

# Cayoosh Comments from FMCBC

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## 1. Comments on Draft Cayoosh Section

### 1.1 Introduction

The corridor along Highway 99 (Duffey Lake road) south of Lillooet is an important area for recreation, timber production, tourism and wildlife. The area includes the following drainages: Van Horlick, Blowdown, Gott, Boulder, Phair, Cerise; Upper Cayoosh; Lost Valley; Melvin Creek; Downton Creek; Cinnamon; and Copper, as well as the alpine areas of the Cayoosh Range, Seton Ridge, and the north facing slope of Seton Lake, that includes Machute Creek, Spider Creek and the specific access road known as the Hurley Silvermine Road.

### 1.2 Highway 99

The main highway corridor is not mentioned. I propose that the LRMP include all Crown Land (not proposed as protected areas) along the highway as a Forest Reserve (I think that this is part of the FPC Act) and that no land should be sold or leased to permit commercial, recreational or residential development.

Let's keep the highway corridor as a scenic forest.

### 1.3 Melvin Creek:

Suggest waiting for Environmental Review recommendations before further discussions.

### 1.4 Blowdown Creek

A section 105 road closure of the upper valley (at ~6 km junction) is proposed to provide a sanctuary for wildlife and an area for non-mechanized recreation. No huts should be permitted in the valley.

### 1.5 Downton Creek

Our members recognize the important wildlife values in the area. I don't think that the existing wording does enough to protect those values. General management of timber with a wildlife focus is not specific enough. There is a goal 2 area proposed for the alpine areas of the Cayoosh. The Federation supports some kind of designation that will protect wildlife and prevent increased use by commercial recreation groups. If the proposed Cayoosh resort goes ahead we definitely need some protection to stop further encroachment on wildlife habitat. Would a wildlife management area be an option?

Our members would like the logging road kept open in summer to approximately 10km, so that hikers don't have to hike along the long gravel road. Spring closures to protect wildlife are fine with us.

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### **1.6 *Lost Valley Creek***

Our members support the protection of Lost Valley creek for grizzly bear habitat and for recreation. A combination of upper Downton Creek and Lost Valley Creek would create another large sustainable wilderness to protect wildlife habitat and provide for some recreational use.

### **1.7 *Cerise Creek***

The more our members think about logging in Cerise Creek the more they are opposed to any additional logging. I have received quite a few letters asking that no logging be permitted.

Our members and recreational users want to keep Cerise Creek as a “near” wilderness backcountry experience. Logging the slopes above the trail would ruin the pristine feel of the upper valley.

I have re-written the Cerise Creek Options report to try to express the important backcountry recreation values.

### **1.8 *Upper Cayoosh Creek***

The Upper Cayoosh Creek area has some of the best winter ski-touring and summer hiking along the Duffey Lake road. The Whistler Section of the Alpine Club of Canada has a permit to build a cabin close to the lake on the northerly fork. On most winter weekends there will be more than 20 users in this area.

The LRMP members have previously agreed on a non-mechanized recreation zone with a parking lot adjacent to the highway.

There could be some more logging in upper Cayoosh Creek. We would like to have some small areas zoned for no further logging to protect the trail corridors from avalanche danger and to keep the trails in the natural forest. At least a 50 m buffer on either side of the three existing trails and routes is proposed.

Dave Dobi is sending me a forest development plan so I can mark these three important trails and routes onto a map.

### **1.9 *Phair Creek***

Some of our members have expressed an interest in access to this valley in November to February for ice climbing in the lower valley. Would this type of use have any effect on wildlife? The climbs are all in the canyon, below where the valley opens and flattens out. Perhaps the gate could be moved to the upper end of the canyon on the last bridge, which would prevent vehicles getting around it.

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## 2. Balance for Winter Recreation

We are having difficulty coming to a reasonable compromise with regard to winter recreational use of the side valleys that form the Cayoosh corridor. The table below summarizes a proposed compromise. The four valleys proposed for non-motorized winter recreation have a long history of use by ski-tourers. All the other valleys have also been used by ski-tourers, but are used less frequently.

<b>Proposed Motorized</b>	<b>Proposed Non-Motorized</b>
Van Horlick (8,000 ha)	Cerise (1,200 ha)
Hurley Silver Mine Road (500 ha)	Casper (1,900 ha)
Blowdown (3,000 ha) on logging roads	Upper Cayoosh (2,400 ha)
Boulder Creek (?)	Gott Creek (3,600 ha)