



Whitewater Kayaking Association of British Columbia

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Navigable Waters Protection Division
Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Coast Guard
#200-401 Burrard Street
Vancouver BC
V6C 3S4

Attention: Jim Schellenberg

Re: File Number 8200-03-8271

Hello Jim:

Further to the referral which the WKABC received regarding the proposed micro-hydro project on Furry Creek; this letter outlines the paddling community's response.

Furry Creek is utilized for paddling in the area of the proposed diversion. The run in question starts just upstream of the golf course, near the 500 foot (153 m) contour, and is accessed off the Forestry Service Road on the north side of the drainage. The run is rated at 4+-5+, depending on the flows, and the season is year round. This is an easy-access high-quality run that is right off Highway 99. The run has been featured in a number of whitewater videos, as the canyon is spectacular, with clean drops, and magnificent surroundings. The run also draws paddlers from around the world.

The run was noted as moderate-high importance earlier this season when we reviewed the list of projects. This is due to the easy access off Highway 99, the long season, and the quality of the run.

The paddling community has serious concerns regarding the project proposed on the creek, particularly given the diversion amount of 5.8 CMS, which is, according to the proponents own information, 20% more than the Mean Annual Discharge (MAD) from the drainage, which, based on their flow estimates is 4.8 CMS. A project of that magnitude on the stream will effectively dry up the stream for much of the year over the course of the diversion. Normal instream flows will only be present during flood events and the possibility of extremely variable flows will severely increase the danger of paddling the run.

Sincerely

Stuart Smith
WKABC River Projects Coordinator

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