



Kakwa Provincial Park Management Plan

Newsletter #3
February, 2002

Since our last newsletter we have had a very successful round of open houses, with a chance to talk one-on-one with many park visitors. We have also had a very good response to the questionnaire and the webpage. Many thanks to everyone who has participated. We have received a wide range of comments and suggestions to help in drafting the management plan. We have a good starting point in that an overwhelming majority would like to see Kakwa continue to be managed for its wilderness qualities. Reading the many comments it is clear that visitors have a strong attachment to the park, whether they are there to snowmobile, to hunt, to hike or just to relax and enjoy the scenery and wildlife.

The main purpose of this newsletter is to provide feedback on what we have heard, especially via the questionnaires and written submissions. For each question we have provided a brief summary of responses, plus a sample of the comments we received.

Public Contacts

Our public contacts have been as follows:

- ◆ initial mail-out of information: 170 packages
- ◆ Grande Prairie open house: about 60 people
- ◆ Prince George open house: about 150 people
- ◆ McBride open house: 6 people
- ◆ webpage hits: more than 800
- ◆ questionnaires/submissions received: 140

As well, we have made presentations to the Swan City Snowmobile Club in Grande Prairie (approximately 150 people) and the Prince George Snowmobile Club (approximately 40 people). We have talked to two classes at UNBC (35 students).

Meetings have been held with Shirley Bond, MLA for Prince George-Robson Valley and Pat Bell, MLA for Prince George North.

Wildlife and Other Surveys

Helicopter wildlife surveys were conducted in Kakwa Park on January 14th and 15th. The snowmobile use areas were surveyed, as well as parts of the Narraway and Torrens area. Deteriorating weather prevented a survey in the western part of the park. Three goats were seen on the northerly summit of Mt. Ruth, away from the snowmobile area, and six at Intersection Mountain. All other sightings of goats and tracks were north of the Jarvis Valley, towards the Narraway. The area is not visited by snowmobiles. Thirty sheep were seen in the Torrens area. There were no signs of caribou, wolves or wolverine. Another survey will be conducted before the end of March.

Surveys over the years have suggested no serious conflicts between snowmobiles and wildlife. Many species move out during the winter because of the heavy snow pack, and sheep concentrate in windblown areas which are not suitable for snowmobiling. Goats are the species of most concern and monitoring will continue as funds permit.

Other continuing studies are snow sampling to check for pollutants, and monitoring of the vegetation plots to assess damage to tree tops from passing snowmobiles, especially during periods of low snow pack. During the January survey some minor damage was noted along the trail east of Kakwa Lake, but none at the Mt. Ruth plots.

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Clarification

A few questionnaires queried the statements in question 17 (regarding “red” and “blue” listed species). We double checked the information and can confirm that bighorn sheep are blue-listed provincially and that “blue list” means “vulnerable”. There is still a caribou hunting season in Management Unit 7-19, which includes the Narraway and Hanington drainages. Some also asked for the definition of “wilderness park” as used in question 1. The term is not a legal designation in BC but, as used in management plans, refers to a remote and undisturbed landscape with limited access, fairly low use and an emphasis on backcountry recreation in a natural setting. This was the condition when Kakwa Park was designated and it also describes the type of management to date.

Questionnaire Responses

1. **Do you agree that Kakwa Park should continue to be managed as a wilderness park or do you have an alternative vision for the park?**

A very large majority favour managing Kakwa Park as wilderness. Many stated that they like the park the way it is.

Comments:

- There is too many wilderness parks in BC now. Give some taxpayers a break
- I don't want to see Kakwa be turned into a place like Jasper with stores, houses etc. It should be managed as it is now, with access to hikers, fishers and hunters.
- There will not be another opportunity for a wilderness park so close to Prince George again.
- Kakwa was never a wilderness park. Kakwa Park is a recreation park for public use and should stay that way.
- No, if this means only a chosen few will have access to the land and resources.
- BC is globally important in terms of the ability to maintain wilderness. Many other large parks are managed more as tourism parks (Banff etc) and maintaining the opportunity for wilderness is crucial.

2. **Do you agree that the primary emphasis should be on managing a naturally functioning ecosystem?**

A very large majority want the primary emphasis to be on the management of a naturally functioning ecosystem. Several stated that an ecosystem approach must include people.

Comments:

- Ecosystems are like weather – they change. For example one deep snowfall could wipe out all the moose. Leave it natural? I don't think so.
- BC and Alberta must work together for this objective, as wildlife do not recognize provincial boundaries and the Kakwa watershed is a major transmountain migratory route.
- No, Willmore and Jasper is enough.
- Opportunity to do this is very rare in the world. In the future, this value will be increasingly rare, maintain while we can.
- Yes, however, people are part of the ecosystem. The emphasis should be on conserving as opposed to preserving. Trappers have a historic right and a right through the LRMP process. As well, hunting should be permitted throughout. Hiking is a consumptive use!
- As a large area with little human disturbance, the Park seems an ideal situation to be managed primarily to maintain a viable predator/prey ecosystem while allowing compatible opportunities for non-mechanized recreation.

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3. **Do you agree that some parts of Kakwa Park should be managed for minimal visitor use? (e.g., no developed facilities; seasonal or year-round restrictions on activities). Please use the map to illustrate your ideas.**

A large majority agree with managing some parts of the park for minimal visitor use. Several respondents stated that any restrictions must be based on scientific evidence.

Comments:

- No restrictions or facilities.
- Development will continue around park so park should try to maintain wilderness character which will be gone in surrounding area in the future.
- I think this park should not be restricted to minimal visitor use. Presently this park because of no access to us ordinary people is a haven to the rich folk only. I do not understand what you mean by developed facilities. If it means additional cabins at the lakes I support that. I support that we hire park wardens that need to maintain proper use of this piece of paradise. But let's open it up to the rest of us BC taxpayers.
- We would like to see a motorized use restriction on the high mountains and glacial areas surrounding the Mount Sir Alexander, Mount Ida and Mount Dimsdale massifs. Furthermore, if areas are designated as appropriate for snowmobile use, we believe that set routes, or corridors, to and from these areas should be established.
- No, we should be able to use it year round. The only no hunting zone should be 1km around Kakwa Lake. If people are going to go to the trouble of getting into the park then they should be able to use it. I'd like to see insurance that wildlife is not stressed by snowmobilers.
- The idea of minimal impact is important for the wildlife and ecosystem. Also, there is a philosophical level. It is important to us to know that totally wild places still exist in this world of big cities, concrete and roadways. It is like knowing that penguins exist – even though I may never see one. It inspires.

4. **Do you agree that park management should include actions to limit impacts from visitor activities? If so, what management actions do you suggest?**

A large majority agree that management should include actions to limit visitor impacts. Specific restrictions or limitations on various activities were frequently mentioned.

Comments:

- Yes, but the restrictions should not be to the detriment of local users.
- No, access is already limited by geographical constraints.
- Hard packed snowmobile tracks can serve as “highways” for wolves, thus increasing their predator success. Therefore the effects of snowmobiling need to be closely monitored and snowmobile use restricted if necessary.
- No, there are a small number of visitors to the park, therefore the impact to the park is small. Most activity is during the winter, which keeps the impacts minimal.
- Action is required to meet the winter firewood needs of snowmobile users. As a summer user, I was shocked by the amount of winter “logging” that has occurred along parts of the Mt. Ruth trail. Cutting of trees by summer users in this fashion should not be allowed. Why a double standard for the winter users? As long as snowmobiles are allowed to continue at current high densities, pressure will remain for firewood.
- In the management plan discourage sightseeing flights, especially by helicopters. Hopefully flights will never become a permitted or an accepted activity as they seriously degrade wilderness and impact wildlife, especially goats and caribou.

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5. Do you agree that there are current management or visitor activities which are inconsistent with your vision for Kakwa Park? If so, what changes do you suggest for the activities?

For a large majority of visitors there are management or visitor activities which are inconsistent with their view of the park. Most frequently mentioned was a concern about the amount of snowmobile use.

Comments:

- Why create a park if you allow hunting, snowmobiling and low level flying – this is anathema to the concept of wilderness preservation.
- All people should have access equal to park's (i.e., BC Parks) people. No gate – not all people are criminals. No more private club.
- A gate should be erected at the park boundary and locked all summer because hikers and canoeists take advantage and drive up within a few kilometres of headquarters to ease the work. I have seen this many times personally.
- I think you need to watch that there are not too many hikers because frequency and numbers will destroy wildlife populations faster than any hunting.
- No hunting in parks, maybe with the exception of Native people, if hunting is pursued in an ancestral manner.
- I have never liked the idea of hearing motors/machines in wilderness areas. I associate the idea of wilderness with peace and solitude.

6. Please list recreational activities which you feel are appropriate in Kakwa Park.

Respondents listed a wide range of recreational activities which they feel are appropriate. Those which are already popular in the park were by far the most frequently listed: hiking, camping, horse and llama trips, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, climbing, wildlife/nature viewing and photography, backcountry skiing.

Comments:

- Open it up to RV's, campers, motorhomes etc. If taxpayers are paying to have a park there, let all taxpayers have access to it.
- Emphasis should be on activities with a relatively low impact on the environment.
- Any activity that maintains the wilderness of Kakwa is appropriate.
- All recreation is appropriate. What's the sense of having a park? All activities and commercial ventures keep our economy moving.
- All recreation activities are appropriate to the park, even quad's if trails are made and maintained.
- Non-motorized activities in a wilderness park will probably be okay because numbers of people will be minimal. If a negative impact on the environment occurs, then this should be curtailed.

7. Please list recreational activities which you feel are not appropriate in Kakwa Park.

The list of inappropriate recreational activities was also considerable. Topping the list were helicopter supported activities, followed by ATV's and trail (motor) bikes. The others most frequently listed were snowmobiling, hunting and commercial recreation activities.

Comments:

- None. Parks are for recreation with the exception of motorized vehicles off designated roads and paths during the summer.
- The use of ATVs or any machine that disturbs the natural landscape flowers and fauna. This would include the use of trail snow groomers in the winter.
- Any recreational activity carried on while being employed by BC Parks.
- TROPHY HUNTING, BIG GAME HUNTING, ALL HUNTING AND TRAPPING. (This comment was in red letters).
- The park is for the people, let them use it.

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- I feel that motorized activities have a significant impact on the park ecosystem and are not appropriate. This would include all ground based vehicles, motor boats and low-flying helicopters (heli-skiing).

8. Please list recreational facilities which you feel are appropriate in Kakwa Park.

Of the large range of facilities which were listed as appropriate, the most frequently cited were campsites, trails and huts/small cabins. A number suggested toilets and bear poles at campsites, while another frequent comment was to leave facilities as they are at present.

Comments:

- This is a BC Park. There is a huge issue for BC residents in the winter. Our (snowmobile) ride is longer with no place to stay.
- If some groups or organizations want facilities let them build them outside of the park boundaries like the snowmobile club has done.
- Have it like Purden Lake.
- None other than park management facilities, backcountry cabins for wardens, limited number of researchers etc.
- Proper facilities should be built i.e., camps by private investors on renewable lease basis.
- Wildlife values are so important that they should preclude much development. We already have many parks with lots of facilities and there will not be many more places like the Kakwa left where we have wilderness instead of facilities.

9. Please list recreational facilities which you feel are not appropriate in Kakwa Park.

Again, there was a long list of facilities which people consider inappropriate, each mentioned by a few respondents. But clearly standing out, head and shoulders above the rest, was a large number opposed to large, permanent structures – lodges/commercial establishments/club or private facilities.

Comments:

- I don't think commercial operators should have structures of any kind in the park, even temporary camps. Nor do I believe that user groups should erect structures for club use.
- Roads beyond park boundary.
- Lodges, heli-pads.
- Base camps should be located outside the park.
- Ski lodges and other lodges, camps built for commercial purposes and not benefiting the general resident.
- Roads, cabins or hostels at low elevations, snowmobile cabins, downhill skiing facilities.
- Any semi or permanent structures e.g., for commercial guided groups – this becomes “their” territory. These are public lands.

10. The following commercial recreation activities presently occur in Kakwa Park: guided horse trips; guided llama – assisted hiking trips; guided hunting; aircraft drop-off and pick-up of visitors. Do you agree that these activities are appropriate? If you agree, are any management restrictions appropriate for these activities? (e.g., group size, location of activity, supporting facilities, time of year).

The current commercial recreation activities were all supported by a large majority of respondents, frequently with the proviso that there be some restrictions, especially on group sizes.

Comments:

- Yes, they are appropriate because without guide-outfitters you wouldn't even have a trail in the park. Don't forget who put them there in the first place.

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- These activities are not appropriate if you don't want another Bowron Lake Park and Jasper etc.
- No commercial recreational activities within the park, period.
- No restrictions except leave it as you found it.
- No hunting at all within park boundaries.
- Allow fly-ins only on Kakwa, Cecilia, Dimsdale Lakes.

11. BC Parks has received applications for Park Use Permits to conduct the following commercial recreation activities in Kakwa Park: heli-hiking, heli-skiing; snowmobile tours; jet boat tours; guided climbing; flight-seeing and fly-in picnics; guided hiking from a permanent base camp. Do you agree that these activities are appropriate? If you agree, are any management restrictions appropriate for these activities? (e.g., group size, location of activity, supporting facilities, time of year).

All of the proposed new commercial recreation activities, with the exception of guided climbing, were opposed by a majority. The many comments indicate that the opposition is directed not so much at commercial use per se but at activities requiring motorized access and base facilities.

Comments:

- The park is there for us to use and enjoy. Don't limit its use.
- How can this possibly be consistent with the mandate to maintain ecological functioning? The rest of the province is becoming the playground of these high impact uses. PLEASE don't allow it here.
- I totally disagree with this proposal. I do not want to see this park being turned into another Whistler bonanza. Let's leave this park for the ordinary honest outdoors person.
- Absolutely no commercial access by air. There are already enough mechanized skiing and hiking tenures for BC's backcountry. Let's leave something for the goats, sheep, grizzlies, wolverines, caribou and others that are susceptible to disturbance from the air. If these activities are allowed in Parks, where won't they be allowed?
- No! No! No! If you allow any BC Assets and Lands Corporation tenured activity within Kakwa you will be laying the foundation to destroy its wilderness values! Look at Mt. Robson and the Bugaboos.
- What is wrong with showing people what wilderness is? We know we can conquer it. But can we live with it?

12. Surface access to Kakwa Park consists of forest roads to park boundaries and then trails, from both BC and Alberta. Do you agree that current surface access is adequate?

A majority considered surface access to be adequate, with numerous comments that the Walker Creek Forest Service Road on the BC side needs to be maintained or improved to Buchanan Creek or Bastille Creek.

Comments:

- The forest service road into Kakwa on the BC side is generally poorly maintained. In the winter the Alberta access is kept opened for snowmobiles by snow groomers. This is not the case in BC. It is much more challenging for BC taxpayers to enjoy the park than it is for Albertans.
- Unsure. Access is a double-edged sword. It would certainly be nice to have better access to the park via the Walker Creek road, however, not at the sacrifice of the wilderness experience in the park and possible abuse by others if parks staff are not there to control access.
- The present surface access may be adequate for the "young, healthy, avid" hiker. How about the older generation who still pay taxes in this province and would love to spend a few days or weeks at Kakwa Lake and cannot ever afford to fly in? Let's provide a decent road to at least the present quartzite claim.
- Access from BC has been discouraged by refusing to allow road access or bridges. It is closer to Alberta and the out of province visitors outnumber the people from BC. Some level of reasonable road access should be available for the people of BC, after all it is their park.

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Comments Continued

- No. There should be better roads into Kakwa Lake from both ends so elderly and handicapped can enjoy the park too. There are far too many restrictions on BC Parks.

13. Aircraft access is permitted to Kakwa, Jarvis and Dimsdale Lakes and occasional helicopter landings are authorized (e.g., for climbers, cavers, scientific researchers). Do you agree that current aircraft access is adequate?

A large majority identified air access as adequate. There were numerous suggestions for limitations e.g., on the number of flights.

Comments:

- Floatplanes are one of the most environmentally friendly means of transportation, having practically no impact on the environment. Other means of transportation have significantly higher environmental costs. Floatplanes allow people who may have physical disabilities to access and enjoy the parks.
- This question is biased in favor of continued air access. Aircraft landings in Kakwa Park should not be allowed unless surface access is lost due to the removal of the Bastille and Buchanan Creek bridges.
- More than adequate. If it is to be continued as an existing use, it must be kept at a level that is non-impactive.
- “Adequate” depends so highly on values. If allowed there would be extensive access. Allow legitimate use for scientific purposes, but why are climbers and cavers allowed to disrupt the environment for their sport? There are many other areas that can be accessed. It is unnecessary here.
- Aircraft use should be restricted to non-commercial users such as climbers and researchers, and the level of this type of use should not be allowed to expand beyond what is currently occurring. Monitoring of aircraft use levels should be made a high priority, and use should be reduced or eliminated if adverse impacts on wildlife population are observed.
- Aircraft access should not be allowed at all for non-park or research personnel. Otherwise it allows for preferential access.

14. Recreational facilities in Kakwa Park consist of unmaintained trails, camping areas at Kakwa Lake and public use of BC Parks’ cabins when they are not required for management purposes. Random backcountry use is permitted throughout the rest of the park. Do you agree that the current level of facility development is appropriate?

A large majority felt that the current level of facility development is appropriate. There were suggestions for minor improvements such as bear poles at campsites and trail relocations in muddy areas.

Comments:

- Generally yes, although some trails need upgrading/marketing and some relocating or closing. In areas of sufficient demand, campsite designation and development may be required.
- Not at all. Open the park up for all to use. Not just a handful. There is too much parkland in that area anyhow.
- I would oppose any new developments. Improvements or expansion of trails should be avoided. Improved access to the Hanington Pass and Torrens River areas should be avoided. Hunters already use that area. I fear that advertisement or improvement of routes to that area could result in increased use. Increased summer use could lead to intolerance of hunting. Increased winter use could cause disturbance to this key wintering ground.
- I believe climbing could be an important feature of the park. A hut to facilitate climbing may be warranted, particularly because Mt. Sir Alexander is really a winter only ascent.
- Need a snowmobile cabin (large, about 30 people) for safety and enjoyment for novice riders.
- I do see a need for outhouse facilities at heavy traffic areas. This would help to control indiscriminate use of the outdoors for the purpose of human waste.

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15. Some authorized activities result in the removal of resources from Kakwa Park: fishing; trapping; hunting; quartzite quarrying (at Wishaw Lake in Kakwa Protected Area). Do you agree that these activities are appropriate?

The four activities were considered appropriate by a majority of respondents. Many voiced reservations but acknowledged established use patterns and legal tenures which pre-date park designation. There were some suggestions for monitoring and/or phase-out.

Comments:

- These activities pre-existed the park and you still found it desirable as a park. Let them continue. If anything is a problem it will be because this area is now a park, not because of these activities.
- How can hunting be permitted? These populations (including fish) should be allowed to have natural population dynamics. If parks don't provide this, where does? Limited First Nations hunting may be acceptable, if it is an issue.
- Wildlife die from 1 of 3 reasons in the wild – 1. Disease, 2. Starvation, 3. Exposure. None of which are pretty. All activities listed in Question #15 have minimal impact at worst. They are the historical reason that the park even exists.
- This question is offensive as it assumes that fishing, hunting and trapping remove resources in the same manner as mining. Hunting, fishing and trapping make use of renewable resources. Quarrying in a park is not appropriate.
- No, however given historical rights they should be allowed to continue. No new permits should be issued.
- I don't believe in having a park and then killing all the wildlife, so there should be a partial or full restriction on hunting. I am also not in favour of mines in parks, but I understand that the mine is shut.
- Extraction of quartzite from Kakwa is based on legal claims, which are beyond the influence of the planning process. Mining has caused permanent harm by removing non-renewable resources, and leaving debris on a scale beyond the potential of any recreational use. The question is a slap in the face to hunters such as myself, who have done so much in Kakwa to clean up after the mining industry.

16. Snowmobiling occurs in many areas of the park. Wildlife regulations impose a seasonal closure above 1400m from May 1st to October 31st in areas north of the Continental Divide. Do you agree that current snowmobile activities are appropriate?

A majority considered current snowmobile activities to be not appropriate. The concern was not so much with snowmobiling as an activity but with the high volume of unrestricted use and its impacts.

Comments:

- I always hate running into snowmobiles in the wilderness and have had bad experiences with such groups. But I have good friends who are responsible snowmobilers and they've said some US parks have an excellent system – use is closely monitored by park wardens and they are strict. Check in/check out, stay on designated trails etc. Maybe this would work but expensive to maintain.
- Very high uncontrolled winter use is a concern. There appears to be little data on wildlife or forest impacts. Significant firewood cutting and snowmobile damage to trees requires study and potential limits to use. It is not clear to me why a winter road (groomed trail) exists into Kakwa Lake for motorized access when motorized access is discouraged in the summer. At the very least, Parks should work with snowmobile clubs towards establishing a winter park host program to monitor winter usage. The long-term goal should be to eliminate motorized recreation in the park.

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Comments continued

- Snowmobile use in the park should be curtailed. Snowmobiles zooming haphazardly around the alpine violates my sense of wilderness. I can see occasions where snowmobiles could be used for winter access to the park.
- Snowmobiling is and has been the majority user. A rough estimate would be 3000 plus visits. Some visitors may access Kakwa up to 5 times during the winter. Each one of those trips costs about \$400.00 each time – not including snowmobile, truck, trailer, clothing and camping equipment. Approximate value about \$1,200,000 to our immediate economy.
- Snowmobiles cannot go everywhere. The winter/summer mountaineering areas at Mt. Ida and Sir Alexander are world class areas and snowmobile use on high glaciers ruins the experience. Perhaps the area surrounding these areas should be non-mechanized. A boundary of Jarvis Creek to the NW, as well as McGregor River to the SE should be looked at.
- I think that BC residents should have a greater say about what happens to parks in BC than Albertans – the majority of the snowmobilers.

17. The BC Government identifies species at risk by assigning them to red (threatened) or blue (vulnerable) lists, with a corresponding need for careful management. In Kakwa Park, mountain caribou (which may be occasional visitors) are on the red list; northern caribou, bighorn sheep and grizzly bears are on the blue list. Do you agree that restrictions on recreational activities are appropriate as one technique for managing these species to assist their continued presence in the park?

A large majority agreed that restrictions on recreational activities are appropriate as one technique for managing species at risk. This question provoked some of the strongest comments.

Comments:

- There's lots of room for wildlife around the park itself. The whole east side of BC is parkland. Give us a break.
- Yes, certain areas need to be closed during animal use times, maybe even closed indefinitely. Certain activities have to be monitored for overuse and threats to vulnerable animals.
- I don't agree with restrictions on recreational activities to manage these species. It's not fair to red list the whole province when only certain areas have a problem. Not enough people visit this area and most of the activity happens during the winter and the only animal around are the sheep.
- The caribou must come first!
- There are more caribou in that country than most people realize, far from threatened. If you want to help increase a given bear population - then shoot/remove old males.
- I don't believe current recreation activities have any significant detrimental effect on these animals.
- The two can co-exist. So 4 or 5 caribou that wander into an area shouldn't be able to claim that area as a "no sled" area.
- Yes. Hunting of those species should not be allowed if the park is to be managed on an ecosystem basis. Activities that interfere with those species (snowmobiling, flight-seeing) should be restricted.
- Absolutely! A fundamental objective for the park is the preservation and protection of wilderness ecological values. I would also include wolverine. These restrictions, however, should be for primarily biological, not social/political reasons.
- Very leading question. Caribou are not currently being hunted and numbers are increasing. Sheep, goats and bears are healthy in the park and available in sufficient numbers to be open to harvest. Restrictions are not appropriate. Managing wildlife scientifically by the wildlife branch without rhetoric is!
- There are many areas including just outside of the Kakwa Protected Area where people can continue with recreational activities that should be restricted in the park due to the protection of wildlife.

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18. Please list additional suggestions regarding the management of Kakwa Park – any concerns, proposals, ideas you would like to have considered in the management plan.

We received a wide variety of responses and suggestions. Thank you.

Comments:

- If there are any restrictions it should apply to summer use. Let's have at least one park that caters to winter activity. It can be used as a barometer for people to assess impacts on parks. Information obtained must be interpreted by people with a non-biased view. Who knows, maybe BC Parks opened to snowmobiling may be the best thing for BC with the least impact. Let's stop narrow-minded thinking.
- I am very concerned about the snowmobiles - however much they demand access, the mandate to preserve wilderness should come first and that does not include snowmobiles.
- Remove the present management and replace them with honest hardworking people who will put the public and the public funds ahead of their own personal agendas.
- I believe that park staff are well qualified to manage Kakwa as a wilderness park. I just hope that pressure from public interest groups and commercial interests do not force management decisions that will, over the long term, degrade the wilderness of this special area we value so highly.
- Floatplane access seems to always be threatened. I am at a loss as to why! Floatplanes are the most environmentally friendly method of access. I am a floatplane pilot because I love the outdoors and am concerned more with keeping the parks natural and beautiful than the majority of the people. I find that most recreational floatplane pilots share the same view. Floatplane operation for commercial ventures should not be permitted.
- Let's really limit the flight operations. While floatplane operators don't feel that they have much impact they must realize that the noise pollution and visual pollution is very significant. There is nothing worse than working your butt off to get into an area only to find an airplane has got there before you. It really takes away from the pristine wonder of the place.
- If BC Parks can't afford to have better access to Kakwa Lake, maybe it should be opened for mining, forestry, etc. That will build better roads etc. The public would be better off if BC Parks got right out of the area and give it back to the taxpayers. It should never have been made into a park in the first place.
- I appreciate the opportunity for input. I just feel development of any of this park should proceed as carefully and slowly as possible. It is a jewel, and really, the longer it remains relatively inaccessible the better.
- There are far too many parks that the average taxpayers can't use. What are we saving it for - a few people who use it to hike once in a lifetime?
- Do not make a new Banff.
- Far too much pressure is being put on other parks such as Banff and Jasper because we have not developed substantial people access to other parks. The belief that increased use will lead to habitat and animal destruction does not hold water. We are not the people of yesteryear without knowledge of ecological concerns. Has the massive use of Jasper and Banff led to destruction of such?
- The less human presence/activity the better. Keep it as wild as possible so that those who respect it can enjoy it also with the flora and fauna that live there.
- The plan must incorporate the inter-provincial co-operation between BC and Alberta for management policies and especially for wildlife populations that recognize no boundaries (e.g., bighorn).
- I suggest that the access from Alberta be severely limited. There is a cost to supporting Alberta access and activities and absolutely no economic benefit to BC.
- Capitalize on size, winter use and safety. Winter use from BC side needs a carefully thought out location for base cabin in park.

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- Improved road access is desirable. If this results in too many visitors a quota can be put in place. The park should not just be accessible to those with money to fly in, or travel by four-wheel drive vehicles. Perhaps a bus service similar to Lake O'Hara in Yoho could be implemented at peak periods.
- I would like to see Kakwa managed so that 30, or even 100 years hence, we may have the same type of wilderness experience as today, and hopefully without the need for excessive control such as is sometimes seen in the national parks. In my view, this is best achieved by encouraging low-impact, self-propelled, non-consumptive use, with some limited and carefully monitored commercial use. Once opened to higher impact activities, the door is very hard to close. Conversely, if we follow a precautionary approach initially, there is nothing to stop a future planning process from opening the door wider.

Looking Ahead

The major task now is to prepare the first draft of the management plan for public review. We hope to have this available by the end of May. We will send a copy to each name of our mailing list and we will also post it on our website. In addition, we will include a second questionnaire, focused on proposals in the draft plan, so that you can provide feedback.

We look forward to your continued involvement.

Remember, you can contact us at any time.

Contact information

- ◆ By mail
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Ph: (250) 565-6759 / Fax: (250) 565-6940
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PGDInfo@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca

The website address for the Kakwa Park Management Plan is:

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/mgmtplns/kakwa/kakwa.htm>