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To be preserved?

To be pillaged?

The Lillooet region is home to some of the healthiest populations of grizzly bears, highest concentrations of mountain goats, biggest salmon runs, and greatest scenic landscapes in all of British Columbia. But its awesome wilderness values--for people and wildlife alike--are in jeopardy.

Act now to save B.C.'s Rainshadow Wilderness!

## A ROADLESS LILLOOET RAINSHADOW WILDERNESS will generate more local jobs and wealth than will a clearcut Lillooet landscape

**O**n the eastern "rainshadow" slopes of the rugged Coast Mountains in southwest British Columbia lies the magnificent Lillooet country. Within this 1,125,400 hectare region is a maze of forests, grasslands, glaciers, alpine ridges, and deep canyons. All who experience it agree: it has some of the most spectacular and biologically diverse wilderness remaining in North America.

The Lillooet region is home to some of the healthiest populations of grizzly bears, highest concentrations of mountain goats, biggest salmon runs, and grandest scenic landscapes in all of British Columbia. But its awesome wilderness values are in jeopardy. A century of aggressive mining, hydro-electric dam construction and, most recently, massive clearcut logging, have seriously diminished the Lillooet region's natural splendour.

Tragically, entire runs of salmon were completely destroyed in the Lillooet region's Bridge River and seriously reduced in the Seton River when they were blocked in the 1960s by three dams and a series of large power stations. Aggressive road building and clearcut logging have scarred many of its once beautiful valleys.

But despite all this industrial "progress", it is still possible today to preserve 40 percent of the Lillooet region as wilderness. Most of this remaining wilderness was left undeveloped because it has little or no economic value.

But the rest, including some rich natural forests, is the "glue" that holds the ecological integrity of this wilderness together. These still-wild forests are the focus of the fight between those who want to log now for the slim chance of a quick profit and those who want to save them for wildlife and for future generations.

Conservationists have named these remaining wildlands of the Lillooet region the *Rainshadow Wilderness*. It is a dry area, sheltered from the Pacific storms that water the rainforests on the west coast side of the Coast Mountains. The drier weather has nurtured completely different landscapes including one of Canada's rarest, the montane bunchgrass canyonlands.

The Lillooet region is just a few hours drive away from the urban centres of Vancouver and Kamloops. Its easy access, combined with its great scenic beauty and expansive hiking and horse trail systems, make the *Rainshadow Wilderness* an extremely valuable recreation and tourism resource for the province.

Right now, a B.C. government-sponsored land use planning process known as the LRMP (Land and Resource Management Plan) table is debating the fate of the *Rainshadow Wilderness*. Participants have been talking for nearly a year. Forestry and mining stakeholders have dominated the process so far. But many of the local people

do not agree with logging of the last remaining wilderness areas that make the Lillooet region so special.

Most locals depend on the *Rainshadow Wilderness* areas to produce clean drinking water, safeguard cultural heritage sites, sustain fish and wildlife populations, provide recreation, nurture spiritual renewal and support the growing local tourism industry. But while some LRMP participants talk about new opportunities and solutions, outside timber companies like Ainsworth Lumber Co. and J.S. Jones Timber Co. are actively logging, or proposing to log, the very areas under consideration for protection.

Meanwhile, unmilled logs continue to leave the district by the truck load, providing marginal profits and very few jobs for the volume of wood cut. In contrast, several local tourism operators report a 10 percent annual growth rate. But their job-generating economic activity can not continue to grow if clearcutting of the last remaining *Rainshadow Wilderness* areas is not curtailed. Read on to find out more about the history of the Lillooet region, outstanding features of the *Rainshadow Wilderness* areas that merit protection, and what some local communities in the Lillooet region are doing to preserve jobs and wilderness.

Find out, too, how you can help save the *Rainshadow Wilderness*!

Several local tourism operators report a 10 percent annual growth rate. But this job-generating economic activity can not continue to grow if clearcutting of the last remaining Rainshadow Wilderness areas is not curtailed.



Above: Shulaps Basin, a key Rainshadow Wilderness area that is highly valued for both its wildlife habitat and its hiking and horse trails, is now threatened by Ainsworth Lumber Company's proposed roads and logging.

Left: Thousands of clearcuts already scar the high, dry Lillooet country. Plans are afoot to rapidly push roads and clearcuts into its every remaining wild corner. If the B.C. government allows these plans to proceed, damage to fish and wildlife habitat and the growing tourism industry will rapidly ensue.



# Saving all of Lillooet's Rainshadow Wilderness makes good sense

## -- A message from the Wilderness Committee

**T**he Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC) is a nonprofit conservation society headquartered in Vancouver, B.C. Since its formation in 1980 WCWC has been dedicated to working within the legal and political system through public education and scientific research for the preservation of our wilderness heritage. The Wilderness Committee believes in the protection of natural ecosystems for the health of the planet, for the sake of wildlife that need wild areas to survive and for future human generations to wisely use and enjoy.

The publication of this Educational Report was made possible only through a cooperative effort. Information, photos, and financial assistance were provided by other environment and conservation organizations and by concerned citizens living in the Lillooet area (see credits on page 8). We are mailing it to every household in the Lillooet region, to all our 25,000 members and to other conservation groups across Canada. We believe the fate of the beautiful Lillooet region and its life-guarding Rainshadow Wilderness areas is one of the most important conservation issues facing B.C. today.

For all of its 19 year history, the Wilderness Committee has been involved in the work to preserve wilderness areas

in the Lillooet region, especially the Stein Valley and the Southern Chilcotin Mountains/Spruce Lake area. We identified the Lillooet region as a conservation must for many reasons: its richness in First Nations' historical and cultural sites, its extremely scenic landscapes, its diverse and wildlife-rich wilderness habitats including dry mid-and low-elevation grasslands (the rarest ecosystem in B.C.) and its easily accessible, traditionally developed and well used backcountry recreation areas.

In 1995 the Lytton First Nation and the B.C. government announced the creation of the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park. Sadly, the Southern Chilcotins/Spruce Lake area is not yet protected.

### **The 14 Rainshadow Wilderness areas remaining in the Lillooet Region are facing road construction and logging -- most of them within the next two years!**

...and logging continues to chew away at its edges every year. This year the Southern Chilcotins faces its biggest threat ever -- proposed logging in Tyaughton Creek Valley and Bonanza Creek watershed by Ainsworth Lumber Co. If allowed to proceed, logging roads and clearcuts will penetrate into the heart of this fabulous wild area. The

pressures facing the Spruce Lake/Southern Chilcotins wilderness are only the tip of the iceberg. All the 14 Rainshadow Wilderness areas in the Lillooet region (see map pages 4 and 5; descriptions pages 6 and 7) are facing road building and logging -- most of them within the next two years! In 1997 the B.C. government convened a local Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) committee. To date (as of July, 1998) this committee has been all "talk and log"--unable or unwilling to stop the logging of some of the wilderness areas they are considering for protection.

Even worse, the LRMP is constrained by the B.C. government's policy of excluding from industrial development only 12 percent of the province's land base in protected areas--even though conservation biologists (experts in extinction processes and species' needs) say that 40 percent of the land base must be protected to preserve for posterity the natural diversity of the Lillooet region's many ecosystems.

The stakes are the highest! The future of both the people and wildlife that inhabit the Lillooet region will be determined for all time by the decision as to how much of mother nature will be left undeveloped. We hope that you, after reading this paper and finding out more about the Rainshadow Wilderness areas, will join with those who are actively trying to save them.

## Which future do you choose for the remaining Rainshadow Wilderness areas?



These two photos illustrate the consequences of human land-use choices. Both of these forested valleys were once wild. Truax Creek (on the right), where clearcutting has recently commenced, has lost its most productive valley-bottom habitats. Upper Gun Creek (on the left), unlogged and still pristine, continues to thrive as wilderness.

# HISTORY OF THE LILLOOET REGION

## and the adverse impacts of industrialization on its rich Rainshadow Wilderness heritage

### **Pre-contact: (10,000 BP - 1808 AD)**

Three First Nations' territories converge along the banks of the Fraser River and its tributaries in the Lillooet region. Nlaka'pamux First Nation communities are in the southeast of the region near present day Lytton, Stl'atl'imx First Nation communities are to the east and north centred around present day Lillooet, and Secwepemc First Nation communities are in the extreme north of the region. The rich salmon and forest resources and the heavily used trade routes provide these people with great natural wealth.

Sustainable pre-contact cultural activities do not significantly alter the Rainshadow Wilderness.

### **Contact: (1808-1820s)**

Simon Fraser, exploring trade routes to the Pacific for the Northwest Company, passes through the First Nations territories of the Lillooet region on his journey down the river which came to bear his name.

### **Fur trade boom: (1820s to 1850s)**

Fur traders pass through the region buying furs and dried salmon and seeking easier trade routes through the Coast Mountains.

### **Gold rush era: (1858 to 1865)**

Massive changes sweep through First Nations' homelands as tens of thousands of gold seekers invade their territories. The era of the fur trade partnership is replaced by a colonial administration based out of New Westminster. Placer mining pollutes fish spawning streams.

A horrific smallpox epidemic set off by an infected gold-seeker from San Francisco decimates First Nations communities. First non-native communities take root. Existing trade trails and canoe routes are replaced by wagon roads and paddle wheel river and lake steamers.

### **Homestead settlement: (1860s to 1880s)**

As the gold peters out, most miners leave, but a small number remain to homestead land for farming and ranching. Small scale logging and hard rock mining begins. First Nations people begin to enter the new economy of farming and mining but their settlements are limited to small "Indian Reserves" set out by the Colonial Government around traditional winter villages and summer fishing sites.

First Nations declare that they have never sold, given away, nor lost their lands in war and vow to regain control and management of their territories.

### **Railroad construction era: (1880s to 1920s)**

First comes the CPR in the 1880s down the Fraser Canyon, followed by the CNR. Finally in the 1920s the PGE is built from tidewater at Squamish to follow the old water routes to the Fraser at Lillooet.

Construction of the CNR causes a massive landslide at Hells Gate in the Fraser Canyon which decimates the mighty sockeye salmon runs of the Fraser River. These runs are still recovering from the CNR slide to this day. Significant sections of the

railroad rights-of-way were built on lands "cut-off" from Indian Reservations. The new railroads look for products to haul and a series of small sawmills spring up at trackside. Logging is limited to the most accessible valley bottoms.

The railroads bring wealthy big game trophy hunters from across North America and Europe for the first time into the Lillooet region to hunt grizzly bear, mountain goat and bighorn sheep.

### **Second mining boom: (1920s to 1950s)**

By now virtually every valley and ridge of the Rainshadow Wilderness has felt the boot-prints of prospectors. In the 1920s



Some of the bark from this redcedar was stripped long ago to perhaps make a basket or some rope. Photo taken in Tsal'ahmec Territory near the shore of Seton Lake. The history of the First Nations' use and occupancy of the Rainshadow Wilderness is written in such culturally modified trees, and found in cliff-face paintings, in the depressions of old winter-house sites, and in the cache pits still visible on the land today.

and 1930s their work culminated in the opening of the first big mines, the Pioneer and the Bralorne gold mines in the Bridge River Valley.

In 1937, concerned with the rapid industrialization of the Lillooet Region, the Vancouver Natural History Society advocates designation of a Provincial Park in the Southern Chilcotin Mountains--called the Charlie Cunningham Wilderness--but the government of the day fails to act to protect this spectacular wild area.

### **Hydro-electric development era: (1930s to 1960s)**

Spurred on by the need to serve the B.C. Electric Railway and its trolley system in Vancouver and growing domestic markets, Lillooet region rivers are eyed by B.C. Electric Co. as a future power source. The Bridge River system is the site of a pilot plant in the late 1930s. By the 1960s the Bridge River and the adjacent Seton River are fully developed for hydroelectric power with a set of three dams and a series of large generating stations.

These projects wipe out salmon runs that have sustained First Nations for countless generations. Critical wildlife habitat is drowned under reservoirs and mowed down for transmission corridors as hunger for more power in the city and mills increases.

### **Logging boom: (1970s to 1990s)**

The granting of forest licenses in the 1970s brings the Lillooet region fully into the Ministry of Forests plans to completely develop the forest resources of the province. Permanent high-speed logging roads are constructed, expanding into the furthest corners of the region as the timber closer to the mills is liquidated. Mill construction in Lillooet leads to rapid population growth. Wilderness begins to disappear at an accelerating rate. In 1973 the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. requests that the B.C. government place a development moratorium on the Stein Valley. A long campaign to have the valley preserved, involving many environment groups, is spearheaded by the Lytton Band who are part of the Nlaka'pamux First Nation, and the Mt. Currie Band, who are part of the Stl'atl'imx First Nation. The whole valley is finally granted protected area status in 1995. But logging in the rest of the region continues unabated.

By the 1990s the B.C. government-set rate of logging in the region is 21,600 logging truck loads per year. While the cut increased, Ainsworth Lumber Co. continuously downsized its workforce. By 1995 the jobs-per-tree-cut rate in the Lillooet District is one of the lowest in Canada.

In 1997 the B.C. government establishes the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) process to decide which lands of the Lillooet region will be preserved and which lands will be "developed". Meanwhile logging continues in many important Rainshadow Wilderness areas that are candidates for protection. In the summer of the 1998 the Wilderness Committee publishes this newspaper calling for a bioregional approach, including preservation of the fourteen remaining Rainshadow Wilderness areas of the Lillooet region. This LRMP table is expected to hand down its recommendations early in 1999.



# Rainshadow Wilderness areas under immediate threat-- Only a massive public outcry now will save them!

## Shulaps Basin

Shulaps Basin is a back country wilderness paradise, much loved by local people and imminently threatened by proposed roadbuilding and logging by Ainsworth Lumber Ltd. Located in the rainshadow of the Coast Mountains in the 10,400 hectare Shulaps Range proposed protected area, the basin is traversed by historic horse trails used today by hikers and riders alike.

The basin contains mixed coniferous forests shaped by natural fires that periodically burn parts of the area. Shulaps also supports a stable herd of California bighorn sheep as well as mountain goats, grizzly and black bear, mule deer, wolverine, wolf, hoary marmot, snowshoe hare,

lynx, bobcat and pica.

For ten years, local residents, represented by the Yalakom Community Council (YCC), have been calling for protection of the entire Shulaps Basin, which includes both Shulaps Creek and its south fork, Halbrook Creek. YCC's request to have the protection of this pocket wilderness addressed by the Lillooet LRMP have been rejected.

YCC has commissioned an ecosystem-based land use plan for the entire Yalakom Watershed—including the Shulaps Basin—to determine what type of logging can occur, and where, in the Yalakom Watershed without harming the ecosystem or reducing benefits for other resource users. YCC would like to see the Yalakom ecosystem-based plan

accepted by the LRMP as an experimental model for future sustainable planning in the region.

This plan is being drawn up by the B.C.-based Silva Forest Foundation. But, as this newspaper goes to press, Ainsworth Lumber is poised to begin road building and logging in the Shulaps Basin and the B.C. Forest Service appears ready to issue the required permits. Add your voice to those of the local people who are trying to protect their future. Demand a halt to the current industrial logging plans for the Shulaps Basin. Support ecosystem-based planning in this area and across the province.

**Below:** Snow covers the ground in the autumn in the Shulaps Basin Rainshadow Wilderness.



## Seton Lake

The Tsal'almec (People of the Lake) of the Stl'al'imx Territory are the direct descendants of the people who have inhabited the lands around Seton Lake since time immemorial. Ainsworth Lumber Co. proposes to log this summer along the south side of Seton Lake within the 31,100 hectare Cayoosh Range proposed protected area.

The Tsal'almec say that this proposed logging will destroy a heritage and resource area that has sustained them since the beginning of time. They say that there is a strong need to stop any industrial logging in this area and ask that British Columbians support them in their efforts to protect their territory.

**Above:** Looking to the south side of Seton Lake.

## Siska Valley

On June 21, 1997 Siska Indian Band councillors and elders signed the *Siska Band Heritage Park Declaration For The Siska Watershed*. The declaration begins...*Be it known to all people that we of the Siska Band of the Nlaka'pamux Nation have lived in the Nxezumai kwu (Siska Valley) and at Kupchynalith (IR#1) with our ancestors' spirits since time immemorial. The declaration finishes by stating, "Let it be known that within our Siska Band Heritage Park there shall be no road building, commercial logging, mining, mining exploration, dam building, or any other activities harmful to Nxezumai kwu (Siska Valley) watershed. Oho, it is done. We give thanks to the Grandfathers and Grandmothers. All my Relations."*

J.S. Jones Logging Co. is pushing to build roads and log in the Siska Valley this summer. Every valley downstream from the Siska along the Fraser River has been loaded and logged — yet the Siska Valley has somehow survived. Let's join together and help the Siska Indian Band preserve their watershed for future generations.

**Siska Band Heritage Park Declaration For The Siska Watershed**  
June 21, 1997

*Be it known to all people that we of the Siska Band of the Nlaka'pamux Nation have lived in the Nxezumai kwu (Siska Valley) and at Kupchynalith (IR#1) with our ancestors' spirits since time immemorial.*

*The Siska Band of the Nlaka'pamux Nation, through its traditional governance system, has the right to determine the future of its lands. We, the Siska Band, hereby declare that we will not allow any logging, mining, or other activities that would harm our watershed and our people.*

*Let it be known that within our Siska Band Heritage Park there shall be no road building, commercial logging, mining, mining exploration, dam building, or any other activities harmful to Nxezumai kwu (Siska Valley) watershed. Oho, it is done. We give thanks to the Grandfathers and Grandmothers. All my Relations.*

*Witness my hand and seal this 21st day of June, 1997.*

*Chief: [Signature]*  
*Councillors: [Signatures]*

## Bonanza Basin

Tyaughton Creek and its tributary, Bonanza Creek, form a spectacular wilderness entrance to Spruce Lake, the heart of the 89,300 hectare Southern Chilcotins/Spruce Lake proposed protected area. The B.C. Forest Service has recently granted Ainsworth Lumber Co. a permit to bridge lower Tyaughton Creek 5 kilometres below its confluence with Bonanza Creek, build a zig-zag logging road up to Bonanza Creek, and clearcut all along the south side of Tyaughton Valley.

As if this weren't bad enough, Ainsworth then wants to blast a logging road up Bonanza into the sub-alpine highcountry and log out the high elevation forest in Bonanza Basin, bringing the devastation almost to the doorstep of Spruce Lake. This high-elevation logging is both ecologically and economically unsound! Yet road building is scheduled to begin in late summer of 1998. For only a handful of short-term timber industry jobs and a few thousand truckloads of timber, Ainsworth would be ruining one of the premier wilderness tourism

destinations in the province.

In 1990 the B.C. Ministry of Parks recognized the importance of the South Chilcotins/Spruce Lake area, declaring it to be the... "single most outstanding area of wilderness not presently protected in the southern interior of British Columbia." And now it is about to be logged!

**Below:** View looking down on the natural forests and grasslands of the Tyaughton Valley. Bonanza Valley enters from the right.





# Endangered Rainshadow Wilderness Areas of the Lillooet Region

**A**nalysis of the remaining roadless, unlogged areas in the Lillooet region reveals that there are only fourteen Rainshadow Wilderness areas of significant size and ecological integrity left (see map below). They all must be protected to preserve biodiversity and the full range of bioregional values, including a thriving local tourism economy and exceptional recreation opportunities. Western Canada Wilderness Committee is calling for

legislated protected areas individually tailored for each of the fourteen areas. These protected areas would allow tourism, water supply, food hunting, and grazing uses consistent with protecting the ecology.

All of the Rainshadow Wilderness protected areas must be co-managed with the First Nations in whose territories they fall. Protection can be achieved through existing legislation including Ecological Reserve, National Park Reserve, and

Provincial Park Acts or under new legislation to create Tribal Parks, Water Protection Reserves, or Ecotourism Reserves. All it will take is the political will!

The proposed protected areas are very different from each other, reflecting the natural diversity of the region. About 78 percent of the land area of the Rainshadow Wilderness proposed protected areas and existing parks is high elevation alpine or semi-alpine terrain with high scenic and

recreational values but relatively low timber values and no "minable" ore bodies. A further 0.4 percent is low elevation bunchgrass lands—one of the most threatened and under-protected ecosystems in B.C. The Rainshadow Wilderness areas are, as the B.C. tourism advertising campaign slogan brags, "Spectacular by Nature".

Together, the existing parks of the Lillooet region and the proposed Rainshadow Wilderness protected areas add up to slightly less than 40 percent of the land base. This is a lot

more than the arbitrary limit placed on preservation by the current B.C. government. But these unique areas and the wildlife that depend on them deserve protection.

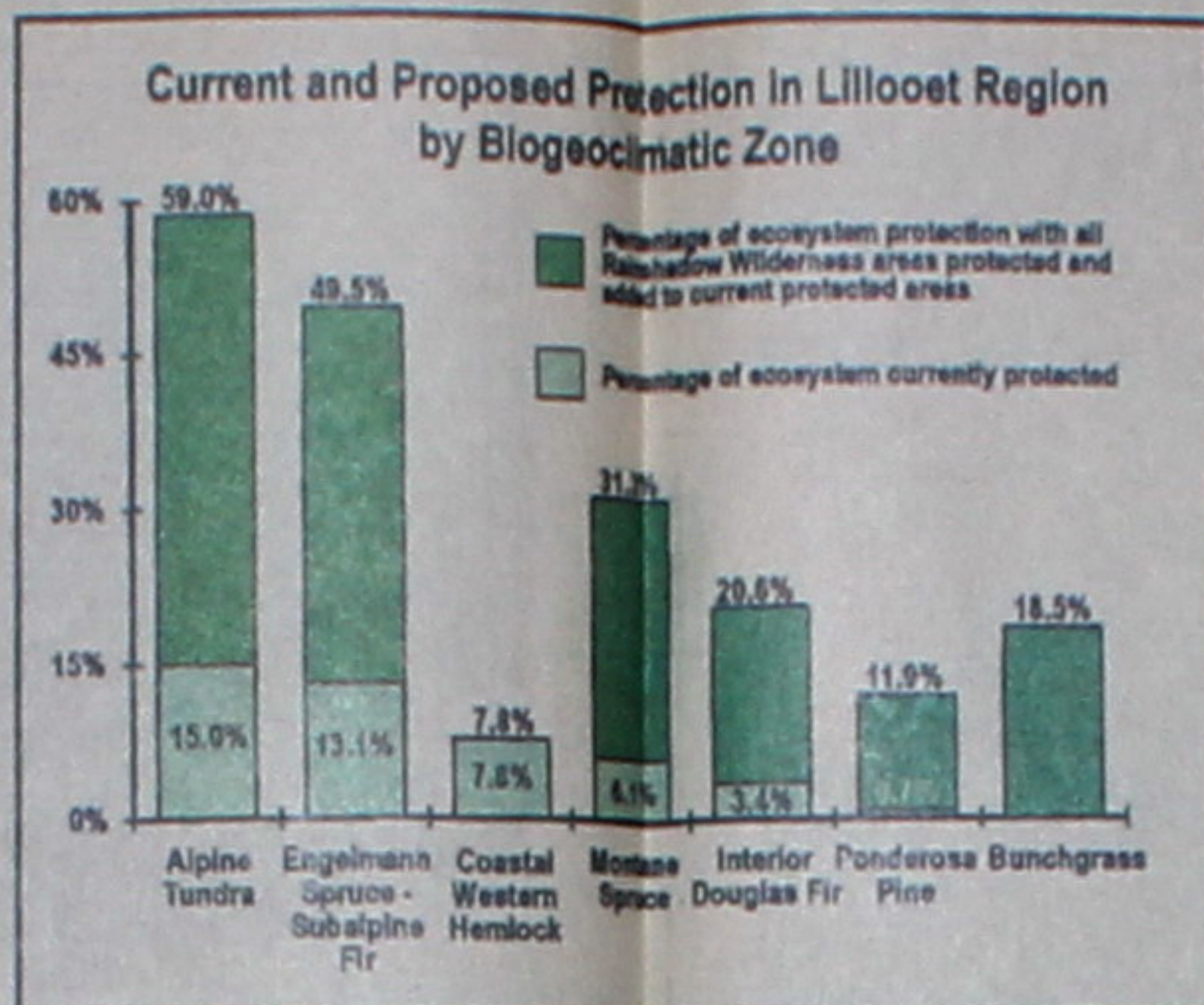
Unfortunately, time is running out. Logging is slated to begin in nearly every one of the same forested valley bottoms and headwater basins in the next two years! This proposed logging can only be stopped if the Rainshadow Wilderness areas preserved if enough people speak up in their defense now.



The high country of the Spruce Lake/Southern Chilcotins wilderness area is cowboy and backpacker "heaven".



Horse pack trips on Nine Mile Ridge in the Northern Camelsfoot Range wilderness are a time-honoured tradition.



Mountain views are spectacular in the Northern Camelsfoot Range wilderness.



These canyons—dry right down to the Fraser—are near to and typical of Big Bar Badlands wilderness.



Meadowlands interspersed with pocket forests near Spruce Lake in the Southern Chilcotins wilderness make for easy hiking.



Spectacular alpine country in Bobb Creek headwaters, part of the remote Bendor Range wilderness.



Cayoosh Range wilderness has amongst the highest concentrations of mountain goats in B.C. and offers outstanding backcountry recreation opportunities.



Pure white marble of Marble Canyon and the Two Spring wilderness area is a geological wonder.



Upper Bridge River, a keystone area of national significance, links wilderness east-west and north-south.



The Slaka Valley wilderness has been declared a Tribal Heritage Park by the Slaka Indian Band.



# THE ENDANGERED RAINSHADOW WILDERNESS AREAS --

The Rainshadow Wilderness areas of the Lillooet region are some of the most ecologically diverse in the province. If we are to pass on to our children a small taste of the wild splendour that once existed throughout this spectacular part of B.C., it is critical that we protect all of these areas from industrial development. Remarkably, it is not too late to establish a connecting corridor of large wilderness areas from B.C.'s south coast through to the interior. There are very few places left in North America where it is still possible to protect big, life-sustaining wilderness. The Rainshadow Wilderness areas are crucial. But almost all of them face imminent threats from logging.

## Proposed Protected Areas of the Rainshadow Wilderness

**Upper Bridge River** - The 72,300 hectare Upper Bridge River Watershed proposed protected area is a **KEYSTONE**. It links other Coast Mountain wilderness areas to each other. This headwaters area, the last 15 kilometres of the 125-kilometre-long Bridge River system, is the only part of the Bridge system left untouched by logging or unaffected by hydroelectric dam reservoir flooding. The Upper Bridge contains populations of moose, grizzly bear, mule deer, mountain goat, wolverine, mink and harlequin duck. Ainsworth Lumber Co. is currently road building further into the valley and clearcutting blocks of wild forest.

**Cayoosh Range** - The 31,100 hectare Cayoosh Range proposed protected area is home to one of the greatest concentrations of mountain goats in B.C. The range is also a critically important grizzly bear area with migration links to other nearby wilderness areas. Important Stl'at'imx First Nation heritage sites are found here near Seton Lake. Abundant alpine lakes, basins and meadows make the highcountry of the Cayoosh Range a favoured destination for hikers and mountaineers. A four season destination resort proposed for Melvin Creek threatens the area's wildlife—especially the mountain goats and grizzlies. Proposed logging by Ainsworth Lumber Co. threatens the Stl'at'imx First Nations heritage sites.



The spectacular Bridge River Glacier is a highpoint of the 72,300 ha. Upper Bridge area of the proposed Stoltmann National Park Reserve.



**Right:** Red paintbrush in a wet willow meadow in the heart of the Cayoosh Range proposed protected area. Over 120 different floral species dazzle the extensive lush alpine meadows in this otherwise rugged landscape.

**Below:** Backpacker enjoying the alpine headwaters of Copper Creek, an unlogged drainage in the 31,100 ha. Cayoosh Range proposed protected area.



**Above:** Spruce Lake is set amidst a classic forested mountain landscape with mid-elevation grasslands. This beautiful mountain lake is the centrepiece of the threatened 89,300 hectare Southern Chilcotins Wilderness Area which has been recommended for preservation by conservationists since the 1930s. It is recognized provincially and nationally as one of the key wilderness areas not currently protected in southern B.C., yet it is imminently threatened by logging and roadbuilding.



**Southern Chilcotins/Spruce Lake** - The 89,300 hectare Southern Chilcotin Mountains/Spruce Lake proposed protected area harbours rare mid-elevation grasslands in Tyaughton and Gun Creek valleys which are unique in the province. The Spruce Lake area is famous for its floral diversity, with spectacular spring displays of flower meadows. The Southern Chilcotins has extremely high wildlife values for mule deer, grizzly, California big horn sheep, mountain goat, wolf, marten and wolverine. The area's extensive trail system makes this wilderness extremely popular with backcountry recreationists. Ignoring widespread opposition, the B.C. Forest Service recently gave permission to Ainsworth Lumber Co. to commence road building and logging in the Tyaughton Creek Valley within the Southern Chilcotins Wilderness.

**Bendor Range** - The 22,400 hectare Bendor Range proposed protected area is a remote mountainous wilderness with four large pristine watersheds, two of which are slated for immediate logging. The area harbours oldgrowth Douglas fir forests and prime grizzly and black bear habitat. Mountain goat are found at higher elevations. Alpine hiking areas along the ridgetops make this area a prime candidate for backcountry rambling.

**Shulaps Range** - The 10,400 hectare Shulaps Range proposed protected area has significant tracts of oldgrowth forest, including many stands of whitebark pine. Important mountain goat and California bighorn sheep habitat, including sheep lambing areas, are found throughout the range. The range has a very high rating for recreation, with old trails criss-crossing the ridges and basins. Ainsworth Lumber Co. has applied to the B.C. Forest Service for a permit to construct a logging road into the Shulaps Basin—the heart of this rainshadow wilderness area and the last unlogged basin in the Shulaps Range. This permit could be signed by the time this paper goes to press.



# Nature's Diversity in the Peak of its Glory and Splendour



**Cerise Creek** - The 1,100 hectare Cerise Creek proposed protected area is an important "pocket wilderness"—a heavily used mountaineering area, with a mountain hut, contiguous with the established Joffre Lakes protected area.

**Siwhe** - The 22,600 hectare Siwhe proposed protected area contains an important hiking trail link to the Stein Valley. There are traditional First Nations plant gathering sites throughout the area. One valley in the area, Intipam Creek, is under immediate threat of being logged.

**Siska** - The 7,400 hectare Siska Watershed proposed protected area contains numerous cultural heritage sites, including traditional trails as well as hunting and gathering areas. Siska Valley is part of an extremely important and fragile grizzly bear migration corridor that links the Rainshadow Wilderness areas with Manning Park and the Cascade parks in Washington State. When the cool clean water of Siska Creek enters the Fraser River is an important sockeye salmon resting place. Even though the valley has been declared a Tribal Heritage Park by the Siska Indian Band, J.S. Jones Timber Co. wants to begin logging the valley this year.

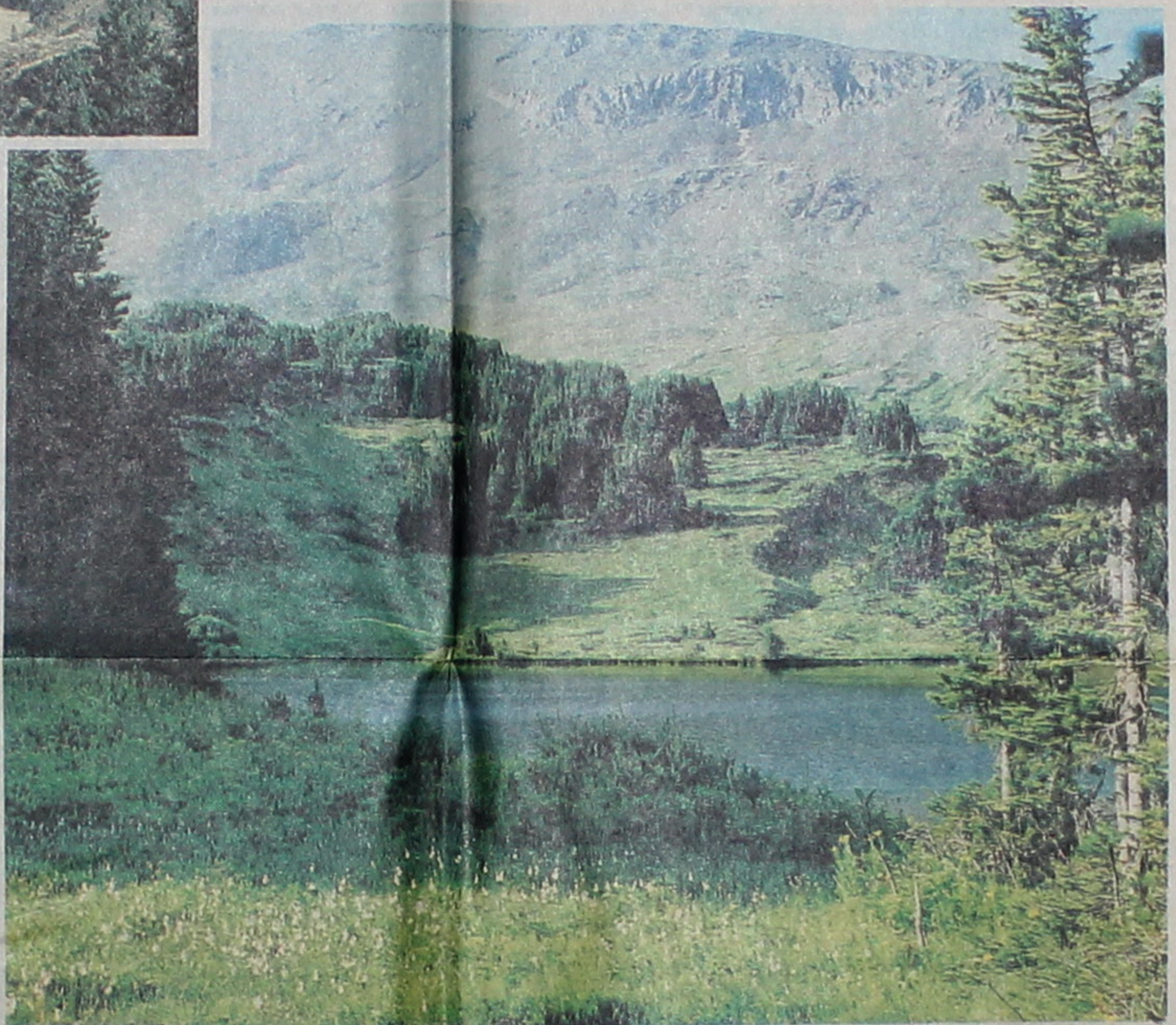
**Arthur Seat** - The 2,100 hectare Arthur Seat proposed protected area encompasses rugged sections of the Thompson Canyon right up to Botanic Mountain. This area has a very high diversity of animal life, including western rattlesnake, gopher snake, spotted owl, bald eagle and California bighorn sheep. Hiking and horseback riding are the main recreation activities. This is an important area for native traditional use.

**Clear Range** - The 14,500 hectare Clear Range proposed protected area is an important traditional native hunting and gathering area. Its alpine areas are rich in species of plants and wildlife and provide spectacular views of the coast range. The Clear Range is a very high use area for Rocky Mountain and California bighorn sheep, particularly as summer range.

**Two Spring** - The 2,400 hectare Two Spring proposed protected area has large areas of oldgrowth forest, including ponderosa pine forest. Five orchid species can be found near its watercourses. Recreational use of the area is very high with people coming to see the spectacular limestone canyon, coloured lakes and pictograph sites. It is a major rock-climbing destination.

**Above:** Dramatic canyon landscape of the 1,900 ha. Big Bar Badlands proposed protected area. The Bunchgrass Zone is the most threatened ecosystem in the province and contains more endangered species than any other B.C. ecozone.

**Right:** A network of trails transects Shulaps Basin in the 10,400 ha. Shulaps Range proposed protected area. Hikers can travel from Serpentine Lake, a beautiful emerald green jewel in the lower forest, to the crystal clear waters of Wolf Lake near tree line (above) and from there continue on to climb Rex Peak or Shulaps Ridge.



**Left:** Forested headwaters of the 7,400 ha. proposed Siska Band Heritage Park harbour elk, deer, mountain goat, black bear, grizzly bear, wolves, marten, lynx, cougar and wolverine. The forest here holds soil in place and lowers the temperature of the Siska water, providing an oasis of cool, clean water at the mouth of Siska Creek for sockeye salmon migrating up the Fraser River to rest in.

**Below:** Ponderosa pine dominates the landscape at low elevations in the 14,100 ha. Southern Camelsfoot Range proposed protected area. This landscape represents one of the smallest ecozones in the province. Very little of it is currently protected in the provincial park system.

**Big Bar Badlands** - The 1,900 hectare Big Bar Badlands proposed protected area is representative of the rugged canyon and grassland-dominated benchlands along the Fraser River. It contains many large oldgrowth Douglas fir veterans, low-elevation grasslands and multicolored, gullied badlands. It is year round habitat for California bighorn sheep, rubber boas, and gopher snakes. It is a First Nations traditional usage area with spectacular scenery.

**Northern Camelsfoot Range** - The 48,300 hectare Northern Camelsfoot Range proposed protected area is a vast mosaic of dry forests and grasslands. It is an important migration corridor for grizzly bear and wolves. It contains multiple California bighorn sheep, mule deer and mountain goat migration corridors. Many hiking trails are found throughout the range. Logging, which continues today, has gone on for the last two years.

**Southern Camelsfoot Range** - The 14,100 hectare Southern Camelsfoot Range proposed protected area is extremely ecologically diverse, containing many stands of oldgrowth Douglas fir and ponderosa pine. The area harbours important habitat for mountain goat, California bighorn sheep, grizzly bear, fisher, and harlequin ducks. It is also a critical migratory corridor and winter range for mule deer. Many First Nations pit house and cache sites are found here. Today, it is the essential yet limited source of clean water for many Yalakom residents.





**OLD STYLE LOGGING--ROAD IT, CLEARCUT AND RUN--DOESN'T WORK ANYMORE. A new style forestry based on ecosystems management, more local processing and conservation of all bioregional values will sustain communities for the future!**

**M**ost people realize that old style industrial logging is not working for the majority of B.C. citizens or for the environment. Timber industry costs have spiralled up. The remaining never-cut-forests are in remote areas that are difficult to access. Markets are more uncertain and selective. Laid-off forest workers lengthen unemployment lines.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the Lillooet region, where Ainsworth Lumber Co., the biggest forest company operating in the region, has a record of continuously reducing jobs. Today, its rate of 1 mill job per 45 truck loads of timber cut and hauled away, ranks amongst the lowest in the world.

Ainsworth's use of highly-automated low-employment mills, its shipping of lots of raw logs out of the Lillooet region for milling elsewhere and its practice of feller-buncher clearcutting of huge volumes of wood from the area's dwindling, slow-growing, high-elevation virgin forests lead many to conclude that this company is squandering the Lillooet region's natural heritage and future prosperity.

Many also believe that the path back to sustainable prosperity must begin with local control of resources, ecosystems-based management strategies and the preservation of the fourteen Rainshadow Wilderness areas (see map pages 4-5). The forest industry must be restructured around a small, sustainable volume of wood selectively harvested from the netted-down commercial forest. The logs from the trees cut must be processed in small, locally-owned value-added manufacturing plants that produce higher quality wood products and create more stable, long-term jobs for local people.

Long term prosperity also means building on the experience of existing tourism businesses, some of which report an annual growth of 10 percent, employ large numbers of local people and generate significant revenues -- all based on canoeing, hiking, horseback riding and skiing in the spectacular Rainshadow Wilderness areas. These long-term sustainable jobs depend on maintaining pristine landscapes of high visual quality.



Ainsworth Lumber Co. mill in Lillooet has an extremely low jobs-to-trees-logged ratio.



Truck load after truck load, like this one shown above, of logs cut from forests within the Lillooet region leave the area bound for a mill elsewhere. Each one exports jobs that should stay in the Lillooet region.



The cost of these Rainshadow Wilderness clearcuts shown above will be borne by the people living in the Lillooet region for generations to come in the form of lost job opportunities and diminished wildlife.

**PARADISE PROTECTED OR PARADISE LOST? Help the Premier make the right decision**

Write to Premier Clark. Present your vision for Lillooet's Rainshadow Wilderness Areas: paradise protected or paradise lost.

Ask him what he will do to make your vision come true. Write today! Don't delay!

Premier Glen Clark  
Legislative Buildings  
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Send a copy to:

Lillooet LRMP  
c/o Bruce Walters  
Ministry of Forests  
Lillooet, B.C. V0K 1V0

Please send a copy of your letter and any replies to the Wilderness Committee.



The wild forests of the Rainshadow Wilderness took thousands of years to develop. Many think that they should be left wild...forever. You can help make that dream a reality.

**Credits**

Writing: Joe Foy; Rainshadow Alliance  
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**Thanks!**

Many people have been working for years to protect the Rainshadow Wilderness areas. For their groundbreaking, successful work to preserve the Stein Valley we say thank you to the Lytton and Mt. Currie Indian Bands. For their continued efforts to preserve the Siska Valley we say thank you to the Siska Indian Band. We say thank you to the Tsai'ahmeo for their continuing efforts to protect the forested southern shores of Seton Lake. Thank you, too, to the Yalakom Community Council for their continuing efforts to protect Shulaps Basin and other areas in the Yalakom Watershed. One of the longest running battles in Rainshadow Country has been the fight for the Southern Chilcotins/Spruce Lake Wilderness. We say thank you to the following groups who support the work of the Southern Chilcotin Mountains Wilderness Society, formed in 1979: Alpine Club of Canada, B.C. Mountaineering Club, B.C. Spaces for Nature, B.C. Wildlife Federation, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Canadian River Expeditions, Chetwynd Environmental Society, Chilliwack Field Naturalists, Chilliwack Outdoor Club, Citizens Association for Predator Conservation, Conservancy Homby Island, East Kootenay Environmental Society, Ecosummer Canada, Environmental Interest Group - UBC, Environmental Youth Alliance, Federation of B.C. Mountain Clubs, Federation of B.C. Naturalists, Guide-outfitters Association of B.C., Gun Lake Ratepayers Association, Heritage Society of B.C., the Hurley Restoration & Redevelopment Society, Kamloops and District Fish and Game Association, Nechako Environmental Coalition, North Shore Hikers, Orienteering Association of B.C., Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C., Outward Bound, Recreational Canoeing Association, Society Promoting Environmental Conservation, Tsawwassen Nature Park Society, United Church of Canada-Environmental Working Unit, Valley Outdoor Association, Vancouver Natural History Society, Varsity Outdoor Club (UBC), and Whistler Air Services Ltd.

**YES, I WILL HELP PROTECT LILLOOET'S RAINSHADOW WILDERNESS**

- Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \_\_\_\$25\_\_\_\$50\_\_\_\$100\_\_\_ (I've selected my own amount). Please use it to expand your campaign to protect all the Rainshadow Wilderness Areas featured in this paper. Wilderness Committee's Revenue Canada Tax Registration Number is 11929 3009 RR0001.
- I want to join (renew my membership in) the Wilderness Committee. I understand that you are the largest membership-based wilderness conservation group in B.C. but that you need more members to be more effective. Enclosed is my  \$30 annual Regular  \$52 annual Supporting-Family Membership fee (\$1 a week to save wilderness). Members receive Educational Reports about threatened wilderness areas and how to help protect them as well as (every fall) a free copy of our beautiful *Western Canada Endangered Wilderness* wall calendar. Supporting-Family members also get a companion *Canadian Endangered Wilderness Calendar*.
- I want a copy of your recently published 13 page research report with full-colour maps entitled *Assessment of Wilderness Remaining and Preservation Options for the Lillooet Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP)*. Enclosed is \$10 to cover all costs including taxes and postage.

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_



Please return to the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, 227 Abbott Street, Vancouver, Canada, BC V6B 2K7. Phone Toll Free 1-800-661-9453 (683-8220 in Greater Vancouver) and join and/or donate by phone using your credit card.