



**MAY 31 2013**

Mr. John Neville  
President  
Federation of BC Naturalists  
*manager@bcnature.ca*

Dear Mr. Neville:

Thank you for your e-mail message of April 19, 2013, regarding the proposal to establish a national park reserve in the South Okanagan and Lower Similkameen region of British Columbia.

Since 2003, Parks Canada and the Government of British Columbia have worked together to explore the feasibility of establishing a national park reserve in the South Okanagan and Lower Similkameen. This proposed protected area was intended to represent the Interior Dry Plateau Natural Region in Canada's world-renowned system of national parks.

Recently, the governments of Canada and British Columbia agreed not to proceed with a national park reserve proposal at this time. Therefore, Parks Canada is not publicly engaging stakeholders on this proposal.

The Agency appreciates that a national park feasibility assessment in the South Okanagan region is a complex process encompassing a rich diversity of cultural values, stakeholder interests and a constantly changing landscape. These decisions can take time and Parks Canada looks forward to your continued support for this important initiative.

I appreciate your interest in preserving Canada's heritage.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.

