

BC CREEK PROTECTION SOCIETY

www.bc-creeks.org

About the society:

The BC Creek Protection Society was incorporated in early 2007 in reaction to mounting threats to British Columbia's natural and free flowing rivers and creeks by a community of concerned citizens.

The society hopes to bring cohesion to many independent struggles for maintaining the natural state of various rivers and creeks all over the province. The intent is also to provide education to the public at large about the impacts and politics of run-of-the-river small hydro projects that threaten over 300 of Bc's most pristine waterways and their valleys.



Brandywine Creek, Photo: Stuart Smith

Who controls small Hydro Projects?

All new power projects are entirely built, owned and operated by Independent Power Producers (IPP). BC Hydro agrees to buy the power at a contracted rate through an Electricity Purchase Agreement which lasts anywhere from 20 to 40 years (approx.). After this time the IPP is constrained only by its dependence on existing transmission systems (power lines) and has complete autonomy of this resource.

Who profits?

The IPP has a guaranteed buyer (BC Hydro) at a questionably high rate. All the public receives is the benefit of less than 6% of revenue through Water rent Capacity and Energy charges.

Who benefits from this power?

Although these projects have a significant ability to produce power at certain times, they do little to increase the "Firm Capacity" (our ability to produce the power we need, whenever we need it). It provides some opportunity for the export of excess production, but not necessarily for our own needs.

Environmental Impacts:

Micro Level:

Small hydro projects, up to the significant size of 50 MW (able to power 27,500 homes), do not require an Environmental Assessment. Many existing projects are therefore designed to be just under this threshold, producing 49 MW.

Macro Level:

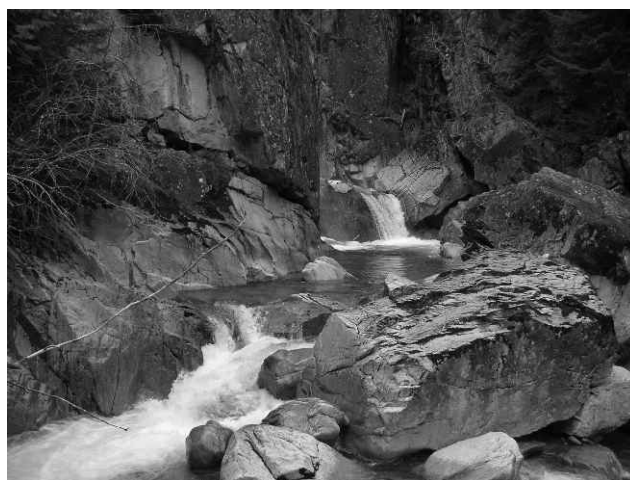
No province-wide environmental impact study has been completed to assess the impact of these projects on a cumulative scale. What is better? Spoiling 300 or so individual ecosystems with small hydro, or evaluating the need for a single major dam site? These questions should be addressed in a province wide study.



Mamquam River, Photo: Stuart Smith

Bill 30

Over that past few years battles have been fought across BC to save some of these rivers from small hydro. Historically (and understandably), this type of project needed municipal consent to proceed. When the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District turned down a proposal for the Ashlu River in Squamish, the Provincial Government countered with Bill 30, bypassing the need for Municipal approval and the democratic process.



Nanaimo River, Photo: Shayne Vollmers

BC rivers need your voice!

If you want to join BC Creek Protection Society, visit our website at www.bc-creeks.org for our membership form.

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