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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release  
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Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

### **WHISTLER NORDIC VENUE CLEARS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

VANCOUVER – The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) has received environmental approval for development of the Whistler Nordic venue, one of the key competition sites for the Games.

The Nordic competition site will host cross country skiing, biathlon, Nordic combined and ski jumping events at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The 250-hectare project involves competition trails, ski jumps, a biathlon facility, three temporary stadiums with spectator capacity of 15,000 each, sewer/water/power services, access roads and internal roads, parking lots, lodges and other related infrastructure facilities in the Callaghan Valley.

The development is expected to create 520 jobs leading up to 2010. The overall cost of the venue was estimated at \$102 million during the Vancouver 2010 Bid.

Following a rigorous review involving consultation with the public, stakeholder groups and First Nations, B.C.'s Environmental Assessment Office deemed that the project presents no significant adverse environmental, economic, social, heritage and health effects. The project also underwent a screening review by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

VANOC, which is responsible for design, construction and commissioning of the venue, will begin site preparation this summer with completion slated for 2008.

Post-Games, the Nordic facilities will serve as a legacy for the enjoyment of local residents, visitors and athletes in a variety of ways from recreational uses to high performance sport.

An additional 50-75 kilometres of recreational trails are proposed around the centre. Designs will be completed by VANOC this spring and assessed under an environmental review process involving the Squamish and Lil'wat First Nations and federal and provincial agencies.

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This information bulletin and supporting documents are available at [www.gov.bc.ca/srm](http://www.gov.bc.ca/srm) online. The complete environmental assessment report, recommendations and Environmental Assessment Certificate can be found at [www.eao.gov.bc.ca](http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca) online.

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