



RELATIONSHIPS WITH PLACE, CONSERVATION, AND DEVELOPMENT: ZINCTON RESORT CASE STUDY

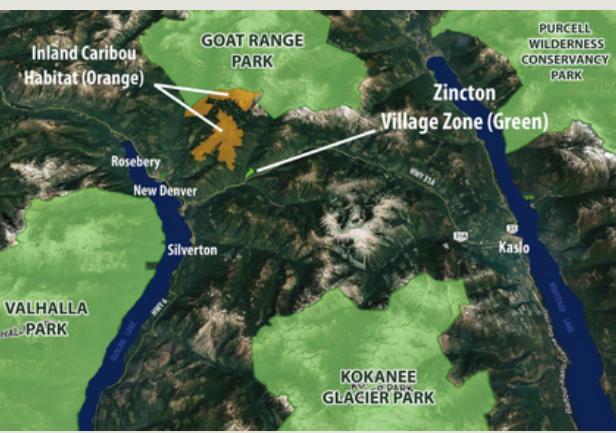
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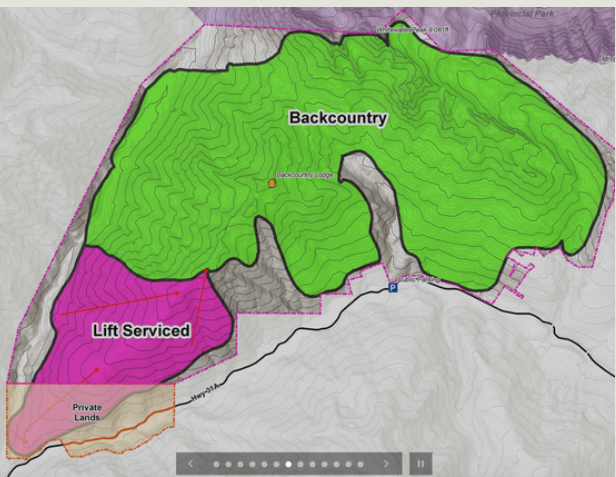
Context



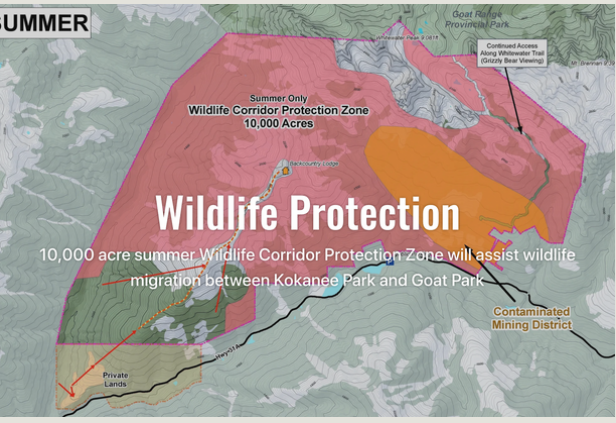
Located in Southeast BC



Between New Denver and Kaslo



Backcountry oriented



Environmentally sensitive

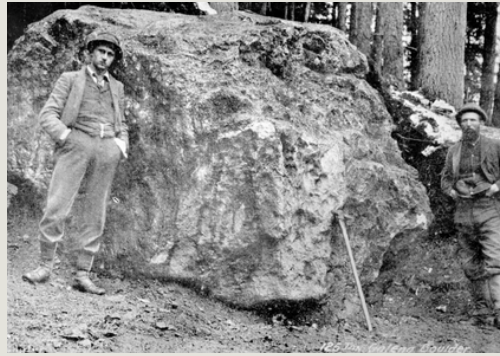
Zincton is a ski resort proposal set apart by their vision for creating an accessible, low impact backcountry experience. The site is located on Sinixt, Sylix, and Ktunaxa Territory

Research Questions

- How can framing help us understand the conflict around the proposed Zincton Resort?
- How do proponent and opponent relationships to place help explain their position in the conflict?



Theory



125 Ton Galena Boulder, 1891

Extractivism operates beside assimilation in serving capitalism and settler-colonialism. It is more than the material process of industrial development, “it’s a mindset—it’s an approach to nature, to ideas, to people” (Simpson, 2013).

Methodology

Website and Document Analysis

Focused on material from the Autonomous Sinixt, the Valhalla Wilderness Society, and Zincton



- ### Rewilding Plan
1. Rejection of all pending recreational tenure applications in piq ki7awna?
 2. Gradual phase out of all ecologically damaging current tenures including but not limited to forestry, mining and recreation.
 3. Gradual roll-back of Highway 31A between Bear Lake and Retallack, starting with seasonal closures. Highway access through the area will be maintained for emergency vehicles and essential services and be open on a controlled basis for non-essential travel.
 4. Cessation of all low elevation air traffic above piq ki7awna?
 5. Re-establishment of the ecological integrity of the area via restoration projects.
- We invite settler allies who support this vision to join us in this vital work.

Interviews

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Opponents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valhalla Wilderness Society • Forestry consultant/ land-use conflict specialist | <p>Proponents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silversmith generator owner/ operator • Zincton team member |
|--|---|

Analysis

Frame	Description
Identity and values	Parties hold individual and organizational identities and a sense of self within the conflict.
Phrasing	How do parties express the issues to communicate desired outcomes?
Substance	How do parties perceive the actual issues?
Process	How do parties view the structure of the debate?
Characterization	How parties perceive their own behavior, characterize the behavior of others, and assess relationships among parties.

Qualitative data collected throughout the project was analyzed with the framing analysis tool shown above. Frames were identified in stakeholder arguments to help make sense of the conflicting perspectives.

Findings

Sub-frame	Opponent	Proponent
Issues: Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat fragmentation • Grizzly bear habitat • Impacts at varying scales (local ecology - global climate change) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improper management • Mine contamination
Issues: Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns of gentrification • Concern for small businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern for current state of the local economy • Fear of loss of services
Issues: Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limiting access for noncommercial backcountry users • Concern over the rapid cultural shift a new resort could bring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current ski industry is inaccessible and exclusive • No local opportunities for youth and young families (employment and culture)
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of the area • All parties to be listened to and respected • Proper consultation with First Nations and the Autonomous Sinixt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision making and dialogue across different perspectives • Building local community • Set a new model for resort development



Photo: Bryn Hughes, Skier: Kieren Nikyla, 2014

The ski industry in BC operates under settler-colonial ideologies that separate humans from nature and conceptualize land as a commodity: Powder is the commodity and skiers are the consumer.

Purpose

This study highlights how narratives of place and land-use are framed differently by competing stakeholders in order to influence public perception and gain local support. The purpose of this research is to better understand the conflicting perspectives surrounding the Zincton proposal within the unique social, cultural, and economic local contexts.

Discussion

- Scale of resort framed differently by opponents and proponents.
- Sense of place discussed throughout interviews without prompt.
- Framing as an effective tool for analysis.
- Processes of delegitimization: science and truth questioned on either sides of the debate.