

The Friends of Garibaldi Park Society (FOGPS) does not support the proposed Garibaldi at Squamish (GAS) ski resort. The extensive proposal—which includes a significant amount of real estate in addition to ski/snowboard runs—would fundamentally change the character of the area. In the words of the FMCBC (of which FOGPS is a member club), “Squamish could lose the very reasons people are attracted to the area” if the resort goes ahead.

Projected to bring 1.9 million annual visits to the Brohm Ridge area, GAS represents a massive influx that would ravage pristine wilderness and negatively impact both winter and summer recreation by non-motorised users.

Currently, Brohm Ridge is home to mountain goats and the designated ungulate winter range (UWR) overlaps with the proposed resort. The GAS proposal has not studied or accounted for the project's impact on the area's mountain goats, which are known to be sensitive to noise and overhead disturbances.

In addition to disruption of the goats' migration and habitat loss, the resort will lead to sensory disturbance from construction, infrastructure and massively increased human activity.

We are also concerned that the resort owners/operators will push to expand its boundaries into Garibaldi Provincial Park in the future—similar to what we have seen happen previously with Whistler Blackcomb, which created access issues which persist to this day. In the case of Whistler Blackcomb, not only was the controlled recreation area expanded into a provincial park, but the operators also successfully lobbied to shrink the provincial park. This should never have happened, and we are extremely concerned by any potential for public parks to shrink as private resorts grow.

Elsewhere (for example at Cypress and Mount Seymour Provincial Parks) we have seen controlled recreation areas limit public access to parks, seeking to keep out non-paying users—such as backcountry snowshoers and skiers. We are concerned about the potential for a similar situation to arise here.

The resort would also displace snowmobilers who currently recreate on Brohm Ridge, potentially leading to conflict with other user groups in other parts of the region and ultimately fewer opportunities for non-motorised recreation in the Sea-to-Sky corridor.

On the contrary to supporting the GAS proposal, we believe Garibaldi Provincial Park should, in fact, be expanded to encompass Brohm Ridge—thereby protecting the area's ecology and compensating for the loss of parkland given over to Whistler Blackcomb.