



March 29, 2017

Honourable Mary Polak,
B.C. Minister of Environment
Victoria, B.C.
Via Email - mary.polak.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Ms Polak ,

Re: Establishing an Ecological Reserve on Pink Mountain, northeast B.C.

I'm writing on behalf of BC Nature (the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists), which represents more than 50 naturalists' clubs with more than 6,000 members. We urge you to support the establishment of a Pink Mountain Ecological Reserve to safeguard the unique geology and rare species on the summit of Pink Mountain, and additional protective designations for the entire mountain.

Information provided by the Pink Mountain Biodiversity Research Initiative has revealed biodiversity seemingly unequalled elsewhere in the north, and possibly anywhere in our province. The summit plateau contains a 2.2 km² centre of diversity that supports almost 200 species of flowering plants: no other site of this size in northern BC contains as many rare and Red- and Blue-listed plant species. Butterfly diversity mirrors the plant diversity, with almost 30% of the species known to BC, as well as an estimated 200 species of moths living in this desirable habitat, making Pink Mountain a butterfly and moth hotspot for all of Canada.

All B.C.'s large ungulate species except mountain goats occur on Pink Mountain, including the Blue-listed northern woodland caribou and Stone's sheep, which lamb in the area. An astonishing concentration of grouse and ptarmigan live here: six of the seven BC species. Isolation from the main Rocky Mountain range has likely led to the unique biodiversity here. Pink Mountain lies within the Yellowstone-to-Yukon wildlife corridor. It offers great biological research potential, not only to conserve its biodiversity, but also to explain it. However, it is threatened by industrial activity and off-road vehicles. We urge that the wind farm not be built on Pink Mountain, and undergo a rigorous environmental impact assessment wherever it is placed.

We believe that Pink Mountain should be carefully assessed, and an Ecological Reserve established, so that its unique biodiversity may be preserved, not only for the intrinsic worth of its biota, but also as an accessible and valuable research site.

We look forward to your response to this letter

Yours truly,



Alan E. Burger, PhD
President: BC Nature
(Federation of BC Naturalists)

cc: Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands, & Natural Resource Operations -
steve.thomson.mla@leg.bc.ca

John Horgan, Leader of the BC NDP – ndp@leg.bc.ca

Andrew Weaver, Leader of the BC Green Party - Andrew.Weaver.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Reference: Long, R. 2015. The Unique Biodiversity of Pink Mountain. Published by Nature Vancouver