

FRASER
HEADWATERS
ALLIANCE



6005 Brown Road
Dunster, BC V0J 1J0
ph/fax: (250) 968-4410
email: jhoward@mcbridebc.com

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
3 May 1999

BC Government Betrays Public Trust in Robson Valley LRMP Decision

A government plan to log most of the remaining wilderness and rare inland rainforest of the Fraser River headwaters and the watersheds of Bowron Lake Park represents an enormous betrayal of public trust, and will be met with widespread opposition, according to the Fraser Headwaters Alliance. On Friday, the government announced that it had approved the Robson Valley Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), despite the fact that consensus was never reached on large portions of the area covered by the plan.

“Community members spent nearly four years negotiating in good faith to come up with a plan for local land management, but government restricted their options at every step of the process,” said Alliance Coordinator Roy Howard. “LRMPs were originally intended to reduce the conflicts surrounding the use of crown land, but approval of this plan will have the opposite effect.” Indeed, government’s failure to adhere to its own principles calls into question the validity of other LRMP processes currently underway in the province.

The Fraser Headwaters Alliance calls on the BC Government to place an immediate moratorium on any development in all areas of the Robson Valley where consensus was not reached in the LRMP process. These areas should be subject to a new planning process, as was done recently for a portion of the Kispiox LRMP.

The “government recommended” plan, modified behind closed doors with no public input, allocates a paltry 69,000 hectares to additional protected areas within the 1.4 million hectare plan area. This is a reduction of more than 13% from protected areas recommended by government agencies at the close of negotiations, and is completely insufficient to protect the rich biodiversity of the ecosystems in the region.

-more-

