



REASONS FOR DECISION

FILE NUMBER: 4405759

APPLICANT: Joseph Maskell

BACKGROUND:

The application for a lease under the Adventure Tourism Policy, for an Eco-Tourist Lodge at the Gibraltar Lookout has been disallowed. The reasons for this decision are as follows:

There are concerns that there would be negative impacts to bighorn sheep: the area provides winter, summer and lambing habitat. There are also concerns about negative impacts to mountain goats as well as to grizzly bears. There have been observations of extensive foraging by grizzly bears on Columbian ground squirrels in the area. The proposal will likely displace grizzlies (they typically respond to human presence by future avoidance of an area).

The proposal does not adhere with the Adventure Tourism Policy in that it does not state compliance with the desired behaviors described in the May 2006 Wildlife Guidelines for Backcountry Tourism / Commercial Recreation.

Additionally, the management plan does not contain any discussion of the ecosystem, wildlife species, possible impacts or mitigation of those impacts. Typically, Adventure Tourism proposals provide some kind of analysis of the proposed use on an area and how impacts will be mitigated.

Because of the risk to wildlife and habitat, and because there is no mitigation proposed, the proposal is not approvable.

DECISION: NOT APPROVED
Application approval has not been granted.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The proposal poses too great a risk to critical wildlife and habitat, and there is no mitigation proposed.

For more information contact Christine Lohr at 250-365-8627.

Sharon Dailey
Land Authorizations Section Head