

# Role of FMCBC

Through leadership, advocacy and education, the FMCBC works to protect and maintain access to backcountry areas for quality, non-motorized, recreation in BC. Our membership is comprised of a diverse group of non-motorized backcountry recreationists including hikers, rock climbers, mountaineers, trail runners, kayakers, mountain bikers, backcountry skiers and snowshoers. As an organization, we believe the enjoyment of these pursuits in an unspoiled environment is a vital component to the quality of life for British Columbians.

# History of FMCBC

- Originally formed as Mountain Access Society in 1962
- Founding Clubs - ACC Vancouver, BCMC, VOC, North Shore Hikes, SFU Outdoor Club, Valley Outdoor Club, Vancouver Natural History assn.
- Incorporated as FMCBC in 1972
- Held major conference on access to backcountry in 72
- Formed the Adopt-A-Trail program in late 80s
- Receives grants for trail maintenance
- Formed Canada West Mountain School in late 80s

# Mountain Access Issues

1. **Seymour** – gated road, restricted parking
2. **LSCR** - gated road
3. **Lynn Headwaters** - gated road
4. **Grouse (Baden Powell)** – gated, restricted access
5. **Grouse (Snowshoe trail)** – backcountry skiers restricted
6. **Cypress** - gated road restricted access
7. **Chance Creek** – restricted parking?
8. **Skookum** – Not-motorized zone not enforceable
9. **Garibaldi Park** – User fee for overnighting
10. **Rubble Creek** – road not plowed

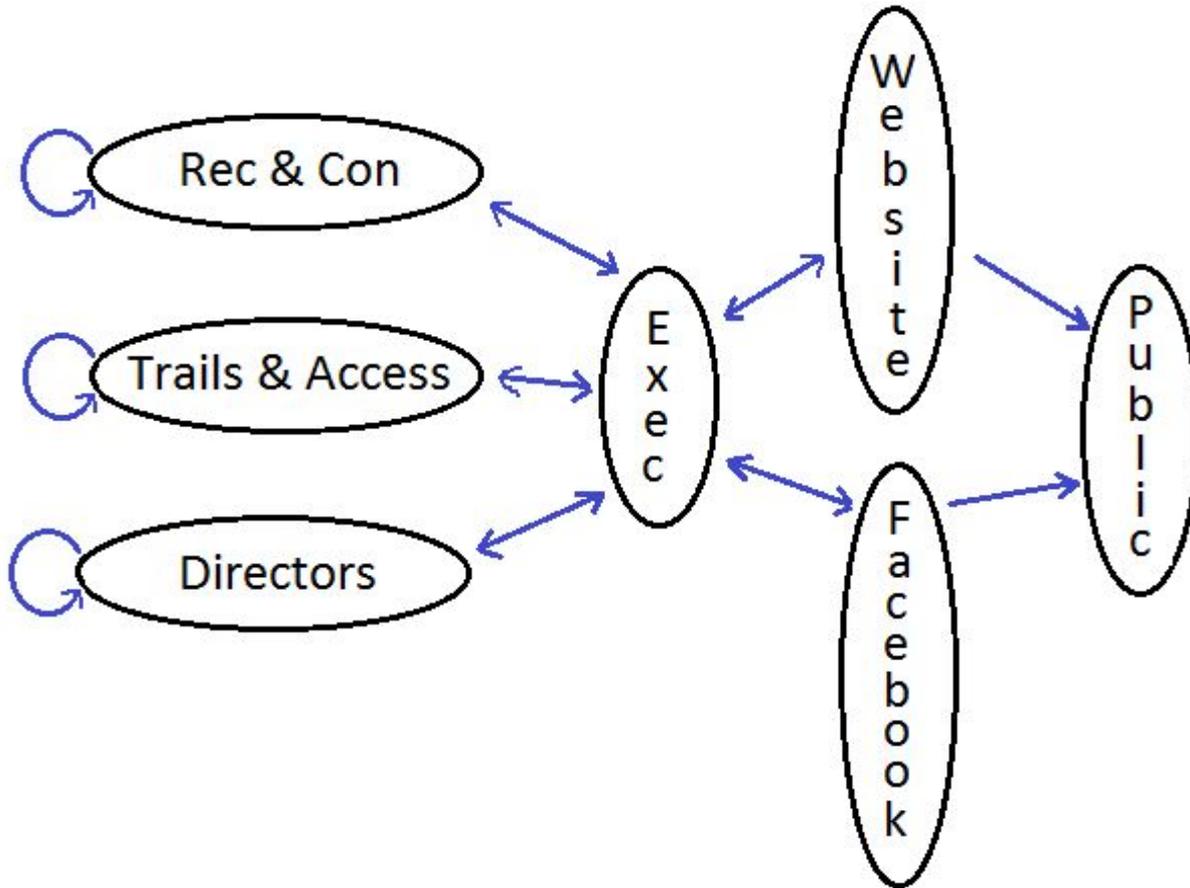
# Sea to Sky Access Issues

11. **Garibaldi at Squamish** - threatens Brohm access
12. **Callaghan Valley** – blocked access
13. **WOP** – discontinued access corridor
14. **Rainbow watershed** – Not-motorized zone not enforceable
15. **Whistler** – no BAC to musical bumps
16. **Singing Pass Road** – gated and permanently closed
17. **Blackcomb** – no BAC to blackcomb glacier
18. **Garibaldi Park** - heli skiing allowed
19. **Darling Lake trail** - stop work order
20. **LRMP** - all non-motorized zones not enforceable
21. **LRMP** - detailed boundaries not available

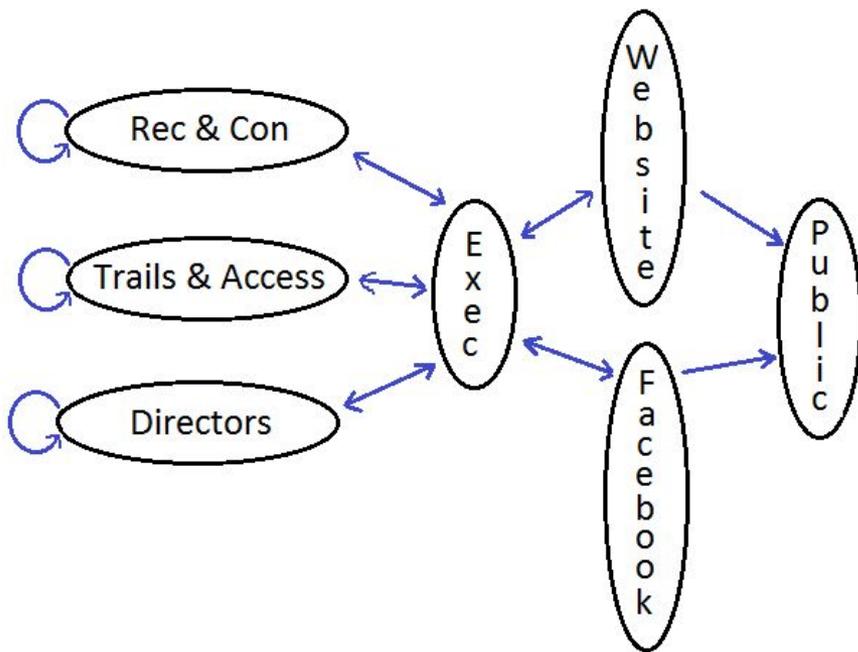
# Effective Advocacy Organization

- Transparency
- Decentralized
- Advocates able to publish
- 2 way social media
- Documentation - master plans, permits, digital maps
- Connections with Parks officials, forestry officials, commercial operators, and politicians
- Conflict of interest avoidance
- Collaboration, peer review
- Rigorous methodology
- Verification - names, dates, sources
- Fact based dispute resolution process

# Organizational Structure



Website includes Cloudburst newsletter



- List membership is only known to exec
- Lists closed to public
- Only exec can post to website or facebook
- Public cannot post to facebook
- Only exec email available to public
- No direct access from advocates to public
- No direct access from public to advocates

# Recommendations

The problems at the FMCBC are organizational in nature and not due to a lack of good advocates.

Making organizational change would have a much more permanent effect than requesting endorsements.

Following are recommendations for a set of 5 tasks for organizational change as well as 5 issues which are of high importance to the BCMC.

# Organization Recommendations

1. No censorship of advocacy work by the exec team.
2. Allow committee members to update their committee specific section of the FMCBC website.
3. Allow non-members to send email messages to the various committee lists, ie FMC-RCTB@LISTS.UBC.CA, FMC-DIR@LISTS.UBC.CA. Disclose the membership of the lists to the member clubs.
4. Enable public posting to facebook group mountainclubs.
5. Committee heads should manage access to listservers for their groups.

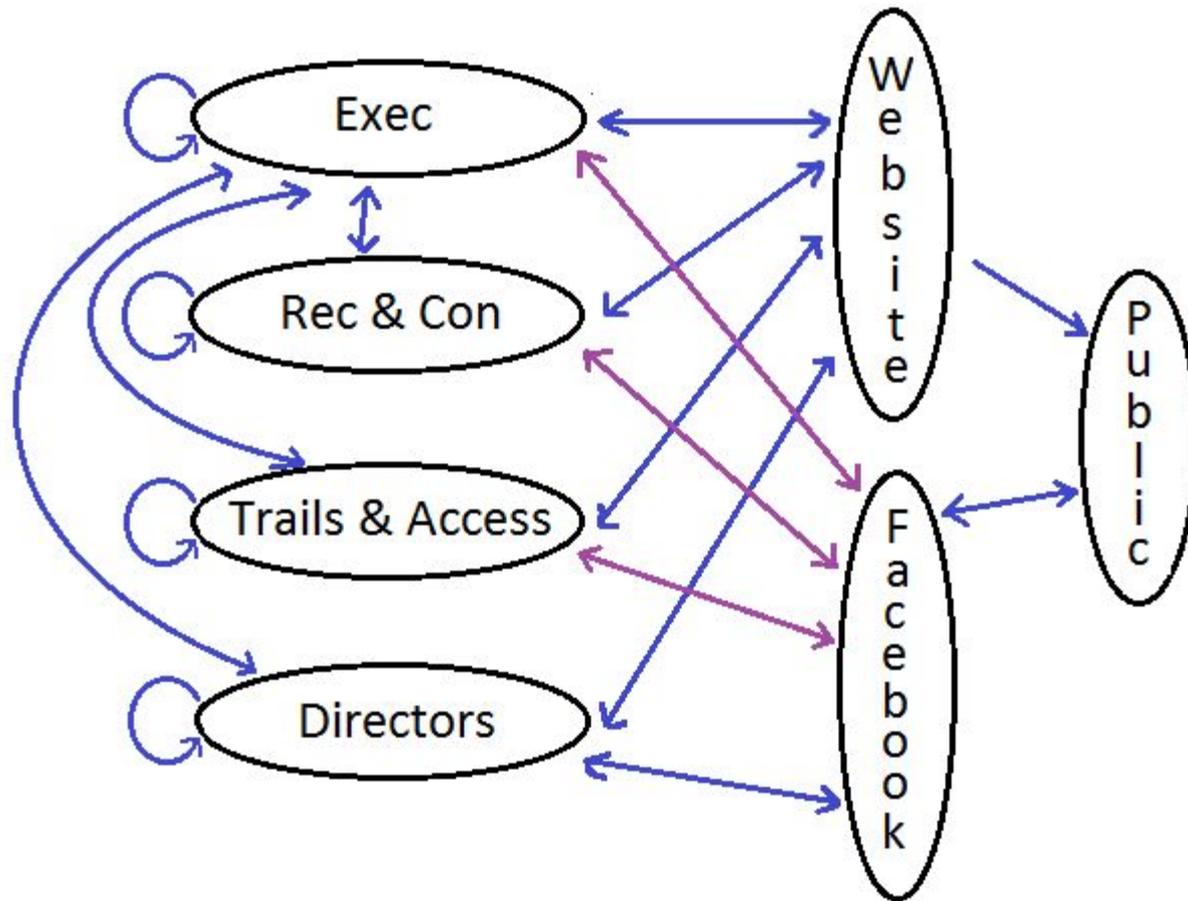
*This will enable all advocates across the province to work their issues in parallel in a public forum*

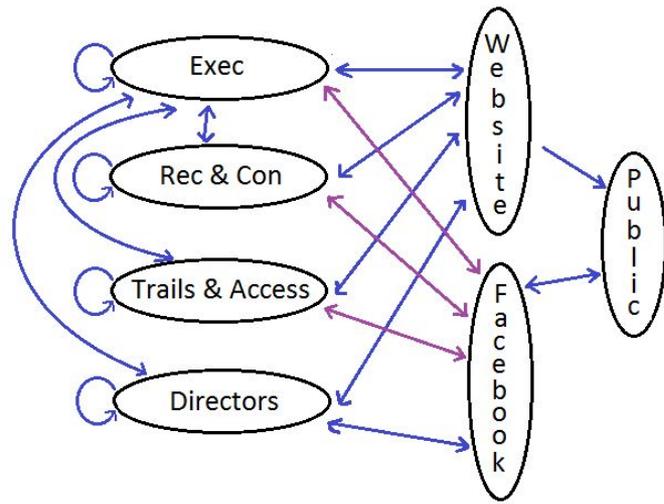
# Issue Recommendations

1. Cypress BAC
2. Singing Pass Vehicle Access to park boundary
3. Darling Lake Trail
4. Enforcement of all non-mechanized LRMP zones, especially the Skookum
5. Stop Garibaldi at Squamish Resort

*The FMCBC should endorse and advocate all these items to government.*

# New Organizational Structure





- No more bottlenecks. Able to work dozens of issues in parallel
- Staff can focus on support where required

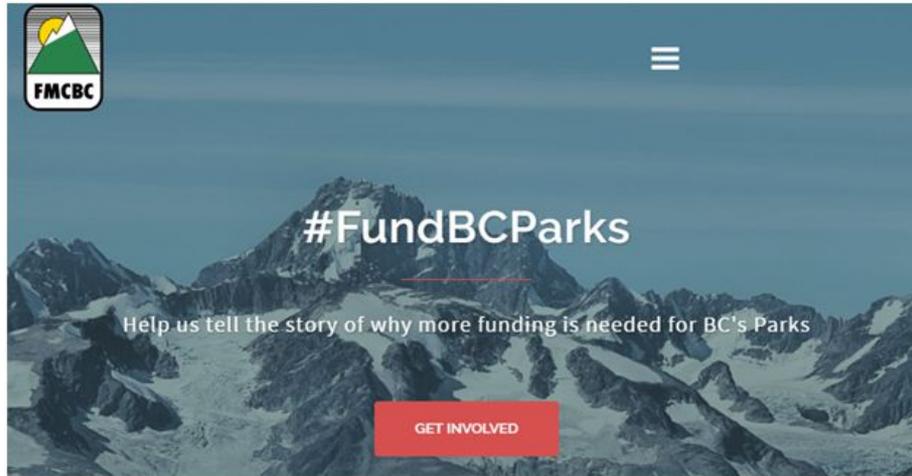
- Issues will get traction based on member demand and volunteerism
- Public can report access issues
- All club members can get involved
- Transparent
- Decentralized
- Advocates fully enabled to work their issues
- Complete 2 way communications

# Splintering of Advocacy function

Due to the high degree of central control in the FMCBC many groups have formed their own advocacy organizations or sites. Some of these continue to work within the FMCBC as well as outside and some have discontinued their relationship with it altogether.

- <http://bivouac.com/SAbxLister.asp>
- <https://www.garibaldipark2020.com/>
- <https://bcmc.ca/blogs/home/>
- <https://medium.com/@stevejoneshikes>
- <http://www.access-society.ca/>
- <http://squamishaccess.ca/>
- <http://nsmba.ca>
- [http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Conservation\\_and\\_recreation\\_access](http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Conservation_and_recreation_access)
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/southcoasttouring/>

# What the FMCBC really promotes



## March 27, 2017 – CBC News

**Backcountry advocates doubt that of B.C. Liberals support for B.C. Parks**

Province has made moves to increase campsites, rangers and funding, but are they enough as visits skyrocket?

## Nov. 2, 2016 – Mountain FM

**Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC says BC Parks face capacity and facility issues**

The Executive Director for the Federation of Mountain Clubs British Columbia (FMCBC) says capacity issues and broken & missing signage are just a few problems they've been hearing about in recent years, particularly this year within BC Parks.

## Sept. 17, 2016 – News Talk 908 CKNW – The Jill Bennett Show

**There have been some concerns about how many people are going into the great outdoors—some damage on trails, for example. Do things need to change when it comes to how we use our hiking trails?**

## Sept. 16, 2016 – Global News BC

**Corporate ads on BC Parks website under question**

Should private commercial companies be advertising on B.C. government websites?

## Recent issues the FMCBC has responded to:

- **Campaign: Support increased funding for BC Parks**

27 August, 2016

To ensure the B.C. Government is aware of the public's support for increasing funding to BC Parks, we encourage people to send a letter to their local MLA and/or the Premier. We have drafted a sample letter which you can download and edit or you can use the petition letter below which will be sent directly ...

- **How To Help Fund BC Parks**

12 August, 2016

As regular users of BC's provincial parks, you've probably noticed things aren't looking the way they used to. Broken signage, damaged boardwalks, ecological damage, neglected facilities—it's clear the BC government has been spending their dollars elsewhere. Our parks have been in dire need of funding for over a decade, and it shows. Just take a look ...

- **Time to show what a lack of funding has done to our parks**

14 July, 2016

Have you visited our provincial parks lately and noticed any of the following? - Broken, missing or vandalized signage - Missing or damaged trail markers - Trail braiding, exposed roots, broken or missing boardwalk slats - Bridges in need of repair or closed due to damage - Poorly maintained campground facilities - Ecological damage from lack of monitoring - Excessive litter or ...

- **Improved public access to Singing Pass Trail needed**

6 March, 2016

The FMCBC has submitted a letter to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations requesting improved public access to the Singing Pass Trail in Garibaldi Provincial Park. This follows another that was sent to (and responded by) Land Officer Tori Meeks last fall. The most recent letter outlines some of the history of the ...

- **Write your MLA to increase funding for BC Parks**

26 January, 2016

In their Report on the Budget 2016 Consultations, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services has included a

# CBC article Mar 27, 2017



In the spring of 2011, parking fees were waived at provincial parks. The Ministry of Environment says that has encouraged more visits. (Steve Lus/CBC)

The reasoning is no comfort to Jones and others like Dave Wharton, president of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.

They're worried the government's plan won't make the park system robust enough to handle its increased popularity.

**"Parking lots are crowded and overcrowded.** We've had **instances of unsafe parking along highways,**" said Wharton. "There doesn't seem to be an increase in the infrastructure that supports those backcountry and frontcountry experiences."

The province's plan is to "strengthen conservation in its world-renowned parks with a new investment of \$35 million over the next three years," said Ministry of Environment officials.



# Dead end reporting by public



**Henrik Hinkkala**

March 19 at 12:59pm · 🌐

I'm curious what other climbers/skiers might have to say about the access situation at grouse to go climb crown/crater couloir.

This morning me and a few fellas packed our skies up the grind and began touring over toward crown, to go climb the crown/crater couloir. As we were about to leave the grouse area onto the snowshoe trail we were abruptly stopped by a lift/ski rep. He told us specifically that we are not permitted to access any snowshoes trails or backcountry terrain WITH skies. He went as far to say that if we left the skies at the lodge, or had snowshoes, then he would let us proceed. He stated that if we chose to continue he would have to notify the facility and they would send patrollers to escort us off their private property (My thought process here was more what happens when we return to download, legal ramifications of trespass, etc.).

Anyways, without an alternative exit strategy for our objective, we returned to the lodge to talk with the manager to have him provide some evidence/documentation of this policy since this was all new information for us. He did not have a copy of the policy available and told us that we could in fact go onto the snowshoe trails as long as we did not use our skies, so we immediately put the skies on our packs and began walking. No sooner had we put our packs on the manager came back to us again and clarified that no one is allowed to utilize the private property of grouse to access the backcountry, period. I do want to add that all of our interactions were professional and courteous, even though it was frustrating. The manager did say he was going to email me a copy of their policy because he could not locate it at the moment. Then he provided us download tickets free of charge which was also a nice gesture. Once I get the copy of the policy I will post it if it says anything different then what I've stated here.

So from my experience today it would appear that climbers/skiers are not allowed in any capacity to access crown mtn legally via grouse mountain (in the winter). My personal thoughts are that climbers should simply use snowshoes, and not bring skies to draw attention, but I'm wondering if anyone can provide insight as to whether or not grouse has the legal position to enforce this policy, and what if any other suggestions people may have to access crown?

Feel free to share this post to other groups.



# Funding BC Parks is a bad idea

- They block legitimate trail clearing efforts to areas like Mamquam.



**BRITISH COLUMBIA**



**STOP WORK ORDER**

No. 1

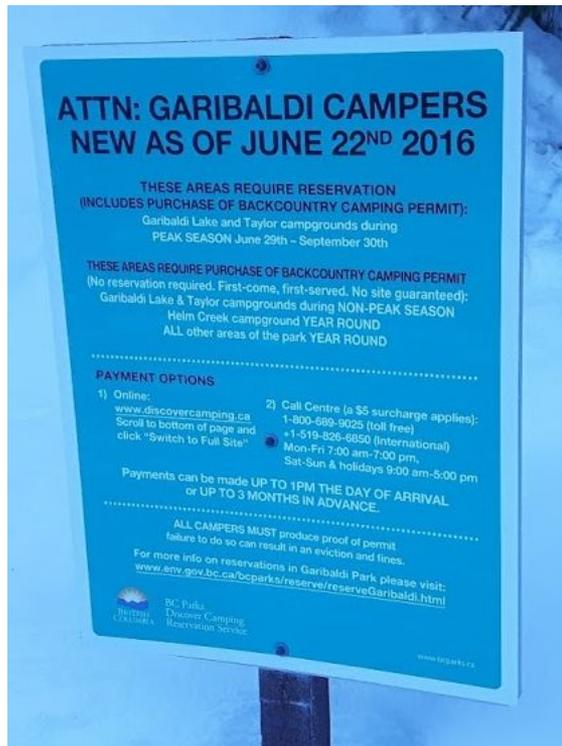
ORCS FILE NO.  
**23060-40/**

CASE FILE NO.  
ERA DSQ33562

TO (NAME IN FULL) <i>BC Mountaineering Club/ Attn: Christopher LUDWIG BCMC Executive-Cabins and Trails Chair / cludwig@islandnet.com</i>			
STREET ADDRESS British Columbia Mountaineering Club P.O. Box 20042 Vancouver, BC V5Z 0C1 https://bcmc.ca bcmc.cabinstrails@gmail.com/			
Client # 00173271	CITY a/a	PROVINCE a/a	POSTAL CODE a/a
I believe your activities at <u>Skookum Creek /Paranoid Creek/Darling Lake-Garibaldi Provincial Park</u> At or near 49 Deg. 46 min 05 sec North and 122 Deg 54 min 39 sec West <small>(LEGAL DESCRIPTION)</small>			
to be in contravention of :			
<small>NATURE OF ALLEGED CONTRAVENTION</small>	<small>SECTION ALLEGEDLY CONTRAVENED</small>	<small>OF THE ACTS / REGULATIONS</small>	
Unauthorized trail construction	57(1)	FRPA	
Cut-Damage Crown timber without authority	52	FRPA	
Make changes in and about a streamt	93(2)(q)	Water Act	
Unathorized activity	32(1)	Park, Conservancy and Recreation Areas Regulations	
Therefore, under Section 66 of the <i>Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)</i> , I order you to <b>cease</b> the following activities on the date and to the extent specified:			
			<small>DATE {YYYY - MM - DD}</small>
1. Unuathorized trail building in the Skookum and Paranoid Creek watersheds			August 10. 2015
2. Unauthorized bridge building in the Skookum and Paranoid Creek watersheds			August 10. 2015
3. Unauthorized trail building into Garibaldi Provincial Park			August 10. 2015
This Stop Work Order shall remain in effect until:			
1. August 10, 2020			
2. August 10, 2020			
3. August 10, 2020			

- They channel most funding into front country car based campsites and very little into backcountry projects.
- They are imposing user fees in Garibaldi Park in undeveloped areas when staying overnight.
- They spend the bulk of their time doing enforcement against backcountry users.



Rubble Creek trailhead

# Right to Roam

- The concept that the public has the right to roam on public lands and across private / leased land that blocks access to public land.
- This should form the basis of everything that our advocacy organization does.
- Andrew Weaver introduced a private members bill on Feb 27, 2017.



# FMCBC SW BC Rec & Con page

- 21 Mile Creek Watershed Snowmobiling (Jul 2013)
- Chance Creek FSR Parking (2008)
- Ski Hill Operations in BC Parks (Aug 2015)
- Coquihalla Pass Resort Proposal (Jan 2009)
- Este-tiwilh/Sigurd Creek Conservancy (2009)
- Garibaldi At Squamish Resort Proposal (Jun 2015)
- Garibaldi Management Plan Amendment (Mar 2012)
- K'zuzalt/Twin Two Conservancy (Aug 2013)
- Lillooet LRMP/Winter Recreation Zoning (Jul 2004)
- Lillooet River Valley Run-of-River Projects (?)
- Sea-to-Sky LRMP/Winter Recreation Zoning (Oct 2009)
- Smoke Bluffs (Aug 2015)
- South Chilcotin Mountains Park Planning (April 2014)
- Whistler Heli-Skiing Avoidance Procedure (?)
- Whistler Trails Planning Working Group (Sep 2014)

# FMCBC SW BC Trails & Access page

- BCMC Trail – Grouse Mountain (Aug 2015)
- Callaghan Valley (Oct 2014)
- Chilliwack Forest District Trails (?)
- Chilliwack Recreation Advisory Group (Dec 2016)
- Chilliwack River Trails Restoration Project (2014)
- Cypress Provincial Park Trails
- Elk Mountain/Mt. Thurston Trail
- Grouse Grind Trail
- Howe Sound Crest Trail (May 2015)
- Lions Bay Parking and Trail Access
- Lake Lovely Water Trail (Oct 2008)
- Porteau Cove Development
- Skookum Creek Power Project (Jan 2015)

# No dates on correspondence



**Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC**

Accessing the backcountry one step at a time

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[www.mountainclubs.org](http://www.mountainclubs.org)

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Brackendale, BC V0N 1H0  
[Vicki.Haberl@gov.bc.ca](mailto: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

# Next Steps ???

- \$10 of every BCMC membership fee goes towards FMCBC membership.
- \$7 goes towards liability insurance provided by the FMCBC.
- We are large enough to purchase the same liability insurance at a similar price.