



October 29, 2001



Our Most Critical Issues:

1. *Protection of the natural/wilderness tourism product that is becoming more rare regionally, provincially, nationally and internationally.*
2. *Recognition that wilderness tourism is a "sustainable and performance-based resource" industry that requires a land base where it is the primary consideration.*
3. *Identification of tourism as a key decision-maker on land use decisions.*
4. *Recognition that Wilderness Tourism offers significant and long-term employment and revenue opportunity with the highest economic return.*
5. *Proving that clarity around wilderness conservation for tourism and acceptable methods of timber extraction will make for an economically viable and ecologically sustainable community.*
6. *Prove that Special Resource Management Zones can operate under the original parameters that were set out under land use planning initiatives.*
7. *Ensuring effective representation for remote communities.*



The Needs of BC's Premier Wilderness Tourism Community Solutions for a New Era for British Columbia

- Wilderness Tourism is a “Forest Product.” To sustain our world-renowned destination, we need a change to the Forest Practice Code to include a new land designation entitled “Wilderness Tourism Areas.”
- Within the zone, establish four sub-zones: Wilderness Destination, Wild Lands Activity Areas, Wildlife Habitat, and Wild Rivers, to plan and manage our international quality wilderness area.
- These zones must be managed for wilderness tourism as the primary use.
- Regulatory change made to the Forest Practices Code so that clearcut logging is not allowed within this zone. Ensure forest industry identifies alternative harvesting methods that are compatible with wilderness tourism values.
- Recognition that these areas are for the remote communities to maintain and build their own economic base for self-sufficiency, independence, and self-sustainability.
- A five-year deferral over all of the Special Resource Development Zones within the Chilcotin until proper impact and assessment planning can be done. Specifically, the Potato and Brittany Special Resource Development Zones and the Taseko Special Management Zone.



Market Conditions and Economic Impact

Global Tourism Trends and Conditions

The World Tourism Organization (WTO) identifies ecotourism, adventure tourism, and cultural tourism as three of the five hottest themes for the industry in 2001. This recognition is the culmination of several years of sustained growth in each sector that shows little sign of fading as individuals seek experiences from travel that challenge, educate and enrich their lives. The product for these experiences internationally is strong, and the awareness of new destinations that offer such experiences is growing at an exponential rate as communications and infrastructure to access different areas of the world constantly improves. Canada, and more specifically British Columbia, faces significant challenges to maintain and grow its position as a priority destination for such experiences, particularly as global media picks up on topical conflicts over land use, resource sustainability and threatened habitat. On an international scale, Canada's tourism grew by a little under 4% in 1999 (British Columbia 1.4% growth forecast for 2001) just under the average world growth rate and considerably less than prime international competitor destinations such as Australia, New Zealand which each achieved around 8% increases. The implication for tourism in British Columbia is simple: we must protect our industry to deliver on the key products that meet market interests in adventure, ecotourism and cultural experiences.

Provincial Conditions

British Columbia continues to promote a super-natural image to the market place with shifts to facilitate relaxation and rejuvenation for selected North American markets. Growth has been relatively consistent with reasonable outlooks for maintaining key markets despite the concerns resulting from the events of September 11th.

The province continues to hinge its performance on its nature and culture tourist resources which draw tourists to activities such as wildlife viewing, visiting parks, visiting First Nation Sites, and a variety of specific boating, hiking, fishing, golfing and other similar activities. Extrapolation of activity rates from the British Columbia Visitor Study (conducted in 1996) indicate for example that in 2000 around 7.9 million visitors may have conducted wildlife viewing activities and 3.2 million visited First Nation sites two activities clearly linked to the WTO's identified hottest international themes for 2001.



Market Conditions and Economic Impact

Regional Conditions

According to the former Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture there were approximately 102 tourism operators in the Chilcotin Forest district in 2000. Wilderness lodges and associated wilderness and adventure tourist activities are key products in the region. According to a survey of 53 tourism operators conducted in 2000, 84% of clients visited the region for a wilderness/nature trip (or experience), over 60% stayed in the area for 4 days or more, over half visiting from the USA and around a quarter from Europe. High summer visitation meant that 95% of all accommodation operators reported over 50% occupancy throughout the summer and 45% reporting over 75% to full.

Based on this survey analysis, accommodation rates, additional customer expenditures etc, the Chilcotin Wilderness Tourism Study released in May 2001, estimated the primary revenues from the Chilcotin wilderness tourism operators to range from \$37.5 to 42.5 million dollars annually. A total \$35 million to \$40 million annually would derive directly from accommodation and related activities and a further \$2.25 million from airline charters, sightseeing, and commercial scheduled flights.

In the Chilko Community 2000 report, operators indicated 87% of operation expenditures (around 53% of revenues) were made in Williams Lake, Prince George, and Kamloops region. The remaining 22% on salaries and wages of over 270 full-time, part-time and seasonal workers, 15% on taxes, licenses and fees and 10% on capital expenses and debt retirement. This indicates that at least \$20 million annually is returned to the local region and community indicating a very high multiplier effect in the local economy. These benefits to the provincial and local economies will continue year-in and year-out, providing the high-quality resources upon which this industry is dependent are maintained.

The scope for growth of products and markets to the region is strong, especially given the high level of market interest in adventure, ecotourism and cultural tourism generally and the direct attention the nature tourism sector is receiving in planning in British Columbia through sector enhancement and opportunity studies. The challenge is to maintain the quality of experience in a fiercely competitive international environment a challenge that requires protection of operating environments, support of marketing agencies, effective inter-organizational collaboration, and quality product delivery by operators.



Chilko Lake Communities and Ts'ylos Provincial Park A Unique Place

Backgrounder

Chilko Lake is located in a relatively isolated and undeveloped part of the Chilcotin. By air it is 160 km southwest of Williams Lake and 250 air km north of Vancouver. The area includes the transition between the Coast Mountains to the west and the interior plateau in the northeast. The area is biologically diverse, with relatively large numbers of biogeoclimatic zones, subzones, and ecosystems, which support different plant and animal species. This diversity and contrast in the vegetation and landscapes are a result of the rain shadow effect on the east side of the Coast Mountains and a strong climatic gradient. These ecosystems are largely un-fragmented by industrial activity and are dominated by natural processes, creating a unique, ecologically intact wilderness area.

The area includes the Potato Range, Choelquoit Lake basin, The Chilko River, The Tsuniah Range, and portions of the Brittany Triangle. It includes all of those lands adjacent to Ts'ylos Provincial Park.

It is part of the traditional territory of the Xeni Gwet'in, is located within in their trapline, and contains numerous sites of cultural and spiritual significance.

The area offers outstanding international significant tourism values such as a un-roaded and un-developed wilderness, stunning vistas from both the mountain peaks and the plateau, a diverse selection of wilderness outdoor activities such as rafting, canoeing, kayaking, float trips, drift trips, angling, hunting, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, photography, hiking, mountain climbing, cross country skiing, and mountaineering skiing.

The area provides exceptional nature appreciation opportunities, such as wildlife viewing for Grizzly Bear, Mountain Goat, Moose, Mule Deer, and is the habitat of important and endangered wildlife species such as the Grizzly Bear, Wolverine, and Northern Goshawk.



Chilko Lake Communities and Ts'ylos Provincial Park A Unique Place

In 1994, Ts'ylos Provincial Park was established to protect the outstanding wilderness qualities of Chilko Lake and the surrounding area. Adjacent to the park are a number of Special Resource Management Zones established under the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan. Within these zones are the communities of Nemiah Valley, Tsuniah Lake and the North Chilko. The majority of residents who live and operate businesses are located within these Special Resource Management Zones, and they are the gateway communities to the park. How these areas are managed and how they will be developed is very important to the long-term sustainability of the area, its people and local businesses.

The best way to describe the development of the Chilko Lake area is unique. Although this term is often over-used, it is an accurate and fitting description of the Chilko Lake area for a number of reasons, including the geography of the area, the proximity to the park, absolute dependence on maintaining a pristine wilderness character, the Special Resource Management Zones and an emerging community administrative structure.



Chilko Lake is a Self-Sufficient International Wilderness Tourism Destination

The Chilko community has an internationally-recognized wilderness tourism product, and is one of British Columbia's premier wilderness tourism destination. The area is accessible by road and air via the Chilko Lake airstrip. Wilderness tourism has been the primary economic mainstay of the Chilko area for over fifty years. Wilderness tourism operators contribute considerably to the Canadian economy. They provide most of the jobs and investment in the local economy. Most Chilko visitors travel through a major Canadian city(s) before arriving at the wilderness destination. Wilderness operators also incur extraordinary expenses in providing their adventure product. Profits are reinvested and provide the Chilko community infrastructure: telecommunications, water, power and waste management resources. Chilko tourism operators developed original roads, airstrips and trail systems, most of which they currently maintain. Chilko is an independent, entrepreneurial, and resourceful community.

With wilderness tourism as the areas major economic generator, any new development must sustain and protect the primary product feature of wilderness tourism - the pristine, natural wilderness environment. Stewardship cannot be based on a “cookie cutter” model, where one planning process fits all and control and guidance over development is removed from the local community.





North Chilko is Remote

Chilko Lake is located in Electoral Area J (Chilcotin), the largest electoral area within the Cariboo Regional District. The small hamlets of Nemiah Valley, Tsuniah and the Chilko area are “too small to require services such as public sewer and water at the present time, nor is it anticipated that there will be a requirement for such services in the near future” (Rural Area Profile Cariboo Regional District).

The Chilko Resort & Community Association

The Chilko Resort & Community Association was started in 1998. It is a group of local stakeholders made up of residents and tourism business operators located at Chilko Lake. Of primary importance to the group was the long-term vision of the area or how the area will be managed in the future. As a community group they wanted to work together to maintain a sustainable tourism industry within the local area and economy. Their mission is to be advocates of wilderness and backcountry tourism and the local community.



A Vision Statement for the Chilko Lake Community

The following vision statement was developed by the community to provide direction for the long-term sustainable management of North Chilko wilderness tourism.

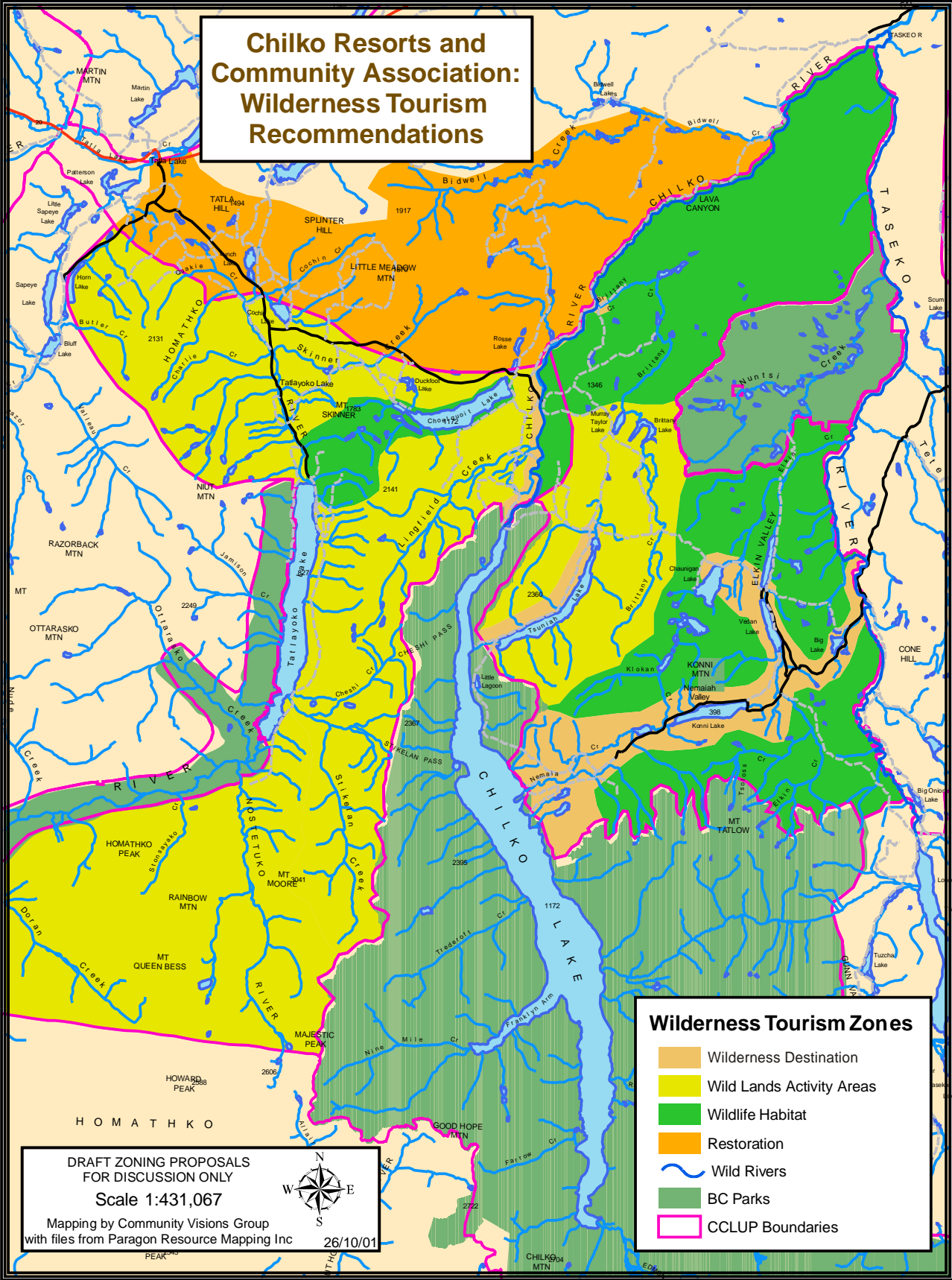
“To support wilderness tourism as our economic mainstay, in keeping with the Xenigwet'in Declaration, and to achieve long term economic, environmental and social sustainability for the Chilko communities through responsible stewardship.”

Chilko Resorts & Community Association
PO Box 2560 Williams Lake BC V2G 4P2
(250) 398-2646 (250) 398-5469



Zone	Description	Objectives	Strategies
Wilderness Destination	Destination accommodation and infrastructure to serve residents and visitors.	Manage facility and infrastructure development to maintain wilderness portal characteristics	Develop standards for permissible uses, infrastructure design guidelines, operational codes for commercial recreation activities Explore opportunities to incorporate municipal area(s)
Wild Lands Activity Areas	Primary activity area for commercial recreation uses under tenure	Manage recreational use levels and activities through CR and other tenures to maintain undeveloped wilderness characteristics Manage other activities to maintain existing undeveloped wilderness characteristics	Manage to unroaded status – limit maintenance of existing roads and do not permit new roads Designate facilities (camps) for commercial and public recreational users to avoid conflicts Require development to meet objective for undeveloped wilderness characteristics
Wildlife Habitat	Key wildlife and fisheries habitat areas	Priority management of all activities, including tenured commercial and public recreation, to maintain existing wildlife habitat characteristics	Maintain existing unroaded status Manage to exclude tenured or public recreation camps, manage activities to preserve wildlife values Require resource development to meet objective for wildlife habitat characteristics Consider fee for recreation use to enhance habitat
Wild rivers	Key rivers for ecotourism, recreation and fisheries values.	Manage all activities, including tenured commercial and public recreation, to maintain the wilderness characteristics of the activity setting and to maintain fisheries habitat	Develop standards for river-based uses. Develop standards for shoreline uses. Implement tenures to manage users Apply expanded Riparian Reserve Zone under FPC to preserve shoreline and bluff features
Restoration	Areas where development activities have impacted wilderness tourism values	Manage activities to restore values compatible with wilderness tourism	

Chilko Resorts and Community Association: Wilderness Tourism Recommendations



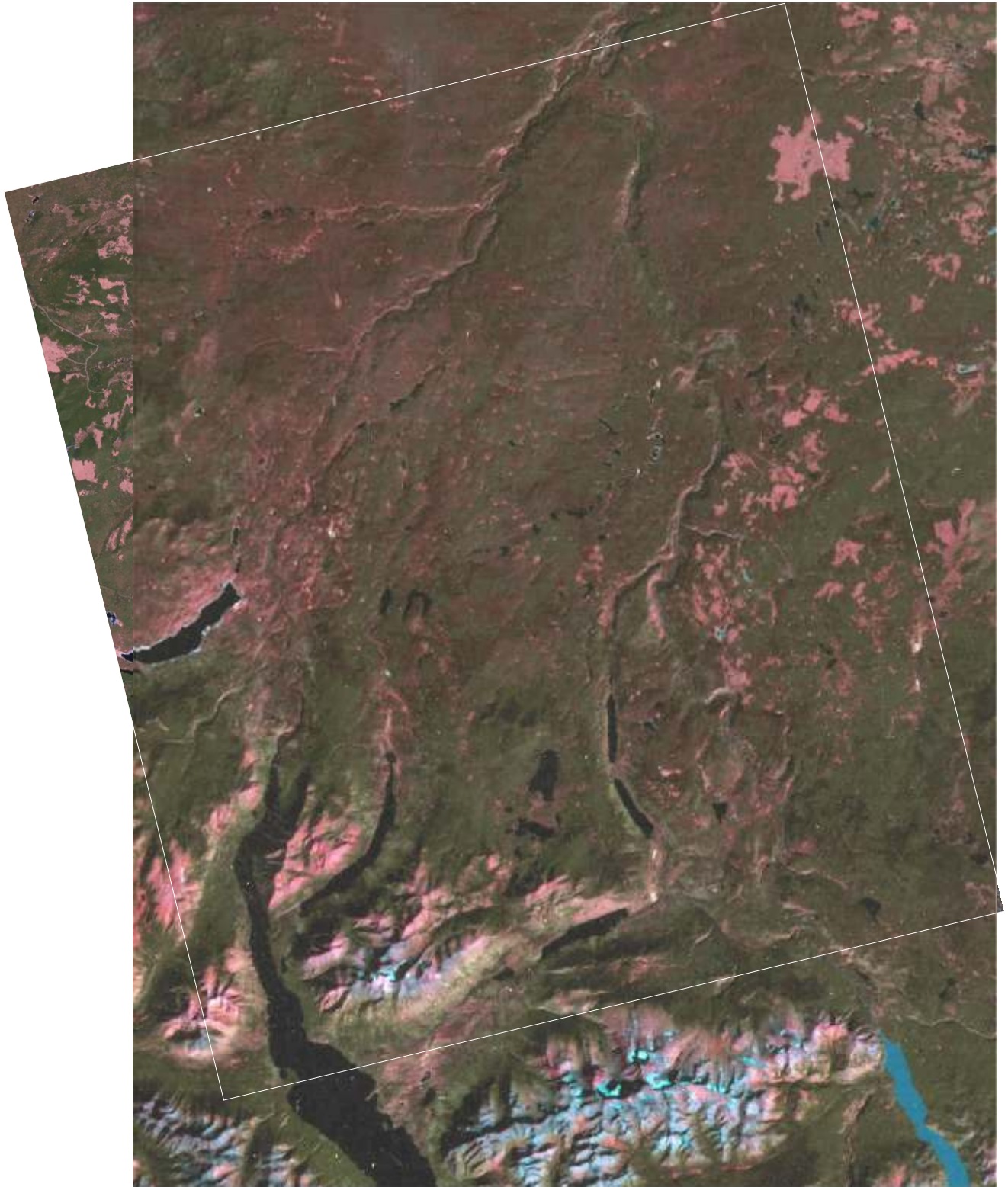
Wilderness Tourism Zones

- Wilderness Destination
- Wild Lands Activity Areas
- Wildlife Habitat
- Restoration
- Wild Rivers
- BC Parks
- CCLUP Boundaries

DRAFT ZONING PROPOSALS
FOR DISCUSSION ONLY
Scale 1:431,067
Mapping by Community Visions Group
with files from Paragon Resource Mapping Inc 26/10/01



LandSat 1989



LandSat 2000

