

Kusawa Park Public Meeting Input

Haines Junction

February 27, 2014

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

Recreational Use

Questions and Comments:

- *What **recreational activities** are important to you in Kusawa Park?*
 - “Snowmobiling and boating” (twice)
 - “Snowmobiling, boating, hiking”
- *How are your **rec. activities** impacted by other land uses?*
 - “Local’s recreational opportunities should stay at current level; locals shouldn’t become squeezed out by tourism opportunities”. “They are not, I don’t see many users”
 - “Paddling on lakes and rivers; seeing wildlife; plane traffic would negatively impact my experience”
 - “Tourism not regulated like other industries e.g. fly in fishing can fish as much as you want; worried about park exacerbated tourism growth”
 - “Don’t want to see tourism or rec. use expand so much that it comes at expense of local users – what kind of park is it going to be?”
- *Are there **rec. activities you’d like to see more of** in the park?*
 - “Hiking around Jo-Jo”
 - “the diversity of activities from the lake campground is awesome:
 - River: paddling and fishing
 - Lake: fishing
 - Mountains: hiking and berry picking
 - “More hiking trails, less skidoo, ATV activities”

Other comments:

- “Parks creation can actually attract more people e.g. Tombstone; used as marketing tool for businesses that operate in the area; need for better search and rescue services with more users, windy lake – costs?”
- “used to hunt with llamas between Kusawa and Jo Jo Lakes; I continue to snowmachine and want to be able to continue to do so, usually day trips, some overnight”

Traditional Use; Heritage & Culture

Questions and Comments:

- How are **your traditional uses** around Kusawa affected by others: hunting and fishing, trapping, outfitting?
 - “If you advertise this as a park. You will see more people. Which will affect traditional use.”
 - “Undie chua and asumbo are wrong on map”
 - “East side Jo Jo – dead fall traps; stumps, lots of activity”
 - “Don’t like how 1 entrepreneur can come into area and take it over and impact FN use”
- Are there **heritage and cultural values** in the Kusawa area that you are concerned about?
 - “There is a traditional trail into JoJo”
 - “Both campgrounds are on A. Ned family sites”
 - “General assemblies and family gatherings should be supported”
 - “History of family places – Grayling camp, etc”
 - “Signs to show FN Lands and FN use”
- Have you seen **impacts on heritage and cultural resources** around Kusawa?
 - No comments

Other comment:

- “Traditional use weekend events: – educational/awareness; formal/informal”
- “FN routes and trails need acknowledgement - see recent Glave book”

Commercial Use:

Questions and Comments:

- What do you think about the potential for the **commercial activities** listed?
 - No comments
- How could your activities and values in the park be **affected by commercial operations**?
 - “could be problems if many people try to use campground boat launch area”
 - “need to educate guiding businesses about local private property and traditional users so they don’t interfere - can actually be opportunity to promote cooperation”

Other comments:

- “as soon as it is advertised as a park it will draw extra people, affect locals use of areas e.g. Kusawa Lake Campground. For commercial use, visitors should be encouraged to visit the park with a guide because they don’t abuse the infrastructure e.g. cabins. Rescues will be needed with a park because it will be publicized to non-Yukoners and

there will be boating south of Seagull Point (where water conditions are more treacherous)”

- “as a park it can be used as a hook; worried about tourism – ultimate free entry; concerned about outside companies having too much.”
- “Dalton Trail Lodge and clients have left an impact on Jo Jo lakeshore - garbage

Fish & Wildlife Habitat

- *What places are **important to protect** for values like fish & wildlife habitat? Sensitive areas? Biodiversity?*
 - Wetlands north of Jo Jo
- *What are some **impacts you’ve seen** on ecological values or key habitat areas?*
 - Keep motor boats out of Jo Jo Lake

Other comment: “ice fishing becoming popular @ Jo Jo”

Access to Kusawa Park

- *How do you **access the Kusawa area**? Hiking, skiing, snowmobile, ATV, truck, plane, horse*
 - No comments
- *Where have you experienced any **conflicts in accessing** the Kusawa area?*
 - “No power boats in Jo Jo Lake”
 - “No ATV above treeline”
 - “Regulate fly in fishing”
 - “never see many people so not much conflict”

Other comments:

- “No power boats in Jo Jo Lake; fly-in fishing a problem, ice fishing is ok by snowmobile”
- “no ATV’s above treeline”
- “Boating tours – a challenge due to winds on Kusawa Lake”
- “Campground contracting – let people contract and run campgrounds” – *move to facilities?*
- “Can do good education through staff and guides”
- “Role of RRC’s per 10.5 – look at each Final Agreement”
- “maintain road access as is and develop a plan for ATV use”
- “horses doing wilderness tourism”
- “needs to be difference between FN hunting ATV and rec users”
- “family reunion conflicts with other campers (Aug long wknd)”
- “could be conflicts if businesses using boat launches and campground during busy time”

Facilities & Services

- “what kinds of **facilities or services** could **take away from** your experiences in Kusawa Park?”
 - No comments
- “what kinds of **facilities or services** would **enhance** your use and enjoyment of Kusawa Park? Where?”
 - “outhouse at The Jaws and Mendenhall takeout”
 - “Interpretive signage at the narrows”
 - “interpretation education about ongoing traditional use”
 - “Kids playground away from water by campground”
 - “Keep the pristineness sand beaches; less built stuff down the lake”
 - “Maintain First Nation Campsites as First Nation Campsites”
 - “Remove campsites from hazardous area at Kusawa Lake; increase # of sites on lake to better meet demand”
 - “Would be good to have well marked day hike trail(s) from the campground”
 - “Establish and maintain a trail system that meets needs of weekend users to concentrate hiker traffic along the road corridor”
 - “Consider closing areas to recreational users for wildlife conservation measures and for traditional harvest areas. Avoiding conflict”

 - “will there be backcountry cabins? could be organized through non-profit group, friends of”

Other comments:

- Keep services (campgrounds access roads etc.) to the Kusawa north area and offer only essential services (outhouses, campsites) to the south
- “Mgmt. issues: Takhini River put in steep and eroding; large rocks = hazard for boats”
- “Chuck walked s. trail w/ Paddy last year, built a raft + floated back to camp”
- “Enforcement: damage to cabins (trapline) and other infrastructure. Conflicting use recreation/trappers”