



Blue Mountain Provincial Forest

Forest Recreation Management Strategy

March 12, 2003

Funding and Project
Management Provided by: Chilliwack Forest District
 Ministry of Forests

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Executive Summary

This Strategy was prepared through the collaborative involvement of the users of Blue Mountain Provincial Forest (now referred to as the Ad Hoc Users Group) during 2001 to 2003 to address and articulate their resource management issues and interests. Most issues relate to forest recreation uses, though the Strategy also seeks to address issues that relate to industrial uses and environmental values.

It represents the views of most planning participants, and outlines resource management issues identified by users of the area. It presents a vision statement and a series of recommended goals, objectives and strategies. An Ad Hoc Users Group has been established to assist in the implementation to the extent possible.

Implementing this strategy will require coordination and management, data collection and assessments, monitoring and preparation of plans. Given revised mandates and resourcing limitations in government, a key challenge for both the Ministry of Forests and the Ad Hoc Users Group will be to develop an implementation model to successfully see that elements of the strategy are addressed where possible.

It is recommended that the Chilliwack Forest District consider the following in utilizing the Strategy:

- identify which elements of this Strategy they can implement, which are the mandate of others, and which are best suited to the Ad Hoc Users Group;
- utilize the Ad Hoc Users Group for referrals of forest recreation applications or forest development plans, and require that proponents consider this Strategy when undertaking planning and operations; and,
- consult with other related land management agencies (e.g. Ministry of Energy and Mines) and request that the Ad Hoc User Group be referenced for other resource development applications (e.g. mineral development proposals.)

1 Introduction

Background

Forest recreational uses and industrial uses in the Blue Mountain Provincial Forest have been taking place since the early 1900's. The second growth forests that predominate the 4385-hectare area and the existence of a road and trail network are both evidence of historic forest management patterns.



Located Northeast of Maple Ridge, the area was established as a Provincial Forest in 1963. The 'Provincial Forest' land use designation is intended to accommodate integrated resource use; it is generally a designation that is non-exclusive. Forest uses in the Blue Mountain Provincial Forest are managed by the Ministry of Forests ¹.

Demand for both forest recreation and industrial activities has increased significantly over the last 10 to 15 years. The increase in motorized recreational use, for instance, has been driven in part by the closure of many lower mainland forest areas to motorized sport. By 2001, user-demands in the Blue Mountain Provincial Forest had reached a level where activities could no longer take place relatively independent of one another. Due to this level of use, the Chilliwack Forest District identified the need to get groups together to define issues and develop possible management strategies.

Process

In November 2001, the Ministry of Forests retained a consultant to facilitate the first Phase in developing a management strategy for the area. Phase 1 identified stakeholders. Through the use of submissions by interest groups and public meetings, an extensive list of interests and issues were identified and summarised².

In July 2002, the Ministry of Forests retained a consultant to facilitate Phase 2 of the management strategy. This Phase brought together the Phase 1 participants to further develop resource management goals, objectives and strategies through a series of two facilitated workshops held in October and December of 2002.



An explanation of the new role of the Ministry of Forests was presented at the December 2002 Workshop. Participants were informed that any future forest tenure holders in Blue Mountain Provincial Forest would have the responsibility of seeking input from stakeholders during operational planning. At the end of the planning process, the participants decided to form an Ad Hoc Users Group to, among other things, provide advice on the use of, and management of uses on Blue Mountain.

¹ As described in the Ministry of Forests Act and Forest Practice Code of BC Act and Regulations. Subsurface resource activities are managed by the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

² The Blue Mountain Provincial Forest Phase 1 report and accompanying information is available on the Internet at http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/vancouver/district/chilliwak/BlueMountains/BMPF_intro.html. Other documents and maps are available at <http://www.enfor.com/plans/management/bmpf/index.htm>



At the December 2002 workshop, the title of the Strategy was revised to the “Forest Recreation Management Strategy” at the request of the participants, since most of the issues and planning participants are recreation use and enjoyment related. There are significant environmental and industrial values and issues that are addressed in this Strategy.

The draft Strategy was developed in January, 2003 based on the workshops, input received, and previous planning work in 2002. Sections 3 and 4 were developed with input by the participants, and are a compilation of their collective interests in the use and management of Blue Mountain Provincial Forest.

The draft was referred to participants in February, 2003 for comment, and was adjusted by the consultant based on written comments received. The Strategy was presented by the Ad Hoc Users Group to the District Manager, Chilliwack Forest District in March, 2003.

1.1 Purpose of the Forest Recreation Management Strategy

This Strategy provides recommended management goals, objectives and strategies to guide operational planning for the following purposes:

- maintain the integrity of the environment;
- protect cultural and heritage values;
- manage economic and forest recreational uses in a sustainable manner; and
- coordinate activities occurring within Blue Mountain Provincial Forest with adjacent landowners.

The Strategy will provide a platform on which to build long term communication, education and management goals for the users of Blue Mountain.

1.2 Application of the Strategy

This Strategy applies to forest uses on Crown land within Blue Mountain Provincial Forest. The Strategy does not apply to private land, such as the 20 hectare private lot located 2.5 kilometres east of Blue Mountain Peak. The area encompasses provincial forest denoted in the map titled “Blue Mountain Provincial Forest Strategy”, March 12, 2003 (page 4).

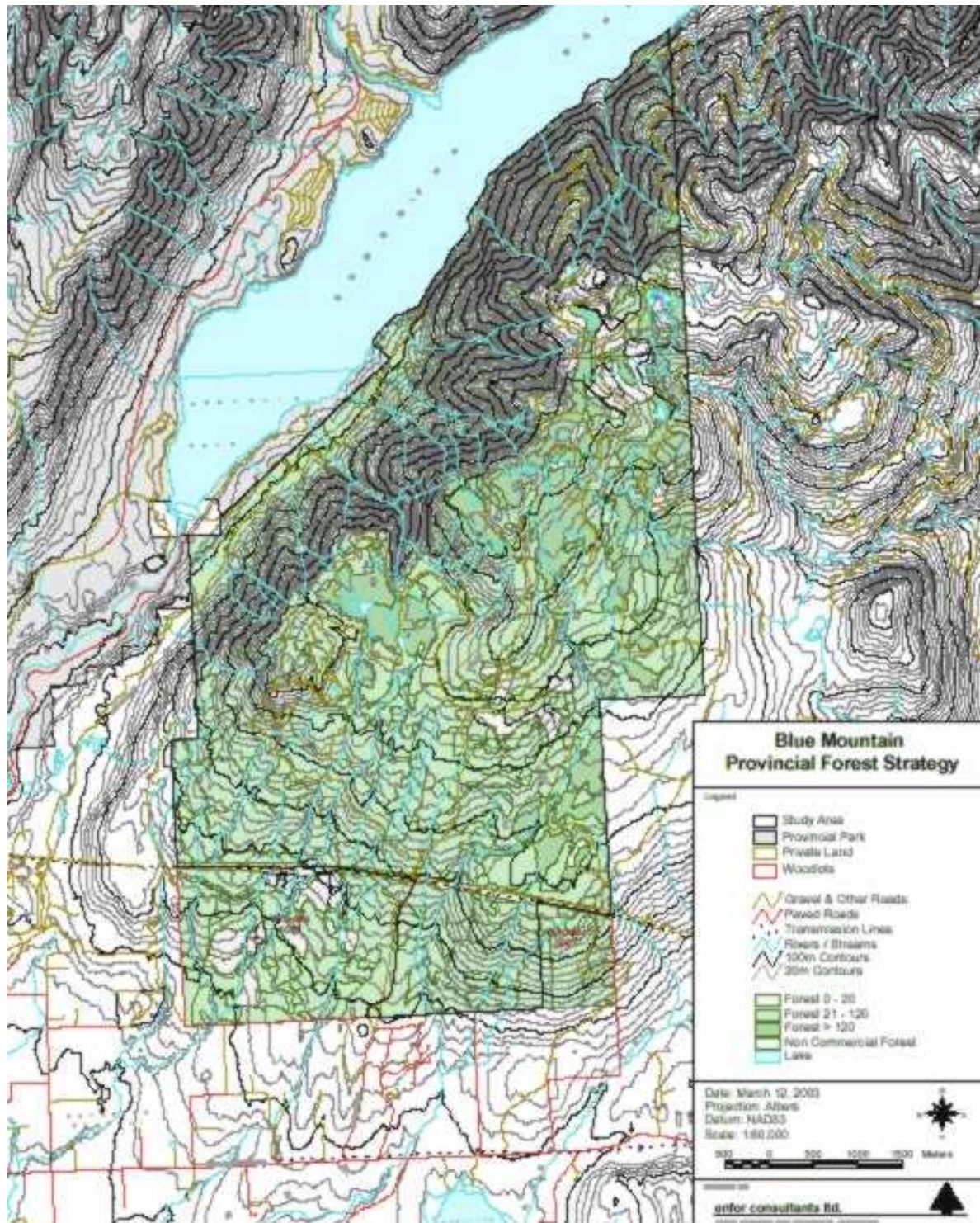
The Strategy does not apply directly to the two Woodlot Licences operated by Blue Mountain Woodlot and BCIT Forest Society since they have approved management plans in place. However, it is recommended that these licensees consider the strategies in this document when undertaking forestry activities. Both licensees were participants in the Strategy and are supportive of the goals, objectives and strategies.

1.3 Environmental Legislation and Higher Level Plans

This Strategy is intended to provide guidance for the management of forest uses in Blue Mountain. It does not supersede any higher level plan, or provincial or federal environmental legislation. Forest practices and uses on Provincial Forests are controlled largely through the Forest Practices Code of BC Act (and its replacement the Forest and Range Protection Act), provincial environmental legislation (e.g. Water Act) and federal environmental legislation (e.g. Fisheries Act).

There are no higher level plans in place as of January 2003. However, the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management is planning to undertake Landscape Unit Planning in 2004 for the Alouette Landscape Unit, which covers Blue Mountain. The Landscape Unit Plan is intended to address the conservation of biological diversity by identifying old growth management areas and targets for wildlife tree retention. Objectives developed in the landscape unit plan will be considered a higher level plan, and so will supersede this Strategy; it is hoped that these are developed giving consideration to this Strategy.

Insert Map “Blue Mountain Provincial Forest Strategy”, March 12, 2003



2 Setting

Blue Mountain Provincial Forest (BMPF) is located Northeast of Maple Ridge. The plan area is bounded to the north by Alouette Lake and Golden Ears Provincial Park. It is approximately 50 kilometres east of Vancouver and 15 kilometres Northwest of Mission. Mission Tree Farm License No. 26 and Alouette East Small Business Forest Enterprise Program Administrative Area border the Blue Mountain Provincial Forest to the east. The District of Maple Ridge borders the southern boundary, and provincial Crown land borders the western side of the plan area (refer to location Map on page 4).

The plan area encompasses 4385 hectares of Provincial Forest, of which 506 hectares are currently being managed through two woodlot licence tenures, W0038 (Blue Mountain Woodlot) and W0007 (BCIT Forest Society). The remaining 3879 hectares have no specific forest tenure.

Approximately 70 percent of the Blue Mountain forest is 30-90 years old. The remaining forested area, mostly in the higher elevations, consists of forests older than 150 years.

Most of the area has been harvested in the past. This has resulted in the lush second growth forests that predominate the area, and the series of old roads and trails (Alouette Lake has been used to transport logs). The southern portion of the plan area is characterised by second growth coniferous forests on gentle slopes (generally less than 40 percent gradient). The northern portion bordering Alouette Lake consists of 70-110 year old coniferous forest on more rugged terrain (with many upper slopes greater than 60 percent gradient). The central northeast portion consists of old growth forests, interspersed with areas harvested approximately 15-35 years ago.

Numerous creeks are found throughout BMPF and a few small lakes are located at higher elevations. The streams in the northern portion flow into Alouette Lake except for a few streams in the Northeast that flow into Stave River. The majority of the creeks in the central and southern part of plan area flow into Kanaka Creek. A small portion of the land in the Southeast corner of the plan area drains into Whonnock Creek.



BMPF forms part of the Fraser Timber Supply Area (TSA), and is part of the landbase that contributes to the allowable annual cut of the Fraser TSA. Only a portion of the forested area (less than 80 percent) is considered commercially viable (the net timber harvesting landbase is 3072 hectares) by the Ministry of Forests due to pre-existing environmental, social and economic considerations.

These considerations are denoted on the BMPF Resource Information Maps 1 of 2 and 2 of 2, located in Appendix 2. Considerations include:

- primary forest recreational activities;
- visually sensitive slopes;
- deer winter ranges;
- streams and lakes;
- areas excluded from timber supplies, including most of the old growth forest; and,
- steep slopes in view from Alouette Lake.

3 Vision Statement

The following describes the participants' future vision for Blue Mountain:

Blue Mountain Provincial Forest will continue to exist as a beautiful place where human activity is managed to ensure ecosystem health and cultural integrity and to provide for a balance of recreation and economic uses.

The quality of the environment will be maintained or improved including ecosystem function and health, biodiversity, threatened and endangered species, water quality and riparian habitat.

Blue Mountain will contribute to the spiritual, emotional, cultural and recreational well-being of the Lower Mainland population base. Visitors will have the opportunity to experience and learn about the cultural and natural history of the area. Access will be provided for a variety of recreational activities ranging from low intensity uses in remote areas to higher intensity uses in areas that are more easily accessible.

Recreation management in Blue Mountain will serve as a model of cooperative use among motorised and non-motorised users.

Economic prosperity will be supported through economic development opportunities that provide local benefits and are in keeping with the ecological and recreational characteristics of Blue Mountain.

Ongoing stewardship will be supported by user groups and community volunteers who will help to ensure that Blue Mountain is managed to support a variety of recreation, economic and educational uses that are in harmony with the long term ecological and cultural integrity of the area.

4 Goals, Objectives and Strategies

This section includes a description of management goals, objectives and strategies developed by the planning participants, which are recommended to guide resource management. The objectives and strategies are categorized according to the resource value or activity they apply to (e.g. water, forest recreation, horseback riding, harvesting et cetera).

The goals, objectives and strategies represent the views of most planning participants. However, the Blue Mountain and Kanaka Creek Conservation Group and the Western Canada Wilderness Committee indicated that they were not in agreement with the Strategy. These groups are not in agreement with any proposed logging activity.

This Strategy assumes that management activities will all meet legislative requirements and commitments made under the Forest Practices Code and related environmental legislation. It should also consider the influence of the adjacent Woodlot Management Plans.

The consultant hired to coordinate the strategy for the Ministry of Forests recommends that Qualified Registered Professionals be utilized for assessments and recommendations where there are issues relating to safety or environmental impacts. In particular, Qualified Registered Professionals (engineers, biologists, geoscientists, and foresters) should be consulted on issues relating to road safety/decommissioning/upgrading, water quality and quantity, biological diversity and environmental management, visual quality, and timber management. The Chilliwack Forest District can assist in identifying individuals qualified for these assessments.

Interests/Issues

The items outlined in this section briefly describe the issues raised during Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Strategy development. Interests/Issues are used to develop the goals, objectives and strategies.

Goals

A goal describes a desired end state with respect to a particular interest. Goals are not normally expressed in quantitative terms and their achievement is not time-limited.

For multiple related uses such as motorized recreational uses, one overall goal has been established to cover the variety of sub uses.

Objectives ('What')

Objectives are more specific than goal statements and describe what should be done to achieve the goal. Objectives should be measurable and provide a basis for evaluation.

Strategies ('How')

Strategies describe ways to achieve objectives.



4.1 Access (roads and trails)

4.1.1 Access Management

Interests/Issues

- Concern that increasing access into the plan area will result in past problems of dumping and/or burning of stolen vehicles and/or other irresponsible behaviour by vandals.
- In the past, access into the plan area by the public has resulted in timber harvesting equipment vandalism and additional road maintenance.
- Additional road building in the area is seen by some users as a threat to their recreational experience and to the integrity of area's ecosystems.
- Need for an access management plan that includes coordination with adjacent areas such as the Municipality of Maple Ridge or the District of Mission.
- Need for parking arrangements for forest recreation users with consideration to local traffic and property owners.
- Liability concerns with allowing forest recreation users to access BMPF.
- Suggestion by some to restrict vehicle access to gravel roads.
- Numerous complaints and requests have been registered to restrict access to BMPF via the BC Hydro transmission line and along Dewdney Trunk Road.
- Gates at access points have been the targets of vandals.
- Some forest recreation users would like to reopen access via McNutt Road, however adjacent property owners and nearby residents do not support this, citing historical problems such as vandalism, late night parties, property damage, high speed vehicles, and altercations with users.
- Closing access via 256th is a problem for some forest recreation user groups.
- Access to the area is from both land and water (Alouette Lake), and the lake access needs should be considered in development of strategies.



Goal

- Manage and plan access in a manner that protects environmental values and forest uses, and that respects adjacent landowners.

Objectives	Strategies
1. Develop a system to manage access through residential areas.	1.1 Continue gated access on McNutt Road to control entry of vehicles and use gate keys or magnetic cards that cannot be copied. 1.2 Develop a gated access corridor for motorcyclists at 256th Street to access the area above the hydro right of way (i.e. alternate gate before the Corrections facility). 1.3 Instigate user fees, based upon annual licensing fee and user type. Vehicles within BMPF would require a decal or bar code on the windshield authorizing permitted admittance.

Objectives and Strategies continued on next page...



Objectives	Strategies
<p>1. Develop a system to manage access through residential areas.</p> <p><i>Continued from previous page</i></p>	<p>1.4 Investigate the creation of a pass-through for hikers, mountain bikes and horses at Steven's Road (256th St.) with fences to be left in place.</p> <p>1.5 Consider developing an access location away from residential neighbourhoods, especially McNutt Road and Blue Mountain Crescent.</p> <p>1.6 Co-ordinate access planning with adjacent landowners, including TFL 26 and local residents.</p> <p>1.7 Consider relocating forest road access for recreational users from McNutt Road to another access point <i>(Note: The District of Mission's Forestry Department are opposed to relocating recreation access through Mission Tree Farm Licence TFL 26.)</i></p> <p>1.8 Investigate the feasibility of hiring a full time caretaker.</p>
<p>2. Plan for parking so that users do not cause undue disruption to adjacent landowners.</p>	<p>2.1 Create parking/staging area(s) for user groups away from residential areas.</p>
<p>3. The timing of access uses should not cause undue disruption to adjacent landowners.</p>	<p>3.1 Consider restrictions for some uses during certain periods of the day/season/year.</p> <p>3.2 Encourage local communities to manage the trails.</p>
<p>4. Plan access to minimize or mitigate adverse affects to water, fish, wildlife, vegetation, soil, and forest recreation uses, interests and tenure holders.</p>	<p>4.1 Develop an access management plan that describes the current and future access needs.</p> <p>4.2 Use, develop or promote innovative or best management practices in planning, construction, maintenance and deactivation activities, while considering economic constraints.</p> <p>4.3 Ensure that proposed development access activities are included in forest development plans, and make plans available for public review and comment.</p> <p>4.4 Conduct an inventory of roads, trails and stream crossings to identify them on a map; identify the environmental and safety liability, and the needs for the repair or decommissioning of roads.</p> <p>4.5 Seek resources to stabilize or repair roads to a safe condition commensurate with use³.</p>

Objectives and Strategies continued on next page...

³ Consider seeking funding from future Licensee under Forest Investment Account (FIA). FIA makes funds available to forest licensees to undertake various sustainable forest management activities.



Objectives	Strategies
<p>4. Plan access to minimize or mitigate adverse affects to water, fish, wildlife, vegetation, soil, and forest recreation uses, interests and tenure holders.</p> <p><i>Continued from previous page</i></p>	<p>4.6 Manage the timing of activities.</p> <p>4.7 Deactivate or repair roads if they are unsafe or may lead to environmental damage, based on an assessment by a qualified registered professional.</p> <p>4.8 Ensure that proposed non-forest access development (e.g. commercial tourism, mineral and hydro development) are made available for public review and comment.</p>

4.1.2 Trail Management

Interests/Issues

- Desire by some forest recreation users to develop new trails in specific areas (such as a multi-use, east-west, non-motorised route to connect along hydro right of way and a mountain bike trail along the western edge of BMPF).
- The unauthorized building of trails within the BMPF and into adjacent parks results in an excessive number of trails and an uncoordinated system for management.
- Clarification to the public and user groups is required regarding which motorised and non-motorised activities are permitted within certain areas of the plan.
- Need for proper trail markings to direct flow and accommodate multiple users.
- Need for respect and consideration between users of the same trails.
- Some feel that existing four-wheel drive trails should not be modified to accommodate vehicles that cannot currently pass.
- Concern that most roads are in poor condition and may require upgrading and maintenance for fire control access and non-industrial users.
- Concern with respect to improper road deactivation.



Goal

- Manage and plan trails in a manner that protects environmental values, resource stewardship ethics and forest uses, and that respects adjacent landowners and other trail users.

Objectives	Strategies
<p>1. Plan the orderly development and use of forest recreation trails.</p>	<p>1.1 Conduct an inventory and classification of trails.</p> <p>1.2 Prepare a trail management plan with a reference to the regulatory framework that may apply (Section 102 of the <u>Forest Practices Code of BC Act</u>); identify which trails should be retained and those which should be closed; identify site rehabilitation measures.</p>



Objectives and Strategies continued on next page...

Objectives	Strategies
<p>1. Plan the orderly development and use of forest recreation trails.</p> <p><i>Continued from previous page</i></p>	<p>1.3 Establish a series of multi-use connecting trails to access areas of forest recreation and usage connected to key access points including parking areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a forest recreation corridor that parallels the main branch of Kanaka Creek (North Fork). • Construct new roads and trails to access areas near the summit of Blue Mountain. • Develop an east-west trail as detailed in the GVRD Greenways Plan to carry forest recreation walkers, equestrians and cyclists from Mission to Pitt River and any connection required for accessing this trail (e.g. KCRP-FC and Trans Canada Trail). • Develop a trail from Blue Mountain to Mission's Community Forest, Golden Ears Provincial Park and beyond. • Design new trails in consideration of other existing and future uses. • Publish a trail listing. • Rehabilitate trails/roads as required as per the outcome of the trail management plan • Limit or control the number and location of different user trails. <p>1.4 Seek or develop resources to manage trails</p> <p>1.5 Trails that might be temporarily closed due to other uses should be re-established as promptly as possible.</p> <p>1.6 Prepare guidelines for the construction of trails.</p> <p>1.7 Clarify the liability for users on trails.</p>
<p>2. Maintain trails and monitor use</p>	<p>2.1 Coordinate the maintenance of multi-use trails by different user groups.</p>

4.2 Forest Recreation

4.2.1 Motorized (including four wheel driving, motor bike riding, all terrain vehicles and snowmobiling, etc.)

Interests/Issues

The following issues were common to all forms of motorised use in the plan area:

- Need for responsible use by group members and non-members using area as proper etiquette is not being followed by some frequent users.
- Need for accurate map with road and trail locations
- Concern relating to the degradation of roads, trails and streams (siltation) due to lack of bridges and/or culverts.
- Concern that large groups of riders and/or vehicles travelling at high speeds pose danger to other trail users.
- Concern relating to unauthorized trail construction and use.
- High noise levels from engines are a concern to neighbouring residents, especially along McNutt Road and Blue Mountain Crescent.
- Concern about damage to other forest recreation trails and forest plantations by drivers who do not remain on the four-wheel drive roads.
- Lack of areas available for motorised recreation in the lower mainland.
- Increasing pressure from non-motorised users to eliminate four-wheel driving activities in the BMPF.
- Concern regarding the publics' perception of four-wheel drive users. This perception may be based on the actions of a few drivers and/or unsanctioned drivers in the BMPF.
- There is pressure from non-motorised users to close motorbike trails.
- There is a desire from motorbike users to maintain access.
- Conflicts with road use between snowmobiles and vehicles in the winter.



Goal

- Conduct motorised recreational activities in a safe manner that protects environmental values and forest uses, allows for integrated forest recreation use with other user groups, and respects adjacent landowners.

Objectives	Strategies
1. Prevent or resolve conflicts between forest recreation users and industrial interests.	1.1 All forest recreation user groups should routinely provide (future) forest licensees (and MoF in the absence of a licensee) with updated, mapped locations of known travel corridors and current uses. 1.2 Industrial interests consider existing and future trail networks when preparing development proposals. Forest recreation interests should respect existing development activities when planning a new trail.

Objectives and Strategies continued on next page...



Objectives	Strategies
<p>1. Prevent or resolve conflicts between forest recreation users and industrial interests.</p> <p><i>Continued from previous page</i></p>	<p>1.3 Forest licensees notify known forest recreation users in writing to provide an opportunity for input to forest development plans that may impact known recreation activities.</p> <p>1.4 Forest recreation users should discuss desires for special events with licensees and the Chilliwack Forest District.</p> <p>1.5 MoF to consult with forest recreational interests in the development of any access management plans. Endeavour to share the land base with commercial recreation and industrial activities with a view towards sharing the landbase among users.</p>
<p>2. Prevent or resolve conflicts between forest recreational users and environmental values.</p>	<p>2.1 Encourage public awareness and education on appropriate use of forest recreation areas.</p> <p>2.2 Initiate 'record and report' type programs and limited access / key programs within the motorised vehicle community.</p> <p>2.3 Develop a Code of Conduct for Users</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate other Code of Conduct formats such as the Belcarra Model (reference to Eugene Duruisseau's presentation at October Workshop); • Develop environmental standards covering construction, use and maintenance; • Include an educational component.
<p>3. Prevent or resolve conflicts between the various forest recreational user groups.</p>	<p>3.1 Encourage public awareness and education on appropriate use of forest recreation areas.</p> <p>3.2 Initiate 'record and report' type programs and limited access / key programs within the motorised vehicle community.</p> <p>3.3 Develop and/or improve mechanisms for notification, consultation and conflict resolution amongst the user groups.</p> <p>3.4 Foster education and co-operation amongst user groups regarding etiquette.</p> <p>3.5 Maintain the features that provide for the diverse range of quality forest recreation experiences.</p> <p>3.6 Develop a Code of Conduct for Users</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate other Code of Conducts such as the Belcarra Model (contact Eugene Duruisseau); • Include an educational component

Objectives and Strategies continued on next page...



Objectives	Strategies
<p>3. Prevent or resolve conflicts between the various forest recreational user groups</p>	<p>3.7 Require motor vehicles using the trails to be licensed.</p> <p>3.8 Determine appropriate depth of snow to limit use of 4WD and ATV and to maintain snow pack for snowmobiles.</p> <p>3.9 Develop or update a forest recreation management plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the various recreation uses, pattern of uses. • Consider the capacity of the area. • Identify infrastructure needs to support activities. • Recognize that there is a distinction between winter and summer motorised uses. • Refer to previous forest recreation management study by the Chilliwack Forest District.

4.2.2 Non Motorized (including mountain and road biking, horseback riding, hiking, etc.)

Interests/Issues

The following issues were common to all forms of non-motorised uses (mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking and other) in the plan area:

- Need for responsible use by group members and non-members using area.
- Need for other user groups to recognize mountain biking as legitimate recreational event.
- Soil erosion of trails near creeks leading to creek siltation. (Environmental impacts - reference to using properly built fords).
- Informing frequent users of proper etiquette.
- Unauthorized trail building and poor trail conditions.
- Need for 'mountain-bike only' trails.
- BMPF is a potential site for sanctioned racing events or backcountry trails.
- Need for controlled construction of 'extreme' obstacles for all forms of recreation (such as elevated riding and teeter-totters).
- Cyclists should ride up and down the mountain, rather than drive up in trucks.
- Desire to re-establish trails within the plan area to relieve pressure from adjacent Golden Ears Park – with connectivity to existing trails outside of the plan area.
- Rider and equine safety issues including: trail degradation (e.g. deep ruts); loud noises which startle horses (firearms and motorised vehicles); motorised and non-motorised vehicles that are fast moving and startle horses; and unleashed dogs.
- Water quality issues at creek crossings.
- Loss of riding trails or access due to barriers such as fences along 256th Street.
- Need to maintain opportunities for other non-motorised recreational activities such as hiking, bird watching, camping, canoeing, cross country skiing, fishing, hunting,



jogging, kayaking, paragliding, nature walking, sight seeing, and snowshoeing. Add sense of solitude.

- Consider water access needs.

Goal

- Conduct activities in a safe manner that protects environmental values and forest uses, allows for integrated forest recreation use with other user groups, and respects adjacent landowners

Objectives	Strategies
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Objectives and strategies for the above issues have been addressed in previous sections: Access management (4.1) and Forest Recreation Management (motorized) (4.2)

4.3 Environment

4.3.1 General Environmental Issues

Interests/Issues

- The physical carrying capacity of the BMPF ecosystem is a concern as the numbers of users and variety of uses increases. Some activities may have adverse effects on soil erosion, stream sedimentation, wildlife and plant species in particular seasons and locations.
- Lack of suitable inventories.
- Need to define an acceptable level of environmental impact to determine the level of industrial and forest recreation use that can take place.
- Concern about environmental impacts to the plan area given the increasing demands of users in the BMPF due to increasing population in the Lower Mainland.
- Concern regarding unauthorized campfires.

Goal

- Minimize environmental risk and mitigate potential negative impacts on the environment by human activity.

Objectives	Strategies
1. Manage for biological diversity.	1.1 Identify if biodiversity is being conserved at the landscape level. Where there are deficiencies, consider solutions such as creating recruitment areas. 1.2 For future activities, manage for biodiversity at the stand level.

Objectives and Strategies continued on next page...



Objectives	Strategies
2. Make informed decisions about environmental risks and assess impacts	2.1 Conduct scientifically based studies such as base-line studies, hydrological studies and/or refer to data from existing plans or studies and local knowledge. 2.2 Utilize the results from baseline studies, data and assessments to manage for environmental risk.

4.3.2 Water Quality

Interests/Issues

- Concern regarding the maintenance of water (surface and ground) quality for human consumption and for aquatic habitat.
- A hydrological assessment, including mapping and classification of watercourses and watershed boundaries, an analysis of seasonal water flows, licensed use, sedimentation, and pollution sources is required.
- Adverse effect on water quality as a result of forest recreation and industrial activities.
- Need for groundwater management and protection.
- Potential future drinking water sources for communities require management to limit access.
- Dumping of materials into the watercourses adjacent to urban areas is a problem.
- Soil erosion and siltation of water, particularly along the Hydro right of way.
- Water quality and quantity issues in the lower portion of Kanaka Creek.

Goal

- Protect, maintain and restore water quality and quantity throughout the plan area for healthy domestic drinking water and productive fish habitat and aquatic ecosystems.

Objectives	Strategies
1. Recognize significant importance of ground water as a source of drinking water and undertake (require ⁴) an evaluation of ground water flow.	1.1 Identify licensed and non-licensed water users for the purposes of resource development planning and referral. 1.2 Identify potential areas of concern with regards to siltation, terrain stability and surface erosion hazard through overview mapping. 1.3 Evaluate ground water flow to understand risks from activities in the area. 1.4 Support reclamation and restoration projects on a priority basis, and identify areas in need of special management attention with respect to water quality management.

Objectives and Strategies continued on next page...

⁴ Some felt groundwater flow and quality were so important that a study should be required.



Objectives	Strategies
<p>1. Recognize significant importance of ground water as a source of drinking water and undertake (require⁵) an evaluation of ground water flow.</p> <p><i>Continued from previous page</i></p>	<p>1.5 Incorporate sediment control strategies into resource development plans.</p> <p>1.6 Conduct awareness training about the preventative measures of sediment control and erosion events. The target audience includes industrial interests, private landowners and forest recreation users.</p> <p>1.7 Ensure that construction activity, primarily for roads and trails, does not disrupt natural drainage patterns leading to erosion, mass wasting, and debris torrents.</p>
<p>2. Manage human activities to maintain or enhance water quality and minimize water pollution.</p>	<p>2.1 Determine the current status of water use inventories (E.g. Ministry of Water, Air and Land Protection).</p> <p>2.2 Undertake inventory projects to identify and assess sources of water pollution and make recommendations for corrective measures.</p> <p>2.3 Provide opportunities for the installation of water quality monitoring stations.</p> <p>2.4 Support remediation projects on a priority basis.</p> <p>2.5 Provide for adequate enforcement where necessary.</p>
<p>3. Improve the understanding of the water resources in the plan area.</p>	<p>3.1 Conduct water discharge analysis to determine the timing and level of water flows.</p> <p>3.2 Unlicensed domestic water use should be registered with the agency responsible for the allocation of water rights so their use is known and can be considered in resource planning and licensing decisions.</p> <p>3.3 Identify the location of licenced and unlicensed water users.</p>

4.3.3 Riparian Areas

Interests/Issues

- Increasing damage to in-stream and riparian habitats due to disturbances resulting from any development or forest recreation activities.

Goal

- Conserve the natural diversity of riparian areas, including streams, lakes and wetlands.

⁵ Some felt groundwater flow and quality were so important that a study should be required.



Objectives	Strategies
1. Restore damaged aquatic and riparian habitat.	1.1 Identify riparian areas and aquatic habitats that would benefit from restoration or enhancement works. 1.2 Undertake stream restoration projects as identified in 1.1 above. 1.3 Encourage community enhancement programs such as “adopt a stream” or “clean up day” for streams impacted by urban, forest recreation or industrial development activities. 1.4 Establish user-accountability for restoring damaged riparian areas.
2. Reduce the impacts of development and forest recreation activities on in-stream and riparian habitats.	2.1 Develop and implement rehabilitation plans where needed. 2.2 Use appropriate riparian and fish habitat guidelines ⁶ and/or best management practices during planning and development ⁷ . 2.3 Educate and inform resource users regarding the potential to cause negative impacts on riparian areas.

4.3.4 Wildlife

Interests/Issues

- Lack of wildlife and wildlife habitat needs (including wildlife corridors)
- Concern that planning will occur before wildlife concerns can be factored in.

Goal

- A diversity of habitat for naturally occurring species.

Objectives	Strategies
1. Manage human use to reduce impacts on wildlife.	1.1 Develop inventories to understand wildlife habitats. 1.2 Manage activities to avoid negative impacts on key habitat areas. 1.3 Educate and inform BMPF users on potential negative impacts on wildlife habitat from various uses in the area.

⁶ Such as practices identified in the Forest Practices Code regulations.

⁷ Examples include setbacks for watercourses, waste management, storm water management, or in-stream work windows.



4.4 Cultural and Heritage Values⁸

Interests/Issues

- Three generations of loggers have worked on Blue Mountain;
- Limited access restricts carrying out traditional and cultural use activities; on the other hand, broad access can compromise cultural sites or activities.
- Hunting, gathering and cultural use activities may be impacted by other uses or activities.
- Presence of non-First Nation historical sites such as plank roads, reference marker for 1912, survey and old cabins.
- There is high potential for known archaeological sites.
- Goals objectives and strategies will not abrogate or derogate aboriginal title.

Goal

- Maintain cultural heritage values.

Objectives	Strategies
1. Minimize adverse impacts on known sites, activities or uses.	1.1 Identify key cultural heritage values. 1.2 Manage access to respect traditional and cultural use activities. 1.3 Consult with Katzie First Nation with respect to proposed development activities.

4.5 Industry

4.5.1 Timber Harvesting

Interests/Issues

- Concern that noise from harvesting operations may disturb lake users including campers.
- Concern that harvesting activities may impact ecosystem health (including on ground water, streams, and topsoil runoff).
- Concern regarding public safety and loss of use during active harvesting operations.
- Desire to maintain the western slopes of BMPF along Alouette Lake in a natural manner to sustain user enjoyment from Alouette Lake and Golden Ears Park.
- Concern that large woody debris, possibly resulting from harvesting, may enter the Alouette Lake and create a hazard to the Hydro Dam facilities or operation.
- Forest activities should have no detrimental impact on the transmission line facilities.
- Concern regarding damaged tree plantations (possibly from motorised vehicles).

⁸ These goals, objectives and strategies will not abrogate or derogate Aboriginal rights and title.



Goal

- Manage the timber harvesting land base in the BMPF provincial forest as productive crown forest contributing to timber supply in the Chilliwack Forest District.

Objectives	Strategies
<p>1. Harmonize activities between industrial activities/uses and non-industrial activities/uses.</p>	<p>1.1 Forest licensees to restore or provide alternate trails for forest recreation if existing trails become unusable or dangerous as a result of industrial activities</p> <p>1.2 Forest licensees to post notice or provide one month's notice to user groups where trails are to be temporarily out of commission.</p> <p>1.3 Licensees should consider forest recreational uses and events in preparation of development plans.</p> <p>1.4 Forest recreation users should discuss desires for special events with licensees and the Chilliwack Forest District.</p>
<p>2. Provide public input into forest management plans.</p>	<p>2.1 Identify key stakeholders (such as the BMPF stakeholders list) and contact them for input into Management Plans and Forest Development Plans</p> <p>2.2 Advertise these plans in the local newspaper and provide an opportunity for a public viewing and comment.</p> <p>2.3 Ensure that the proponent undertakes a review of the objectives and strategies in the BMPF Forest Recreation Management Strategy prior to undertaking forest planning.</p> <p>2.4 Licensees should make every effort to contact all stakeholders identified in the BMPF Forest Recreation Management Strategy (see Appendix 1).</p> <p>2.5 Explore funding mechanisms, such as Forest Investment Account, to implement a mutually acceptable strategy from this document.</p>
<p>3. Forest practices should be environmentally, economically and socially acceptable.</p>	<p>3.1 Ensure that requirements under the Forest Practices Code are met.</p> <p>3.2 Ensure that forest plans address the full range of other non-timber values.</p> <p>3.3 Establish an acceptable rate of harvest and harvest priority consistent with the Timber Supply Review.</p> <p>3.4 Ensure adequate reforestation of forest development areas.</p>



4.5.2 Minerals and Aggregates

Interests/Issues

- Exploration and mine development will impact other values.
- Impacts associated with exploration and development are a concern to recreational users (visual quality, noise, dust, access, trucks, affects on groundwater and environmental contamination).
- Mineral potential in the area is unknown by the BMPF participants.

Goal

- Exploration and development that is sensitive to other values on Blue Mountain.

Objectives	Strategies
<p>1. Harmonize activities between industrial activities/uses and non-industrial activities/uses.</p>	<p>1.1 Notify the Ministry of Energy and Mines' District Inspector of the BMPF Forest Recreation Management Strategy and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provide the Inspector and the proponent with a copy of the BMPF Forest Recreation Management Strategy document and contact information for the Ad Hoc Users Group; ▪ request that Notices of Work for mechanical surface disturbance within the BMPF area be referred to the BMPF Ad Hoc Users Group contact person for review and comment. <p>1.2 Encourage recreational users to familiarize them-selves with mineral development management via the website at: www.em.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Healsafe/mineereg.htm</p>
<p>2. Provide public input into mineral development proposals within the BMPF area.</p>	<p>2.1 Request that District Inspector consider setting the following conditions on the Notice of Work Permit as per feed back from the Ad Hoc Users Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provide one month's notice to user groups where trails are to be temporarily out of commission. ▪ proponent to consider recreational uses and events in preparation of development plans <p>2.2 Request that any proposals for surface disturbance on mineral claims be made known to the Ad Hoc Users Group by the District Inspector of Mines. Request that proposals involving surface disturbance be advertized for public comment where applicable under appropriate legislation (Note: this process is undergoing a transition as of March , 2003; contact Ministry of Energy and Mines to clarify the process)</p> <p>2.3 Ensure that future proponents undertake a review of the objectives and strategies in the BMPF Forest Recreation Management Strategy prior to undertaking mineral development planning. <i>(continued on next page...)</i></p>



Objectives	Strategies
2. Provide public input into mineral development proposals within the BMPF area. <i>Continued from previous page</i>	2.4 Future proponents should make every effort to contact all stakeholders identified in the BMPF Forest Recreation Management Strategy (see Appendix 1).
3. Mineral development practices should be environmentally, economically and socially acceptable.	3.1 Ensure that the requirements under the Mineral Exploration Code and Mines Act are met. 3.2 Ensure that mineral development plans address the full range of other non-timber values.

4.5.3 Commercial Tourism and Other Commercial Interests

While there were no interests or issues raised regarding other commercial and industrial activities, participants felt that all such activities should be undertaken to harmonize with recreational uses as well as other uses on Blue Mountain, in an environmentally, economically and socially acceptable manner.

4.6 Visual Quality

Interests/Issues

- The view from Golden Ears Park and Alouette Lake to the northern part of the BMPF needs to be considered in planning.
- The view from the south to the southern part of the mountain needs to be preserved and maintained.



Goals

- Maintain scenic quality in Blue Mountain Provincial Forest.

Objectives	Strategies
1. Meet the recommended visual quality classes.	1.1 Identify areas of key visual concern and identify the most sensitive viewpoints for visual management. 1.2 Apply visual design techniques to resource development proposals. 1.3 Conduct visual impact assessments for resource development. 1.4 Utilize existing routes and roads where possible to minimize visual impacts. 1.5 Protect viewsapes in sensitive areas in accordance with recommended Visual Quality Classes and existing visual management framework.



4.7 General Issues

Interests/Issues

A number of general issues were raised as follows:

- Concern about the infringement of urban development within the boundaries of the BMPF.
- Need to ensure tourism opportunities are included in future planning.
- Need to ensure consistency between the management plans of adjacent Woodlots and the BMPF Strategy.
- Concern regarding the ability of government to enforce and monitor recreational and timber harvesting activities under the Forest Practices Code.
- Consider adopting some management strategies used by GETPARC, Buntzen Ridge Wilderness Recreation and Parks Association, Whistler Demonstration Forest, and other successful multi-use areas.
- General lack of communication and co-operation between users.

Objectives	Strategies
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Objectives and strategies for the above issues have been addressed in previous sections.

5 Implementation Considerations

This section describes elements that arose during planning which can be utilized to guide the successful implementation of this Strategy. The key elements are as follows:

- creation of an Ad Hoc Users Group;
- improved communication amongst users;
- implementation of the Strategy;
- preparation of resource use maps; and,
- continual improvement.

5.1 Ad Hoc Users Group

At the conclusion of the December 2002 Workshop, participants decided that it would be effective to form an Ad Hoc Users Group to work out challenges and look for opportunities, and to carry forward elements of this Strategy. Some items that could be addressed by the Users Group include:

- Explore potential funding sources to implement a mutually acceptable strategy from this document and assist with related projects. Consider funding options under the Forest Investment Account⁹ or other grants, and mechanisms to secure funding.
- Identify how the user group can assist with implementing the strategies.
- Identify liability matters to be clarified in the event that the user group wishes to undertake any management roles or development activities.
- Look to other similar groups (e.g. Belcarra Regional Park) for information on governance, responsibilities, liability, et cetera.

As of March, 2003, preliminary meetings had been held to organize the Ad Hoc User Group.

5.2 Communication

A few points were raised through the planning process regarding the value of effective communication. The following should be considered during implementation of the Strategy:

- If issues and strategies can be well articulated to forest managers, industrial users and forest recreation user groups, it is more likely that they will be accounted for adequately.
- Use open communication to deal with conflicts.

⁹ The contact for FIA information on project eligibility and funding is Rina Gemeinhardt, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Vancouver, tel: (604) 484-3490.



5.3 Implementation of the Strategy

Implementing this strategy will require coordination and management, data collection and assessments, monitoring and preparation of plans. Given revised mandates and resourcing limitations in government, a key challenge for both the Ministry of Forests and the Ad Hoc Users Group will be to develop an implementation model to successfully see that elements of the strategy are addressed where possible.

This Strategy has gone a significant distance to clarify the issues and bring parties together in a manner that should lead to more harmonious use of the area. The resulting formation of the Ad Hoc Users Group represents a significant opportunity to land managers as a cohesive umbrella group with which to reference referrals of forest recreation applications, development applications and resource management plans.

It is recommended that the Chilliwack Forest District consider the following in utilizing the Strategy:

- identify which elements of this Strategy they can implement, which are the mandate of others, and which are best suited to the Ad Hoc Users Group;
- utilize the Ad Hoc Users Group for referrals of forest recreation applications or forest development plans, and require that proponents consider this Strategy when undertaking planning and operations; and,
- consult with other related land management agencies (e.g. Ministry of Energy and Mines) and request that the Ad Hoc User Group be referenced for other resource development applications (e.g. mineral development proposals.)

5.4 Preparation of Resource Use Maps

Resource users should clarify on maps the current use areas and provide these to the Chilliwack Forest District to help guide forest development planning. Some mapping assistance is available from the forest district¹⁰.

5.5 Continual Improvement

The Forest Recreation Management Strategy should be reviewed periodically, possibly annually, with the Chilliwack Forest District, to determine the need to update strategies.

¹⁰ Chilliwack Forest District contact is Len Leroux, RPF



Appendix 1 Stakeholders and Participants Contact List (as of March 2003)

BLUE MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL FOREST - PARTICIPANT CONTACT LIST					
AFFILIATION	PRIMARY CONTACT	PHONE # 604-	ALTERNATE CONTACT	PHONE # 604-	Email Addresses
Alouette Field Naturalists	Mike Buckingham	467-4901	Duanne Van den Berg Yukiko Tanaka	462-8676	
Alouette River Management Society	Tom Saare		C. Ollenberger Gerry Miller		
Back Country Horsemen Soc. of BC	Claude Gamache		Pat Gamache		
BC Hydro	Gary Holisko				
BC Parks	Tom Blackbird	824-2304			
BCIT Forest Society	Roald Kley		Jonathan Smyth		
			Jace Standish	432-8862	
Beaver Canoe Club	David Westell				
Blue Mountain & Kanaka Creek Conservation Group	John Castiello	462-7617	Dwight Milford Dawn Paley Mike Gildersleeve	463-3389 462-9843	
Blue Mountain Woodlot Ltd.	Hubert Bunce	922-2995	Russ Jones		
Canada Pacific Trails Assn	Eugene Duruisseau	931-6930	Don Doerksen		
C & L Logging Co. Ltd.	Dan Carlson	463-9616			NO EMAIL, PLEASE FAX Meeting Information to 604 466-9672
Crosstrails Adventures of BC	Barry Lyster				
District of Maple Ridge	Kim Grout		Jim Charlebois	467-7394	
District of Mission	Kelly Cameron				
Drifters Rod and Reel Club	Dennis Swensson				
Endurance Riders Assn of BC	Fred Voglmaier		Terre Obrennan		
Forest Gold Products	Arnold Dreihhaar				NO EMAIL, PLEASE FAX Meeting Information to 604 462-0970
Four Wheel Drive Assn of BC	Jeff Steiger		Wes Rempel Gerry Bolduc Paul Gagnon	306-0091 421-5322	

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Blue Mountain Provincial Forest – Forest Recreation Management Strategy

AFFILIATION	PRIMARY CONTACT	PHONE # 604-	ALTERNATE CONTACT	PHONE # 604-	Email Addresses
Fraser Valley Dirt Riders Assn	Jeff Hackett		Al Norman	462-7869	
Golden Ears Athletics	Andrew Lenton				
Greater Vancouver Regional Parks	Will McKenna		Wendy Dadalt		
Hammond Streamkeepers	Jim Bradshaw	460-0117			
Haney Horseman Assn	Geoff Lawlor				
Kanaka Education & Environmental Partnership Society	Dave Smith		John Heaven		
Katzie First Nation	Debbie Miller	465-8961	Mike Leon and Peter James		
Lionsgaters Four Wheel Drive Society	John Edgar Pam Hansen	985-1495 929-6001	Dave Hansen Chris Donald	421-5657	
Maple Ridge Equestrian Trails Council	Tim Wittenberg	n/a	Fred Voglmaier		
Ministry of Forests - Chilliwack Forest District	John Coles	702-5700			
North Fraser Trail	Bill Archibald	463-9586	Janet Dmitrieff		
Pacific Northwest Motorcycle Assn	Errol Borsky	298-5068	Deb Maberly and David Lock		
Private Land Owner	Terry Shouchuck				
Ridge Riders Mountain Bike Club	Lorne Smith	462-8877	Barry Lyster		
Summit Seekers	George Scott	533-0136	Lou Foret		
Team Pagan Motorcycle Club	Doug Young				
Thunderbird Four Wheel Drive Club	Ken Ewert		Garry Chretien		
UBC Malcom Knapp Research Forest	Michael Main	463-8148			
West Coast Soaring Club	Rob Samplonius				
Western Canada Wilderness Committee	Joe Foy	683-8220	Gwen Barlee		
Whonnock Community Assn	Allan Springman	462-8114			
International Mountain Bicycling Association			John Gowans		
DFO			Janice Jarvis		
Concerned Citizens	Don Rhodes Simon Challenger	462-1514			
Thomas Haney High School Community Studies	Naomi Bollman Erin Elliot	467-5054 465-8666			

Appendix 2 Blue Mountain Provincial Forest Resource Information Maps 1 and 2

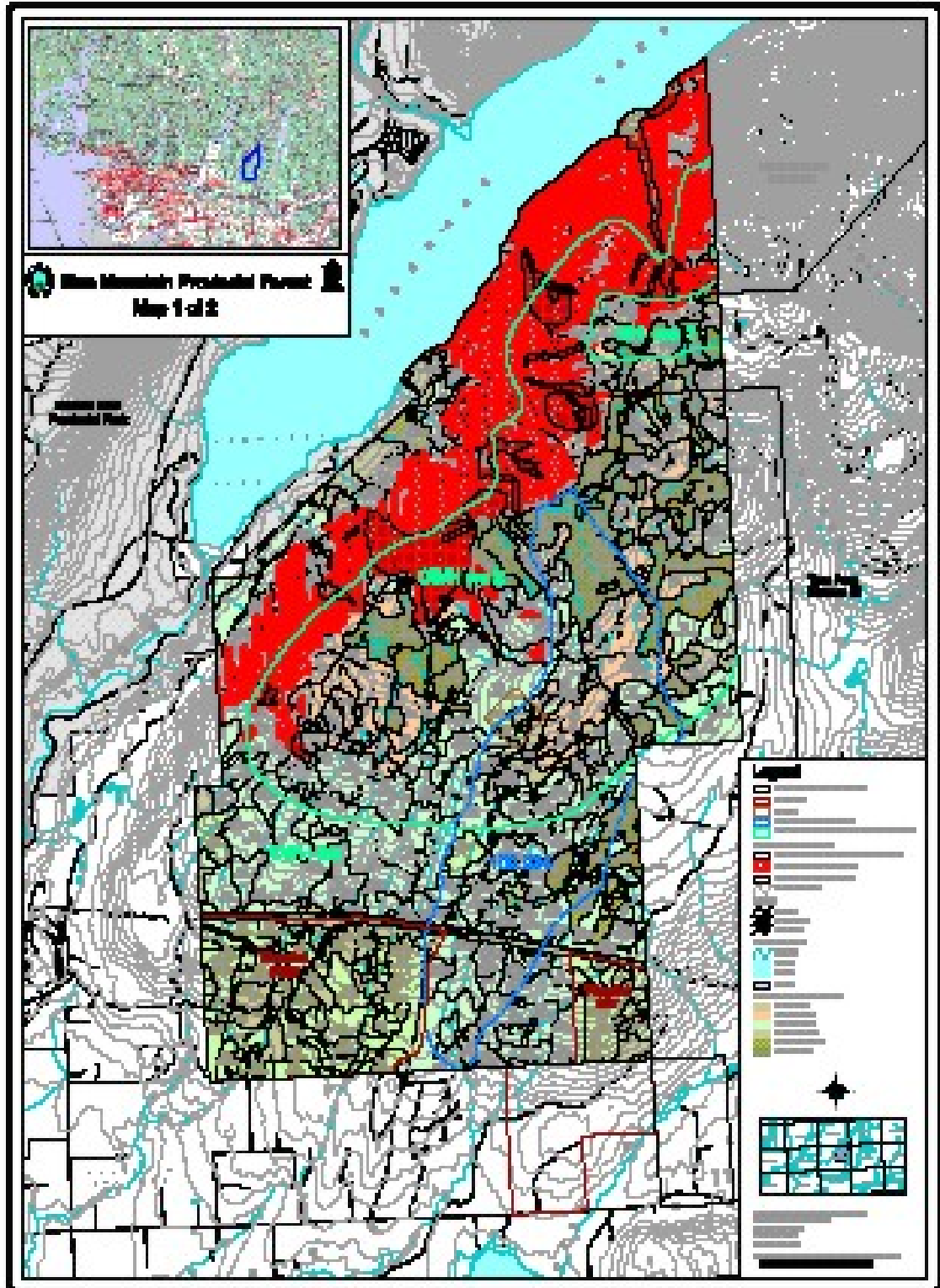
Reduced maps have been provided here.

Map 1 of 2: Refer to http://www.enfor.com/plans/management/bmpf/blumtn_pfor.pdf

Map 2 of 2: Refer to http://www.enfor.com/plans/management/bmpf/blumtn_irsd.pdf

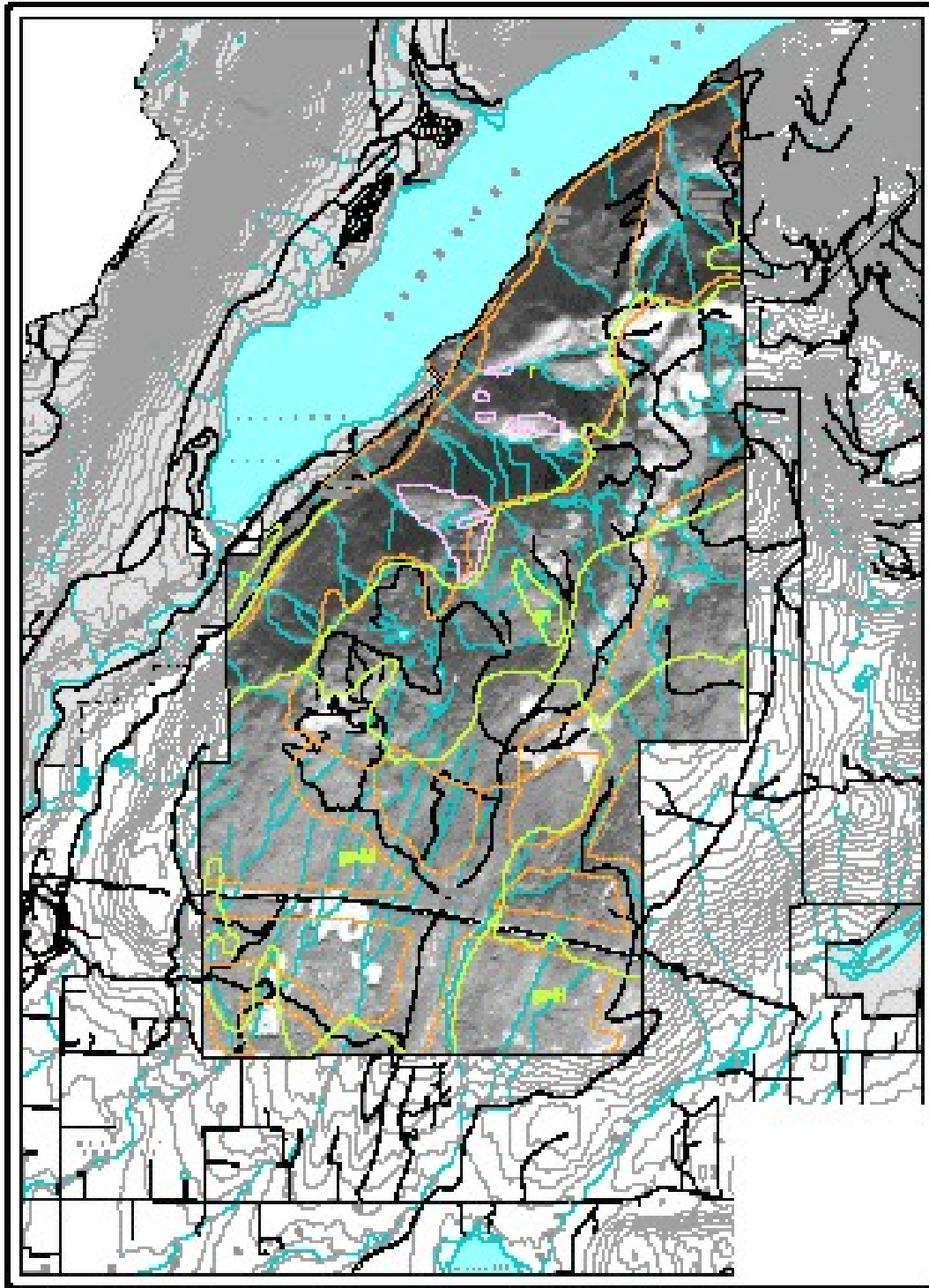
Insert Map 1 of 2

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Insert Map 2 of 2

Refer to http://www.enfor.com/plans/management/bmpf/blumtn_irsd.pdf (file size 3MB)



Appendix 3 Referral Respondents

The following participants provided written comments on the draft Strategy during the review in February 2003. The internal review was intended to ensure that the consultants had correctly captured the interests/issues, goals, objectives, strategies and vision statement developed by the participants during the workshops held in October and December 2002. Comments were incorporated where they resulted in clarification.

	Participant	Context of Comments
1.	Blue Mountain Woodlot – Russ Jones, RPF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder to remove woodlots from study area. • Remove incorrect roads.
2.	Chilliwack Forest District – John Coles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of Vision Statement.
3.	Corporation of the District of Maple Ridge – Jim Charlebois, MURP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern for implementation. • Indicate how forest companies are required to incorporate goals. • Need for coordination, management and funding. • Develop a business plan.
4.	Dennis Kinsey, Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed to reopening the gate to unlimited access.
5.	District of Mission – Kelly Cameron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 12, 1.7 – opposed to relocating road access to recreational users to TFL 26. • Page 22, 4.5.1 – change from Stave Lake to Alouette Lake.
6.	Don Rhodes, Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding the access issue, recommendations are sound and feasible. • Information will generate awareness with the various users. • Complementary regarding the professionalism for handling their concerns.
7.	Greater Vancouver Regional Parks – Wendy DaDalt and Will McKenna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document adequately proposes modern “best practices”. • Nothing in the document that bothered us without greater detail and commitments. • Major concerns is too maintain recreation values and components in the BMPF. • Desire to reference the GVRD goal to connect Kanaka Ck Regional Park with the BC Hydro Right of Way by a corridor of Crown land; interested in seeing the province turn over a corridor of land along the mainstem at least to the upper falls just north of the BC Hydro Right of Way. • Will take a commitment from all groups to implement the Strategy. • Role of the Adhoc User Group could be important. • Contact GVRD if any questions about WRAP or other Park Associations.

Continued from previous page...

	Participant	Context of Comments
8.	Hammond Stream Keepers – Jim Bradshaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should state that Blue Mountain and Kanaka Creek Conservation Group are not in agreement with any proposed logging activity on Blue Mountain.• State that the report is the opinion of the many user groups, the consultant and the MOF.• Vision statement relates to economic uses being a part of all's vision, which it is not• A number of unverifiable assertions about the process and the strategy.
9.	John Castiello	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not in agreement with the contents or the strategy approach.
10.	Lions Gaters Four Wheel Drive Society – Chris Donald and John Edgar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Document generally looks fine.• Provided a number of minor text edits throughout the report.
11.	Pacific Northwest Motorcycle Association – David Lock	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Document looks very positive; hope it starts something wonderful between our groups.• Compliments on the work completed.
12.	UBC Research Forest – Michael Main, RPF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wondered why the title was “Forest Recreation Management Strategy” when there are a variety of forest management and conservation issues.• The Adhoc group will be the ones that will really put the document into action.