

Subject: Fwd: Capilano Watershed - "Grouse Grind might be sold"

Date: Thu, 26 Apr 2001 17:02:05 -0700

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To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Date: Thu, 26 Apr 2001 16:46:08 -0700

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Subject: Capilano Watershed - "Grouse Grind might be sold"

please circulate.

Note: Not mentioned in the Georgia Straight article ---

The parking lot area at the Skyride to Grouse Mountain has (always) been leased to Grouse Mountain Resorts.

The company may or may not be interested in purchasing the property. However, it appears that (should the property be sold) the "property" also would include the land underneath the Skyride - the Grouse Grind site. All of the land in question is within the Capilano watershed (water reservoir area) managed by the GVWD (Greater Vancouver Water District).

If the land falls under private ownership, then other development could be placed on the site (such as a hotel or expanded tourist facilities) at the base of the mountain.

Land management (steep terrain, trail safety, access to the trail, impact of new and re-development, etc.) would become the responsibility of (and at the discretion of) a private company.

Is this appropriate for this (now publicly-owned) site?

(If the GVWD Board of Directors made this decision because they no longer wish to maintain the Grouse Grind, then another option would be to sell the trail route to the District of North Vancouver (for \$1.00) or the site area could be designated a Regional Park and, in either case, the trail could be maintained by users and climbing clubs.)

To comment, contact:

GVWD Board of Directors

Greater Vancouver Regional District

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Karen Milne

GEORGIA STRAIGHT – April 19-26/2001

GRIND MIGHT BE SOLD

The Greater Vancouver Water District board has quietly granted authority to the regional district's chief administrative officer,

Johnny Carline, to sell the publicly owned Grouse Grind.

Greater Vancouver Regional District spokesperson Bob Paddon

told the Straight that the municipal politicians on the GVWD

board made this decision recently at an in-camera meeting.

"We had no consultation with anybody on it," Paddon said.

Under the Local Government Act, he added, decisions dealing with land must be made behind closed doors. Paddon said he couldn't say whether or not a new owner would impose a fee to hike the 2.9-kilometre trail up the south face of Grouse Mountain, which is now free.

"At this point, there is no sale in the offing," Paddon said.

He also said that the GVWD might sell the the land to avoid liability. The water district owns most of the land, he added.

The trail, which is now closed because of ice and snow, is not designated as a regional park.

According to the GVRD, 100,000 "trail users" climb the Grouse Grind each year. Paddon said that Grouse Mountain Resorts Ltd. has been involved in discussions about the long-term management of the trail. Company president Stuart McLaughlin was unavailable for comment by deadline.

- Charlie Smith