



28 May, 2012

**Re: Madeley Highline Trail Proposal.**

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMCBC) represents the interests of about twenty five outdoor recreation clubs and some 3,500 members in British Columbia, most of them in the Lower Mainland region. The FMCBC's mission is to foster and promote the hiking, mountaineering, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing activities of the membership and the general public through leadership, advocacy and education. In this capacity the FMCBC was a very active participant in the Sea-to-Sky LRMP process that established the Wildland Zones.

The 19 and 21 Mile Creeks – Upper Madely area is designated as a recreation Wildland Zone in the Sea to Sky LRMP. Half of the proposed 8km Madeley Highline cross-country ski trail falls within this Wildland Zone. The FMCBC supports the use of this area for non-motorized recreation, including cross-country skiing. However we are concerned about the impact the proposed Madeley Highline Trail will have on the wilderness values protected by the Wildland Zone. We believe our concerns can be addressed through careful trail design.

The 15-20m clearing width used for other legacy trails at Whistler Olympic Park is not appropriate for a Wildland Zone. This clearing width is typical for industrial logging roads, which are not permitted in Wildland Zones. Such a wide clearing width will result in the unnecessary loss of old growth trees, fragment the forest, and compromise the natural landscape.

The proposed Madeley Highline trail goes through several stands of old growth yellow cedar trees, estimated to be 500-900 years old. The biggest stands are, near the creek that comes down from Hanging Lake and also near Beverley Creek, both inside the Wildland Zone. The trail should be designed around large trees by minimizing the clearing width and using natural forest openings. The clearing width only needs to be a meter or two wider than the final groomed surface. Some existing cross-country ski trails that use a narrow design are Parkway at Callaghan Country and Doug's Doodles at Hollyburn. Like the proposed Madeley Highline Trail, these trails are suitable for beginner cross-country skiers.



## Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

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We are also concerned that the new trail will facilitate ORV access up Beverley Creek along the existing backcountry ski trail. ORVs could quickly turn the wet soil in this area into a mud pit. ORV access to the new trail must be tightly controlled and monitored.

With careful design, we believe the Madeley Highline trail can enhance recreation and protect Wildland Zone values. The impressive trees that this area boasts should be retained for trail users to see up close, not cut down to make way for a wide highway of a trail. We encourage Whistler Olympic Park and the Province of BC to adopt a narrow trail design methodology for the Madeley Highline trail so that everyone can look forward to skiing it.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Webster', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Webster  
FMCBC President