January 16, 2019

The Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
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Dear Minister Donaldson,

I write to you on behalf of BC Nature (the Federation of BC Naturalists), which represents more than 50 naturalists’ clubs and 6000 members province-wide. Our membership consists of dedicated naturalists, including scientists, who are connected to, have expertise in, and concern for the preservation of British Columbia’s landscapes and the diversity of organisms that inhabit them. We support any effort to promote the integrity of our natural ecosystems, not only to protect their biodiversity, but also our lives and the lives of future generations in British Columbia.

BC Nature supports the Valhalla Wilderness Society’s proposal to protect the 8,408 hectare Rainbow-Jordan Wilderness near Revelstoke and call for Class A Provincial Park status. This action would constitute another step in increasing the percentage of British Columbia’s protected areas, as well as maintaining the carbon-sequestering power of an old-growth forest that is among the last of its type: inland temperate rainforest, unique to British Columbia.

Studies of the Rainbow-Jordan Wilderness indicate a rich and diverse array of species, with promise of discovering more new species and extending range distributions of others. Areas of habitat are suitable for the endangered mountain caribou living nearby. Species living there may include the listed Coeur d’Alene Salamander and Magnum Mantleslug. There may well be critical habitat for other species listed under SARA. BC Nature agrees with the VWS that the diversity of habitats and species in the Rainbow-Jordan Wilderness will be protected most effectively by designating the area as a Class A Provincial Park with the funding required to develop and put into practice an effective management plan.

Yours truly,

Cornelis (Kees) Visser, Ph.D., P. Geol.
President, BC Nature
cc’s:

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