

Pender Harbour Wildlife Society

5466 Jervis Inlet Road
Madeira Park BC V0N 2H4

To The Senior Land Officer
200-10428. 153rd Street
Surrey. BC V3R 1E1

19 June 2018

Dear Senior Land Officer,

The small Notice in our local paper of May 25, included a tiny map of multiple areas of high forest asking to be occupied by licence, for multiple unspecified activities. Even the government department could not find more information for us - we enclose their response. We understand the purpose is for adventure bike sports, and specifically the areas are to be accessed by helicopter , eg for commercial mountain biking and camping. This would have been helpful information for the Notice.

The region identified by the proponents is a well recognized and a familiar one to Sunshine Coast residents as the local watersheds and mountain terrain above the communities of Tuwanek ,Sandy Hook and Sechelt, and surrounding the Sechelt Inlet. This area includes also Narrows Inlet and Salmon Inlet, and is also home to the Tetrahedron Provincial Park. The Park also houses the Chapman Lake Water supply for Sechelt area.

We are not familiar with the steps needed and preliminary information required by the government for a proponent to start such an application. There are numerous areas identified which would involve felling and occupation of crown forest. We trust that in the public interest, the forest is not occupied , no trees will be felled nor terrain damaged pending the outcome of the application.

We understand the proponent has an environmental report from a reputable Vancouver Island Company but please say if this is a desk top study or ensure that the area and habitat and terrain has actually been walked, and inspected by the report authors.

Please note that there would be a number of sunshine coast interested groups who would have knowledge and questions. Our Group does not meet during the summer months nor do many local groups and your deadline for comments is short. Our Society will not have met within the time frame you have set.

11We write to draw the land officers attention to a number of groups that have a direct connection and knowledge of this large area:

Tetrahedron Park Society

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Group CPAWS

Sunshine Coast Conservation Association

Tuwanek and Sandy Hook Residents Associations

Sunshine Coast Wildlife Project

Friends of Caren

Conservation Officer - Bear paw and poaching problems

SCRD and Town of Sechelt - water, fire and planning

Sechelt First Nation - traditional territory

Community Watersheds - special management to protect drinking water Ministry of Enviro and Climate Change

As a Society we are closer to the eastern inlet area. Our obvious concerns would include the recent Sechelt forest fire, increasing summertime droughts, risk of accident and only a limited local volunteer ability to assist. There are also campfire bans which may reduce the attraction and demand for helicopter camping. Has there been input from neighbouring residents in West Sechelt on the sechelt peninsula you have marked?

We are in Pender Harbour and the area close to the Caren Range is of prime importance to us. We would wish to see greater protection of the forest areas. This proposal would adversely affect wildlife with noise and disturbance and create easier access, which can also be accessed by illegal hunters.

It would be important with such limited information that we emphasize that elite and noisy helicopter access and onto high terrain where the natural world and wildlife is valued, does not appear to be in alignment with the sensitive habitat, wildlife and watershed protection, visual landscape and public strategies we all benefit from.

We will send a copy of this letter to the SCRD. We trust that an important and interconnected area will not be so licensed or occupied unless detailed explanations, assurances, financial indemnity and business expertise is demonstrated by the proponent. There must be local government input and public meetings which can actually support or address local knowledge and concerns. We meet again in the fall and would welcome further information and any notice of public meetings.

Yours truly

Dale Jackson
Director