
WHISTLER AND JUMBO'S FOOTPRINTS

A Summary Comparison

Whistler has done an excellent job moving in the direction of sustainability and has been offered in many cases as an example of environmental stewardship and Whistler and JGR will give access to a skiable terrain that in the end will be of similar size.

There will be some differences in the type of skiable terrain: Whistler will have more groomed ski runs and JGR will have more powder skiing in un-groomed territory. Whistler will have more of a ski area in a horizontal fascia of elevations and JGR will have more of a ski area in a vertical direction, covering the entire mountain. But these will be more differences in the quality of experience, they will not make a significant difference in terms of environmental or carbon footprint.

Conceptually, the major difference in environmental footprint will be in the following areas:

1. Whistler, like most of the B.C. ski areas, has a large snowmaking system, covering almost a third of the skiable terrain. JGR will not have any snowmaking, because its base is near the elevation of the Peak to Peak lift at Whistler. JGR will offer skiing where the snow occurs naturally.
2. The Whistler Village development area already covers the entire valley floor, seriously diminishing wildlife connectivity, with major utility corridors rising on the opposite side of the ski area. JGR by comparison is a tiny development area tucked into upper Jumbo Valley, almost entirely on one side of the valley floor relative to the creek, and well above the connectivity corridor of the valley below, leading into Jumbo Pass.
3. Whistler has generated helicopter skiing to reach better quality snow, JGR is replacing the helicopter with electric lift access to the mountain tops of the best snow area in the Province.
4. Whistler is generating an ecological habitat modification of a size that surpasses the size of the ski area. At JGR the development area will be in the range of 2% of the ski area.
5. Whistler has a sizeable portion of the development that was built with the technology of the 1970s and the 1980s, JGR will have the technology of 2010 and beyond.

If skiing is to be expanded JGR is the appropriate answer: it has snow.