

Diversity and Divergent Thinking – Recreation Resorts as Wildlife Refuges

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Three unique wildlife conservation centres have been established within the last 4 years on privately owned and operated mountain recreational resorts in British Columbia. All three are currently making distinctive contributions to the preservation of particular species at risk. The Grouse Mountain Refuge for Endangered Wildlife (grizzly bear – *Ursus arctos*; northern spotted owl – *Strix occidentalis caurina*), the Kicking Horse Grizzly Bear Refuge (grizzly bear), and the Tony Barrett Mount Washington Marmot Recovery Centre (Vancouver Island marmot – *Marmota vancouverensis*) have integrated innovative wildlife conservation programs into the over-all stewardship of three geographically different mountains. Programs have included captive breeding, behavioral research, public education, rehabilitation, refinement of captive management techniques, and over-winter juvenile survival enhancement. Examples presented demonstrate the shared benefits to society and species at risk when the cooperative use of privately controlled lands, facilities, and operations are engaged as active partners in recovery efforts.