

Height-of-the-Rockies remains as a peak experience of wilderness. To save it is to complete the preservation of this nation's most valued alpen landscape: the Canadian Rocky Mountains. To lose it is to sacrifice a world-class wilderness legacy.

*Your Help Will Make the Difference!*

Yes, I want the Height-of-the-Rockies forever wild.

- Enclosed is \$..... to save Height-of-the-Rockies (Tax exempt receipt will be sent).
- I'd like more information. Please send me an Action Package on how to get involved.

(PLEASE PRINT)

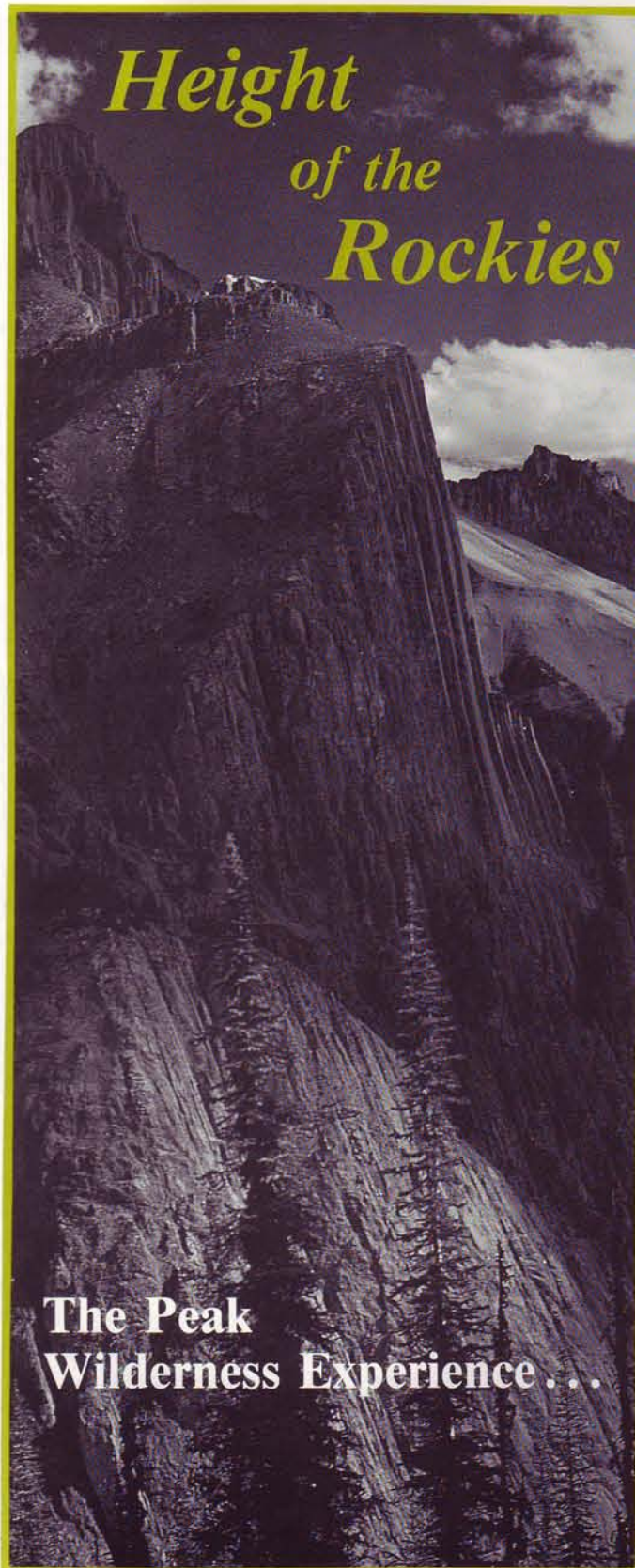
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

PALLISER WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
 BOX 94  
 CRANBROOK, BRITISH COLUMBIA  
 VIC 4H6



*Height of the Rockies...World Class Wilderness*

The Height-of-the-Rockies is a world class mountain wilderness. Here, perched astride the continental divide, razor-edged peaks rise to over 3400 metres (11,000 feet). 83,000 hectares in size, Height-of-the-Rockies is scenically spectacular, magnificently diverse. Upthrust ridges and rock towers, sweeping alpine, glaciers, clusters of high altitude lakes, valley meadows where the grass grows stirrups-high, rivers and misting waterfalls ... it's all here.



# Height of the Rockies . . . a world class heritage



For over 8,000 years, the majesty of Height-of-the-Rockies has been witnessed by man. Traversing some of the oldest trails on the continent, native peoples climbed to above timberline. They came for the wildlife: mountain goat — the world's highest concentration of this species thrives here — and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, as well as elk and deer. Always this area was a prime refuge for grizzly bear, wolves and cougar.



Historically, Height-of-the-Rockies was first probed by early explorers such as Major John Palliser. Their routes are still followed today, both by horse-trippers and back-packers who travel the long meadows and up into the high passes: North and South Kananaskis, Palliser, Sylvan, Pass of the Clouds. This wilderness area includes some especially challenging climbs in the Royal, Military and Italian Groups. Many first ascents remain to be made. As a hunting territory, Height-of-the-Rockies is internationally renowned for the diversity, size and populations of game available, as well as for the pristine quality of experience to be had. The area supports a trophy cut-throat fishery. In winter, the powder snow, extensive alpine terrain and the numerous circle routes afford superlative ski touring.



Height-of-the-Rockies borders the parks of Banff National, Elk Lakes, and Alberta's Kananaskis. It is the heartland to them. Yet though it is the highlight core . . . the "height" . . . of the Rocky Mountains, one is given to wonder: why is it still unprotected? Quite simply, because it has been overlooked. For unlike the existing parks, which were more accessible to transportation corridors, Height-of-the-Rockies was far more remote, virtually unknown . . . and so very wild.

But today, even as it just is becoming accessible, the Height-of-the-Rockies is endangered. It's under imminent threat to be logged. Clear-cuts close in and already outstanding country has been forfeited. Not that timber values are high: less than 1% of the commercial forests in the East Kootenay are located within the wilderness. For after all, this is essentially an alpine domain: 66% of Height-of-the-Rockies is above timberline. Those few commercial stands that exist grow in excess of 1370 metres (4500 ft.) But the logging industry would have these if it could — just as it has in virtually every one of the main valleys in southeastern B.C.



Failure to protect Height-of-the-Rockies would mean both the despoliation of an irreplaceable landscape, as well as the erosion in the quality of experience now found in the surrounding parks. For the heartland would have been lost.

For 240 generations — perhaps more — people have witnessed the wild grandeur that is this place. But today one must ask: will future ages also have the chance to savour the untamed splendour, or will we be the last? Will it be us, we who now live, that break the ancestral chain? Will we permit the development — the alteration — of this sample of the original Earth? Or shall we, like all those before us, pass it onwards intact? Unspoiled?