

January 12, 2021

Honourable George Heyman,
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

CC: Honourable Kelly Greene
Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment

Dear Minister Heyman,

Re: Opportunity to protect the Skagit/Manning Donut Hole

Congratulations on being renewed as Minister of Environment and Climate Change in an important time for this Ministry. Over the last three years, you will remember receiving several delegations of NGO representatives seeking further protection for the Donut Hole. These NGOs have now formed the Skagit Conservation and Recreation Alliance (the Alliance).

Since last meeting with you there have been significant government decisions affecting the Donut Hole. On Dec 4, 2019 you and Minister Donaldson announced the suspension of logging in the Donut Hole, and in Sept 2020 your government released the Old Growth Strategic Review and made a commitment to defer logging in nine areas, including Silverdaisy-Skagit. This is terrific and encouraging news, and we are eager to see the protection of these areas be completed.

The undersigned groups are writing to request a meeting to discuss a path forward for the Skagit/Manning Donut Hole which will **provide permanent protection and help you deliver on your mandate set out by Premier Horgan.**

We put forward the following recommendations to bring this issue to a swift resolution:

1. Work with the FLNRORD Minister to remove the Donut Hole lands from the Fraser Timber Supply Area.
2. Achieve agreement within cabinet to designate all Crown lands within the Donut Hole as a Recreation Area as an interim measure no later than Spring 2021.
3. Work with the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to determine a protected area status and management system for the Donut Hole in full collaboration and consultation with regional First Nations.
4. Work with the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission and the Minister for Energy and Mines to retire the mining claims within the Donut Hole.
5. Work with the FLNRO Minister to determine the criteria for the management of the deferred old growth forests in the proposed protected area.

The Alliance stands ready to support all initiatives of you and your government to bring about protection of this area after so many years of delay. Please reply to Tom Perry and Ken Farquharson to find an appropriate time to meet. We look forward to discussing the issues involved.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Farquharson

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Tom Perry

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Joe Foy, Wilderness Committee

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Monika Bittel, Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

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John Thornton, BC Wildlife Federation

Mark Worthing, Sierra Club BC