



Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Accessing the backcountry one step at a time

PO Box 19673 Vancouver, BC V5T 4E7
fmcbc@mountainclubs.org
www.mountainclubs.org
Tel: 604.873.6096

Vicki Haberl, Planner
Ministry of Environment
PO Box 220
Brackendale, BC V0N 1H0
Vicki.Haberl@gov.bc.ca

Re: K'zuzált/Twin Two Conservancy Draft Management Plan

Dear Ms. Haberl,

I am writing on behalf of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC), an umbrella organization comprised of approximately 20 outdoor recreation clubs having a total membership of about 3500 individual members. For over three decades we have represented the interests of self-propelled/non-motorized backcountry recreationists by maintaining and/or improving backcountry and wilderness experiences for our members and the public.

The FMCBC generally agrees with most aspects of the management plan. One item we have identified as a concern is the continuation of heli-skiing, heli-hiking, and aerial access in the upper portion of the conservancy (see, e.g., the table in appendix 1), which has been zoned as a wilderness area (p. 22). We feel that these uses are inappropriate for this part of the conservancy, as the helicopter is quite loud and can drastically reduce the "wilderness feel" of the area. In particular, with heli-skiing the aircraft can remain in the area for some time, ferrying clients up from the bottom of a ski run multiple times. In other BC Parks documents, Wilderness Recreation zones only allow for infrequent air access to designated sites. Heli-skiing would not meet these criteria.

One final comment is that in some cases the maps included in the plan seem to be of low quality. High resolution and easy to read maps can help avoid confusion about which areas are being discussed and allow readers to easily identify terrain features etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. We would be happy to engage in further discussion if desired.

Sincerely,

Scott Webster
Vice-President
Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia
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Vancouver, BC V5T 4E7
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