

April 22, 2021

An Open Letter To:

Hon. Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

Hon. Nathan Cullen, Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Hon. George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Hon. Kelly Greene, Parliamentary Secretary for Environment

Hon. Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture, & Sport

Hon. John Horgan, Premier of BC

Brittney Anderson MLA, Nelson-Creston

Re: Urgent Letter to Halt Approved Clear Cutting in the Argenta Johnson's Landing Face

The Northwest Wilderness Society of the Unitarian Church (NWWWS) requests urgent intervention to protect an intact area of North Kootenay Lake region from clear-cut logging.

We are a non-profit society that owns and operates a wilderness camp at Fry Creek on Kootenay Lake just a few kilometers from proposed logging by Cooper Creek Cedar Ltd. at Salisbury Creek. The mission of the NWWWS is to protect and steward this area of the Fry Creek delta and adjacent lands and facilitate enjoyment in this wilderness setting. This area we steward is surrounded by the Kootenay Lake and Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Provincial Park (PWCPP).

One of our founders, the late Rev. Phillip Hewitt, long-time minister of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, worked hard for the creation of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy which is now the largest intact protected ecosystem in south eastern BC.

The cutblock, CP 405 – Salisbury Creek to Bulmer Creek Face Unit, borders the Conservancy and is one of the last habitats of the few surviving mountain caribou in the area. This area provides essential habitat and connectivity for all wildlife, from mountaintop to lake shore and between the PWCPP and Goat Range Provincial Park.

The beauty and wild nature of the north end of Kootenay Lake is a treasure that must be preserved for posterity. The spectacular view of this area is key to our enjoyment and fostering stewardship as per the mission of our society. With the threat of imminent logging, the urgency to protect this area is now more than ever. A moratorium on logging the Argenta Johnson's Landing Face is essential.

Please let us know what action you are taking with this urgent threat to conservation on Kootenay Lake.

The Northwest Wilderness Society of the Unitarian Church
949 West 49th Street
Vancouver, BC V5Z 2T1
info@kootenaywildernesscamping.org