



JOHN BALDWIN

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October 25, 2017

The Honourable John Horgan, M.L.A.
Premier of British Columbia
Via email: premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier,

Re: Expansion of Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area

I am writing to urge you to expand the Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area (CSRA) to include the adjoining area to the south surrounding Coquihalla Mountain.

The proposed expansion would include the mountains and intervening valleys of the Bedded Range on the south and east side of the Coquihalla River (see map below). The unique undeveloped natural features, the outstanding visual resources and the stunning recreational opportunities of the proposed expansion would significantly strengthen the objectives of the existing CSRA and would be a rare opportunity to increase wilderness and old growth forest protection in southwestern BC.

Canada has committed under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity to increase its protected areas to 17% from the current 10.6% by 2020. That's a 60% increase in the next 3 years! The proposed expansion is a prime candidate to help meet this increase.

The CSRA was established in 1986 in order to conserve the Coast-Cascade Dry Belt Landscape and to protect significant destination recreational opportunities such as hiking, rock climbing and backcountry skiing. The proposed expansion of the recreation area would:

- strengthen its conservation objectives by protecting the unlogged valleys of Baldwin, Hidden and Carry Creeks together with the adjoining spectacular alpine areas.
- protect the outstanding scenic qualities of the Coquihalla Highway corridor.
- significantly increase the landscape diversity as the volcanic rocks of the Bedded Range contrast sharply with the primarily igneous rocks of the existing CSRA.
- greatly increase recreational opportunities.
- increase the considerable economic benefits to the surrounding region and communities.
- roughly double the size of the protected area from 60 to 160 sq. km.
- significantly improve wildlife habitat and travel corridors.
- benefit many users as the Coquihalla Summit area is close to major population centers in the lower mainland and Okanagan.
- serve to alleviate some of current pressure on parks in the Sea to Sky Corridor.

More information on this proposal, including a gallery of images, is available online at:

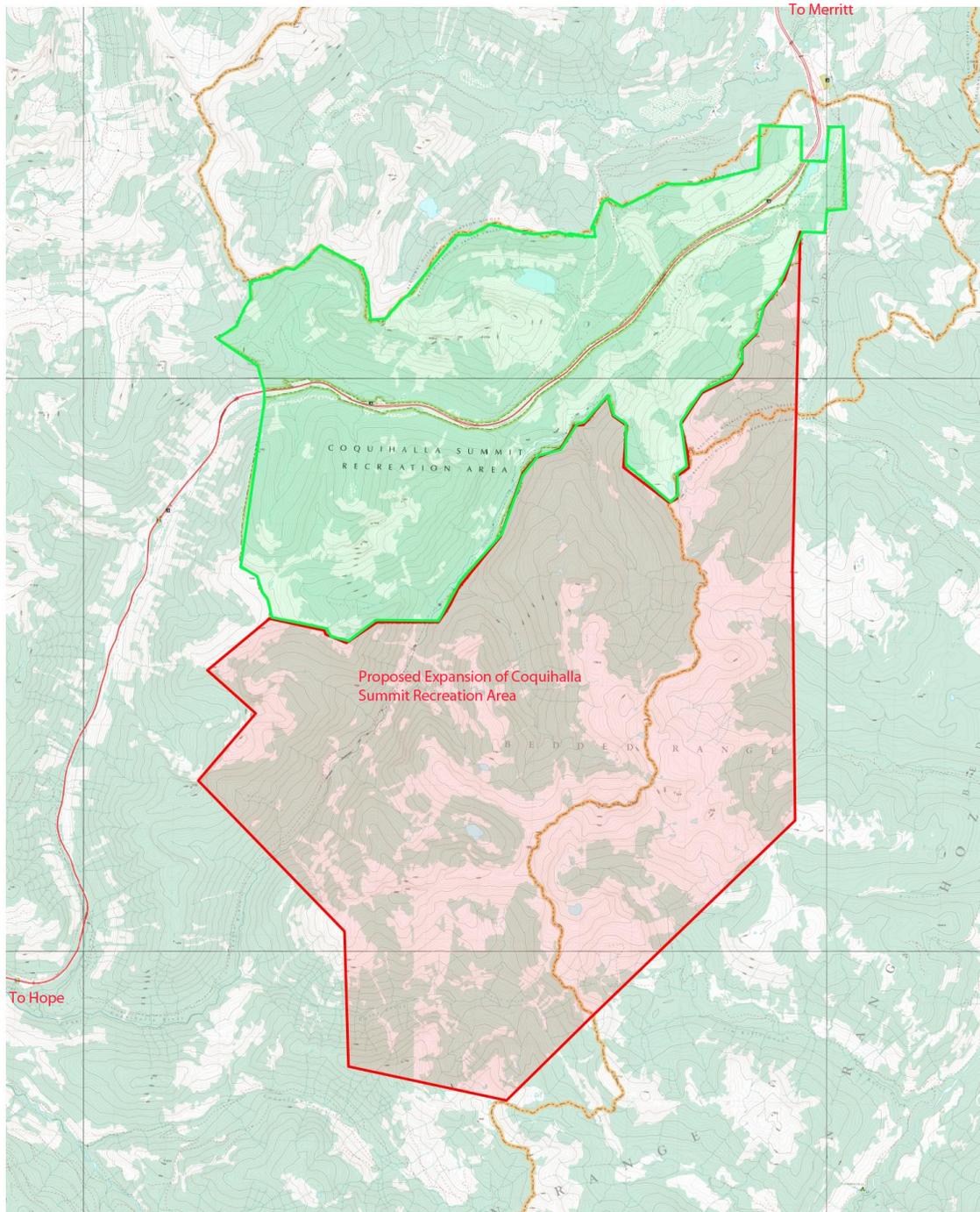
<http://www.johnbaldwin.ca/coquihalla-park-expansion.asp>

I look forward to your government creating this addition to the Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area that you and all of us who value our unique natural ecosystems can be proud of. It will be an achievement for which future generations will be grateful.

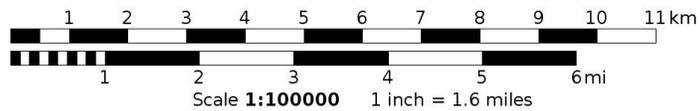
Sincerely

John Baldwin

cc: Hon. George Heyman, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Hon. Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Hon. Andrew Weaver, M.L.A.



Coquihalla
WGS84
USNG 10UFV-10UFA
CalTopo.com



Coquihalla-Summit-Rec-Area-Expansion-map.jpg

Topographic map showing the existing Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area in green and the proposed expansion in red.



Coquihalla-Expansion-hiking-by-John-Baldwin-low-res.jpg

Alpine hiking on ridges north of Coquihalla Mountain in the proposed expansion.



Coquihalla-Expansion-Panoramic-View-by-John-Baldwin-lowres.jpg

Panoramic view to the west of the proposed expansion of the Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area. The foreground shows Coquihalla Mountain and the surrounding ridges in the proposed expansion, and the background shows Needle and Yak Peaks above the highway in the current recreation area