

LAST RESORT: FAIRMONT HOTELS' THREAT TO BANFF'S GRIZZLY BEARS

**“Of course we cannot guarantee no grizzly bears will die
as a result of the meeting facility...”**

Fairmont Hotels CEO William Fatt, shareholders meeting 15 April 2002.



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'We truly do have a problem [around Lake Louise] and yet we're still not cutting back or just maintaining a cap, we're allowing further growth'

Parks Canada
Warden Hal
Morrison,
May 31 2000



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Left: The huge Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise Hotel intends building a convention center that further threatens Banff's fragile ecosystem.

Introduction

As this report goes to press, Fairmont Hotels and Resorts Inc. (formerly Canadian Pacific), North America's largest luxury hotel chain, is preparing to break ground for a 150,000 square feet, 105 feet tall convention center at its Chateau Lake Louise hotel. Located in the middle of ecologically sensitive Banff National Park, the development will increase traffic and visitor numbers, and extend tourist seasons. This will harm already stressed ecosystems, and threaten key species such as grizzly bears, wolverines and mountain goats, particularly given other proposed commercial and residential growth in the area.

Such a plan goes against a host of expert advice. As Parks Canada Warden Hal Morrison

stated in 2000: *'We truly do have a problem [around Lake Louise] and yet we're still not cutting back or just maintaining a cap, we're allowing further growth. And what is it that's going to spark some sort of political action? It's not a very palatable thought, but it's going to have to be a whole bunch of bear deaths.'*

Banff is Canada's oldest and most famous national park, a symbol of Canadian identity, and maintaining its delicate ecosystem is crucial if Canada is to fulfil its commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is also a World Heritage Site, designated by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for its outstanding landscapes and ecosystems, placing a great honor and responsibility on the people of Canada, its governments and its corporate citizens.

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The Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) is an independent, international campaigning organisation committed to investigating and exposing environmental crime. Since 1984, EIA has used pioneering investigative techniques all over the world to expose the impact of environmental crime and to seek lasting solutions. EIA's aims are to:

- Stop illegal trade in endangered species
- Gain lasting protection for species under threat
- Protect the shared environment of man and wildlife



The Plight of Banff National Park

As a protected area, Banff should be a haven for wildlife. Yet it is already the most over-developed national park in North America, its wildlife pressured by more development than the US National Parks of Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and Yosemite combined. Even the World Conservation Union (IUCN) has expressed concern over its plight².

With over five million visitors annually, two towns, a transcontinental railway, a four-lane highway, three major ski hills, and almost 50 campgrounds there is not one corner of this supposedly protected area that has not been invaded. Past and current management and development are having negative effects on the ecological integrity of Banff, with many wildlife populations drastically reduced, and ecosystems degraded³. In the last 20 years over 2,350 large mammals and many thousands of smaller animals and birds have died on the highways and railway in the park alone (see table 1). Yet if past growth rates continue, up to 19 million people a year will be visiting the park by 2020, and even if growth is cut to three percent annually, visitor numbers could surpass 10 million by that date⁴.

In 1997 the Banff Park Management Plan limited development at Lake Louise in the heart of the park to what is basic and essential specifically excluding a school or hospital. Despite Fairmont Hotels' admission that the convention center is purely for "*profit enhancement*", and despite early opposition to the scheme⁵, in 1998 Parks Canada and the Federal Government bowed to pressure from Canadian Pacific, Canada's fifth largest company. This was despite a confidential memo from the office of Federal Heritage Minister Sheila Copps stating "*The issue of the appropriateness of the meeting facility is difficult to address, as facilities of this nature would not be permitted in any other national park . . .*"⁶

Fairmont Hotels emphasizes that the proposed convention center would be on previously disturbed land. However, it is the wider ecological footprint of the facility and its customers, and resulting negative impacts on sensitive species, that concerns biologists.

Right: Grizzlies require wilderness to survive, and are the premier indicator of Banff's ecological integrity

Grizzly Bears – An Indicator of Ecological Integrity

The grizzly bear serves as the premier indicator of the health of the broader terrestrial ecosystem in Banff National Park.^{7,8} There is however, overwhelming evidence that the grizzly population in the park is far below historic levels, and continues to be severely stressed by excessive human development with almost no adult grizzlies dying natural deaths⁹.

Grizzly bears are the slowest reproducing land mammals in North America and occur at low population densities. In Banff National Park females do not produce cubs until they are on average six to nine years old, have the lowest reproductive rate known for any grizzly bear population in North America, and need productive and secure habitat to breed successfully. As a result, grizzlies are extremely vulnerable to human caused mortalities and take many years to recover from population declines, if they do so at all¹⁰.

Banff's grizzlies are classed as vulnerable by COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada). In February 2002 the Provincial Government of Alberta's Endangered Species Conservation Committee recommended that the entire Alberta grizzly bear population be listed as "*threatened*" because of the impact of human development. By definition, this means that without an effective recovery plan the species faces regional extinction¹¹.

"The issue of the appropriateness of the meeting facility is difficult to address, as facilities of this nature would not be permitted in any other national park . . ."

Confidential memo from the office of Federal Heritage Minister Sheila Copps. Feb. 21, 1998





“Bear researchers warn that unlimited human use will jeopardize the sustainability of a species already classified as of special concern”

Parks Canada

Despite rampant over-development, Banff National Park is still considered a primary core grizzly bear refuge for the entire region. The long-term presence of grizzly bears in the Central Rockies is directly dependent on successful management within Banff National Park¹². It is therefore worrying that recent authoritative research predicts population declines in the park and surrounding areas¹³.

Just as Banff National Park is vital to the regional bear population, so the Lake Louise area is crucial to Banff’s grizzlies. Lake Louise has one third of the park’s approximately 60 grizzlies, including one of only three concentrations of breeding females, and is important for maintaining population connectivity¹⁴.

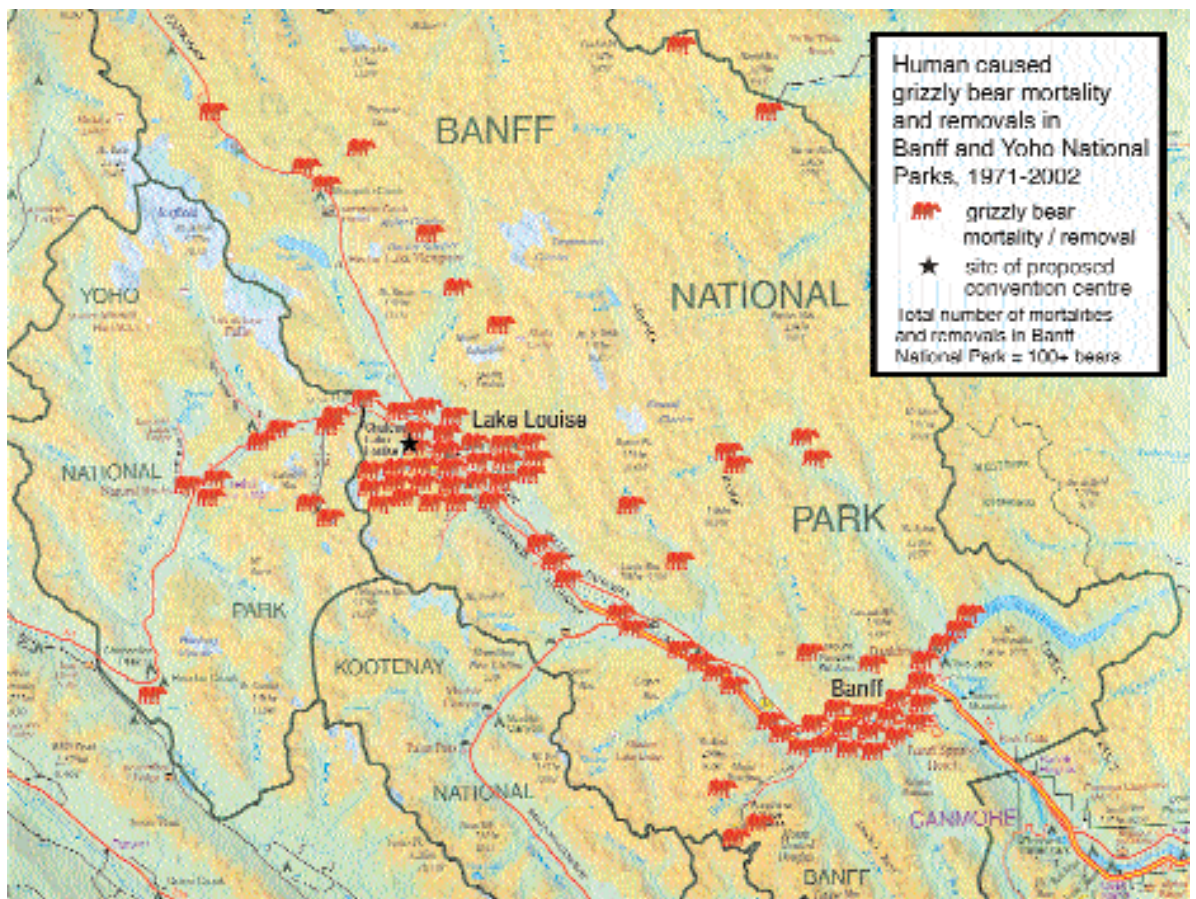
Parks Canada reported recently: “*Lake Louise, with more than two million annual visitors and almost one third of Banff National Park’s grizzly population, faces a situation unique in North America . . . Bear researchers warn that unlimited human use will jeopardize the sustainability of a species already classified as of special concern. Commercial operators worry that decisions, which could severely restrict human use, will impact their business.*”¹⁵

It is clear that business interests are winning at the expense of conservation concerns. Consultation for the Lake Louise Community Plan did not offer a zero growth option, and allows accommodation for an additional 285 residents and 300 more guests per night, 104 of them at the proposed convention center. At current occupancy rates of 77 percent¹⁶ that would mean 84,315 extra guest nights per year, plus the expanded staff numbers, plus people using the convention center but staying elsewhere. Increased hotel occupancy rates as a result of the convention center would also further boost use of the area.

Banff’s Unsustainable Grizzly Bear Deaths

It is well established that human use and development act as barriers to movement for grizzly bears, fragmenting habitat and increasingly isolating pockets of the grizzly bear population¹⁷. With 80-90 percent of adult grizzly mortalities (and removals) in Banff National Park being human-caused, there is also a direct

Right: Figure 1 More Grizzly bear mortalities and removals in Banff National Park have occurred around Lake Louise than anywhere else



After Benn and Herrero, 2000 (ref. 18)

Note: only mortalities / removals with known locations that lie within the borders of this map are represented



relationship between human development and use and grizzly deaths. From 1971-1998, 107 grizzlies were killed or removed from Banff National Park, with more deaths near Lake Louise than anywhere else in the park (see Fig 1). Every death of known location was within 500 meters of a road or 200 meters of a high use trail¹⁹.

Recognizing that the grizzlies of Banff National Park risk terminal decline, Parks Canada has introduced some new management measures, including temporary trail restrictions, speed limits and fencing off the Lake Louise ski hill and campground. These are wholly inadequate, as was acknowledged in a Parks Canada review of 2000/2001. *“In spite of increased efforts to preserve grizzly bears, Parks Canada has not achieved the management plan target of less than one percent human-caused mortality.”*²⁰

Less than one percent per year means a maximum of about one grizzly lost every two years from the estimated population of 60 grizzly bears²¹. However, recent mortalities and removals from Banff include:

- **August 2000 adult female (bear #60) died on the railway near Lake Louise**
- **May 2001 adult male grizzly (bear #67) killed on the highway near Lake Louise**
- **September 2001 adult female (bear #56) killed on the railway near Lake Louise orphaning two cubs**
- **September 2001 male grizzly (#68) removed from Canmore 2km outside the park**
- **September 2001 female grizzly (#69) removed from Canmore 2km outside the park**
- **June 2002 sub-adult female (one of the two orphaned cubs) killed on the highway near Lake Louise**
- **June 2002 female grizzly killed in Banff during trapping for a monitoring program**
- **June 2002 male grizzly killed in Banff during trapping for a monitoring program**

In less than two years, six grizzlies from Banff have been killed (four of them from the Lake Louise area alone) or ten percent of the estimated population. Including the additional two bears removed from Canmore, the effective mortality rate of Banff's grizzly population was a massive 11.7 percent from May 2001- June 2002 alone. To meet Parks Canada's own mortality target no more grizzlies should die for over ten years. In all, 43 grizzlies have been removed or killed because of human activity in the Bow Valley Watershed



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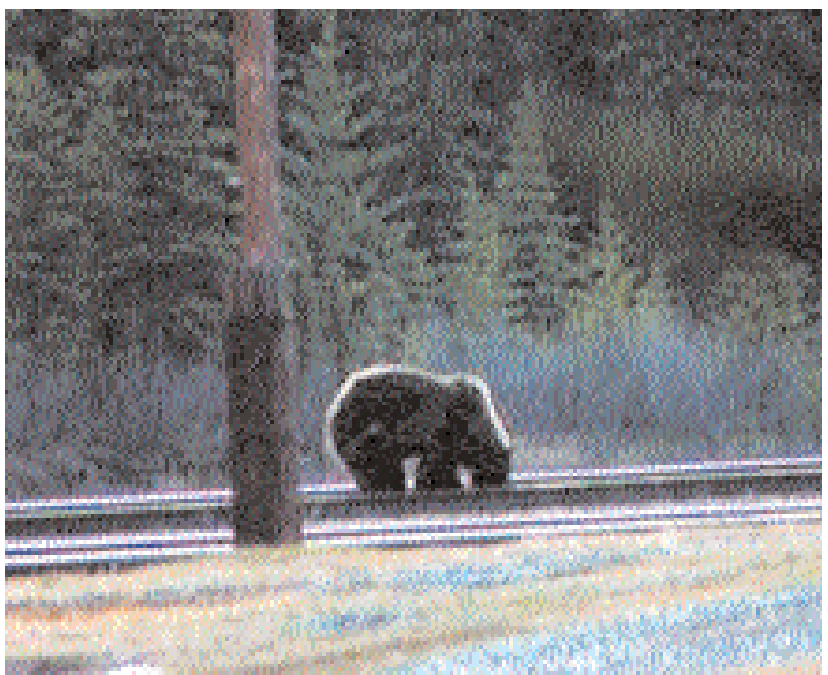
Left: Bear #16 was removed to Calgary zoo, after becoming habituated to people

Below: Young grizzly killed by a speeding driver near Lake Louise

Bottom: 2 grizzlies in 2 years have been killed on the railway near Lake Louise, one after its escape route was cut off by tourists



© CFCN/CTV



© BEAR Society



Bear #56 was killed on the railway near Lake Louise in September 2001 after tourists stopped to watch it and cut off its escape route

(which includes Banff and Lake Louise townsites) between 1994 and June 2002²².

Protecting female grizzly bears in particular is fundamental to conserving the species. Yet from 1985 to 1998, 80 percent of the reported human caused mortalities in Banff and neighboring Yoho National Parks were female – the highest reported for a 10- year plus period for any grizzly population²³. This unsustainable female kill rate has continued with five out of the eight mortalities and removals from around Banff National Park between Aug 2000 and June 2002 also being female. With only about 16 adult females left in Banff²⁴, further deaths risk tipping the balance towards irreversible population decline, and ultimately extinction within the park.

As human use impact increases, preferred areas of habitat with little human disturbance are taken by dominant males. Adult females with young are forced to use inferior habitat near people²⁵. This means a far greater likelihood of being killed or removed as problem animals because they tend to become more habituated to people and attracted to human food, and are more likely to be killed on roads and railways²⁶. For example, Bear #56 was killed on the railway near Lake Louise in September 2001 after tourists stopped to watch it and cut off its escape route. A driver ignoring the speed limit near Lake Louise subsequently killed one of her orphaned cubs.

Exclusion from preferred habitat also reduces breeding success because females are in poorer condition, and have less secure habitat to rear cubs²⁷. Further alienation of habitat through bears avoiding convention center clients would also reduce the carrying capacity of the area.

This threat is recognized by a Parks Canada bear biologist who said: *“One of the primary concerns with high levels of human presence is*

Below: As tourist numbers increase further, so do human-wildlife conflicts



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Fairmont Hotels Proposed Lake Louise Convention Center	
Cost	\$50 million
Area	150,000 square feet
Height	7 stories, 105 feet (32.7 m)
Main meeting room	700 person capacity
6 Breakout rooms	252 person combined capacity
Dining room	252 person capacity
Added Guest Rooms	52 rooms minimum extra capacity 104 persons
Other Fairmont projects	New staff housing, a spa/pool upgrade, new parkade floor and luxury dining room conversion.

Box 1

a loss of habitat effectiveness which could have an influence on carrying capacity, hence recruitment and survivorship. This may be a more subtle but at least as profound an impact on animal populations as direct mortalities.”
M. L. Gibeau 2000²⁸

The Price of Expansion

The expansion of not just the number of tourists, but also the duration of disturbance of wildlife into the shoulder seasons (spring and fall) is of particular concern. At these times grizzlies are especially vulnerable as they need to consume large amounts of food for hibernation, or have just emerged weak and hungry from their winter dens.

The Lake Louise Community Plan acknowledges this threat, stating: *“Spring and fall are sensitive times for many wildlife species. It is important not to promote shoulder season visitor activities that could conflict with wildlife.”*²⁹

Fairmont Hotels says the proposed convention center would *“diversify the customer base”* by bringing new people to the park³⁰ (See box 2), and has admitted in court that negative impacts on wildlife would likely occur. The company also admits its aim is to extend tourist activity into the shoulder seasons – exactly what the Lake Louise Community Plan says should be avoided.

Even Fairmont’s own lawyer has told a



Federal Court: *“Increased use of trails by guests is expected . . . Volumes and extended seasons may impact habitats and increase human-wildlife encounters.”*³¹

While failing to address the impact on grizzlies directly, Fairmont’s Environmental Assessment for the proposal also concedes that *“National park landscapes and habitats will continue to be accessed by national parks users including users of the Meeting Facility . . . Over time demand may exceed capacity of certain landscapes, habitats and constituent species to accommodate increased use.”*³²

Bear Biologists Condemn Further Human Disturbance

University of Calgary grizzly biologist Dr. Stephen Herrero, Chair of the Eastern Slopes Grizzly Bear Project, has said the area around Lake Louise is one of the most developed and deadly for grizzly bears in any North American national park, with grizzlies forced to fit their needs around the commercial agendas of facility owners. Dr. Herrero wrote to Parks Canada in January 2001 that:

“Human use and developments fragment this habitat. This compromises grizzly bear use. Current human use also increases mortality and removal probabilities for grizzly bears.”

Furthermore a significant increase in human use of the grizzly habitat around Lake Louise: *“. . . would likely cause more habitat under utilization, and would increase mortality risk in an already stressed population.”*

Research demonstrates that grizzlies are currently unlikely to survive in the Lake Louise area unless human disturbance is significantly reduced. Even in 1999, prior to the recent spate of grizzly deaths in the Lake Louise area, a report prepared for Parks Canada and the Skiing Louise Group concluded:

“The grizzly bear population within the Lake Louise study area is probably at risk . . . Habitat effectiveness is seriously compromised by human development in the Lake Louise, Skoki and Baker Bear Management Units . . . Lake Louise has been and continues to be a mortality sink within the larger Central Canadian Rockies Ecosystem (Benn 1998). Significant changes to human land use patterns are required in the Lake Louise area to reverse these trends.”

The damning report added:

“Increases in Habitat Effectiveness to reach the target set out in the [Parks Canada]

Increase in visitors at Lake Louise

The Chateau Lake Louise Community Plan allows for 302 additional overnight visitors, and 130 new staff in the area. Of these, 104 visitors (52 rooms) will be at the Chateau Lake Louise convention center. Given stated occupancy rates of 77 percent that will lead to 29,300 extra guest nights per year.

As the Environmental Assessment for the convention center concedes *“The principle contribution of build-out at Chateau Lake Louise to cumulative effects will arise with (gradual) increases in low season occupancy of the hotel. Current occupancy rates that dip below 20 percent on several weekdays of the low season, with appropriate and successful marketing, will draw occupancies towards much higher percentages.”*³⁴

If the convention center boosted occupancy in the 1002 capacity main hotel by an average of 10 percent per year, that would be a further 36,573 guest nights per year.

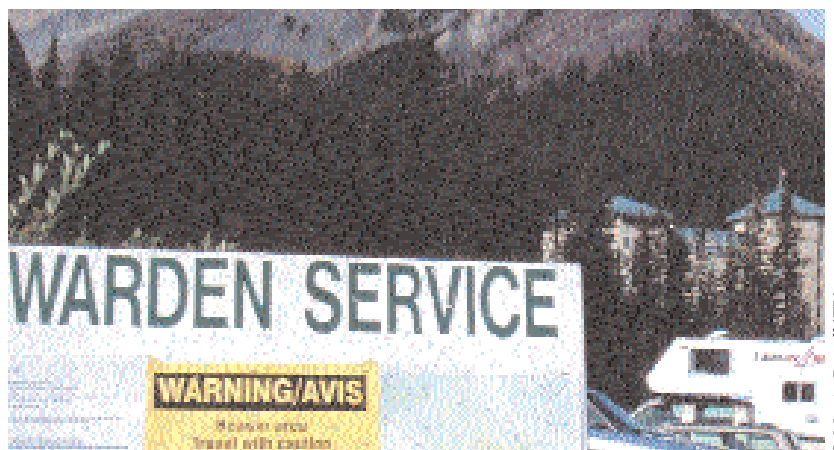
With a proportion of convention guests staying in other cheaper hotels as well, it is clear the proposed 700-person capacity convention center could easily result in well over 100,000 more visits to Lake Louise and the surrounding area annually. With over \$50 million being invested in the convention center, it would not be financially viable without substantially increasing guest numbers.

Box 2

*management plan for the [Lake Louise] bear management unit will require drastic changes in human use.”*³³

Clearly, a new convention center that increases traffic and human use, further impacts habitat and increases wildlife encounters will worsen the already dire situation for the Lake Louise grizzly bears. Grizzly bear biologist Wayne McCrory has confirmed this is the case: *“Fairmont have made millions from the privilege of being allowed to run hotels in our National Parks and I think it is unconscionable that for economic reasons they want to expand this facility further. This convention center would be one more nail in the coffin for Banff’s grizzlies, and the company should withdraw the proposal willingly.”* (May 2001).

Below: Existing development at Lake Louise already intrudes on scarce grizzly habitat



© Martin Powell/EIA



“Even greater use is predicted following the completion of the recently approved Chateau Lake Louise Conference Center.”

Bear biologist Cedar Mueller, July 2001

Below: During the peak season that Fairmont hopes to extend, Lake Louise is more a tourist bottle neck than a wildlife haven

Fairmont Admits Convention Center May Lead to Increased Grizzly Deaths

Fairmont CEO William Fatt stated at the company shareholders meeting in April 2002: *“Of course we cannot guarantee no grizzly bears will die as a result of the meeting facility . . . ”*

However, the company has used a number of misleading arguments to try to justify this proposal.

1. Fairmont claims convention center users cause less harm

The current Lake Louise Community Plan (June 2001, p30) states that typically 70 percent of guests at the Chateau Lake Louise are part of organized tours that *“stay one night at Lake Louise and have little time for exploration before moving on . . . ”* As convention guests will typically stay several days there is an increased likelihood that they will participate in trips further afield, so increasing the chances of disturbing wildlife.

As bear biologist Cedar Mueller put it *“The Hamlet of Lake Louise attracted over 21,000 visitors per day in July and August of 1998, 1999 and 2000. Even greater use is predicted following the completion of the recently approved Chateau Lake Louise Conference Center.”*³⁵

2. Fairmont will stop non-guests lunching at the hotel during peak season

This would not reduce visitation to the area. Clearly, non-convention center visitors come to see Lake Louise and its surrounds, not the Chateau Lake Louise hotel restaurant, and will just bring food or eat in Lake Louise Village instead.

3. Fairmont will support wildlife monitoring programs

Such programs will need to run for years to provide meaningful results by which time damage will already be done. For grizzlies the loss of a single additional female could be disastrous. Also the company will not pledge to take down the convention center even if it is shown to be harming wildlife. An in depth study of grizzly bears in the region pointed out the dangers of waiting for monitoring to show harm before action is taken:

*“A common characteristic of management decision-making processes throughout the world is to argue for delay of management decisions to wait for additional or definitive (often unattainable) information. This poses a real threat to effective management before a population reaches a severe decline or terminal crisis stage.”*³⁶

4. Fairmont will get trails closed if harm is proven

If the conference center leads to people harming wildlife, Fairmont and Parks Canada have said trails would be shut and fences built³⁷. Hence Fairmont would allow harm to vulnerable species to occur, wait until it was proven, then deny the public the opportunity to see parts of Banff National Park that have been accessible for generations. Furthermore shutting one trail would likely simply result in more people on other trails.

5. Fairmont claims convention guests arrive by coach, reducing traffic

Some may, but many will rent a car, which is presumably why no reduction in parking for customers is being proposed.

Fairmont also claims that as convention guests will stay for more than one day, this will reduce traffic, but this would only be true if they displaced other guests. In fact during non-peak season the hotel is not full so convention guests will be in addition to existing visitors, and the convention center will be open to non-guests encouraging additional traffic.



© Bright Benson, Ed Whittingham / BEAR Society



The convention center would also generate increased traffic from service vehicles and through higher hotel occupancy, plus extend the seasons when traffic is particularly heavy. In fact, Fairmont’s Environmental Assessment documents for the proposed convention center state clearly that traffic will increase: “The effect of the Chateau build-out will be to add slightly to staff vehicles and traffic during the peak season, and increase traffic flows in low season...”³⁸ “The meeting facility will contribute additional users to the road system beyond Lake Louise, notably the Trans-Canada Highway.”³⁹

6. Fairmont claims no water pollution will occur

Fairmont claims a planned upgrade to the Lake Louise Wastewater Treatment Plant would prevent pollution, and the company would not be producing more wastewater than before. In fact, a new water permit has been applied for by the Chateau Lake Louise hotel that would allow a 20 percent increase in wastewater entering the Bow River. The application faces a court challenge by environmental groups and the Siksika First Nations.

The Bow River has naturally low levels of phosphorus making it particularly sensitive to effluent pollution which results in algal blooms and deoxygenation of the water, harming fish and invertebrates, in turn impacting wildlife.

In a review of a Parks Canada report on the issue, University of Calgary aquatic biologist Michelle Bowman stated “Estimates in the report suggest that average wastewater flows . . . could increase about 25 percent in an average summer and 50 percent in an average winter! . . .

Table 1 - Road and rail mortalities in Banff National Park

Species	Road and Rail mortalities in Banff National Park since 1981 ⁴⁰	Current population size in Banff National Park ⁴¹
Black bear	41	~ 60
Moose	86	~ 40-60
Wolf	34	~ 55
Elk	1264	~ 2000 (summer) ~ 500 (winter)
Deer	602	~ 660 (summer) ~ 160 (winter)



© Emie Kroeger

Black bear



© Reno Sommerhauler

Moose



© D. Pozzig

Wolf



© EIA

Elk



© Karsten Heuer

Deer

Photo series left : The major roads and railway that run through Banff National Park fragment wildlife populations, and cause unacceptable levels of direct mortality.

Fairmont’s own reports admit that the convention centre will increase traffic both in the Lake Louise area, and in the road system beyond Lake Louise such as the Trans Canada Highway



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Above: If grizzly bears have no future in Banff National Park, where will they have a chance?

In my opinion, there is good evidence to suggest that the cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects (increased growth and day use in Lake Louise and winter visitation to the Chateau Lake Louise Conference Center and the Lake Louise ski area) could clearly result in net negative effects on the water quality of the Bow River.”

In fact, Parks Canada concedes that it will be unable to meet its targets on phosphorus pollution even with the upgrade to the Lake Louise wastewater plant. Instead, an “interim” higher level of pollution will be allowed until

better technology is available at an undetermined point in the future⁴².

7. Environmental Assessment and No Net Negative Environmental Impact

To justify building a new convention center in Banff National Park – something that would not be allowed in any other National Park in Canada or the US⁴³, Fairmont Hotels received advice from Parks Canada on how to frame an Environmental Assessment (EA) that would be accepted.

The EA has been heavily criticized, and was the subject of a 1998 Judicial Review and court appeal in 2000. The court refused to examine the EA, ruling that it lacked the power to question Parks Canada’s interpretation of the law because of Parks Canada’s assumed expertise. This decision is disturbing given that a Canadian Federal Government commissioned panel found “Parks Canada currently lacks the capacity in both the natural and social sciences to effectively manage ecological integrity in national parks.”⁴⁴ The panel’s report also describes the long history of Parks Canada allowing ecologically damaging development in Banff and other national parks, something also outlined in the Banff-Bow Valley Study⁴⁵.

The justification for allowing the convention center was that there would be “no net negative environmental impact”. Fairmont Hotels argues that negative impacts would be balanced by measures such as returning a few acres of land to the park, and offering meeting participants heritage tourism information⁴⁶. Such “mitigations” bear no relation to the actual harm being done. For example, having convention delegates recycle their newspapers does nothing to reduce the impact on grizzlies of thousands of additional people driving and hiking in key habitat.

Furthermore, the original inadequate Environmental Assessment was done in 1997. Since then new evidence of environmental damage has come to light – for example the numerous grizzly bear deaths in the area, and the recognition by a provincial government committee that Alberta’s grizzlies are threatened with extinction.



© Pat Molloy

Left: Fairmont faces opposition from over 70 environmental groups, 100 travel companies and a variety of experts. Despite strong negative public opinion, Fairmont is going ahead for the sole purpose of ‘profit enhancement’



Conclusions

Both Fairmont Hotels and Parks Canada have failed to demonstrate that construction and use of a new convention center at Lake Louise will not lead to an increase in grizzly bear deaths. Fairmont Hotels has even admitted that construction of a new convention center will increase traffic and visitor numbers, extend seasons, impact wildlife habitat and may lead to more grizzly bears dying.

Yet Parks Canada bear biologist Dr. Mike Gibeau stated in 2000: *“Because of population stresses, management of grizzly bears in Banff National Park must become more conservative. The precautionary principle ought to be the new paradigm. The burden of proof regarding the potential impacts of new development should shift to the proponent to prove there would be no significant local or cumulative effect on grizzly bears.”*⁴⁷

Over 70 local, national and international environmental groups⁴⁸ are campaigning against Fairmont Hotels’ proposal. In 2001 Michael Jantz Research Associates (MJRA), the leading advisor to socially responsible investment funds in Canada, dropped Fairmont Hotels from its recommended stocks in large part because of this proposal, and over 100 travel companies from Europe and the US are opposed to the development.

If such damaging and inappropriate developments are allowed at the heart of a World Heritage Site in the flagship National Park of Canada, where will vulnerable species be safe?

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- Fairmont Hotels and Resorts 2001. The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise Meeting Facility Fact Sheet.
- Gibeau ML, 2000 A Conservation Biology Approach to Management of Grizzly Bears in Banff National Park, Alberta, University of Calgary p39
- Including Greenpeace, National Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), David Suzuki Foundation, International Fund For Animal Welfare (IFAW), Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC), Canadian Nature Federation and the Humane Society of the US (HSUS).

Recommendations

The Environmental Investigation Agency:
Calls on Fairmont Hotels and Resorts Inc. to;

- Immediately withdraw the application to build a new convention center at Lake Louise
- Agree to a moratorium on all further development in Banff National Park
- Enact more far-reaching measures to protect wildlife and habitat impacted by visitors to the area around the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise hotel complex.

Calls on Parks Canada to:

- Withdraw all permits for the construction of a convention center at Lake Louise
- Implement a comprehensive and precautionary grizzly bear management strategy for Banff National Park, including urgent measures to mitigate the destructive effects of existing development on grizzly populations
- Implement a moratorium on all further commercial development in Banff National Park and take action to reduce excessive existing development.



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