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**Daily Bulletin**

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# Jumbo decision comes up at RDEK this Friday

By ANNALEE GRANT  
Townsman staff

*Sparwood Mayor Dave Wilks will move that the RDEK Board ask the province for Resort Municipality designation for Jumbo Glacier*

On Friday, Aug. 7 at their regular monthly meeting the RDEK board will be voting on a motion to ask the province to designate Jumbo Glacier a Mountain Resort Municipality, which would pass

the controversial Jumbo Resort into the hands of the provincial government.

A decision on zoning the Jumbo area would then not be

made by the Regional District, but by the committee designated to govern Jumbo.

"This is suggesting a resort municipality status for a place

that isn't [a municipality]," said Wildsight Executive Director John Bergenske

He says the vote, brought forward to the RDEK by Sparwood

mayor David Wilks, is something that has already been done before.

"It's basically a replay," said Bergenske. "He seems to be attempting to do it again."

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# Bergenske hopeful RDEK will vote to keep decision local

## From Front Page

The RDEK directors shot down the vote in March 2006, with only one director, Wilks himself, voting in favour. At the time, several delegates voiced concerns that sending the decision to the province would mean the project would go through automatically, without public input.

Bergenske plans to speak at this Friday's meeting to reinforce Wildsight's opinion

about the controversial resort. The Jumbo Glacier resort has been debated for nearly two decades now.

He says that if the vote passes it will take the decision making power of the local people and put it in the hands of government in Victoria, B.C.

Bergenske also believes the vote to pass the decision off to the provincial government is strange because the process for Jumbo should be the same as any other rezoning project.

"It would basically be the very same process as any other major development," said Bergenske. He says the rezoning decision has to have public input, something that may not happen if Victoria is in charge.

Despite the oddities surrounding the vote, Bergenske is confident the decision making power will stay local.

"The RDEK does have a track record of not just handing over controversial issues," said

Bergenske.

Vice-President of Glacier Resorts Ltd. Grant Costello did not return calls for comment; however he stated in a press release his support for the vote. He says that if the vote passes, a local government would be set up to govern the new municipality.

Jumbo Glacier is located 55 km west of Invermere B.C. The proposed resort would be a \$450 million project, and would be placed on the site of an old sawmill. The site was chosen for its previous use and the optimum snow conditions of the glacier. The resort would provide year round skiing, boast 5,500 beds and 750 to 800 permanent full time jobs.

The vote is set to take place at 9 a.m. in the RDEK board room. At the previous vote a crowd of over 60 filled the room and spilled out into the hallway. 16 delegates spoke on the topic, the normal amount being below three.

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s August 14, 2009.