

ANALYSIS OF CORE – SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS (SMA) VALUES AND RATINGS IN COMPARISON WITH JUMBO VALLEY RATINGS

Jumbo Ratings: Wildlife and Ecology = High
 Protected Area Support = High
 Recreation and Tourism = Very High

Note: Ratings are based on 28 special management areas (SMA) in the East Kootenays.

The three volumes identified are deemed to be the most significant relative to the project and Jumbo Creek area.

SMA Value Rating	SMA Value Rankings	SMA Value Rankings	SMA Value Rankings
	Wildlife and Ecology	Protected and Support	Recreation and Tourism
High	8	14	16
Very High	18	3	3
Total	26	17	19

Observations:

- 93% of all SMA's are rated H or VH for wildlife and Ecology – i.e. common characteristics
- 64% of SMA's have a VH rating for wildlife and ecology – i.e. the majority of SMA's in the East Kootenay's are more important for this value than the Jumbo Creek drainage
- over 60% of all SMA's have either a H or VH rating – i.e. this is a common characteristic of SMA's, not unique or special to Jumbo Creek
- out of 28 SMA's only 3 were given a VH rating putting Jumbo Creek in the top 10% of importance for this value – i.e. Jumbo Creek is significant in regional terms for its recreation and tourism values

REGIONAL CONTEXT:

Special management in this area will provide for the maintenance of important wildlife, wildland and representation values in a general area that has seen extensive logging activity in lower areas.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

The management of this area should be predicated on maintaining the substantial tourism and recreation values in this area. The unit should be managed to maintain the wilderness character of the area with rehabilitation plans for roads constructed in the area.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA #17 (Map 5)

JUMBO-UPPER HORSETHIEF

AREA: 29,649 hectares

POLYGON NUMBER: 15-7

LOCATION/DESCRIPTION:

This area is located 30 kilometres west of Invermere along the Purcell divide. It consists of high elevation alpine and subalpine areas in the Upper Horsethief and Jumbo Creek watersheds with important scenic, wildlife, tourism and recreation values.

FIRST NATION AREA OF INTEREST: Ktunaxa-Kinbasket Nation, Shuswap Nation

RESOURCE EMPHASIS VALUES:

Protected Area Support Zone: High

This unit is adjacent to the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy and proposed additions to that area.

Wildlife and Ecology: High

This is an important area for elk, deer, moose mountain goat and grizzly. Jumbo Pass and Stockdale Pass are two of the few passes used by wildlife to move across the Purcell divide. No other passes occur to the north until one reaches the Spillimacheen drainage. These movement corridors are important for maintaining natural genetic interchange between populations.

Visual Quality: High

It is important to maintain scenic values for visitors and residents visiting this area.

Recreation and Tourism: Very High

Many residents of Invermere also use the area; residents of communities in the West Kootenay hike up the Glacier Creek drainage to a cabin in Jumbo Pass and hike, ski and climb in that area. This unit contains the Lake of the Hanging Glaciers, rated No. 11 in PAS. It is a nationally significant recreation site. There is high value throughout the unit for a variety of wilderness-oriented recreational activities.

Jumbo Creek has been proposed as a site for a major downhill ski resort development, including summer skiing on the glaciers between Jumbo and Farnham Creeks. It is also used by an outfitter and a heli-skiing operation.

Culture/Heritage: Moderate

OTHER VALUES:

- Mineral: This area is rated as moderate for mineral capability in 2/3 of the area with high capability in the other third. There is one claim in the area and no known mineral occurrences.
- Forestry: The area supports good forest stands at lower elevations, however most of the unit is alpine and subalpine. Logging has been carried out in most drainages, there is a major investment in stand tending in some areas.
- Agriculture: There is no history of range use in this area.

REGIONAL CONTEXT:

Special management in this area will provide for the maintenance of important wildlife, wildland and representation values in a general area that has seen extensive logging activity in lower areas.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

- maintain wildlife values including important habitat areas and migratory routes through Jumbo Pass and Stockdale Pass
- maintain important tourism and recreation values
- no road accrss should be developed between the East and East Kootenays through Jumbo Pass

Any decision with respect to a major resort development should be made through an Environmental Assessment process to identify potential impacts and mitigation measures. This process should include public involvement.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA #18 (Map 5)

UPPER BUHL CREEK

AREA: 7,079 hectares

POLYGON NUMBER: 16-01

LOCATION/DESCRIPTION:

This area is located 15 kilometres north-west of Kimberley in the Skookumchuck watershed. It includes several high elevations drainages adjacent to the Buhl Creek plateau portion of the Purcell Conservancy. Some portions of the area were burned in the 1930's, however most of the basin supports older age class spruce and balsam forests.

FIRST NATION AREA OF INTEREST: Ktunaxa-Kinbasket Nation

RESOURCE EMPHASIS VALUES:

Protected Area Support Zone: High

The area is adjacent to the Purcell Conservancy.