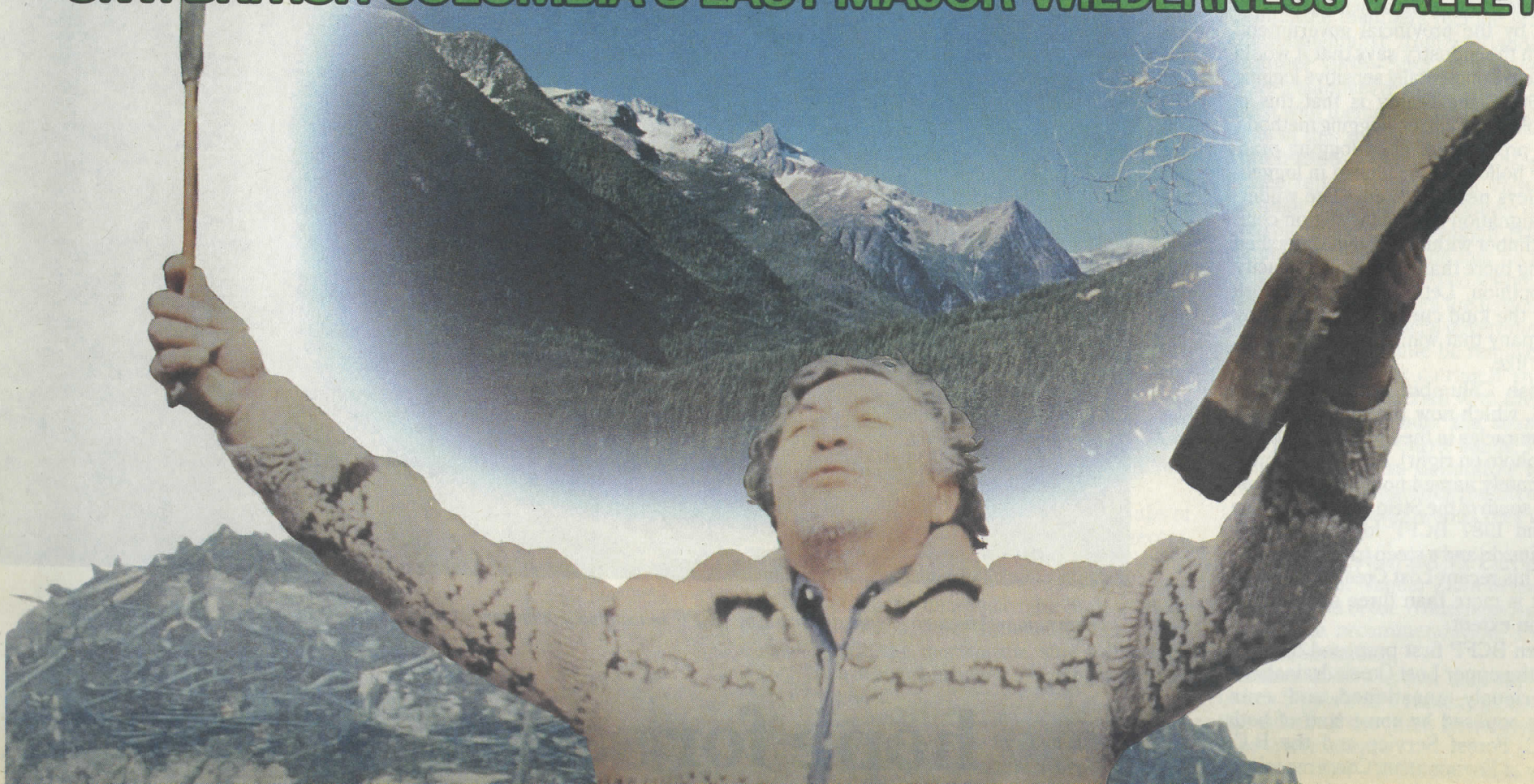


February 1988

Complimentary National Edition

Save the Stein

S.W. BRITISH COLUMBIA'S LAST MAJOR WILDERNESS VALLEY



A photograph of a person standing in a field of cut logs and debris. The person is wearing a light-colored, patterned sweater and blue jeans. The ground is covered with a large amount of cut logs and debris, suggesting a logging site. The person is standing in the center of the frame, with the logs and debris surrounding them.

**Company planning
to log valley
has poor
environmental record**

(see page 2)

*New hope
for saving
the Stein*

(see page 2)

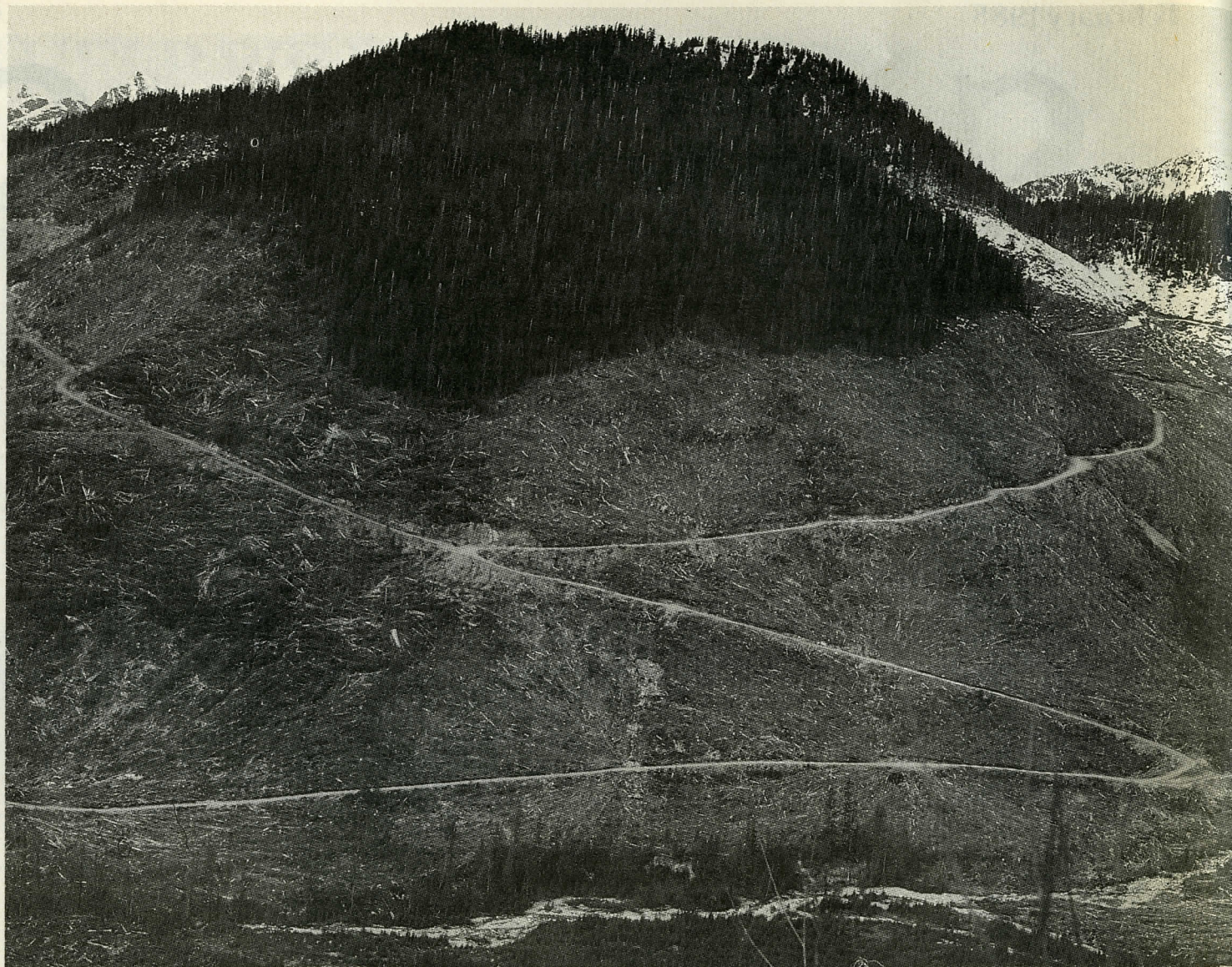
BCFP has poor record

Modern logging, no matter how it is done, causes environmental degradation. The valley bottoms of the Stein cannot be logged while at the same time the rest of the watershed remains wilderness, as claimed by the provincial government. Although the industry says that it would practise environmentally sensitive logging in the Stein, the reality is that this is impossible using current logging methods.

The promises of good logging practices are hollow, as evidenced in logged-over valleys near the Stein. The wilderness designation of areas with non-commercial timber within the Stein watershed is nothing more than sweet talk to pacify public opinion. Let's see what modern logging, the kind currently practised by the company that wants to log the Stein, is really like.

British Columbia Forest Products (BCFP), which now promises environmental miracles in the Stein, logged Lost Creek (photo on right). Lost Creek, most appropriately named now, is located just 100 km. south of the Stein Valley. Between 1984 and 1987 BCFP logged a whole mountainside and a steep tributary valley there. This recent Lost Creek watershed clearcut is more than three square kilometres in extent.

When BCFP first proposed this logging in the upper Lost Creek drainage, it was seriously questioned and even strongly opposed by some staff of both the B.C. Forest Service and the B.C. Ministry of Environment. Concerns raised included the excessive rate of logging in a drainage already suffering flash flooding from previous BCFP logging, the logging



Three square kilometre clearcut created by BCFP in unnamed tributary of Lost Creek, 100 km. south of the Stein Valley.

New hope for saving the Stein

After a meeting with the Lytton and Mt. Currie bands on Feb. 4, Dave Parker.

But the opposition grew until the Stein has taken on the same provincial and

frontation and reversing its decisions. South Moresby was saved and compro-

included the excessive rate of logging in a drainage already suffering flash flooding from previous BCFP logging, the logging of fire breaks (areas of standing timber usually left to prevent the rapid spread of forest fires) and the logging of steep unstable creek gullies.

Despite these concerns, the B.C. Forest Service caved in to pressure from BCFP and approved the company's logging plans with only minor revisions. As predicted, the logging of the steep creek gullies caused extensive erosion, and this massive new deforestation increased the rate of rain runoff even more. During a heavy rain in November of 1986, the creek became choked with logging debris which backed up under a bridge and washed out a logging road.

Combined with the almost complete clear-cutting of the commercial forests in this watershed over the last 25 years, the accelerated runoff causes periodic flash floods. The main channel of Lost Creek has already eroded to more than four times its original width, washing away many acres of the best tree-growing land in the lower valley. In addition, flash floods have destroyed roads and bridges and washed away recreational cabins.

Lost Creek sacrificed for enhanced profits

Despite environmental warnings, BCFP lobbied for and got some of the last remaining stands of environmentally sensitive old growth forest in Lost Creek. Placing short term corporate profits above long term stewardship of the land is standard practice in the logging industry. Lost Creek is not an isolated example. Would you trust this company with the sacred Stein?

After a meeting with the Lytton and Mt. Currie bands on Feb. 4, Dave Parker, minister of forests is recommending to cabinet that a seven month Stein "study period" take place.

The five hour meeting with Parker was open to the media for the first few hours. The forest minister said the media made it a "zoo." Progress came during the afternoon in closed sessions when Parker accepted the band's request for a logging moratorium. During the proposed seven month study period, there will be a search for alternatives to logging.

At the meeting the bands said that they would be willing to "develop the Stein"... but not with logging or roads." The bands contended that if conservation measures were taken at the mills and in the clearcuts throughout the rest of the timber supply area, the extra wood would make up for the Stein timber.

The proposed study period will give time to substantiate a realistic economic alternative to logging the Stein. It will also provide a cooling down period in what is now a hot controversy.

During the meeting with the bands, the minister also indicated that the government would respect the report of the government-appointed Wilderness Advisory Committee which, almost two years ago, recommended that no road be built in the Stein Canyon without a formal agreement with the Lytton Band.

When asked point blank by a reporter in a press conference after the Feb. 4 meeting, "Are you willing to make a commitment that there will be no road in there without some kind of an understanding, a formal understanding, with the Lytton and Mt. Currie people?" Parker responded, "that's basically the point. I guess, if you will pardon the pun, that's the road we are on.... The Stein was indicated today to have a number of historic, economic and spiritual values to the Lytton Band and I think, in the context of the future, it should continue to do so."

Six months ago the B.C. government made an announcement that the Stein would be logged, the road bulldozed up the Stein Canyon against all opposition.

But the opposition grew until the Stein has taken on the same provincial and national importance as South Moresby did just before it was protected.

The "Save the Stein fight" however still has an urgency since the B.C. government has a history of provoking con-

frontation and reversing its decisions. South Moresby was saved and compromised several times before the final decision to establish the National Park Reserve. It was only continued letters and public pressure that won the day for conservation.

Rediscovery program threatened by logging

In 1986 Stein Rediscovery was established to put youth back in touch with themselves and this sacred valley - to help them rediscover an essential process which had been disrupted in recent times. Today, boys and girls, natives and non-natives, from all social backgrounds can benefit from the educational, self-awareness and adventure opportunities offered through Stein Rediscovery.

The program is an adventure of the mind, body and spirit from start to finish. Getting to and from camp is a challenging adventure in itself.

While pre-teen campers may arrive or depart base camp by helicopter, all teen sessions begin and end their two-week odyssey with a three-day hike. An exciting descent from one of the beautiful mountain passes to base camp is followed by another three-day expedition through the lower river canyon to Lytton at the end of the session. This 80 km traverse of the watershed has a remarkable way of bringing individuals out of themselves and together as a group, to meet the challenges and experience the rewards of a rugged wilderness adventure.

The Rediscovery base camp, located at the confluence of the Stein River and Cottonwood Creek, allows for experiences very different from those of the trail. Each day in camp begins with a "rabbit run" through the forest and a "bird bath" in the cold river before breakfast. As a family unit, everyone helps in the camp chores

of wood cutting, water hauling, dish washing, and also in supplementing the camp diet through gardening, fishing and wild food foraging.

One of the features which most distinguishes Rediscovery programs from other wilderness camps is the role that native elders play in teaching traditional crafts and skills. The art of weaving spruce root and cedar baskets, native cooking, wood carving, medicinal plant use, Indian tanning and leathercraft are unique learning opportunities the elders provide in the program.

Nowhere is the role of the elders more important than in preparing youth for their solo vision quest. From the vow of silence and fasting, to the ritual cleansing in the river, to the final purification in the sweat lodge, elders help youth share in the sacred rituals of the vision quest.

While Stein Rediscovery is designed to primarily serve the needs of Lytton, Lillooet and Mt. Currie youth, any youngster - native or non-native - from any area of the world is eligible to take part in the program.

With so many positive reports coming out about the importance of the program it is sad to note that should the logging road be built, the first cut block will be the area around the Rediscovery camp. Logging will destroy the program, yet another assault on the native people who claim the Stein as their heritage.



ARGUMENTS REFUTED

Here are the five most popular arguments put forward by those who want to log the Stein and the answers provided by wilderness supporters.

Stein. Instead of stockpiling the logs for use in local mills, the companies opted for quick short-term profits.

Ancient history to 1807- Ni'akapmx' people, ancestors of Lytton Indians, have main village, Cumshin, at the present site of Lytton. Stein Valley used for vision questing, food and cedar bark gathering, and as a trade route.

1808- First contact with Europeans. Simon Fraser meets people of Cumshin while searching for a new route to the Pacific.

1858- 10,000 men rush into the Fraser Canyon in search of gold.

1859- Henry Ball, the first gold commissioner, preempts a farm near Stein mouth, later called Earls court. He is the first non-native landowner in the Lytton area.

1862- Smallpox epidemic wipes out more than two-thirds of the Lytton Indians.

1920s- First timber cruisers in the Stein find timber stands too small and road building too costly to justify logging.

1973- B.C. Forest Service carries out a logging feasibility study for the Stein and finds logging uneconomical.

1973- First of many citizens briefs recommending preservation of the Stein presented to B.C. government.

1974- B.C. government announces a two year moratorium on any Stein watershed development in order to evaluate different management plans.

1975- Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. completes a two volume study recommending preservation of the Stein Valley.

May 1976- B.C. government ends moratorium and announces the Stein is available for logging, while withholding from public the moratorium study on which this decision is based. No public hearings are held.

November 1976- Moratorium study released to public. It does not support government decision to immediately open the Stein to development. It recommends that the Stein be preserved because it is uneconomical to log. It also recommends that the valley be taken out of the annual

the study since it is uneconomical to log the Stein without taxpayer subsidies.

Summer 1985- The Lillooet Tribal Council sponsors the first Voices for the Wilderness Festival. More than 500 people gather in the Stein alpine to celebrate and dedicate themselves to preserving the watershed.

October 1985- B.C. government forms a Wilderness Advisory Committee to make recommendations on 16 proposed wilderness areas, including the Stein. Committee members include one token environmentalist, from Scotland!

Summer 1986- Stein Rediscovery program established to put youth back in touch with themselves and their ancestral roots in this sacred valley.

March 1986- Wilderness Advisory Committee report released. In view of the heritage and spiritual values of Stein Canyon to the Lytton Indian Band, the committee recommends that no road be constructed up the canyon without a formal agreement between the Lytton Indian Band and the provincial government, and that the wood volume be removed from timber available for cutting if an agreement cannot be reached with the band.

Summer 1986- Under the auspices of the Lytton and Mt. Currie bands, Western Canada Wilderness Committee recruits volunteers and upgrades the Stein Heritage Trail from Cottonwood Creek to Stein Lake.

Sept. 1986- Lytton and Mt. Currie bands invite Premier Vander Zalm to the Stein for discussion of the Wilderness Advisory Committee recommendation. Premier declines invitation.

October 1986- Lytton and Mt. Currie Indian bands host a two day gathering at the mouth of the Stein River. Over 700 supporters attend.

Summer 1987- WCWC continues work on Stein trail system, completing a trail from Blowdown Pass to Cottonwood Creek.

August 1987- Lytton and Mt. Currie

ARGUMENTS REFUTED

Here are the five most popular arguments put forward by those who want to log the Stein and the answers provided by wilderness supporters.

STEIN LOGGING ADVOCATES SAY:

Logging the Stein Valley is necessary to preserve forest industry jobs in the local communities. Without the Stein timber the Lytton and Boston Bar sawmills will have to close down throwing hundreds of people out of their jobs in these small communities.

Stein wilderness supporters respond:

The fact is that the Stein timber can only provide, at best, a short extension to the life of the logging industry in the area. The forest companies have been drastically over-harvesting the available old growth timber for decades. With or without logging the Stein, the local mills will be running out of wood in the near future if the current rate of deforestation continues.

The local forest industry is currently logging the forests surrounding the Stein at a rate of 12,000 logging truckloads per year faster than the wood is growing back, according to B.C. Forest Service statistics (based on one truck load equalling 30 cubic metres of wood).

The amount of harvestable wood in the Stein is tiny - about 70,000 truck loads. This is enough to extend the life of the two local mills by only three years at the rate they are currently processing wood, if they relied solely on this supply. In comparison, making use of slightly smaller diameter trees (12.5 cm. instead of the current wasteful standard of 17.5 cm.) would increase the wood supply in the surrounding forests by more timber than the total found in the Stein.

Since 1985, local logging companies obtained government approval to export over 14,000 logging truck loads of raw logs out of the Fraser Canyon just south of the Stein. This is equivalent to nearly one fifth the total supply found in the

Stein. Instead of stockpiling the logs for use in local mills, the companies opted for quick short-term profits.

Logging the Stein will require large government subsidies. Taxpayers will have to pay for a new bridge over the Fraser which will cost about \$5 million and the logging companies will be compensated for most of their road building costs.

In short, logging the Stein will not prevent the inevitable timber shortages and related job losses in the Fraser Canyon. The solutions lie instead in lowering the harvest rates to a sustainable level, increasing the efficiency of the mills to make better use of the wood that is cut, doing a better job of reforestation, and diversifying the local economy by encouraging the manufacture of value-added products and wilderness tourism.

STEIN LOGGING ADVOCATES SAY:

Only 9,500 hectares or nine percent of the Stein watershed will be affected by logging. The rest, 91 percent, will remain wilderness.

Stein wilderness supporters respond:

The nine percent scheduled to be logged includes all of the rich valley bottoms of the Stein watershed. Valley bottoms are the lifeblood of natural ecosystems. They provide winter habitat for the ungulates, and are, biologically speaking, the richest part of a watershed. Building a road down the main valley and into almost every side valley of the Stein to remove the low elevation forest will destroy 100 percent of the wilderness character of the watershed.

The idea of building a logging road up the "Lower Stein Wilderness" - the lower canyon - with its steep rock walls and narrow valley bottom and calling it a wilderness is using the term "wilderness" as Orwellian news speak. It is blatantly misleading.

Continued page 6

leased to preserve the Stein. Immediate government decision to immediately open the Stein to development. It recommends that the Stein be preserved because it is uneconomical to log. It also recommends that the valley be taken out of the annual cut calculation so that the logging industry does not build a dependence on the area's timber. It further recommends that, should the area be profitable to log in the future, then its value in timber should be weighed against its value as a complete watershed.

It recommends that the Stein be preserved because it is uneconomical to log. It also recommends that the valley be taken out of the annual cut calculation so that the logging industry does not build a dependence on the area's timber.

1977 - Save the Stein Coalition formed, including all of B.C.'s major environmental and recreation organizations.

1979 - Exploring the Stein River Valley by Roger Freeman and David Thompson published. This book provides detailed information on the trails and hiking in the Stein.

1982 - Tourist Industry Development Committee releases a joint federal-provincial study advising that the Stein should be preserved as a Class A provincial park because of its strategic proximity to Vancouver and its unique status as an untouched watershed.

1984 - Stein Public Advisory Committee (sponsored by B.C. Forest Service) submits its final report to the Ministry of Forests. The report addresses how best to log the Stein, although the chairman of the committee points out the futility of

leaving the Stein as a wilderness. The provincial government continues work on Stein trail system, completing a trail from Blowdown Pass to Cottonwood Creek.

August 1987 - Lytton and Mt. Currie Indian bands host another Voices for the Wilderness Festival in the Stein alpine. More than 2,000 people gather for three days of speeches and musical inspiration.

September 1987 - Provincial government announces road building into the Stein Valley will proceed as rapidly as possible. No negotiation or discussions with Lytton Band take place.

October 1987 - Lytton Indian Band and Mt. Currie Indian Band sign the Stein Declaration stating, "Under the cooperative authority of our two bands we will maintain the Stein Valley as a wilderness in perpetuity for the enjoyment and enlightenment of all peoples and the enhancement of the slender life thread on this planet."

November 1987 - Lytton Indian Band again requests a meeting with the provincial government to discuss the Wilderness Advisory Committee's recommendations on the Stein.

January 1988 - The Lytton Indian Band announced it will be requesting a United Nations investigation on violations of religious rights in the imposed logging of the Stein.

January 1988 - The Lytton Indian Band accepts a Feb. 4 meeting date with Forest Minister Dave Parker on the condition that he "confirm in writing that he will come to Lytton with full authority to represent the provincial government and that the agenda for the meeting is dictated by Stein recommendation No.3 of the Wilderness Advisory Committee." Parker responds, "A minister of the crown speaks for the government in the discharge of his/her ministry duties, and we will be discussing the report of the Wilderness Advisory Committee."

February 4, 1988 - B.C. forest minister meets with Lytton and Mt. Currie bands and promises that no road will be built into the Stein without a formal agreement with the bands. The meeting results in a proposal for a seven month moratorium on logging and a search for solutions.



STEIN VALLEY

Santas brought Joy to the World to many at Christmas

Three days before Christmas, not just one but a dozen Santas roamed downtown Vancouver handing out free Stein posters. Countless helpers in bright red Joy to the World T-shirts refilled the Santas' sacks when they were empty. The little teams were everywhere!

In seven frantic hours, more than 18,000 rolled up Stein Valley Joy to the World posters - each one tied with a red ribbon and sporting a label which said "Caution frameable print" - were given to delighted office workers and Christmas shoppers in downtown Vancouver.

In Victoria, Lytton, Lillooet and other B.C. communities, volunteers were also giving away the poster. What better way to celebrate the spirit of Christmas than to bring the beauty of a place with more than five million naturally grown Christmas trees - the Stein Valley wilderness - to the people of B.C.

Within two weeks the entire project went from concept to reality. The concept and the money to carry out this Santa escapade came from a member of Western Canada Wilderness Committee. He is a person of modest means who loves the Stein so much that he was willing to go into debt to do something that would be effective in the fight to save this valley.

Once the posters were printed there was the seemingly impossible task of getting the seven metre-high pile of posters rolled and ribboned. More than 30 of

Santa's helpers lent a hand at a gigantic poster rolling party that went on for three days and nights. After hundreds of hours of volunteer work by Stein wilderness believers, the job was done - just hours before Santa's appointed hour.

Once the posters were printed there was the seemingly impossible task of getting the seven metre-high pile of posters rolled and ribboned.

Even though we fell far short of reaching every household in British Columbia, the entire Joy to the World poster project brightened up Christmas for a lot of people. The reaction was overwhelming, with only one exception (one person who said that the forest in the poster looked like a wheat field ready to be harvested. We said get a pair of glasses!) Everyone else was delighted.

One thing for sure. All the Santas claimed that Rudolf and the other deer are for a roadless Stein!

Natives tak violation case t

Citing violations of international principles of human justice, the Lytton and Mt. Currie Indian bands have prepared a formal complaint to the United Nations Committee on Human Rights in response to the Vander Zalm government's intent to allow the blasting of a road into the Stein Valley wilderness.

"This wilderness watershed has been both our breadbasket and our cathedral for tens of thousands of years," stated Lytton Chief Ruby Dunstan. "It is the tradition of our people to follow Stein Valley pathways to physical and spiritual maturity. The forests of the Stein have sustained our cultures from our earliest memories and continue to make us strong today."

"B.C. is violating fundamental human rights guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Canada is a party. All peoples should have the right of self-determination and freedom of religion, but at the Stein you seem to have to be non-Indian first," continues Chief Dunstan.

The bands' complaint is based on the alleged violation of universal rights guaranteed in Articles 1 and 18 of the Covenant that would be caused by building roads into and logging of the Stein. Article 1 of this UN document affirms, "In no case

may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence." Article 18 states, "No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice."

"The provincial blue-ribbon Wilderness Advisory Committee saw that any road up the Stein Canyon would bulldoze our spiritual and cultural values and that our dignity as a people would be trampled underfoot in the rush to log the Stein," asserts Chief Dunstan. "This Committee's recognition of the need for a formal agreement between the provincial government and the Lytton Indian Band prior to road building is consistent with international principles of human justice enshrined in the U.N. Convention. The Vander Zalm government has dismissed their own committee's recommendation, and with it our fundamental human rights."

When on Sept. 30, 1987, the provincial government announced its decision to build a road into the Stein wilderness, it insisted the move was consistent with the recommendations of the Wilderness Advisory Committee. Although that committee called for a formal agreement with the Lytton Indian Band prior to such a move, the B.C. government contended that the band had been unwilling to meet



JOY TO THE WORLD

e
o UN

The facts show just the opposite. The Lytton and Mt. Currie bands had requested just such a meeting with Premier Vander Zalm more than a year previous. No meeting took place.

"It's not too surprising that the provincial government has again turned a blind eye to the 'invisible' Indians at the Stein," stated Mt. Currie Chief Leonard Andrew. "Mr. Vander Zalm made his view clear when on Oct. 4, 1987 he called the native peoples at the Stein a 'minority group' and stated we 'can't have the minority dictating to everybody else what will or will not happen.'"

"We're not a minority at the Stein Valley," Chief Andrew explained, "We're indigenous nations living within our traditional boundaries where we continue to exercise the responsibilities for homelands which have been handed down to us by our ancestors. If Mr. Vander Zalm cannot see us, it is because to him we are merely a minor obstacle in his pursuit of the almighty dollar. On the global scale it is situations like ours which have under-served the need for the International Covenant. We expect far more understanding from the United Nations than we have received thus far from the Vander Zalm government."

90 km. trail system

One of B.C.'s most spectacular

The photo above, featured in the Stein Valley - Joy to the World poster was taken from the Stein Heritage Trail. Looking southwest towards the junction of Rutledge Creek and the Stein River, this image (actually two overlapping 35 mm slides digitally spliced by computer) shows just a small part of the Stein.

It is not hard to imagine that the Stein Valley is a mysterious and complex living organism. Photographed from a satellite, on a cloudless day last September, the Stein watershed looked like a light green alder leaf. Every surrounding watershed appeared like alder leaves too, except along their stems where they appeared to have a blight, the unmistakable rectangular brown scars of clear-cut logging.

Whether or not a watershed is a living entity within Gaia is a moot question. But for sure, a major unroaded, unlogged, undammed watershed is becoming a very rare organism worldwide.

To really see the Stein Valley from a human perspective, one must walk the Stein Heritage Trail from river mouth to high alpine pass. Under the auspices of the Lytton and Mt. Currie Indian bands,

Western Canada Wilderness Committee coordinated the efforts of hundreds of people who volunteered time to work on the trail, donated materials for cable crossings and bridges, and contributed financially to the project. They have made this trail system one of the most spectacular in B.C.

The system now comprises more than 90 km. of upgraded heritage trail, including 3 cable crossings and 3 foot bridges over dangerous river courses.

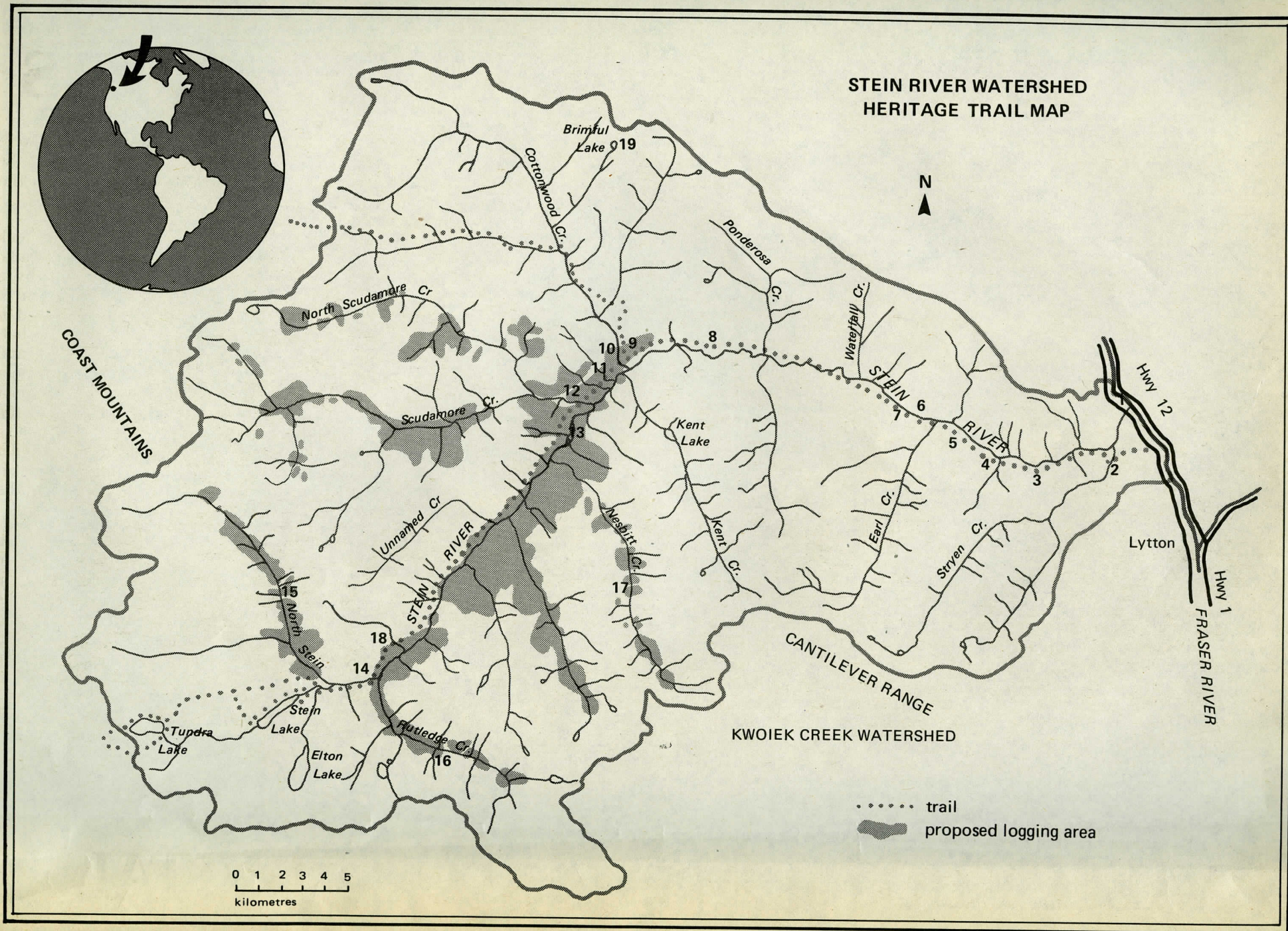
The lower trail from river mouth to Cottonwood Falls is 42 km. of fairly easy walking, suitable for hikers of average strength. Trails branching up from

Cottonwood vary from moderate to difficult.

In the summer of 1987, a crew of volunteers cleared access via the Blow-down alpine pass into the heart of the Stein valley at Cottonwood Falls. This addition to the trail system allows the intermediate strength hiker to do an alpine-to-valley bottom traverse in a few days. The entire watershed can be traversed in nine days.

The spring of 1988 will bring the construction of several food caches throughout the valley and two more trail head signs for the alpine accesses. Meanwhile, a detailed Stein trail map is to be printed in time for the 1988 summer hiking season.

Anyone who has walked for kilometres along logging roads appreciates the tranquility and beauty of the healthy intact Stein watershed and returns back to civilization with a deep appreciation of the giant 35 km. by 47 km. natural Stein "alder leaf." Modern humankind's economic measuring stick - money - can never value or replace the magic of this sacred place.



1. Cactus and sagebrush grow at dry, hot mouth of Stein. Site of 1986 Stein Festival hosted by Lytton Indian Band.

9. 22 km. stretch of Stein River has, "very high salmon and trout spawning potential" according to B. C. Fish and Wildlife.

1. Cactus and sagebrush grow at dry, hot mouth of Stein. Site of 1986 Stein Festival hosted by Lytton Indian Band.
2. Grove of culturally modified cedar trees.
3. Cliff face has second largest native pictograph site in British Columbia.
4. Lower Stein canyon has highest concentration of archeological sites in the Fraser River Canyon.
5. Grove of culturally modified trees.
6. Mountain goats often seen on north side of Lower Stein Canyon walls in summer.
7. Aerial cable car crossing of Stein River.
8. 10 km. stretch of beaver lodges and critical wildlife winter habitat.
9. 22 km. stretch of Stein River has, "very high salmon and trout spawning potential" according to B.C. Fish and Wildlife studies.
10. Cottonwood Creek waterfalls.
11. Rediscovery youth program base camp.
12. Aerial cable car crossing over Scudamore Canyon.
13. Important wildlife winter habitat, 10 km. stretch.
14. Upper Stein River cable crossing.
- 15, 16 & 17. Critical grizzly bear habitat identified by provincial government Fish and Wildlife Branch.
18. Stein Valley - Joy to the World poster photo (featured on pages four and five) taken from this spot.
19. Site of 1985 and 1987 Voices for the Wilderness festivals.

Continued from page 3

STEIN LOGGING ADVOCATES SAY:

Timber stands in the Stein are under heavy insect attack. Approval of development is needed now to allow salvage operations to recover the dead trees before they rot, and to prevent further spread of the infestation.

Stein wilderness supporters respond:

The recent beetle infestation in the Stein was part of a completely natural cycle. It peaked years ago and is now declining. The killed trees have been dead for too long to be salvageable, and the management plan for the Stein (published by the B.C. Forest Service) states that "no specific program has been planned at the present time for sanitation or salvage." The current five year logging plans do not in any way target beetle-killed pine forests for salvage.

The Stein Valley has had a continuous succession of forest cover for nearly 10,000 years, ever since the last ice sheets melted. Along with forest fires, natural cycles of insect population swings occurred throughout this time and served

to enhance the overall diversity and stability of the forest ecosystems. The Stein is the last undisturbed biological unit of its kind in southwest B.C., and as such provides us with our last opportunity to study an entire transitional zone watershed in its wilderness state. Every other valley provides the opportunity to study what effect the heavy hand of industrial exploitation has had on nature.

STEIN LOGGING ADVOCATES SAY:

We must share the Stein. British Columbians believe in multiple use and integrated resource management. The present plan for logging is the best compromise in a hard situation.

Stein wilderness supporters respond:

There is ample proof in all the surrounding valleys that have already been shared, that some uses of the forest are mutually exclusive. Logging in the Stein is totally incompatible with wilderness preservation, just as road construction will harm both archeological sites and wildlife habitat. Road construction and logging means that the rich valley bottom loses its trees, wildlife is hunted like never before and archeological sites get van-

dalized. True wilderness and logging cannot take place side by side. It defies definition.

Grizzly and black bear, cougar, wolves, coyote, moose and many other species have shared the Stein with countless generations of the Lytton and Mt. Currie native people. The fact that the valley is already being shared is easily forgotten in today's world.

The rights and wishes of the natives who consider the area essential to their culture must be respected. Demanding that they share the last small piece of what was once a very large pie is morally wrong. The whole pie must be shared by leaving one whole piece, the last piece, as an ecologically protected area and for native heritage preservation.

STEIN LOGGING ADVOCATES SAY:

The approximately six percent of B.C.'s land base that is protected under park and ecological reserve status is more than adequate. B.C. neither needs nor can afford any new large parks or protected wilderness areas in places where economic timber or mineral deposits exist.

Stein wilderness supporters respond:

B.C.'s record of wilderness preservation is poor when compared to other places around the world with outstanding natural features. In New Zealand, the home of the owners of BCFP, 17.1 percent of the wild original forest is protected. Alberta protects 9.1 percent of its land base, Washington State protects 11.3 percent, Idaho protects 9.7 percent, California protects 10 percent, and Alaska protects 37.9 percent.

In comparison B.C. protects less than six percent. The newly created "recreation areas" that some count as protected areas, are misleading because both mining and logging are allowed, sometimes in the middle of provincial parks.

According to studies done by the provincial parks ministry, less than half of the existing unique landscapes in B.C. are protected in parks. This province has a ways to go to live up to its world wilderness preservation responsibilities and its "super natural" image. Considering that B.C.'s total land area is 952,000 square kilometres and that the total land area in the Stein is 1,100 square kilometres, preservation of the Stein would preserve roughly one tenth of one percent more of B.C.'s total land base.

Road would ruin pictographs

A logging road through the lower Stein River Valley would result in the destruction of nine known Nlaka'p'xm rock painting sites, including the second largest pictograph panel in British Columbia.

In a region of the province where Indian rock art in its original setting is becoming increasingly rare, the destruction of these important heritage sites is nothing less than criminal.

An industry-sponsored impact assessment of heritage sites along the proposed right of way claims that the logging road will not disrupt rock painting sites along the route. The totally inadequate study by archeologist Ian Wilson was paid for by B.C. Forest Products. Wilson's ludicrous conclusion is only matched by his inept survey of the lower Stein River Valley. His investigation conveniently missed Ts'ets'ekw, the largest rock painting site in the Stein River watershed, a site that would be wrecked by road construction.

Ts'ets'ekw, which is Nlaka'p'xm for "markings," is located 4.3 km from the trailhead in the narrow Stein Canyon at the well-known Devil's Staircase. The setting of Ts'ets'ekw is spectacular; the face of the cliff is streaked with thick veins of quartz speckled with shining

mica. The rushing sound of the river close by echoes off the cliffs. Painted along the base of the rock wall, for more than 100 feet, are 124 red pictographs. Images include the famous owl; nine paintings of double-headed serpents including one 3.5 metres long; a possible battle scene; and a happy-looking earth goddess painted high above the ground. Some of the paintings at this important site are among the largest in the B.C. Interior.

Pushing a logging road through this area would be analogous to building a highway through a cathedral but promising to leave the stained glass intact.

The Ts'ets'ekw site would be ruined by road construction. The proposed road would cut across the top of the cliff directly above the paintings. It is impossible to prevent rock from falling down and damaging the site. In the drier months, clouds

of dust would add to its desecration.

The B.C. Forest Products-sponsored report, which not only overlooked Ts'ets'ekw but also another important site 200 metres downstream, is constantly being referred to by deputy ministers and others as proof that heritage sites in the Stein River Valley are safe from destruction.

But we already know that road building and rock art don't mix. Increased vehicle access to any site puts it in immediate danger of vandalism. One of the largest concentrations of rock painting sites in the Interior is the "Pictograph Stretch" located along what was once an Indian trail on the north side of the Similkameen River between Princeton and Hedley. This became the Dewdney Trail in the 1860s, a stagecoach route in the early 1900s, and then Highway 3 until its relocation to the south side of the river.

At one time more than 30 sets of paintings could be seen along the road. Since 1963 at least 10 sets of pictographs have been buried or blasted by highways crews and during a carelessly completed pipeline project. In addition the trees which surrounded and protected many of

the painted boulders along the road were cut down a few years ago leaving the paintings even more exposed to the elements and to vandals' spray cans.

The location of the Keremeos Creek site, just off Highway 3 north of Olalla, was identified some years ago by a roadside sign. Within months several of the paintings at the site were chalked or chiselled. One large pictograph was battered in an attempt to remove it and another was used as a rifle target. Beer bottles littered the site. Concerned about the vandalism, some members of the Archeological Society of British Columbia removed the highway sign only to find it replaced a few months later. They took it down a second time and threw it in the bush where it lies to this day.

A logging road must never be allowed to desecrate the sanctuaries of the Stein River. This valley is the only place in Interior B.C. where a person can hike along a native American highway and view rock paintings as they were meant to be seen in their original settings. The rock art sites are important not only to the Nlaka'p'xm Nation, but to all Canadians. These are world class heritage sites and should be recognized and protected.

VALLEY BOTTOMS SMALL BUT VITAL

Logging interests propose to clear-cut only nine percent of the Stein over the next 25 years. This doesn't sound

logged. It is, in fact, the only remaining major unlogged valley for hundreds of

Besides ruining the view of the once beautiful chain of lakes and seriously

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VALLEY BOTTOMS SMALL BUT VITAL

Logging interests propose to clear-cut only nine percent of the Stein over the next 25 years. This doesn't sound like much until one realizes that the vital low elevation forests make up only 12 percent of the entire area of the Stein. In other words, the forest companies propose to log 75 percent of the low elevation forests, virtually all the commercial timber in the valley bottom, the very heart of the Stein.

The Stein lies in the transition zone between the west coast rain forest and semi-arid interior. Cactus at the Stein's mouth testify to the reason the area is known as the hot spot of Canada. A mere 42 cm. of annual rainfall feeds the dry ponderosa pine forests at the junction of the Stein and Fraser rivers. The steep rock walls of Stein Canyon rise from 700 metres in elevation to more than 2800 metres on either side in a distance of three and a half kilometres.

At one point, in an area known as Devil's Staircase, the logging road is planned to be blasted right above the second largest native pictograph panel (native rock painting site) in B.C. Because of the steep sidewalls of the lower Stein Canyon there is no alternative route for the road. The only real alternative is not to build it!

There is simply no way that road construction and vehicle access can take place without harming the sacred nature of this place. Wherever roads have accessed valued archeological sites, without exception they have been permanently damaged or vandalized.

Further up the Stein Valley, annual rainfall increases to a high of 180 cm. This part of the Stein is a richer ecosystem. Big old trees, moss covered hollows and a lush green understorey form a complex web of interconnecting wildlife habitat that we are only just beginning to understand. The same scene, viewed through different eyes, is a mother lode of commercial timber just waiting to be exploited.

There is no mystery as to what the Stein will look like after it is logged. It is easy to visualize because the Stein is not

logged. It is, in fact, the only remaining major unlogged valley for hundreds of kilometres around.

Adjacent to the Stein on the south lies the Kwoiek Valley. No one contends that any part of this valley is wilderness. Even though less than 5 percent of the total area of this watershed has been clear-cut over the last 15 years, it is nearly logged out.

One doesn't have to rely on government and industry information to assess what would happen to the Stein if logging proceeds there. It will look like Kwoiek Creek does today.

Besides ruining the view of the once beautiful chain of lakes and seriously impacting on the wildlife, logging in Kwoiek has also created serious reforestation problems. The removal of the forest canopy through clear-cutting drastically changes a watershed, especially in an area with such dry, hot summers. The effects of erosion and altered microclimate are not yet fully realized. Currently in Kwoiek, more than 20 percent of the logged area is "non-sufficiently restocked" according to B.C. Forest Service maps. **Some clearcuts made 16 years ago have been replanted twice yet are still not**

growing a new crop of trees.

Another effect of logging is well known. In 1955, prior to logging in Kwoiek, one person reported seeing 16 grizzly bears on a hiking trip up the Kwoiek to the Stein divide. Today, with hunter access along the logging roads, a single grizzly sighting is a major event.

The Stein is a wilderness today because its valley lowlands have never been logged. Taking out the commercial timber in the valley bottom of the Stein drainage and calling the remaining 91 percent of the watershed a wilderness is not just naive. It is immoral.

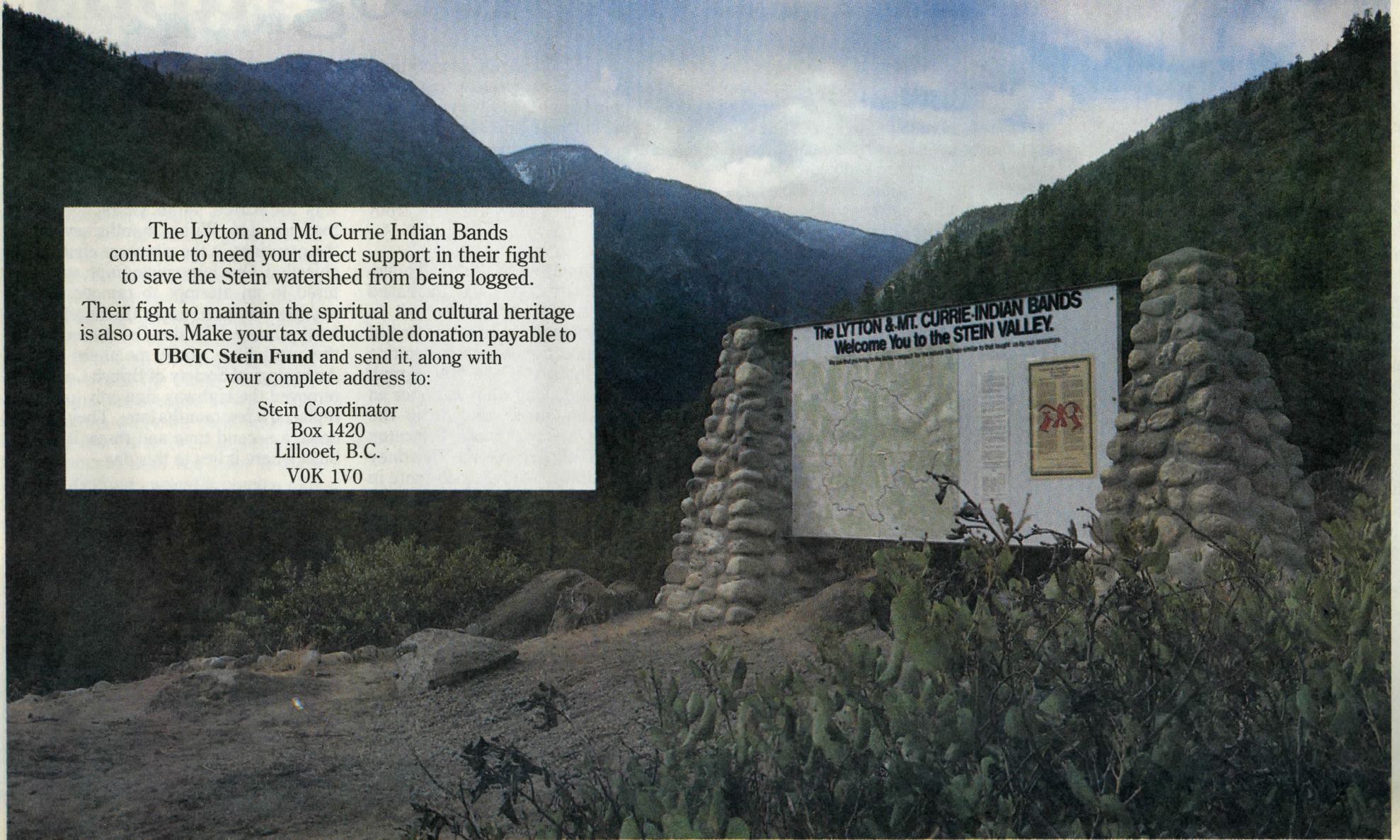


WITH YOUR HELP WE WILL SAVE THE STEIN

The Lytton and Mt. Currie Indian Bands continue to need your direct support in their fight to save the Stein watershed from being logged.

Their fight to maintain the spiritual and cultural heritage is also ours. Make your tax deductible donation payable to **UBCIC Stein Fund** and send it, along with your complete address to:

Stein Coordinator
Box 1420
Lillooet, B.C.
V0K 1V0



Sign erected in October 1987 to commemorate signing of Stein Declaration.

Credits and thanks





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Thanks to Emily Carr Art College Students' Society

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Keep the letters coming!

Keep those letters, telegrams and phone calls to Premier Vander Zalm, the cabinet ministers and the MLAs coming. We know they make a difference! It was public opinion that changed the minds of B.C. government members on the South Moresby issue.

Enough procrastination. Exercise your democratic rights, express your opinion

on the Stein. Let your elected representatives know how you want them to decide on this issue.

The premier's phone number is 387-1715, the cabinet offices can be reached at 387-6769 and the mailing address for all government members is: Legislative Buildings, Victoria, B.C., V8V 1X4.

YES, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO HELP PROTECT THE STEIN

- Send me _____ copies of this paper and I will distribute them.
- Please send me _____ copies of the *Joy to the World* full-colour 34" x 17" poster (\$5.00 each includes postage, tube and B.C. sales tax where applicable).
- Please send me _____ copies of the Stein Petition to circulate.
- Here is my tax deductible donation of \$_____ to help you do the research and educational work needed to keep the Stein roadless forever. (Even a small donation is appreciated and will be put to good use!)
- Here is \$15 for my annual WCWC membership.

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____

Province _____ Postal Code _____

THANK YOU FOR CARING ABOUT THE STEIN!

Please send as soon as possible to: **Western Canada Wilderness Committee**
 #103-1520 West 6th Ave.
 Vancouver, B.C., V6J 1R2

STEIN VALLEY PETITION

To the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of the PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA in LEGISLATURE ASSEMBLED this PETITION of British Columbia voters and other concerned citizens humbly showeth;

WHEREAS the Stein Valley, the last major unlogged watershed in Southwestern British Columbia, in its undisturbed state with undisturbed wildlife and natural forest is more valuable as wilderness; and,

WHEREAS the expressed intention and responsibility of the people native to the watershed, the Lytton and Mt. Currie Indian Bands, is to "... maintain the Stein Valley as a wilderness in perpetuity for the enjoyment and enlightenment of all peoples and the enhancement of the slender life-thread on this planet."

-Stein Declaration, October 1987,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the undersigned British Columbia residents and other concerned citizens request that the decision to log the STEIN RIVER VALLEY be rescinded.

We humbly pray that your HONOURABLE HOUSE may be pleased to pass the necessary legislation to preserve the ENTIRE STEIN VALLEY as a wilderness watershed; and in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

NAME (Please print)	SIGNATURE	FULL ADDRESS	POSTAL CODE
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Please clip and return to Western Canada Wilderness Committee, #103-1520 W. 6th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V6J 1R2, by March 15, 1988. (Partially filled petitions are acceptable. Even one signature will help.)