October 30, 2015

Sent via email to ancientforest@gov.bc.ca

To those proposing protection for the Ancient Forest,

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.

In 2008, FMCBC's Annual General Meeting was hosted by the Caledonia Ramblers in Prince George. One of our weekend events was a guided hike through the Ancient Forest during which we had the opportunity to visit the old growth cedars in this unique inland rainforest. We were all very impressed and know that the Ancient Forest is a very special place to members of the Caledonia Ramblers and the local First Nations. Over the past few years our organization has financially supported the efforts of the Caledonia Ramblers to build a universal boardwalk into the forest enabling access for persons of all abilities.

We would like to add our support for ensuring future protection of the Ancient Forest by designating it as an official protected area under provincial legislation in order to preserve its important ecosystem, wildlife and cultural values for future generations to experience. We are in support of the Province setting aside the full 12,000 hectares for protection and believe that non-motorized recreation activities and traditional First Nations activities should continue to be allowed on the site.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this worthwhile plan to protect the Ancient Forest.

Respectfully,

Jodi Appleton

Jodi Appleton
Executive Director
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