



For Immediate Release
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Special section in BC Bill creates Jumbo loophole

New legislation smacks of underhandedness

Tucked in the middle of what is otherwise a highly regarded piece of provincial legislation is a small section of a proposed Bill which is drawing immediate and intense opposition.

Section 15 of Bill 11 allows the provincial cabinet to designate “resort regions” which must be attached to existing municipalities. The term resort region is not clearly defined. Section 15 also states that a resort region can be established by the provincial cabinet alone.

The proposal is drawing the most heated criticism from Columbia Valley residents. They are concerned that this section of the legislation could impact their right to approve or deny the creation of a Jumbo Glacier resort development.

“The provincial government promised residents of the area that they would have the ultimate say on this issue. If the provincial government decided they wanted to create a resort region for Jumbo, it would unequivocally fly in the face of what they’ve previously promised,” said Wildsight Spokesperson Jim Galloway.

The Bill, which contains the unacceptable loophole, was to receive second reading on Thursday, March 15 but, after a filibuster by the opposition, approval was delayed. However it is expected to pass when the legislature resumes after Monday, March 26.

“This is a cynical attempt to circumvent the local decision making process on the Jumbo issue and it’s very important people let the government know they are unhappy about it,” said Galloway.

Concerned citizens can go to www.jumbowild.com for more information and messages can be sent directly to Premier Gordon Campbell and Columbia River-Revelstoke MLA Norm MacDonald.

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For more information

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About Wildsight

Wildsight works locally, regionally and globally to protect biodiversity and encourage sustainable communities in Canada's Columbia and Southern Rocky Mountain region. This area is internationally recognized as a keystone to conservation in western North America. Wildsight received the *2005 Canadian Environmental Award for Conservation* in recognition of its successful work to protect the region's wildlife and wildlands. For more information, please visit www.wildsight.ca.