

Jumbo Glacier Resort Master Plan

Appendix 3-J

Letter re: MELP Grizzly Bear Report (M. Austin)

Prepared by
ENKON Environmental Limited

TO: Ray Crook: Environmental Assessment Office

FROM: Glenn Stewart: ENKON Environmental Limited

c.c. Oberto Oberti: Pheidias Project Management

Matt Austin: BC Environment

Bruce McLellan: Ministry of Forests

Doug Martin: BC Environment

John O'Riordan: BC Environment

Herb Hess: BCAL

**RE: MELP GRIZZLY BEAR REPORT:
JUMBO GLACIER RESORT DEVELOPMENT**

DATE: June 14, 2000



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ENVIRONMENTAL

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Further to my discussion with yourself and Matt Austin on June 6, 2000 ENKON on behalf of Pheidias Project Management Corporation would like to make some suggestions and clarify some of our concerns regarding the proposed impact assessment/mitigation report being prepared by Matt. Our concerns are as follows:

1. The preparation of the independent impact assessment/mitigation report by M. Austin on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks was not something that was offered, requested or agreed to at the January 26, 2000 meeting with the proponent, although it will certainly be a useful starting point for further discussion. In addition, based on our understanding of the April 5, 2000 meeting held in Invermere with BC Environment personnel, ENKON was to prepare a "Bear Management Plan" for the Jumbo Glacier Resort Development with input from BC Environment.
2. In recognition of the above, the proponent would like to review the terms of reference for the impact assessment/mitigation report as was done for all other reports prepared for the project, including the finalization of the "Project Report Specifications" and the Axys grizzly bear report (1999).
3. In discussion with Matt, ENKON understands that Matt has recently prepared a similar report on grizzly bear impacts/mitigation measures for the proposed Cayoosh Resort development near Lillooet. Matt also mentioned that he would likely be following a similar format and identify similar issues (possible exception would be more emphasis on habitat fragmentation for the Jumbo Glacier Report) for the Jumbo Glacier report as was done for the Cayoosh report. To ensure that the magnitude and

details of the projects are not confused or assumed, we would like to point out some of the key differences between the two projects:

- a) The Jumbo Glacier resort development is proposed at 6,500-7,000 bed units compared to the approximate 16,814 bed units (upper and lower villages combined) proposed for the Cayoosh project (Cayoosh Resort Development Proposal, November, 1996). Obviously, the number of skier/tourist visits to Jumbo/Glacier Resort would be substantially lower compared to Cayoosh;
- b) There is an existing two lane paved road from Invermere to Panorama Ski Resort and a well travelled two lane dirt road from Panorama to the proposed base area of Jumbo Glacier Resort. As of November, 1996 according to the Cayoosh Resort Development Proposal, there was no road access to Melvin Creek although an overgrown steep boulder access road of approximately 1 km in length provides horse access to a rough wilderness cabin. The access road to the proposed Jumbo Glacier resort base area is used during the spring, summer and fall by tourists, hikers and hunters. Snowmobilers also use the road to gain access into Jumbo Valley during the winter. Obviously, there is substantial and increasing vehicular traffic along the paved section of the road to Panorama Resort (particularly with Panorama's expansion plans) by tourists/skiers, and significant and increasing vehicular traffic by tourists, hikers and hunters along the dirt section of the road to the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort base area.
- c) There has and continues to be significant industrial/recreational activity in Toby/Jumbo Valleys from the following sources:
 - The proposed base area for Jumbo Glacier Resort is situated at an abandoned sawmill site;
 - Panorama Ski Resort adjacent to Toby Creek is presently being expanded to 6,000-7,000 bed units;
 - Mineral King Mine (closed) is located at the junction of Toby and Jumbo Creeks;
 - Previous logging throughout Jumbo Valley and on-going glading of runs for heli-ski operations in select areas of Jumbo Valley;
 - Heli-skiing on the upper slopes of Jumbo Valley including but not limited to Jumbo, Commander and Delphine Glaciers;
 - Existing hut which has been recently upgraded in Jumbo Pass;
 - Existing hiking trails to Jumbo Pass which are used by a substantial number of hikers during the spring/summer/fall;
 - Application by RK Heli-Skiing for development of a heli-ski lodge near the confluence of Leo and Jumbo Creeks immediately below Jumbo Pass; and
 - Application by the Canadian Ski Team to utilize Farnham and Glacier Dome for summer ski race training.

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The substantial existing and proposed industrial/recreational developments within the Toby/Jumbo Creek drainages emphasize that significant human disturbance has and continues to occur in Jumbo Valley.

- 4) As per the Axys (1999) report, there is a currently viable resident population of grizzly bears occupying the Central Purcell study area compared to what we understand is a threatened grizzly bear population in the Cayoosh study area. The Ministry's concerns regarding a resort development should be more significant for a threatened population as compared to the healthy, viable population identified in the Central Purcells.

ENKON on behalf of Pheidias Project Management Corporation look forward to ongoing cooperation with BC Environment as offered by Dr. J O'Riordan at the January 26 and April 5 meetings. We would also like to request a meeting in late June-early July to review Matt's progress on the report.

Should you have any questions or require clarification please give me a call.

Sincerely yours,

ENKON Environmental Limited



Glenn Stewart,
Principal