

Received via email February 21, 2018

Cornleis Visser, Acting President  
BC Nature  
1620 Seymour Road  
North Vancouver, British Columbia  
V7G 2R9

Dear Cornleis Visser:

Thank you for your letter of January 10, 2018, to Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, regarding the clearing of land and proposals to construct bridges on both Carey and Herrling Island, which are located in the Fraser River. I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Ministers.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) has received *Land Act* and *Water Sustainability Act* applications that are proposing to establish bridge connections between the banks of the Fraser River and 1) Herrling Island via Herrling Channel, and 2) Carey Island via Jespersons Channel.

Ministry staff are still reviewing the potential impacts of these proposals, and the decision makers on these applications are aware of the concerns that you have raised. FLNRORD review includes an assessment of the potential impacts to fish and fish habitat, hydrology, and sediment transport. The applications have also been referred for comments to local governments (i.e. the Fraser Valley Regional District and the City of Chilliwack) and First Nations with an interest in the area.

The change in land use from tree farm to crop production on both islands, as well as on Strawberry Island, is authorized by the Agricultural Land Commission and is outside of the jurisdiction of the applications currently under review by FLNRORD.

Thank you for writing and expressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Craig Sutherland  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Coast Area

pc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural Development

Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture