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To: Klappan Management Board

Re: Klappan Plan Implementation

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the implementation process for the Klappan Plan, as developed by the Tahltan Nation and the Province of BC for the Sacred Headwaters/Klappan region.

We support the implementation of the Klappan Plan as a step to achieving permanent protection of ecological values and recognition of Indigenous Title and Rights in the Klappan region.

Having read the submission made by the Klabona Keepers, we would like to offer our support for their comments.

The important issues for the Klappan Management Board to focus on, in the first year of implementation, are as outlined in more detail by the Klabona Keepers as well as the submission from Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition:

- Increasing the Sacred Headwaters Zone (to include Coal License Purchase Agreement area, Zone B, Zone C, and the Skeena river corridor with a 100 meter buffer on either side of the highwater mark)
- Recognizing Aboriginal Title and rights, and supporting Indigenous laws and traditions
- Holding Fortune Minerals accountable (addressing the issue of leaking sediment pods, and implementation of reclamation plans)
- BC Rail Grade remediated to restore ecosystem integrity

We would like to see the Klappan Plan implemented in order to move forward with long term conservation planning and recognition of Indigenous title and rights in the region. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Caitlyn Vernon,
Campaigns Director
Sierra Club BC