

The Deer Fence

by Greg Betz and Don Gough,
Okanagan District

The area of Crown Land between Summerland and Peachland contains major winter habitat for Mule Deer. The arrival of snow early in the winter of 1996/97 created many challenges for all of us and especially local wildlife. Extreme snow accumulations made survival conditions for wildlife populations very difficult.

Mule Deer and a small group of mountain goats winter on the slopes above Okanagan Lake because of the usually low depths of snow and abundance of food sources. The abnormally high snow pack drove the deer population down lower and lower on these slopes. This resulted in the animals making frequent trips back and forth across Hwy. 97 in their search for food.

According to Ministry of Transportation and Highway (MOTH) statistics, 202 muledeer carcasses were

removed from Hwy. 97 between November '96 and April '97. Wildlife biologists advised that a minimum of two animals for every one removed from the highway were also killed. They managed to stagger off the road and terminated in the ditches and orchards along the highway.

Okanagan district staff encountered this carnage every day on their way to and from work. In January 1997, Parks staff hosted a meeting of representatives from the Ministries of Transportation and Highways and Environment to discuss strategies to reduce the numbers of animals being killed. A representative from ICBC was also invited because of the cost of insurance claims resulting from these collisions. The group was advised that each deer/vehicle collision cost ICBC an average of \$1700. A decision was made to jointly fund an in-depth study of the situation and it was concluded that an enclosure fence was a cost effective solution for mitigating collisions.

The next step was to figure out

how to come up with the estimated \$350,000 to build 15 kilometres of "Top Railed" 8ft, high tensile, page wire enclosure fencing. The first major step occurred when the Summerland Sportsmen's Association came forward and offered to help raise funds to install the fence. This was quickly followed by \$100,000 from MOTH and \$50,000 from ICBC which covered the purchase of the posts and fencing required. An application has been made to the Habitat Conservation Fund for \$150,000 to go towards the installation costs.

Prospects look very favourable for additional support from Argo Road Maintenance (approximately \$20,000 "in kind" for installation of "Texas Cattleguards" where needed), and from adjacent farm beneficiaries and

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Articles from readers are welcome. Deadline for material in the next issue is July 1, 1998.

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(continued from page 1)

one large vineyardist located below the fenceline. Prospects are fairly certain the project will receive support from the Okanagan Wildlife Heritage Fund Society and/or the BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) for approximately \$20,000 in contract coordination money.

There will also be substantial contributions of volunteer labour from club members of the Okanagan region of the BCWF. Their labour will be for the disassembly and removal of non-functioning sections of existing fencing and is valued at approximately \$20,000. The project was also very fortunate to receive additional contributions from Human Resources, Development Canada, who were very receptive to providing workers to perform site preparation/clean-up, native seed collection, revegetation of disturbed sites and highway flag persons when required during construction. The value of this labour is estimated at \$20,000.

To date, one kilometre of fencing has been completed within Okanagan

Lake Provincial Park and work is well underway on the six kilometre section between the park and Peachland. It is hoped that the remaining eight kilometres to Summerland will be completed this summer for which all the materials have been purchased. Even during the preliminary planning and development for this project, media attention has been intense and very supportive. Many volunteers have been involved in working on the project. Area stakeholders, including commuters and farmers, are also supportive.

This has been a win/win project for all involved. ICBC for reduced accident claims, MOTH for improved road safety and maintenance, RCMP and Conservation Officer Service for reduced emergency response calls, Health for ambulance calls, and BC Parks, relative to road-kill carrion in and adjacent to popular provincial parks along this section of highway. Last but definitely not least, are the muledeer and mountain goats who won't be tempted to run the gauntlet of increasing traffic in the future. □

National Aboriginal Day – June 21 Share in the Celebration



June 21 is National Aboriginal Day, a day when all Canadians can celebrate the contributions Aboriginal peoples have made to Canada. In cooperation with national Aboriginal organizations, the Government of Canada chose June 21 for National Aboriginal Day because it is also the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. For generations, many Aboriginal People have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day. Today, Canada is proud to recognize the rich cultural diversity and unique achievements of Aboriginal peoples with a national day of celebration. National Aboriginal Day is for all Canadians – so share in the celebration.



For more information about National Aboriginal Day, or to obtain information about Aboriginal peoples, visit the web site of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development at: <http://www.inac.gc.ca>, call the department's Information Kiosk at (819) 997-0380, or contact Dawn Paul, First Nations Employment Equity Representative for Environment, Lands and Parks at (250) 387-3978. □



Getting Ready for the Sockeye

By Stan Parkinson, Thompson River District

During the summer and late fall of 1997 a lot of activity was taking place in Roderick Haig-Brown Park. The sound of hammering and the whine of chainsaws echoed along the river and trails. Two crews from Interfor, Adams Lake Division, were working to upgrade facilities for the 1998 "Salute to Sockeye" event. Each year the mill has donated labour and materials to upgrade a portion of trails as a job training experience for at least three summer students. This year was no exception, the students divided their time between the mill and park trails lost to washouts as the river changed course due to spring floods.

The mill also sponsored an FRBC project within the park, to rebuild some bridges and the viewing platform. Due to the time restrictions on working in the Adams River, the crew instead concentrated its time in the Upper Flume area (Bear Creek), a new addition to the park. This 5km hiking trail, with its many bridges and walkways, is named after a historic log flume built here in the early 1900s. Old sections of the flume still remain and are a reminder of a



New style steel web stringers replace old log structure over Adams River spawning channel.

time when environmental concerns were outweighed by the ease of floating logs down the river to the mill at Chase. The crew rebuilt two foot bridges and sections of trail previously closed due to visitor safety as years of neglect had taken their toll. The mill generously paid for new interpretive signage to

explain the history of logging and the importance of this early form of log transportation.

The FRBC crew then turned its attention to the viewing platform and the bridges used by visitors to the "Salute" event. An engineer designed the steel web stringers for the bridges with the decking and handrails of treated lumber. The 4m x 22m viewing platform was also rebuilt using treated beams and lumber to ensure longevity. It was left unstained to blend in with the surroundings as well as to be maintenance free. The project wound down in November leaving only minor work to be done in the spring before the thousands of visitors converge on the park to see the return of the scarlet salmon in the fall of 1998.

The Thompson River District would like to thank Interfor, Adams Lake Lumber Division, for its generosity and interest in Roderick Haig-Brown Park over the years. □



Rebuilt viewing platform, using no-maintenance treated lumber.

BC Parks Uniform gets High Marks

by Pat Singer, Cariboo District

I recently took an outdoor survival skills training course where participants were to spend three days and two nights in the bush. We were to mimic a real life situation of being stranded in the bush for a few days. We made our shelters out of what we would normally carry in our survival packs. Since I would be wearing my uniform if I were stranded, I put the uniform to the test.

I wore fleece long underwear (not uniform issue) under the pants and shirt. During the day I wore the fleece jacket that kept me comfortably warm as the weather was mild. At night I wore the gortex jacket and pants (no sleeping bag). As long as I kept my fire going I was warm and cozy.

It did not rain during the three days so did not get to test the gortex's resistance to water. When the wind came up during the day I put the gortex jacket on and was warm and comfortable.

I found the uniform easy to move around in and to sleep in. If it got wet, it dried quickly. I especially like the stretch in the pants - makes it easy to scramble over rocks and under trees.

All in all I would give the uniform a high rating. It looks smart, even when slept in. After three days I still looked presentable. I took the course with forest service employees who were quite envious of my uniform.

Although I did not wear them this trip, I want to give high marks to our uniform shorts. They are smart and professional looking, yet extremely comfortable. They dry quickly if wet and they stretch for climbing and bending. □



Vistas of waving grasses that include rare plants and wildlife species define this protected area.

Grasses and Vistas

Grasslands are one of the rarest ecosystems in the province of British Columbia. Often considered wasteland, grasslands contain a rich variety of plant and wildlife species. Yet these undervalued ecosystems are among the most vulnerable in British Columbia. This protected area lies adjacent to a bustling, large interior community. Government agencies, interest groups, scientists and local citizens worked together to recommend this grasslands area to government as a protected area. In 1996 government designated this new protected area. Have you visited this protected area? Can you name it? (Answer on page 6). □



A Thank You Note

From the bears at Mt. Seymour Provincial Park

Thanks for the new sign.

We really liked the food from the cars but this is really appreciated!

Partnering the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy

by Cathy Mackin, Parks and Ecological Reserves Management Branch, Victoria

The Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy (PMHL) is a five-year, \$60 million agreement between Canada and British Columbia to acquire lands in the southern Gulf Islands as part of an emerging network of coastal and marine protected areas. Canadians will have a new national park in the Strait of Georgia, and several new provincial protected areas along the whole coast.

A number of ministry staff work closely with staff of Parks Canada, Canadian Heritage on the PMHL program. Denis O’Gorman, ADM, and Colin Campbell, Director of Planning, sit on the management committee; Louise Goulet, Planning Services Manager, co-chairs the coordinating committee; Senior Planner Ken Morrison provides policy input and assists with coordination. Diane Moen, Land Administrator, and Ian Atherton, Senior Acquisitions Negotiator with the Crown Lands Branch, are involved with negotiations and property purchases; Cathy Mackin works on First Nation issues and sits on the history working group; Anthony Danks does Communications; and District Manager Dave Chater is responsible for interim management of the properties until the end of the agreement; Jim Morris provides planning assistance as required.

While BC and Canada want protected areas along the entire coastline, the southern Gulf Islands are of immediate interest to both Parks Canada and BC Parks because of the pressures of continuing development. Most of the 13 acquisitions have been in this area. Decisions will be made at the end of the agreement as to which will be part of the national park and which will be established as provincial parks.

Property in the Gulf Islands is difficult to acquire and very expensive. Many of the vendors are public-spirited and have accepted less than full market value in return for knowing that their land will be protected.

The Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy is being built “site by site, habitat by habitat”. The direct acquisitions are being complemented by partnerships with the Islands Trust, Galiano Conservancy Association, and the Capital Regional District and others. □

Royals Praise the PMHL

by Cathy Mackin, Parks and Ecological Reserves Management Branch, Victoria

Princes Charles, William and Harry helped celebrate the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy while they were visiting the province on a ski vacation in March.

At a public ceremony with some 300 guests, Prince Charles acknowledged the importance of saving the environment for future generations. He encouraged Premier Clark and Canadian Heritage Minister Sheila Copps to continue providing more resources for this vital project. He also thanked the families who have the vision to protect their land forever by selling it for parks purposes.

While District Manager Dave Chater was prepared to host Prince William on a helicopter flight over the Gulf Island protected areas, unfortunately, time ran out on the royals’ agenda.

Dr. Louise Goulet, BC Parks Planning Manager, worked tirelessly as the liaison with Canadian Heritage, the Premier’s Office and the Protocol Office, addressing the myriad details that go into a flawless royal reception. Congratulations to Louise and her colleagues for an excellent event! □

Safety in the Woods with Jerry the Moose

by Ellen Ferguson, Thompson River District

On March 2nd, Raft River Elementary School in Clearwater coordinated a Safety Day for 300 students from Kindergarten to Grade Seven. A wide variety of local agencies and individuals, all with concerns for safety in their areas of expertise, were invited to participate. BC Parks was asked if someone would talk about “safety in the woods”... and could we bring *The Moose*?

Due to the wide span in the ages of the participants, the BC Parks presentation varied from explaining the basic supplies necessary for a day pack when talking with the younger

students, to a discussion of camping ethics with the older kids. Everyone, of course, went away wearing a set of paper moose antlers.

Mascots were definitely the highlight of the day: Forestry brought Smokey, the Fire Department had Sparky, and BC Parks produced Jerry. One of the many high-school senior volunteers who were assisting with the event had offered to melt quietly in the moose costume in exchange for the day away from his usual classes.

The event was very well organized, with the students shepherded

through at 20-minute intervals in groups of 10 or 12 by a parent, teacher, or high-school student. The little ones tried desperately to practice good manners, remembering to wait their turn, say please, etc. At the end of each session, the kids had chorused their thanks before moving on – the kindergarten class was hesitating. “Now what do you say?” prompted the parent-in-charge. Then the little darlings turned as one, waved, and called “Bye-bye, Jerry!” Working with *The Moose* is a humbling experience indeed! □

Student Interns

by Mike Murtha, Prince George District

Since its establishment, the University of Northern BC in Prince George has developed an active partnership with BC Parks. Prince George District staff guest lecture, sit on advisory committees, co-author papers, hire co-op students, take courses and support graduate research. A recent development, the intern program, may have wider application elsewhere.

UNBC has an intern program, whose objective is to provide practical, related work experience for qualified senior undergrads. It differs from the co-op program in that students receive credits towards a degree and work as unpaid volunteers. The onus is on the student to find a suitable opportunity. A contract is then signed by the student, the employer and the responsible faculty member.

In spring 1997, the first internship in the Faculty of Natural Resources involved a student working with BC Parks to research and compile information that supported our involvement in a Land and Resource Management Plan. Currently another student is working with us, writing two Management Direction Statements as his project. The BC Parks' supervisor works with the faculty supervisor to assign an academic rating at the end of the project.

For the student, the benefits include meaningful work experience and a tangible product, which are both useful in seeking subsequent employment, as well as academic credits and exposure to a possible career path. The university builds stronger links with the community and can demonstrate to students the practical application of the knowl-

edge and skills they are acquiring. The benefits for BC Parks include work that might not otherwise be done, and at an insignificant cost (we re-imburse the student for the \$225.00 course fee). It's also an opportunity for qualified students to learn about BC Parks and perhaps consider a future career with us – much as the old youth crew program used to provide a training ground. And the program strengthens our relationship with the university community.

Other universities and colleges may have a similar program. Our experience so far is that the program provides a win-win partnership that supplements our shrinking budget and provides essential work experience for students.

For more information on intern courses, see: <http://www.unbc.ca> □

People at Parks

by Paula Sibbald, Parks Division Services Branch, Victoria



Roger Norrish
Management Planning Coordinator –
Headquarters

Roger was born and raised in Mission at a time when the area was quite natural. As a youth, Roger spent a lot of time in the outdoors, hiking, fishing and camping, primarily at Golden Ears Park and the Stave Reservoir area. He attended UBC, majored in Geography and graduated in 1966 with a Bachelor's Degree. In 1965, he joined the BC Parks Branch of the Youth Crew Program as a foreman – his first boss was the late Harold Lewis. In 1970, he won a competition as a Systems Park Planner in Victoria where he worked until March of 1974, and then moved to Smithers as the Regional Manager for the new Skeena Region. In 1980 he came back to Victoria as the Land Use Assessment Officer, working on some of the large resource projects proposed to government by BC Hydro and the mining industry. His duties involved assessing impacts on park and outdoor recreation values. In 1987, he moved to his current position

of Management Planning Coordinator. Roger's current responsibilities include developing policy, establishing and maintaining provincial standards and working with headquarters and field officers in implementing the management planning program.

Roger, being a long tenured "Parkie" says he is in the twilight of his career and feels that he can serve as a mentor to new people coming to BC Parks, given his long and varied experience. Once retired, Roger hopes to spend more time with interests such as writing, music, photography and his continued involvement with protected areas in other parts of the world. □

*Answer from page 4:
Lac du Bois Protected Area.*

Fishers in Transition

by Cecile McCarthy, North Island Fisheries Transition Initiatives Society

1995 was a bad year for the BC salmon fishing industry, but Campbell River United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union representatives Rick Frey, Steve Pitman and Darrel Enger were confident that government funding was available to create employment and training opportunities for "fishers in transition" – those who realized a need for alternate career choices.

Concerned about deteriorating fish habitat, the three organizers chose clearing pollution from local streams as a pilot project. Working out of the Union office, they negotiated funds for a 10-week period during which participants' skills and employment options would be enhanced. The North Island Fisheries Initiatives (now operating as The North Island Fisheries Transition Initiatives Society) was off and running!

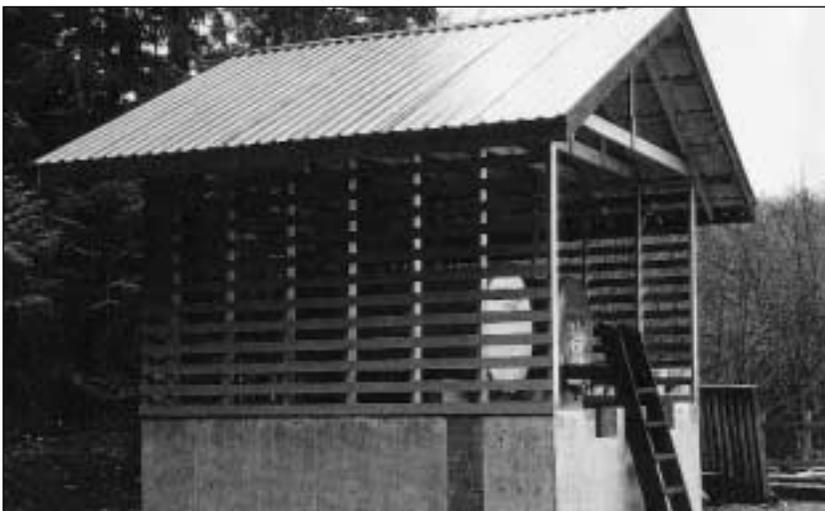
Work and training were provided in habitat restoration, stream mapping and inventories, salmon enhancement and public awareness, community enhancement, eco-tourism, small business development, marketing and recycling, first aid, computer skills, job search and resume preparation.

As well as several watershed enhancement projects, N.I.F.T.I.S. has assisted BC Parks in upgrading picnic sites and trails at Rebecca Spit on Quadra Island, dangerous trees have been removed from the Quinsam River and Main Lake, and outside port Hardy on the north end of Vancouver Island, a system of picnic sites and trails beside the Marble River have been manicured for the public's enjoyment.

Most recently, the construction of a covered fuel storage facility has been completed in Strathcona Provincial Park at Buttle Lake Headquarters. The shelter compliments a cluster of buildings nestled beneath towering rock formations draped in westcoast forest growth. The babbling bubbling music of a slivered waterfall echoes through off-season silence while the site awaits warmer weather, the removal of shutters and the smell of fresh-brewed coffee announcing the Parks personnel and visitors have begun to enjoy a slice of super natural BC. □



Laying the foundation for the covered fuel storage facility in Strathcona Provincial Park.



The completed fuel storage facility.

Stress Busters

Practice preventative maintenance on yourself, your car, your appliances and your relationships.

Do something for somebody else.

Eliminate destructive self-talk.
"I'm too old ... I'm too fat"

Do nothing which, after being done, leads you to tell a lie.

Manage your money with care.

Restrict the amount of caffeine you use.

Exercise and stretch.

Nurture your sense of humour.

Simplify, Simplify, Simplify

Remember, if you win the rat race, you are still a rat.

Ruckle's Historic Preservation

by Dana Hubler,
E-Team Communications

The history of Ruckle Provincial Park is being preserved with the help of the E-Team. An E-Team work crew, sponsored by Silvifor Resource Consultants, has spent 10 weeks conserving the original Ruckle family farmstead. With the guidance of Gwen Ruckle, who still lives in the Alfred Ruckle House, E-Team supervisor Neil Mossie and five youths have worked to clean and improve the site while maintaining historic integrity.

"When we spoke with Gwen Ruckle, we learned that the Ruckle family had very carefully built all their buildings on either a north-south and east-west bearing using a sextant," explains Mossie. "Once we learned this, we made sure to build the pathways and fences following those bearings."

To blend in with the site, rather than using treated, pre-cut fence posts, the E-Team used untreated cedar, cut by hand, to build a new picket fence. They burned the bases of the posts to protect against rot, a technique used in the building of the original fences.

New gravel paths were built around the 120-year-old Henry Ruckle House and the house received a new coat of weather-protecting paint.

In addition to on-the-job skills training, the five E-Team members have received 10 days of formal training in first aid, fire suppression, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) and workplace safety.

A second E-Team will continue work in Ruckle Provincial Park starting in September. □



The E-Team crew working on the historic Henry Ruckle House site.

Robert (Bob) Charles Harris

by Gail Ross, Prince George District

Editors Note: Gail's article on Bob was printed in the last Visions without the knowledge that she intended to write a longer article on him.

On February 5, 1998 B.C. lost one of its true outdoorsmen. Bob Harris had a great interest in historical research and the heritage trails in B.C. His attention to detail, and his incredible precision not only made him an outstanding researcher – but a highly respected civil engineer.

Bob's professional accomplishments in B.C. read like an engineering "who's who" with the design and/or erection of 100 bridges, and the managing/engineering of over 50 bridges, 130 buildings, and numerous processing plants, cable structures, conveyors and cranes.

Having known Bob since a I was a child, I found that as my career in BC Parks progressed I often turned to Bob for his historical expertise. Whether it was preparing an interpretive sign on a historical trail, checking mapwork for one of our existing trails, or accumulating information on any historical trail that was proposed for protection, Bob always seemed to have the information and answers at his fingertips. And usually the next day a package would arrive for me complete with maps, diary extracts and personal anecdotes. I have never known anyone that could hold a candle to Bob in terms of Service Quality!

For years, Bob's unparalleled skills as a map-maker, hiker, and historian were chronicled in over 75 hiking trail articles in *BC Outdoors*, and later in his book *The Best of B.C.'s Hiking Trails*. He was an active member of the North Shore Hikers, the Federation of Mountain Clubs, the Outdoor Recreation Council and the Vancouver Natural History Society.

Bob often served as the navigator/researcher on the annual Federation of BC Naturalists field trips. Three years ago I accompanied him on a trip to the Ilgachuz – and his dry humour, local knowledge and outdoor leadership qualities made the experience a true pleasure.

As well, Bob served as a volunteer Ecological Reserve Warden for Bowen Island Ecological Reserve from October 1980 to September 1994.

So Bob, thank you for sharing your incredible knowledge of BC's trail heritage over the years. And although I know some of the written information you collected will make its way to BC Parks – it won't be the same without the researcher who pulled it all together. □

BC Parks Conservation Program Policies

by Mona Holley, Parks and Ecological Reserves Management Branch, Victoria

The BC Parks Conservation Program Policies describes the current policies that direct the day-to-day and long-term actions under which the Parks Division manages the natural and cultural values within British Columbia's system of protected areas. Its purpose is to provide a comprehensive guide for BC Parks' managers, and further, a public

measure that ensures provincially consistent standards are followed and that field activities reflect the overall goals and objectives of BC Parks and the province.

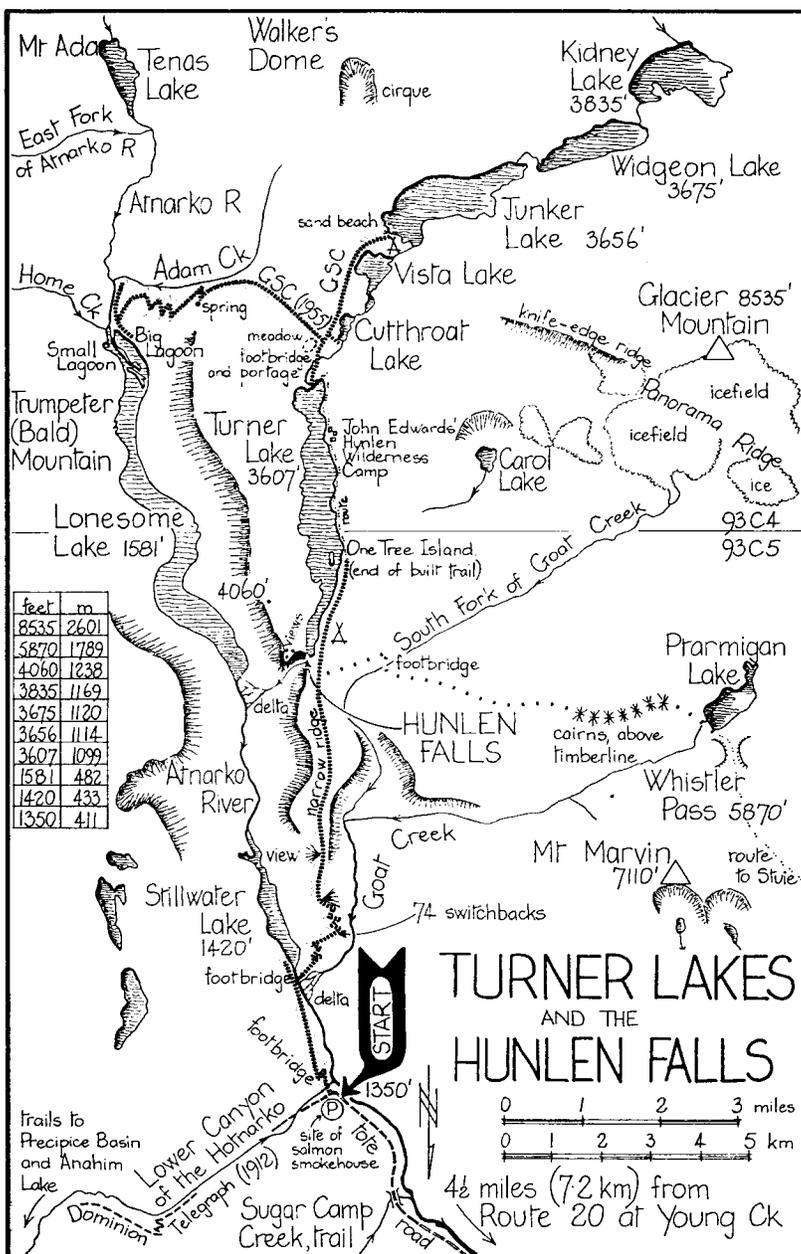
This document is the first consolidated release of these policies. There will be occasional updates to this policy document since the Conservation Program Policies are evolving.

The policy document is one of three parts of the BC Parks Conservation Management Program. Parts 2 and 3 are currently being developed. Part 2 will contain strategic directives to assist BC Parks staff face the challenge of effectively managing and protecting the natural and cultural heritage values found in British Columbia's protected area system. Procedural guidelines will be outlined in Part 3. This will be a dynamic document, which will contain contemporary conservation management methods and techniques consistent with approved policies.

The Conservation Program Policies provide direction for all aspects of natural and cultural conservation management, including the management of vegetation, wildlife, geologic (including palaeontologic), marine, and cultural heritage values. In addition, the policies provide guidance on conservation management activities such as research, inventory, monitoring, and data management.

Each section of the Conservation Program Policies document provides definitions, summaries and interpretations of relevant legislation, and policy statements respecting specific conservation management areas. In general, policy direction is provided for the management of representation, biological diversity, conservation and use, special features, manipulation (for e.g., hazard trees), exotic species, and knowledge.

Only limited copies are available for distribution. The complete document is available for viewing on the BC Parks website under What's New at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks> □



One of Bob's trail maps (from *The Best of B.C.'s Hiking Trails*).

Parks Profile

by Roger Norrish, Parks and Ecological Reserves Planning Branch, Victoria

B.C.'s provincial parks provide a rich natural and cultural legacy for the people of British Columbia and their visitors. But the protected areas we enjoy today resulted from the hard work, dedication and vision of numerous people, organizations and groups over the past 87 years. This essay begins a series devoted to these builders who laid the foundation for our existing provincial parks, ecological reserves and protected areas. Mr. E.G. Oldham, BC Parks Branch's first director, is the subject of this essay.

The year 1948 is pivotal in the history of BC Parks. In that year, the provincial government responded to the increasing public use of provincial parks and forest land by establishing a Parks Division of the B.C. Forest Service. To lead this new agency, the Forest Service appointed Earl Gagnon Oldham as Forester in charge.



Cy Oldham circa 1950.

Mr. Oldham, a professional forest engineer originally from New Brunswick, inherited a park system of 58 parks covering over 4.3 million hectares. To manage this vast area of parks, Mr. Oldham faced severe challenges including few staff, a small operating budget and high public expectations.

Charlie Velay, retired former director of BC Parks Operations and one of the first employees Cy Oldham hired, recalls Mr. Oldham was the right person to get the fledgling park agency underway. Charlie remembers Mr. Oldham as a forthright man; imposing in physical stature; and,

courageous under trying circumstances. Moreover, he remembers Oldham exuded confidence and strong leadership qualities as illustrated by his rise to the rank of captain in the Canadian Army during World War II.

Cy Oldham moved quickly to develop a role for the new Parks Division. He set out immediately to hire a competent staff to run the new agency. In the spring of 1949, for example, Mr. Oldham recruited several forestry graduates from the University of British Columbia including Bob Ahrens, Lloyd Brooks and Bob Broadland. These men and others hired in those early years formed a nucleus of park officers who laid the foundations for a vigorous, forward looking new agency.

Cy Oldham launched another major initiative by establishing a budget for the Division. Besides staff salaries, the Division required funds to underwrite a program of park development and management. Indeed, Mr. Oldham recognized a genuine need to respond to the day use and campground trends so evident in other parts of Canada and the United States. Thus, Oldham oversaw a shift from establishing and managing large area parks to emphasizing the development of recreation oriented and more accessible provincial parks.

Over the next six years, Cy Oldham and his staff introduced significant change to the management of provincial parks. These changes included:

- creating an effective infrastructure to support the Division such as the Langford workshop, the construction program and wildlife management program;
 - shifting the emphasis in reconnaissance and planning of established large area parks to identifying new parks in specific regions of the province such as the Sayward Forest;
 - directing the energies of the Parks Division to a series of key capital development projects – E.C. Manning Park; Mt. Seymour Park road; Champion Lakes road and campground; Okanagan Lake campground – which resulted in a highly skilled staff and significant recreational facilities for the public;
 - placing park rangers in key provincial parks such as Wells Gray and E.C. Manning; and,
 - starting the BC Parks Division Youth Crew program that ran successfully for over 30 years.
- Charlie Velay recalls a story that illustrates Cy Oldham as a man of action. During work on Mt. Seymour Park, Oldham directed Charlie to construct rope tows on the mountain. Unfortunately, Charlie had to inform Mr. Oldham that neither he nor anyone else in the Parks Division had the expertise or knowledge to build this type of facility. Oldham immediately sent Charlie and his colleagues Mac MaGowan (engineer-in-training), Don Macmurchie and Olie Johansen on a tour of ski areas in the northwest United States. After two weeks of visiting such sites as Mount Baker, they returned and built the rope tows that winter. Thus, the beginning of one of the prominent ski areas in the Lower Mainland.
- The eight years Cy Oldham lead the Parks Division from 1948 to 1956, saw its share of controversy. The public debate over the decision to ►

“Visioning” New Management Plans

by Roger Beardmore and Dave Kaegi, Future Legacy Consulting Group

The Strathcona District has launched a new approach to conduct “visioning workshops” as an important early step in the preparation of management plans for Jedediah, Cape Scott and Scott Islands Provincial Parks. Management plans are a critical tool for managing our protected areas. The requirement for public involvement and input in the management planning process is a necessary, but often challenging task. It is not always simple or straightforward to reconcile the views and values of people who may have widely divergent personal “visions” of the future for protected areas.

So, how do we approach this daunting task? Well, there are many ways to conduct visioning exercises. Most techniques seem to be aimed at small groups of people (such as government leaders, company executives, etc.) who already have a great deal of common ground in their search for a common vision. When dealing with the public at large, however, there is considerably

less likelihood for such commonality. Our approach at Future Legacy is to ensure that there is a level playing field for everyone. Ground rules are established at the outset of each workshop. Everyone’s ideas are equal and welcome. There simply are no “bad” ideas! As independent facilitators, we encourage all participants, including park staff, to contribute. There is a high degree of comfort in the process because it affords anonymity, unless the author of an idea wishes to elaborate. All ideas are “posted” and then the participants discuss them and group them collectively. Through an iterative process of discussion and collaboration of ideas, a vision emerges that blends everyone’s interests and concerns. This process is highly inclusive and maximizes ownership in the final result.

The process can usually be conducted in a half-day or less – sometimes in less than two hours! The discussion during the grouping exercise is free-ranging and exciting.

Some facilitation may be necessary to keep things on-track, but everyone’s ideas are visible and can ultimately be connected to the final vision.

Comments from participants so far have been extremely positive – mainly because the process is so collaborative, and does not permit a “stacked” agenda or dominance by particular interest groups.

The value of conducting such a “visioning exercise” early in the management planning process is that it clearly establishes the framework for later discussion of specific issues and development concepts. All future debate, in fact, can be referred back to the vision, and ideas can be validated against their compatibility with the vision.

So, “hats off!” to Kris Kennett and the Strathcona District for their leadership and their continuing quest to develop better ways of involving the public and to produce better management plans. □

► flood Buttle Lake clouded the future of the Strathcona Provincial Park. Tweedsmuir Park’s boundaries were dramatically altered following the decision to approve the Kemano project. Through such significant land use decisions, the public became aware of the value of provincial parks and the vulnerability of wilderness.

Cy Oldham left the provincial public service in 1956 to pursue private endeavours. Less than a year later, the Parks Division joined the Fish and Wildlife Branch to form the new Department of Recreation and Conservation. In no small measure, Cy Oldham contributed to the emergence of this new department dedicated to the conservation of resources and the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities. □

Grand Canyon Exchange

by Gordon MacRae, Skeena District

An idea was germinated three years ago by Jim Brady, the (then) Superintendent of Glacier Bay National Park (Alaska, USA), while he was rafting on a river management trip with Tom Elliot (from Kluane National Park, Yukon, Canada) down the Tatshenshini River. The idea was to do a people and information exchange with Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona. It was thought that since many of the permit requirements and processes were “borrowed” from the Grand Canyon in the first place, when restrictions were introduced on the Tatshenshini-Elsek river system



Snow in Grand Canyon from South Rim.

by Glacier Bay, that we had many issues and concerns in common.

After several discussions, and tentative plans put forth, the idea

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came to fruition March 14, when three representatives from "The North" visited Grand Canyon National Park. The three were Dennis Kaleta from Glacier Bay/ Wrangell-St. Elias (Alaska, USA), Tom Elliot from Kluane National Park (Yukon, Canada) and Gordon MacRae from Tatshenshini-Alsek Park (British Columbia, Canada).



*The crew at Lava Falls Rapid.
L to R: Tom Elliot, Dave Travino,
Gordon MacRae, Dennis Kaleta.*

Upon arrival we were billeted in the Albright training facility and given our itinerary for the next two weeks. Pat Hattaway, the Grand Canyon River Manager, had our schedules full! Our first day we helped Dave Travino, the River Ranger, with rigging the raft for the season's first trip down the canyon. The next day we drove to Lee's Ferry where rafters put in for the trip, and met Ed Cummins, the Lee's Ferry/Glen Canyon Ranger. Ed took us on a trip up river in his Zodiac to the base of the Glen Canyon dam.

The dam was built in 1963, in the midst of controversy, for the flooding of Glen Canyon. It took twenty years to fill the dam to the 300 foot depth it is now. The difference in water temperatures, as a result of the dam, has seen the growth of a huge trout fishery in the upper reaches of the river, where we saw several guided fly fishing expeditions. From Lee's Ferry to the dam, a distance of fifteen miles, there is power boating permitted up and down the river.

Lee's Ferry is named for the first man to put a crossing on the Colorado, John D. Lee, an early Mormon settler who was later hanged for his part in a massacre! The area is rich in modern history and in Native American cultural history.

The following morning we attended an orientation session put on for groups that raft the river. There we learned about scorpions, tarantulas, gila monsters and rattlesnakes. We learned where to relieve ourselves – directly into the river – as urinating on the river shore was shown to encourage algal growth in uric acids! We were shown how to leave absolutely no trace – including putting tarps under food prep areas, can crushing areas and fire pans in order to eliminate crumbs, food bits and liquid splashes that had been attracting red ants to campsites!

The first day of our 220 mile journey took us under the Navajo bridge, the replacement for the ferry, built in 1930. The NPS had recently switched from two stroke motors to four stroke Honda motors to cut down on noise and oil pollution as well as reducing fuel consumption. The 22 foot raft became known as the "stealth boat".

We camped at mile 17, just above House Rock Rapid and slept in tents the first two nights (we were rained on heavily the second night). When the weather cleared, it was nights on a sleeping pad with the stars as our roof.

We spent a total of eight days on the river, seven nights along the Colorado. There were many high-lights, but only room here for a few:

- A climb up to some Anasazi granaries high upon the red walls of the Grand Canyon. The Anasazi are an ancient, highly civilized Native American culture that disappeared about a thousand years ago. The desert climate preserves artifacts so well, some look as if they were manufactured and used yesterday.
- Half a day wandering through Anasazi ruins near Unkar Rapid where we saw hundreds of pottery shards, a mortar and pestle that

looked like it was only recently abandoned, old building sites and several stone tools. We were shown several erosion protection methods used to protect these sites from weather and from people.

- A hike up Havasu Creek, where the blue-green waters of the creek contrast with the red rock of the canyon walls. A beautiful and peaceful place.
- The running of numerous rapids, some huge and daunting. We carefully scouted three before running – Hance's Rapid, Crystal Rapid and the most awesome Lava Falls Rapid where we all gained a healthy respect for the power of water.
- The friends we made there, including River Ranger Dave Travino, who navigated us safely through the rapids; Pat Hattaway, the River Manager, who got the whole trip going and kept us busy while there; Chris, Dianna and Andy, the Permit Gurus; Rob Armberger, the Superintendent, "J.T." Reynolds, the Deputy Superintendent, Dave Chapman, the Meadview Ranger, Mike Ebersole, the pilot and air operations specialist who filled us in on the "aircraft overflight" issues, Beverley Perry, criminal investigations and many other. Thank you all for a very memorable experience.

Probably one of the most important aspects of our trip was the initiation of an exchange of ideas, expertise and experiences. What we learned and the resources offered to us was beyond anything we had anticipated. We extended an invitation to the staff there to come to Northern British Columbia, the Yukon and Alaska to compare systems, rivers and information. We would like to get their impressions and we would like the chance to return the hospitality. I feel very privileged to have participated in the exchange and look forward to the Grand Canyon's visit to The North. □