

Thursday, December 13, 2007

## SAVE FRIES CREEK KEEP THE WEST SIDE WILD

Geographically the Fries valley is located directly across from the mouth of the Mamquam river on the west side of the Squamish river. To the north is the world renowned eagle viewing area, the Brackendale Eagles Provincial park, Tantalus provincial park as well as Baynes Island ecological reserve. To the south is the Squamish Estuary, a wildlife management area, guided by the principles laid out in the "Squamish Estuary Management Plan".

Being framed in by these sanctuaries it would only make sense to meet these areas up on the west side of the Squamish river to be protected under one covenant.

In August 2006 BC Hydro issued an electricity purchase agreement to Pacific Green Energy Power to divert water from Fries Creek for seasonal electricity generation.

This project needs to be rejected in its entirety and protection needs to be put into place to prevent any development of any kind on the west side of the Squamish river including crossings of any type.

Nature thrives on isolation from human contact.

The Squamish River has acted as a natural barrier, preserving the west side as natural. Here wildlife can roam without the daily conflict of human activity.

The key to preserving the West Side has always been hard access. If you want a true wilderness experience here it is, just a short canoe ride over the river. The IPP at Fries Valley will change all that. Along with the mega project will come the infrastructure of roads, trails, and barge access across the river. An egg timer could be used to clock how long it will then take a developer to change the barge route with a permanent bridge across the river.

Often overlooked in our society is the need for isolated areas, not only for the animals, but also for spiritual clarity. The First Nations wisely and traditionally hold this value dear to their hearts.

There have been industrial activities here in the past. 1940's logging, Teresan gas pipeline, and BC hydro transmission lines. Some have left scars, but none have left behind the impacts of access.

This area has been identified as spotted owl habitat, and is the "World Eagle capital". Mountain goat and Elk were common in this area, over hunting in the first half of the last century wiped them out. There are hopes of one day reintroducing these to restore order and balance to the West Side.

The West Side of the Squamish River must be preserved intact for our children's children.

For more information please contact:

John Buchanan  
Director, Squamish Environmental Conservation Society  
Cell: 604.892.4439

Links to the Fries Creek project proposal:

[http://twofx.com/focus/exhibits/0-outline-overview/Fries\\_Creek\\_Project\\_Development\\_Plan.pdf](http://twofx.com/focus/exhibits/0-outline-overview/Fries_Creek_Project_Development_Plan.pdf)  
[http://www.twofx.com/greengen/Rounded\\_2/index.html](http://www.twofx.com/greengen/Rounded_2/index.html)

General information of environmental impacts of IPP's:

<http://www.wildernesscommittee.org/campaigns/publiclands/rpps>