the horse will bolt in the opposite direction (uphill is better than downhill).
- 2) Make conversation with the rider which will alert the horse as to what you are (i.e., you are not a cougar or moving rock).
- 3) If you are fortunate enough to have llamas when you hike and you are approaching a horse and rider, make sure all of hikers and llamas go on the same side of the trail (preferably downhill), and if possible, well off the trail. Most horses have not been exposed to llamas and are frightened by them.
- 4) Hobbled horses may wander into hikers camps. Don't hesitate to chase them away. Hobbled horses can move quite well.



THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF BC SEEKS PROTECTION FOR THWAYTES LAND- ING

by Anna King

British Columbia is one of the fastest growing regions in North America. Its population is expected to grow by roughly two million people in the next twenty years. Unfortunately, urban expansion comes at the expense of BC's biodiversity and much of the province's most sensitive land is owned privately. The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC) was established in 1997 to protect BC's environmentally and culturally significant areas by acquiring protective control of land. We do this through land acquisitions, conservation covenants and stewardship programs. By working with the public, business and government, TLC has successfully protected over 77,000 acres of BC's threatened ecosystems.

TLC is a non-profit, membership-based land trust that is independent of government. Our projects range from the spectacular Garry Oak Meadows of South Winchelsea Island (near Nanaimo) to the threatened grasslands of Reynolds Ranch and the Horsefly River (near Clinton and Williams Lake, respectively). We also hold over 40 "Conservation Covenants" (legal agreements to limit development on land in specified ways) on properties throughout BC.

In the Lower Mainland, TLC is working to protect Thwaytes Landing, a 130-acre waterfront property located about halfway up Indian Arm. It is an area of high biodiversity because of the various types of habitat, including vulnerable moss-covered rocky outcrops, year-round streams and a mature coniferous forest. The Landing provides habitat for black bears, deer, martens, cormorants and suspected habitat for the tailed frog and the endangered marbled murrelet.

A mere half-hour from downtown Vancouver, Indian Arm is also a popular spot for kayakers and canoeists. However, as most of the Arm is privately owned or lined by inaccessible cliffs, paddlers must make it all the way to the end of the Arm before they can stop for a break. Thwaytes Landing's rocky beach is a natural rest area for paddlers and is a comfortable paddling distance from Deep Cove or Belcarra Park. There are well-marked trails that lead to scenic waterfalls and viewpoints and the Landing borders both the Mount Seymour

Provincial Park and the newly created Indian Arm Provincial Park.

On Friday, August 18th, TLC and Deep Cove Canoe and Kayak Centre are co-sponsoring a kayak/boat tour salmon BBQ at Thwaytes Landing. Kayakers (and canoeists) can either paddle up to Thwaytes with their own kayak or can rent kayaks from Deep Cove Canoe and Kayak Centre from 10:00am onward. A ferry will also be transporting passengers to the Landing from Deep Cove. The gourmet BBQ will be served from noon until 2:00pm and the afternoon will include live music, tours with a local naturalist and beach prizes. All proceeds from the event will go towards the purchase and protection of Thwaytes Landing. Tickets must be purchased in advance from TLC at 733-2313. Come out for a fantastic afternoon and help save Vancouver's natural heritage!

MEETING NOTICES

Annual General Meeting

Date: 23 June 2001

Location: Vancouver Area (BCMC?)

Board of Directors

Date: 20 Sep 2000

18 Oct 2000

22 Nov 2000

Location: 47 West Broadway,
Vancouver, 7:30 pm

Recreation and Conservation Committee

Date: 18 Sep 2000

23 Oct 2000

27 Nov 2000

Location: TBA. Check with FMCBC
Office, 7:30 pm

(continued on page 22)

Trails Committee

Date 11 Sep 2000
23 Oct 2000
4 Dec 2000
15 Jan 2001

Location: 47 West Broadway,
Vancouver, 7:00 pm

FMCBC Lower Mainland Delegates

Date: 11 Sep 2000
22 Nov 2000

Location: 47 West Broadway,
Vancouver, 7:00 pm

FMCBC Island Delegates

Date: Fall (Nov) 2000
Spring (April) 2000

Location: Bowen Park, Nanaimo,
9:30 am

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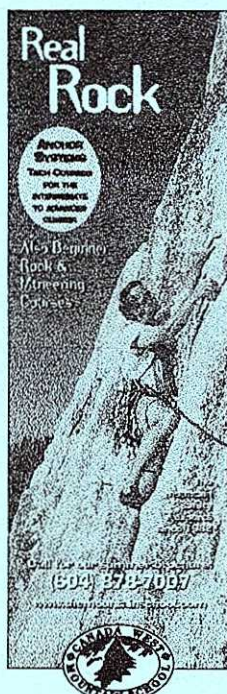


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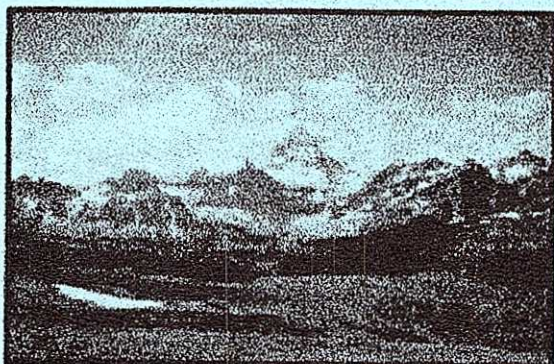
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HIKING HIGH



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Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies

SUMMER 2000

Who are the Skyline Hikers?

Established in 1933, the Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies is a non-profit organization registered under the Societies Act of the Province of Alberta. It has its own constitution, executive committee, council and various operating committees. Council meetings and election of new officers are held annually.

Each year the organization arranges and sponsors five 6-day camps in the Canadian Rockies. Different locations are visited on an annual rotation basis approved by Parks Canada.

What are the aims of the club?

Principal aims include:

- Encouragement of hiking in the Canadian Rockies.
- Preservation of the National Parks of Canada in their natural state.
- Development of an appreciation for the beauties of mountain places - their flora and fauna.
- Co-operation with other groups having similar aims.

Who can be a member?

Participation in one annual hike qualifies you for **REGULAR MEMBERSHIP**, renewable annually regardless of future hike attendance. (See fee schedule in this brochure).

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS, without voting privileges, are now available to interested parties unable to attend a camp at this time. (\$20.00 per year)

All current members will receive semi-annual club publications regarding hike activities, news and general information as well as the annual hike brochure.

WE NEED YOUR INTEREST AND COMMITTED MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT TO ACHIEVE FULFILLMENT OF OUR AIMS.

For further information or additional brochures write:

Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies
P.O. Box 3814
Spruce Grove, Alberta, Canada T7X 3B1

or telephone: (780) 488-9847

Fax: (403) 242-5010

e-mail: skylinehikers@home.com

In the Elaho Valley, no wildlife or plant inventories have been completed. Found so far by various naturalists and scientists working in the Elaho are 1) the Nodding Semaphore - a blue-listed old growth forest grass, 2) two sightings of Spotted Owls - a red-listed species, and 3) the Northern Goshawk - a red-listed species. The Northern Goshawk habitat is being logged as we go to press. What other red-, blue-, or yellow-listed species will be lost without proper inventories being completed?

MEMBER CLUBS

Alberni Valley Outdoor Club	250-723-9930
Alpine Club of Canada-Vancouver Section	604-878-5272
Alpine Club of Canada-Vancouver Island Section	250-477-8596
British Columbia Mountaineering Club	604-268-9502
Caledonia Ramblers	250-564-8887
Chilliwack Outdoor Club	604-858-8510
Club Tread	250-370-0736
Comox District Mountaineering Club	250-336-2101
Elaho Trail Society	604-873-4602
Fraser Headwaters Alliance	250-968-4410
Island Mountain Ramblers	250-247-8868
Klister Outdoor Klub	604-543-8855
North Shore Hikers	604-988-9525
North Vancouver Recreation Commission	604-983-6543
Outdoor Club	ext. 2966
Outdoor Club of Victoria	250-727-0824
Outsetters Club	604-946-9446
Richmond Outdoor Club	604-273-6968
Valley Outdoor Association	250-463-2904
Vancouver Island Trails Information Society	250-474-3445
Varsity Outdoor Club	250-822-2228
Independent Members	604-878-7007

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Alpine Club of Canada – Prince George Section

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Federation of BC Naturalists
 Environmental Fund of BC
 Friends of Cypress Provincial Park
 Kootenay Mountaineering Club

