

Summer access to new Spearhead Huts

Summer access to Spearhead Huts

- The Spearhead Huts Society is building 3 mountain huts at the head of the Fitzsimmons valley near Whistler
- These will be large huts which are better equipped than most mountain huts in Western B.C. They will be in spectacular locations.
- The huts are designed to support skiers on the famous “Spearhead Traverse”. Access to them in winter will normally be from the Whistler and Blackcomb lift systems via the traverse.
- Summer access to two of the huts will be difficult. Spearhead Huts Society hopes to develop a summer loop trail connecting the huts, but while the winter traverse is mostly on glaciers, the summer trails will be rough with large changes in elevation.
- We expect that most summer visitors will hike directly to the huts. Many hikers do not want to pay for a lift ticket or be limited by the lift operating hours.
- The Whistler Blackcomb lift system operates for limited periods in summer;
 - ❑ Operates for only 70% of the days in the period Jul 1 to Oct 31.
 - ❑ Closes at 5 pm except at weekends. In September it closes at 5 pm except on Saturdays.
- The lift system doesn’t serve the MacBeth hut, and is of limited value in accessing Pattison.
- The Spearhead Huts Society would like to establish a higher trailhead which will make the huts more accessible to the average hiker.
- The MacBeth and Pattison huts will be in amazing locations almost never visited in summer. Access should not be limited to very fit and strong hikers.

Access to MacBeth and Pattison huts

MacBeth

From Whistler parking lot 4

17 km

+ 1500 metres vertical (equiv to another 10/11 km flat)*

27/28 km

From IPP Intake

12 km

+ 1140 metres vertical (equiv to another 7.5/8.5 km flat)*

19.5/20.5 **28% LESS**

Pattison- from Fitz valley trail with switchbacks

From Whistler parking lot 4

16 km

+ 1800 metres vertical (equiv to another 12/13 km flat)*

28/29 km

From IPP Intake

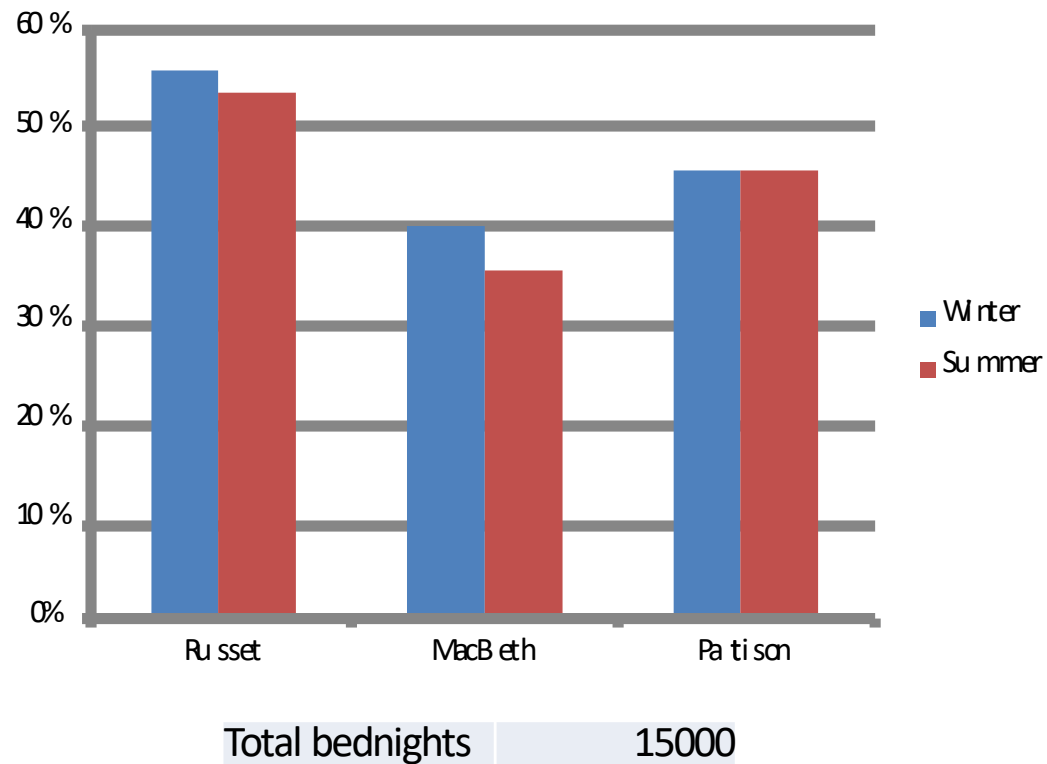
11 km **25% less**

+ 1440 metres vertical (equiv to another 10/11 km flat)

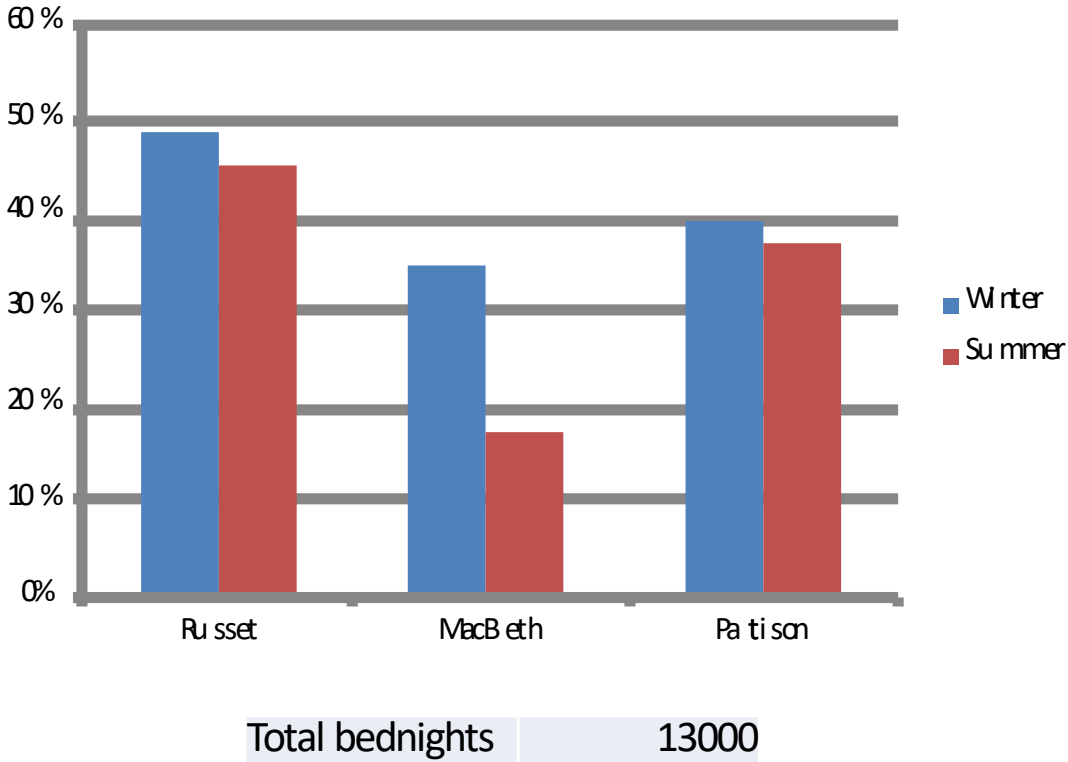
21/22 km

*There are a number of formulae for converting elevation gain to distance. Common ones are Naismith's rule in the UK and Leistungkilometre in Germany. There are newer formulae, which correct for steepness.

Projected occupancy with higher parking lot %



Projected occupancy with village parking lot %



POTENTIAL BENEFITS

WHISTLER BLACKCOMB

In winter most hut visitors will use Whistler Blackcomb's lift system. Some will have season passes but most people wishing to do the Spearhead traverse will not.

Probable benefit to Whistler Blackcomb. Above \$300,000 per year

BC PARKS

The huts will increase visitors to the Spearhead area of Garibaldi park, while eliminating existing problems with human waste on the 3 day traverse.

BENEFITS OF HIGHER PARKING LOT

WHISTLER MUNICIPALITY

Potential benefit to Whistler Municipality from additional visitors. Most of additional hikers will spend at least one night in Whistler approx \$200,000 per year

WHISTLER PARKING LOTS

A higher parking lot will eliminate the need for Whistler to provide overnight parking in the village.

SPEARHEAD HUTS SOCIETY

Calculated benefit of higher parking lot approx \$50,000 per year
(all of this will be retained for hut management, maintenance, future hut upgrades and trail development.)

Parking

Whistler has 6 designated parking spaces for overnight hikers. On a recent check only 3 were available. (3 others were in general use)

The huts will have a capacity for 95 people and on a busy summer weekend we expect at least 75 guests. There will also be up to 30/40 campers at Russet Lake. Clearly additional overnight parking is required. Any such parking in the valley will reduce Whistler Municipality's overall parking revenue. It would be more economical to locate such parking at the proposed upper trailhead