

OSPS NEWSLETTER

OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN PARKS SOCIETY

July 2006

P.O. Box 787, Summerland, B.C. V0H 1Z0

Office Phone: (250) 494-8996 • Fax (250) 494-3131 • E-mail: newhorizonart@telus.net

In this edition we update:

- (1) Park and Trails proposals, stressing again the need for a South Okanagan National Park. See a letter in the Herald Sidebar
- (2) Also we continue to express our concerns re: water, the need for a national policy.
- (3) Land management re:
 - (a) Local growth
 - (b) Uranium mining fear
 - (c) Lack of a polluters' list
 - (d) Skaha Bluffs
 - (e) The sweet logger deal
 - (f) New Park
 - (g) ATV legislation

From a letter in the Herald

If we don't preserve at least a small part of our natural heritage the entire valley will end up being developed in one way or another. It is no good to say the remote areas will stay undeveloped. A few years ago the top of Anarchist Mountain east of Osoyoos would have been considered fairly remote and wild. Today it is subdivided into numerous small acreages with paved roads everywhere and no access for the public.

Elsewhere in B.C. the provincial government is selling Crown land for development to the highest bidders and there is nothing to stop them from doing that here in the Okanagan. And if the anti-park people think a park might put some restrictions on their access just wait until some developer puts four-hectare (10-acre) mini-ranchers all over the hills!

In some ways we all wish things could stay the same forever. But that just doesn't happen. Look at Kelowna (or Oliver, for that matter) compared to 25 years ago. Who would have dreamed of the sprawl that has taken place? Areas of Kelowna that were remote, rural hideaways are now surrounded by \$500,000 houses cheek by jowl. A national park is the only certain way to save a small portion of the valley so that our children's children can see what a dry grassland with sage and meadowlarks and wildflowers looks like. If not for us, Who? if not now, When?

Robert Handfield

Goat Peak – Joint Proposal for a New Okanagan Regional Park

On January 26, 2006 a presentation on a proposal for a significant New Okanagan Regional Park was made to the Regional District of Central Okanagan, jointly submitted by the Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club, and the Gellatly Bay Trails and Parks Society. This proposal is now under consideration by the Regional District. No municipal decision has been made at present, nor agreement reached with the property owners.

This park proposal is for the area located on part of Goat Peak – which includes those spectacular wild and rugged lands on the Westside fronting Okanagan Lake, between Pebble Beach near Westbank (off Whitworth Road) and Seclusion Bay Resort (near the junction of Highway 97 and the Okanagan Connector Highway).

John Reddick made a presentation to OSPS Directors' meeting June 5, 2006 on behalf of Central Okanagan Naturalists' and Gellatly Bay Trails and Parks Society. OSPS favours proposal.

Jeff Harte, President of the Gellatly Bay Trails and Parks Society



Donations are appreciated anytime - tax receipt will be issued. OSPS appreciates your continued support in our attempts to save OUR parks. 2006 memberships at \$10.00 individual, \$15.00 family, \$20.00 organization have been rolling in. THANKS!

South Okanagan National Park

Proposed park would preserve flora and fauna

I am strongly in favour of the proposed federal national park for the following reasons.

This park, established over the long term, is the best way to preserve and manage the unique flora and fauna of the South Okanagan-Similkameen.

A federal park will ensure a legacy for future generations with consistent and high quality management, conservation and adequate financial support.

It will also create an exceptional opportunity to generate local and tourist activity that will bring millions of annual revenue to the area.

Several aspects of this proposal are critical.

The proposed trans-boundary linkage with the State of Washington and the inclusion of the Vaseux Lake complex with that of the White Snowy-Kipoola-Kobau complex is vital to maintain ecological integrity and wildlife corridors.

This is a true Canadian treasure and heritage and we are morally obligated to protect the area and its species for future generations.

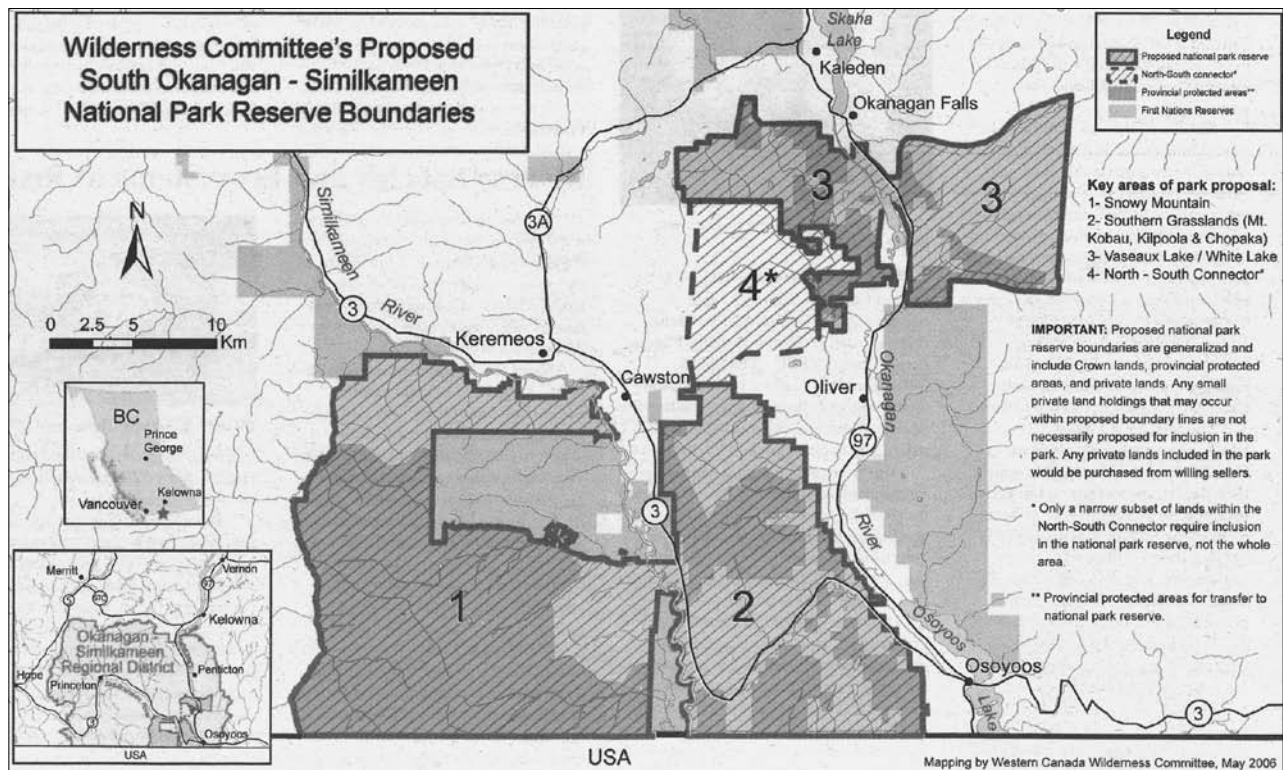
The establishment of a national park is a significant opportunity to engage the First Nations culturally, financially and in management. First Nations tourism and eco-tourism are a winning team.

It is important that the public be aware that \$50 million has been set aside to acquire grazing rights on crown land from willing sellers for conservation financing options for First Nations and to purchase land from willing sellers at fair market value.

If we do not support this proposal now, we will have missed what is likely the last opportunity to protect viable areas of unique wildlands and its inhabitants.

For more information visit the National Park Reserve Feasibility Study office at 102 Industrial Place, Penticton or visit www.pc.gc.ca/sols

*OSPS Member, Laurie Rockwell
Summerland Review, June 8, 2006*



Proposed National Park

Senator Ross Fitzpatrick said through the course of its development, the park would produce 832 full-time equivalent jobs, which would translate into 161 full-time jobs in terms of daily park operations and could see as many as 300,000 visitors each year by 2015.

Fitzpatrick said in terms of a national park it isn't large, but "it's very environmentally sensible ... it's the crucible of one of the most beautiful parts of Canada."

*Scott Trudeau
Penticton Herald,
June 19, 2006*

Why is Parks Canada conducting this study?

Parks Canada is interested in representing the Interior Dry Plateau Natural Region in Canada's system of national parks. A national park reserve would be dedicated to

the people of Canada for their benefit, education and enjoyment, and would remain unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

Penticton given a glimpse of proposed park

As a portion of the draft concept includes the Lower Similkameen Indian Band reserve, those portions would not be included as part of the national park reserve, said Hurd. The park would not be established until any outstanding First Nations title and rights issues were resolved, he said. An agreement with First Nations would also allow for continuation of renewable resource harvesting, according to Parks Canada.

The draft concept for the park includes 250 square kilometers of area that are already protected by the province under the Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), a portion of which seven ranchers currently hold grazing tenure on. The remaining area of the draft concept marked for potential future additions is made up of Crown land and 13 privately owned properties.

If it is determined that a park is feasible, Parks Canada would gradually phase out grazing tenure and possibly buy home ranches on a "willing seller, willing buyer basis," said Hurd. All of the affected ranchers would receive compensation, said Hurd.

With respect to unwilling sellers, Parks Canada would "respect interests," he said, adding that government would look at the link between Crown land tenures and the viability of a home ranch. For example, Hurd said, grazing could be permitted if used as a fire mitigation method or to improve ecology.

Guide outfitter sports hunting would also be phased out and its tenure holders compensated, said Hurd.

If the national park is established, Parks Canada would also prohibit sports hunting, use of motorized vehicles, helicopter training, mining and trapping. But Hurd said solutions for these stakeholders would also be discussed and could include off-site mitigation, such as helping to improve hunting conditions in other areas.

Affected stakeholders would receive compensation for their loss, as well, said Hurd.

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee and South Okanagan Naturalist Club sent out its own press release encouraging people to sign their online petition or write to the prime minister to push for the establishment of the park.

The WCWC says the park could be "one of the most exceptional conservation opportunities in our history," and says current conservation efforts in the area are welcome, but the higher level of conservation afforded by a national park reserve is essential. It points to the large population of species at risk residing in the study area. It would include six of B.C.'s 14 major ecosystem types, said the WCWC. The park would also increase the amount of funding to the area for research and ecological restoration.

Tracy Clark

Penticton Western, June 2, 2006



National park is the only way

Having lived in this part, of that lovely place called the South Okanagan for a long time, does not, contrary to what some would have you believe, give one any special rights, privileges or considerations.

It does enable you to observe change. Many of the places I used to take my scout troop for an outing, are now private property.

I see this as continuing, and while I have no objection to people owning land, if we are to have a place where people, your grandchildren and mine, can walk, hike or just wander and observe all about them, we need some Crown land set aside, and protected from any who would spoil it for us all.

I believe a national park is the only way to obtain that goal.

Studies have shown a very large majority of people wish this to happen.

If we remain the silent majority this may not happen.

Longtime OSPS Director

Harold King, Oliver

Penticton Herald, May 3, 2006



Society tackles task of defending lake

We monitor, we protect, we educate. This is the motto of the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society, a group which has overtaken many provincial and federal responsibilities to ensure the future of the lake is clear, clean and safe.

The society was established in 1992 in response to reports that called the lake a “noxious cocktail of nitrates and phosphates.”

When they first started testing, phosphate levels in Osoyoos Lake were twice what they should have been, said Dallas.

With help from town council – who Mayor Slater said pushed the government to approve funding – most communities upstream from Osoyoos Lake switched from septic tank systems to sewer systems. This resulted in a dramatic improvement in water quality in the lake, which is now reporting acceptable phosphate levels, said Dallas.

An issue for those living near the lake or operating a business near the lake was the high water level during the summer months, which has a major impact on their properties, as high winds and passing boats create waves

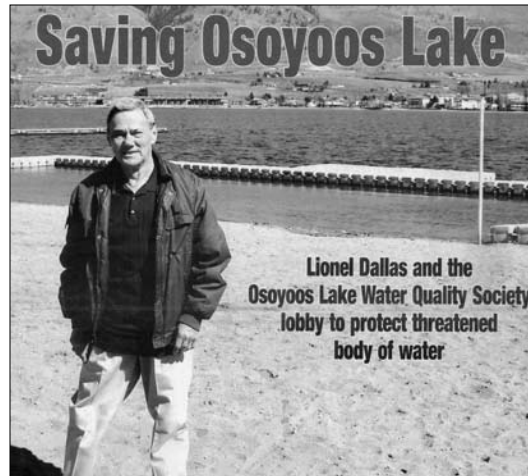
that erode lakeside properties, drench campsites and soak hay fields. The group recommends a study to look at lowering the lake water level by six inches to improve these conditions.

But it’s the impact of these lakefront properties on the environment, not the other way around, that concerns the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society, said Dallas.

Development along the shoreline has changed the shorelines and destroyed wetlands and fish habitats, says the society.

The society suggests that regulations need to be made that ensure developers can no longer erect concrete walls at the edge of the water. The society also pushed for stronger rules regarding setbacks.

Regardless of the new town rules, there are very few wetlands and riparian habitats left near Osoyoos Lake, said Dallas. This is due to a development and tourism-driven council, he said.



Tracy Clark

Penticton Western, April 23, 2006

Turning the tide on water shortages

According to the United Nations, more than one billion people around the world already lack access to fresh drinking water. If current trends continue, two-thirds of the people on the planet will not have adequate access to clean water by the year 2025. In Canada, we are not immune to the growing threats of water scarcity. Twenty per cent of municipalities have faced shortages in recent years. Canada is home to 7 per cent of the world’s fresh water supply, but we are second only to the United States in water use per person, which places us among the worst water-wasters in the world.

But selling Canada’s water is not the answer to water scarcity in the U.S.

Treating water as a commodity is a dangerous gamble that gives people with money access to water, and could leave low-income people without.

That’s why we need a national water policy that protects Canadian water from commodification and bulk exports. If you can believe it, our national water standards haven’t been updated since 1987!

The Prairie Provinces are home to a host of water supply and demand concerns. Alberta is in the midst of an economic boom because of rising oil prices.

The oil industry uses a substantial amount of water for its deep well injection processes, and that water is permanently taken out of the water

cycle, meaning it is not treated and returned to the watershed.

First and foremost, a national water policy must protect water as a public resource. It should ban the export of water, create national standards for clean drinking water, and commit federal funds to help municipalities and Aboriginal communities upgrade water infrastructure. A national policy must include a comprehensive water conservation plan. It must ensure that water cannot be traded in existing or future trade agreements.

To find out how you can join the campaign for a national water policy, visit www.canadians.org or call 1-800-387-7177 for more info.

*Canadian Perspectives
Summer 2006*

ATV LEGISLATION WHEN?

The OSPS continues to hear of occasional ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) problems regarding trail usage.

Hikers are the predominant users of trails, but cyclists, horses and ATV riders also wish to enjoy the exercise and pleasure of trails.

However, all such use is not always compatible, one with another. So, in order to protect the trail, the users and the overseeing group for safety, pleasure and insurance purposes, some rules are needed:

- 1) **That all users obey all signage, e.g. regulating speed, motor noise, etc.**
- 2) **That all users participate in time and/or money needed to maintain the trail.**
- 3) **That all ATV riders be licensed, 16 or older and be insured.**

ATV licensing and insurance requires Provincial legislation making them mandatory. Such legislation is long overdue, but should be brought to the attention of all MLAs for action.

NOTE: The OSPS has supported detailed legislation for over 30 years - with no results as yet.

Uranium mining will affect B.C.s biggest asset

On March 17 I attended a meeting in Beavercreek about the possibility of uranium mining at the Blizzard site close to Big White and Beavercreek. I was impressed with the large number of people gathered there at the local fire hall. People were standing in the doorway. Whoever organized this meeting did a great job in advertising and putting out signs to inform the people of the dangers of uranium mining. I left the meeting informed and empowered, knowing that with such information and opposition, there could not possibly be any uranium mining.

But we have to keep fighting and stay informed and for me the easiest way to do that was to become a member of the Committee for a Clean Kettle Valley.

So what if this uranium mining could bring in millions of dollars? At the expense of who?

Do we really want our children or grandchildren to be deprived of the beauty of nature? Not to mention the horrific health hazards associated with this kind of mining.

*Sigrid Vanhaesebrouck
Kettle Valley
Penticton Western, April 30, 2006*

Indian band ready to oppose mining bid

The possibility of mining activity west of Summerland has the Penticton Indian Band reiterating its opposition to development proposals, which might negatively impact its traditional territories.

However, earlier reports that a new copper and molybdenum mine will soon start operating have been denied by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

Penticton Indian Band Chief Stewart Phillip said even if full-scale mining operations are not imminent, the band

remains concerned.

“The legal right doesn’t allow them to undertake a smorgasbord pick-and-choose approach,” he said.

“They have a duty and obligation to the entire Okanagan Nation.”

Phillip said the band will take immediate steps to monitor all mineral exploration activity within its territorial areas of interest.

*John Moorhouse
Penticton Herald, May 1, 2006*

Province drops worst polluters list

It works for David Letterman, but not for the B.C. government.

Environment Minister Barry Penner has defended his decision to drop B.C.'s "top 10 polluters" list, saying he needs to sort out the ministry's computers to begin a new reporting system for environmental offenders.

The annual top 10 list was an innovation of the previous NDP government, and often featured municipal and regional governments as well as industrial polluters.

Penner said it was dropped because it was an arbitrary system that forced ministry staff to arrange information to fit the list.

The issue surfaced after the Sierra Legal Defence Fund tried to do its own top-10 polluter list and applied for ministry records using freedom of information laws. Ministry and environmental group lawyers wrangled over the request, and the ministry calculated that gathering and releasing the information would cost Sierra \$172,947.50.

Tom Fletcher

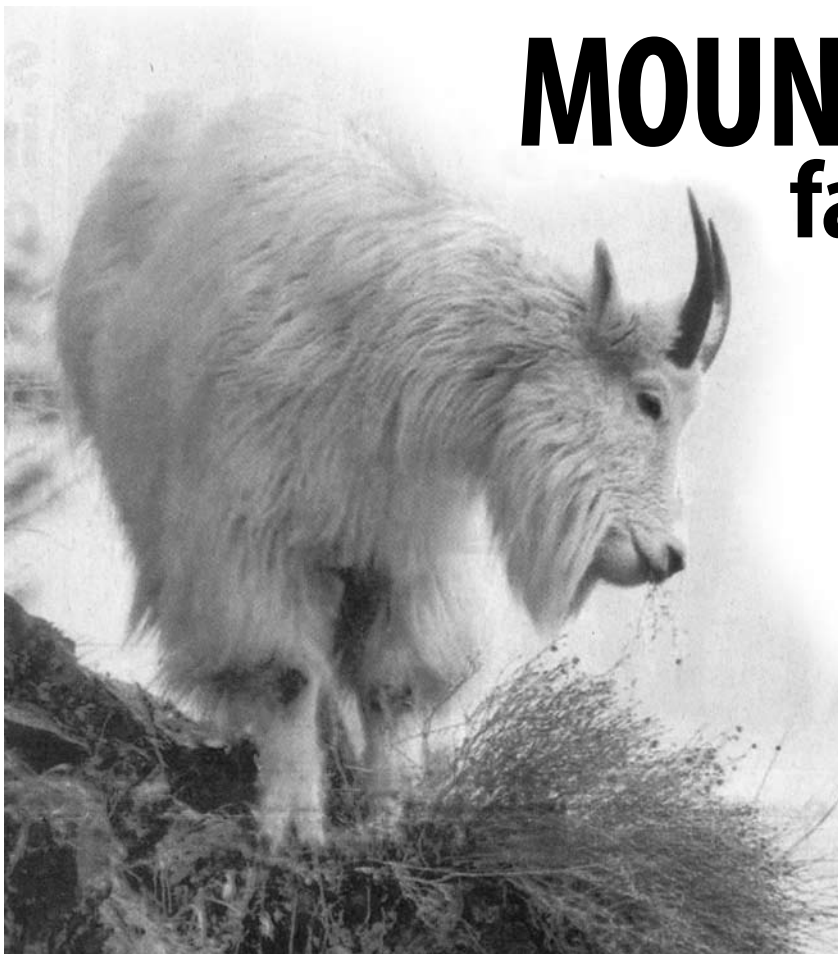
Penticton Western, April 21, 2006

Decentralization will further inequality among people in Canada, by contributing to a piecemeal approach to social programs and eroding the principle of universality. Since the disastrous social transfer cuts in the mid-9's, Canada has seen

an explosion of social program cuts and privatization. This has already led to tremendous poverty in Canada, and further decentralization would only make the problem worse. 15.6 per cent of Canadian children live in poverty - substantially more than

in 1989, the year that Parliament unanimously voted to wipe out child poverty by 2000.

Only 38 per cent of unemployed people in Canada qualify for Employment Insurance, compared to close to 80 per cent in 1985.



MOUNTAIN GOATS face uphill battle

A drop in the region's mountain goats has forced a reduction in hunting permits.

Results from the first thorough mountain goat inventory in more than 20 years have shown a more dramatic decline in the mountain goat population that Ministry of Environment wildlife biologist Brian Harris had imaged.

Penticton Herald, May 12, 2006

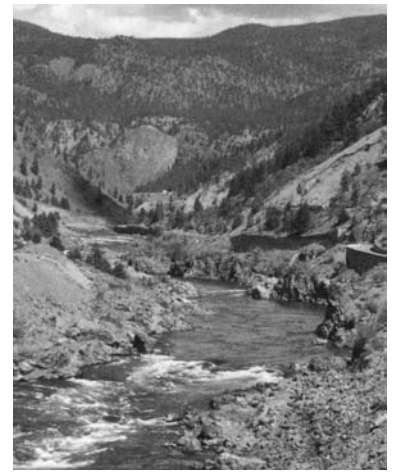
Mountain goat populations, both locally and throughout the region, are down by half or more, according to figures released by the Ministry of Environment.

Fighting for better access to information – BC pollution

Keeping up the pressure on British Columbia's Ministry of Environment, Sierra Legal Defence Fund Lawyer Randy Christensen started an inquiry into the provincial government's reluctance to release information on BC's top polluters. The province has asked Sierra for \$172,947.50 to get the information, up from a previous request for \$24,000. Sierra Legal is arguing there should be no charge for the information whatsoever.

Our continuing effort to find out which companies in BC are in violation with pollution laws is paying off. Media reaction has been widespread and supportive. "We will keep trying to make information on polluters readily available to the public until the BC government makes it happen," says Randy Christensen.

In fact, the information was free in BC until mid-2001 when the government stopped publishing it altogether. After two years of repeated requests for the information, and only after several recent high-profile stories in BC news outlets has the BC government spoken out about it. The inquiry will allow Sierra Legal to hold the government's promise to address the issue to account.



Sierra Legal is working to protect vulnerable areas including BC's Columbia River, publicly cited in harm's way before BC stopped publishing data on polluters.

NAFTA environmental promises abandoned

"The government of Canada is simply not living up to the promises it made to Canadians to protect the environment before it signed onto NAFTA," says Sierra Legal Lawyer Randy Christensen. "This is particularly shameful considering all the concerns and fears that Canadians had expressed at the time, and the constant reassurance from Canada, Mexico and the US that the environment would not be sacrificed."

BC fish farms

Answering the calls of northern British Columbians concerned about the potential harm open-net salmon farms pose to their communities, Sierra Legal published BC Salmon Aquaculture Expansion: A Citizens' guide to Participating in Decision-Making this past February. The

response was so positive and overwhelming that Staff Lawyer Sean Nixon, who co-authored the guide with Sierra Legal Lawyer Margot Venton, needed to get several more printed and shipped off. Local residents now have an easy-to-follow manual they can use in their efforts to protect wild fish stocks as well as

there own livelihood.

The guide gives citizens practical advice for dealing with the laws and policies concerning fish farms. Providing various scenarios and solutions, it educates citizens how to deal with the different levels of government involved.

International focus on Spotted Owl

Keeping up efforts to save the northern spotted owl, Sierra Legal and other groups are opposing a strategy by the BC government announced in April. BC's plan is a short-term solution - including captivity as a temporary measure - that would delay extinction in Canada until shortly after the 2010 Winter Olympics. The coalition is asking the BC government to stop logging the owl's habitat. The conservationists are reaching out to media around the

world and the story landed a prominent spread in the May-June issue of Canadian Geographic.

Only 22 owls remain in Canada's old growth forests near BC's southwest coast. Given the proximity to the 2010 Olympics Sierra Legal hopes international pressure, along with our ongoing lawsuit, will motivate the BC and federal governments to save the animal from extinction.

*Sierra Legal Defence Fund
June 2006*

Fight over land heats up

With no management plan in place for area known as Okanagan Vista, some worry region will be damaged beyond repair

Known as Okanagan Vista, the largely unspoiled Crown land is located immediately northwest of Apex Mountain Resort and is growing rapidly in popularity as a year-round venue for all types of activities – ranging from mountain biking and hiking to cross-country and back-country skiing as well as snowmobiling and snowshoeing.

However, due to the lack of a proper management plan specific to the region, increasing conflict between the motorized and non-motorized recreational users as well as increased logging in the area, there is a real concern for its future.

Due to its relatively small size, about six-to-eight square kilometers, members of the Apex Property Owners Association believe the provincial government needs to take action immediately to preserve what is left.

The trail system was developed a number of years ago as a joint initiative of the forest ministry and the Penticton Outdoor Club.

“Since then, the Ministry of Forests has withdrawn from the active recreation role and the Penticton Outdoor Club, because of their concerns about the new liability requirements, has withdrawn. So the net result is with nobody there to enforce it is basically falling apart,” said Denis O’Gorman, APOA president and a former assistant

deputy minister for the provincial parks ministry.

“Basically, we’ve got an issue here between motorized and non-motorized recreation and the quality of the trails. And the quality of the experience is to be maintained. And what we’re watching year after year is the quality of experience going down.”

“We don’t have a lot of this close-to-wild terrain left in basically what is a forest managed landscape. This small area is regionally significant because it’s rare, it’s high elevation, it’s unlogged. It is nice.”

While there has been limited logging in the region, informal talks between Weyerhaeuser, which holds the timber rights for the area, have been able to preserve some of the trail areas.



A cross-country skier and his companion stop to admire the view in the region known as Okanagan Vista, northwest of Apex Mountain Resort.

Since 2004, association members have met several times with Penticton-Okanagan Valley MLS Bill Barisoff without any satisfaction.

“There is an urgency because active logging has taken place this past year,” said APOA member Murray Brown. “It’s not like we’re asking for millions of dollars. It’s just a process.”

“If it drags on for years, the logging company is long gone from the area.”

*Mark Brett
Penticton Herald, May 1, 2006*

Liberals' sweet deal for logger

It's not as if Weyerhaeuser made any sort of case for a \$200-million gift from B.C. taxpayers.

But the Liberal government gave them one, without getting any identifiable benefit in return.

Weyerhaeuser owned large tree farm licences on Vancouver Island.

In 2004, Weyerhaeuser executives asked the government for a favour. They wanted the private lands – about the size of Manning Provincial Park – taken out of the tree farm licence.

The benefits for the corporation were huge. Land in the tree farm licence was controlled by the government as if it was Crown land. Stringent environmental and replanting requirements, a limit on the rate of harvest, a bar on selling the land for housing and strict controls on raw log exports – they were all part of the deal.

That's why, in the 1950s the government encouraged forest companies to include their private lands in tree farm licences. Government wanted to be able to guarantee sustainable forest management and protect jobs for British Columbians.

Companies that agreed were compensated with additional Crown timber to make up for any lost profits. That's how the private lands became part of the licences.

Now Weyerhaeuser wanted the deal cancelled. The benefits to the corporation would be huge – between \$18 million and \$24 million a year in extra profits.

But what about taxpayers? They had already compensated the company for including the land in the tree farm licences. The local communities and the province both stood to benefit for decades from the ability to manage the land in the best interests of British Columbians. Why give that up?

A ministry briefing note for de Jong at the time didn't even contemplate the idea of a gift to the corporation. It assumed Weyerhaeuser would pay taxpayers compensation. But even with that assumption, the ministry recommended that de Jong just say no to Weyerhaeuser.

For starters, the ministry briefing note warned de Jong that communities and forest workers considered the tree farm agreement a "social contract" that ensured local areas benefited from the forests and that sustainable management would mean jobs for their children. (That concern was prescient; the change allowed more log exports and cost local jobs.)

Senior ministry officials also said it would be difficult to get fair compensation from Weyerhaeuser and warned of a political backlash.

The only significant benefits cited were making the corporation happy and perhaps placating the U.S. in the softwood dispute (although that sure didn't work).

But de Jong rejected the ministry recommendation. About 70,000 hectares were removed from the tree farm licence. Within a few months, Weyerhaeuser was in negotiations to sell the whole operation business to Brascan, which ultimately paid \$1.4 billion for it.

The government's gift was worth \$15 million to \$24 million a year in extra corporate profits.

Add to that the ability to take the land out of forest production and sell it for housing, and you have a benefit worth at least \$200 million.

Why did the government do it? De Jong wouldn't respond to questions. Coleman isn't offering any answers. A deal was done, he says, but that's it.

It's none of your business.

FOOTNOTE: The New Democrats raised the issue in the legislature, but got no sensible answers from Coleman. "There was still a deal done," he acknowledged in reply to a question from NDP forest critic Bob Simpson. "The member is telling the House pieces of what he thinks he understood took place at the time, but he actually has no idea what the total agreement was, because it isn't public."

Penticton Herald, June 9, 2006

Trek across Canada over in about a month

It's taken more than a year, but Kyle Pickering has reached the Atlantic.

The former Vernon resident set out to walk the Canada Trail from Victoria to Newfoundland in January 2005, and has been steadily plodding his way across the second-largest country on the planet.

Okanagan Sunday, May 14, 2006

Trail challenges issued

Two Trans Canada Trail Challenges planned this year are sure to get trail enthusiasts excited about the opportunity to conquer these routes.

Marilyn Hansen, chair for the Summerland Trans Canada Trail Society, says one of the challenges will include a route from Osprey Lake to Princeton. The event is scheduled for July 9 and stretches 52 kilometers or less, depending on how far people want to go.

People are welcome to run, walk or bike the trail depending on their preference.

She adds that next year, one of the challenge routes will

likely be from Osprey Lake to Summerland, which is quite exciting for our community.

Hansen says the trail challenges are fund raising events for improving the Trans Canada Trail. She adds that it also offers people a chance to become familiar with the trail.

Hansen notes that the trail challenge is not a race, but instead a personal challenge for participants to try and go a certain distance.

To register for one or both trail challenges or for more information, go to www.trailsbc.ca and access the online registration section and registration forms.

Climb to new heights

The Okanagan is home of the Skaha Bluffs recognized as one of the top places for rock climbing in the province.

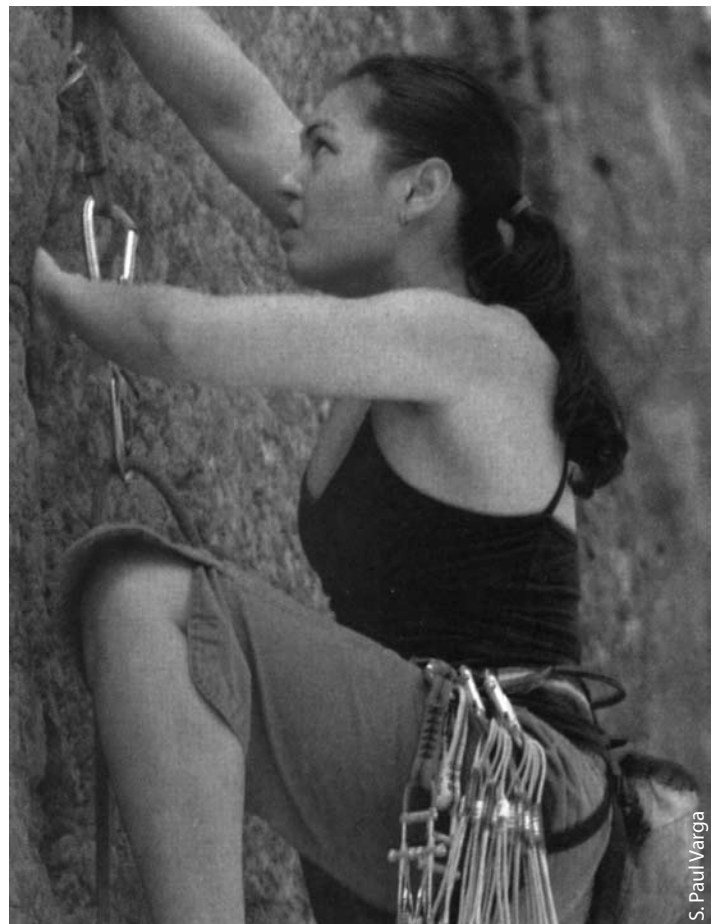
It's a world-class climbing area that much of Penticton doesn't know exists says James Gregoire, manager of the Skaha Outdoor Sports in the City Centre plaza.

Gregoire said because of the area's minimal amount of yearly precipitation combined with the warm climate the Bluffs is the best climbing environment in Canada attracting people from around the globe.

"We get climbers from Austria, Germany, you name it," he said and with new climbing routes being established all the time things will only get better. Currently the Bluffs boast more than 1,000 routes, making it a premium site for beginners and more experienced climbers.

Russ Turner, the director of Skaha Rock Adventures, has been guiding climbers for 23 years, and is certified with the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides. Western Canada's biggest rock climbing school, Skaha Rock Adventures give lessons seven days a week, and has been in business for the last 13 years. Gregoire said he recommends all beginners learn the ropes from experienced, qualified guides such as Turner.

Penticton Herald, May 17, 2006



Mia Harris applies her rock climbing skills at Skaha Bluffs this spring

S. Paul Varga