



Peter Grant

Lillooet Land Use Plan

Gateway to Wilderness and Prosperity

■ The Lillooet Land Use Plan has profound, positive implications for the region's largest employer, its vibrant tourism economy, and for protection of outstanding wildlife populations.

■ Located in Vancouver and Whistler's backyard, the Lillooet region is a world-class wilderness tourism destination.

■ This land use plan will set the stage for the land use/conservation debate in B.C. for years to come.

■ The April 2001 Lillooet Land Use Plan offers a balanced solution while avoiding negative impact to any specific interest, including the mining and forest industries.

■ The Lillooet Land Use Plan respects First Nations rights and title.

■ The Lillooet region is one of B.C.'s most ecologically diverse and threatened landscapes and caters to a complex mix of economic interests.



Garth Lenz

Lillooet and the Liberals' New Era

Upholding the Lillooet Land Use Plan is consistent with the Liberal government's New Era Commitments. Here's how:

"Stimulate tourism with a plan to improve operators' ability to successfully compete for visitors from around the world." (PAGE 10)

- Tourism generates more economic activity and government revenue than either forestry or mining in the Lillooet region.
- Parks represent the best mechanism for providing long-term business security for back-country tourism operators.

"Aggressively support and champion B.C.'s bid to host the 2010 Winter Olympics." (PAGE 10)

- A large park system in Lillooet will provide a foundation on which to expand the region's wilderness tourism sector. The tourism sector can use the

2010 Winter Olympics as a means to grow and provide tourism opportunities for visitors to the games.

"Adopt a scientifically-based, principled approach to environmental management that ensures sustainability, accountability and responsibility." (PAGE 13)

- All of the parks included in the Lillooet Land Use Plan meet the Protected Area Strategy (PAS) criteria of vulnerability, naturalness, and representation.

"Ensure mining or logging is not permitted in parks." (PAGE 13)

- Changing the boundaries of South Chilcotin Mountains Park to allow logging or mining is tantamount to a breach of the above-cited New Era commitment.

The Opportunity

Upholding the April 2001 Lillooet Land Use Plan, the result of a five-year-long consensus-based process and mediation, will:

- Protect the ecological integrity and tourism opportunities in South Chilcotin Mountains Park and the 13 other critical areas included in the Land Use Plan
- Establish a rationale and equitable framework for a diversified economy based on tourism, logging, agriculture, and mining
- Mandate recovery of declining wildlife populations, particularly grizzly bear, which have been designated as "threatened populations" by provincial biologists.
- Demonstrate respect for First Nations interests and honour the four identified First Nations conservation areas
- Embrace best-available science and ecosystem-based management principles
- Balance all resource uses in an equitable manner
- Make a major contribution to the economy of the Lillooet region and, by extension, the economy of the province as a whole



Garth Lenz



World-class Wilderness

The B.C. government's imminent and precedent-setting land use decision will affect our economy and some of B.C.'s most threatened wildlife for years to come. This decision will define the Liberal government's approach to land management and show the world what they mean when they say 'sustainability'.

The Lillooet region contains nationally significant wild landscapes, home to bighorn sheep, mountain goats, mule deer, threatened grizzly bear populations, endangered bull trout, fisher, and spotted owl.

These wild lands support a growing wilderness tourism and recreation economy. Last year alone, the 8,800 visitors to South Chilcotin Mountains Park spent over \$11.4 million with local tourism operators (and generated \$4.4 million in direct Gross Domestic Product). Tourism is the area's largest employer, while logging and mining offer limited economic potential in the region. Based on government's own socio-economic reports, the South Chilcotin Mountain Park's forest are clearly far more valuable as a tourism draw than they are as commercial timber. Several major mining companies who undertook decades of extensive mineral exploration in the region have subsequently abandoned their claims due to uneconomic prospects.

Wilderness and wildlife are two of British Columbia's most precious resources. Protecting the Lillooet region's wild lands is key to realizing a diversified economy and healthy environment for the future.

Tourism Values at Stake

- The high-value recreation product now offered in South Chilcotin Mountains Park is based solely on the area's pristine wilderness attributes.

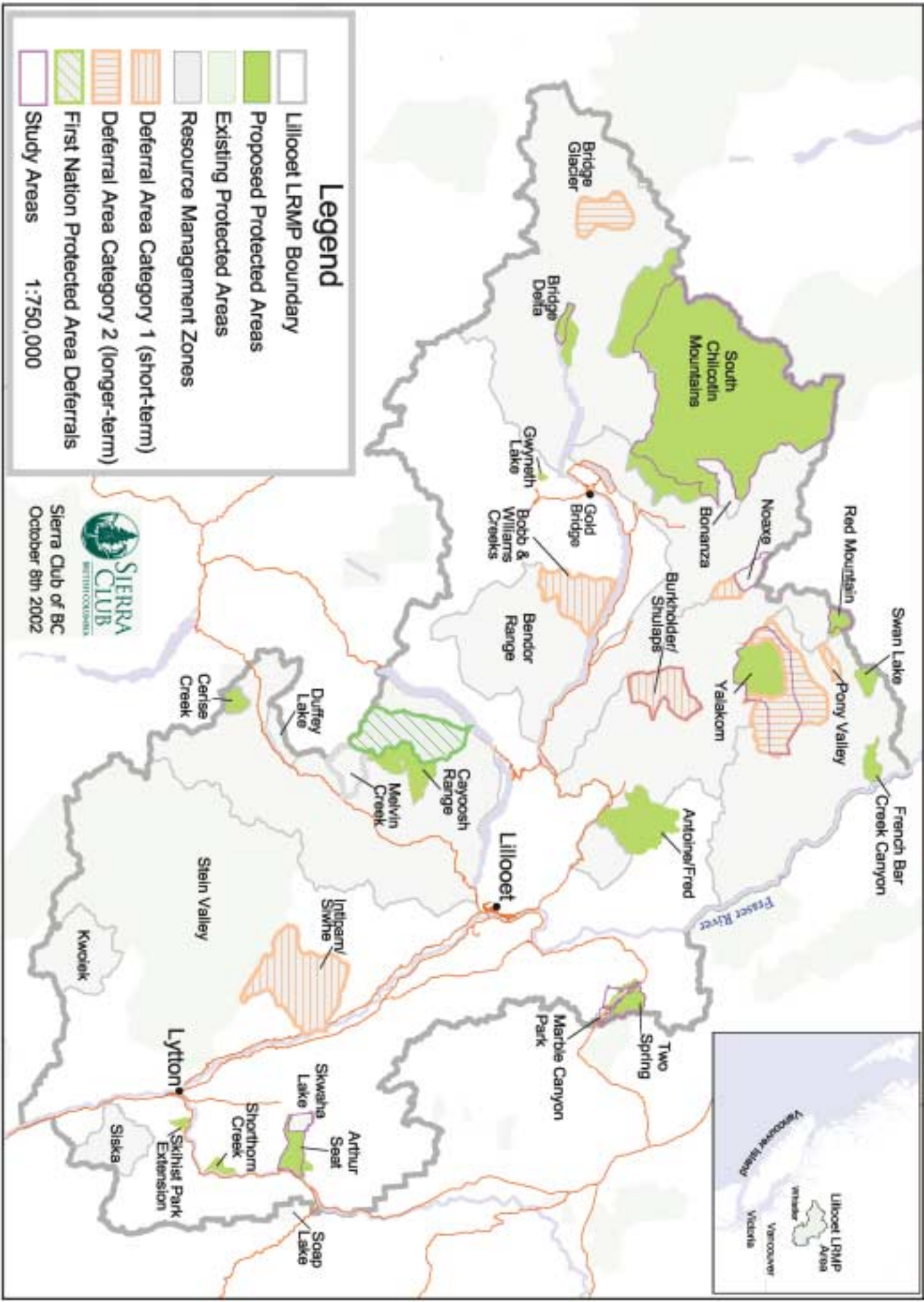
- Since 1996, visitor spending in the Lillooet region has increased by up to 10 per cent per year. We can expect to see at least a doubling in visitor spending over the next decade.

- The province's \$9.5 billion tourism industry is natural resource-based, dependent on the maintenance of ecological integrity, and anchored on the province's park and wilderness system.

- In 1996, B.C. residents spent \$1.9 billion on outdoor activities in and adjacent to parks.



Original Lillooet Land Use Plan April 2001



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