

Bridge River Economic Development Society and Gun Lake Residents

November 2, 2011

South Chilcotin Mountains and Big Creek Parks

Values:

- Natural values.
- Snowmobiling and other traditional activities.

Concerns:

- Access to traditionally used areas; natural controls, such as waterbars, are reasonable, but bridge removal is greatest concern due to safety concerns in crossing streams.
- Continuing snowmobile access in traditional areas; affected by deactivation of roads.
- Access for an aging demographic.
- Parks are public; public should be able to access.
- Mountain biking conflicts are due to misunderstanding; most have respect for the area.
- How growth of activities may affect the area.

Recreation:

- There is an existing degree of comfort with existing users in the area.
- Snowmobiling is a major activity by local people.

Commercial Uses:

- Commercial operators provide for other users.

Education:

Recommendations:

- South Chilcotin Mountains and Big Creek Parks are a unique opportunity to develop a multi-use park.
- Take an inclusive approach to park management with the local community.
- BC Parks should set up regular meetings (1 to 2 times a year) with the local public/government to discuss management/issues/ opportunities, etc.
- Retain hunting as an acceptable activity in the parks.
- Find ways to educate people to respect the natural values (e.g. wildlife requirements) and how and why management is applied – understanding is important to gain support.
- Need a balance between conservation, recreation and commercial opportunities.

- Develop maps for the general area, including the parks; work with the local community to develop adequate maps.
- Develop adequate signs, especially as trail-heads.
- Provide a BC Parks presence in the park and community; possibly co-ordinate between different agencies. Co-ordination is needed for the various recreation opportunities.

Yalakom Park

- High mineral potential area should accommodate mining exploration.

Gyneth Lake Park

- Improvement is needed in campground, with more campsites needed to accommodate travelling public.
- The park could be developed as a front country campground for people using the Hurley Road.
- Bear proof containers needed.

Bridge River Delta Park

- Concern on the impact of mining exploration and possible development in the area of Bridge River glacier on grizzly bear habitat protection.