



March 7, 2014

Honourable Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Room 248, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
steve.thomson.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Minister Thomson:

Re: Bill 13 – Off Road Vehicle Act

BC Nature would like to commend you and your government for Bill 13, the Off Road Vehicle Act. Our members very much support this Bill. In fact, our members were in the forefront of encouraging successive governments to better manage Off Road Vehicles, as far back as the 1960s!

The requirement for one-time registration (and again if vehicle is resold) with display of a clearly visible numbered plate will help improve enforcement. Having the registration managed through ICBC is efficient.

Not only do we thank you and your government for introducing this Bill, we also wish to commend your Ministry on the process taken to arrive at this legislation. That process has been extremely well run with your staff coordinating and communicating closely with a multi-stakeholder group representing broad interests. Feedback was respected and well considered. This was no easy task as the representatives included motorized interests, conservation interests, motorized dealers, and private land representatives. We trust this worthwhile dialogue will continue through the final stage of preparing the regulations.

We appreciated your attending BC Nature's AGM in Kelowna in 2012 where our Club Directors and members were able to meet you, hear your presentation, and hear your responses to questions. We also appreciated in 2010 when then Minister Kruger attended our Kamloops AGM, where similarly he responded to questions and promised quick passage of this legislation to better manage ORVs. Although it is now four years later, we understand that it took time to take account of the many interests and work through the logistics of the registration through ICBC.

In conclusion, we are pleased with both the process and the resulting Bill 13.

Regards,



John Neville, President
BC Nature (Federation of British Columbia Naturalists)

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