

HISTORY OF THE TETRAHEDRON DEBATE

[This chronology is reprinted from the Tetrahedron Local Resource Use Plan final document, Appendix I.]

1960. The Tetrahedron Study Area has been the subject of a land use debate on the Sunshine Coast since the early 1960's when the first of a number of park proposals for the area was submitted to the Ministry of Parks. The original park proposal was rejected based on uncertainty regarding future allocation of Chapman Creek as the primary source of domestic water for the Sunshine Coast.⁸⁸

1968. Another park proposal encompassing most of the current wilderness proposal was submitted by local residents.⁸⁹

1969. Dayton and Knight was commissioned to do an evaluation of the Chapman Creek Watershed to ascertain its capacity to provide potable water to the communities of the Sunshine Coast into the future. Population of the Sunshine Coast at that time was approximately 5,000 residents.

1970. A Water Reserve on Chapman Creek was established by Order in Council on behalf of the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) establishing water provision as a primary use for the Chapman drainage.

1972. The SCRD outlined concerns regarding a 1971 Forest Service Engineering study and that Jackson Bros. Logging, Timber Sale Harvest Licence (TSHL) A00044, was compromising water quality within the Chapman drainage. They also expressed reservations about plans to log in the upper Chapman and requested a study to determine the advisability of such a course of action.⁹⁰ The Vancouver Forest District undertook the Chapman Creek Reconnaissance in 1972/1973 in order to develop examples of a multi-disciplinary approach to planning and management in the District.

1973. On September 21, 1973 the Upper Chapman was removed from Jackson Bros. TSHL A00044. On December 5, 1973 a special Chapman Creek⁹¹ meeting recommended that the Upper Chapman be reserved for use as a watershed and that access should be restricted to non-vehicular recreational use.

1974. Experimental Project 732,⁹² an Integrated Resource Management (IRM) Study of the Chapman Drainage, concluded that past activities were primarily responsible for most of the water quality deterioration, and that "forestry capability" in the Upper Chapman, that is the ability of the land to support to support forestry activities, was low, while the characteristics of the area combine to give high value in providing water throughout the year, and potentially high value for extensive recreation. It recommended that forest development not be considered until all major sources of sedimentation in the remainder of the watershed were stabilized.⁹³

1975. Chapman Creek was designated a Section 12 Watershed Reserve for Community Water Supply under the *Land Act*. Administrative authority was assigned to the Water Investigations Branch, now the Water Management Branch of the Ministry of Environment.⁹⁴ The Chapman Creek Investigation - Sedimentation Problems (related to maintenance of the Chapman Creek main road) was completed.⁹⁵

⁸⁸ J. Hind Smith.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Memo from E.R. Cuyllits, Planning Director, SCR D, to Planning Committee, October 1972.

⁹¹ A meeting of interested parties and agencies held as part of the Reconnaissance.

⁹² T. Baker, Research Division of the B.C. Forest Service and B. Nyberg, Vancouver Forest District, B.C. Forest Service, 1974.

⁹³ General Recommendation #1: "extensive rehabilitation program is necessary to eliminate this problem ... program to begin as soon as possible."

⁹⁴ Tenure Inquiry, Chapman Creek Watershed #9 (0326774), dated 22/07/1975, expiry date 22/07/9999, Ministry of Lands.

⁹⁵ V.Holm, P. Eng., B.C. Forest Service, Special Studies Division, September 1975.

1977. Jackson Bros. agreed to undertake the recommended maintenance procedures outlined in the sedimentation report. Jackson Bros. applied for extensive amendments to their chart area to include the northern end of the Chapman Creek Watershed Reserve. ⁹⁶

1978. The MOF rejected the proposed amendment based on the first specific recommendation of the Chapman Creek Integrated Management Study. ⁹⁷

1979. The SCR D advised the MOF of ongoing sediment problems. A subsequent survey indicated the recommended rehabilitation works had not been implemented. ⁹⁸ Another park proposal (which excluded the Upper Chapman, citing the Watershed Reserve status) was submitted to MOP which included Tetrahedron and Panther Peaks and a substantial area of the Upper Gray Creek drainage. The proposal was not acted upon. Also in 1979 a MOF Recreation Reserve on Gray Creek was removed to compensate Jackson Bros. Logging for harvesting restrictions imposed by the 1974 IRM Study recommendations for Chapman Creek. ⁹⁹

1982. A MOF hiking trail system was reserved around Tannis, Mayne, Bachelor, Edwards and Gilbert Lakes (all within the Tetrahedron Study Area). ¹⁰⁰ It was subsequently abandoned when logging substantially altered the landscapes associated with the trail system.

1987. A local wilderness recreation system was created in the unlogged area that remained of the 1968 Park Proposal, by community volunteers with donations from the MOF, industry, local businesses and a federal government grant. There are 35 kilometers of cross-country hiking/ skiing trails, and four all weather cabins each capable of accomodating 20 people overnight. It is estimated by the Tetrahedron Ski Club that approximately 3,000 people visit the area each year.

1989. The Tetrahedron Wilderness Proposal was submitted to the SCR D. ¹⁰¹ The Upper Chapman (originally excluded from Jackson's chart in 1973 and the subject of restrictive land use recommendations in the 1974 IRM study) was added back to Jackson Bros. Logging chart area.

A provincial Ministry of Forests evaluation of potential wilderness areas, undertaken by the MOF, ranked the Tetrahedron Wilderness Proposal as having high wilderness values ¹⁰² and low for forestry. Due to ongoing community concerns for water, an Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) was initiated. ¹⁰³

1990. It became apparent that the concerns of the community, regarding wilderness designation, recreation and employment impacts, would not be adequately addressed by the IWMP (Integrated Watershed Management Plan), and in October, 1990 the Tetrahedron Local Resource Use Plan (LRUP) was initiated. ¹⁰⁴ A deferral of the licencee's Five Year Development Plan for the area within the Tetrahedron Wilderness Proposal was recommended by the provincial Old Growth Strategy pending the results of the LRUP.

MOF funded rehabilitation works in October 1990 to major slide areas in the watershed which were subsequently damaged and buried during storms in November and December.

⁹⁶ R.L. Jackson to Zone Forester, MOF, December 22, 1977.

⁹⁷ Zone Forester, MOF to R.L. Jackson, April 21, 1977.

⁹⁸ Regional Manager, MOF to Chairman, SCR D, February 12, 1979.

⁹⁹ Reserve #326236 Ministry of Crown Lands.

¹⁰⁰ Recreation Project 900-2-302, May 13, 1982.

¹⁰¹ August, 1989.

¹⁰² RO Recreation, Sunshine Coast Forest District, 1990.

¹⁰³ Terms of Reference approved May, 1990.

¹⁰⁴ District Manager, Sunshine Coast Forest District.

1991. Another survey ¹⁰⁵ was commissioned to evaluate the condition of logging roads and mass wasting occurring in the Chapman Creek Watershed. This resulted in works being undertaken to stabilize some sections of the road network. Costs to date incurred by the MOF are approximately \$325,000 exclusive of wages. Some areas are now beyond reclamation and have been abandoned.

Parks and Wilderness for the '90's, a collaborative identification of potential park and wilderness areas, included the Tetrahedron as a Category 2 Study Area, to be decided by 1993.

The provincial Old Growth Strategy Project and Parks and Wilderness for the '90's have since been incorporated into the provincial Protected Areas Strategy (PAS). The LRUP is now required to make its' recommendations, regarding land use within the Tetrahedron Study Area, to the PAS rather than the Sunshine Coast Forest District.

¹⁰⁵ Terence Lewis, Rehabilitation Plan, August 1990.