



**Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society**  
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To: Ms. Jennie Aikman  
Regional Director, South Coast Region  
Ministry of Environment – BC Parks  
1610 Mount Seymour Road,  
North Vancouver, BC V7G 2R9

27 June 2014

by mail and email

**BC Parks Ski Resorts Policy: 15 May 2014 Intentions Paper**  
**Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society comments –**

Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society (FCPP) recognizes the value of developing a policy for the management of the three existing ski operations within BC provincial parks (Cypress, Mount Seymour, and EC Manning). However, the management policy must be based on the fact that these ski operations are in Class A provincial parks, not on ordinary Crown land. The Intentions Paper does not make this important distinction clear. Nor does there appear to be adequate understanding of the recreational history of the two North Shore parks, Cypress and Seymour, located on the edge of a heavily populated urban area and with increasing year-round recreational pressures. The term “resort” requires definition, given the concerns expressed above.

Several statements in the Intentions Paper suggest the potential for inadequate protection of park values during the Ski Resort Development Planning Process. FCPP is concerned that focus on resort viability and commercial recreation could take precedence over protection of the natural environment and provision of recreational opportunities available to all.

In the 2.2 Resort Planning section there is mention of BC Parks proposing “a process for Ski Resort Development Plan amendments and updates that follows the criteria for resorts on Crown land” [emphasis added], and reference to a public process that would “help define appropriate areas for alpine recreation in all seasons, while ensuring that public uses and interests are considered.” There is also reference to a planning process that “will help the resorts adapt and thrive.” Revisions in Intentions Paper wording are needed to clarify the relation of the ski operations to these parks as a whole. Ski Resort Development Plans and Park Use Permits must be prepared in conjunction with Park Master Plans in a full public process to help ensure protection of park values and the public trust. Holding these planning processes with their Open Houses concurrently would also be appropriate for these budget-conscious times.

Section 2.1 - Permit Administration - proposes that “The permits were issued for a term of 50 years in 1984, and although they are able to be renewed, there is no mention in the permits of what length of term a renewal permit would be issued for.” It may be reasonable to define a length of term to be considered when issuing a permit renewal, but we see no public benefit in having a renewal term that exceeds the current initial term of 50 years. The All Season Resort Policy of 60 years, used on Crown Land, should not be the standard applied to Class A Parks.

In the Park Use Permit for Cypress dated 26th May 2006 – “the PUP” (also referred to as “PUP Restated Permit May 26-2006 LL”) - Clause 5.02 states that “The percentage of the Percentage Fees shall be reviewed by the Minister on August 1st, 1994 and on each 10th anniversary of that date . . .” This means that the fees are up for renegotiation this year, on 1 August 2014. It is unclear how the Intentions Paper will affect the PUP and the fee negotiation. But during any renegotiation of fees, it must be stressed that Public Access to the Park should be paramount. This needs to be clarified by BC Parks.

FCPP recommends that BC Parks hold public meetings to allow for full discussion of the Intentions Paper before BC Parks goes further toward establishing a management policy for the three ski operations in provincial parks.

Sincerely,

Katharine Steig, President  
Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society

cc: Mr. Ralph Sultan  
MLA, West Vancouver - Capilano