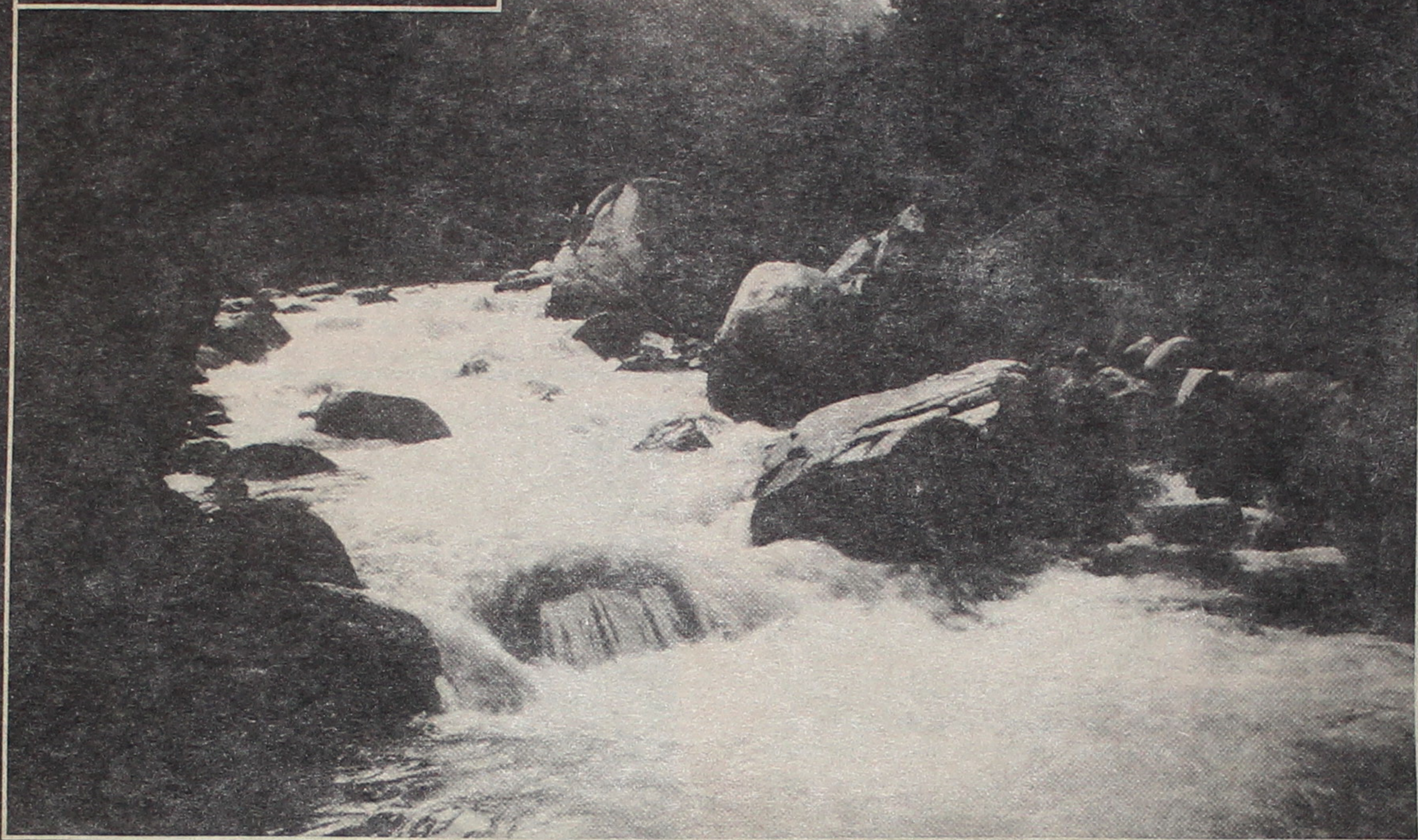


# WILD WATERSHED THE STEIN



Summer 1985

## PUBLIC INVITED TO STEIN WILDERNESS FESTIVAL

A three day festival will be held in the alpine meadowlands of the Stein Watershed Wilderness on the Labour Day Weekend, August 31 to September 2, 1985. Hosted by the Lillooet Tribal Council, the gathering will provide a setting for both native and non-native peoples to express opposition to the proposed logging of the Stein Valley. It will also be an opportunity to reaffirm common ties with nature and with each other. Chief Perry Redan, Director of the Lillooet Tribal Council says: "For the Stein Wilderness, for our Cultures, this festival will be a step toward survival."

The Stein Wilderness is an important part of the traditional territory of the

Continued on page 4



Hiking trail through lower Stein valley

## FIGHT INTENSIFIES TO SAVE THE STEIN

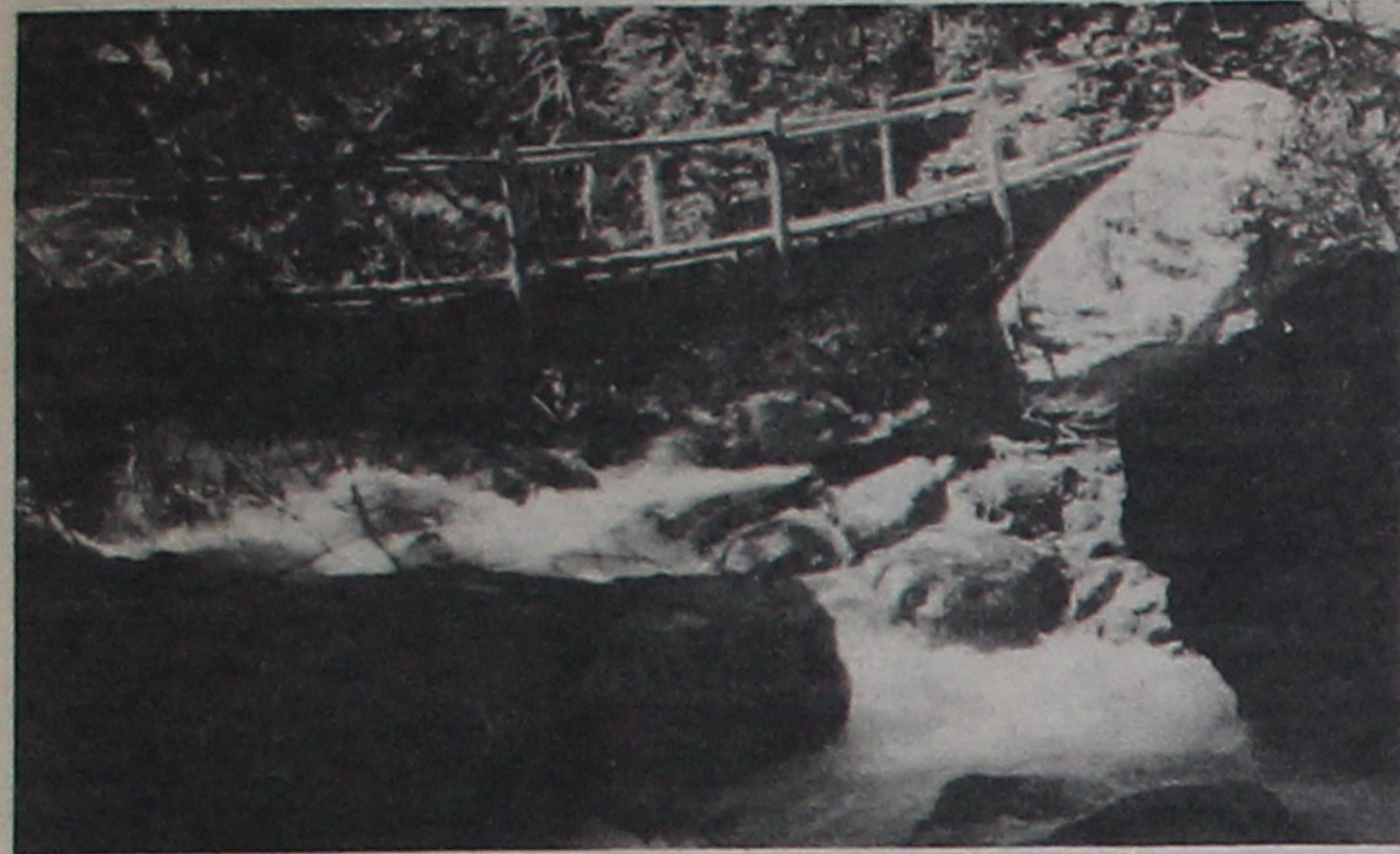
The fifteen year old fight to save the Stein River Valley from logging is entering a critical phase. B.C. Forest Products (BCFP), the company with the logging quota on the Stein, is gearing up to begin road construction in the lower Stein Canyon this fall. At stake is the largest wilderness watershed in southern British Columbia, an area of over 400 square miles and as yet, unlogged.

This majestic wild river flows within an area of great natural diversity: from a virtual desert where the Stein meets the Fraser at 800 feet above sea level to its headwaters in the glaciers high in the coast mountain range. Numerous steep side valleys with waterwalls and deep forests, broad alpine meadows, large mountain lakes, and the highest peak in southwestern B.C. provide habitat for a great array of wildlife—grizzly and black bear, mountain sheep and goat, beaver, wolverine, cougar, deer, many species of bird life, and seven species of fish. The landscape changes constantly along the river's route—the wet rainforest climate of the Coast Mountains gives way in turn to the hot, dry canyonlands of the Interior Plateau where the river makes its final dash between towering rock walls to spill into the Fraser River.

The Stein is more than an outstanding natural environment. Throughout the region are scattered the remains of pithouses, cachepits, pictographs, and petroglyphs. The Lillooet and Thompson peoples have used the Stein watershed extensively for thousands upon thousands of years. The watershed as a complete entity, makes a unique contribution to the physical and spiritual sustenance of these peoples. This is a place of spiritual renewal...known by Indian elders, felt by any visitor to the region.

All this will change abruptly if road-building and logging are allowed to begin. Preliminary road-building work is proceeding rapidly at the time of this writing. The ochre hue of pictographs is now being joined by the unbelievably bright reds, blues and pinks of plastic survey ribbons. Under the banner of a "multiple-use" forest policy, the last major untouched valley in South Western British Columbia is slated to be logged.

# TAXPAYERS TO SUBSIDIZE DESTRUCTION OF A PRICELESS WILDERNESS HERITAGE



Footbridge across Stryen Creek

Logging the Stein Valley has never made good economic sense. That's why it has remained unlogged. For B.C. Forest Products (BCFP), the company that has the logging quota, the problem is one of access. A new crossing over the Fraser River must be built in the vicinity of Lytton and a costly road blasted through ten miles of the lower Stein Canyon just to reach merchantable timber.

At existing lumber price levels, BCFP's own cost figures indicate that logging the Stein will actually result in company losses. Still, pressure is mounting to access the Stein's timber. BCFP appears ready to enter the Stein Wilderness in the hope that lumber markets will return to price levels which were last attained in the boom times of the late '70's. In today's marketplace, logging the Stein will result in financial disaster. To compensate for low lumber prices BCFP will be forced to cut corners whenever and wherever possible. In fact, a quick "high grade" operation removing only the best timber may be all that can be justified to company shareholders.

Given the dismal economic prospects, the obvious question is: "Why log the Stein Wilderness at all?" A clue is provided by company Vice-president Gerry Burch, in a recent article in the Vancouver Province;

"In effect the government is telling us what to do...to log the area or have our quota cut back. They (the B.C. Forest Service) don't care if we lose money or not, they're telling us to get on with it."

Mr. Burch's statement provides the only possible explanation of the situation—a political decision by forests minister Tom Waterland to keep the wood flowing to BCFP's Boston Bar mill, the largest forest employer in what is Waterland's personal riding. The irony of the situation is that the taxpayers of British Columbia will be subsidizing the destruction of the Stein Wilderness. By all accounts, the stumpage revenues the government would receive through logging activity in the Stein will be insufficient to cover the basic cost of access road building and reforestation. It is estimated that an additional 14 million dollars of taxpayers money will be required to log the Stein.

What this means is that monies which should otherwise go into reforesting already cut-over lands will be spent instead to subsidize an uneconomic logging operation. We in British Columbia will lose twice: public funds will be spent to booster an uneconomic logging scheme and a priceless wilderness heritage will be lost forever.



Native pictographs

## STEIN LOGGING: A DECISION MADE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

If the provincial government believes that the logging of the Stein is justified, why have they so tightly controlled any public discussion on the issue? There has never been any attempt at open debate regarding the valley's future.

When logging of this area was first proposed in the early 1970's the NDP, who formed the government at that time, instituted a two year moratorium and undertook a study of the situation. The study concluded that the valley should be removed from future calculations of the "Annual Allowable Cut"(AAC) for the region. This action would have preserved alternative uses for the Stein Wilderness by not locking it into logging plans.

In 1976, before the conclusions of the Stein Moratorium Study were made public, the then elected Social Credit Government decided to approved logging in the Stein Valley. It ignored the Study's primary recommendation that the Stein be removed from the region's AAC until logging was shown to be economically justified.

Since 1976, no public body has been allowed to question the "best use" of the Stein.

In 1978 the B.C. Forest Service set up a Public Liaison Committee composed of representatives from governmental agencies, logging companies, and conservation groups. The Public Liaison Committee has, at best, stalled the actual logging of the Stein. It took for granted that the Stein would be logged. The Public Liaison Committee has been restricted from the beginning to discussions of where, when, and how logging would take place. This public involvement process has, by its pretense, diffused public opposition to logging while still keeping the decision making power firmly in the hands of the Forest Service.

In February of 1985 the Forest Service announced that logging should begin soon. No community in the region, native or non-native, was consulted. "The decision has been made" remains the refrain to this day.



Sagebrush at the mouth of the Stein



Alpine meadowland of Stein headwaters



Stein River shrouded in mist



Deep sculpted valley of the Stein

## LOGGING ALTERNATIVES IN TUNE WITH CHANGING TIMES

When the provincial government made its decision decades ago to include the Stein Valley's trees in the local mills' wood supply, times were different. Over the past fifteen years lumber prices have declined in real terms by 20%. Most experts agree that the markets for B.C.'s traditional wood exports are now static.

Increasingly British Columbians are looking toward recreational tourism and the benefits which it provides as a way of meeting the need to provide for jobs and revenues while preserving the quality of our environment.

The Stein River Valley is a significant tourist resource. The Valley is only 100 miles from Vancouver and just fifty miles from the burgeoning resort town of Whistler. Its close proximity to the Lower Mainland plus the physical majesty and diversity of the valley makes the Stein ideally suited for Class A provincial park status.

Preservation of the Stein is not a case of wilderness versus logging. The removal of the Stein Valley from timber production does not mean the abandonment of the local forest industry. However the solution to the problem of increasing timber scarcity is not the subsidized development of an inaccessible wilderness valley. Government funds set aside to aid an uneconomic logging scheme, could be spent instead to help the local forest industry adapt to a future which demands resource efficiency and specialized products.

Increasingly visitors to B.C. are looking for something special: a horse trip up a wild river valley, a stay in a remote mountain lodge, an archeological tour of heritage sites, rock paintings, and stone carvings. The Stein has all of these and more.

A true wilderness experience like that available in the Stein is becoming increasingly rare in British Columbia. Once destroyed by man, such wilderness areas can never be recreated.

In B.C. we have come full circle. We are faced with a future that will be far different from the past. It is now not only good ecology to preserve areas such as the Stein, but also good economics. The Stein could be designated as B.C.'s first "wild river" in time for Expo '86.



Clearcut logging near the Stein

## THE STEIN, AN INTEGRAL PART OF NATIVE CULTURE

The Stein wilderness is a living environment, a place which has formed an integral part of the traditions and cultures of the native peoples who have used it.

For thousands of years, the Lillooet, Shuswap and Thompson Indians lived a hunter-gatherer existence. This lifestyle required a high level of organization as groups of varying sizes moved to different meadows and valleys in appropriate season. The plant and animal resources of the high mountain slopes and river valleys were of critical importance to the Indian economies. The original users of the Stein watershed had a profound, intricate and harmonious relationship with the region.

This "living force" still survives in the pictographs which are sheltered within the Valley. These pictographs are found in powerful traditional sites where Indian Doctors or young adolescents underwent their ritual training. They are also scattered along the trail through the main valley, a trail that connected the peoples of

the Thompson and Lillooet Tribes. To a traveler along this trail, this is a living gallery of culture-in-nature.

The entire Stein logging area may contain other heritage sites, as yet undiscovered, for no extensive archeological survey of the valley has been conducted. BCFP states its intention to preserve each known archeological site, but not enough time remains to uncover the heritage sites which should be "protected".

In fact BCFP will not be preserving these heritage sites but endangering them. Each pictograph panel exists in concert with its particular site, a deep pool in the river, or a shady bluff. From the side of a dusty logging road all connections between these pictographs and the Ancient Culture of which they were a part will be severed. Cut-off, in isolation, they will become mere museum pieces. Their essence will prevail only as long as the Stein Watershed remains intact and unviolated.

This effort has been jointly sponsored by the Institute for New Economics, SPEC and the Stein Action Committee.

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HELP SAVE  
THE  
WILD  
STEIN  
WATERSHED



## THE STEIN VALLEY, AN ISLAND IN A SEA OF STUMPS

### EASY ACCESS TO FESTIVAL SITE - ALL WELCOME

It is easy to get to Lillooet, approximately four hours from Vancouver by car, bus or rail. Once in Lillooet turn south on the Texas Creek Road (the only road running south from Lillooet on the west bank of the Fraser River). Proceed to the Rocky Flats Farm located just past the cattleguard which you cross approximately ten and a half miles south of Lillooet.

Rocky Flats Farm will serve as a point of registration for the festival and it is here that you will be given detailed directions to the festival site. Transportation will be provided the additional ten miles up Texas Creek to the head of the trail which gives access to the site. This is a very good trail with relatively easy grades, suitable for children and non-mountaineers. A three hour hike will bring you to the Alpine Meadows where the Festival will take place.

The formal portion of the festival will occur the evening of August 31, the day of September 1, and the morning of September 2. This will give participants adequate time for travel.

Adequate clothing is a necessity as any type of

weather is possible at high altitudes in late summer. Yet, the festival is located at the edge of the interior dry belt region and it is often clear and sunny in Lillooet while raining in Vancouver. Although the Lillooet Tribe will see to it that no one goes hungry whatever food you can bring will be appreciated. Try to choose items which lend themselves readily to combination with other fare.

If you would like to help with the festival or require further information, please contact:

Lillooet Tribal Council	SPEC
Box 1420	2150 Maple Street
Lillooet B.C.	Vancouver B.C.
V0K 1V0	V6J 3T3
(604) 256-7249	(604) 736-7732
(604) 256-7523	

FESTIVAL Continued from page 1

Lillooet People; and as such nurtures their heritage, culture, and sacred trust. The festival will provide a forum to affirm and reaffirm ties with all portions of the land and its natural forms: earth, air, water and wild beings. Native leaders and elders will join their voices with those of others who are more recent inhabitants of this continent but still share with them a recognition and respect for Nature's Laws. Their voices will blend with those of poets, philosophers, economists, wilderness architects, and others in a call for co-operation toward a new order in which harmony with the earth prevails and forms the basis for successful re-inhabitation.

The Lillooet Tribal Council, representing the eleven bands of the Lillooet People, has resolved that no development shall occur within the confines of the Stein River Wilderness Watershed without the consent of the tribes holding aboriginal title to the area. They now ask all peoples to join with them to blend voices in a proclamation of intent. Make this festival a spark in the rekindling of a new/old order predicted upon the understanding of and respect for the laws of the natural world. Join your voices with those of others calling for proper watershed management, parks creation, air and water quality consideration, wilderness preservation, proper planning in forestry and mining, and sanity, sanctity and wisdom within our own watersheds and minds.

The Lillooet Tribal Council invites you to join with them, their leaders and elders, in a song of thanksgiving for all of Creation and our places within it.

Yes, I will help to save the Stein Valley.

Enclosed is my donation to the Stein Action Committee. If you require a tax deduction receipt make your check payable to the Western Canada Wilderness Committee-Save the Stein Fund.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:  
The Stein Action Committee  
Box 195, Lytton, BC, V0K 1Z0

Because you care, write the Premier of British Columbia asking him to prevent logging in the Stein River Valley:

Premier Bill Bennett  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8X 1X4

Don't Delay Write Today!!!



High on a ridge overlooking the Stein