

WEST CREEK COMMUNITY OPINION SURVEY

Mailed: April 5, 2010

Results Talled April 26, 2010

The West Creek area contains approximately 3,040 acres; it is part of the Municipal Land Selection Entitlement. The Municipality plans to survey this part of the Municipal Entitlement during the next budget cycle to obtain the patent, the Municipality already has land management authority over it as part of the selection.

The Municipality sent this survey through a bulk mailer to each post office box, 750. The community opinion survey was also available on our website and at the counter at the Municipal Offices. 97 surveys have been received and are included in the results listed below. Surveys received after the tally date of April 26, 2010 are not included in the results.

	750 Sent	97 Received	13%
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Question 1: How do you use the West Creek area now?

Hiking	54%
Snowmachines, ATVs, 4-wheeling, other motorized	27%
Wood cutting, gathering dead trees	27%
Skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, sledding	25%
Recreation	24%
Hunting	19%

Question 2: What values (not uses or activities) should be proposed or maintained on this land? (A "value" for example, might be the area's historical value or recreational value.)

Recreational	75%
Natural resources, firewood, timber, sawmill, water	16%
Natural, wilderness, accessibility	12%
Historical value	11%
Preserve green space, pristine wilderness	7%
Hydroelectric, electric, energy	7%

Question 3: What uses do you think should be allowed in the West Creek area?

Limited / regulated personal wood harvest	42%
Hiking	41%
ATVing / ATVing on road only	35%
Snowmachining / Snowmachining on road only	29%
Year-round recreation / noncommercial recreation	28%

Question 4: What uses do you think should be prohibited in the West Creek area?

Walking / Jeep / Dog / Horse / Any tours incl. overflight	21%
Clear cutting, wood cutting, logging, chainsaws	20%
All commercial uses	15%
Commercial development, Industrial/Road development	12%
Hunting	12%
Residential development	11%

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Question 5: Do you foresee any costs involved in managing the uses or activities that you have suggested? If so, how do you suggest the Municipality raise these funds?

Yes	56%
No	27%
Don't Know	2%

Costs:

Recreational trail / road / campsite dev. & maintenance	16%
Law enforcement / regulation / management	7%
Signage	2%
Refuse Collection	2%

Funding:

Sales tax revenue, seasonal tax revenue, increase tax	12%
Permits or fees / annual user fee / park use fee	10%
Trail development grant, State grant	10%
Sale of property: old clinic, West Creek, valley	8%
Municipal general fund operating budget	4%
Community support, volunteer labor, contributions	4%
Property taxes	4%
Parks & Recreation annual budget	3%

Question 6: Do you support the Municipality spending money to develop aspects of the West Creek area?

Yes	62%
No	25%
Depends	9%

Question 7: How should the Municipality propose to manage this land?

Committee or board / P & Z / Parks & Rec. Committee	11%
As a natural recreation area for all residents	9%
With all user groups in mind / status quo	8%
Public Works / Parks & Rec. / Police / Admin. Dept.	6%
Minimal management	5%
No management	5%
Publicly, community volunteers	5%

Question 8: Do you support Timber Sales?

No	51%
Yes	35%
Depends	14%

Question 9: Do you support a hydro project on West Creek?

Yes	44%
No	31%
Depends	24%

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Question 10: Do you support residential development in West Creek. If so, how strict should the zoning be?

No	47%
Yes	43%
Depends	7%

Zoning:

Residential General	9%
Quite strict / strict for commercial uses only	6%
Large lots / 5-acre lots / 2-acre lots	4%
Residential Conservation	3%
Commercial	3%
Not strict	3%
Residential Low Density	2%

Question 11: Do you support any commercial business ventures in the West Creek area? If so, what type?

No	53%
Yes	42%
Depends	4%

Business Type:

Limited, quiet, small tours; non-motorized; guided tours	16%
Hydroelectric	8%
Small timber / firewood sales	7%
Must be compatible with recreational uses	2%
Timber harvest / logging	2%
Snowmachine / ATV use	2%

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Question 1: How do you use the West Creek area now?

Hiking	52	53.61%
Snowmobiles, ATV, 4-wheeling, other motorized	26	26.80%
Wood cutting/gathering dead trees	26	26.80 %
Skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, sledding	24	24.74 %
Recreation	23	23.71%
Hunting	18	18.56%
Drive/get out of town, avoid people, play, escape, solitude	16	16.49%
Berry Picking	14	14.43%
Photographing/viewing scenery and wildlife	9	9.28%
Bird Club Ventures/bird watching/animal watching	6	6.19%
Shooting	6	6.19%
Walking the dogs	5	5.15%
Don't use it	5	5.15%
Fishing	5	5.15%
Camping	5	5.15%
Mountain biking	3	3.09%
Mushroom hunting	2	2.06%
Prospecting	2	2.06%
Exploring	2	2.06%
Trapping	2	2.06%
Plant harvesting	2	2.06%
Boating	1	1.03%
Driving out the road to access trails	1	1.03%
Wild flower collecting	1	1.03%
Picnicking	1	1.03%
Gathering river rock	1	1.03%

Comment: "Are there any other uses besides as a trail? I thought we weren't allowed to cut wood or do anything, except go look at our bridge to nowhere."

Comment: "I wish you would have public meetings in a public place."

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Question 2: What values (not uses or activities) should be proposed or maintained on this land? (A "value" for example, might be the area's historical value or recreational value.)

Recreational	73	75.26%
Natural resources, firewood, timber, sawmill values, water	16	16.49%
Natural, wilderness, accessibility	12	12.37%
Historical Value	11	11.34%
Preserve green space, pristine wilderness	7	7.22%
Hydroelectric, electric, energy	7	7.22%
Commercial, land sales, parks development, economic value, timber sales	6	6.19%
Aesthetic Value	6	6.19%
Residential	5	5.15%
Relief from tourism, solitude	5	5.15%
Fish & Wildlife habitat	4	4.12%
None	3	3.09%
Not Sure	1	1.03%
Any reasonable use that is beneficial for Skagway	1	1.03%
Trails	1	1.03%
Environmental	1	1.03%
Quiet & peaceful	1	1.03%
Watershed	1	1.03%

Comment: "That road was put in for logging. Jay Frey used that area extensively for trapping and wood cutting"

Comment: "This is a magnificent area filled with wildlife, lets enjoy that not exploit it."

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Question 3: What uses do you think should be allowed in the West Creek area?

Limited / regulated personal wood harvest	41	42.27%
Hiking	40	41.24%
ATV / ATV on road only	34	35.05%
Snowmachining / Snowmachining on road only	28	28.87%
Year-round recreation / Noncommercial Recreation	27	27.84%
Hunting	20	20.62%
Skiing / Cross-country skiing	17	17.53%
Camping	17	17.53%
Plant & berry harvesting	12	12.37%
Residential/low-density housing / Private land development	8	8.25%
Non-motorized activity / Non-motorized days or weekends (like Log Cabin)	7	7.22%
Horseback riding	6	6.19%
Fishing	6	6.19%
Development of Hydro	5	5.15%
Walking dogs / Walking dogs off leash	4	4.12%
Target shooting	4	4.12%
Commercial firewood & timber	3	3.09%
Golf course	3	3.09%
Snowshoeing	3	3.09%
Picnicking	3	3.09%
All current uses	3	3.09%
Trapping	3	3.09%
Small tours / Eco-tourism	2	2.06%
Mountain biking	2	2.06%
Driving	2	2.06%
Rafting	1	1.03%
Open for any ideas	1	1.03%
Photography	1	1.03%
Winter tourism	1	1.03%
Ski resort	1	1.03%
All listed under "considerations" in the flyer	1	1.03%
All that can be done without damaging the area	1	1.03%
Traditional uses / activities done there since '60s	1	1.03%
Not sure	1	1.03%
Fish hatchery	1	1.03%
Cabin sales north of river	1	1.03%
Prospecting	1	1.03%
Boat Ramp	1	1.03%
RV use	1	1.03%

Comment: I believe that West Creek is a great multi-use site as long as it is managed properly.

Comment: Hikers & skiers need to learn how to share with the other user groups.

Comment: Take only pictures, leave only footprints.

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Question 4: What uses do you think should be prohibited in the West Creek area?

Walking/Jeep/Dog/Horse/Any tours incl. overflight by aircraft	20	20.62%
Clear cutting / Wood cutting / Logging / Chainsaws	19	19.59%
All commercial uses	15	15.46%
Commercial development / Industrial / Road development	12	12.37%
Hunting	12	12.37%
Residential development	11	11.34%
Motorized vehicle use / (except snow machines)	10	10.31%
Hydro development / Commercial energy uses	8	8.25%
None	7	7.22%
Trapping / Trap lines	6	6.19%
Commercial timber sales	5	5.15%
Target shooting / Guns, weapons	5	5.15%
ATV use	4	4.12%
Live tree removal / girding live trees	4	4.12%
Long-term camping / campgrounds / squatting	4	4.12%
Anything harmful to the ecosystem / anything that will devalue area	3	3.09%
Horseback riding	2	2.06%
National Park Service / Park development	2	2.06%
Dump site	1	1.03%
Land sales	1	1.03%
Prostitution	1	1.03%
Camping	1	1.03%
Anything that restricts use by locals	1	1.03%
Liberals	1	1.03%
Mining	1	1.03%

Comment: The erosion caused by ATVs has the potential to degrade fish rearing habitat and destroy foot/horse trails.

Comment: All residents should enjoy this area including tours and recreational vehicles.

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Question 5: Do you foresee any costs involved in managing the uses or activities that you have suggested? If so, how do you suggest the Municipality raise these funds?

Yes	54	55.67%
No	26	26.8%
Don't Know	2	2.06%

Breakdown of "Yes" Answers:

Costs:

Recreational trail/road/campsite development & maintenance	16	16.49%
Law enforcement / regulation / management	7	7.22%
Signage	2	2.06%
Refuse collection	2	2.06%
Outhouse	1	1.03%
Hatchery	1	1.03%
Residential land development	1	1.03%
Golf course	1	1.03%

Funding:

Sales tax revenue / Summer/seasonal sales tax revenue / increase tax	12	12.37%
Permits or fees / Annual user fee / Park use fee	10	10.31%
Trail development grant / State grant	10	10.31%
Clinic property sale / sale or lease of West Creek land / sale of land in valley	8	8.25%
Municipal general fund operating budget	4	4.12%
Community support / volunteer labor / private industry contributions	4	4.12%
Property taxes / Housing taxes	4	4.12%
Parks & Recreation annual budget	3	3.09%
Firewood/timber-cutting permit	2	2.06%
Fundraising / Fundraising assistance from Watershed Council	2	2.06%
Lottery tickets	1	1.03%
Savings	1	1.03%
Bond issue	1	1.03%
Hydroelectric	1	1.03%
No tax breaks	1	1.03%
Private enterprise	1	1.03%

Comment: Back to Nature. No cost – leave as is. Last Frontier is getting scarce; West Creek is all we have left.

Comment: I am still wondering where the city is getting the money to survey this property.

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Question 6: Do you support the Municipality spending money to develop aspects of the West Creek area?

YES	60	61.86%
NO	24	24.74%
DEPENDS	9	9.28%

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Question 7: How should the Municipality propose to manage this land?

Committee or board / P & Z Commission / Parks & Rec Committee	11	11.34%
As a natural recreation area for all residents	9	9.28%
With all user groups in mind / Status quo	8	8.25%
Public Works / Parks & Rec / Police / Admin. Dept.	6	6.19%
Minimal management	5	5.15%
No management	5	5.15%
Educate public / Passive management / Community volunteer-managed	5	5.15%
Land development for homes / increase tax base / sell lots	4	4.12%
Keep it the same as it is	4	4.12%
Signs / maps	3	3.09%
Development management plan / Plan like Dyea Mgmt Plan	3	3.09%
Municipal code	2	2.06%
Same as Yakutania Point, Upper/Lower Lake, Dewey Lakes	2	2.06%
As a preserve	2	2.06%
For sustainable / profitable timber operations	2	2.06%
Offer a permit system	2	2.06%
What are the options?	2	2.06%
Road maintenance	1	1.03%
With the least amount of forest damage	1	1.03%
Keep commercial uses out	1	1.03%
Good Assembly leadership / give merit to public comments	1	1.03%
For tourism	1	1.03%
Effectively	1	1.03%
Trail development	1	1.03%
Motorized / Non-motorized use on alternate weekends	1	1.03%
Don't know	1	1.03%
Barrier at the bridge so only foot-traffic can go through	1	1.03%

Comment: Send Wayne Greenstreet and/or Denny Bousson out there once in a while.

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Question 8: Do you support Timber Sales?

NO	49	50.52%
YES	34	35.05%
DEPENDS on scale (Industrial or Personal), other factors	14	14.43%

Comment: I once worked as a logger in the Pacific Northwest. It is laughable to suggest that West Creek is timber land.

Comment: [Timber sales were] one of the primary reasons this land was selected years ago.

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Question 9: Do you support a hydro project on West Creek?

NO	30	30.93%
YES	43	44.33%
MAYBE / DEPENDS / NOT SURE	23	23.71%

Depends on plans, depends on impact, only if owned by Municipality.

Comment: It seems every time there is a hydro project our rates go up. Does our usage?

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Question 10: Do you support residential development in West Creek. If so, how strict should the zoning be?

NO	46	47.42%
YES	42	43.3%
MAYBE / DEPENDS	7	7.22%
Will it disrupt integrity of National Historical landmark?		
Need to review master plan.		
Zoning is critical.		
It is something to discuss carefully.		
ZONING		
Residential General	9	9.28%
Quite strict / strict for commercial uses	6	6.19%
Large lots / 5-acre lots / 2-acre lots	4	4.12%
Residential Conservation	3	3.09%
Commercial	3	3.09%
Not strict	3	3.09%
Residential Low Density	2	2.06%
No zoning	1	1.03%
Home businesses, no tours	1	1.03%
Somewhat strict	1	1.03%
Only in areas where there are already residential homes	1	1.03%
To the extent it won't negatively impact recreation	1	1.03%
Light Industrial	1	1.03%
1/2 -mile between lots	1	1.03%
No bulldozing	1	1.03%
No development beyond new blue bridge	1	1.03%

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Question 11: Do you support any commercial business ventures in the West Creek area? If so, what type?

NO	51	52.58%
YES	41	42.27%
MAYBE / DEPENDS	4	4.12%
Type of business		
Limited, quiet, small tours / non-motorized / guided hiking, biking, horseriding	16	16.49%
Hydroelectric	8	8.25%
Small timber/firewood sales	7	7.22%
Must be compatible with recreational uses	2	2.06%
Timber harvest / logging	2	2.06%
Snowmachine / ATV use	2	2.06%
Zip line	1	1.03%
Winter tourism focus / year-round destination	1	1.03%
No horses, no ATVs	1	1.03%
All types	1	1.03%
Sawmill for local use	1	1.03%
Downhill skiing / rope tow	1	1.03%
Cabins / inn	1	1.03%
Businesses that observe & protect the area	1	1.03%
Concession stand / small coffee shop / restaurant	1	1.03%
Mining	1	1.03%

Comment: If it wasn't for private donations of equip. – labor there wouldn't be a bridge there today. That effort by Ed Hanousek to rebuild the old log bridge makes it possible today for all to enjoy. The railroad donated piling – state gave the steel beams and the city contributed money for planking. That area is very special to many long time residents, many who were born here. It should be enjoyed by all, it's Skagway's place to get away from tourism and enjoy what was here before the town became so hectic, and the National Park with all its restrictions and big government policies. Let's not let West Creek become a dividing issue. Locals against summer residents; it has the potential for all groups to enjoy its beauty.