



Wood River Wild



A Documentary by the Golden Chapter of Council of Canadians and Wildsight highlighting a “Ruin of the River” proposal on the Wood River

The Documentary - Threatened by Independent Power Project (IPP) development, members of the Golden Chapter of Council of Canadians and Wildsight traveled in the fall of 2009 to the remote and rugged Wood River valley and the Athabasca Pass heritage area to learn about this incredibly wild and beautiful area that should be set aside as park land instead of being developed to benefit private power production.

The Facts of Proposed Destruction – Atla Energy Corporation (Vancouver) has applied for a 48 MW hydropower generation project on the Lower Wood River and 2 smaller run-of-river projects on the Upper Wood River which would total 20 km of new roads, 75 km of transmission lines, and 10 km of natural river diverted to pipes and penstocks. Only 10% of the river flow will stay in the river to sustain the flora and fauna in the area. All of this will create one permanent job. The Wood River is a tributary of the Columbia River at Kinbasket Reservoir, located 191 km north of Revelstoke, BC. Atla Energy was shortlisted to receive an Energy Purchase Agreement for this project in the latest Clean Power Call but was mysteriously dropped mid-process, but it may resurface as a threat in the future.

The Message – This rare BC inland temperate rain forest which has been untouched for hundreds of years and includes giant cedars, hemlock, rare species of Applemoss and endangered mountain caribou, should be protected from IPP development. Instead, this area should be set aside as protected park land. Also, there is great concern about uneconomic and undemocratic private power production on public lands. Our rivers are not for sale! Local governments should have a say over what happens in their area.

Background Info/Time Line –

- 1811: David Thompson and brigade are the first Europeans to cross the mountains at Athabasca Pass arriving at the Upper Wood River and establishing an important fur trade route to the Pacific coast. This is where the proposed development for the 48 MW power project is located.
- 1971: Athabasca Pass is a recognized National Historic Site of Canada
- 2006: Upper Wood River and 2 tributaries (Pacific and Jeffrey Creek) receive protection through an agreement with BC Government, Wildsight and Wood River Forest Inc of Revelstoke.
- Currently: Proposal to Federal and Provincial governments to set aside this area as the David Thompson Heritage Lands, supported by local MLA Norm Macdonald.
- Future: a possible construction of 3 run-of-river projects on the Upper and Lower Wood River with 20 km of new roads and 75 km of transmission lines, destroying intact inland rainforest with species at risk and endangered species in an area of great historical and ecological significance. This will create irreversible damage to this sensitive and remote, wild area.



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Action

- We are asking you to write the BC premier and local MLA a handwritten letter asking for change:
 - Gordon Campbell, Premier of BC, Box 9041, Station PROV GOVT Victoria, BC
Email (not as effective as a handwritten letter) premier@gov.bc.ca
 - Find your MLA here: <http://www.leg.bc.ca/mla/3-1-1.htm>
- We are asking for higher environmental standards for all IPP projects (not just over 50 MW) that need to be locally controlled and in the interest of the public.
- We are asking for the Wood River area to be set aside as David Thompson Heritage Lands.
- We are asking for a moratorium on all IPP project permits and water licences until the cumulative effects are understood, higher environmental standards are abided by, and Bill 30 is reversed to give the power back to municipalities to accept or refuse projects in their backyard.
- We are asking for a focus on energy conservation practices instead of more power production.
- We are asking for alternative solutions such as geothermal energy with lower environmental impacts.
- We are asking for you to spread the word: write a letter to your local paper and the Vancouver Sun at sunletters@vancouversun.com or The Vancouver Sun, #1 - 200 Granville Street, Vancouver BC V6C 3N3 (no more than 200 words, include your name, address and daytime phone number).

Learn More

- Save Our Rivers – Protecting BC's Rivers and Public Power: www.ourrivers.ca
- Atla Energy Corporation – The private developer: www.atlaenergy.com
- Joe Foy, Wilderness Committee:
http://wildernesscommittee.org/news/wilderness_committee_decries_ipp
- Citizens for Public Power – Has great links: www.citizensforpublicpower.ca
- BC Guardians – Oppose privatization of BC's electric sector: www.bcguardians.ca
- BC Hydro's Clean Energy Act: www.powerofbc.ca
- David Thompson Heritage Lands: www.wildsight.ca/davidthompson
- IPP Watch Info: www.ippwatch.info/w/
- Review of Environmental Regulation for run-of-river projects in BC: www.bc-creeks.org/wp-content/uploads/testing-the-waters.pdf

Contact info –

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