



Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Accessing the backcountry one step at a time

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December 18th, 2017

Honorable Doug Donaldson, Minister
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Room 248 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

re: the Sunshine Coast Trail

Dear Minister Donaldson:

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMCBC) would like to place its support in writing for the Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society and their Sunshine Coast Trail.

This amazing hiking trail – the result of thousands of volunteer hours, massive community and individual effort and some serious financial investment – is unique in the sense that it was designed, built and managed to be a world class trail to be trod by foot. Except for a minor piece the entire trail is built for the hiker making it an exceptional draw to the area and a world class asset. There is a very good reason the trail system has been recognized by **Explore** magazine as one of the top 50 hiking trails in the world.

FMCBC represents over 5,000 individuals and 43 clubs. We promote self-propelled activities such as hiking, mountaineering and backcountry skiing through leadership, advocacy and education. We see this trail system as it was envisioned and exists as priceless and we would be concerned if this amenity was inappropriately designated as some sort of multiuse system. It was built and designed for one activity – hiking - and wheeled access would quickly destroy the intended purposes for which it was funded and constructed.

FMCBC would hope that the trail is maintained in perpetuity for the wise reasons it was built – as a rare attraction to a beautiful piece of the wild British Columbia wilderness – one with a fantastic trail system, spectacular views, and comfortable and rustic accommodations - built for the benefit and the respect of all hikers. Many thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Dave Wharton
President

cc Hon. George Heyman, Minister, MoECCS
Mr. Jim Standen, ADM, MoECCS
Mr. John Hawkings, Director, RSTBC