
INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

SEA-TO-SKY BACKCOUNTRY RECREATION CONFIRMED

WHISTLER – The Province has confirmed access and usage of backcountry areas in the Sea-to-Sky region for snowmobilers and backcountry skiers.

In January 2008, the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) retained the services of a consultant to assess and make recommendations on winter public recreation zoning in the northern part of the Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan area, including the Callaghan, Upper Lillooet, and Birkenhead watersheds.

The consultant's report, entitled "Recommendations for the Management of Winter Backcountry Recreation in the Lillooet River Drainage and the Sea-to-Sky LRMP Area," calls for:

- A change to the zoning in Phelix Creek to allow access for snowmobilers while also keeping important backcountry skiing areas for non-motorized use. This change will be implemented this winter season.
- Maintaining recent improvements to operational management practices in the Callaghan Valley and other recommendations for non-motorized use in the valley, as well as motorized access to the Pemberton Ice Cap through adjacent areas. The north Callaghan area will remain closed to motorized winter activities.
- The adoption of current interim zoning based on the Winter Backcountry Recreation Forum with some clarifications.

The report also provides general recommendations for public motorized and non-motorized activity throughout the Sea-to-Sky area. The consultant was not asked to address commercial recreation use.

The Province has established important relationships with the local First Nations on land-use planning and management activities, and will continue to work closely with them to address the various land-use management needs in the Sea-to-Sky area, including consideration of the report's recommendations. The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts and its partner agencies will be interested in further input from the recreation community and other interests to help guide and refine recreation management activities in the Sea-to-Sky area.

The report and detailed maps of the area are available at:

<http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/slrp/lrmp/surrey/s2s/news/reports.html>

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