

Kusawa Park Public Meeting Input

Westmark Whitehorse

March 13, 2014

Input was received at individual topic tables and recorded as follows:

Recreational Use

General

- “Access to lake for canoeing, boating and camping”
- “Great opportunity for good hiking
 - It is an asset and a good chance for interpretation”
- “Picking cranberries and blueberries”
- “canoeing in the lakes”
- “Like to see a sign that shows the trails: distances and travel times, interpretation
 - Walking trails: back to nature experiences
 - “Creative”: natural playground/space for the campground
 - Snowmobile/ATV’s revs(?) all day and night is an issue – can timing be controlled?”
- “The park plan should require that all camping and open fires along the Kusawa Lake road be prohibited except at the designated campsites. This will reduce the potential for wild fires, minimize environmental damage, restrict indiscriminate disposal of wastes and garbage. It will also reduce potential conflicts with existing residents that live along the road.”

Hunting and Fishing

- “hunting and fishing for food is very important in the park – for FN and non-FN
 - Subsistence use should continue as – no new fees or rules if possible
 - 3-4 week trips in a wall tent – lifestyle choice/quality of life
 - Keep Kusawa quiet and beautiful”
- “Hunting and fishing still permitted – also protected and not overdone”
- “Kusawa Lake provides very convenient and relatively easy access to sheep hunting in the area. However, anecdotal information suggests that non -permit hunt sub zones on both sides of the lake are being over hunted. Rams are being taken as soon as they reach full curl, and many hunters don't even see full curl rams after many days hunting in the area. I think the reason for this is that the open hunting zones, and easy access allows too many hunters into the area. I think that all subzones that are readily accessible by road, river or lake should be on permit hunt for sheep. This will benefit not only the hunters, who will be afforded a quality experience (fewer hunters, higher

abundance of rams that are allowed to mature), but will also have the benefit of reducing the number hunters in the area and potential conflicts with non hunters. It will also improve the opportunities for sheep viewing by everyone in the area.”

Kusawa Campground area

- “Campground users: is there any way to limit ATV activity along the road and back and forth to the beach(?)
 - (they/ATV’s) arrive in cottage lot yards
 - Annoying: detracts from natural experience
 - Snowmobiling all night”
- “weekends at Kusawa Lake campground are too noisy so I go mid-week”
- “Want tenting only area within campground”
- “In general I would not support any significant increase in camping spaces at the lake or on the river.”

Kusawa Lake

- “I would be sad if camping on beaches down lake was not allowed”
- “Boating safety on Kusawa Lake; who responds if people get into trouble?”
- “Have a few designated spots down the lake. Would reduce ad hoc use and impacts”
- “Boater (safety) education for boaters before they go out i.e. safe harbours, life jackets, paddles – Yukon Parks & Rec. Association”

Off Highway Vehicles

- “Quads are a concern around Jo Jo Lake
 - Disturbs wildlife
 - Hard to draw the line with who can or can’t use quads”
- “Joy riding on quads or dirtbikes detracts from recreation experience. Only the riders enjoy this activity”

Takhini River

- “No jet boats on Takhini River”
- “Concern about conflict between jetboats and paddlers on the river”
- “Jet boats on Takhini – conflict w/ canoes, camps”
- “We need a better portage Trail around Jaws rapid to protect bank erosion”
- “Uses river mostly canoe instruction
 - Taking kids out on overnights
 - Over use and river campgrounds
 - ATV’s
 - Jet boats on (Takhini) R.”
- “a recommendation regarding boat traffic on the Takhini River: this stretch of river from the lake to Mendenhall Landing is becoming more and more popular for canoists. This

section of river is perfectly suited in size, length and volume for canoists of all skill levels to enjoy and for those who want to learn or improve their canoeing skills. As such, I suggest that jet boats and those with large motors (ie. over 15 or 20 HP) be prohibited from the river in order to avoid conflicts and potential accidents as well as noise disturbance and to maintain the river mainly for non-motorized pursuits.”

Winter

- “Alpine touring”
- “Kite skiing in the winter”
- “Q: Would a temporary winter wall tent be allowed for recreational skiing? Could this be considered?”

Recreational impacts on trapping

- “Trapper: as long (as) recreational use does not interfere with trapping”
- “Trapping is important in Kusawa – holds 2 traplines. Snowmachine access Rose – Fish Road would be a concern; lots of conflicts”

Other comments

- “Idea for limited access via Fish Lake Road to Rose Lake
 - A way to allow people into backcountry
 - Little or no facility
 - If the section is accessible, recommend extension of park to Fish Lake
 - Established camping
 - No development nodes”
- “We don’t want new trail created especially via Fish Lake. We want to keep it quiet in there. Please keep it wild and let people discover the wilderness to themselves”
- (National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)/Alpine Club of Canada (AAC))
 - “Rock climbing – some developing areas at south end of Kusawa Lake
 - Alpine climbing/mountaineering
 - Extended backpacking
 - Fish Lake- Kusawa Lake
 - Fish Lake – Haines Road
 - Annie Lake – Haines Road
 - Annie Lake – Kusawa Lake Campground
 - Kusawa Lake Campground – Haines Road
 - Sea kayaking
 - Lake canoeing
 - River canoeing
 - River rafting”
- “On the land First Nation school’s and programs”
- “Concern for private lands on River

- large development
 - (Big cabin w/roof)
 - Changes landscape”
- “Helicopter/aircraft would take away from my experience”
- “If I want to take a Sunday drive to Kusawa, I don’t want to have new rules and fees to deal with”
- “Q: classroom that wants to go to an archaeological site: what permission/permits would be required(?) What about private groups of boaters. Would there be extra fees? Rules? Concern that a mgmt. plan would lead to more rules and fees”
- “Horseback riding in the park”
- “Climbing opportunities:
 - There are incredible climbing opportunities a couple of hours down lake – rock faces and boulders
 - Are there restrictions re: putting anchors in rock faces?
 - Climbers need to clean areas where fingers go. Are there any concerns about sensitive vegetation?”

Access

Kusawa Lake Road

- “Parking overflow on the road...don’t want more parking or use”
- “Erosion is a problem by river campground – could affect road in future”
- “There is some danger of losing the wilderness character of the area by improving road and trail access too much. There are already well established hiking trails around the Kusawa lake campground. These could be mapped and perhaps marked to make it easier for those unfamiliar with the area to enjoy hiking.”

Private property concerns around access

- “People accidentally go into private land”
 - More use could need more signage
 - Trouble turning around big vehicles”
- “Theft from private property”
- “Keep access (*for park visitors*) away from property owners
 - more development results in more access issues for landowners
 - private owners rights should be protected, grandfathered
 - guiding principles don’t capture private landowner interests
 - private rights are protected but impacts continue to grow
 - need to identify potential impacts on private landowners
 - have multiple trailheads so a single spot isn’t over used – spread out access, not centralized

- No ATV's
- No more investment in enabling boats (e.g. expanding parking invites more)"

Air Access

- "Aircraft – opportunity for helicopter hiking"
- "Don't want to see lots of aircraft traffic – want nature experience"
- "Access to Primrose by plane is important. As well as Rose Lake"
- "I feel that the use of aircraft, particularly floatplanes and helicopters, have the potential to allow access to the park to be spread over a wider area, thereby limiting the impact of human use of the land. Aircraft also have the advantage of leaving no permanent sign of their presence. However, there is the potential for repeated low overflights by aircraft to stress dall sheep, as well as disturbing other park users on the ground. While there are already regulations in place regarding the overflight of game, they will need to be more often enforced if the creation of the park increases the number of flights in the area. I would argue against increased regulation regarding landing sites and permits as is the case in federal parks, as this would have the effect of discouraging the public's use of the park, as well as discouraging potential tourism opportunities for local companies."

General

- "on land, by foot and it should stay that way"
- "For many years I have accessed this park for free by: foot, horses, dogs, snowmobile, ski, plane and would love to do so for many years to come. No need for new access or wider trails"
- "Accessible yes, but not over – access; keep it wild; keep road rough"
- "Now that you have no mining, oil and gas what's to stop no ATV's and other restrictions?"
- "want controlled access without having to reserve or being expensive"
- "While there is the potential for longer marked trails and hut to hut hiking, I suspect that most hikers serious enough set out on a multi-day wilderness hike come to a place like Kusawa with the expectation of having to find their own way. This unstructured approach to wilderness tourism in the area can also, to a point, spread out backcountry users, therefore minimising issues like trail and campsite erosion, the depletion of firewood in certain areas."

Off Highway Vehicle Access

- (Want) "all areas closed to ATV's or very limited access"
- "No quads or argos"
- "Jo Jo: no motorized access in summer i.e. closed to ATV's; no motorboats; special attention to Jo Jo – conservation"

- “Special consideration for Jo Jo Lake – no ATV’s in plateau between Jo Jo and Kusawa; no motorized fishing; access consideration”
- “ATV’s on beach is annoying and destructive – small children on ATV’s is dangerous”
- “Using ATV to access hunting areas – also uses boats, snowmobiles”
- “ATV’s on the road, racing around, especially in summer is a problem”
- “Concern about ATV access through Frederick Lake (*from Dezadeash*). Nothing stopping them from continuing across park boundary”
- “The first issue that springs to mind for me regarding the future of the Kusawa park area is all terrain vehicles. While I realize that ATV use in the area is nothing new, in the past ten years there has been huge and very visible increase in the amount of ATV use. The majority of this increase has been close to the Kusawa Lake and Takhini River campgrounds, but trails have been extended year after year. They will continue to be extended to all areas of the park if steps are not taken to prevent it. The impacts of this increase are twofold. First, the increase in the number of ATVs used in the park and the areas accessed by them will negatively impact the wildlife and environment of the area. I have personally seen ATVs being used up and down the banks of the Takhini River, both above and below the high water line. Above the high water line the damage to foliage will increase bank erosion, resulting in the loss of habitat along the banks used by salmon fry and other fish. It could also result in more turbid water, further damaging the fish habitat. Below the water line, on gravel bars and at low water river crossings, ATVs can actually damage the river bed that chinook salmon spawn in. The disturbance caused by these machines may cause problems for the cow moose that calve during the spring on islands in the Takhini. Also, the distinctive dunes along the Takhini are very attractive to ATV and dirt bike riders. These fragile dunes and their slow growing foliage are easily damaged by ATV use. I know from personal observation that it takes decades for even one set of tracks to be erased in these areas. Even off the dunes, the shallow sandy soil of the Kusawa area means that it takes very few passes of ATV tires to make a permanent, rapidly eroding trail. When ATVs get above treeline, their use is potentially even more destructive, both in terms of damage to foliage and in that they will stress dall sheep and caribou populations. An area recently accessed by ATVs on the east side of the river at the outlet of Kusawa Lake, for example, contains a mineral lick used by dall sheep in the spring and early summer. A second consideration is the effect of ATV use on other park users. Canoeists expecting a quiet trip down the Takhini are often unpleasantly surprised by ATVs being ridden on the gravel bars near Takhini campground. Backpack hikers and sheep hunters have a hard time enjoying the high country when it’s shared with the noise and damage caused by ATVs and argos. As the park begins to attract more users intent on a peaceful wilderness experience, these conflicts between motorised and non-motorized users will become more of a problem. I

would personally like to see all off road vehicle use in the park prohibited or at least carefully regulated to ensure the trails do not continue to extend into the alpine or up and down the river. While on the subject of motorised use of the park, I would suggest consideration to limiting jet boat use on the Takhini river. Due to the nature of jet boats, they must be operated at high speeds to maintain control. Therefore, there is a risk of a potentially fatal accident between paddlers and a jet boat, particularly at the rapids on the Takhini. Jet boat wakes also have the potential to damage salmon fry habitat on the banks, as well as flooding duck and shorebird nests. In summary, I would prefer to see non-motorized travel and recreation in the park encouraged over motorized travel in order to better preserve the ecology and wilderness character of the park. I would also prefer hunting and fishing in the park to continue to be managed as they are currently.”

- “I think there needs to be restrictions on the use of ATV's in the area, particularly above tree line (ie. designated trails only). In general, I think the government has been lax in dealing with ATV issues in the Yukon. There have been sufficient studies carried out over the past 10 years to illustrate that environmental concerns have already occurred in some areas due to unrestricted ATV traffic and that bigger problems will develop in the future unless some action is taken. I would hope that any restrictions could be enforced under the park management regime.”

Lake Access

- “Camping down the lake and commercial camping service (access) for older folks”
- “Powerboat up lake to camp and fish – no major conflicts; don’t like sea-doo’s”

Winter Access

- “Want to be able to access with snowmobile. We are going into the area (*Takhini & Primrose*) ice fishing, weeks @ a time with our wall tent. It is an important life style for us. We use snowmachine to go point A to point B”
- “Parts of Kusawa freeze clear. Smooth and flat enough to land on the lake
 - Several local pilots fly over Kusawa – beautiful mountain flying”
- “Used snowmobiles and ATV’s there for 20 years – worried about being limited”

Ecological, Fish and Wildlife

General

- “No development good for ecology”
- “No roads. No new motor trails”
- “Concern re human caused fire. Factor it into backcountry use decisions”
- “Importance of Kusawa watershed as ideal ecosystem to research and model regarding climate change and other impacts”
- “Beaches along lake “a beautiful thing”. Survey markers should not impact on their beauty”

- “Concern re commercial activities and impact on environment e.g. dog sledding, guided hiking, interp. centre”
- “Need to protect sensitive heritage and ecological sites from use”

Jo Jo Lake/Kusawa Plateau

- “Keep 4 wheelers off the highlands. Definitely not”
- “Sheep habitat on high country between Jo Jo and Kusawa Lakes at risk from ATV excursion”

Specific area/species concerns

- “Lambing areas in spring”
- “Mendenhall wetlands and Kusawa River”
- “Moosey Hollow ponds open in spring. Tundra swan 2009. CWS collared data”
- “Wandering Tattlers on pan ice in Spring”
- “Open toilet on shore north CT S87; and dock just south of CT S87”
- “With increased use of the lake, I am concerned that increased fishing pressure will result in decline of fish stocks. I would be interested in knowing if the Fisheries Section of YG has good data on fish stocks, and in any future studies and recommendations they might have in this regard.”

Takhini River

- “Motor boats on river: wash destroys loon nests; promotes erosion”
- “Quality of water for King Salmon. Obs. @ Lk outflow + above Takhini Campground”
- “Sand dunes are fascinating and are changing:
 - more trees than 40 years ago
 - Need interpretation”
- “Formerly Harlequin ducks were abundant on Takhini River. May have been displaced by canoers + kayakers”
- “Jet boat traffic on Takhini River is increasing. The large wakes they create negatively affect salmon fry and duck and shore bird nests. Motorized traffic on the river needs to be restricted”
- “Jet boat traffic is increasing. The wakes will negatively effect salmon fry and waterfowl and shorebird nesting”

Facilities and Services

Road

- “Road improvement = more visitors. If road is improved any more Kusawa will be overrun; same with campground”
- “Improvements in (Kusawa Lake) road - effects on peace and tranquility
 - Increase access to RV’s

- Increase population causes pressure”
- “Need to clear the road in the winter; boat ramp is access for snowmobiles to lake. Clear road all the way to boat ramp. Improve/maintain the road in summer too”
- “Good to have road plowed in winter”
- “Don’t improve the road too much. Help prevent break-ins etc. in the off season. Park officers do a good job of preventing issues”
- “Leave skidoo trail in place if you plow the road”
- “Keep it the way it is now i.e. don’t improve the road”
- “Who maintains road between bridge and lot 93 – Hwys or Parks? Residents are given the runaround. Same with slide hazard evacuation in July 2013 – no clear line of authority”

Campground Flood hazard

- “Creek flooding: creek bed repair needs more work at bend; need to widen channel, not just dig it deeper so water has less force on eroding bank. Maybe do proactive work before the next flood”
- “Engineer assessment of the creek above the campground. Concern about the safety of lot owners and campground users”
- “Outwash fan is not a safe place for the Kusawa Lake Campground”
- “Roofed/seniors accommodation w/ transport from town as a package”
- “Backcountry camping can create fire concerns”
- “Backcountry campsites – unintrusive tent pads; cooking areas”
- “Last year during slide, no one came to notify landowners we had family there”

Trails

- “Trails:
 - Rationalize good trail locations
 - Marking and minimal
 - Range of trails: easy to challenging”
- “No more new roads or ATV trails!; snowmobile trails as well; require trail mgmt.. process”
- “Concern – braiding off trails. Low profile outhouses or alternative options”
- “Good trail building –
 - access for seniors/limited mobility
 - Use of switchbacks”
- “Trailhead (*Kusawa Ridge*) hard to find; got lost coming down the mountain; trail erosion altering river bank – lose trail”
- “More hiking trails that are accessible with switchbacks (not too steep)”

- “need more, formal trails for health and appreciation benefits; trail development is an asset”

Campgrounds

- “Why 3 campgrounds. (lose 1 and have less)”
- “Campgrounds are too noisy”

Interpretation

- “If there is a Tombstone style visitor centre locate it away from recreational area”
- “Tombstone education + interpretive program is a great model”
- “Interpretation: Opportunities to learn FN history etc. – wildflowers. Old beach lines”
- “Interpretation, Env. Education, Traditional Knowledge. Physical, programs, digital (apps!)”
- “Do a 3D panorama pictures of heritage sites then you could show it in VRC/Da Kų or on line”
- “First Nations information/interpretation”
- “Keep development at a minimum; keep “low key”; boat traffic increase will be a problem”
- “Don’t place new facilities near private lots”
- “No development campsites in southern Kusawa – keep wild, no trace!”
- “World class hiking in mtns. In south Kusawa”
- “Designate campsites down the lake: tent platform, BBQ, “backcountry campsites”
- “No new development until management plan is in place”
- “None”
- “Seeing too much development/“improvement” already”
- “A modest slow approach with development”
- “Navigational issues through the narrows – thin ice in this area as well”
- “Make the First Nations history + presence a dominant factor”
- “First Nations campfire talks – learn about history + culture”
- “Yukon Parks has done a great job at Tombstone with interpretation – the building, staff, FN stories, opportunities for children to learn; need similar facility at Kusawa plus room for volunteers to participate”

Backcountry huts

- “Hope Rose Lake Cabin will still be open for public use and under the same condition. (Can’t reserve more than 1 month in advance)”
- “Privacy @ Rose Lake cabin (you “have” it on your own)”
- “Cabin at Rose Lake could be used for hut to hut or snowmobile use”
- “Continued access to Rose Lake Cabin. Potential for hut to hut (like Alpine club huts) in certain areas”

- “Hut to hut system for backpacking or ski touring e.g. New Zealand style, reservation system, wood stove for winter”
- “Continued access to Rose Lake cabin and potentially development of other backcountry huts (like Alpine Club of Canada huts) in certain backcountry areas”
- “No hut to hut w/ snowmachines please!”
- “hut to hut – hiking, snowmobiling, skiing, dog sledding”

Takhini River – Mendenhall Landing

- “Outhouses at Jaws camp on river + the take out”. Fix portage trail around Jaws rapid (erosion/safety). Maybe better designated camping on river”
- “Outhouse needed at Mendenhall even though its outside the park”
- “We need some outhouses on and at the take out of Takhini River. Dedicated and maintained camp sites may help reduce impacts”
- “A constantly maintained outhouse at the rapids site on the Takhini River would be convenient for canoeists and reduce the impact of indiscriminate distribution of human wastes and toilet paper in the woods around the site. With increased traffic and in the interest of public safety, and minimizing environmental damage, a trail could be constructed around the rapids, particularly at the start of the portage on the steep hillside.”

Facilities

- “Existing facilities are excessive; abundantly served with campsites; over used already; to conserve park we don’t need expansion”
- “Kusawa Lake prime location for a lodge development at north end of Kusawa Lake, across Takhini River from the road”
- “Keep facilities to a minimum”. Adding buildings, making it more accessible costs money and harms ecological integrity”
- “Consideration of backcountry facilities and risk of fire”

Other

- “Need to choose a focus. Yukoners (like now) or visitors (would increase numbers)”
- “Spread use around. Not just within this park”
- “Review the management plan after 5-10 years”
- “Kusawa Lake and Takhini River has been enjoyed, particularly by Yukoners for many years for fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, canoeing, sightseeing, photography and all of the associated activities that can be experienced in this exceptionally beautiful region of southern Yukon. Some of these activities are increasing and putting greater pressure on the camp grounds as well as the wildlife and country itself. With appropriate management however, I think that it may be possible to minimize negative impacts. However, I believe the area should be managed and developed with Yukoners in mind

and not in any specific sense for tourists (ie bus tours). In this respect I believe it would be mistake to develop an interpretative centre which would attract bus tours (ie. Holland America). If this occurred, other operations would likely follow such as guided hikes, boat tours, canoe trips down the Takhini etc. These activities would put too much strain on the area and on Yukoners who are already using the area to a full extent. In other words, maintain the area in support of Yukoners and not necessarily for tourists (who of course would have access to the campground and area as much as others). There is no need for an interpretive centre for Yukoners. For example, I don't think an interpretive centre would be of any great value to school children. They have been enjoying camping, outdoor classes and canoe trips down the Takhini River for decades and, in my opinion a building would be of no great benefit. Outdoor interpretive signage would be worthwhile, but let's not create any significant tourism information infrastructure."

Commercial Use

Commercial tripping services *(also see access comments)*

- "Commercial service to get boat ride down to the end of the lake to camp"
- "Would like to see a boat to take me up the lake to camp"
- "Commercial tourism – "Water taxi" on lake"
- "Canoe instruction on river + trips"
- "Heli hiking to upper mountainous areas"
- "Takhini River is an important training ground and day trip area for commercial groups (i.e. NOLS). We use it for training and familiarization runs prior to long river trips elsewhere. We would like to continue to have easy access to this river"
- "Hiking, horse + dog mushing on traditional trails"
- "Float planes currently use the area"
- "I like the idea of a "pilot": let's try something new, evaluate, then decide if it stays. No harm in trying..."
- "Youth camps"
- "Commercial motorized activities (like ATV's jeep tours, jet boats) can have a negative impact on the wilderness value of the area"
- "I have guided around the proposed park for many years with different outfits and would like to guide under my own operation in this proposed park. Hope it stay possible"
- "First Nation eco tourism culture base commercial activities"
- "The possibility to keep bringing livestock such as horses and dogs into the park for commercial and personal use is of great importance to me"

- “Be good to keep the possibility of new business to be able to operate onto the park. I use the area quite a bit; used to guide in there”
- “If you want campground store, go to Tagish”
- “Commercial activities should be allowed but well managed. A park will draw more people – opportunities for “managed” activities i.e. guided canoe trips”
- “All commercial activities should be in partnership with First Nation!”
- Commercial activities shouldn’t interfere with regular user. The more you advertise the park the more people will come”
- “No access toll fees”
- “would like down lake commercial tripping opportunity – it can happen appropriately”

Retain existing conditions/level of activity

- “This area is used often by NOLS for backcountry educational expeditions. There is important wilderness area that needs to be open to this kind of use. There is space for most use but the wilderness feel is important to maintain”
- “Wilderness tourism operators want to keep possibilities for activities, but are aware that over-commercialization impacts the industry negatively”
- “Concern about increased activity will change the park and how I use it”
- “Any commercial activity will affect our enjoyment as cottage lot owners”
- “Concern about volume of use around campground – effects on private properties”
- “No new commercial activity. Campgrounds + boat launch are full all summer long. The area can’t handle more activity”
- “Any increase in commercial use could affect recreational and cottage lot users”
- “Low impact tourism, not over commercialization”
- “No increase in commercial activity”
- “Commercial mountain biking would result in more trails and impacts on recreation”
- “Tourism operators realize that too much activity can impact other users and resources. Want to continue commercial activities, with necessary rules and practices. Want to see commercial activities continues and recognize that they need to be managed”
- “Some operators very conscientious; other simply want to make a buck; keep same level of commercial activity”

Trapping

- “How are trappers and trails protected?”
- “Will be able to continue to access my trapline concession in the park with my snowmobile?”
- “Game Branch should not put trail in (*to Rose Lake*) until March, otherwise it increases traffic, moose hunting. Also, the reliability of the route depends on who puts it in i.e. need someone who knows the route to put it in each March. Don’t like snowmachines

running around on Rose Lake. 14 rangers at Rose Lake: what kind of training is that? No intention to build additional trapline facilities exist at existing cabins. Want to be able to access by quad, if necessary.”

Commercial land tenure

- “How could commercial operation get tenure e.g. wall tent, weenie wagon, temporary infrastructure?”

Other:

- “No need for more cabins, commercial buildings, leave it as is”
- “A portion of all profits from commercial activities to go to preserving the park”
- “I was relieved to see during the public meeting on the park that mining, mineral exploration, and oil and gas are officially off limits in the Kusawa Park. I hope that some approximation of the current situation continues, with outfitting, wilderness tourism, and trapping being the main economic opportunities in the area.”

Other comments:

- “Landowners have no representation on steering committee. Have had no contact up until 2 days ago”
- “best ever consultation exercise and set up – knowledgeable person at each table”
- “with diminishing physical abilities I have an increased interest in accessible parks such as Kusawa”
- “While I was growing up on the Takhini River, wood heat was our only heat source. It still is. Therefore, I hope personal use firewood harvesting can continue. Since large sections of the forest in the Kusawa area are considered many years overdue for a forest fire, there are a lot of standing dead trees. Fuel wood harvesting of this decadent forest may ultimately help the situation when it comes to fighting the inevitable large forest fire.”
- “Since I grew up on the Takhini River, and still own property there, it is very important to me that owners’ rights to current titled property in the park area is not infringed. This would have to include right of access, as well as the ability to pass on the property to one’s children.”