

To Whom it May Concern at the BC Environmental Assessment Office:

I am writing to you as a citizen concerned about the proposed Glacier Creek Hydroelectric development project. The project proponent has, in this case, failed to engage in adequate consultation procedures with the Sinixt First Nations people, a culture group gaining increasing recognition in the Kootenay area. The Sinixt people were forced to immigrate to Colville Washington in the 1800s, however the long standing story of their history is becoming well known to residents throughout the Kootenay Valley. The Sinixt have been furthering public awareness with regards to their use of a wide ranging land area that includes the Glacier Creek drainage basin.

I believe that recognizing the history of the Sinixt and respecting the human rights of these people necessitates engaging in consultation procedures which will enable Sinixt elders and youth to share their historical stories and respective opinions about current land development. With this in mind, I believe it is important that the proponent be prepared with enough information to answer the following questions:

- 1) In what ways is Glacier Creek culturally significant to the Sinixt people today?
- 2) What does sustainable land use mean to the Sinixt people, and how was/is this practiced with regards to fishing and other resources harvesting in the Glacier Creek area?
- 3) What archaeological and ethnographic work is yet to done in this area?

As a Kootenay resident born and raised in Argenta, I believe that further development should not be considered in the Glacier Creek area before the Sinixt people have been consulted in depth about these issues.

Sincerely,

Bronwen Sweeney