

From: Bev Ramey
Sent: April-30-10 8:31 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Cc: 'BC NATURE- Office'; 'Peter Ballin'
Subject: Water Act Modernization Submission from BC Nature
Attachments: Water Act Modernization submission April 30 2010 _2_.pdf



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To:
Water Stewardship Division
PO Box 9362 Stn Pov Govt
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By Email: livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca

Please find attached the submission from BC Nature. We would be pleased to discuss any aspects further and you could contact our representative:

Peter Ballin pjballin@shaw.ca

Please confirm receipt of this submission.

Thanks, for this opportunity to comment,
Bev Ramey
President. BC Nature



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Submission from BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists) for the Modernization of British Columbia's Water Act

BC Nature (Federation of British Columbia Naturalists) represents 50 local nature clubs throughout BC. BC Nature works to protect biodiversity, species at risk, parks and other natural areas throughout the province. Our members participate in many groups that help shape public policy on our environment. Our member clubs are at the forefront of many conservation and stewardship projects. Since becoming a registered society in 1969, we have been working towards the goals of education and conservation, reflected in our motto: "Know Nature and Keep It Worth Knowing". One of our purposes listed in our constitution is to foster an awareness, appreciation and understanding of our natural environment, that it may be wisely used and maintained for future generations.

BC Nature supports water allocation plans that are based on thorough knowledge of the watershed and the needs for a healthy watershed ecosystem. The importance of ecological integrity must be given prominence when reviewing development proposals that affect water quality and quantity. Besides protecting stream health and aquatic environments, stream sides and riparian areas, and regulating discharge into streams and environmental flow needs, BC Nature wishes to see more prominence given to the importance of wetlands and the goods and services that they provide for the quantity and quality of stream flow and the importance of streams to many wetlands. Recognize the necessity of protecting (and restoring) wetlands, especially because of the extent of wetland loss. We support water allocation plans that specifically include wetland protection plans. We believe that the level of responsibility of water licensees will rise with increased knowledge about watersheds and wetlands.

BC Nature supports flexibility in the governance of the Water Act. We encourage responsiveness to changing conditions, particularly those caused by climate change, but caution against responding to changing values if those values compromise the future of the ecosystems that support the water sources that support our future. The governance system chosen needs to make science-based decisions, heeding local input, at the watershed level.

BC Nature supports the regulation of groundwater use, and emphasizes the need to increase the data base about ground water locations and quantities, and to investigate the relationship between ground water and surface water.

BC Nature believes that "state of the watershed" mentality, increasingly informed by scientific study, will help promote adequate, healthy water supplies for the citizens of BC and the ecosystems that support us.