



Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Accessing the backcountry one step at a time

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Email: bcparks.planning@gov.bc.ca

Vicki Haberl, Planning Section Head
BC Parks
PO Box 220, Brackendale, BC
V0N 1H0

Dear Ms. Haberl:

RE: Options for Tetrahedron Provincial Park

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 45 outdoor clubs with a membership of over 5000 people from across the province. We engage with outdoor recreation organizations, government agencies and others to protect and maintain access for quality non-motorized recreation in BC's mountains and wilderness.

With respect to the Tetrahedron Provincial Park, one of our member clubs is the Tetrahedron Outdoor Club, which has a long history with the park and maintains the cabins and trails that allow the public to enjoy the park. The FMCBC and member clubs are very concerned about the options being considered by the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) and BC Parks for resolution of the Sunshine Coast's water supply issues and by the precedent that this sets for other protected areas.

The FMCBC is opposed to the re-designation options currently being considered by BC Parks for Tetrahedron Provincial Park in response to SCR D's application to amend their current park use permit. Since Chapman Lake supplies water to 85% of the SCR D water users, we believe every effort should be made to preserve the Chapman Lake watershed in as pristine condition as possible. We are therefore recommending that the Class A park status be maintained, along with the current special park regulations, which are in effect to protect the watershed. In our view, provincial parks should not be compromised to deal with water shortages or other crises caused by climate change. This is especially the case when water shortages or other crises can be averted with long-term planning.

Since we understand that the SCR D is split on the Chapman Water Expansion Project and the Project is at best a temporary solution, pending development of water source solutions outside the park, BC Parks should defer any re-designation options until other sustainable water solutions have been implemented. This would include, but not limited to, developing water storage alternatives outside the park (e.g., construction of permanent water reservoir; tapping into aquifers), completing implementation of universal water metering on the Sunshine Coast (SCR D expects this alone to

yield 20-30% consumption savings), educating the public about and enforcing acceptable water use during summer or fall droughts (i.e., no watering of lawns), and implementing reasonable outdoor water use stages during increasing drought seasons.

The FMCBC is not opposed to SCRD's use under Stage 4 water restrictions of the temporary siphon installed at Chapman Lake in 2017. We do not however support increasing the allowable draw down of Chapman Lake from 3m to 8m. We also support the Sunshine Coast Conservation Society's priority recommendation to develop water storage outside the park and diversified water sourcing in order to eliminate, or at least limit, the need for future use of the temporary siphon.

With respect to the public consultation process, we are concerned that the public online survey is inconsistent with the printed survey, which was available at the Open Houses held on the Sunshine Coast. The printed survey permitted the public to express a preference for maintaining the status quo with explanation or to propose other options. Failure to include the status quo option or to invite the public to propose other options leaves the impression that the re-designation options are the only options being considered by BC Parks. In our view, this is misleading and curtails public engagement in the consultation process. For this reason, our letter conforms to the intent of the printed survey, indicating our preference for the status quo and our reasons for it.

Sincerely,

Dave Wharton, President
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Nicholas Simons, MLA for Powell River – Sunshine Coast