

Lillooet Naturalist Society, but open to all.

December 10, 2011

South Chilcotin Mountains and Big Creek Parks:

Values:

- The natural world: ecosystems, plants, wildlife, geology, terrain, solitude.
- Recreational activities.
- Local economic benefits.

Concerns:

- Uncontrolled increases in activities in the area South Chilcotin Mountains Park, which is rolled over as an acceptable use without consideration of potential impacts.
- High amount of air traffic.
- Mountain biking use was low in 1980s, but now in the hundreds, creating possible conflicts and impacts on recreational and conservation values.
- Impacts on wildlife due to human use.
- Loss of access to the park – Relay Creek was supposed to be an access.
- Ensure consideration is given to providing ongoing economic benefits to the community.
- Access to parks that have limited accessibility.
- Overgrazing in some areas, especially the north end of Spruce Lake.

Recommendations:

- Consider the Official Community Plan and regional growth strategies.
- There should be limits on use and access: air traffic; mountain biking.
- Wilderness use should be the primary objective.
- BC Parks needs to find budget to adequately sign the parks, provide interpretation and have an effective enforcement presence.
- Work with the Invasive Species Society in Lillooet.
- Assess the threshold for use before there is impact on wildlife populations.
- Some people at the meeting wanted snowmobiling in Big Creek, Taylor Basin, Slim Creek and Lorna Lake.
- Zoning may address conflicts, e.g. between backcountry skiing and snowmobiling.
- Use prescribed fire to maintain ecosystem.

Marble Canyon Park:

Concerns:

- Maintenance of water quality in Pavilion Lake.

Recommendations:

- Protect water quality by erecting barriers along side of highway to minimize vehicles from entering water due to accidents; ensure septic and holding tanks used by residents are sustainable.
- Divers in Pavilion Lake should only be allowed through guided tours.
- Ban the use of downriggers for fishing to protect the microbialites.
- Do not allow motorized vehicles on the ice, providing adequate signs.
- Use prescribed fire to maintain ecosystem.