



November 6, 2018

The Honourable George Heyman,
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Room 112 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Heyman:

Re: Support for Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park

BC Nature wholeheartedly supports the Valhalla Wilderness Society's proposal to create a Class A Provincial Park, the Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park. The area proposed is adjacent to Glacier National Park and would include the primeval wilderness of the Incomappleux Rainforest. The creation of this refuge is of great urgency as the Mountain Caribou in the Selkirks are on a short road to extirpation if they are not given the protection and habitat they require to survive and, we hope, eventually recover their numbers.

Even though the province has now moved caribou away from this area, we still urge your government to protect this area as a Class A park so that there is viable habitat for reintroductions in the future.

BC Nature (the federation of naturalist clubs across BC) has over 6,000 members in clubs around the Province with a mandate "To know nature and keep it worth knowing". We have had a representative on the Mountain Caribou Recovery Committee since its inception and see this proposed park as critical for the future of the species. Since the creation of parks takes time, however, and the numbers of caribou continue to decline yearly, it is equally critical that a moratorium be placed immediately on logging and road building in the proposed area.

The Incomappleux Inland Temperate Rainforest is a unique wilderness type in the Interior with very high biodiversity and a concentration of rare species. According to the BC Conservation Data Centre, as many as 40 species-at-risk may be found in the area in question. It is also extremely important for Grizzly Bear and other large mammals. Trees are up 1800 years old.

We ask that your government take action on this issue as quickly as possible, especially in enacting the moratorium on road building and logging. Other approaches to reversing the decline in caribou numbers have not produced results; providing them with good-quality habitat for their needs and protection from human activities known to have negative effects on their survival are very likely the only hope for their continued existence.

Yours truly,



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cc The Honourable John Horgan
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