January 13, 2020

Hon. George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Hon. Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands & Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC

By email: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>;
Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>;

Dear Ministers Heyman and Donaldson:

Re: Thank you for decision to stop logging in the Manning-Skagit “Donut Hole”

BC Nature would like to convey our thanks for your joint announcement on December 4th, to end logging in the Manning-Skagit “Donut Hole”.

We also appreciate that Minister Heyman met with representatives of several organizations, including BC Nature, on November 26th to discuss the logging and that he listened to the concerns of the several groups regarding the logging that has taken place, as well as our wish that the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission will have success in reaching a settlement with Imperial Metals to purchase its mineral claim. We appreciate the support of government towards that settlement.

Regarding the future of these “Donut Hole” lands, we encourage, after consultation with the affected First Nations, that a designation be made under the Environment and Land Use Act or the Park Act that would provide clear notice of intent for future protection of the upper Skagit River watershed.

Thanks for this very welcome announcement to stop the logging.

Yours truly,

Cornelis (Kees) Visser, Ph.D., P. Geol.