

Share in a  
Wilderness  
Adventure  
of a Lifetime

# FOOLS GOLD REGION BRITISH COLUMBIA

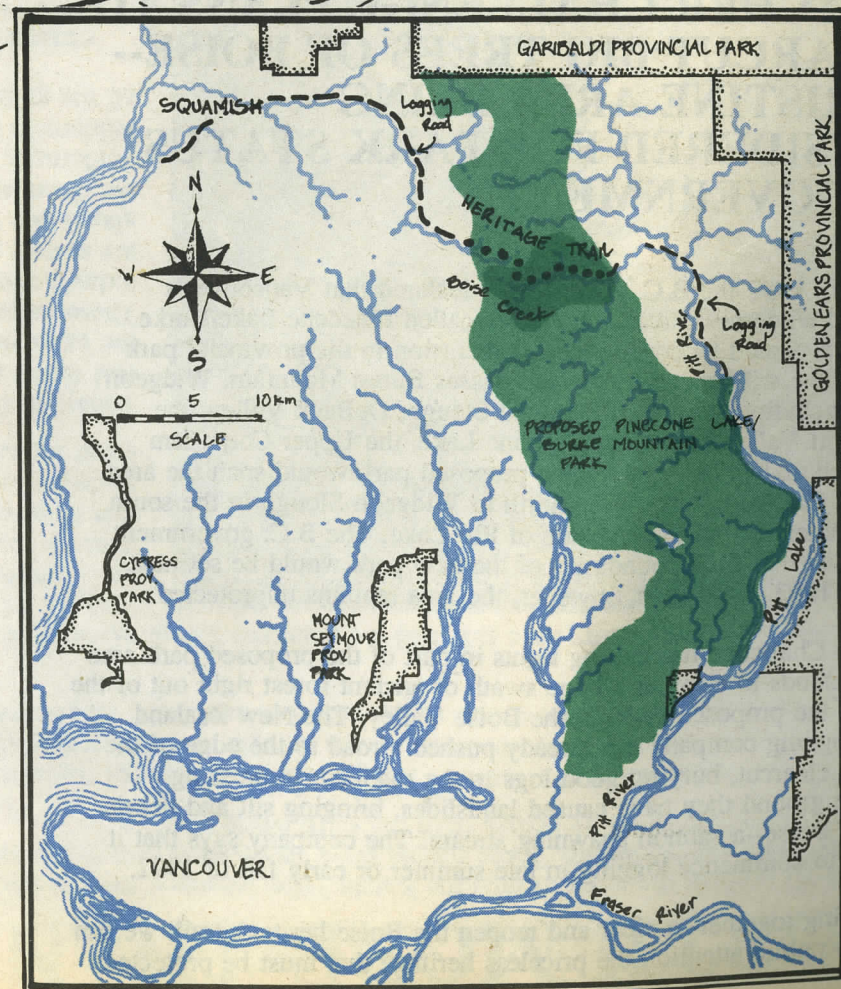
Help Rebuild  
the Fools Gold  
Heritage  
Trail

## BOISE VALLEY - VANCOUVER'S CARMANAH

Many believe that they have to travel to the west coast of Vancouver Island to the Carmanah Valley, the Walbran or some more remote area to experience big trees of the temperate rainforest in their natural wilderness setting. Not true. Within 50 kilometres of "the largest clearcut in British Columbia"--the Greater Vancouver area--a never logged area of gigantic moss draped giants carpet a valley bottom and extend up the slopes to the cloud shrouded mountain peaks. Winding throughout this wilderness, an almost impenetrable understorey of blueberry and devil's club, are the well travelled trails of black bear and deer. Hawks silently cruise the canyon in search of prey. Here also are overgrown trails made by prospectors of another era, who were looking for gold but found only the fool's variety.

What is the name of this place? Where is it? The Boise Valley, a tributary of the Pitt River which flows into North America's largest tidal lake, the Pitt, which empties into the Fraser River estuary near Coquitlam. The Boise is the heart of the recently announced B.C. government Pinecone Lake/Burke Mountain park proposal. This "fools gold region" has long been reknown in legends and stories for its lush wilderness terrain and fabled fabulously rich lost gold mines.

Unfortunately, the transnational logging company, Fletcher Challenge, is planning to clearcut the biggest trees in the Boise before the end of 1993, the year the government says it will decide on the fate of the Pinecone Lake/Burke Mountain park proposal. People must see Boise and voice their concerns to help the government make a wise decision--before it is too late.



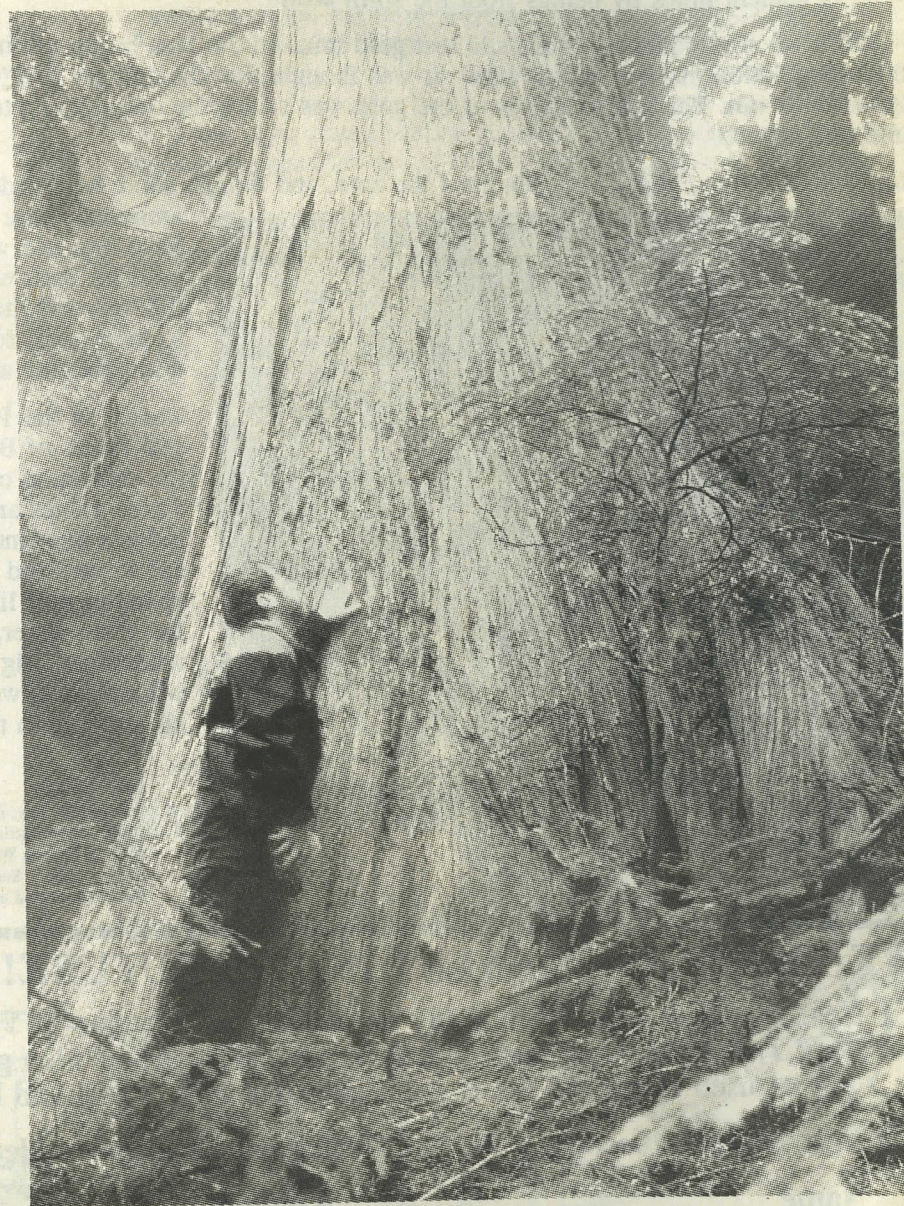


# SPECTACULAR WILDERNESS IN LOWER MAINLAND'S BACKYARD

Old growth forests and ancient temperate rainforests are two names used to describe the kind of forest growing in Boise Valley. But whatever name you use, the huge old trees that grace the Boise have become very rare in the valleys of Vancouver's Lower Mainland Region which just a short 150 years ago was almost entirely carpeted in them. Even in places like Golden Ears Provincial Park, only a few remote valleys of ancient forest remain. Park visitors have to be content with viewing huge stumps, the legacy of 1930s and 40s logging, and imagining what the forest once was like.

Many cedar trees in the never-logged upper Boise are over 1,000 years old. Ancient hemlock, fir and cedar intertwine with all manner of plant and animal life, a rare surviving example of the land as it had been for thousands of years in all the surrounding region. Western Canada Wilderness Committee, a charitable society dedicated to protecting natural ecosystems through research and education, is building a trail through this land of the big trees so the people of the Lower Mainland can see and experience for themselves our spectacular backyard wilderness.

This project is your opportunity to personally get involved in wilderness preservation. You can volunteer to work on the trail, help financially, write letters and donate equipment. The Boise is not as far away as such famous wilderness areas as South Moresby, Carmanah or even the Stein, but it is every bit as precious and irreplaceable. This time we are fighting for wilderness preservation in our very own backyard! Join with us.



*Ancient western red cedar in Boise Valley*

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# THE THREAT

## FLETCHER CHALLENGE PLANS TO CLEARCUT BIG TREES OF BOISE-- A PRISTINE AREA BEING CONSIDERED FOR PARK STATUS BY GOVERNMENT

In May of 1992 the B.C. government declared that Vancouver's backyard wilderness area--which they called Pinecone Lake/Burke Mountain--would be considered for inclusion in the provincial park system. The wilderness area encompasses Burke Mountain, Widgeon Valley including Widgeon Lake and Slough, DeBeck Valley, the Upper Pitt Valley including Pinecone Lake, the Upper Coquitlam watershed and Boise Valley. The proposed park would span the area between Garibaldi Park in the north to Widgeon Slough in the south and includes the entire west side of Pitt Lake. The B.C. government announced that final boundaries of the new park would be set next year, in 1993. Until then, however, the area remains unprotected.

Fletcher Challenge has cutting rights in part of the proposed park area and it intends to clearcut a huge swath of ancient forest right out of the heart of the proposed park, in the Boise Valley. The New Zealand based logging company has already pushed a road to the edge of the planned clearcut, burying good logs in the roadbed. In crossing unstable ground they have caused landslides, bringing silt and debris into the Boise--a salmon spawning stream. The company says that it intends to commence logging in late summer or early fall of 1992.

By joining together to clear and reopen the Boise heritage trail, we can bring to public attention the priceless heritage that must be protected.



Newly built road into Boise Valley in preparation for clearcut logging



# WORTH MORE THAN GOLD

From far far back in the mists of time the Katzie Tribe inhabited the Pitt Lake country and survived off its abundant natural wealth. These people knew its mystical past as the site of great feats performed in ancient times by beings from the spirit world.

In the 1890's when rumours of a fantastic lost gold mine in the area began to circulate amongst the non-native population of New Westminster, it was thought that the country of Pitt Lake hid unimaginable wealth. The where-abouts of the gold was said to be only known to a Katzie native by the name of Slumach.

Over the decades since, many have searched the area, and though some have indeed found small amounts of the soft yellow metal, most have returned with only genuine fool's gold for their efforts. The historic trails that traverse the Boise are a monument to their quest for riches, to trappers' quest for furs and to native trade.



Boise Creek

Today, in the 1990s, we know that the real riches of Boise are not found in the extraction of its minerals or timber. These values are commonplace in today's over-industrialized world. What are so rare and unique are the area's abundance of life, the ancient forests, the clean water, the surviving wilderness. Big city back yard wilderness is worth more than all the gold in the world.

## CREDITS

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## VOLUNTEERS, FUNDS AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO CLEAR HISTORIC BOISE TRAIL

Western Canada Wilderness Committee needs your help to clear the eight kilometre overgrown historic Boise trail. When completed, this trail will enable people to hike into the outstanding ancient Boise forests from a logging road in the Mamquam Valley near Squamish or from the head of Pitt Lake. Increase in visitors to the area will help persuade the British Columbia government to save the Boise.

### YOU CAN HELP IN THESE WAYS

- \* **Donate time as a volunteer trail builder. Trail clearing will run from July through October.**
- \* **Donate equipment and supplies. We require such items as chain saws, loppers, radio phone, food and tents.**
- \* **Donate money to help our educational efforts and to help pay for trail building expenses.**

Wilderness Committee, 20 Water Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1A4. Printed in Canada on 50% recycled newsprint. Copyright WCWC 1992. All Rights Reserved. Material may be used if credit is given. Thanks to all the volunteers who make this project possible.

## SAVE THE BOISE! INVEST IN THE FUTURE! GET YOUR FOOL'S GOLD TRAIL SHARES

Yes! I want to help! Here is my tax deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. All donors of \$10 or more will receive a *Fools Gold Trail* share certificate. All donors of \$50 or more also get a genuine sample of Boise fool's gold ore! All donations will be used to rebuild the Boise Valley Heritage Trail and help create the Pinecone Lake/Burke Mountain Park.

Yes! I want to become a Wilderness Committee member. Here is my \$30 one year membership fee.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your cheque or money order payable to Western Canada Wilderness Committee - Boise Fund and send it to: WCWC, 20 Water St., Vancouver, British Columbia, V6B 1A4. If you would like to help clear the trail or have equipment to donate please phone 683-8220 or visit our Vancouver store front office at 20 Water Street in Gastown. Thank you very much!