

Fiction

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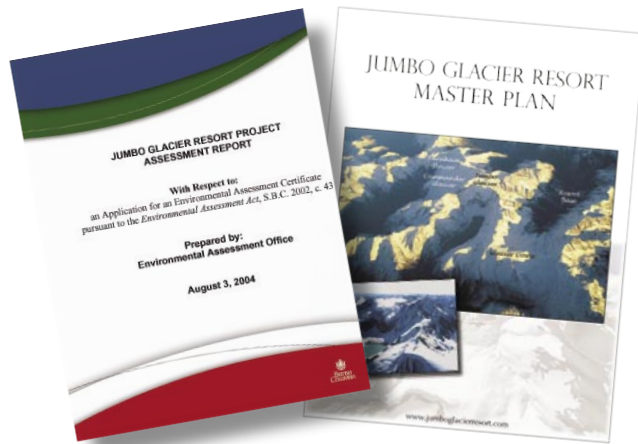
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"Glaciers are melting - worldwide, melting rates have doubled since the 1980s. Waters are drying up - in the Canadian West, late summer flows are dwindling, threatening communities, farms, and fish." Melting Mountains Awareness Program, David Suzuki Foundation

• Yes, global warming is a concern for everyone. This is why ski resorts must be planned at appropriate elevations and held to high environmental standards, such as Jumbo Glacier Resort. The United Nations sponsored a World Conference on Sport and the Environment, in Turin, Italy, in December 2003 at which it stated: "The call for ski resorts with snow reliability is the main argument for the current boom in concept studies to open up high mountain regions, or, in other words, climate change is the reason for opening up high mountain regions for tourism."

A dozen other ski resorts within a three hour drive of Invermere are struggling to survive - Jumbo resort threatens the stability of local resorts, businesses and economies

• The ski resorts in the Kootenays have been booming in the past ten years, so much so that they recently recorded their highest-ever skier visits and almost all of the regional destination resorts have expanded, including Fernie, Panorama, Kimberley and Kicking Horse. Panorama, the closest existing resort to Jumbo Glacier Resort, is a strong supporter of the project and certainly doesn't see it as a "threat" to its stability.



The documentation of fifteen years of process and nine years of environmental review is simply ignored by project "opponents."

www.jumboglacierresort.com

For further project information please visit the project website or e-mail info@jumboglacierresort.com

"RK Heliski and its proud 35 year history would end abruptly if 42% of our skiable area and most of our bad-weather terrain is forcibly expropriated for Jumbo Resort." 2005, Jim Younker, RK Heliski General Manager

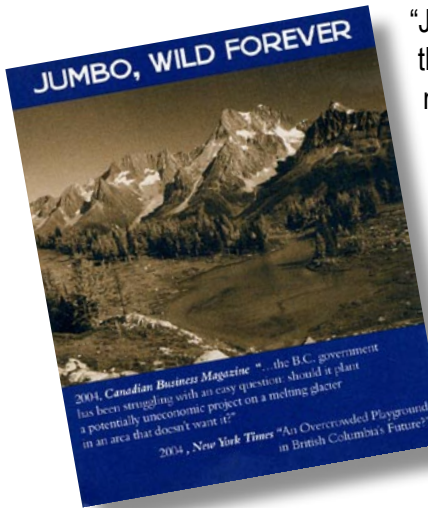
• An independent third-party report disagrees with this claim. RK's tenure is over 1,500 square km. The resort's Controlled Recreation Area (CRA) will be on 59 square km. In any case, the land is Crown land, and none of it is being "forcibly expropriated" from RK.

"The Canadian Ski Council is predicting a 22 per cent drop or more in numbers of domestic skiers in the next 15 years. It's risky to rely on international visitors to fuel that growth..." 15 October 2004, S. Hudson in, Sarah Chapman, Calgary Herald

• This is a classic "out of context" citation. The Canadian Ski Council is predicting a loss of interest from domestic skiers if no new initiatives (i.e. new, better ski resorts!) take place.

"The most basic reality is that if a ski area is going to increase its visits, it is going to do so at the expense of other [existing] ski areas." Hal Clifford, Downhill Slide Why the Corporate Ski Industry is Bad for Skiing, Ski Towns, and the Environment

• If so, how do we explain the success of Whistler Blackcomb after the creation of Blackcomb Mountain (a direct competitor to Whistler Mtn.) in the 1980s? Why would Panorama be supportive of Jumbo Glacier Resort? The statement may be true in some locations in the eastern U.S. that rely exclusively on local traffic, but it is not true for destination resorts, especially on the Pacific Rim. BC sees only half the skier visits of Colorado, yet their populations are the same, and in most cases BC resorts are easier to reach for travellers and offer better value. There is huge room for growth for BC destination resorts.



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The Jumbo Resort proposal compromises regional opportunities for responsible, well-planned tourism

• JGR is easily the most meticulously planned and studied tourism project in the region. It is the only tourism project in the region that has received environmental certification under B.C.'s comprehensive Environmental Assessment Act. It is a prime example of a responsible, well-planned tourism project.

This 6000 hectare mega-resort is proposed to be located in the heart of a remote, wild valley 55 km from the nearest community of Invermere, and over 4.5 hours from the nearest international airport

• JGR will be built on 104, not 6,000 hectares. The site is not "remote" for a ski resort. It is easily accessible and was chosen because of its easy access and prior forestry/mining use - a perfect location for a quality destination resort. It is 54 km from Invermere and 35 km from Panorama. As a comparison, Big White is 55 km from Kelowna (440 km from Vancouver), Apex is 33 km from Penticton (405 km from Vancouver), and Sun Peaks is 50 km from Kamloops (370 km from Vancouver).

"The one thing we have in Canada that is so rare everywhere else in the world is wilderness and wildlife - Jumbo Glacier Resort would devastate those values." Beukie Scott, Olympic Gold Medalist

• With due respect to Ms. Scott, she is regrettably misinformed. Nine years of environmental review and study have demonstrated that the resort will not devastate wilderness values. In addition, as she notes, wilderness is not rare in Canada, but public access to our high mountains is indeed rare.

"Jumbo Wild" Is it fact or fiction?

"Jumbo Wild" continues to misrepresent the Jumbo Glacier Resort (JGR) project. Regrettably, the campaign has produced myths that have little to do with the project and much to do with misinformation.

The size, nature and location of the resort, the true state of the Jumbo Valley, and the expected impacts of the resort are continually misrepresented.

For example, in all these years, they have never shown a single picture of the true location of the resort (a former sawmill site). After fifteen years (yes - fifteen years!) of public discussion about the project. This is not accidental!



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Jumbo Resort-style industrial tourism development is out of balance with local values and undermines democracy

Provincial decision makers have persistently ignored 14 years of opposition from residents, recreational home owners, First Nations, local government and businesses.

• The project has responded to explicit government policy since its inception - including local land use planning. It has passed EVERY review process. This is how a democracy works. 13.1% of the residents of Invermere have expressed their opposition to the project. A large advisory group of local supporters has been formed. The local First Nations is supportive of the project and plans to participate in it.

"The District of Invermere has actively sought input from the citizens of Invermere and has received overwhelming and widespread opposition to the proposal, based largely on negative environmental, economic and social concerns. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the District of Invermere opposes the Jumbo Glacier Resort proposal..." 2004, District of Invermere Resolution

5/5 to support the project, noting that, "As a community with an economy that is dependent in large measure on tourism, we also support the project for the boost that it will give the international profile of tourism in this region and the province as a whole. We believe that a mature tourism industry, cognizant of the need to protect the natural resources on which it depends, is a good partner for a vigilant government in ensuring the health of our environment." - Village of Radium Letter to EAO, May 17, 2004

"So now I really must ask myself why would Europeans make the long trip to BC only to find that everything here is exactly the same as at home?" 2005, Frankfurter Rundschau, Travel Section highly circulated German newspaper

• Anyone who thinks BC is, or will ever be exactly like Europe really needs to travel more!

"New highway construction for this type of roadway can cost upwards of \$2.0 to \$2.4 million per kilometre." BC Ministry of Transportation & Highways

• This quote has nothing to do with the JGR access road. The road costs

will be in the \$200,000/km range – similar to other recent resorts. These facts have been discussed for years and this "quote" is an exercise in misinformation.

"Jumbo fated to lose money." 10 Jan 2005, T. Brinkerhoff, Calgary Herald

• Mr. Brinkerhoff is a well-known project opponent who is not familiar with the economic models or financial background of the project. While he wrote a letter to the *Calgary Herald*, he has nothing to do with the *Herald*, even though the quotation reads as though he may. In fact, the editorial board of the *Calgary Herald* wrote: "the B.C. government rightly allowed the proposed Jumbo Glacier ski resort to pass a critical environmental hurdle. In doing so, it rose above misinformation deliberately manufactured by bureaucrats in a previous provincial government, anti-development activists and self-interested businesses who'd rather not share the breathtaking Kootenay vistas they have enjoyed largely alone until now." October 18, 2004

Industrial tourism development is out of balance with Canadian values concerning species extinction and the health of local environments

• Substituting "industrial tourism" for "tourism industry" is a

really lame play-on-words. Limiting access to our high mountains to heli-skiers only, and ignoring government Policy and scientific environmental reviews is contrary to Canadian values. Project opponents have completely ignored the 13-volume *Project Report* that was generated for JGR. When it comes to the reality on the ground, project opponents have also completely ignored the fact that the Jumbo Valley has been subjected to almost a century of forestry and mining activity – this is true industrial activity.

"...whereas the resort will contribute significant pollution to the Columbia River Wetlands, we oppose the Jumbo Glacier Resort..." 2004 AGM Resolution, International Living Lakes Network

• This premise is factually wrong. The resort will contribute

ZERO pollutants to the wetlands. The resort will utilize a state-of-the-art tertiary treatment plant for wastewater that will return treated water to the ground in locations where surface or ground water contamination is impossible. The concern is applicable to communities such as Invermere, which border on the wetlands, not with a resort such as JGR that is more than 50 km away from the wetlands.

Jumbo Resort poses an excessive risk for BC's taxpayers

The 36 kilometers of new road to Jumbo would be financed by a multi-million dollar cost sharing agreement with the Province of BC. If Jumbo fails at any point, taxpayers are on the hook for every dollar.

• The resort poses no risk to taxpayers. The developer has been asked to pay for the road

and the project will generate millions of dollars in tax revenue to the Province and to the Regional District.

"No other land management prescription on the Forest directly results in more stream-water depletion, wetland impacts, ... or permanent habitat loss [than ski areas]." Cynthia Cody, US EPA, in *Downhill Slid*

• This has nothing to do with JGR, particularly since JGR is a high alpine resort that will not require snow-making – unlike most existing ski resorts in BC.

The ripple effect of a mega-resort in the Jumbo Valley will compromise the integrity of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy and the RAMSAR designated Columbia River Wetlands: Jumbo Resort may initiate the demise of Canada's southern grizzly bear population.

• There is no threat to the PWC. As noted by the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), the nearest resort boundary is 10 km away (over rugged mountain peaks) to the nearest PWC boundary.



Beautiful child. However, this curiously Photoshopped image does not represent a rational discourse of the issues.

"...the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort has the potential for substantial and direct cumulative impacts to the Central Purcell Grizzly Bear population." 2004, BC Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection

• This is an incomplete, out-of-context quotation: according to the EAO, "WLAP has determined that there is a low risk that the Project would result in a reduction of the Grizzly bear population of such significance that the population in the Central Purcell GPBU would become threatened."

– EAO Jumbo Glacier Resort Assessment Report (pages 55-59)



Stock imagery of Grizzly bears that are not from the Jumbo Valley is utilized.

Grizzly Bear Facts

• With regards to Grizzly bears, the EAO notes that:

"The proposed Project is located in the 4,619 km² Central Purcell GBPU [Grizzly Bear Population Unit], one of 49 GBPUs in the Province designated as 'viable' under the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy. This designation means that the population is stable and sufficiently productive to permit some hunting. The current population estimate of the Central Purcell GBPU is 150 bears. WLAP [BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection] estimates that this population is currently at 93% of habitat capability (163 bears) and that would have to decline by 41% (i.e., to less than 81 bears) to be designated as 'threatened'."

"The key finding of the CEA was that, in the absence of any measures to mitigate impacts on Grizzly bears, the Project would increase the risk of Grizzly bear mortality by 2.6% to 3.8% and reduce habitat effectiveness by 1.7% to 3.1% within the 3,977 km² study area (89% of the Central Purcell GPBU)."

"However, the risk of mortality and loss of habitat effectiveness within the CRA would be substantially reduced by application of measures described in the proponent's Grizzly Bear Management Plan."

– EAO Jumbo Glacier Resort Assessment Report (pages 55-59)

As a result of climate change, the glaciers of Jumbo Resort may have a life span of only 50 years

• This is a fabrication that is not supported

by the glaciologists who have studied the glaciers. No climate change model is predicting that the 3,000 metre high glaciers of the resort have a 50-year life span. The complete meltdown of Jumbo Glacier would require a catastrophic increase in average global temperatures — far higher than the 1.8 - 3.0°C increase considered possible over the next century by scientists. Even if such a catastrophe were to occur, because of its high elevation, JGR would be the only ski resort in B.C. to receive natural snow to allow skiing in winter.

Glaciers have been called "...nature's most elegant and economic system for storing fresh water." We should be preserving and protecting glaciers, not skiing them into extinction.

• How does a person skiing on a glacier contribute to

its extinction? He or she doesn't. The impact of a skier on the snow of a large glacier is akin to the impact of a swimmer on an ocean. Skiers ski on snow, not on glacier ice. Typically a skier skis on snow over ice that can be hundreds of metres thick. Skiers are insignificant relative to large glaciers.

"Glaciers are critical to local environments and water supplies."

Dr. Mindy Brugman, Glaciologist

• So are fresh water lakes. Does this mean that no one should be able to swim in a lake?



The foliage in the photo is suggestive of a temperate coastal climate. The image has nothing to do with Jumbo Creek or the Jumbo Valley.