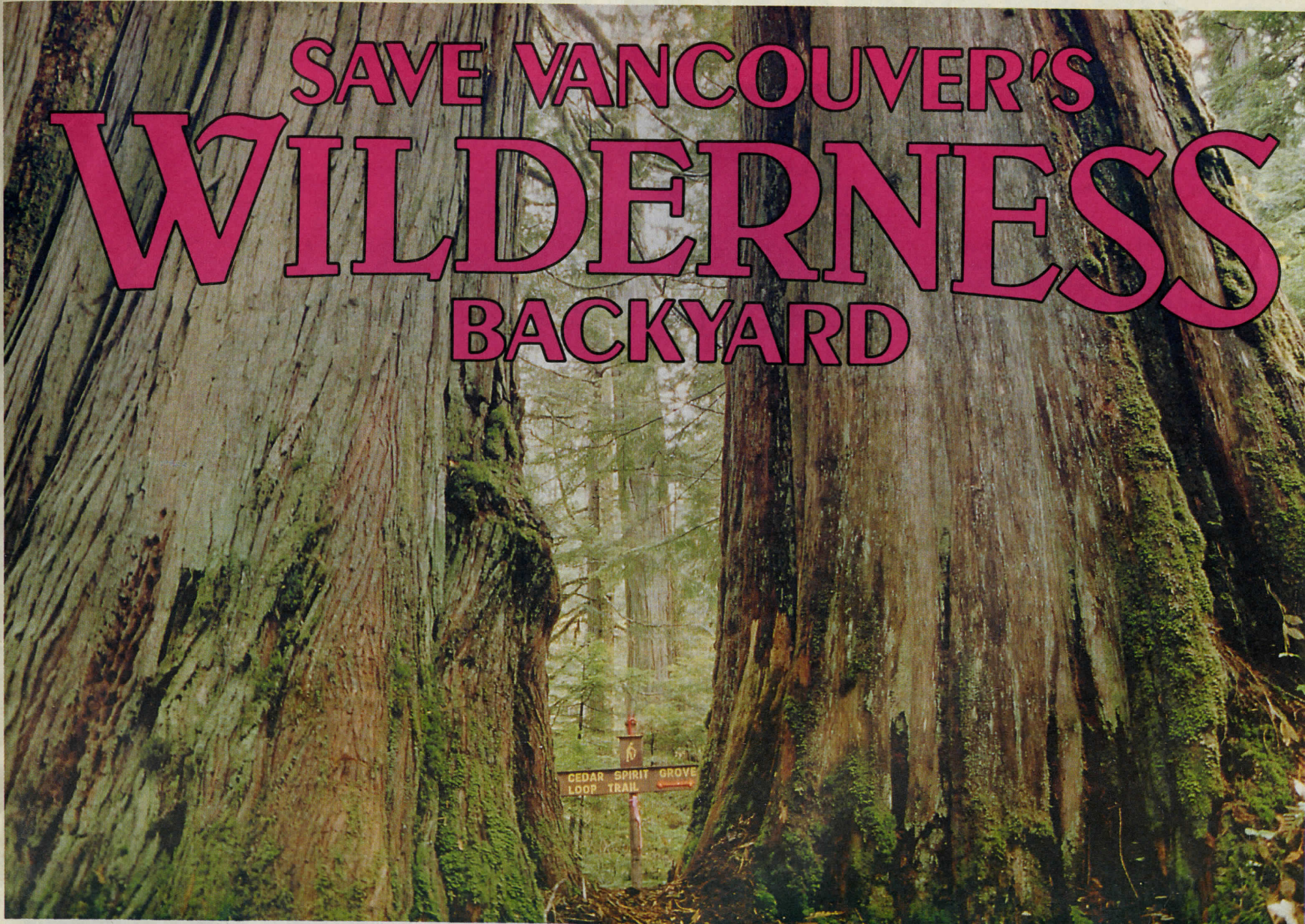




# SAVE VANCOUVER'S WILDERNESS BACKYARD



*Cedar Spirit Grove. Ancient redcedar trees along the Fool's Gold Route.*

# Let's save Vancouver's backyard wilderness

One of BC's most spectacular wilderness areas lies adjacent to the Lower Mainland. Here, soaring mountain peaks, high country alpine meadows, hundreds of mountain lakes, big-treed valleys and roaring waterfalls are hidden away in the vast back country wilderness west of Pitt Lake, only 20 kilometres as the raven flies, from Vancouver's Stanley Park. The BC government has designated this spectacular wilderness region the Pinecone/Burke Study Area and will soon decide its fate. Will it be protected park land or an industrial clearcut logging zone? On February 15 and 16 you can help decide. On these two dates the BC government is holding evening public meetings in Vancouver, Coquitlam, Chilliwack and Squamish to get your opinion on

the park proposal for the Pinecone/Burke Study Area.

The few that have hiked the trails on Burke Mountain, canoed the wildlife-rich waters of Widgeon

Slough or Pitt Lake, scaled the peaks of the Five Fingers Spires, fished in Widgeon Lake, stood in awe of the ancient cedars of Boise Valley, explored the remote wilderness of DeBeck Valley or

camped in the meadows surrounding Pinecone Lake, know how special the Pinecone/Burke Study Area is. For the many who have not yet visited the area, read on, and you will learn about the best hiking trails, canoe routes, bike routes, fishing holes and camping spots! You will also find out how you can be part of the grass-roots movement to protect this one-of-a-kind-wilderness adventure place right in your own backyard.



*Western Hemlock reaches for the light, Boise Valley.*

## PUBLIC MEETINGS COMING SOON!

See page 7 for details.

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1994

- COQUITLAM, 5 PM, at the Dogwood Pavillon, Mike Butler Room, 624 Poirier.
- CHILLIWACK, 5 PM, at the Holiday Inn, Ball Room, 45920, 1st Avenue.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1994

- VANCOUVER, 5 PM, at the Robson Square Conference Centre, Judge Wyatt Theatre, 800 Robson Street.
- SQUAMISH, 7 PM, at the Squamish Centennial Way, Auditorium, 1009 Centennial.



# WELCOME TO THE WILDERNESS COMMITTEE



Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC) is a non-profit charitable society headquartered in Vancouver BC. Founded in 1980 by a few concerned citizens, we are now over 20,000 members strong. Hundreds of active volunteers strengthen our organization far beyond the limits set by our donations, sales of educational publications and membership income.

Our job is preserving wilderness, the natural life-support system of planet Earth. Our tactics include production of educational newspapers like the one you are now reading. We produce posters that celebrate the beauty of endangered wilderness areas and we build trails into endangered wilderness areas so that people can hike and experience for themselves the power and mystery of ancient forests and pristine streams. We hold public meetings about threatened wilderness areas and we mount slideshows in communities both big and small. We produce videos about wild places that air on your local cable channel and that you can rent or buy. We build research stations in wild areas to enable scientists to study the lifeforms found there and we conduct essential research ourselves. We also advocate better ways of logging and how to get more jobs per tree cut.

We are not against all logging. We are against the way it is currently being done. We are against clearcutting. We are for selection logging methods. To hang on to the strands that hold Earth's fabric of life together we believe we must expand our protected areas network and improve our ways of using resources outside of protected areas. Then we can have both jobs and protected ancient forests.

Our store-front office is located in Gastown in old Vancouver. But most of our wilderness saving projects are in the hinterlands of BC. We have been leaders in helping save some magnificent ancient forests including South Moresby, Lower Carmanah, Khutzeymateen and the Megin.

We have been actively working to preserve the Pinecone/Burke area since 1991.

• Spring 1991 - We first heard stories of a legendary cedar grove somewhere west of Pitt Lake. The area was about to be logged. Our first expeditions located the cedar grove in the Boise Valley and discovered much, much, more - a land of extraordinary natural diversity and beauty.



*WCWC director exploring the Boise Valley*

- Spring 1992 - We produced 30,000 copies of our first information report about the Pinecone/Burke area and distributed them throughout the Lower Mainland.
- Summer 1992 - WCWC volunteers cleared the 12 kilometre Boise Valley section of the Fool's Gold Trail.
- January 1993 - We accepted the BC government's offer to sit on a Study Team considering the area for park protection.

We believe that this area is an outstanding park proposal. The fact that it contains the last valley-bottom big-tree ancient forest located right next to Canada's Pacific metropolis should make its preservation irresistible.

I hope that after reading this newspaper, you will decide to become a member of WCWC (if you are not already a member) and work with us for the protection of Vancouver's one and only Backyard Wilderness.

Sincerely yours,

Paul George, Founder



# RARE TYPE OF FOREST FOUND IN PINECONE/BURKE STUDY AREA

Foresters call the type of temperate rainforest predominating at low elevations in BC's coast region the *Coastal Western Hemlock Forest*. In this forest type grow the huge Western redcedar, Douglas fir, Amabilis fir and western hemlock trees that people associate with B.C.'s cathedral-like ancient temperate rainforests. This mighty forest regulates clean water flows to salmon spawning grounds and is home to a host of oldgrowth forest dependant species such as the tailed frog, Keen's long-eared bat, spotted owl, marbled murrelet and Vaux's swift. The *Coastal Western Hemlock Forest* is in the rainiest zone of BC and harbours more kinds of animals than any other forest type. Because of the dollar value its big trees bring in as lumber the *Coastal Western Hemlock Forest* has been the prime target of the timber industry for more than a century.

Ecological mapping conducted by the B.C. Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Environment reveals that very little of the *Coastal Western Hemlock Forest* has been protected in existing parks and that more oldgrowth *Coastal Western Hemlock Forest* needs to be set aside to protect biodiversity - the variety of life forms that rely on wild, intact ecosystems. These same studies show that higher elevation landscapes including the *Mountain Hemlock Forest* also known as the *Snow Forest*, and *Alpine Meadow* zones are, relatively speaking, much better represented in the current park system.

On the ground, the result of over-logging in the Lower Mainland's *Coastal Western Hemlock Forest* is evident. Go up almost any valley in the Vancouver area and you will find that the clearcutters have been there first. Huge stumps that stand like grave stones amongst the spindly second growth trees are ghostly reminders of the forest that once was. Other creatures, including fish and mammals, don't leave monuments to lost populations, so their passing is not as obvious. Many more species than just the spotted owl and marbled murrelet need ancient forests to survive. All of these oldgrowth dependant species decline in numbers or disappear altogether when the ancient forest is clearcut and transformed into even-aged second growth tree plantations.

The mountainous area extending north from Vancouver, past Squamish to Toba Inlet, is known as the *Southern Pacific Ranges Ecoregion*. The Pinecone/Burke Study Area, Vancouver's Backyard Wilderness, is located within this ecoregion.



*Boise Valley forest protects biodiversity.*

Covering the valley bottoms and the lower slopes of the mountains throughout the ecoregion are 612,900 hectares of *Coastal Western Hemlock Forest*, much of it previously logged and converted into second growth forest. 42,900 hectares, or about 7% has been set aside in local Provincial Parks, primarily Golden Ears Park. But even in Golden Ears some of this forest has been previously logged. The B.C. government has set as its minimum target for protection 12% of representative areas. Thus, just to meet its own targets, the B.C. government needs to protect a further 31,100 hectares of *Coastal Western Hemlock Forest*.

The Pinecone/Burke Study Area has exceptionally rare examples of valley bottom oldgrowth *Coastal Western Hemlock Forest* in the Boise and DeBeck watersheds. These valley bottom oldgrowth forests and the ecosystems they

## OLDGROWTH FOREST LIFESAVER FOR MANY SPECIES

All these birds need oldgrowth forest for their populations to thrive. All have been sighted in the Pinecone/Burke Study Area by Ministry of Environment researchers.

- Vaux's swift
- Red-breasted sapsucker
- Hairy woodpecker
- Pacific-slope flycatcher
- Chestnut-backed chickadee
- Red-breasted nuthatch
- Brown creeper

One species of amphibians was discovered that needs oldgrowth forest to survive.

- Tailed frog

The Researchers also listed the following mammals as occurring in the Pinecone/Burke Study Area

- Douglas squirrel
- Pika
- Hoary marmot
- Snowshoe hare
- Yellow-pine chipmunk
- Black bear
- Bobcat
- Coyote
- Deer
- Mountain goat



The following mammal populations have been eliminated from the Study Area due to habitat destruction and over-hunting.

- Grizzly bear
- Elk

contain are the most under-represented in the local provincial parks system. In the entire Pinecone/Burke Study Area there is a total of 5,600 hectares of oldgrowth *Coastal Western Hemlock Forest*, less than one fifth the amount need to meet BC government objectives. In fact, no other proposed park in our area has intact examples of valley bottom oldgrowth *Coastal Western Hemlock Forest*, such as that which is found in the Boise and DeBeck Valleys. Both valleys are sought after by the timber industry which has largely eliminated the rest of the valley bottom oldgrowth in the region. It is clear that opportunities are quickly running out to increase the amount of protected Lower Mainland valley bottom oldgrowth *Coastal Western Hemlock Forest*.

It is not surprising that the timber lobby is advocating that the upper Boise Valley, including Bull Creek, which contains 2,700 hectares of oldgrowth *Coastal Western Hemlock Forest*, the single largest intact valley bottom tract in the Study Area, not be granted park protection. They have been allowed to log nearly every other valley, so why should the Boise be any different? Yet, it is the untouched upper Boise that today represents, from an ecological and recreational point of view, the rarest landscape and therefore the most critical landscape to preserve for future generations.

# FOOLS GOLD HIKING ROUTE

By Joe Foy

Traversing the length of the Pinecone/Burke Study Area is a 50 kilometre hiking route that gives access to an amazing variety of wildlands. Along with other members of WCWC and the Burke Mountain Naturalists I hiked this route in a series of trips between 1991 and 1993.

This wild-country trek is unique in our area. It's like having the world famous West Coast Trail right in our own back yard! The route takes seven days to backpack and stretches from Coquitlam to Squamish. Or you can do as we did, and hike sections of the route. It's called the Fool's Gold Hiking Route because it crosses country rich with legends of lost gold mines. If you go, remember that parts of the route are unmarked, trackless wilderness. You must be fit, well equipped with survival gear, able to navigate with compass and topographic map and be capable of off-trail wilderness travel. Do not travel alone and always leave a record of your intended route and schedule with a friend with clear instructions to notify the RCMP if you do not return on time. You will be entering the wilds entirely at your own risk so be especially careful on river crossings whether they be on bridges, logs or fords. Remember, play it smart and stay safe. I promise, it will be a week you will remember for the rest of your life!

Numbers [1] through [31] correspond to centre page map. Elevations above sea level are listed in metres at key points in the route description (m. asl).

## Day 1 - PITT DOCK TO WIDGEON VALLEY

- Attractions - Wildlife viewing, canoeing, fishing, swimming in season.
- Distance & maximum elevation gain - 14km., +480m.

You will need a friend and a boat to help out with this first section. Driving east, turn left off the Lougheed Highway just east of the Pitt River Bridge on to the Dewdney Trunk Road. 6.2 km. later turn left on 208th Street (Neaves Road). Follow this road to the [1] South End Dock (0m. asl) near Pitt Lake, which is 18 km. from where you first turned off Lougheed Highway. Here you can launch your own small boat, or rent one from Ayla Canoes, located right beside the dock. Paddle across Pitt River, near where it comes out of Pitt Lake, skirt to the north of [2] Siwash Island and into Widgeon Slough. Widgeon Slough is everglades-like, rich in wildlife and is in the southern portion of the Pinecone/Burke Study Area. An hour's paddle up the west channel of the slough brings you to



Cedar Spirit Grove, Boise Valley.

logged, then into a deep dark ancient forest then, north, down a side hill into the DeBeck Valley, taking care to note on your topographic map cliffs to the east and west. Halfway down the hill enter a 60 year old second growth forest. At the bottom of the hill you will burst out onto an old logging road covered in sword ferns. Head down hill, east for one km. along the old road to a fine camping spot near the [8] mouth of DeBeck Creek (0m. asl) on the shore of Pitt Lake. From this point you can enter or exit the area via boat back to the [11] South End Dock.

## Day 3 - DEBECK MOUTH TO MID VALLEY

- Attractions - Views down DeBeck, Disk Canyon, Coastal Western Hemlock oldgrowth forest.
- Distance and maximum elevation gain - 5km., +560m.

Hike northwest back up the old logging road to its end which is just over 3 km. About halfway along ford Spindle Creek. The road bed is quite steep and overgrown in places. Just past the end of the old road you will come to the [9] Disc Creek Canyon (480m. asl) with a thundering waterfall below you. Do not try to cross the canyon! Bushwack east, down the slope parallel to the canyon, through old logging slash. Ford to the east side of Debeck Creek and bushwack up the hill to another old logging road. Hike northwest for one km. to the end of the road then enter the oldgrowth forest of DeBeck Valley.

a bench with a large grove of ancient redcedar trees called the [17] Cedar Spirit Grove (560m. asl). This grove is the most spectacular stand of redcedars known to exist near Vancouver. Cedar trees over 1,000 years of age and 10 metres in circumference are common on the bench and slope above Bull Creek. Camp here.

## Day 6 - CEDAR SPIRIT GROVE TO SCARY CROSSING

- Attractions - Waterfalls, Coastal Western Hemlock oldgrowth forest, hiking trail, old cabin and mine workings.
- Distance and maximum elevation gain - 5 km., +200m.

The Cedar Spirit Grove is near the confluence of the Bull and Boise creeks. A well marked trail begins in the Cedar Grove. Follow the trail north along a bench above the Bull, then west as it heads up the Boise Valley. About an hour from the Cedar Grove you will come to the [18] Cabin Crossing Junction (520m. asl), marked by a signpost pointing the directions to Squamish and Coquitlam. If you ford Boise Creek at Cabin Crossing you will soon come to an old prospector's cabin and mine workings, then to a logging road that exits northeast via the lower Boise Valley to logging roads in the Upper Pitt River. From these roads it is a four hour hike to the [31] North End Dock on Pitt Lake, where you can enter or exit the area by boat. However, to continue on the Fool's Gold Route to the Mamquam logging road and beyond to Squamish, you must not cross the Boise here. Instead, stay on the south side of Boise Creek. The Fool's Gold Route heads west along the valley bottom trail and breaks from the oldgrowth forest to cross three large rock-falls, providing wide-open views of the unlogged valley around you. A rare sight indeed in today's Lower Mainland mountains. You are in the heart of wilderness. Just past the last rockfall you come to Frypan Camp, built by the WCWC trail building team of '92. At the end of the day you will come to [19] Scary Crossing (760m. asl) which is a three pole bridge over the Upper Boise Canyon and is indeed very scary to cross. You can cross over the Boise to the north side here (at your own risk), or continue down the trail for a few minutes to Wet-Foot crossing, and ford the Boise without scaring yourself silly. There is good camping here beside the creek.



your's paddle up the west channel of the slough brings you to a [3] Forest Service campground. Pull in here and get dropped off by your friend. Right behind the campground is an old logging road. This is the start of the Fool's Gold Hiking Route. It is a one hour hike north (4 km.) through second growth forest to the junction of the [4] Widgeon Lake side trail (160m. asl) The left fork goes to [24] Widgeon Lake, the biggest highcountry hanging lake near Vancouver. Good camping and fishing. Spectacular scenery. To stay on the main Fool's Gold Route, keep right at the junction. After crossing to the east side of Widgeon Creek on an [5] old, half collapsed, logging bridge, (cross at your own risk, or ford the creek) the road becomes more overgrown. Several hours hiking north brings you to the [6] end of the Old Widgeon Road (480m. asl). There are excellent camping spots here on the gravel bar near the creek.

#### Day 2 - WIDGEON VALLEY TO DEBECK MOUTH

• Attractions - Mountain Hemlock oldgrowth forest, views of Pitt Lake.

• Distance and maximum elevation gain - 7km., +240m.

For most of the day you will have only your back-country knowledge to guide you. There are no trails. Using compass and map, continue up Widgeon Creek 2 km. to near its end, then, when the creek bed takes a 90 degree right turn to the southeast, leave the creek and head northeast up the steep mountainside through oldgrowth forest. You have a choice of two passes, one on either side of a small peak. Aim for the pass to the right (east) of the small peak, this is [7] Pitt Pass (720m. asl). It is 1/2 km. from Widgeon Creek to Pitt Pass. The pass to the left (west) of the peak is Spindle Pass. From Pitt Pass bushwack through oldgrowth forest with a thick understorey of blueberries and mountain misery north along a sidehill high above Pitt Lake. After one kilometre, skirt a 10 metre high cliff by following its edge east until you can get down on a series of natural ramps in the cliff face. Cross over a pond covered plateau, previously helicopter-

#### Camping near Mamquam Pass.



east side of DeBeck Creek and bushwack up the hill to another old logging road. Hike northwest for one km. to the end of the road then enter the oldgrowth forest of DeBeck Valley.

Directly across from you, on the west side of DeBeck Creek, is the confluence of [10] Third Creek (520m. asl). The headwaters of Third Creek are located in the lake-studded alpine meadows surrounding the [11] Five Fingers Spires. It is a rugged side trip up the north side of Third Creek into the alpine terrain above. However, to continue on the Fool's Gold Route use compass and map to bushwack north through oldgrowth forest with little under brush and lots of moss, along the bench above the east side of DeBeck Creek to a [12] magical camping spot (560m. asl) in an ancient hemlock grove near some small side streams.

#### Day 4 - MID VALLEY TO BULL PASS

• Attractions - Views of the Five Fingers Spires, rare valley-bottom grass meadows, old pack trail, Coastal Western Hemlock oldgrowth forest, view from the pass of entire DeBeck Valley.

• Distance and maximum elevation gain - 7km., +500m.

Continue hiking northwest up DeBeck Creek. Here and there you will see the blaze marks of an old trail. From time to time you will break out of the oldgrowth forest into large open meadows. [13] Consolation Creek joins DeBeck Creek (680m. asl) from the west. It drains Consolation Lakes, located at the base of the Five Fingers Spires. From the Consolation Creek confluence continue for several hours up DeBeck Creek, climbing up to [14] Bull Pass (1,060m. asl). Keep just to the left of a small cliff as you ascend toward the pass. There are great views back down DeBeck Valley from the top of the cliff. Camp in the pass amongst meadows and stunted forest.

#### Day 5 - BULL PASS TO CEDAR SPIRIT GROVE

• Attractions - Alpine rambling, views of Bull Bowl, Bull Canyon, Cedar Spirit Grove, Coastal Western Hemlock oldgrowth forest.

• Distance and maximum elevation gain - 5km., +0m.

From Bull Pass hike west then north through forest and meadows taking care to skirt the beginnings of a canyon system, into the [15] Bull Bowl (800m. asl), a large mountain-fringed expanse at the headwaters of Bull Creek. Views of cascades and peaks surround you. In the valley bottom, grassy meadows are interspersed with groves of yellow cedar. To the west is a side-trip to the Bull Bowl. The Bowl is surrounded with alpine meadows and many small lakes and streams. To continue down the Fool's Gold Route, hike north, following Bull Creek, which is part of the Boise Creek system. Stay on the west side of the creek as the valley narrows into [16] Bull Canyon (680 asl). Hike just along the edge of the canyon and below a long talus band in a strip of gnarled oldgrowth forest. Further on, the talus slope ends and you can walk further away from the canyon. At the end of the day you will come to



Cabin Crossing, Fool's Gold Trail.

#### Day 7 - SCARY CROSSING TO MAMQUAM ROAD

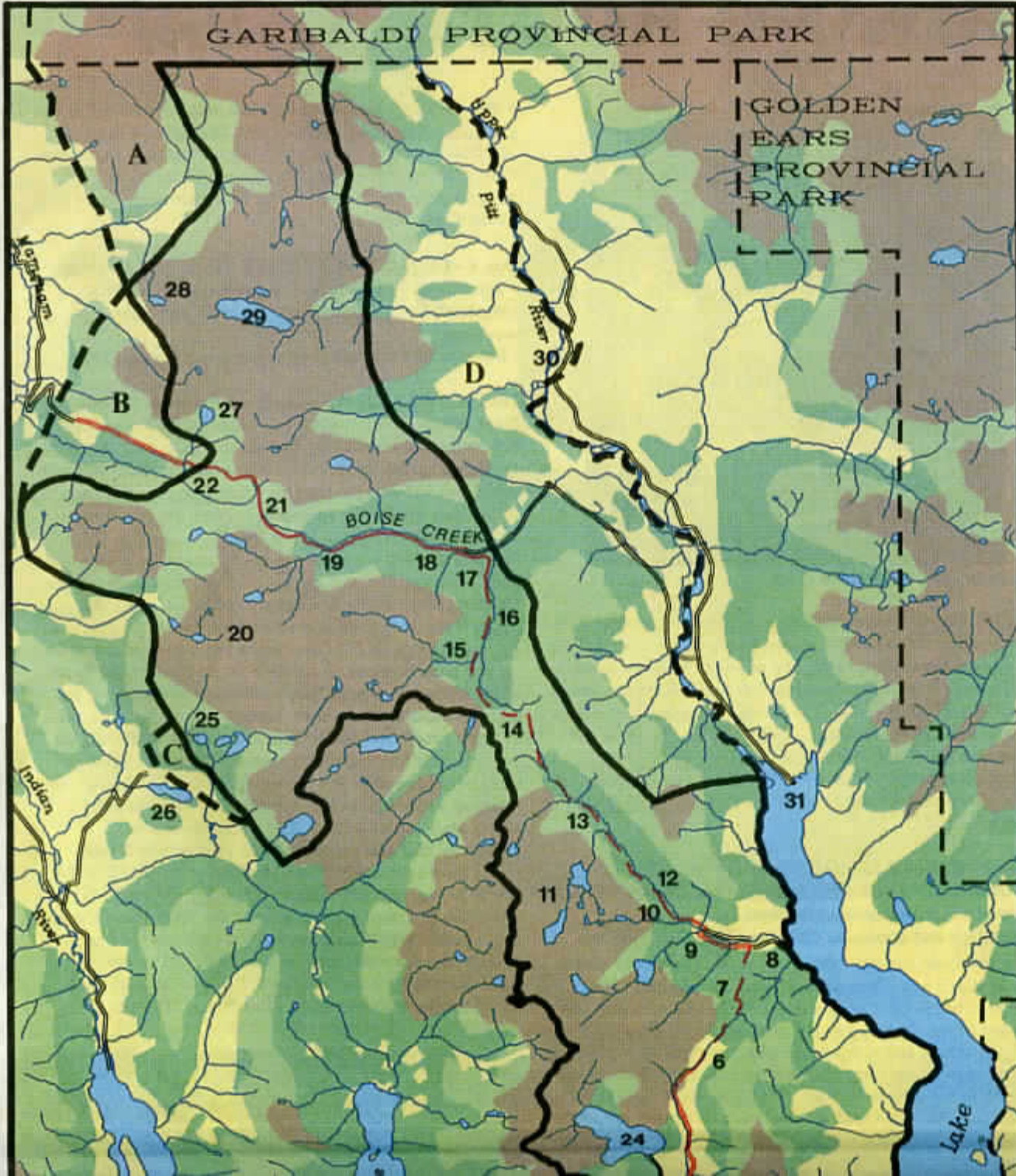
• Attractions - Yellow cedar groves, views of Meslillooet Icefield, Mountain Hemlock oldgrowth forest, Alpine meadows.









• Distance and maximum elevation gain - 6km., +800m.

From Scary Crossing the trail climbs north up the hillside. You will travel through groves of yellow cedar and have views of the [20] Meslillooet Icefield across the valley. This is the closest glacier to Vancouver and feeds the many lakes and streams in the Bull Bowl. You will break out of the forest at the [21] Mamquam Pass (1,360m. asl), a large level alpine area with a few stands of mountain hemlock trees. Great views down the Boise from here. Continue climbing and sidehilling west along the trail to a high point just below the peaks (1,560m. asl), then down to Hopeful Meadows, so named because of a poem by an unknown author inscribed on a tree. After Hopeful Meadows, the trail first enters forest, then a recent clearcut to the [22] Mamquam logging road trail head (1,040m. asl). You may have arranged to have a vehicle or mountain bike waiting for you here, or it is a 35 km. hike to Squamish at the end of the road.

Road access to this point from Squamish is as follows. From Vancouver, take Hwy. 99 to Squamish. About 1 km. before you reach Squamish, turn right just before you cross the Mamquam River bridge. Set your odometre at "0". The gravel road is good for most 2 wheel drive vehicles if you take it slow and easy. The road is a public "industrial" road so you must be on the look out for logging trucks which have the right of way. At 3.7 km. keep left. The right fork heads to the Indian River road system. At 12.7 km keep left to cross a bridge over to the north side of Mamquam River. At 26.7 km. keep left. Then at 27 km. turn left again and begin to climb a steep switch-back hill. After this point keep your eyes peeled for "water bars" which are ditches cut across the road to divert rain water. These may prevent your 2 wheel drive vehicle from continuing further. At 33.5 km. the road crosses a small bridge over November Creek and forks. On the sidehill ahead of you is a recent clearcut. The Fool's Gold Route starts from the end of the left fork about 100 metres from the bridge. The Fool's Gold Route goes through the clearcut to the forest above.

# WCWC MAPS



-  Oldgrowth Forest
-  Oldgrowth Coastal Western Hemlock Forest
-  Oldgrowth Mountain Hemlock Forest
-  Alpine Tundra, Bogs, Rock and Scrub Forest
-  Second Growth Coastal Western Hemlock Forest
-  Cities, Suburbs and Farmlands
-  Rivers, Streams, Lakes and Ocean
-  Widgeon Slough and Siwash Island Wetlands

## FOOL'S GOLD ROUTE

-  Trails
-  Old Roads
-  Unmarked Routes

## OTHER ROADS & TRAILS



- - Unmarked Routes
- OTHER ROADS & TRAILS**
- Trails
- Roads



*Widgeon Lake.*

**Pinecone/Burke Park Proposal**

1cm = 1.75km



*DeBeck Valley meadows.*



*Scary Crossing, Boise Valley.*





# REVEAL VANCOUVER'S WILDERNESS

These specially generated maps were produced by Western Canada Wilderness Committee's GIS (Geographic Information Services) computer mapping department by combining information gathered from the Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Environment. They show the previously logged second growth forests as yellow, the oldgrowth forests as green, the mountain-top alpine meadows as brown, the wetlands as purple and the cities, suburbs and farms as gold.




The eco-map entitled *Pinecone/Burke Park Proposal* shows both the Pinecone/Burke Study Area as well as additional areas the Wilderness Committee proposes to include in the new park. The additional areas are labelled A,B,C, and D. The BC government has drawn the boundaries of the Study Area in a way that does not include whole watersheds. The Wilderness Committee has expanded the park proposal boundaries to include the four additional areas because we advocate the preservation of entire watersheds where possible.

On the eco-map entitled *Vancouver's Remaining Oldgrowth Forests*, all oldgrowth forest is mapped in dark green. On the *Pinecone/Burke Park Proposal* eco-map the high elevation Mountain Hemlock oldgrowth forest also known as Snow Forest is mapped in light green while the low elevation Coastal Western Hemlock oldgrowth forest is mapped in dark green. The Fool's Gold Route and surrounding region is delineated with 31 points of interest numbered and keyed to the articles on pages three and six.

The two maps show that while our local wilderness is severely fragmented, we still have one final opportunity in the Boise and DeBeck Valleys to protect intact valley-bottom oldgrowth Coastal Western Hemlock Forest, making the Pinecone/Burke Park Proposal our last and only remaining chance to protect Vancouver's Backyard Wilderness.



**Vancouver's Remaining Oldgrowth Forests** 1cm = 9.5km

-  Pinecone/Burke Study Area Boundaries
-  WCWC Additional Areas Boundaries
-  Provincial Park Boundaries





*Boise Valley oldgrowth forest.*



*Pinecone Lake.*



*Five Fingers Spires and Consolation Lakes.*



*Pitt Lake pictographs.*

# Getting There



**Destinations:** Pitt Lake, DeBeck Mouth, upper Pitt River, Boise Valley.

The owners of Pitt Lake Lodge, located in the upper Pitt Valley, offer return water taxi service to and from Pitt Lake destinations from the [1] South End Dock. They will drop you off and pick you up again at [8] DeBeck Mouth or at the [31] North End Dock or at any other place on the lake. Their all-aluminum boat with spacious cabin will carry up to six passengers with gear, including mountain bikes, backpacks, etc. You have to phone in advance (520-7165) to arrange the trip. It will cost you \$150 return, so it is most cost efficient if you travel with a group of 6 at \$25 per person.

You can also arrange through Pitt Lake Lodge, truck transportation to the Boise Valley and the Fool's Gold Route. The lodge will also rent you a cabin beside the upper Pitt River. If you wish, you can purchase a guided fishing trip or you can go on your own. The upper Pitt logging road network is a little known mountain biker's paradise.

**Destinations:** Widgeon Slough, lower Pitt River.

Ayla Canoe Rentals will rent you a 16 ft. canoe for \$24 per day. Reservations are not required, just show up. It is located next to the [1] South End Dock. Their phone answering service is 941-2822. If you have any questions, just leave a message and they will get right back to you. The best and safest canoeing opportunities in the Lower Mainland are found in expansive Widgeon Slough. As well, Widgeon Slough gives access to the southern portion of the Fool's Gold Route.

# Side Trips

Besides the main Fool's Gold Route, the Pinecone/Burke Study Area has many side trip adventures. The brief descriptions below will need to be supplemented with topographic and road maps as well as a good knowledge of back-country wilderness travel.



*Burke Mountain Naturalists group hike, Munro Lake.*



**Destinations:** Burke Mountain, Widgeon Valley.

The Burke Mountain Naturalists offer guided group hikes to [23] Munro and Dennett Lakes on Burke Mountain several times a year. They also do canoe and hiking trips in the Widgeon Valley. Phone Don Gillespie at 942-7378 for the date and time of the next outing. There is no charge, but the Naturalists are always looking for new members to help out with their nature-protecting projects. Annual membership dues are \$20.

*Hiking party at South End Dock, Pitt Lake.*



sign". [24] Widgeon Lake is the only large hanging lake near Vancouver. It is an awe inspiring place, with the sheer granite walls of Penepain Peak rising for a thousand metres out of the western shore.

## FIVE FINGERS SPIRES

## ANNE & JOSEPH LAKES

• Attractions: Fishing, hiking, oldgrowth forest.

[25] Anne and Joseph Lakes are nestled in a "pocket wilderness" of oldgrowth Coastal Western Hemlock Forest in the headwaters of the Indian River. To reach the Indian River

### BURKE MOUNTAIN

• Attractions: Munro & Dennett Lakes, rolling semi-alpine meadows, many hiking trails, cross country skiing.

Turn off Lougheed Highway 1.5 km east of Port Coquitlam onto the Coast Meridian Road and head north for 3 km, then turn right onto Victoria Drive. When the road forks take the left branch. The name changes to Quarry Road. Then, at about 7 km. from Coast Meridian, you will come to a small parking lot on the left with a sign announcing the beginning of the Munro Lake Trail. It is a 2 hour hike to [23] Munro and near-Dennett Lakes on the Burke Plateau. For the adventurous, the Burke Mountain Naturalists are constructing a connector trail that will link the Burke Mountain Trail system to the Fool's Gold Route in Widgeon Valley. Burke Mountain is one of the closest areas to the city where one can still experience oldgrowth forest.

### WIDGEON LAKE

• Attractions: Fishing, camping, wilderness rambling.

From the Fool's Gold Route in Widgeon Valley, at the [4] Widgeon side trail junction take the left fork of the old logging road. The junction is posted with a "To Widgeon Lake

*Douglas fir, near DeBeck Mouth.*



### FIVE FINGERS SPIRES

• Attractions: Mountain climbing, alpine hiking, many small lakes and tarns.

Leave the Fool's Gold Route at the [10] confluence of DeBeck and Third Creek and hike up the north side of Third Creek to alpine terrain and the Consolation Lakes, 2 days travel from DeBeck Mouth. Ringing the lakes are the [11] Five Fingers Spires. The *Middle Finger* is the tallest of the five peaks at 1890 metres and can be climbed easily from its south side. There is a lifetime of exploration in the surrounding alpine meadows.

### BULL BOWL

• Attractions: Mesillooet Icefield, alpine meadows, many small lakes and tarns.

Access to this remote wilderness area is from the Fool's Gold Route in upper Bull Creek. The two fastest approaches to this area both require a boat ride up Pitt Lake. Enter the Fool's Gold Route via [8] Debeck Mouth or the [31] North End Dock. It is a two day pack to [15] Bull Bowl from either point. Your reward is a wide-open spaces kind of place. It is a seldom visited land of alpine meadows and lakes with a huge glacier crowning the mountain ridge above.

the headwaters of the Indian River. To reach the Indian River Road, (4X4 trucks only) turn right off the Mamquam Road 3.7 km. from its start near Squamish. Continue to [26] Norton Lake, then bushwack through logging slash then oldgrowth forest to the lakes.

### NOVEMBER LAKE

• Attractions: easiest to reach alpine lake in the Lower Mainland.

From the [22] Fool's Gold Route Mamquam Trail Head bushwack north up the east side of November Creek. In a half hour from your parked vehicle you will come to [27] November Lake, a spectacular alpine cirque lake.

### PINECONE LAKE

• Attractions: Many small lakes and tarns, vast alpine area.

From the 20 km. point on the Mamquam road turn left onto side roads that climb east to just below a ridge. Park and walk up the ridge first to [28] Knothole Lake, then through a pass to [29] Pinecone Lake. This region is packed with lakes and tarns in alpine terrain perfect for cross country rambling.

### PITT LAKE

• Attractions: Wildlife viewing, waterfalls, beaches, pictographs.

This large fiord lake is accessible by boat from the Fraser River and by road from Pitt Meadows. Canoes can be rented at Ayla Canoe Rentals, at the [1] South End Dock near Pitt Lake. Travel on Pitt Lake in small boats can be hazardous because of frequent strong winds and big waves. Seals, Eagles and Osprey are commonly seen. Pictographs painted on the granite cliffs of the west side of the lake can be viewed from a boat. Pitt Lake is the largest tidal Lake in North America.

### UPPER PITT RIVER

• Attractions: Salmon and Steelhead fishing, wildlife viewing, mountain biking, hot springs.

The Upper Pitt River is adjacent to the Pinecone/Burke Study Area. It is accessed by taking a boat up Pitt Lake to the [31] North End Dock and public industrial road system in the Upper Pitt Valley. Or you can enter the area by hiking over the Fool's Gold Route down the Boise Valley from the Mamquam Road on the Squamish side. The fall and winter fishing in the Upper Pitt is unrivalled by any other river system in the Lower Mainland area. Eagles, deer and black bear are abundant. There is even a [30] hot springs located in the Pitt River Canyon. The road system is perfect for mountain bike travel.

# Protected Area Strategy process to decide the fate of remaining local wilderness

When the NDP government was first elected in 1991 they announced their commitment to double the size of BC's provincial park system from 6% to 12% of BC's total land area by the year 2000. To accomplish this goal the BC government set in motion the Protected Areas Strategy process (PAS). PAS was to conduct an ecologically based search for new parks that would not only increase the size of our park system, but also add ecosystems currently under represented in today's system.

The first area chosen in the Lower Mainland for study was Vancouver's Backyard Wilderness, which the BC government named the Pinecone/Burke Study Area. They chose to study this area not only because of its outstanding park qualities but also because of industry's pressure to log the Boise Valley, the last major valley-bottom oldgrowth forest within the region suitable for park protection. The 38,000 hectare study area derives its name from Pinecone Lake, a large alpine lake located in the northern portion of the study area and Burke Mountain, a forested plateau located in the southern portion.

For over one year, a sixteen member government appointed study team has been collecting information on the Pinecone/Burke Study Area. The Study Team was chosen by the BC government in early 1993 to represent the many interests competing for the oldgrowth forests. There are representatives of the provincial government, local government, First Nations, timber companies, environmental organizations (Western Canada Wilderness Committee, Burke Mountain Naturalists and the Federation of BC Mountain Clubs have one representative each), fisheries workers, and forestry workers.

Failing to reach consensus, the Study Team developed a number of options to present to the public for comment at the February 15 and 16 public meetings in Vancouver, Coquitlam,

The Pinecone/Burke Study Area is an outstanding park candidate! Here are some of the reasons why.

The Pinecone/Burke area has the:

- closest glacier to Vancouver - Mesilloet Icefield.



*Ancient temperate rainforest of Boise Valley.*

Squamish and Chilliwack. Some of these options are supported by the timber industry and IWA. These options do not include protection of the Boise Valley. Other options include the protection of the entire study area as well as additional areas bordering it. These options are supported by the environmental groups and fisheries workers.

For all those who care about this area, it is vital that you attend at least one of the February 15 & 16 meetings to

register your opinion in person and that you write Premier Harcourt to tell him how you feel about Vancouver's Backyard Wilderness.

After the public has had a chance to comment on the options, a final report including options and comments will be forwarded to the B.C. Cabinet in March of 1994 for a decision as to whether to grant park protection for all or part of Vancouver's Backyard Wilderness.

## **PARK MAKES MORE JOBS THAN LOGGING WOULD**

The Lower Mainland from Vancouver to Hope, with a population of 1.8 million has a growing and extremely diverse economy. By the year 2008 our population is estimated to hit 2.5 million. One of the major reasons why this place remains a desirable place to live is the fact that wild nature is right in our backyard.

A 1993 BC government commissioned study indicates that on a sustained yield, the Boise Valley is able to produce an average of 9,000 cubic metres of logs per year. That amounts to about 4 logging jobs plus 8 milling jobs - 12 jobs in total. The same study estimates that if the entire 38,000 hectare Pinecone/Burke Study Area was opened to logging,

The Fool's Gold Route.

- largest freshwater tidal lake in North America. Site of the best pictographs near Vancouver - Pitt Lake.
- biggest freshwater marsh in southwest B.C. and the Lower Mainland's most popular canoeing spot - Widgeon Slough.
- most spectacular ancient redcedar grove near Vancouver and is the heart of the last large area of valley bottom oldgrowth coastal Western hemlock forest in the Lower Mainland - the Boise Valley.
- most extensive alpine lakes complex south of Pemberton - Pinecone, Bull Bowl and Five Fingers Spires areas.
- only existing large sub-alpine plateau near Vancouver and one of the Lower Mainland's most popular hiking spots - Burke Mountain.
- Lower Mainland's only large hanging lake - Widgeon Lake.

BC government statistics (1991) indicate that there are about 972,000 workers employed in the Lower Mainland. Most of the surrounding forest land is in the Fraser Timber Supply Area (TSA). The TSA currently supports 850 forestry jobs and 1,100 mill jobs - a total of 1,950 jobs.



*Large dimension lumber is poor job producer.*

...clearcut every year. This would support about 62 logging and milling jobs in the Lower Mainland.

The same study indicates that over the long term, more jobs could be realised in the recreation and tourism industries by preserving all of Pinecone/Burke than by logging it. Given current population trends, within 3 decades Pinecone/Burke could support over 140 park related jobs.

If we mill the wood which we log in other parts of the Fraser TSA into higher quality products like custom cut lumber, door and window frames and furniture components instead of exporting it as large dimension lumber and if we practise selection forestry instead of clearcut logging we can both protect key wilderness resources like the Pinecone/Burke and we can protect and improve our job base over the long term.

**THE WILDERNESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT...**

- the entire Pinecone/Burke Study Area plus all lands between the eastern boundary of the Study Area and the upper Pitt River plus areas in the upper Mamquam and Indian drainages be granted park protection (see centre page map).
- park status be conferred in a way that does not prejudice land claim negotiations with First Nations.
- existing cabin leases and private holdings along Pitt Lake and upper Pitt River within the new park be allowed to continue, with the exception of the Pitt Hotsprings which should be purchased by the BC government.
- Genstar's private lands on the top of Burke Mountain within the new park be purchased by the BC government or traded for other Crown land.
- a special forest management zone adjacent to the new park be created so that park values can be protected. Selection logging not clearcut logging, must be the required forest cutting practice.
- the shipment of "cants" and large dimensional lumber from the Lower Mainland to American remanufacturing mills be legislatively halted to enable the value-added wood products manufacturing to be done in B.C. and consequently create new jobs in the local wood products industry.
- second growth forests in surrounding drainages such as the Mamquam, Indian, Pitt and Stave be thinned using selection logging techniques to "improve" the forest and create forest jobs.

**PINECONE/BURKE PUBLIC MEETINGS, Feb 15 & 16  
Your Chance To Speak Up For Our Backyard Wilderness!**

On the evenings of Tuesday February 15 and Wednesday February 16 the BC government is giving you a chance to say whether or not you want Vancouver's Backyard Wilderness protected.

Open house public meetings will be held at the following venues...

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1994**

- COQUITLAM, 5 PM, at the Dogwood Pavilion, Mike Butler Room, 624 Poirier Street.
- CHILLIWACK, 5 PM, at the Holiday Inn, Ball Room, 45920, 1st Avenue.

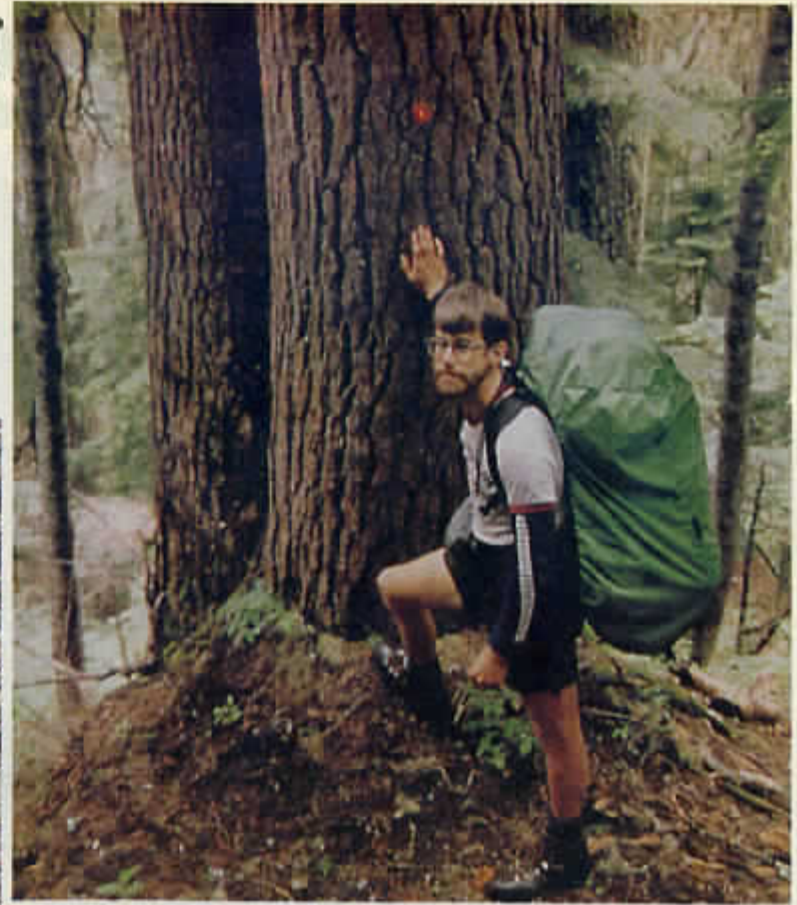
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1994**

- VANCOUVER, 5 PM, at the Robson Square Conference Centre, Judge Wyatt Theatre, 800 Robson Street.
- SQUAMISH, 7 PM, at the Squamish Centennial Way, Auditorium, 1009 Centennial Way.

Members of the government sponsored Pinecone/Burke Protected Area Study Team will be on hand to explain a series of preservation options ranging from limited preservation (no protection for Boise Valley) to total preservation for the Pinecone/Burke Study Area plus some adjoining areas in the upper Pitt, Mamquam and Indian drainages. WCWC advocates protection of the entire Study Area plus the adjoining areas. The ancient forests of Vancouver's Backyard Wilderness need YOU to attend at least one of the open house public meetings. The BC government is watching and counting to see how many "voices for the wilderness" will speak out in favour of protecting the ancient forests in the Boise Valley.

History is always made by those who show up. Make plans now to attend the meeting closest to you. Put in your vote for full park protection for ALL of the Pinecone/Burke Study Area plus adjoining areas.

# DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN to our Pinecone/Burke backyard wilderness



*Oldgrowth forest at Mamquam trail head,  
Fool's Gold Route, July 1993.*

*Clearcut forest at Mamquam trail head,  
Fool's Gold Route, November 1993.  
(same place)*



## PREMIER HARCOURT NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU NOW!

- Let the Premier know what you think of his program to double the park system by the year 2000.
- Explain to the Premier how much you value valley-bottom oldgrowth forests, like the forests of the Boise Valley.
- Tell the Premier how strongly you feel about the protection of the Pinecone/Burke Study Area and key adjoining areas in the upper Pitt, Mamquam and Indian drainages.
- Ask the Premier when he intends to grant park protection to ALL of Vancouver's Backyard Wilderness.

Your letters count. Government knows that for every person who writes, one thousand more feel just as strongly but fail to write. Your letter equals a thousand voices for the wilderness. Do it today!

write to:

**Premier Harcourt**  
Legislative Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

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## SAVE BOISE VALLEY



Vancouver's Last Big Tree Rainforest



## STAND UP FOR WHERE YOU LIVE

Yes! I want all of Vancouver's Backyard Wilderness protected.

- I pledge to attend the Pinecone/Burke public meetings February 15 & 16 in (circle one) Squamish, Vancouver, Coquitlam or Chilliwack.
- I have written a letter to Premier Harcourt letting him know how I feel about park protection for the Pinecone/Burke Region, my Backyard Wilderness.
- I will financially back your campaign to save the Pinecone/Burke Region. I understand that WCWC needs funds to carry out its campaign of trail building, research and educational publications. Here is my tax deductible gift of \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ other. (Revenue Canada Tax Reg. No. 0587113-21-28. Donors of \$25 and over receive a Fool's Gold Region certificate. Donors of \$50 and over receive a genuine sample of Boise fool's gold ore.)
- I want to become a Wilderness Committee member. Enclosed is my \$30 annual membership fee. (Members receive regular education reports, notices of monthly membership meetings, free Western Canada Endangered Wilderness Calendar and more!)
- Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the Boise Valley bumpersticker at \$3 a piece. **Boise Valley - Park It!**
- Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the Boise Valley poster at \$6 each. (Beautiful full color photo of two ancient redcedar in the Cedar Spirit Grove by famous BC nature photographer Graham Osborne.)
- Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ copies of WCWC's Backyard Wilderness Hiking Map, complete with Fool's Gold Route, side trips, road access, hot springs, cabins, mountain bike routes and fishing holes. Special pre-publication price of \$6.95 each. (Note: Work in progress. DELIVERY BY APRIL 15, 1994.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Western Canada Wilderness Committee, 20 Water St., Vancouver, BC V6B 1A4 or phone and use your credit card to donate or purchase, (604) 683-8220.

