



30 March 2005

Hon. Bill Barisoff,  
Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection,  
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria , BC., V8W 9E2

Dear Mr. Barisoff:

**Re: Proposed Independent Power Project for Lost Valley Creek**

We wish to inform you of our opinion respecting the above matter.

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMCBC) is a non-profit organization representing the interests of non-motorized backcountry recreationists, such as hikers, backcountry skiers and climbers, throughout British Columbia. We would like to express our opposition to the Independent Power Project proposed for Lost Valley Creek near Anderson Lake, east of Pemberton. Lost Valley Creek has been identified as the last wilderness area in the Cayoosh /Duffey Lake area. It is the last major unprotected roadless valley left within 150 km. of Vancouver. The area is rich in wildlife such as grizzly bears and goats and supports endangered species such as the spotted owl. The area is biologically diverse with ecosystems ranging from ponderosa pine forest to rainforest and alpine ecosystems.

Lost Valley also holds tremendous recreation value for non-motorized activities and is visited several times each year by public recreationalists. Members of the FMCBC have hiked and skied in the area for many years and have been impressed with the opportunities for wilderness recreation. There are now few areas where this opportunity is possible given the proliferation of mechanized recreation, such as snowmobiling, and numerous other developments in the Squamish-Lillooet corridor.

The proposed hydro project on Lost Valley Creek would adversely impact the wilderness values of this area as well as Anderson Lake. In order to place the pipeline for the project there would have to be road access into extremely steep terrain. This road access would have construction impacts on the valley destroying habitat and potentially providing access to hunters and ATVs further adversely impacting wildlife. The project itself would divert water from a series of attractive waterfalls and the resulting less water would affect the riparian ecosystems of Lost Valley Creek. Road, power station and construction impacts would affect the shores and water of Anderson Lake.

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There has been a proliferation of IPP proposals for the Squamish / Lillooet Area, some of which have resulted in rapid approvals. There has been little public debate about which creeks and rivers are appropriate candidates for projects and what the cumulative impacts of these projects are. While the FMCBC supports the concept of micro-hydro and “green” power development in general, non-hydro values of many of these spectacular creeks and drainage basins have not been adequately addressed in the rushed approval process for these projects.

The Federation of Mountain Clubs urges your ministry to protect the wildlife, scenic, and wilderness recreation values of Lost Valley Creek and to not desecrate the creek in the name of short-term uncertain economic gain. There are only a few small areas left within easy reach of the Lower Mainland which exhibit a fraction of the recreational and conservation values of Lost Valley Creek.

We would be happy to discuss this matter further at your convenience.

Yours truly,

Evan Loveless, Executive Director  
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

BY FAX (250) 387-1356 and email:- [Bill.Barisoff.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Bill.Barisoff.MLA@leg.bc.ca)

Cc.

Norma Wilson, Outdoor Recreation Council  
Eva Riccius , Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society