



Land Trust Alliance

BRITISH COLUMBIA

February 19, 2010

Dear Premier Gordon Campbell & Honourable Minister Barry Penner:

PO BOX 9041 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC
V8W9E1

Re: Forestry Protocols for Carbon & Banning of Oil & Mining in the Flathead Valley

Congratulations and thank you for the recent announcement in the Throne Speech "Mining, oil and gas development and coalbed gas extraction will not be permitted in British Columbia's Flathead Valley." We commend you for this initiative and recommend additional full protection for the Flathead, an extremely important natural area that should be fully protected for water, wildlife and recreational uses. This region contains British Columbia's most endangered river and an incredible biological richness, right next to Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park and World Heritage Site. Current and future generations *thank you!*

Including Forestry in BC Offset Protocols for carbon storage and sequestration: We welcome collaborations and upcoming meetings between ENGO's with Ministry of Forests and the Climate Action Secretariat to bring the restoration, improved management and conservation of BC's carbon storing forests, grasslands, wetlands and agricultural soils into the *Pacific Carbon Trust's approved Offset project list.*

As Dirk Brinkman, co-author of our May 2009 report *Credible Conservation Offsets for Natural Areas in British Columbia* states, "alternative policies and funding sources should also be explored that promote climate change mitigation through ecosystem conservation and forest management which recognize that a global sinks program is complementary to an emission reduction program. Sinks remove CO₂ from the atmosphere. Avoiding releases from sinks are the same as avoiding emissions. **SO whether it is ARR or REDD, or whether it is a hybrid of both across forest fragments making up the mosaic of Improved Forest Management, Forestry Offsets are climate positive.**"

The Land Trust Alliance of BC has more than 90 members, including 30 land trusts and another 23 associated stewardship and land management organizations throughout the province, who each have hundreds to thousands of members in their organizations across many BC communities.

We welcome and applaud these initiatives to protect BC's most endangered river and the inclusion of Forestry Protocols within a BC legislated Offset Program.

Sincerely,

Sheila Harrington, Executive Director
CC: cc: Honourable Minister Barry Penner
Minister of State for Climate – Honourable John Yap,
Deputy Minister - Doug Konkin
Kathy Chopik, Premier's Office, Policy

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