



# BC Parks

November 2, 2015

Via email: [mbittel9@gmail.com](mailto:mbittel9@gmail.com); [bjwood@telus.net](mailto:bjwood@telus.net)

Brian Wood and Monical Bittel  
Co-Chairs, Recreation and Conservation Committee  
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Dear Brian Wood and Monica Bittel,

I am writing to inform you that BC Parks has approved the Ski Resort Policy for Cypress, EC Manning and Mount Seymour Parks, which sets direction for management of the existing ski resorts within provincial parks. The approved policy, along with a document summarizing the responses received on the draft policy, is posted on BC Parks website at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/permits/consultation/ski-resort-policy.html>.

We appreciate the interest and involvement that the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC provided to the public policy process. The Ski Resort Policy is primarily an operational policy which provides a framework to address resort planning, environmental assessments, improvements, and permit administration.

The Ski Resort Policy embeds public consultation processes as part of any major change to Ski Resort operations, and the results of both the public consultations and of any assessments prepared by the Permittee will be considered when making a decision on these proposals. The assessments that will be required will depend on the scope and nature of the proposal and will meet the intent of BC Parks Impact Assessment Policy.

Decisions on public use and recreation in parks will continue to be guided by park policies, park management plans, and other strategic management direction. Management plans, which are developed with public consultation, are where public use, recreation, and conservation goals for parks are set out for each park. The Ski Resort Policy does not intend to override or compete with the direction that is set out in park management plans, or in park management planning policy.

The term lengths and renewal processes under the BC Parks' Ski Resort Policy will be consistent with requirements in the policy for Crown land resorts outside of provincial parks (under the [All Seasons Resort Policy](#)). However in a provincial park the approved Ski Resort Policy does not act alone in governing management of the Ski Resort areas. Considerations for decisions will



still be made under the existing legislative framework of the *Park Act* and regulations with guidance provided by the processes set out in the Ski Resort Policy.

The final policy was developed with input from the public, stakeholder groups, the Ski Resort operators, the Canada West Ski Area Association, First Nations, and the Mountain Resorts Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The Ski Resort Policy considers business needs of the Ski Resort operators but also sets as an objective that land use will meet the intent of park designations and will recognize the recreational, cultural and natural values of the parks.

Thank you again for your valuable feedback and for your engagement in the development of the policy and in the management of the parks.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Tom Bell  
Director, Regional Program Support  
Ministry of Environment