



Newsletter

SPRING 2014

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

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49th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN PARKS SOCIETY

Heritage Trails of the Northern Cascades History Through the Soles of Your Feet

with special guest presenter

Kelley Cook

Hear some of the tales of the trails and learn about the work that is being done to restore the remaining sections of these historically important paths. The OSPS has supported this project since 1970.



AGENDA

✓ Election of
Directors

✓ Financial
Report

✓ Discussion

CENTRE STAGE THEATRE
in the Summerland Secondary School on Main St.
Friday, April 4, 2014 • 7pm

ALL WELCOME Refreshments NO CHARGE Donations Welcome

EDITORIAL

A good brisk snowshoe in the middle of a beautiful winter day following a dump of snow is a great way to experience the beauty of our region. On the return from the forest in which this occurs, a reminder of how special this experience was is detailed on a radio program. The commentator reports on an experiment in which some relatively substantial blocks of forest were preserved in the middle of clear cuts but then were found to lack many species that had previously been found there. The apparent rationale for this situation was found to be the need for this fauna to have connective corridors for entry to, or exit from, the preserved blocks.

As a consequence of this type of situation it will be important to explore ways in which enough 'wilderness' can be maintained in order to accommodate the indigenous wildlife, and probably many species of flora, of the environment. Instead of arguing about whether or not there should be increases or decreases of a couple of percentage points in government allocations or whether or not a particular piece of property has a specific value in the financial economy, we have to start heeding calls such as 'Natures Half' or 'One for Us, One for Nature'. We have to start considering other economies beside the financial one and address the social and environmental costs of decisions and actions as well.

This is a large undertaking, particularly at the present, when there are great needs in our society and in some quarters half-truth

continued on next page...

Please use the enclosed membership form on the back page to help us carry out our mission.

or outright fictions are being touted as the way forward. However the next generation of stewards and protectors are ready to assist, support and in fact, lead. For example, during this past winter a debate over the preservation of some important agricultural land was being held in one of our communities and the proponents of a very thoughtful, respectful and organized preservation position were led by some young agriculturalists from the community. These young people, and others like them, are claiming their rights to engage in dialogue around issues that will affect them and their families in the future. They are imploring us to take notice of the 'canaries' that serve as warnings and make changes while we still can.

The example of the 'Stop the Swap' leadership is important to other groups of conservationists and environmentalists. We need to recruit, enable and follow future leaders, activists and visionaries. We need to provide history, explanations, and encouragement in order to welcome them into our shared movement. And these younger citizens must come forward to accept these roles to ensure a sustainable future in which we can all participate.

If you are one of these young potential stewards be aware that now is the time to get involved and get active. Whether joining a group, being active in a community, or helping to support others there is a role for you in assisting our movement to progress. One of these roles that you might consider is to sit as a director with the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society. Assisting in the preservation of the factors contributing to the beauty of our region. Who knows you may end up snow shoeing one sunny winter's day and sharing about it in newsletter like this one.



A Few Facts About the O.S.P.S.

As seen at: Okanagansimilkameenparksociety.ca

The Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society was formed in 1966 and has the following aims:

- To work for the acquisition and preservation of parklands, especially in the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys, for the health, recreation, education and natural enjoyment of the public; to seek preservation of habitat for wildlife, and protection of natural biotic areas for scientific study.
- To acquire lands suitable for parks or for scientific, wildlife or natural reserves, and to hold them until they can be permanently entrusted to a suitable agency.
- To raise funds for these purposes.
- To evoke public awareness of the quality of life, and appreciation of the beauty and wonders of the natural environment.

The Society believes in the paramount importance of involving the private citizen in the preservation of wild lands, and through its membership provides an opportunity for this, and has received wide public support.

The present is a crucial time. In the face of fast increasing population, conservation of lands is not to be lost to us and become but a memory of the Canada that was.

Although named a Parks Society, and successful in getting several provincial parks established – Cathedral Park; Conkle Lake Park; and Okanagan Mountain Park; its concepts

are far wider than parks, as demonstrated by the purchase of 800 acres of winter rangeland for the endangered California Bighorn Sheep at Vaseux in 1966, and the recommendations to the Ecological Reserves Committee that a reserve be placed on arid and marsh lands at the head of Osoyoos Lake. It recognizes that recreation and conservation are so wide in scope as to encompass and embrace many forms. It supports and works with other naturalists and conservationists, and all levels of government in their endeavours to this end.

Experienced in conservation presentation to the government, the Parks Society has a board for 14 directors; it welcomes active membership, and appeals for financial support.

The Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society is registered as a charitable organization in Canada, and issues receipts for income tax purposes.

Please be sure to update your email address so that you can be sent a colourful, environmentally benign digital O.S.P.S. Newsletter. Should you require a paper copy please ensure that we have your updated address complete with the postal code.

**Thinking about getting more involved?
Thinking about making a difference?
Consider putting your name forth for
the position of O.S.P.S. Director. The
Annual General Meeting is April 4. See
our front cover for time and location.**



ORV Regulations

To view a copy of the bill and view its progress through debate, visit:
<http://www.leg.bc.ca/40th2nd/4-4-40-2.htm>

QUICK FACTS:

- The proposed ORV Act implements recommendations from the Off Road Vehicle Management Framework released in 2009, including one-time vehicle registration, operator safety rules and environmental protection measures.
- An estimated 200,000 ORVs are used in the province.
- Snowmobiles have been registered in British Columbia since the 1970s.
- British Columbia is currently one of the last provinces in Canada that does not require registration of off-road vehicles.
- ORVs are used in a variety of sectors in British Columbia, including farming, ranching, forestry, oil and gas, mining, sport, tourism, transportation and search and rescue.

ORV LEGISLATION WILL KEEP B.C.'S BACKCOUNTRY SAFE

VICTORIA – Bill 13, the Off Road Vehicle Act was introduced to the legislature on February 24, 2014 by Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. According to the ministry, it promises certainty, safety and regulatory structure for thousands of off-road vehicle users. The proposed Off Road Vehicle – or ORV – Act replaces the 40-year-old Motor Vehicle (All Terrain) Act with a modern management structure, designed

to align with existing regulatory regimes at minimal cost.

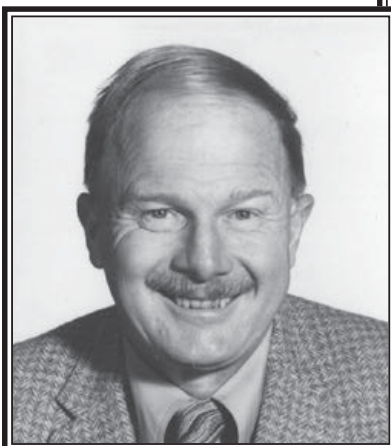
Increased use of quads, snowmobiles and other ORVs has occurred in British Columbia during the recent past. It is intended that Bill 13 will help ensure these vehicles are driven in a safe, respectful and environmentally responsible manner. According to Jeremy McCall, executive director, Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia, “The announcement of the ORV legislation is a tremendous tribute to the dedicated members of non-government organizations who formed the Coalition for Licensing and Registration of Off Road Vehicles in 2002. The coalition published its 47 recommendations in 2006. Many of those individuals continue to assist the ministry with the feedback it needs to prepare this legislation. Among other benefits, this legislation will offer security of ownership and improved safety standards for the riders of ORVs and it will provide for higher standards of compliance and enforcement which will benefit non-motorized recreationists.”

Implementation, including registration provisions, is anticipated in the fall of 2014. Scott Benton, executive director, Grasslands Conservation Council of BC, points out that, “The requirement for registration is the cornerstone for future management and

enforcement of ORV activities... This legislation provides a solid platform to develop comprehensive regulations that will address safety, operator conduct and environmental protection in the future.”

BILL 13, IF PASSED AND BROUGHT INTO FORCE, WILL:

- Establish a one-time registration system specifically designed to integrate with the pre-existing structure of the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia's vehicle registry, reducing implementation costs. ORVs will have to be registered and display a clearly visible number plate before they can be operated on Crown or other public land.
- Allow the development of regulations on the rules of operation (such as wearing helmets), safety standards and conditions of use for a wide range of modern ORVs, including snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles or “quads”, dirt bikes and utility terrain vehicles.
- Assist in identifying stolen or abandoned ORVs, by requiring ORVs to be registered in a database that is accessible to peace officers at all times.
- Provide officers with more effective enforcement tools to target irresponsible ORV owners that endanger others or damage trails and habitat. This includes the ability to stop and inspect ORVs for violations, seize an ORV for safety or evidence purposes, and increase the maximum fine for offences from \$500 to \$5,000.



Former O.S.P.S. Stalwart, Bert White, Passes Away

Former Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society director, treasurer and newsletter editor, R. D. 'Bert' White passed away on January 6, 2014. Bert had been an engaged member of the O.S.P.S. since 1975 and a member of the executive since 1980. He retired from the executive in 2013 at the age of 84.

Bert took care of the society's financial services and records for a number of years. He claimed that he applied his talents and skills to an area of conservation and environmentalism with which he was familiar freeing up others to concentrate on research and fieldwork. Bert,

and his wife Sheila, picked up keys for meeting rooms, set up tables and chairs and generally made sure that meetings occurred. Even after his time as editor, Bert often picked up 'paper' newsletters from the printer's and stuffed, addressed and stamped them for mail out.

All members of the O.S.P.S., and the communities in which we live, owe a debt of gratitude for the hours, days and years of volunteer service engaged in by Bert. Our region has been better off for having him live here. Rest comfortably Bert, we will miss you.

Kelley Cooke: Trail Re-constructionist

Kelley Cook is a recreation consultant, a contractor and a historian who has been a Princeton resident for the past 25 years. She lives, and works, with her two sons and her partner Vic Sagorski, along with their two dogs, Feral & Wheels.

Throughout her life Kelley has spent “as much time as humanly possible in the outdoors.” Whether it was hiking, biking, skiing or working she was “out in the bush or up on a mountain top.” Her work has taken her to various locations in the southern interior fulfilling many different forest and recreation related contracts. Kelley is largely responsible for coordinating resources to restore 50 kilometres between Manning Park and Princeton along the famous Dewdney Trail constructed across BC in 1861, and the 43-kilometre section of the 1849 Hudson’s Bay Brigade Trail between Hope and Tulameen.

In 2006, Kelley encountered what she refers to as “a life changing event”...She was working on a forest recreation contract to locate old trails in the Princeton area when she was “bitten by the history bug.” She started doing research on the trails that she was working with and was enthralled by the magic associated with one of the first trails that connected British Columbia in its early years. Kelley discovered that many trails she had been using over the years were historically significant and realized that if she’d had no idea about them then others were likely also missing the relevant history while hiking these trails.

It was also at this time that Kelley first made contact with the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society. The society, and a man by the name of Harley Hatfield, kept coming up whenever she asked anyone about heritage trails. For the past seven years she has been

following, “or trying my best to follow in the footsteps of Harley and others with the vision of protection and restoration of historical routes in the North Cascade Mountains.”

Kelley has worked long volunteer hours on her projects and undertakings. In the article on the history of the OSPS, published last year by the Okanagan Historical Society, she is referred to as an “enabler and historian.” Last year she was also the recipient of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee award for her National Trails Coalition work. Thanks to Kelley’s efforts, and collaboration with groups such as the Hope Mountain Centre, today’s walkers and hikers can step back in time along historic routes to enjoy new and upgraded campsites, improved trails and informative signs by mountains, meadows and lakes.



Photo used with the permission of Vic Sagorski

Kelley Cook (and of course her dog Feral) and Charles Hou with Mt. Hatfield behind. Kelley describes it as “magical for me!”

Charles Hou is a retired High School teacher from Burnaby. Kelley first met him years ago at a heritage trails meeting in Yale. He is the author of many historical books in the topic of Canadian history. He has won many awards for his writings and for his dedication as a high school teacher. For thirty years he took his students on the First Brigade trail out of Spuzzum and on the Douglas-Harrison route. He had only read the history of the second HBC trail but had never hiked it.

In the summer of 2013 Kelley and her team led a group of hikers over the trail and he was one of them...this was a very special hike for Kelley as she got to show him the trail. Apparently he was absolutely blown away by the scenery...and the roughness of the mountains.

Charles is in his late seventies and this was day three on the HBC trail from Hope!



Photo by Kelley Cook

Historical kiosks have been installed at the original campsites of the brigades passing over the formidable Cascade Mountains. Camping infrastructure has also been installed to ensure minimal disturbance in areas along the trail corridor.

B.C. Legislation Would Allow Oil and Energy Companies to Conduct Preliminary Research in Parks

BY LARRY PYNN, VANCOUVER SUN FEBRUARY 13, 2014

Companies planning to build projects such as pipelines and transmission lines stand to receive permits to conduct exploratory research in B.C. parks, according to proposed new legislation introduced Thursday.

Bill 4, the Park Amendment Act, 2014, would allow investigative-use permits to be issued for studies, including for vegetation sampling, fish surveys and low-impact geotechnical studies. Based on the results of the studies, companies would then have to apply for a boundary adjustment if they wanted to proceed with a project through a park.

Environment Minister Mary Polak said in an interview that the legislation provides clarity, ensuring the province has the legal authority to issue permits for research, as well as activities such as recreation, tourism, and commercial filming in parks.

Information gained from these preliminary investigations will be helpful to companies as well as the government later in determining the merits of a boundary adjustment. In some cases, the companies might reject the idea of an adjustment and chose a different route, she said. "It has some potentially positive benefits. It's really valuable information."

Polak noted that not all permit applications will be from companies seeking industrial projects.

The Kitselas First Nation near Terrace is seeking an amendment to 269-hectare Kleanza Creek Provincial Park to allow for access to drinking water. Access roads are another potential rationale for a park boundary amendment.

She noted that allowing a small land removal from a park might result in less environmental damage than if a company had to seek an alternative route.

Polak noted she will personally decide if an investigative-use permit will be issued for a given park. "They'd have to lay out specifi-

cally what they intend to do. And then we'd examine what kind of impact potentially that could have on the park."

The government is not limiting the purposes for which an investigative permit may be requested.

In response, NDP environment critic Spencer Chandra Herbert (Vancouver-West End) said his main concern is to ensure that the process is transparent and the public has the opportunity to comment.

"Will this make it easier for the government to run pipelines or transmission lines through a park when people are clearly opposed?" he added. "That's the risk here, do you make it easier to cut up our parks?"

The Vancouver Sun reported last December that the Ministry of Environment is anticipating applications for boundary adjustments to at least 35 parks and other protected areas to accommodate industrial pipelines, transmission lines and resource roads.

The proposed boundary adjustments — which would amount to new or enlarged industrial corridors slicing through protected areas — were contained within a four-page ministry document dated May 17, 2013 and released through a freedom-of-information request.

According to the document, Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline expansion from Alberta to Burnaby could potentially require boundary adjustments to 10 provincial parks, ranging in size from 8.5-hectare F.H. Barber and 32-hectare Bridal Veil Falls, both between Chilliwack and Hope, to large protected areas such as 615-hectare Jackman Flats near Valemount and 15,000-hectare Lac du Bois Grasslands near Kamloops.

The document noted that a project called the North Thompson transmission line could require adjustments to five parks, including 5,733-hectare

Upper Adams River, north of Salmon Arm, and 540,000-hectare Wells Gray, north of Clearwater.

The TransCanada LNG pipeline would require boundary adjustments to four protected areas, including 17,683-hectare Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed, in the Nass River Valley north of Terrace. The company's Alaska pipeline project would require three, including 88,989-hectare Liard River Corridor, near the Yukon border, and its Coast GasLink pipeline one, the 360-hectare Sukunka Falls, near Chetwynd.

The Spectra Energy LNG pipeline is proposed to go through two protected areas, including 14,523-hectare Babine River Corridor.

Other protected areas that may require boundary adjustments to accommodate miscellaneous projects include Elk Falls for BC Hydro's replacement of the John Hart generating station on Vancouver Island; Inkaneep for a provincial prison near Oliver; Sasquatch for both a Seabird Island First Nation logging haul road and BC Hydro transmission line near Harrison Lake; and E.C. Manning east of Hope for a Telus road and provincial highway realignment.

A subcontractor of pipeline builder TransCanada Corp. received a verbal warning from B.C. Parks after the first incident of what in the Khutzeymateen Inlet Conservancy on June 16 and a written warning after the second on June 28, according to the provincial environment ministry. A third incident was under investigation. All three incidents involved helicopters and work crews.



Public must pressure politicians on climate change – Suzuki

"I don't think anyone could have predicted six months ago that the environment would rocket up to the No. 1 concern of Canadians across the country," Suzuki told a packed auditorium at Dalhousie University. "This is the moment where decisions made and not made are actually going to determine the future not only of our species, but of countless other species that share the planet with us."

After his Halifax speech, Suzuki didn't seem convinced that Harper's commitment to the environment is sincere. "Stephen Harper is a political animal, so he's paying attention to what the public is saying," he said. "It's important that Mr. Harper indicate that he's committed to Kyoto — because we're signed onto it — and that he's going to do everything he can to meet it. We can't just pull out of it." Suzuki said a report released in Paris on Friday that concluded global warming is "unequivocal" and man-made should be all the evidence the Harper government needs. "I think it finally puts the nail in the coffin of the naysayers," he said. "There's been a handful of people who have said, 'No, the evidence isn't in and humans are not a part of it.' It's a tiny group, many of them funded by the fossil fuel industry." Suzuki added that journalists should ignore scientists that cast doubt on global warming, since they don't represent a consensus within the scientific community.

The Okanagan Saturday, February 3, 2007

Trail Talk from the Summerland Trans Canada Trail Society

We have some positives to report:

Three of our four bridges are completed and paid for, thanks to some of you and a generous grant from the province of BC. It was a joy to celebrate pay-

ing off the last of \$346,000 for the big bridge near the Research Station. We also have two new interpretive signs at the kiosk there.

This year, we were hosts to the Trails BC (the overarching trails organization in our province) annual general meeting. There was a good turnout of locals and from all across BC. We heard exciting historical talks, and it was a chance to compare problems and be buoyed up by the successes of other trail builders. I also went to the annual national meeting of the Trans Canada Trail Foundation (the group that finances 10% of our projects) which was in Vancouver this year.

There was representation from almost every province including the Yukon. We found out how Quebec is ahead of us in making all of their Trans Canada Trail free of motorized traffic. ATVs (all-terrain vehicles) and dirt bikes have been our nemesis in BC.

Our Summerland TCT Society worked with the government to try and prevent a showdown with the local ATV Club when they hosted their provincial jamboree in August. We had visions of ATVs ripping up everything we have attempted to build. A compromise solution was found, the ATVs promised to stay off our supposed non-motorized trail if they were granted an ATV reserve. So far, BC doesn't have any legislation making the TCT non-motorized.

But this legislation is in the works now, and for the first time, six different provincial ministries have met to solve the problem. We have some very dedicated advocates in government, so we are hopeful that there'll be enforceable rules by spring. The ATV clubs are also very happy that they'll have a huge reserve.

As always, donations are most welcome: \$50 will buy you a donor's plaque with one name, and \$200 will give you a larger plaque for several names. What a nice way to celebrate an occasion, friend, family member or yourself! This makes a good Christmas present! Please send your donations to Geoff Solly, 6803 Nixon St., Summerland, BC, V0H 1Z9.

You'll get a charity receipt and a certificate for your donation. We are thankful to you, who are helping to make the TCT a reality!

SUBMITTED BY MARILYN HANSEN (PRES.)
Summerland Trans Canada Trail Society

Breaking the Barriers of Water Reuse

Reuse is a reality and a necessity.

Water reuse is not an abstract concept; it is both a reality and a necessity. For the reason cited below, the requirements and opportunities for water reuse will continue to grow at an increasingly rapid rate.

- **Economic Factors.** In addition to the treatment technology costs, it is necessary to factor in that raw water costs are steadily increasing, and will continue to do so, reflecting the requirement for better quality water, and costs associated with meeting new regulations. Also, there are the intangible benefits of creating the image of responsible stewardship.

- **Lack of commitment.** The commitment to reuse is more dependent upon consumer perception: "Drinking recycled sewage," "Toilet to tap," etc. In reality, the majority of the world's population now drinks from rivers and streams that are receiving wastewater discharges. For example, the Colorado River receives 280 wastewater discharges before it becomes the source of drinking water for Los Angeles, and the Thames River receives 360 wastewater discharges before becoming the source of drinking water for London's 7.3 million people.

PETER CARTWRIGHT
*Canadian Water Quality Association
Technical Consultant*

Trail Talk

Three members of the Summerland Trans Canada Trail Society met with the leadership of Princeton's Vermillion Trails Society on February 8th. Summerland has 61.5 km. of Trans Canada Trail, and Princeton has 114 km. Both of our groups share similar problems: lack of ongoing maintenance funding; and access to ORVs (off-road recreational vehicles) ruining the trail surface. Our long term goal is to improve the trail's surface for comfortable cycling. But if we can't keep ORVs off through provincial legislation, we cannot be successful.

The Trans Canada Trail project is now under the Ministry of Tourism. I urge you to please write Minister Stan Hagen (Minister of Tourism/ Sports/ and the Arts) urging him that we need legislation to keep ATVs and dirt bikes off the trail. These ORVs have 100,000 km. of logging roads for their "sports". They don't need to take over the hiking, cycling or horseback riding trails, too.

Here's Minister Hagen's address: Hon. Stan Hagen, Minister of Tourism/ Sports/ Arts, Box 9071 Stn. Prov. Govt, Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2. Here's his e-mail: stan.hagen.mla@leg.bc.ca Last November, Bill Johnston and Henri Frioud made a detailed trail inventory of what trail work needs to be done, from 1.5 km. east of Osprey Lake to Faulder. In that section, there's one unfinished bridge, and we had three significant landslides requiring clearing. The trail's surface is deeply rutted from ATV traffic.

This report has been passed to the Regional District office. We are in the midst of arranging a meeting with the Regional District in the third week of February with the hope that some of our concerns will be addressed. Donations for the Summerland portion of the Trans Canada Trail can be sent to Ron Awai, 5909 Gartrell, Summerland, BC V0H 1Z7. A charity receipt will be sent for amounts over \$10. For \$40, you can have your name engraved on our donors' board. For \$200, you can have even a larger plaque with more names. We are grateful for your help.

Fossil fuel and global warming – BC's dirty secret?

The recent Throne Speech, Budget and Energy Plan announced by the government made bold statements about the need for action, not procrastination, on global warming and set targets to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions in the coming years. This is truly a significant shift for a government that until recently, questioned whether global warming was indeed happening.

Despite the conservation efforts the government is making to deal with the impacts of global warming, there are some very significant concerns that these efforts may be nothing more than hot air.

Foremost among these concerns is the inconsistency between the conservation goals and budget 2007-2008. Not only was there minimal funding for the ambitious goals the government set in the Throne Speech, the government has budgeted an increase of approximately 40 percent in subsidies to the oil and gas sector. In continuing to heavily subsidize the oil and gas industry, the government is putting all of its conservation measures at risk.

By giving these breaks to the fossil fuel industry, the government is using British Columbians' tax dollars to fund global warming – despite British Columbians' clear demands for mandatory emission reduction targets and a shift to alternative energy sources.

Law reforms are required to BC's oil and gas legislation to reduce subsidies to the oil and gas industry and require reinvestment in renewable energy. Such changes would put BC on a path to a sustainable future and fight global warming – the path that British Columbians clearly want, and expect, the government to take.

The inconsistencies between the government's talk and action become even more glaring when compared to continued focus

on development of new types of fossil fuels, like coal bed methane, and lifting the moratorium on coastal exploration and drilling off BC's fragile north coast.

Currently, there are at least six pipeline and marine tanker terminal projects on the horizon for northern BC. The main purpose of these projects is to accelerate the development of the Alberta Tar sands - simply put, these tankers and pipelines are the tar sands' infrastructure.

In order to address BC's contributions to global warming, we need to consider the impacts of all our actions, including those occurring outside of our borders. The government has made a start with its new Energy Plan. But it must go further and ensure that its treatment of our biggest greenhouse gas emitters, the oil and gas industry, does not undermine the gains it has made and the expectations of British Columbians.

MARGOT MCMILLAN

West Coast Environmental Law, March 06/07

More Bighorn Sheep Captured, Released

A second capture and release of California Bighorn Sheep in Keremeos last Thursday yielded a total of 23. An additional eight sheep were caught to go with the 15 from the previous day's capture.

All sheep were released in Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park.

Penticton Herald, January 15, 2007

The British Columbia Adventure Network presents:

Hiking in the Okanagan Similkameen, BC, Canada

From the Website: bcadventure.com

The Similkameen runs from the desert like region of Osoyoos along Highway 3 to the historic town of Princeton, some 100 km (60 mi.) away, while the Okanagan Valley stretches some 250 km (155 mi.) starting at Osoyoos and making its way to Enderby. Some of the warmest and driest climate in Canada is found here, where history, recreation, working farms and orchards all make up a very special part of the province. More than 250 lakes including Skaha, Okanagan and Kalamalka are in this region. From excellent day hikes to adventure filled backpacking trips, it's all waiting for you in the Okanagan Similkameen in British Columbia.

CATHEDRAL PROVINCIAL PARK:

Cathedral Provincial Park at Keremeos with 32,384 ha (80,000 acres) of wilderness that includes alpine meadows, glacier lakes and wildlife is excellent hiking and becoming very popular because of its extreme beauty.

CASCADE MOUNTAINS:

You are now high in the Cascade Mountains with 32 km (20 mi.) of hiking trails and wil-

derness camping. Most hikers use Cathedral Lake Resort at Lake Quiniscoe as a base, where they can get information on the hiking and camping from the park warden. One of the many added attractions in this park is the wildlife, so don't be surprised when you see bighorn sheep, black bears, mountain goats, mule deer, porcupines and ground squirrels. The best time to hike in Cathedral Park is anytime from July to September. Should you decide to do your hiking in September, you will be pleasantly surprised by the golden alpine larch growing on the mountain sides. This particular variety of alpine larch is only found in Cathedral and Manning Park, as well as in small areas of the Rockies. Although this is a wilderness park, hiking is not strenuous and the rewards are many.

KEREMEOS:

A great day hike from Keremeos is to the Keremeos Columns, a return trip of 12 km (7.5 mi.) which should take approximately five to six hours. During the summer this area of BC becomes very hot, so carry drinking water, or else do this hike in early spring. Take Highway 3A from Keremeos and travel north to the cemetery where you turn right and go east for a short way. On your way to the

columns you will hike through arid-country wildflowers, found only in dry areas. The columns are 100 metres (328 feet) wide and 30 metres (98 feet) high and were formed during volcanic activity more than 30 millions years ago.

KETTLE VALLEY RAILWAY:

The Kettle Valley Railway, easily the most historic rail line in BC can be seen and hiked from many different areas of the Okanagan Similkameen. The KVR ran from Vancouver to Hope, Princeton, West Summerland, Penticton, Osoyoos, through Naramata along the south side of Lake Okanagan, and then swung due south to Rock Creek and finally Midway. There are a number of hikes from the different cities and towns in the region, the most popular and well known is the Myra Canyon. A 13 km (8 mi.) stretch of the old railway, which can be reached by heading east of Kelowna on McCulloch Road to the Myra Forest Service Road, follow it until you come to where the road and KVR meet.

OKANAGAN MOUNTAIN PARK:

Okanagan Mountain Park, a desert like wilderness area, has 24 km (15 mi.) of hiking and riding trails. To reach the northern access to this park head south from Kelowna by way of Pandosy Street, down the east side of Okanagan Lake along Lakeshore Road to the parking lot. The most popular hike in the Okanagan Mountain Park is to Wild Horse Canyon, a deep and isolated spot. The southern access, to this park, is north of Penticton on the Naramata road to Chute Lake and along Gemmill Lake Road to the parking lot. The hike from one end to the other end of the park is about 25 km (15.5 mi) and will take approximately ten hours, but you can do many short hikes. Parts here are very dry and it's rattler country, wear sensible hiking boots, leave rocks and other tempting items alone.

APEX MOUNTAIN:

Enjoy superb views and easy summer hiking on Apex Mountain, just south east of Penticton. Hikers will find themselves in subalpine area and wildflowers galore. This area offers inspiring views of Manning and Cathedral parks.



Dewdney Trail



South Okanagan Naturalists' Club
P O Box 23050
Penticton, BC V2A 8L7

2014 February 23
The Honourable C. Clark, Premier
Government of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B. C. V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Clark:

We are very concerned about Bill 4 which would amend the Parks Act to allow for a variety of changes and activities which we consider inconsistent with the purpose for which the park was established in the first place. We view British Columbia Parks as sacred trusts for our children and grandchildren. Their main purpose is to protect our natural heritage including the land, the ecosystems, the plants and animals within them. They should allow for human recreation which is consistent with these values. Parks are not appropriate places for other uses such as: logging, mining, extraction of oil or gas, pipelines, powerlines, etc. Roads in parks should be restricted to the minimum required for recreational use that is compatible with protection of ecosystems and species in the park.

It is our understanding that the existing legislation for BC Parks already allows the Minister of Parks to issue permits for activities with considerable impact on ecosystems, species, and recreational values of BC Parks. In our opinion any amendment of the Parks Act should restrict these powers of the Minister of Parks. It is our understanding that Bill 4 would instead expand the power of the Minister to allow incompatible uses within BC Parks. We respectfully ask that you withdraw or revise Bill 4 in order to protect BC Parks for all British Columbians as well as our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

Dr. J. E. Bryan, Chair
Conservation Committee
Email address: jebryan@shaw.ca

Cc D. Ashton, MLA
BC Nature
Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists
Friends of the Similkameen
Okanagan-Similkameen Parks Society
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

MEMBERSHIP FORM Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society • Box 787, Summerland, B.C. V0H 1Z0

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Nominate a BC River for the 2014 Endangered Rivers List

To make a nomination please go to: <http://goo.gl/TYsf9d>

Or go to the home page of the Outdoor Recreation Council website at www.orcbc.ca and follow the links.

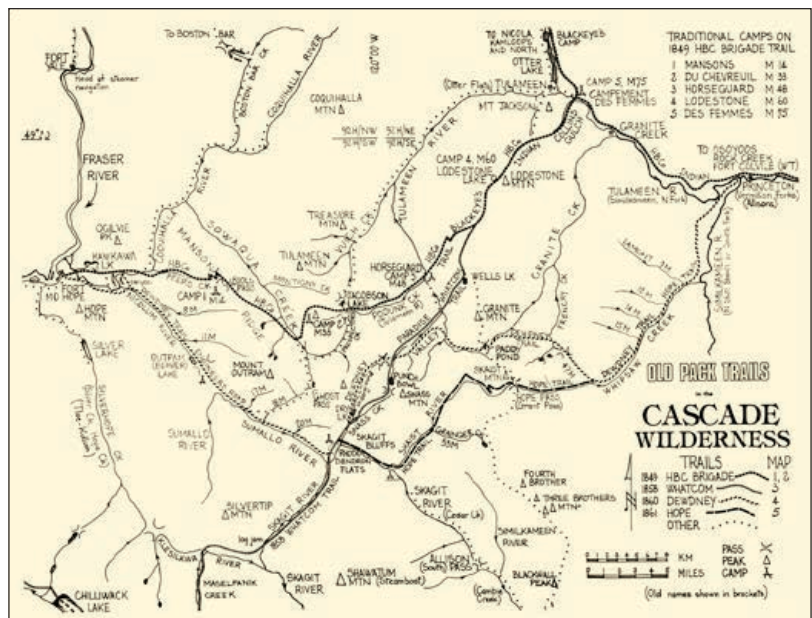
The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC (ORC) will publish its 2014 Endangered Rivers List in April. Rivers included in the List will be those on which public recreation is considered by ORC's Endangered Rivers Committee to be the most endangered or threatened. The Committee will review nominations from members of ORC's member organizations and other individuals active in outdoor recreation. Persons or organizations making a nominations are requested to provide as much of the information listed below as possible. Public recreation which might be threatened or endangered might include fishing, canoeing, kayaking, birdwatching, hiking or just walking by the river.

In 2013 the Peace River was nominated by more than 200 individuals and organizations as a result of which it headed the 2013 list by a wide margin and the environmental assessment process for the proposed Site C dam on the Peace is now under way.

In 2014 we are looking for nominations for threatened rivers other than the Peace, such as the Similkameen (high dam proposal south

of Princeton) and the Fraser (toxic waste plant near Chilliwack). There will undoubtedly be others! And the more nominations the better so we can develop a comprehensive and informative list.

Please distribute this request for nominations to members of your organizations and to as many other members of the recreating public as possible.



Map drawn by R.C. (Bob) Harris of Vancouver. Bob Harris worked along side Harley Hatfield in the effort to preserve the heritage trails and surrounding area. Used with permission of Rita Harris.