

LOWER MAINLAND

POCKET WILDERNESS

Second class mail reg. pending

COALITION

SAVE WHISTLER'S BIG TREES





Thousand-year-old cedars along trail on Cougar Mountain less than 10 km from Whistler, B.C.

Photo: Clinton Webb

Cougar and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness Areas Threatened

Wow! You say that British Columbia still has huge trees like those pictured above, unprotected but not yet reduced to stumps? And they aren't growing in some place so remote that I could never find the time or energy to visit them?

Yes there are! Two areas with giant trees thrive on the doorstep of British Columbia's best known resort town. Whistler, already internationally renowned for its ski slopes, has a chance to be equally famous

for its ancient cedar groves.

The Pocket Wilderness Coalition proposes that Cougar Mountain and Rainbow Mountain be protected as Wilderness Areas. But logging roads could be pushed into both regions this summer. Before most people realize what is happening, these great international treasures could be destroyed. Only if enough people demand full preservation now, will these areas be saved.



POCKET WILDERNESS COALITION - Whistler Wilderness Edition

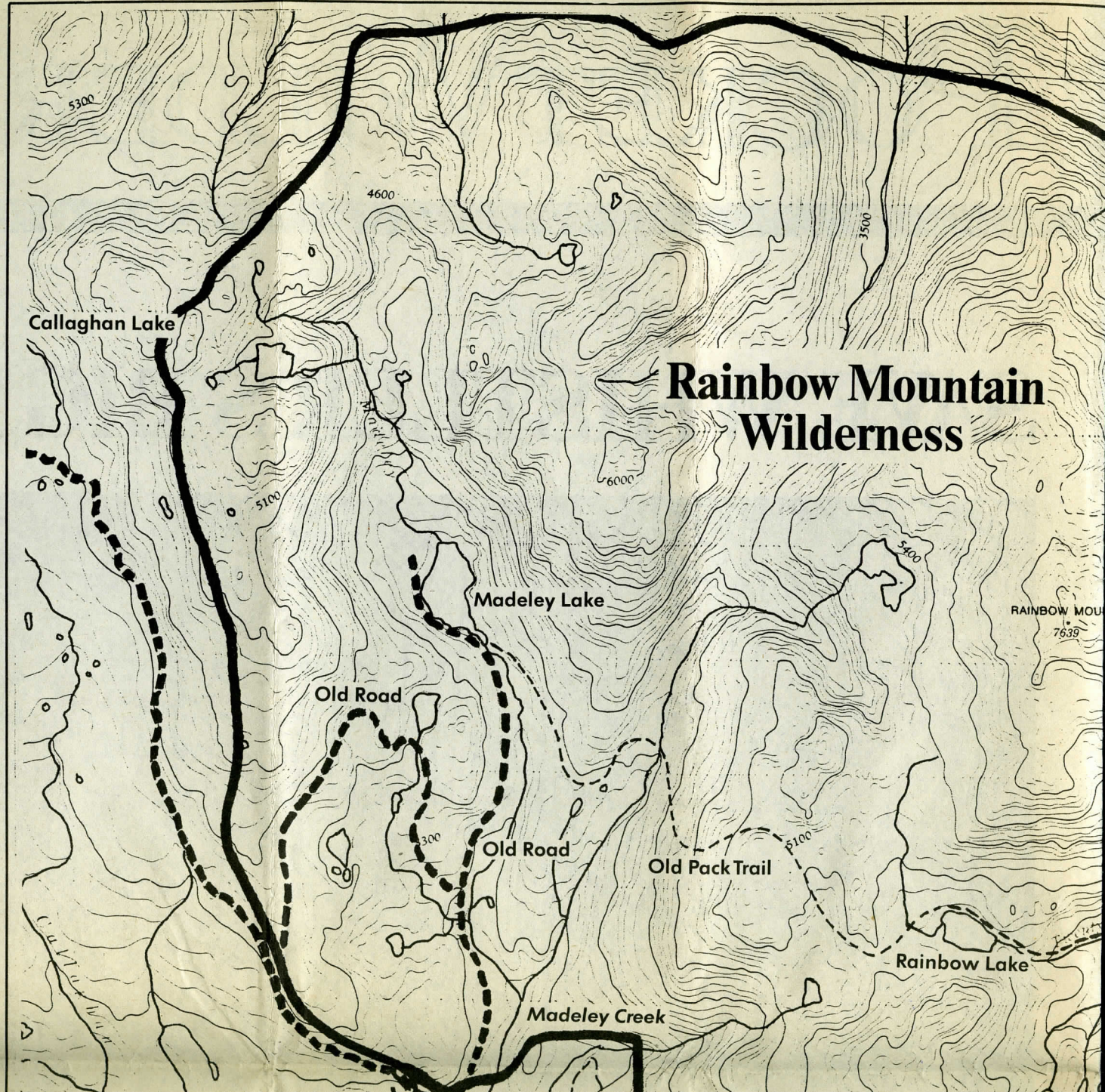
A ONCE IN FOREVER OPPORTUNITY

Ever walked in a fern-floored forest with trees as tall as skyscrapers and clumps of devil's club with thorns like cactus spines? Loggers call our old-growth forests decadent slums of rotting cellulose. But most who visit such areas believe that they are about as decadent as the majestic medieval cathedrals which give Europe its character.

Nine kilometres from the world class resort village of Whistler, you can visit a grove of ancient cedar where trees are as big in circumference as an average limousine. They are earmarked for the shake and shingle mills. But the Pocket Wilderness Coalition (PWC), a small but growing group of Lower Mainland residents, is determined to save these monarchs from such a fate.

On March 3, 1988 the PWC met with B.C. Forest Service officials at Squamish to propose permanent protection for a 1,700 hectare Cougar Mountain Pocket Wilderness Area and a 10,000 hectare Rainbow Mountain Wilderness Area. New amendments to B.C.'s Forest Act make such protection possible.

During recent construction of a mountain bike trail on the lower part of Cougar Mountain, workers discovered a large stand of



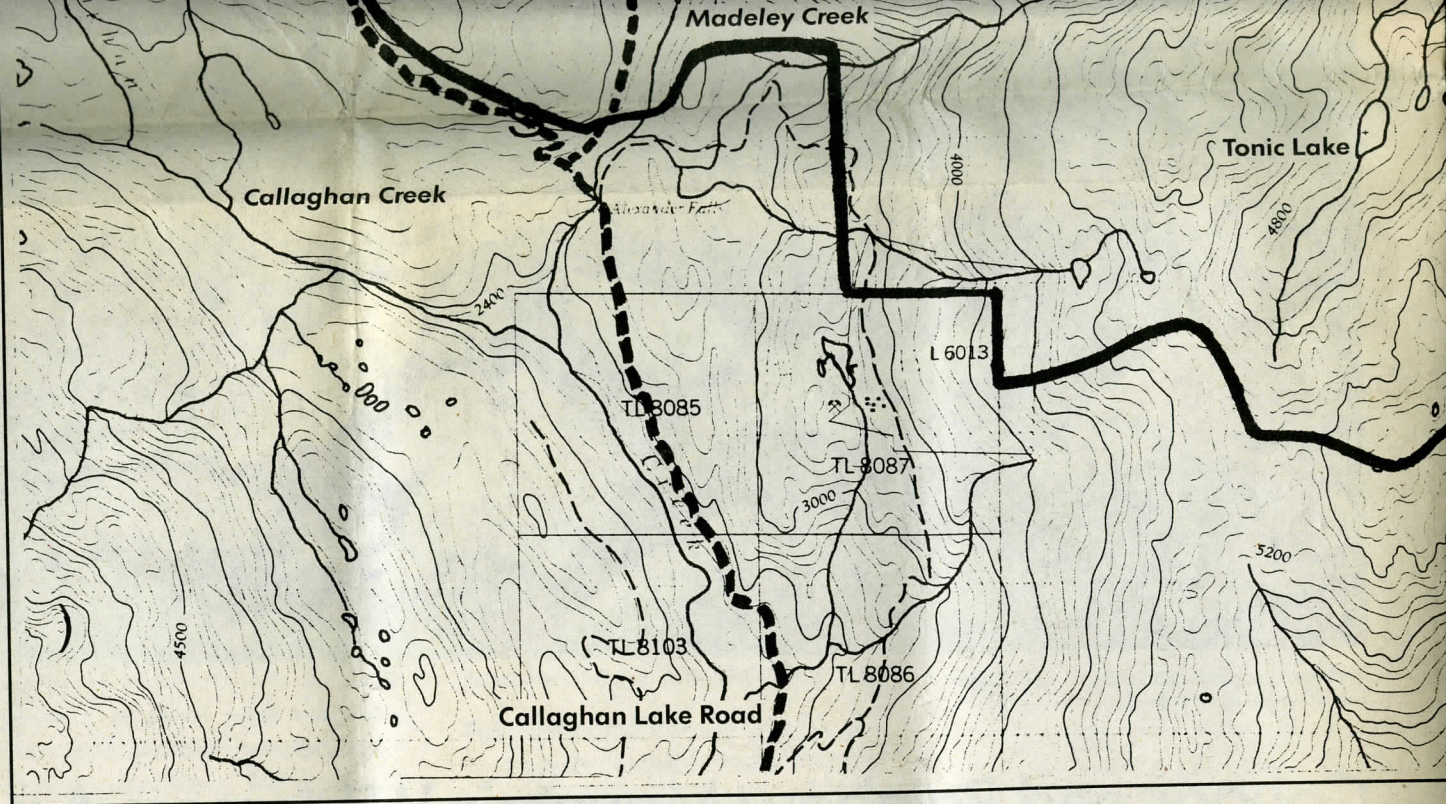
possible.

During recent construction of a mountain bike trail on the lower part of Cougar Mountain, workers discovered a large stand of western red cedars, many of them over 10 feet in diameter. Core samples taken from the tree trunks indicate that some of the cedars may be as much as 1,000 years old. Some of the Douglas firs growing there are more than 650 years old. The new bike trail winds through this mysterious prehistoric terrain of gargantuan trees, thick green moss, and trickling streams. It takes less than an hour to reach the trees on bicycle from downtown Whistler.

The Rainbow wilderness, an extremely popular hiking area, is also right in Whistler's backyard. An excellent trail leads through old growth forest to a pretty alpine bowl that cradles Rainbow Lake. The possibilities are endless—a quiet snooze in Rainbow Meadows or an energetic but easy ascent of Rainbow Peak. The old pack trail to Madeley Lakes is hard to follow, but takes the adventuresome on a wilderness ramble down to the old growth forests in the western section of Rainbow.

Rainbow is criss-crossed with old trails and narrow roads that wind through the virgin forest.

Both Cougar Mountain and Rainbow Mountain harbour the most endangered form of B.C. wilderness, its lush primeval rain forests.



FOREST SERVICE NOT MUCH HELP

On March 25, 1988 a meeting was held in Squamish between Forest Service and Pocket Wilderness Coalition representatives. The PWC came to the meeting with two requests: to protect the Cougar and Rainbow areas under the Forest Act's new wilderness designation and to place a moratorium on logging, road building and other forestry development in the two proposed wilderness areas. Don Kinnear, the local Forest Service Operations Manager, refused both requests.

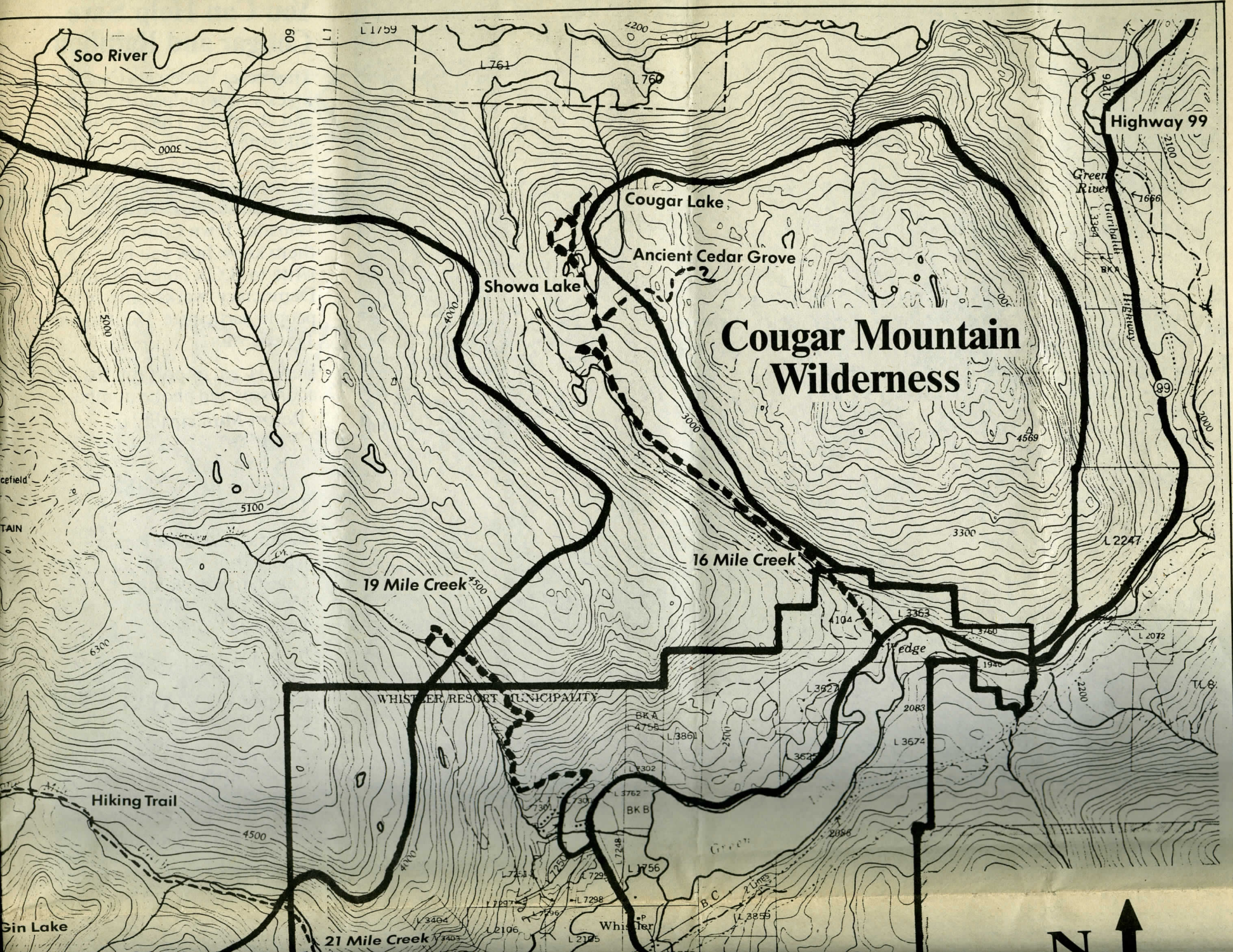
The explanation he offered was that "Ministry policy for wilderness management within Provincial Forests has not yet been finalized." A Forest Service Wilderness Area was, however, designated more than six months ago at Height of the Rockies in eastern B.C.

Kinnear informed the PWC that logging permits and cut block boundary approvals have already been issued to A & R Logging for about one-third of Cougar Mountain, including the ancient tree grove. Logging could legally begin as soon as weather permits.

A quick phone call to Norm Halvorson, the owner of A & R Logging confirmed the company plans to begin road construction into the wilderness area this year, with logging planned for next year. Halvorson indicated, however, that he would be happy to cancel plans to log Cougar Mountain if the Forest Service would provide him with an alternative timber supply.



According to Mr. Kinnear, there are no current logging plans for the Rainbow Mountain Wilderness. He pointed out, however, that C I P Forest Products has the right to submit logging plans

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Map Key

Scale 1:50,000
 1 km = 2 cm
 Contour Interval 100 ft.
 Declination 22 degrees 46 minutes
 Gravel surface road 
 Trail 

for this area at any time. In fact, if the company is "on the ball" they could be road building in Rainbow Mountain Wilderness this summer.

PWC representatives suggested that logging companies sometimes speed up plans to log an area under consideration for wilderness preservation, as one company did last year in the Greendrop Lake area near Chilliwack. Mr. Kinnear was asked if the PWC could be notified if new logging plans for Rainbow Wilderness are submitted to the Forest Service. Kinnear refused. So much for public involvement!

HIGH TOURISM POTENTIAL

Don Martin runs a thriving wilderness tourism business out of Whistler. His success is based, to a large extent, on the virgin forests of Cougar Mountain. Don reports that over the last six months he has taken over 900 paying customers to view the big tree grove there. More than ninety percent of these people were foreign tourists, and it's a sure bet that they patronized many a Whistler business.

To date no less than six Japanese magazine articles and one Japanese television programme

have been done on the Cougar Mountain tour.

Other operators have expressed interest in the Rainbow Wilderness Madeley Lakes area. These Whistler entrepreneurs are at the cutting edge of the fastest growing sector of B.C.'s second largest industry, wilderness tourism.

It was a strong commercial tourism and conservationist lobby that created Canada's first National Park, Banff. A similar teaming up of commercial and non-commercial interests could give the Lower Mainland its first Forest Service Preserved Wilderness, Rainbow-Cougar.

CREDITS

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The Lower Mainland Pocket Wilderness Coalition paper is a bimonthly educational publication. Our next edition (June/July) will feature the Chehalis Headwaters Wilderness Proposal. Don't miss it.

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Cougar Mountain Cedar over 12 metres in Circumference

Photo: Joe Foy

You Can Help Save Cougar and Rainbow

The Pocket Wilderness Coalition urges you to help save Cougar and Rainbow. These Whistler wilderness areas will be saved if you stand up and let your voice be heard. You can do this in a number of ways. Write to the Whistler Town Council and let them know how you feel. Also write to B.C.'s Forest Minister. Democracy works only when people participate. Do it today. Time is short.

Here is an important list of addresses and phone numbers:

- Resort Municipality of Whistler
Box 35
Whistler, BC V0N 1B0
Phone 932-5535
- Honourable Dave Parker
Minister of Forests
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Phone 387-6769
- Pocket Wilderness Coalition
20901-88th Ave.
Langley, BC V3A 6X5
Phone 888-8148

Join the Pocket Wilderness Coalition and work towards wilderness preservation for all of the communities of British Columbia's Lower Mainland.

Here is my tax deductible donation. I am in favour of preserving Pocket Wilderness areas in our local watersheds for all generations to come. Please send me my Fair Share Certificates.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Postal Code _____

20 Common Shares - \$20.

50 Preferred Shares - \$50.

100 Blue Chip Shares - \$100.

I wish to make a tax deductible donation under \$20 and also want to be placed on the Pocket Wilderness Coalition mailing list.

Please use this coupon to send your donation to Save Cougar and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness Areas.

Make out your cheque or money order to:

Western Canada Wilderness Committee -
Pocket Wilderness Project
and send to WCWC,
103-1520 West 6th Ave.
Vancouver, BC V6J 1R2

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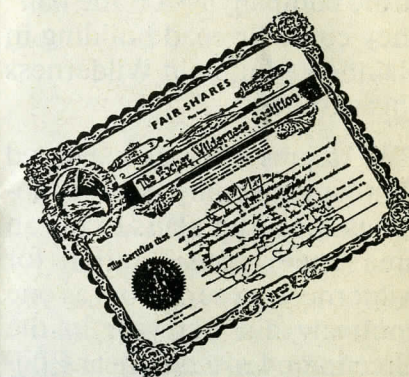
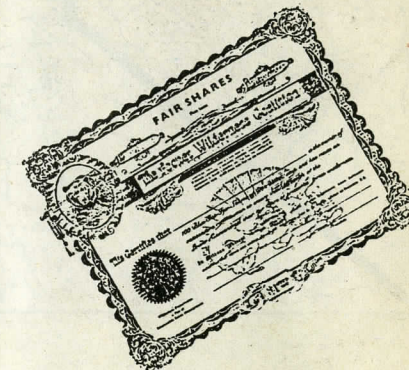
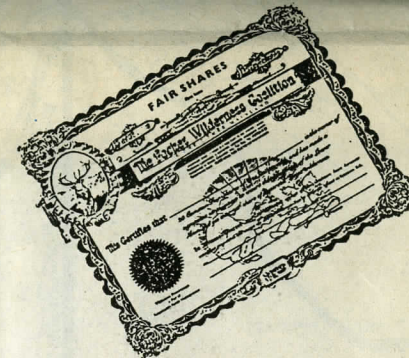
Forest Companies have been issuing shares for decades as a way of raising money so that they can cut down B.C.'s wild forests. The Pocket Wilderness Coalition has issued shares to raise money to save "pockets" of these once vast wild forests and see them handed down to future generations. Will you help?

The PWC "Fair Shares" come in three numbered, limited issues: Common - \$20 each, Preferred - \$50 each, and Blue Chip - \$100 each.

Your "purchase" of "fair shares" is, in

reality, a tax deductible donation! "Capital" raised from the "sale" of "shares" (see coupon on left) will be used in our educational campaign to help preserve Cougar and Rainbow Mountains as Wilderness Areas.

Fair Share holders will be kept up-to-date on progress made towards saving pocket wilderness areas. They will become lifetime members of the PWC. Best of all, they have the satisfaction of knowing that they helped save the Lower Mainland's most precious resource - its natural heritage.



GET YOUR 1988

EDITION OF FAIR SHARES