

The ultimate mountain experience

Jumbo Glacier Resort is completing its environmental review after years of planning. The light at the end of the tunnel? The dawn of a new mountain experience? After more than 12 years since a Japanese company commissioned a series of studies to create the best mountain resort in North America, the architect that spearheaded Kicking Horse Mountain Resort is at work trying to bring the Jumbo Glacier Resort project out of the bureaucratic labyrinth in which it has been travelling.

The concept for the new resort is similar to that of Kicking Horse: create a spectacular view with a dramatic gondola access to a mountaintop and complement it with sleeping accommodations that provide comfort to an overnight

clientele in the mountains. But in the case of Jumbo Glacier Resort, the unparalleled viewpoints are complemented by glaciers that will allow the best skiing and snowboarding in the world to continue after springtime and throughout the summer—at elevations never before accessed in Canada. It will bring a taste of the helicopter skiing/boarding experience to the majority of the public, and perhaps introduce a new market segment to heli-skiing.

What is proposed is a combination of the Swiss experience at the Jungfrau and the Gornergrat—a unique experience of the mountains as never before envisioned in North America, but achieved 100 years ago in Switzerland. The project will ultimately provide mechanical access to mountaintops at 3,400 metres (11,000 feet), and a vertical drop that may reach up to 1,800 metres (6,000 feet) of powder skiing in wintertime. This will be

the longest vertical drop in North America and will be crowned by spectacular mountains. The expansive high alpine area, centred on Glacier Dome and Jumbo Glacier, offers heli-quality snow, averages 30 feet of snowfall per year, a winter season lasting into June, and North America's best summer skiing terrain—all located on the "warm" side of the Canadian Rockies, in a frequently accessed valley just 35 kilometres (22 miles) outside of Panorama Resort. With the planned expansion of the Cranbrook airport, travellers will have an opportunity to get off the plane and be at the resort in two and a half hours of coming to the area. Its uniqueness, its accessibility, and its location in the middle of the popular and growing triangle of destination ski resorts will help make the Columbia Valley a mountain experience destination like no other on the continent.

Visit www.jumboglacierresort.com.

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