



July 22, 2015

By Email: ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honorable Mary Polak, M.L.A
Minister of Environment
PO BOX 9047 STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister,

Re: Substantially Started Determination Decision for Jumbo Glacier Resort Project

I am contacting you on behalf of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMCBC). We are a province-wide organization representing over 5000 individuals from 34 outdoor clubs across B.C. Our membership is comprised of outdoor recreation users including hikers, mountaineers, rock climbers, paddlers, trail runners, backcountry skiers and snowshoers. For over four decades, we have worked on behalf of this community to maintain and improve access to quality, non-motorized, backcountry recreation for both our members and the general public to enjoy.

I am writing to you today to inform you that our members were very pleased when they heard your determination that the Jumbo Glacier Resort project has not been substantially started and that Glacier Resorts Ltd's Environmental Assessment Certificate for the project has now expired. We can understand the challenges of making such a decision when faced with strongly held views both for and against this project and appreciate the objectivity with which you made your final determination. It is our hope that Glacier Resorts Ltd. will not pursue the project further, but if they do, the FMCBC would like to state our continued opposition.

Our members and the local communities have been opposed to development of a commercial ski resort in the Jumbo area for over two decades. There is strong opposition from the local community due to the potential negative impacts it poses to the environment and existing outdoor recreation in the area. Our organization has two specific concerns with the project which would directly impact the outdoor recreation community we represent.

Firstly, in its current state, the Jumbo area and surrounding peaks are located in a relatively wild and pristine mountainous range which draws backcountry recreation visitors from across BC, Canada and the world. Development of a commercial ski resort in this area will permanently damage the ecology of the Jumbo area resulting in a significant reduction in the quality of the area for non-motorized, backcountry recreation. If the Jumbo area is developed into a commercial ski resort area, the wilderness value of the area will be lost forever.



Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Accessing the backcountry one step at a time

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Secondly, backcountry recreationists utilize public lands for much of their activities. The resort would take currently public lands and designate them as a Controlled Recreation Area (CRA). This will result in reduced public access which is of major concern to our members who strive to maintain and increase public access to the backcountry. This removal of public lands into CRA's has happened with other commercial ski developments and causes persistent problems for public access.

We feel that there is already an overabundance of ski resorts in the region and that the government should not consider another one, especially one which does not have support from the local community and which would cause significant environmental and recreational problems in the area. We hope to see the Jumbo Resort Municipality dissolved as a first step towards protecting the Jumbo area from resort development in the future.

We would like to request a response to this letter especially any information regarding whether there are plans for the Jumbo Resort Municipality to be dissolved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jodi Appleton', is written over a light green rectangular background.

Jodi Appleton
Executive Director
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
604-873-6096
www.mountainclubs.org