

## **Memo: Environmental Assessment for The Garibaldi at Squamish Ski Resort**

The proposed project in focus is a year-round destination mountain resort. The project will feature 124 ski trails and 21 lifts and will take 20 years to build. I am a natural resource planner, and my task is to examine the Environment Assessment recommendations and Whistler's criticism to evaluate if there is sufficient evidence to continue to oppose the project. I have put together a map, a list of important information regarding the proposed project area in relation to the environmental assessment factors and this memo to summarize my results.

The following potentially affected areas are included in this report:

1. The Ungulate Winter Range
2. Old Growth Management Areas
3. Projected Ecosystems (Red-listed Ecosystems)
4. Fishery habitats

Since we are only focused on the environmental effects within the proposed project boundaries all data was cropped within the project boundaries. First off, to simply the elevation within the project area, we have split off the area with areas that are over 600m in elevation and areas that are below 600 m in elevation. Then we calculated the percentage of each of the potentially affected areas listed above to the over all project area. With the fishery habitats, the rivers were expanded; 100m for rivers below 600m in elevation, and 50m for rivers above 600m in elevation.

More than half of the project area falls into an area that should be protected.

- 7% of the project area contains old growth forests
- 8% of the project area falls under Mule Deer and Mountain Goat winter habitats
- 25% of the project area falls under red-listed species ecosystems
- 28% of the project area falls under fish bearing streams

The above data gave us a rough idea of the areas that will be affected as a percentage of the whole area, which was 54%. Although some protected areas overlap, but having 54% of the area that house specific habitat that needs to be protected, the construction of the project will produce great consequences.

I think the main concerns for the project would be the effects on the ecosystems of the red-listed species and the effects on the rivers and streams. Red-listed species ecosystems will be affected greatly due to the fact that they could only exist in certain areas. The species endangered are: Cat's-tail Moss, Cladina, False box, Flat Moss, Kinnikinnick, and Salal. These species need certain conditions to grow it should be vital to keep these areas to preserve these specific red-listed species.

Considering the findings above, the suggested action towards the project would be to continue to oppose it. From global warming the area that would be suitable for skiing will decrease. The area that is considered unreliable (on the lower 600m vertical) already takes up 32% of the project area, this percentage will only increase

with time. The report concludes that the organization should continue to oppose the project. As it harms the habitats and areas that need extra protection, as well the future of the resort is shortsighted as skiable areas may decrease as global warming, and climate change inevitably happens.