



Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Accessing the backcountry one step at a time

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Anne Hazlewood
Area Manager, Roads, Hope Area Office
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Anne.Hazlewood@gov.bc.ca

Brandin Schultz
Regional Director, South Coast Region
BC Parks
Brandin.Schultz@gov.bc.ca

Re: Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area Parking

Dear Ms. Hazlewood and Mr. Schultz,

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) is an umbrella organization of 27 outdoor recreation clubs, with about 3500 individual members in total, dispersed throughout the province. For over four decades, the FMCBC has represented the interests of self-propelled/non-motorized backcountry recreationists by maintaining and improving backcountry and wilderness experiences for our members and the public.

It has recently come to our attention that parking signage has changed at the Zopkios Rest Area on the Coquihalla Highway. In particular, new signs were added, advising visitors to "Please limit your stay to 1 hour." Our members and other backcountry users rely on existing parking facilities in the Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area as access points to various areas in the park. The Zopkios viewpoint is one of several parking facilities identified in the 1999 Master Plan for the area.

We are hopeful that the signage was not targeted at backcountry users, but instead at the much higher volume of traffic associated with travellers on the highway. Nevertheless, such signs are confusing for our members, most of whom will spend far longer than hour, possibly even overnight, on their trip.

We would like to request that either the signs be removed, or that we work on properly designating parking areas for longer term visitors. At both the Zopkios and Falls Lake interchanges there is room on both sides of the highway for parking; we are confident we can come to an agreement that works for all parties.

We would be interested in following up on this issue, please contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Webster', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Scott Webster
President