



January 11, 2006

GVRD Parks Dept.
4330 Kingsway,
Burnaby, V5H 4G8

Attention: Tom McComb,
Parks Operations Supervisor for North Shore

Dear Mr. McComb

Re: Heli-picniccing in GVRD Parks

We are writing to you today regarding our concern of increased helicopter activity in the North Shore mountains. The Federation of Mountain Clubs (FMC) represents the interests of the members of about 25 mountaineering and hiking clubs. About half of these members live in the lower mainland and use the North Shore mountains extensively.

Our members have reported that tourist helicopters based on Grouse Mountain are providing “heli-picniccing” services for tourists to picnic on Goat (Raven) Ridge, which is part of Goat Mountain and we believe in the GVRD park. For over a decade, heli-flight-seeing tours have been flown between the Lions and Grouse Mountain, but these flights did not involve landing while away from Grouse Mountain. However, the heli-picnic trips now involve at least two landings and take-off operations over a two to three hour period. It has also been reported by our members that guests of these heli services may be hiking in the GVRD watershed boundary.

An associated issue includes over flights of the Lyons where it is reported that helicopters are not respecting the minimum overflight distance.

From our recent discussion we understood that you were not aware of these tourist services, and would investigate further. If it is the intention of the GVRD to grant Grouse Mountain a formal license for this type of activity, the FMC and other interested groups would appreciate an opportunity to present our opinions before such a license application is reviewed.

We look forward to hearing the results of your investigations.

Yours truly,

Brian Wood ,
Recreation and Conservation Committee