Alan Chambers fonds

Compiled by Jane Turner (1990)
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- **Catalogue entry** (UBC Library catalogue)
Fonds Description

Alan Chambers fonds. – 1972-1978
40 cm of textual materials.

Biographical Sketch

Alan D. Chambers was a graduate of U.B.C. and has had resource management experience with government and industry in both Ontario and British Columbia. In 1972, he took part in an analysis of natural resource policy in Canada for the Science Council of Canada. In the spring of 1972, he joined the U.B.C. Faculty of Forestry. He was also director of U.B.C.’s Resource Science Centre. He was involved as a consultant in three research projects: Study Coordinator of the Purcell Range Study, in 1973, under the authority of the Environment and Land Use Committee; participant in the Nazko-Kluskus Indian Band Study in 1974; and Special Assistant to the Minister of Forests, in 1977-78 for an investigation into continuing conflict between logging interests and the Nazko-Kluskus Indians.

On January 22, 1973, the Honourable Robert A. Williams, Minister of Lands, Forests and Water Resources for the B.C. government, requested a resource study of the Purcell Mountain area. The need for the study arose from two socio-economic conflicts surrounding preservation and developmental issues in the region. The first conflict was the needs of grazing cattle versus the protection of winter range essential for the survival of deer and elk. The second conflict was the needs of recreational land use versus timber production. The government then formed an inter-departmental Environment and Land Use Committee, comprised of ministers from the departments of Mines and Petroleum Resources, Recreation and Conservation, Agriculture, Health, and Highways and Municipal Affairs. The committee’s mandate was to solve major environmental and resource management issues throughout the province, and to facilitate the flow of information, ideas and approaches between various departments in solving resource management and land allocation problems throughout the province.

In the spring of 1973, Chambers was hired by the Environment and Land Use Committee as Study Coordinator. His mandate was to direct a three-month inter-departmental study team to examine resource use in the Purcell Mountains. The region under study was a 7,500 square-mile area of the Purcell Mountains between Kootenay Lake in the west to the Columbia and Kootenay Rivers in the east, and from the U.S. border in the south to just north of Golden. Chambers’ team was composed of 23 people from the following government departments: Lands, Forests and Water Resources; Recreation and Conservation; Mines and Petroleum Resources; Industrial Development; Trade and Commerce; Agriculture; and Highways. Also involved in the team was the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority. Through the process of compiling information and
holding public hearings, the team was to construct a rational and well integrated resource management plan for the region. Viable alternatives were to be presented in which all resource-based use potentials were recognized, and conflicts in the area were resolved or minimized. On October 19, 1973, Chambers submitted his report entitled, "Purcell Range Study: Integrated Resource Management for British Columbia’s Purcell Mountains." The report revealed that much of the region's forest land was over-committed to logging, and that resource users were faced with drastic decisions. The main recommendation of the report was to set up an inter-departmental group that would be responsible for developing resource management plans for the region. The report was later criticized by Williams as being "not quite as factual or on target as possible."

In 1974, Chambers participated in the Nazko-Kluskus Indian Band Study that was jointly commissioned by Band members and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

In 1977, Tom Waterland, Federal Minister of Forests, hired Chambers as a special assistant to develop a method for citizens to participate in resource planning for Carrier Indians in the Nazko-Kluskus Band area. The impetus for the proposal was controversy and conflict over forest management policy and practices about logging in the area. The Indians were attempting to halt proposed logging in Michelle Creek. Chambers resigned from the project on March 15, 1978.

Scope and Content

The records document Chambers' activities in three research projects that all attempt to reconcile the conflicts between preservation and development interests in resource management. The first project is documented extensively. The last two projects offer only a glimpse into the response of the Nazko-Kluskus Indian Band to the issues raised in the Purcell study. These papers offer valuable evidence of the continuing conflict surrounding resource management and Indian land claims in B.C., and Chambers role in attempting to find a resolution.

There are three series of records that correspond to these three projects. Because original order has been lost, it has been reconstructed with reference to the functions and activities of each project. Files within each series have been arranged in chronological order. Undated documents have been placed at the back of each file.

Notes

Researchers are strongly advised to check with the University Archives regarding permission to publish or otherwise use materials from this fonds.
File list available.

The records were transferred to the University Archives by Chambers in 1990.
Series Descriptions

31 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of correspondence, proposals, study summaries, reports, briefs, invoices, newspaper clippings, notes, maps and press releases pertaining to Chamber's role as Study Coordinator in the Purcell Range Study.

3 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of correspondence, notes and reference reports pertaining to Chamber's involvement in the Nazko-Kluskus Indian Band Study.

6 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of correspondence, notes, newspaper clippings and reference reports pertaining to Chamber's role as Special Assistant to the Ministry of Forests in the 1977-78 investigation into the conflict between logging interests and the Nazko-Kluskus Indians.
File List

A. PURCELL RANGE STUDY

A.1 Correspondence, 1972-1974
8 files
Includes incoming and copies of outgoing correspondence.

A.1.1 Environment and Land Use Committee, 1972-73 . . . . . . . . . .Box 1-1
1 file
Correspondence regarding the establishment and development of
the Purcell Range Study. Includes correspondence from the
Ministry of Lands, Forests, and Water Resources as well as the
Ministry Recreation and Conservation that resulted in the
formation of the Environment and Land Use Committee.

A.1.2 Government Departments, 1973-74 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .1-2/3
2 files
The file includes Chambers proposals and summaries of the study
at different stages. Includes the February and March, 1974
correspondence between E.L. Young, who objected to the final
report, and Chambers rebuttal.

A.1.3 Study Participants, 1973-74 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .1-4/5
2 files
Correspondence, reports and proposals from members of the study
group. Includes a list of the study participants.

A.1.4 Industry, 1972-74 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .1-6
1 file
Correspondence from area industries expressing their concerns
about resource use in the region. Includes 5 maps from Crestbrook
Forest Industries, sent with correspondence on July 16, 1973; and 2
maps from Kootenay Forest Products, sent with correspondence on

A.1.5 General Public, 1973-74 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .1-7/8
2 files
Correspondence from individuals and community groups. Includes
several briefs, including a submission of a number of reports from the Trail Wildlife Association bound in 1 volume.

A.2  
Public Hearings, 1973  
2 files  
Includes correspondence, briefs and notices of public hearings.

A.2.1  
Correspondence and Briefs, 1973  
Box 1-9
1 file  
Letters making arrangements for public hearings from individuals and organizations. Includes several briefs.

A.2.2  
Notices of Public Hearings, 1973  
1-10
1 file  
Includes advertising invoices and newspaper clippings of samples notices of public hearings for the Purcell Study held during August and early September, 1973.

A.3  
Working Papers, 1973  
9 files  
Includes notes, maps, drafts, and 1 final copy of the report.

A.3.1  
Box 1-11
1 file  
Includes occasional drafts of proposals, and notes of meetings.

A.3.2  
Maps, 1973  
1-12/13
2 files  
Includes 11 maps used in the study.

A.3.3  
Reference Reports, 1967-74  
1-14/15
2 files  
Includes 9 reports on the following topics: land use, wildlife, tourism, forestry management, mineral deposits.

A.3.4  
Press Releases and Clippings, 1973-74  
1-16
1 file  
Releases and clippings about various aspects of the study and related issues, from February, 1973 to July, 1974.
A.3.5  Report Drafts, 1973 ................................................. 1-17/18
2 files
Includes 3 drafts of the report.

1 file
A copy of the Purcell Range Study.

B.  NAZKO-KLUSKUS INDIAN BAND STUDY

B.1  Correspondence, 1973-74. ........................................... Box 1-20
1 file
Correspondence primarily with the Nazko-Kluskus Band. Also includes
copies of Band correspondence with the government, and several memos
between U.B.C. faculty members.

B.2  Notes, ca. 1974. ......................................................... 1-21
1 file
Notes regarding meetings and reports.

B.3  Reference Reports, 1961; 1974. ................................. 1-22
1 file
Includes 4 reports with the following titles:
Kew, Michael. "Nazko and Kluskus: Social Conditions and Prospects for the
Nazko Chief and Councilors. "Nazko and Kluskus Bands: Position Relating to
Expansion of the Timer Industry", [1974].
Nazko-Kluskus Study Team. "Report to Nazko and Kuluskus Bands of
Wax, Rosalie H. and Thomas, Robert K. "American Indians and White
People,".1961.

C.  MINISTRY OF FORESTS STUDY

C.1  Correspondence, 1974-78
2 files
Includes general and Nazko-Kluskus correspondence.
C.1.1 General Correspondence, 1974-78 ......................... Box 1-23
1 file
Correspondence with various government officials, U.B.C. officials, and reference copies of letters from local lumbering companies and other community groups. Includes the letter offering Chambers the position in 1977, and the letter acknowledging his resignation in 1978.

C.1.2 Nazko-Kluskus Bands, 1976-78 ......................... 1-24
1 file
Correspondence with Band members and their solicitors to Chambers, and various provincial government officials regarding their objections to logging on their lands.

C.2 Notes, ca. 1977 ........................................ 1-25
1 file
Includes rough notes of meetings and proposals.

C.3 Newspaper Clippings, 1977 .............................. 1-26
1 file
Clippings regarding the Indian-logging conflict in the Nazko Valley.

C.4 Reference Reports, 1974-80 .............................. 1-27
1 file
Includes 9 short reports on the "Nazko-Kluskus Situation."