

# Possible Impacts of Climate Change on Tourism in Wells Gray Country

*Climate Change in the Canadian Columbia Basin – Starting the Dialogue.* 2007. Columbia Basin Trust.

Tourism and Recreation Possible Impacts and Adaptations

Relevant Likely Environmental Changes and Possible Sector Impacts	Potential Adaptations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warmer winter temperatures may cause less snowfall, lower snowpacks and earlier snowmelt with reduced ski seasons and reduced reliability of snowfall at lower elevations.</li> <li>• Warmer winters may create shallow ice cover on some lakes with dangerous conditions for ice fishing</li> <li>• Warmer spring and fall temperatures may lengthen the season for warm season activities</li> <li>• Warmer lake temperatures may increase water-based recreational activities and lakeside development</li> <li>• Warmer summer temperatures, longer resident time for water in reservoirs and long periods of low flows may create inhospitable conditions for cold water sensitive sports fishing species (e.g. bull trout, salmonids) with the potential for warm water species to thrive (e.g. bass, bullheads)</li> <li>• High flows and flooding may damage habitats for sport fish</li> <li>• Extensive wildfires and pest outbreaks may change the composition of Basin forests, reducing their visual quality, changing wildlife habitats and shifting their suitability for tourism and recreation activities</li> <li>• Wildfires create smoke; landslides and other extreme weather related events may close transportation routes or create risks that deter tourists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased snowmaking to maintain skiing where possible and groom slopes to reduce snow cover needed for skiable conditions</li> <li>• Diversify activities</li> <li>• Increased riparian reserves to retain low water temperatures and quality fisheries habitats</li> <li>• Expand warm season activities</li> <li>• Reconsider current lake fisheries stocking program emphasis on cold water species</li> <li>• Educational programs based on glacial retreat and unusual wildfire and pest events</li> </ul>

[http://www.cbt.org/uploads/pdf/Climate Change in the Canadian Columbia Basin - Starting the Dialogue.pdf](http://www.cbt.org/uploads/pdf/Climate_Change_in_the_Canadian_Columbia_Basin_-_Starting_the_Dialogue.pdf)

***A Tourism Sector Strategy: For the Southern Interior Region in Response to Mountain Pine Beetle.*** 2009. Council of Tourism Associations of BC.

Executive Summary Impacts section key points:

- ...most notable impact on the caliber of recreation experiences and wilderness viewscapes, due to the significant deterioration of the forest canopy
- ...impacts on biodiversity, water quality, and soil stability that negatively impact tourism values and experiences
- Previously inaccessible and remote areas have enhanced road building ...with...impacts on tourism experiences.
- Fire threats ... a major concern for nature-based operators...
- ... a positive economic impact on regional tourism prospects in the mid-term, as communities traditionally dependent on forestry look upon tourism as a primary economic diversification opportunity. In some cases these expectations may be unrealistic, particularly in the short-term, and will need to be managed.

[http://www.cotabc.com/misc/FINAL\\_COTA\\_MPB\\_SIR\\_Tourism\\_Sector\\_Strategy\\_Sept\\_09.pdf](http://www.cotabc.com/misc/FINAL_COTA_MPB_SIR_Tourism_Sector_Strategy_Sept_09.pdf)