



July 20, 2018

The Hon. John Horgan
Premier of British Columbia
premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier Horgan,

RE: Logging in the Upper Skagit Valley

BC Nature (the Federation of BC Naturalists), which represents more than 50 naturalists' clubs and 6500 members province-wide, is writing to express our great concern about the logging by BC Timber Sales in the Upper Skagit Valley. It is our understanding that old growth forest is currently being cleared for road building that will lead to further clear cutting in areas surrounded by parks and other conservation designations.

We are deeply concerned about this logging and overall human activity in areas that are currently intact (i.e., unfragmented) and understand that the logging is being done in areas designated as critical habitat for Spotted Owl, Grizzly Bears, and other sensitive species. It is our understanding that large areas of old growth forest in higher altitude areas above the Skagit River and within Skagit Valley Provincial Park will also be clear-cut.

This road building and logging repeats a situation of a decade or so ago when the Liberal Government passed regulations to make it much easier to change the boundaries of parks and protected areas. The aim, as in the case of the Skagit, clearly targeted easier accommodation of logging and other industrial/private uses on previously protected lands. Some valid reasons to change protected area boundaries do exist, generally with the goal of making them larger or to provide connectivity. BC Nature believes that the present Skagit/Manning Valley Provincial Park situation should not have been excluded from protection.

Aside from the need to revisit the Boundary Adjustment regulations, we believe that allowing logging in the Skagit Valley violates the long-term objectives of BC Parks, the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission, and the intent and letter of the International Skagit River Treaty.

We agree with the 223 international scientists who recently wrote to your government urging you to take immediate action to protect B.C.'s remaining temperate rain forests. We strongly encourage the Provincial government to establish a plan and take action to end the logging of all remaining old growth forests in BC, which should include a transition to harvesting only second-growth forests, creating incentives for secondary manufacturing and Forest Stewardship Council certification, and establishing community-based decision-making and benefit sharing.

Yours truly,



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

Contact information: Dr. Alan E. Burger, President – BC Nature,
aburger@uvic.ca, Phone: 250-378-2468

cc:

The Hon. George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy,
ENV.minister@gov.bc.ca

The Hon. Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development
FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca