

August 3, 2020

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
PO Box 219
Pemberton, BC
VON 2L0

RECEIVED

AUG 06 2020

SQUAMISH-LILLOOET
REGIONAL DISTRICT

Re: Whistler Olympic Park Zoning Amendment

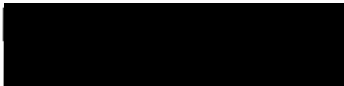
To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in opposition to further development in the Callaghan Valley in general and the introduction of overnight accommodation at the Whistler Olympic Park in specific.

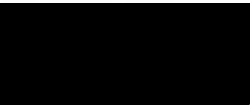
My arguments against this zoning change are based on three main points:

1. The original development for the Olympics did not include overnight accommodation. I see this rezoning application (like the earlier one for overnight accommodation) to be a Trojan Horse to open the Callaghan to even more development.
2. In spite of logging and other developments, the Callaghan Valley retains many of its original ecosystems and provides critical habitat. It is an important travel corridor for Grizzly Bears, Mountain Goats, and other large animals. It also still has extensive ancient forests with trees often older than 1,000 years (based on my tree coring). A patchwork expansion of the WOP will further degrade natural values in the Callaghan Valley.
3. The Regional Growth Strategy, and growth strategies in general, are predicated on concentrating development to reduce impacts. Adding overnight accommodation at WOP goes against that concept, especially since it's likely to lead to even more development at the WOP in the future.

Sincerely,



Bob Brett, M.Sc., R.P. Biologist
Snowline Ecological Research





August 4, 2020

Squamish Lillooet Regional District
Box 219, 1350 Aster Street
Pemberton, BC, V0N 2L0

SLRD Board of Directors,

Canadian Wilderness Adventures (CWA) supports the proposed rezoning at Whistler Olympic Park (WOP) allowing seasonal camping use. While CWA supports overnight accommodation opportunities in the Callaghan Valley, there is concerns about facilitation of use of CWA's tenured trails on Sprout Mountain.

From the very beginning of VANOC's planning and development of the WOP, and in the discussions that led to CWA voluntarily ceding their tenured land to the WOP, there was agreement that the WOP would not operate in competition with or to the detriment of the existing commercial recreation companies in the Callaghan Valley. CWA has tenure that allows overnight accommodations and plans to initiate rezoning shortly. Public camping however, is not something that CWA would contemplate and so, welcomes WOP's provision of this important service in the Callaghan Valley.

CWA does have concerns with some of the activities that may arise from camping at the WOP. If for example, campers' hiking and mountain biking onto CWA tenure could come into conflict with guided ATV, side-by-side and 4X4 tours. Close proximity of increased numbers of non-motorized users on trails developed and maintained for beginner level motorized tours could increase risk for safety, liability and negative experience. Any conflict could result in detrimental impacts to CWA's business. These impacts could manifest in increased costs of management (including legal costs) and maintenance.

Another concern is motorized use by ATV's and dirt bikes originating from campers at the WOP and placing additional pressure on the trails network that CWA manages and maintains. This could result in increased safety risk for CWA guided tours as well as increased wear and tear on the trail surfaces.

It is our hope that WOP will ensure that their business model directs their guest onto WOP tenured lands rather than facilitating access to CWA tenured land. CWA has had discussions with Roger Soane regarding these concerns and we are optimistic that they can be addressed, especially with the support of the SLRD.

Respectfully,



Allan Crawford,
President, Canadian Wilderness Adventures

From: [Anna Koterniak](#)
To: [Alix MacKay](#)
Subject: Fw: *** External *** Bylaw No. 1673-2020
Date: August 10, 2020 11:54:31 AM



Anna Koterniak
Planning and GIS Technician
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From: Planning
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 3:50 AM
To: Anna Koterniak
Subject: FW: *** External *** Bylaw No. 1673-2020

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 8:42 PM
To: Planning <planning@slrd.bc.ca>
Subject: *** External *** Bylaw No. 1673-2020

I'd like to support this bylaw and extend it to allow for the same use 12 months of the year.

Warm Regards,
Dan Wilson
Whistler

Sent from my iPhone



July 27, 2020

Kim Needham
Director of Planning and Development
SLRD

RE: Whistler Sports Legacies Campground Zoning Amendment Application:
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Electoral Area D Zoning Bylaw No. 1350-2016, Amendment
Bylaw No. 1673-2020

Dear Kim,

Our comments here are focused solely from the perspective of safeguarding grizzly bears and people. The SLRD's 2015 resolution supporting grizzly bear recovery and their long-term viability confirms that we share concerns and values around the future of grizzly bears in the SLRD.

In that context, the Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative (C2C) is concerned about expanded development at Whistler Olympic Park (WOP) and the spin-off pressures on the Callaghan backcountry inside and outside WOP. We would feel much more comfortable if the SLRD would wait to consider this application and others in the context of "master plan" for the Callaghan Valley, rather than continued incremental approvals. As such, we are not in favour of the campground going ahead, at least not at this time.

However, if a campground were to be allowed in WOP, having it within the already developed footprint in the core of the sports facilities is, all things being equal, preferable to having it inserted into more natural areas and habitats such as farther up Madeley Creek.

Still, there may be issues with the proposal so **we ask the SLRD to require the applicant to hire a credible grizzly bear expert to do perform four tasks:**

- 1) review WOP's Wildlife and Bear Management plan to ensure that it employs current best practices in an area of recent known (at least periodic) grizzly bear use (ie within the WOP core area) and that it covers all issues that are associated with a campground;
- 2) perform an on-ground assessment whether there are any safety risks that may be associated with the presence of any seasonal grizzly bear foods (natural and introduced) in the proximity of the proposed campground and make any recommended changes that may be required to WOP's Wildlife and Bear Management plan - and/or the Zoning Amendment application - before any approval is granted;
- 3) perform an on-ground assessment of any safety risks or bear management issues that may be associated with the presence of seasonal grizzly bear foods in the trails/roads network within WOP if the applicant generally, and/or campground specifically, will be encouraging or resulting in summer trail use for visitors;
- 4) provide advice, based on observed factors like food sources near the campground and seasonal patterns of grizzly bear activity and foraging in the Callaghan generally, whether the proposed campground use window of May 15 to October 15 in the proposed by-law amendment is prudent or whether it should be changed.

The Callaghan Valley is located within the Squamish-Lillooet Grizzly Bear Population Unit. The Province of BC has a new (2019) five tier system for ranking grizzly bear population conservation concern. Squamish-Lillooet is ranked as "M2 – High Concern", which is the second highest (second worst) population risk ranking category. After many years of human-caused decline, the Squamish-Lillooet Grizzly Bear Population Unit's number are now thought to be recovering, including in the Callaghan area. There are several breeding females in or near the Callaghan valley. We would note that the presence of grizzly bears in the Callaghan Valley was known and documented prior to the awarding of the 2010 Winter Olympics to Vancouver and the construction of Whistler Olympic Park.

Page 2 of Appendix B of the application states under Solid Waste / Wildlife Attractants:

"WOP follows the Wildlife and Bear Management plan filed with the Master Plan. Currently recycling/waste collection/composting bins are located on site with additional requirements for bins, food preparation areas and cleanup stations anticipated. Building on current educational program regarding waste management and attractants will be developed through operational planning for proposed camping operations."

WOP's Wildlife and Bear Management plan did not appear to be appended to the application and may contain all the right direction, but not having seen it, we, as stated above, recommend that the plan be reviewed by a competent grizzly bear expert to see if there are any gaps. Things to consider when reviewing the plan could include:

- Ensuring that both the aspects of waste management as well as people recreating on the trails and roads within WOP aspect is tailored to summer as well as winter. The historic primary focus of WOP activities has been winter when of course bears are generally in hibernation.
- If the campground would become a draw to visitors, and if WOP encourages summer recreation (eg allowing mountain biking and/or providing e-bike rentals), impacts on grizzly bears and risk to visitor safety need to be considered. (For example, visitors travelling quickly and relatively silently on e-bikes in areas of natural grizzly bear foods could be a very real human (and ultimately bear) safety risk.)
- While many best practices help with both black and grizzly bears, is the WOP plan sufficiently up-to-date to account for a growing grizzly bear population in the area?
- Given that there has been at least occasional grizzly bear use within the core central area of WOP (reasonably close to the proposed campground area C2C has been led to believe) in recent years, what thought and planning has been given to any presence of existing natural and introduced (eg planted grasses) bear foods in the areas adjacent to the "hardened" campsites? And how they may be safety factors with a campsite nearby?
- How does the timing of grizzly bear presence align with the proposed campground operational season?
- While decisions around dealing with grizzly bears on site would ultimately be a provincial government responsibility, what possible actions, measures and/or closures does the WOP Bear Management Plan anticipate should a single grizzly bear or grizzly family (eg mother and cubs) be present in or near the campgrounds?
- Will the campgrounds be fairly compact or will be campers be walking some distance (eg to washrooms; day or night) where it is possible higher likelihood of encountering feeding bears?
- Will the proposed "native" seeding/restoration of some part of parking lots include any bear forage/food species?
- Ensuring that the plan includes direction and known best practices around safe storage of food and other bear attractants in a campground setting. For example, will bear-proof food lockers be provided? (including for campers that may arrive on bicycle or motorcycle; some campers will tent)

It is important that any actual site/field inspections need to happen before the area is covered in snow, and they should happen before any approval be granted should any safety, campground opening window, or other issues be identified with the application/amendment. C2C would be happy to provide the applicant contact information for suitable, credible grizzly bear experts so the SLRD, proponent and all interested parties all have confidence in the quality of the assessments.

We will endeavor to participate in the Public Hearing on August 11.

Sincerely,



Johnny Mikes
Field Director
Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative
johnny@coasttocascades.org