Reference: 309084 – sent via email.

June 1, 2017

Alan E. Burger, PhD
President
BC Nature
Email: c/o manager@bcnature.ca

Dear Dr. Burger:

Thank you for your email and attached letter of March 29, 2017, regarding establishing an Ecological Reserve on Pink Mountain in Northeast British Columbia. As Assistant Deputy Minister for BC Parks, I am pleased to respond and I apologize for the delay in doing so.

Many of the existing parks and protected areas in the Fort St. John area were established using recommendations from the Fort St. John Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). This land use planning process also considered the establishment of ecological reserves. The balance of environmental sustainability and socio-economic factors was a key element of the land use planning recommendations that were developed by the land use planning table that included representative British Columbian stakeholders. Existing land use tenures in the Pink Mountain area would have been an important consideration in developing that land use direction.

The Province of British Columbia is aware of the research that has been conducted on Pink Mountain and the biodiversity findings of that research. At this time, there has been no commitment to conduct further provincial land use planning in order to create new protected areas. However, all new Crown land tenure decisions made by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations are balanced against the previous LRMP and all new available information, including that provided by the Pink Mountain Biodiversity Research Initiative. I will ensure the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is aware of your concerns with respect to the increased protection for Pink Mountain biota.

Thank you again for taking the time to express your concerns.

Sincerely,

David Ranson for

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division

cc: Larry Boudreau, Regional Director, BC Parks, Ministry of Environment