

Jumbo Glacier Resort Master Plan

Appendix 8-K

CORE East Kootenay Land Use Plan
Recommendation 75

Horsethief and Jumbo Creek watersheds. The area is renowned for its exceptional scenic, tourism and recreation, and wildlife values. At the headwaters of Horsethief Creek is Lake of the Hanging Glacier, a spectacular subalpine lake surrounded by glaciated peaks and glaciers which flow into the lake. Lake of the Hanging Glacier and the immediately surrounding area (3,310 hectares) was ranked eleventh out of 102 proposed protected areas for the East and West Kootenay-Boundary region by the government Regional Protected Areas Team (RPAT). Because the Lake of the Hanging Glacier is part of the much larger Jumbo/upper Horsethief Creek unit (29,649 hectares), the East Kootenay table did not propose it as a protected area during its land use negotiation process.

Given the significance of the scenic and recreational values associated with Lake of the Hanging Glacier, the commission recommends that:

74. Lake of the Hanging Glacier be considered as a possible Protected Area in the context of the provincial 12 percent Protected Areas account (see recommendation 45).

The upper end of Jumbo Creek has been proposed as the site of a major downhill ski resort. This proposal received considerable attention during the land use negotiation process, and the proponent hoped that a land use decision recommending approval of the development could be reached through this regional planning process. However, this type of site-specific proposal is far too detailed to be addressed as a land use approval at the regional planning level. Designation as a Special Management Area does not preclude the development of a ski resort, but a final decision on the compatibility of this proposal with other values in the area will need to be made through a detailed site-specific review process.

One of the significant resource use concerns expressed for this area during the land use negotiation process was the possible development of a road through Jumbo pass to connect the East and West Kootenays. Many

participants felt that such a road would seriously compromise the area's extraordinary wildlife and wilderness values.

The commission recommends that:

75. The approval process for a resort development in Jumbo Creek include an environmental assessment under the provincial Environmental Assessment Act.

This assessment should identify potential impacts and mitigative measures to address impacts prior to development approval. The process should also include public involvement to ensure that all values and perspectives are fully considered in a final decision. If this development proposal is approved, it should include a condition that no road access linking the East and West Kootenays through Jumbo Pass will be permitted.

WILDLIFE/LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

During the East Kootenay land use negotiations, the table identified a number of areas with high wildlife values which were also considered to be important as livestock grazing areas. Concern was expressed over the potential for conflict between these two values. Areas identified as important for wildlife and livestock included

- Wigwam/Lodgepole (polygon 1-1, especially Sheep Mountain)
- Newgate-Wardner (polygon 19-2)
- Pickering Hills (polygon 19-5)
- Bull Mountain (polygon 19-6)
- Wolf Creek/Wildhorse (polygon 20-1).

Identified were areas that have been proposed as Special Management Areas, as well as defined sites within larger units that have been proposed as Integrated Use Areas.

To address the potential for wildlife/livestock conflict, the table recommended that in areas with extremely high wildlife and biodiversity values, site-specific guidelines specifying enhanced levels of management should be