

Alan Chambers fonds

Compiled by Jane Turner (1990)

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Table of Contents

- **Fonds Description**
 - Title / Dates of Creation / Physical Description
 - Biographical Sketch
 - Scope and Content
 - Notes

- **Series Descriptions**
 - Purcell Range Study series
 - Nazko-Kluskus First Nations Study series
 - Ministry of Forests Study series

- **File List**

- **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 First Nations Study in 1974; and Special Assistant to the Minister of Forests, in 1977-78 for an investigation into continuing struggle between logging interests and the Nazko-Kluskus First Nations.

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 disputes 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 First Nations Study that was jointly commissioned by Nazko-Kluskus First Nations 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 First Nations in the Nazko-Kluskus area. The impetus for the proposal was controversy and conflict over forest management policy and practices about logging in the area. The First Nations 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 First Nations to the issues raised in the Purcell study. These papers offer valuable evidence of the continuing conflict surrounding resource management and First Nations 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.

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

Series Descriptions

Purcell Range Study series. - 1972-1974.

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.

Nazko-Kluskus First Nation Study series. - 1973-1974.

3 cm of textual materials.

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

This series was originally titled "Nazko-Kluskus Indian Band Study".

Ministry of Forests Study series. - 1974-1978.

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 First Nation.

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, 1972-73Box 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 August 17, 1973.
- 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, 1973Box 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 Notes, 1973..... 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.
- A.3.6 Final Report, 1973. 1-19
1 file
A copy of the Purcell Range Study.

B. NAZKO-KLUSKUS FIRST NATIONS STUDY

- B.1 Correspondence, 1973-74. Box 1-20
1 file
Correspondence primarily with the Nazko-Kluskus First Nations. Also includes copies of Nazko-Kluskus 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 Future," 1974.
Nazko Chief and Councilors. "Nazko and Kluskus Bands: Position Relating to Expansion of the Timber Industry", [1974].
Nazko-Kluskus Study Team. "Report to Nazko and Kuluskus Bands of Carriers Indians," 1974.
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, 1976-78 1-24
 1 file
 Correspondence with Nazko-Kluskus 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 First Nations 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."