

## **THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA – VANCOUVER SECTION**

c/o The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.

130 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1P3

voicemail: (604)878-5272

website: [www.accvancouver.ca](http://www.accvancouver.ca) and [www.alpineclubofcanada.ca](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca)

8 March, 2008

Coquihalla Pass Resort Project  
Graeme McLaren, Project Assessment Director  
Environmental Assessment Office  
PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

### Re: Comments on Draft Terms of Reference for the Coquihalla Pass Resort Project

The Alpine Club of Canada (ACC), Vancouver Section, submits this letter in response to the Draft Terms of Reference for the Coquihalla Pass Resort Development Project. The ACC is Canada's national mountaineering organization and a member of the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA). The ACC has over 7500 members in 19 regional sections across the country, and their main activities are climbing, mountaineering, backcountry skiing and hiking. The ACC Vancouver Section has 330 members in the BC Lower Mainland. The ability to pursue non-motorized recreation in the backcountry in ways that are sensitive to environmental and social considerations is fundamental to ACC members.

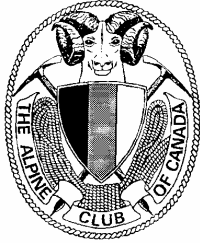
The proposed project location is a popular trip destination for our members, in particular Zoa Peak for ski and snowshoe trips in winter. It is an easy day trip from Vancouver and the Lower Mainland. Zoa Peak is accessible to all skill levels and provides good ski terrain even in adverse avalanche conditions. In the past, we had user conflict with snowmobiling in the area, but this has been successfully resolved through a zoning agreement.

The ACC Vancouver Section has identified gaps in the Draft Terms of Reference regarding existing recreational land use. The Terms of Reference should specify the following items to be included in the proponent's application:

#### **5.8.2 Current Use of Land Resources (page 21)**

The current Draft Terms of Reference indicate simply a discussion of current recreation land use, but quantitative and spatial documentation is extremely important for understanding the project's impacts on current recreational users.

- Topographic map that shows routes used by current backcountry recreationists in the project area and in the surrounding area affected by the project through noise, vision, access or otherwise. Include summer trails and routes, climbing routes, winter routes, etc.



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- Documentation of current backcountry use with quantitative user data by activity (e.g. skiing, snowshoeing, hiking): number of users, origin of users, typical trip length.
- Characterization of current non-motorized recreational experiences in the area (e.g. views, wilderness experience, difficulty level of trip, etc.).
- Estimated valuation of current non-motorized recreational experiences in the area. Valuation can be approximated, for example, by the users' travel time or travel distance to the recreation area.

### **7.1 Cumulative Effects Assessment (page 30)**

- Include impacts on existing non-motorized recreation in the local area of the project in the cumulative effects assessment.
- Include the assessment of past or existing activities as well as proposed or likely projects that have an impact on non-motorized recreation, for example other proposed four-season resorts and motorized recreational land use (heli-skiing, heli-hiking, snowmobiling, cat-skiing, etc.).
- The spatial scale for this assessment is to be determined by where the recreational users travel from to the local study area.

Sincerely,

Rob Brusse  
Alpine Club of Canada Vancouver - Section Chair  
Member of the Board Alpine Club of Canada

Antje Wahl  
Access & Environment Chair  
Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Section

cc: Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC  
cc: Alpine Club of Canada, Access & Environment Committee  
cc: Jim Hamlin, Club Tread