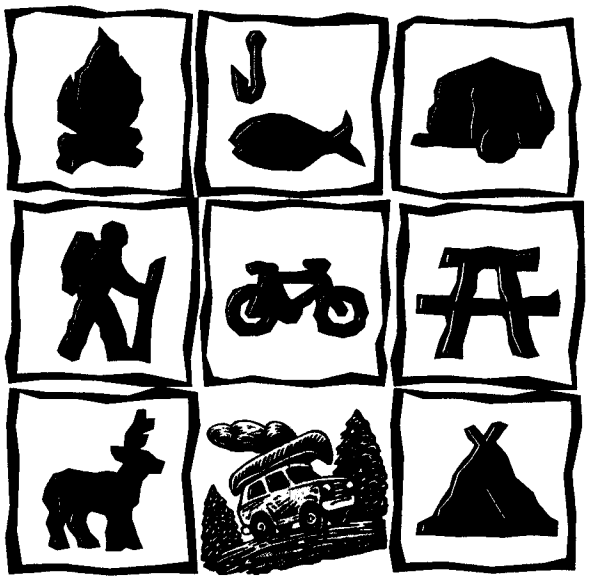
Appendix 11

Recreation Inventory

Recreation Features Inventory
and
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Inventory
for TFL # 56



Prepared for:

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Mr. Shawn O'Brien of Columbia Valley Forest Consulting Ltd.

PREFACE

Outdoor recreation, ecotourism and adventure travel is one of the fastest growing sectors of BC's tourism industry. An expanding market of knowledgeable travelers is looking for spectacular settings and challenging activities. Canada still accounts for only a fraction of the North American ecotourism and adventure travel market. Despite the recent growth in ecotourism and adventure travel in British Columbia, there is considerable room for growth of the industry.

Outdoor recreation, ecotourism and adventure travel can make a positive contribution to community economic development and diversification. But care needs to be taken that growth in this sector does not harm host communities or the resource base.

The outdoor recreation, ecotourism and adventure travel industry is dynamic and innovative, products evolve continuously in response to a demanding and competitive market. This situation challenges land resource managers to develop practices and regulations that protect sensitive resources without unnecessarily impeding the development of outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities or forest resources. Wherever possible, regulation and resource protection should be developed and implemented cooperatively by industry, Government, and host communities. Industry-led codes of practice, community involvement, and local recreation planning can help to maximize benefits to each sector.

RCFC has a unique opportunity to blend the use of outdoor recreation and ecotourism resources in harmony with use of forest resources for the benefit of the citizens of Revelstoke.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report inventories the recreational opportunities and features associated with TFL # 56 operated by the Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation. TFL 56 is located in the rugged Columbia Mountains one hour north of the City of Revelstoke via Highway 23 north. It is located in the Downie Creek and Goldstream River drainages and consists of a gross land base of 120,000 hectares with a timber harvesting landbase of 30,702 hectares.

The climatic conditions in the interior wet belt are very favourable for tree growth and have produced excellent stands of cedar, hemlock, spruce and balsam along with minor volumes of Douglas fir and white pine. Wildlife is also abundant, and includes populations of scarce animal species such as mountain caribou, grizzly bears, wolverines and rare bats. It is also home to many more common big game species such as moose, deer, mountain goats, black bears and wolves, which are hunted by big game outfitters and residents. The mountainous terrain with its deep snow is well suited to heli-skiing and two backcountry ski-lodges are located adjacent to the TFL. Heli-hiking is also becoming a popular business enterprise. Local residents use the area for a variety of outdoor recreation pursuits from nature study through to snowmobiling and mountain climbing.

The rugged mountainous terrain coupled with the limited access, has an associated impact on the amount of recreational use within the TFL. In this type of environment, due to the rugged terrain and lush forests, travel is often easier during the winter months than during the summer. Thus, the primary recreational pursuits are often associated with winter sports activities such as heli-skiing, snowmobiling, and ski touring. During the summer months, the valley bottoms are used for hunting and camping, and ATVing along forestry roads. The shores of Lake Revelstoke are popular destinations for local residents for camping and fishing. The high alpine ridges are experiencing increase visitation by heli-hikers based out of the Canadian Mountain Holiday heli-ski lodges (Gothics and Adamants) on the northern perimeter of the TFL. The Keystone/Standard Basin is one of the few areas within the TFL that has outstanding recreational features of regional significance. This area is widely known for its scenic views, wildflowers, and excellent opportunities for hiking and mountain biking in summer, and snowmobiling in winter.

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classification system is largely a function of an area's distance from a road. The TFL's rugged mountainous terrain necessitates the layout of logging roads along valley bottoms and mountainside slopes. Thus, within the TFL, the vast majority of the landscape falls within the *Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized* ROS class (areas more than 1 km but less then 8 km from a road). Most of the remainder (small areas adjacent to and <1 km from roads) falls within the *Roaded Modified* (RM) class. There are no *Primitive* or *Roaded Natural* areas, and one small area of *Semi-Primitive Motorized* (SPM).

TFL 56 has abundant natural resources upon which to base a variety of recreation and ecotourism activities, some of which are world-class. Along with the opportunities that abound, come a number of challenges that must be overcome in order to foster a sustainable recreation sector. Some of the issues identified during the study include: difficulty of access; perceived possibility of losing access to preferred recreation resources; potential for environmental impact of recreational activities; concern about loss of scenic values; the growing possibility of incompatibility between motorized and non-motorized recreation and between public and commercial recreation; and the lack of readily available, detailed information about recreation opportunities.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The mandate to develop and maintain a Recreation Features Inventory (RFI) and a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Inventory is established in Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the *Forest Act*, and Part 1, Section 1 of the *Forest Practices Code of BC Act*. This mandate applies to all provincial Crown lands outside if parks and settled areas.

The *Forest Act* sets out the Ministry of Forests responsibility for developing and maintaining an inventory of land and forests, and assessing and classifying land, including for wilderness and recreation. The *Forest Practices Code of BC Act* defines forest resources as inclusive of recreation resources and, in turn, recreation resources as inclusive of recreation opportunities.

Section 28 (d)(ii) of the *Forest Act* requires that a Tree Farm License (TFL) management plan contain an inventory of recreation resources. Ministry policy (#1.1, TFL Inventory) stipulates that TFL licensees must carry out these inventories at their own cost and to ministry standards.

The Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation (RCFC) as part of their Tree Farm License management plan requirement, must complete a recreation inventory for the TFL. The Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation was formed in April 1993 to manage and operate Tree Farm License (TFL) 56, which was purchased from Westar Timber Ltd. The City of Revelstoke is the sole owner of the corporation.

TFL 56 is located in the rugged Columbia Mountains one hour north of the City of Revelstoke in the Downie Creek and Goldstream River drainages (Figure One). The TFL consists of a gross land base of 120,000 hectares and a net operable land base of 30,702 hectares. The present AAC is set at 100,000 m3/year, including a partitioned cut of 10,000 m3/year, less a Small Business Forest Enterprise Program of 12,000 m3/year.

The climatic conditions in the interior wet belt are very favourable for tree growth and have produced excellent stands of cedar, hemlock, spruce and balsam along with minor volumes of Douglas fir and white pine. Wildlife is also abundant, and includes populations of scarce animal species such as mountain caribou, grizzly bears, wolverines and rare bats. It is also home to many more common big game species such as moose, deer, mountain goats, black bears and wolves, which are hunted by big game outfitters and residents. The mountainous terrain with its deep snow is well suited to heli-skiing and two backcountry ski-lodges are located within or adjacent to the TFL. Heli-hiking is also becoming a popular business enterprise. Local residents use the area for a variety of outdoor recreation pursuits from nature study through to snowmobiling and mountain climbing. The wide variety of resources and resource users requires a strong commitment from the corporation to manage the land base sensitively, taking into account all values.

Figure One: Location of RCFC TFL # 56

1.1 Purpose of the ROS Inventory

A recreation opportunity is the availability of choice for someone to participate in a preferred recreation activity within a preferred setting and enjoy the desired experience.

The purpose of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Inventory is to:

- identify, delineate, classify and record areas within the province into recreation opportunity classes based on their current state of remoteness, naturalness and expected social experience; and
- provide information about existing recreation opportunities to land use planners and resource managers to assist them in making decisions on appropriate land uses, resource development objectives and management prescriptions.

The ROS Inventory characterizes and represents recreation opportunities as mixes or combinations of settings and probable experience opportunities arranged along a continuum or spectrum of ROS classes. The spectrum is set out in terms of seven ROS classes as follows:

Primitive (P);

Semi-primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM);

Semi-primitive Motorized (SPM);

Roaded Natural (RN);

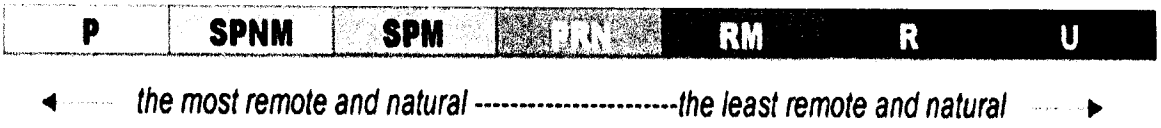
Roaded Modified (RM);

Rural (R); and

Urban (U).

The classes that make up this spectrum are differentiated from each other in terms of differing degrees or types of remoteness, naturalness and social experience as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2 - Relationship between ROS classes



1.2 Purpose of the Recreation Features Inventory

The purpose of the Recreation Features Inventory (RFI) is:

- to identify, classify and record biophysical, cultural and historic features for their recreational value within a local context (i.e., forest district); and
- to provide information about recreation features to land use planners and resource managers to assist them in making decisions on appropriate land uses, resource development objectives and management prescriptions. The inventory may be used as input to higher level plans or provincial initiatives. The inventory may also identify those recreation features that already have provincial recognition.

More specifically, the RFI:

- delineates the provincial land base into recreation feature polygons (RFPs) based on recreation features and the activities those features support;
- classifies those polygons in terms of their local significance (for providing recreation opportunities and supporting recreation activities) and sensitivity to alteration;
- serves as a basic tool to assist Forest Practices Code operational planning and Ministry of Forests recreation use management; and,
- enables the Ministry of Forests to meet its statutory responsibility to inventory forest resources, including recreation resources.

The RFI *does not* provide prescriptions for forest management.

1.3 Relationship to the Recreation Resources Inventory

The ROS and RFI are two of the four main component inventories of the Recreation Resources Inventory. The other two are the Recreation Facilities and the Visual Resources inventories. These other component inventories may provide additional information to the ROS and RF Inventories and/or a context for determining the range of recreation opportunities, as follows:

- the Visual Landscape Inventory currently serves as one of the main component inventories because the Visual Resources Inventory has yet to be defined or developed. The Visual Landscape Inventory may provide information on naturalness, as well as, information on viewer expectations; and
- the Recreation Facilities Inventory provides more detailed information on the types and conditions of existing human-made sites and structures used for recreational purposes.

1.4 Relationship to recreation planning and management processes

The relationship of the ROS and RF Inventories to recreation planning and management processes is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 - Relationship of the ROS and RF Inventories to recreation planning and management processes

Recreation Features Guidebook (under development)	ROS: Provides guidelines for developing preferred, or more acceptable, management prescriptions. RFI: Provides procedures and standards for further assessment of RFPs that have been flagged by the inventory (RFP Sensitivity 0 or 1) (see Section 3.7). Provides criteria for assessing RFP Sensitivity when reviewing development proposals. Serves to assess the degree to which a recreation feature might be impacted. Provides guidelines for developing preferred, or more acceptable, management prescriptions.
District Recreation Planning (under development)	ROS: The district recreation planning process is designed to take advantage of the data available from the ROS Inventory. The district recreation planning process is designed to make known current recreation values, including recreation settings, at the strategic planning level, and developing priorities and actions for managing recreation settings, at the operational level. District recreation plans provide an additional vehicle for making ROS information available to planning tables, including Strategic Land Use Plans and higher level plans. RFI: The district recreation planning process is designed to take advantage of the data available from recreation resource inventories, including the RFI. The district recreation planning process is designed to "make known[1]" current and potential recreation values, including recreation features, at the strategic planning level, and developing priorities and actions for managing recreation, at the operational level. District recreation plans provide an additional vehicle for making recreation features information available to planning tables, including Strategic Land Use Plans and higher level plans.
Strategic Land Use Planning *(Includes Regional Land Use Plans, PAS decisions, LRMPs, and Higher Level Plans under the FPC)*	ROS: The ROS Inventory records recreation opportunities identified by Strategic Land Use Planning (SLUP); areas where SLUPs have been approved, and, otherwise, provide input to SLUP processes. RFI: Strategic Land Use Plans (SLUPs) have evolved to become the primary processes for identifying provincially significant recreation features. The RFI records features identified by SLUPs, in areas where SLUPs have been approved, and, otherwise, provides input to SLUP processes. Since SLUPs take features with provincial significance into account, the RFI focuses on identifying features based on local significance, particularly since these are not addressed elsewhere.

Recreation/ Tourism Strategies	ROS: Recreation/Tourism strategies may use data from Ministry Recreation Resources Inventories. The ROS Inventory incorporates data from a number of different agencies (e.g., Tourism, Highways, Parks, Environment), as appropriate. RFI: Recreation/Tourism strategies may use data from Ministry Recreation Resources Inventories. The RFI incorporates data from a number of different agencies (e.g., Tourism, Highways, Parks, Environment), as appropriate.
Timber Supply Review	ROS: The current status of the ROS Inventory will influence how recreation resources can best be incorporated into timber supply analyses. Possible levels of inventory information are: • No data or incomplete data • Inventory complete but not in digital format • Inventory in digital format Opportunity spectrum classes may be incorporated into timber supply analyses using the manual, *How To Factor Recreation Values into TSR Analyses.* Data and modeling assumptions should be made accordingly by the district manager. RFI: The current status of the RFI will influence how recreation resources can best be incorporated into timber supply analyses. Possible levels of inventory information are: • No data or incomplete data • Inventory complete but not in digital format • Inventory in digital format Recreation features should be incorporated into timber supply analyses using the manual, *How To Factor Recreation Values into TSR Analyses.* Data and modeling assumptions should be made accordingly by the district manager.

2.0 METHODOLOGIES

2.1 ROS Methodology

The methodology for completing an ROS inventory is specifically stipulated in Ministry of Forests Procedures and Standards Manual. In accordance with the manual, the following stages were undertaken:

2.1.1 Information Assembly

The pertinent information was assembled, collected, organized and summarized. It included primarily a collation of existing rather than new information.

2.1.2 Polygon Delineation

Polygons were mapped and delineated that represented the various recreation opportunity classes. This was done by:

- Using the information collected during information assembly stage (such as roads and structures) at a 1:50,000 scale Recreation Base Map; and,
- Using air photos and the working map to identify any additional items that may not have been identified during information assembly.

ROS polygons are closed line boundaries representing discrete, non-overlapping, irregular shaped areas of land and water encircling a recreation opportunity class. Polygons were determined based on delineation factors that reflected the types of settings and experiences a recreationist would expect to encounter during an outdoor recreation pursuit within the polygon. These delineation factors are:

Table 2 - ROS polygon delineation factors

Remoteness	Naturalness	Social Experience
Distance from road - approximate distance from the nearest road (km).	**Motorized use** - degree of motorized use within the area (includes off-road, boat and air access vehicles).	**Solitude/self-reliance** - opportunity to experience solitude, closeness to nature, self-reliance and challenge
Size - approximate size of the area (ha).	**Evidence of humans** - on-the-ground evidence of restrictions and controls, facility development, site modifications and site or trail degradation.	**Social encounters** - number of interactions with others and expected party size.

In accordance to the Ministry Procedures and Standards Manual, the following steps were then done to delineate polygons:

Step 1: On a 1: 50, 000 scale Recreation Base Map, separate roaded (< 1 km: RM, RN, R and U) from unroaded areas (> 1 km: P, SPNM, SPM). This is primarily based on the current road map of the study area (consultation with FS engineering staff may be required).

Step 2: Separate Primitive from SPM and SPNM by using the distance from road (> 8 km) and size factor (> 5 000 ha) and use the remaining factors to refine the boundaries.

Step 3: Identify the area which is between 1 and 8 km from any road and is > 1000 ha (this area is SPM or SPNM). Delineate SPM from SPNM by using the access factor (SPM has greater motorized use within it; i.e. snowmobile use). Use the remaining factors to refine the boundaries for each.

Step 4: Separate Roaded Modified and Roaded Natural from Rural and Urban areas. This is based primarily on the naturalness factor. Areas with modifications due to settlements and agricultural land should be classified as rural/urban. Use the remaining factors to refine the boundaries.

Step 5: Separate RN from RM by identifying main travel corridors and recreation areas that have natural appearing surroundings. These areas should be identified, in part, by overlaying a current visual landscape inventory map and separating out areas with an existing visual condition of visual preservation (P) or retention (R); delineation of the Roaded Natural ROS class usually involves field verification. The remaining area should be Roaded Modified.

Step 6: Separate Urban from Rural areas by identifying areas associated with and within urban areas the remaining area is classified a rural.

2.2 RFI Methodology

The methodology for completing an RFI is specifically stipulated in Ministry of Forests Procedures and Standards Manual. In accordance with the manual, the following stages were undertaken:

2.2.1 Information Assembly

Information assembly is the collecting, organizing and summarizing of pertinent information needed to carry out an inventory project.

2.2.2 Preliminary features identification

Preliminary features identification and polygon delineation is the initial identification and mapping of polygons that support, or have the potential to support, one or more

recreation activities. A recreation feature is considered key or important if it contributes to the support of one or more recreation activities within a polygon.

The following procedure was used for preliminary features identification:

- The information collected during information assembly was transferred to a 1:50,000 scale base map (referred to as the working map); and,
- Using air photos and the working map, additional recreation features and related activities were identified.

2.2.3 Preliminary polygon delineation

Preliminary polygon delineation is the initial mapping of recreation feature polygons (RFPs) on the working map.

RFPs are closed line boundaries representing discrete, non-overlapping, irregular shaped areas of land and water encircling a recreation feature or combination of features that support, or have the potential to support, one or more recreation activities.

The following procedure was used for preliminary polygon identification:

- Using the working map, larger polygons were delineated that included similar features at a general level by drawing lines along the edge of plains and valley bottoms, alpine areas, and foreshore and water bodies that have a supportive relationship between recreation features and activities.
- Once these larger polygons were delineated, they were subdivided into more detailed RFPs to more accurately identify key recreation features and supporting activities. This was done by considering the following points:
    - Key recreation features are those with the greatest ability to support recreation activity and may be the main reason(s) for people choosing to visit the features in a polygon;
    - Key features are not necessarily *all* possible recreation features within a polygon;
    - Using the working map and information from field notes to rank the identified key recreation features and activities within a polygon based on their relative importance;
    - Polygons should include combinations of recreation features and related activities, in most cases, rather than a single feature or activity;
    - All polygons should have at least one associated recreation activity;
    - Delineation should take into account the distribution of the features, their recreation significance and sensitivity;
    - In general, smaller polygons will likely have higher significance and sensitivity classifications than larger polygons;
    - Polygons should be delineated to provide 100% continuous coverage regardless of legal tenure.
- A total of 68 polygons were identified.

2.3 Fieldwork

Upon completion of the initial polygon delineation, three field trips were taken into the TFL to validate the preliminary information collected and check the proposed RFI and ROS polygons on the ground. Approximately ten percent (7 of 68) of the RFPs were visited in the field. Two of the three ROS polygons were visited. Necessary refinements were made to the polygon boundaries and final maps were produced.

2.4 Final features/opportunity identification and polygon delineation

Upon completion of the fieldwork, ROS and RFI polygons were re-examined and modifications made to reflect the reality on the ground. Final polygons were delineated, coded and mapped, and the pertinent information loaded into the database.

3.0 ROS POLYGONS

ROS REPORT - RCFC

POLY_NO 3000

ROS CLASS RM

SEASON OF USE B

Some snowmobiling in winter. In summer, large game hunting and ATV'ing are the main activities. Some canoeing/kayaking on the rivers (Goldstream and Downie Ck.) and minor use for other recreational purposes such as sight- seeing or berry-picking.

POLY_NO 3001

ROS CLASS SPM

SEASON OF USE S

Very small amount of use by ATV'ers and hunters.

POLY_NO 3002

ROS CLASS SPNM

SEASON OF USE W

Entire polygon used for heli-skiing in winter (Dec-April) The western half of the TFL is used for snowmobiling

4.0 RECREATION FEATURE POLYGONS

RFI LABEL REPORT - RCFC

POLY_NO *6000*

T00 M01 W03

M01 H01

L L

POLY_NO *6001*

G01 G09 E01

r02 r04 M14

L L

POLY_NO *6002*

G01 G14 E01

r02 r04 M14

L L

POLY_NO *6003*

G14 R01 G03

M14 r04 r02

M L

POLY_NO *6004*

Q12 E01 L04

r04 X01

L L

X01 = heli-hiking

POLY_NO *6005*

R01 E01 Q12

i01 r04 M14

L L

POLY_NO *6006*

G09 Q12

M14 X01 D05

L L

RFI LABEL REPORT - RCFC

POLY_NO *6007*
E03 Q14 E06
M14 d05
L M

POLY_NO *6008*
Q17 M13 E03
H01 q09
L M

POLY_NO *6009*
Q12 E01 M06
M14 H01 r04
M L

POLY_NO *6010*
E06 E01 Q12
M14 d05
L L

POLY_NO *6011*
T00 E02 E03
M01 H01
L M

POLY_NO *6012*
T00 E02 E10
M01 H01
L L

POLY_NO *6013*
E01 Q12 Q09
M14 d05 X01
L L

RFI LABEL REPORT - RCFC

POLY_NO *6014*

E03 Q14 M13

M14 d05

L M

POLY_NO *6015*

G14 R01 G03

M14 r04 D05

M L

POLY_NO *6016*

E01 E06 Q12

M14 D05 X01

M L

POLY_NO *6017*

E03 Q14 M13

L M

POLY_NO *6018*

Q17 T00 M13

M01 H01 q00

L L

POLY_NO *6019*

Q17 E03 L04

d05

L L

POLY_NO *6020*

E03 Q14 M13

H01

L M

RFI LABEL REPORT - RCFC

POLY_NO *6021*

T00 E03 W03

M01 H01 q00

L M

POLY_NO *6022*

Q12 E03 L04

X01 d05 H01

L M

POLY_NO *6023*

E01 Q12 Q02

M14 d05 X01

L L

POLY_NO *6024*

G14 Q12 Q02

M14 d05 r04

L L

POLY_NO *6025*

G09 Q09 M06

M14 r04 D05

M L

POLY_NO *6026*

M06 E01 Q12

D05 M14 i01

M L

POLY_NO *6027*

M11 M01 E08

b03 b04 M01

M L

RFI LABEL REPORT - RCFC

POLY_NO *6028*

Q17	Q12	M13
D05	M14	H01
L	M	

POLY_NO *6029*

T00	E02	E03
M01	H01	m03
L	L	

POLY_NO *6030*

Q17	Q12	M13
H01	d05	i01
L	M	

POLY_NO *6031*

E01	L04	Q12
M14	D05	M05
L	L	

POLY_NO *6032*

E01	M06	R01
M14	M05	D05
M		

POLY_NO *6033*

E03	Q17	M13
H01	M01	M05
M	M	

One of the few unlogged watersheds in the TFL

POLY_NO *6034*

T00	E02	E03
M01	M05	H01
L	L	

RFI LABEL REPORT - RCFC

POLY_NO *6035*

T00 E02 E03

M01 M05 H01

L L

POLY_NO *6036*

T00 Q17 E05

M01 H01 M05

L L

POLY_NO *6037*

E01 E06 M06

M14 M05 D05

M L

POLY_NO *6038*

E01 Q12 L04

M14 M05 D05

L L

POLY_NO *6039*

E03 Q14 M13

M05 D05

L M

POLY_NO *6040*

T00 Y02 E03

M01 k04 M05

L L

POLY_NO *6041*

E03 Q14 M13

M05 H01

L M

RFI LABEL REPORT - RCFC

POLY_NO *6042*

Q17	L04	E03
M05	M14	d05
L	L	

POLY_NO *6043*

M11	Q17	T00
M01	b03	b04
M	L	

POLY_NO *6044*

T00	E02	E03
M01	M05	M08
M	L	

POLY_NO *6045*

Very important local and regional recreation area

E01	E10	Q12
M05	i05	i02
VH	M	

POLY_NO *6046*

One of the few unlogged watersheds in the TFL

E03	Q17	W03
k04	m08	f00
M	M	

POLY_NO *6047*

One of the few unlogged watersheds in the TFL

E03	Q17	W03
M14	M05	d05
M	M	

POLY_NO *6048*

E01	Q12	Q09
M14	r04	d05
L	L	

RFI LABEL REPORT - RCFC

POLY_NO *6049*

T00	E03	E02
M01	H01	m03
L	L	

POLY_NO *6050*

E03	Q14	Q02
M14	X01	
L	L	

POLY_NO *6051*

E03	Q14	M13
H01	M14	D05
L	L	

POLY_NO *6052*

E01	Q12	E10
M14	D05	X01
M	L	

POLY_NO *6053*

E01	Q12	E10
M14	D05	X01
M	L	

POLY_NO *6054*

G14	G09	G03
M14	r04	r02
M	L	

POLY_NO *6055*

E01	M06	Q12
M14	X01	r02
L	L	

RFI LABEL REPORT - RCFC

POLY_NO *6056*

G14 G09 Q09

M14 r04 r02

M L

POLY_NO *6057*

Q12 Q14 M13

X01 i01 D05

L L

POLY_NO *6058*

Q12 Q09 G14

M14 r04 r02

L L

POLY_NO *6059*

G14 G09 G11

M14 r04 r02

M L

POLY_NO *6060*

E01 Q12 M06

M14 d05 X01

M L

POLY_NO *6061*

E03 M13 W03

M14 H01 d05

L M

POLY_NO *6062*

G14 G09 G03

M14 r04 r02

H L

RFI LABEL REPORT - RCFC

POLY_NO *6063*

E01 Q12 G14

M14 X01 d05

M L

POLY_NO *6064*

G14 Q12 Q09

M14 r04 r02

L L

POLY_NO *6065*

E01 Q12 Q09

M14 X01 d05

M L

POLY_NO *6066*

E03 E06 Q14

M14 H01 d05

L M

POLY_NO *6067*

E03 E06 Q14

M14 H01 d05

L M

5.0 ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A number of issues came to light in the process of completing the recreation inventory. These issues and pertinent recommendations can be categorized into the following broad categories:

5.1 Keystone – Standard Basin

Keystone-Standard Basin is by far the most important area for recreation in TFL 56 and, as such, it deserves special consideration. A Land and Resource Use Plan (LRUP) has been prepared for the area with a number of recommendations pertaining to recreation. The area is heavily used for recreation in both winter and summer. In the winter snowmobiling is the heaviest use, with occasional ski touring and snowshoeing. The area is also within a heli-skiing tenure. The operator uses the southern portion near Standard basin on an increasing basis, but does not use the northern area near Keystone very frequently. In the summer, the area is used extensively for berry picking and hiking, with some mountain biking, and horseback riding also occurring. During the summer months, the Ministry of Forests has instituted a Motorized Restriction for the Keystone – Standard Basin area.

Each user group has its own expectations in terms of visitor experience. These expectations have the potential to create challenging differences of opinion as to how the land base should be utilized.

The area should continue to be managed on the basis of the LRUP as a consultative process is already in place.

5.2 Access

The rugged mountainous terrain can be a limiting factor for participation in recreational activities within the TFL. Many of the recreational activities that were identified in the RFI, have the potential to occur within the designated polygons, but currently have limited use to the difficulty of access. For example, a high alpine meadow complex has great potential for various recreational activities, but may have limited use due to the difficult degree of access to the area.

The possibility of being denied access to areas for a preferred recreational activity due to road closures or government regulation is an issue. Some people are worried that with the increase in recreation use, the government will step in and impose closures for certain activities. Motorized recreationists, in particular, are concerned about closures being imposed on their activities.

An access management plan is recommended as part of the ongoing management of the TFL. Continue to monitor access to ensure areas of high quality recreational values have

continued access. Where appropriate, access may have to be restricted in order to ensure the recreational or environmental values of an area are maintained.

5.3 Environmental Impact

Recreational activities, particularly motorized activities, can having a negative impact on wildlife, wildlife habitat, and other recreational experiences (e.g. noise). Personal watercraft and other powerboats are seen as threatening to waterfowl and waterfowl nesting areas on Lake Revelstoke. ATV's are a concern in alpine areas for the potential damage they can cause. Snowmobiles may be having an impact on species such as caribou and mountain goats. All recreational activities have a greater or lesser potential to conflict with natural values.

We recommend monitoring of areas with high recreational use and initiation of a study to ascertain the cumulative impacts of recreational (and other resource) activities.

5.4 Scenic Impact

The primary impact on the visual resources of the TFL results from clear-cut logging practices. Timber harvesting has a deleterious impact on scenic values in viewsheds adjacent to activities that take place in alpine areas such as heli-skiing, heli-hiking and various mountaineering activities. While forestry operations cannot be hidden from the public, options can be applied to mitigate the visual impact.

It is recommended that a visual resource inventory be a consideration in the near future, and that current Forest Practices Code requirements continue to be applied to ensure harvesting methods are sensitive to visual values.

5.5 Motorized vs. non-motorized recreation

There are many instances and areas in the TFL where there are conflicts or potential conflicts between motorized and non-motorized recreation. For example, ATV'ers and mountain bikers versus hikers and horseback riders, and heli-hikers versus regular hikers in summer, and heli-skiing and snowmobiling vs. ski touring in winter. There is the growing possibility of incompatibility between different forms of motorized recreation (heli-skiing vs. snowmobiling) as well. Powerboats versus paddle boats (canoes and kayaks) are a growing issue on Lake Revelstoke.

Ongoing consultation with commercial and public recreation users is recommended on an annual basis. Recreation surveys, open houses, call-in numbers and feedback forms are techniques that RCFC can apply to get direct feedback on how it is performing relative to its recreation responsibilities.

5.6 Seasonality of Use

Much of the TFL is under snow cover for six to eight months of the year. Depending upon the nature of the activity, this can be a limiting factor to use. The lower elevation areas, namely the shores of Lake Revelstoke, have longer snow free periods and thus higher levels of recreational use. For winter activities, often the use is limited due to the restricted access form roads not being plowed in the winter.

It is recommended that local winter recreational users be notified of winter harvesting areas that will be accessible to public traffic. Many high quality winter recreation areas would otherwise be inaccessible.

5.7 Boat Access and Moorage

There is an issue regarding the need for additional boat launching and moorage facilities to enhance boater safety and convenience at access points associated with informal use sites. The prime area for boating is in the Downie Arm. Also gaining in popularity are the Goldstream River and Downie Creek canoe/kayak routes. Improved access and egress sites would make this a more enjoyable experience for users.

RCFC might examine its role relative to assisting with the development or improvement of boating facilities on Lake Revelstoke and access sites on Goldstream River and Downie Creek. RCFC has been working with the BC Forest Service on upgrading access to the Goldstream canoe route

5.8 Information

There is currently a lack of information about the recreation opportunities within the TFL. There are pamphlets and brochures by the Ministry of Forests and BC Hydro highlighting recreational opportunities in and around the area, but none focusing on the TFL. Almost all information is of a general nature and produced at a regional scale.

It is recommended that TFL specific information be produced at a level of detail that will render it useful to users. Trail information, cabins, ski routes, canoe routes, etc., with associated maps and ancillary information such as travel distances and times would be beneficial.

6.0 REFERENCES

Recreation Features Inventory Procedures and Standards Manual, Prepared by Ministry of Forests, Forest Practices Branch for the Resources Inventory Committee, October 9, 1998, version 3.0.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Procedures and Standards Manual, Prepared by Ministry of Forests, Forest Practices Branch for the Resources Inventory Committee, October 9, 1998, version 3.0.

Keystone – Standard Basin Local Resource Use Plan, Ministry of Forests, May 1991, Revelstoke Forest District.

Revelstoke Area Recreation Inventory, Future Legacy Consulting Group on behalf of Revelstoke Community Futures Corporation, July 2000, Revelstoke (included digital maps, database and report).

Recreation Opportunities Inventory, BC Hydro, report No. ER 99-08, Environmental Affairs Division.

Lake Revelstoke Reservoir Integrated Recreation Plan. Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, City of Revelstoke, Revelstoke Rod & gun Club, & BC Hydro, 1996

Recreation Analysis Report, TFL 23, Timberline Forest Inventory Consultants., Edmonton, Alberta, April 1994 (on behalf of Pope & Talbot Ltd. – Nakusp, B.C.)

Report on the Landscape and Recreation Inventories of TFL 23, Prepared for Pope & Talbot Ltd., Nakusp, B.C. by Timberline Forest Inventory Consultants, Edmonton, Alberta, February, 1994.

Appendices

Appendix One

RFI & ROS Maps

(Refer to Mylar maps provided separately, and digital files on CD disk in back sleeve of binder)

Appendix Two

RFI Attribute database & ROS Inventory Attribute Database

(Refer to 3.5" floppy disk in back sleeve of binder)

Appendix Three

Slides

Appendix Four

Data Cleaning Report