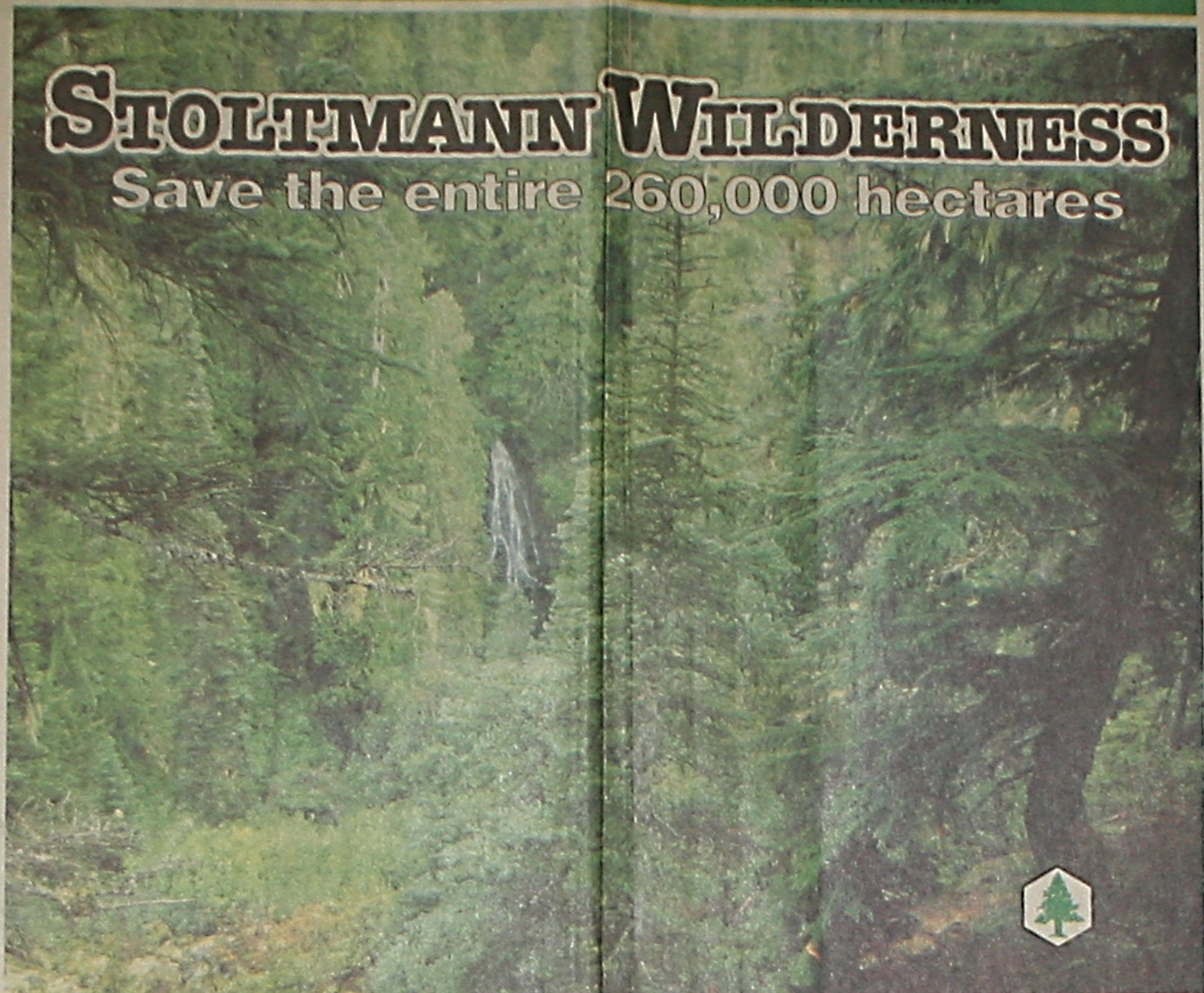


STOLTMANN WILDERNESS

Save the entire 260,000 hectares



Cascade Falls and lush rainforest in Lava Canyon, Upper Elaho Valley.

Photo: Joe Foy

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S LAST ANCIENT LANDSCAPES NEED MORE DEFENDERS

Located just a two-hour car drive north of Squamish, B.C. is a fabulous 260,000 hectare wilderness area, a microcosm of the wild natural world that once dominated coastal B.C. It is called the Stoltmann Wilderness by its defenders, in memory of the young conservationist, Randy Stoltmann, who proposed that the area be protected shortly before his death in a tragic mountaineering accident.

The Stoltmann Wilderness encompasses the pristine headwaters of the Squamish and Lillooet River systems: the Sims, Clendenning, Upper Elaho and Upper Lillooet valleys. Together, these four contiguous valleys make up half of all the large unlogged valleys over 5,000 hectares left in the entire 4.2 million hectare Lower Mainland region.

The Stoltmann is a keystone link in a proposed system of new and existing Coast Mountain parks that equals the world-famous Rocky Mountain parks in size, beauty and ecological integrity.

During the summer of 1995, dozens of Wilderness Committee volunteers snipped and flagged a route into the oldgrowth forest of the Stoltmann Wilderness. Hike this route up the wild Elaho River Valley and you'll be stepping back in time 10,000 years, entering a timeless landscape of towering Douglas fir and ancient redcedar forests, flower-filled meadows, pristine rivers, abundant fish, eagles, moose, grizzly bear, mountain goat and wolves. It's easy to forget that just 200 kilometres away live over 2 million people in one of North America's major urban centres--Vancouver.

Despite its inestimable ecological and recreational values, the Stoltmann Wilderness is increasingly threatened by logging. The Wilderness Committee's Stoltmann hiking trail starts in a 100 hectare clearcut in the Upper Elaho Valley. Logging roads, bridges and clearcuts are already approved in the Stoltmann for the summer of 1996.

The Stoltmann is at the centre of a wilderness preservation versus logging jobs debate. With trees fast running out in southwest B.C., the Stoltmann's oldgrowth forests are coveted by powerful forces--multinational timber corporation International Forest Products (InterFor), timber-union giant International Wood Workers of America (IWA) and a provincial

government that seeks social appeasement rather than ecological sustainability.

Complicating matters is a split in the environment movement. Several environment groups including B.C. Wild and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society have agreed to help government slash down Lower Mainland wilderness area proposals in order to squeeze into government's arbitrary limit that parks comprise only 13 percent of the Lower Mainland land base. The Wilderness Committee remains a lone voice calling for a much larger Lower Mainland park system--between 35 and 40 percent of the land base. Based on the principles of conservation biology, it's the amount of wilderness needed to protect key

wildlife habitat and provide adequate recreation opportunities for the area's huge, growing population.

The self-named "moderate groups" involved in the government's Lower Mainland park planning process have tentatively agreed to the logging of most of the oldgrowth forests of the Stoltmann Wilderness. On the eve of the recent provincial election these groups were poised to sign off on an agreement with timber industry representatives that would allow Sims Creek Valley, Upper Elaho Valley and half of the Upper Lillooet Valley to be clearcut logged.

The future of the Stoltmann Wilderness looks scary except for one thing... YOU and the thousands of people who care for this wild place like they care for South Moresby, the Carmanah, the Stein Valley and Clayoquot Sound.

As you learn more about the Stoltmann Wilderness YOU can choose to join and support our campaign to preserve the entire 260,000 hectare area, the Lower Mainland's largest remaining ancient landscape. We are counting on this area's mystique to capture your heart and imagination as it has ours.



'Triple Crown' ancient redcedars, upper Elaho Valley.
Photo: Kerry Dawson

WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE THE STOLTMANN WILDERNESS

Trail blazing a spectacular hiking route

The Stoltmann Wilderness Trail Route is a surveyed pathway through a spectacularly wild country. Throughout the summer of 1995, Wilderness Committee volunteers worked hard to clear fifteen kilometres of the route through the oldgrowth forests in the Upper Elaho Valley. This summer volunteers will be out there again, snipping away at the undergrowth with 'loppers' (large pruning shears). By the end of summer, 1996, WCWC's entire thirty kilometre Stoltmann Wilderness Trail Route will be cleared and marked from the Upper Elaho to Meager Creek Valley.

Why is WCWC surveying this trail? To garner public support for the preservation of the entire 260,000 hectare Stoltmann Wilderness. WCWC's trails have worked in other places like Carmanah, the Stein and the Boise valleys. If enough people experience the Stoltmann, we're convinced the public pressure to preserve it will be unstoppable!

Walking along the Stoltmann Wilderness Trail Route is awesome. The Elaho Valley is a gentle valley, cut with a series of rainforest-draped canyons. Within two kilometres of the trail head, the route passes by B.C.'s third largest Douglas fir—the Elaho Giant. It then winds to the bottom of Lava and Cessna (nicknamed 'Impassable' by WCWC's first survey crew) canyons, crossing the creeks on temporary pole and rope bridges.

There are many outstanding trees found in the Stoltmann, including some of the last large groves of oldgrowth Douglas fir left on the B.C. coast. Many of the trees are over a thousand years old!

Further up the Elaho River, the valley widens out and the forest is interspersed with wetlands and groves of ancient yellow cedars. This is prime moose country. In fact, it's about as far south as you can find moose in B.C.'s Coast Mountains.

After a day and a half of hiking, the trail route zig-zags up a ridge to the Hundred Lakes Plateau. From here you get an amazing panoramic view of the huge glaciers that crown the mountain ridges above the Elaho, Clendenning and Sims Creek watersheds.

The marked route then meanders across the heather and flower meadows of the plateau, connecting crystal-clear lakes and ponds. If you are lucky you may come across grizzly or cougar tracks in the sand bars or hear a wolf howling from one of the ridges. At the end of the third day you camp on the northern lip of the plateau overlooking Meager Creek Valley. From here it is a half-day hike down the winding trail route to the logging road below. A soak in the hot springs found five kilometres down this logging road should help to ease any over-worked muscles!

If you want to join the volunteers helping clear WCWC's Stoltmann Wilderness Trail Route write or phone Kerry Dawson, WCWC's volunteer coordinator.

Note: WCWC's Stoltmann Wilderness Trail Route is not an officially approved hiking trail under the Forest Practices Code. The B.C. Forest Service has only approved the section to the Elaho Giant. It is currently considering the section from Meager Creek Valley to the Hundred Lakes Plateau. WCWC is now applying for a permit for the rest of the trail.



Upper Elaho Valley from the air. Photo: Ian Mackenzie



Hiking bridge over Lava Creek. Photo: Doug Carter



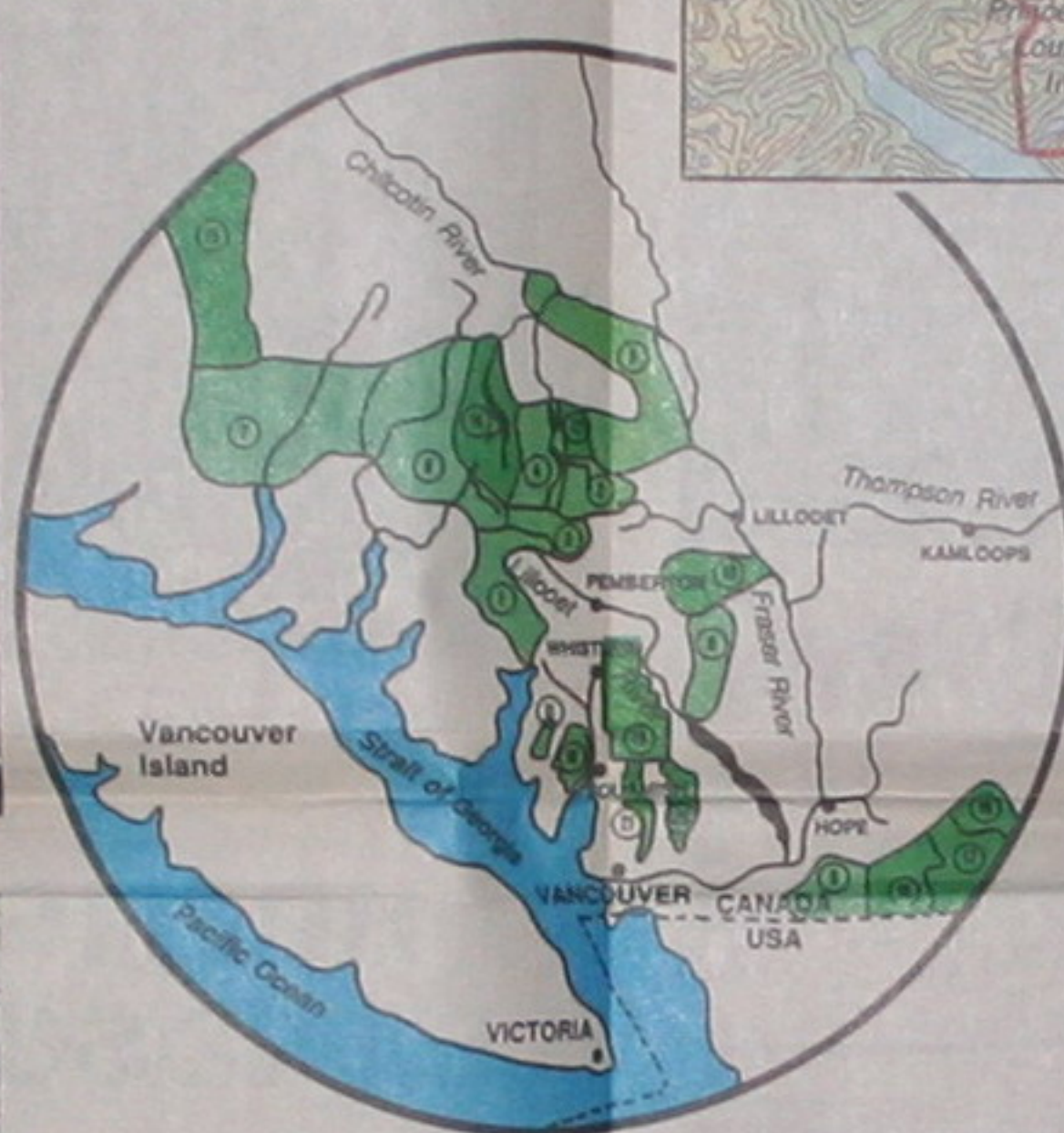
Wilderness Committee volunteers building hiking bridge. Photo: Kerry Dawson



Ancient redcedar in the Upper Elaho Valley. Photo: Kate Hill



85 km. to Squamish



South Coast Mountain Wilderness Areas and Connecting Corridors

Proposed Protected Areas

1. Stoltmann Wilderness
2. Southern Chilcotin/Spruce Lake
3. Upper Bridge River
4. Taseko Lakes
5. Chilcotin Grasslands National Park
6. Tatlayoko Lake
7. Kinakini River
8. Douglas Creek - Mehat Creek
9. Chilliwack Lake
10. Tantalus Range - Lower Squamish River
11. Caren Range

Protected Areas

12. Southern Chilcotin/Big Creek Prov. Park
13. Stein Valley Heritage Prov. Park
14. Chilko Lake Prov. Park (Ta'y-ko)
15. Tweedsmuir Prov. Park
16. Cascade Recreation Area
17. Manning Prov. Park
18. Skagit Prov. Park
19. Garibaldi Prov. Park
20. Golden Ears Prov. Park
21. Pinecone/Burke Prov. Park

WCWC Supports Aboriginal Title

Western Canada Wilderness Committee believes that social justice for First Nations is a prerequisite to lasting environmental protection. We support the work of indigenous peoples to safeguard their traditional homelands and ensure the survival of their cultures. We believe that the rights of indigenous peoples to their homelands are inalienable and their traditional stewardship of Earth's resources can serve as an example of how we can live in sustainable harmony with our natural world.

The Stoltmann Wilderness Area is within the traditional territories of the Klahoose, Lil'wat, Sechelt and Squamish First Nations.

Stoltmann Wilderness being sold out!

In the spring of 1995 the NDP government set up a thirteen-member Regional Public Advisory Committee (RPAC) to quietly reach consensus on which of the Lower Mainland's few remaining wilderness areas would remain wild and which ones would be open for development—especially clearcut logging. Invited onto RPAC were Interfor and the IWA along with two self-acclaimed "moderate" environment groups, B.C. Wild and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. Although the creation of new parks was the expected outcome of the process, instead of the B.C. Provincial Parks Branch, the B.C. Lands Branch (notoriously pro-development), represented the Environment Ministry on RPAC.

The monthly RPAC meetings were not open for the general public to observe, unlike those of the earlier Pinecone Lake/Burke Mountain process. The Wilderness Committee was worried: if the 13 RPAC members were left to their secret negotiations, most of the remaining wilderness in the Lower Mainland would be lost in trade-offs and compromises to keep the total area of parks under the arbitrary ceiling established by government, 13 percent of the land base.

In the fall of 1995, the Wilderness Committee launched a campaign to bring RPAC's back-room deal-making to public attention.

We started by picketing outside the RPAC meetings, demanding that they be opened to public scrutiny. RPAC refused. Next we established a protest camp on the Legislative Lawns in Victoria, asking that government hold public open-house meetings in all Lower Mainland communities to give people an opportunity to review RPAC's proposed park plan and say how much local park protection they want. The NDP government said "No, we don't have time." We said, "there's always time for democracy!"

Our Legislature Lawn camp-out continued for nearly two months, becoming the longest running protest in B.C. legislative history. When the legislature guards said we couldn't have a tent on the Lawn, we put our tent on castor wheels and towed it around like a wagon. When the guards said that wouldn't do, we filled our tent with helium balloons and suspended it over the Lawn, drawing attention to the government's undemocratic stance on the Lower Mainland park planning process and raising the profile of the largest wilderness area threatened by the RPAC negotiations—the Stoltmann Wilderness.

In the weeks before the April 28 election call, RPAC representatives apparently reached a tentative agreement on which Lower Mainland wilderness areas they'd recommend for preservation (although we've heard that they didn't actually sign the agreement). RPAC's environmental representatives have refused to give us a copy of their park plan map, but we've been told that most of the Stoltmann Wilderness is slated for development. Of the Stoltmann's 260,000 hectares approximately 55,000, about one-fifth of the area, was recommended for preservation (see the proposed Stoltmann Wilderness RPAC boundary on map to the left).

RPAC recommended that Sims Creek, the Upper Elaho and the lower elevations and tributary streams of the Upper Lillooet—three of the Stoltmann's four big pristine valleys—be logged. Sims Creek, the Upper Elaho, and the Lillooet tributary valleys of Salal, Boulder and North Creeks represent the ecological heartland and most important recreation areas of the Stoltmann.

RPAC's plan calls for clearcutting the vast majority of the economic timber and the very last big stands of coastal Douglas fir. It guts the Stoltmann of its ecological integrity. How can environment groups like B.C. Wild and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society even contemplate signing off on a deal like this?

On May 28 Premier Glen Clark and the NDP were entrusted with the reins of power to govern B.C. through to the end of the millennium. It's a four year period during which British Columbians could protect sufficient wilderness to preserve biodiversity, clean water and a healthy environment for our children, or bicker our way down to saving only 12 percent of B.C.'s lands—following in the footsteps of the U.S. where it's becoming clear that 12 percent preservation is insufficient to preserve grizzlies, wolves and salmon.

The Wilderness Committee urges our new NDP government to bring democracy back to the Lower Mainland park planning process. Government now has the time to plan open house public meetings, giving people the chance to let it know what kind of Lower Mainland park system they want. We are confident that Lower Mainland residents will say, preserve the entire 260,000 hectare Stoltmann Wilderness!

A WILDLIFE PARADISE

The 260,000 hectare Stoltmann Wilderness is a rich mosaic of oldgrowth forests, alpine meadows, marshes, rivers and glaciers. All together it's a lot of ideal fish and wildlife habitat!

The four big pristine valleys—the Upper Elaho, Sims, Clendenning and the Upper Lillooet—all have outstanding fish streams. The lower five kilometres of Sims Creek is known for its large trout. According to the B.C. Ministry of Environment, it is a Class A fish bearing stream (government's highest possible rating). The Upper Elaho River is also rated as a Class A stream below the canyon which begins just upstream from its confluence with Clendenning Creek (see the map above). The Clendenning, too, is a Class A stream with trout living in all but the uppermost headwaters. Because fish migration into the Upper Lillooet River was blocked by a lava flow that formed a barrier to migration several thousand years ago—Key Hole Falls—the fish there may be genetically unique.

B.C. government biologists have estimated the numbers of some of the large wildlife species inhabiting the Stoltmann Wilderness at 8 grizzly bear, 700 black bear, 55 moose, 240 mountain goats, 8 wolves and 15 cougars. This is a 'wildlife roll-call' unequalled by any provincial park in the Lower Mainland.

The Stoltmann Wilderness also contains a number of species made rare by habitat destruction elsewhere. One of these is the Keen's long-eared bat, found in the low elevation forests of the Elaho, Sims, Clendenning and Lillooet valleys. This bat, which depends on oldgrowth forests for its nesting habitat, is red-listed (classified as endangered) by the B.C. Environment Ministry.

The extraordinary variety of wildlife found in the Stoltmann Wilderness should come as no surprise. After all, the Stoltmann Wilderness is the biggest wild area with the largest extent of oldgrowth forests left on B.C.'s southwest coast.

ARTISTS FOR THE STOLTMANN WILDERNESS



Camping on the Hundred Lakes Plateau. Photo: Kerry Dawson

Ever since the Group of Seven captured on canvas northern Ontario's wild landscapes more than a century ago, Canada's wilderness has been a continuing wellspring of artistic inspiration. But, for many of today's artists, wilderness is more than merely a subject matter. It is a cause célèbre. Realizing that Canada's great oldgrowth forests and roadless wilderness areas are disappearing at an ever-increasing rate, they have volunteered their talents to help protect special wild areas from destruction.

Artists have been "activists" in every successful campaign to save B.C.'s big wilderness areas, from South Moresby to the Stein and Carmanah to the Tsilika. They have trekked into threatened oldgrowth forests, created awe-inspiring art and donated their work to help raise money for wilderness preservation.

Now the Stoltmann Wilderness is calling out for help and the artists are responding. The Wilderness Committee has invited one hundred artists to come to the Stoltmann Wilderness during the summer of 1996, to camp-out with WCWC campaigners and draw, paint or sculpt what they see and experience.

WCWC will be holding an art show featuring the resultant artworks and, if financing can be arranged, feature the works of art in a book to further promote park protection for the entire 260,000 hectare Stoltmann Wilderness Area.

If you would like to volunteer to help at one of WCWC's Stoltmann Wilderness artists' camp-outs, write or call Sue Fox, Stoltmann Artists Project Coordinator at the Wilderness Committee.



Huge Douglas fir in the Clark Grove, Upper Elaho Valley. Photo: Kerry Dawson



Tree hugger on the WCWC hiking route. Photo: Kerry Dawson

NO TIME TO WASTE! ACT NOW!



Wilderness Committee volunteers at the annual Brackendale winter eagle count on the Lower Squamish River. Photo: Kerry Dawson



InterFor bulldozer on new Sims Creek logging road, 1995. Photo: Joe Foy



InterFor clearcut and slash burning on the edge of the Stoltmann Wilderness. Photo: Joe Foy



Find out how you can 'adopt' endangered Stoltmann Wilderness trees like this one in Sims Creek. See tear-off mailer below. Photo: James Jamieson

WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SAVES JOBS

Preserving jobs is one of the top concerns of everyone in B.C. But, contrary to what logging proponents claim, clearcutting the Stoltmann Wilderness would preserve fewer jobs than it would destroy.

Squamish, Whistler and Pemberton are the three closest communities to the Stoltmann Wilderness. They are growing at the fastest rate in the Lower Mainland, 3.6 percent per year. Over the next few years these three communities are expected to grow at almost twice the rate of the Lower Mainland as a whole!

In the Squamish-Whistler-Pemberton corridor, tourism currently accounts for 28.9 percent of employment and logging/milling for half that amount, 14.6 percent. These industries are the two most important job producers in the region. But their employment trends are on opposite tracks. From 1981 to 1991 jobs in logging/milling declined by 25 percent while tourism jobs increased by 300 percent!

Preserving the 260,000 hectare Stoltmann Wilderness would provide many job creation opportunities for the burgeoning tourism industry of the Squamish-Whistler-Pemberton corridor.

But what about the declining logging/milling jobs in the region? Clearly, allowing the big logging companies including International Forest Products (InterFor) to keep on clearcutting until the last few wild valleys are logged out will not change the current downward trend in logging/milling jobs in the region.

The answer for the forest industry lies in getting more local jobs per tree cut. InterFor ships much of the timber it cuts in the Squamish-Whistler-Pemberton corridor to be milled at its lumber mills on the Fraser River and Burrard Inlet. Some of the timber is shipped to foreign mills in the form of cants--squared off logs. This year, InterFor's Tree Farm License (TFL) #38, the government issued license that guarantees logging rights in three of the Stoltmann's four big-tree valleys (Sims, the Upper Elaho and the Clendenning), comes up for renewal.

The Wilderness Committee urges the B.C. government not to renew TFL #38. Instead WCWC recommends that TFL #38 lands within the Stoltmann Wilderness--about one-third of the timber volume of the TFL--be withdrawn so that the entire 260,000 ha Stoltmann Wilderness can be preserved as a provincial park. Timber cutting rights for the rest of the TFL #38 lands should be reallocated and placed under local community control. Companies that value-add manufacture wood products locally should be guaranteed a wood supply and all timber cutting agreements should stipulate the use of labour-intensive eco-forestry methods, not clearcutting.

We can preserve jobs while saving the entire Stoltmann Wilderness.



Large dimension lumber being shipped from Vancouver docks to foreign mills for remanufacture. Photo: Joe Foy

LET PREMIER CLARK KNOW WHERE YOU STAND ON PRESERVING the entire 260,000 HECTARE STOLTMANN WILDERNESS WRITE HIM NOW!

**PREMIER GLEN CLARK,
LEGISLATIVE BUILDINGS, VICTORIA, B.C. V8V 1X4**

For every 1,000 people who feel strongly about an issue, on average, only one actually writes a letter to government. Your letter to Premier Clark about the Stoltmann Wilderness carries the weight of a thousand people!

Don't delay - write today!

Clip and Mail to Help Save the Stoltmann Wilderness

- ☐ Yes! I want to contribute to WCWC's campaign to make the entire 260,000 hectare Stoltmann Wilderness a Provincial Park. Here is my tax-deductible gift of \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1000 other to help win this campaign.
- ☐ I want to [] renew my membership [] become a Western Canada Wilderness Committee member. Enclosed is my \$30 annual membership fee.
- ☐ I would like to Adopt an Oldgrowth Tree in the Stoltmann Wilderness. Enclosed is my \$30 donation. Please send me a hand-calligraphed certificate sealed with the Wilderness Committee logo featuring a tree photograph taken by WCWC Campaigner Joe Foy. Every certificate features a different tree in the Stoltmann Wilderness. The name of the tree's adopter is _____ The name I want to give my special Stoltmann tree is _____

Name (please print) _____

Address _____ City _____

Province _____ Postal Code _____ Phone _____

Please clip and return to:

Western Canada Wilderness Committee, 20 Water Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1A4.
Thank you for your support!



Credits

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