

To Jeremy Webb for Glen Pilling re: Special Report on Managing Recreational Values Under FRPA.

Comments to the FPB from the Alpine Club of Canada Vancouver Island Section (ACCVI) are forwarded from myself, Barb Baker, overseeing Access & Environment Issues and involved with recreation on Vancouver Island for the last 30 years.

Our membership numbers include 600 hikers, skiers, climbers, paddlers, cyclists, all enjoying the Crown back and front country water and land features. We educate youth and novice users in these activities and see the trend to use Crown lands continuing.

The club is currently involved in an ambitious alpine facility construction on and accessed through Crown land, which will attract more use. This site illustrates a case of road use influencing recreation access.

The RSTBC interactive map is a good example of listing and direction to forest sites in the province but many users want access to lots of country not recognized by the system.

Under Recreation, one of 11 values listed under FRPA, there are only 2 components, both relating to the management of the resource, trail or site. Recreation objectives or even definition are not listed that I can see. There is no avenue of recognition for the many casual, local, remote areas to which the public hopes to have access.

Getting to these areas requires driveable roads. Roads maintained to a 'wilderness standard' sometimes means they're only navigable on foot or ATV. The FRPA might try to encourage access considerations when describing road deactivation methods, while keeping in mind safety and environmental issues.

Dialogue with the public is a necessary component. There needs to be an avenue for interaction with the recreating public in order that the land use holder will know those places of importance. As an example, WFP harvesting to a CSA standard is required by CSA to have a public advisory committee where recreation is listed and discussed as a value. In the SIFD, as a courtesy we meet with the

harvest engineers and are kept informed of impacts to popular recreation areas. These are exceptions. In some areas, there will be little or no communication.

An online method of public input and/or establishing public advisory groups with user communities would help to develop better communication.

Many people may be unaware of the FRPA or that there is a board overseeing compliance with its directives. Perhaps a public awareness program in the media be considered first.

To quote from a BC government site: “BC residents have more leisure time than ever before and regularly visit the forests for relaxation and recreation. Social values of the forest have a high profile.”

Seeing no decline in recreational uses of Crown land ahead, we recommend:

- increased profile of the FRB & increased public awareness
- better public dialogue to aid land use inventory
- road deactivation guidelines allowing vehicle access where important for recreation use

The ACCVI appreciates this opportunity to provide our input to this important Special Report on Managing Recreational Values Under FRPA.

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