



December 15, 2017

The Honourable John Horgan
Premier of British Columbia
Via email: premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier Horgan,

re: Expansion of Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMCBC) promotes self-propelled activities, such as hiking, mountaineering, trail running and backcountry skiing through leadership, advocacy and education. We are a federation of 43 outdoor clubs with a membership of over 5000 people from across the province. We work with outdoor recreation organizations, industry and government agencies to protect and maintain access for quality non-motorized recreation in BC's mountains and wilderness.

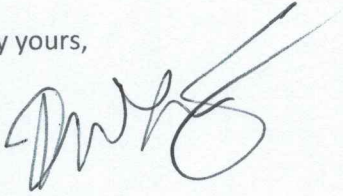
We are writing in support of the expansion of the Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area (CSRA) to include the mountains in the Bedded Range on the south and east side of the Coquihalla River from Coquihalla Mountain north to Britton Ridge. The proposed expansion is described on John Baldwin's website at <http://www.johnbaldwin.ca/coquihalla-park-expansion.asp>. We also support adjusting the northern boundary of the CSRA to include the northeast alpine slopes of Zoa Peak, which are used extensively by backcountry skiers and which are currently outside the recreation area. This small adjustment to the boundary would also connect the existing Little Douglas Lake Recreation Area to the main CSRA.

In our view, the proposed expansion would strengthen the objectives of the CSRA, which was established to conserve the Coast-Cascade Dry Belt Landscape and to protect significant recreational opportunities such as hiking, rock climbing and backcountry skiing:

- Protecting the unlogged valleys of Baldwin, Hidden and Carry Creeks along with the adjoining areas would increase old growth and wilderness protection in southwestern BC.
- Extending the protected area to include the Bedded Range would increase the landscape diversity and protect a range of alpine hiking and horseback riding opportunities, as well as other recreational activities such as mountaineering and wildlife viewing.

As the Coquihalla Summit area is close to the lower mainland and Okanagan and offers comparable recreation activities to Garibaldi Park and other areas in the Sea to Sky Corridor and Greater Vancouver's North Shore Mountains, the proposed expansion would provide an alternate destination for many recreation users, thereby alleviating some of the current pressure on parks in this region, which are at risk of both environmental degradation and a reduced quality of outdoor experience resulting from an unsustainable level of use.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Wharton', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Dave Wharton
President

cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Hon. Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Dev.
Dr. Andrew Weaver, MLA
Mr. John Baldwin