

October 28, 2022

Attention: Rick Manwaring, esteemed Deputy Minister of Forests

Attention: Kevin Jardine, esteemed Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change

**Re: Immediate Cancellation of BCTS Logging Block AM9HM,  
in B.C. Timber Sales' Avola Working Unit, Kamloops Region**

Our names are Nels Olson and Beth Patterson. Our property is located at 4137 Messiter Station Road, Avola, British Columbia. We are writing to inform you of our objection to the sale and logging of Avola Working Unit cutblock TS: TA0030 / AM9HM, and to the added construction of secondary road CLAM94M.01 within said block.

We have already experienced flooding, resulting from diverted water runoff from the newly constructed Roddy Forest Service Road (FSR) CLR8398.14, located above our house and property. Nothing has been done to mitigate this issue. The new branch road CLAM94M.01, which is planned to be put in for logging access on lower block AM9HM after proposed bidding, will add to and magnify these effects.



*Above:* looking north and downslope along the Roddy FSR southern construction section, the section that BCTS staff refused to visit on November 18, 2021.

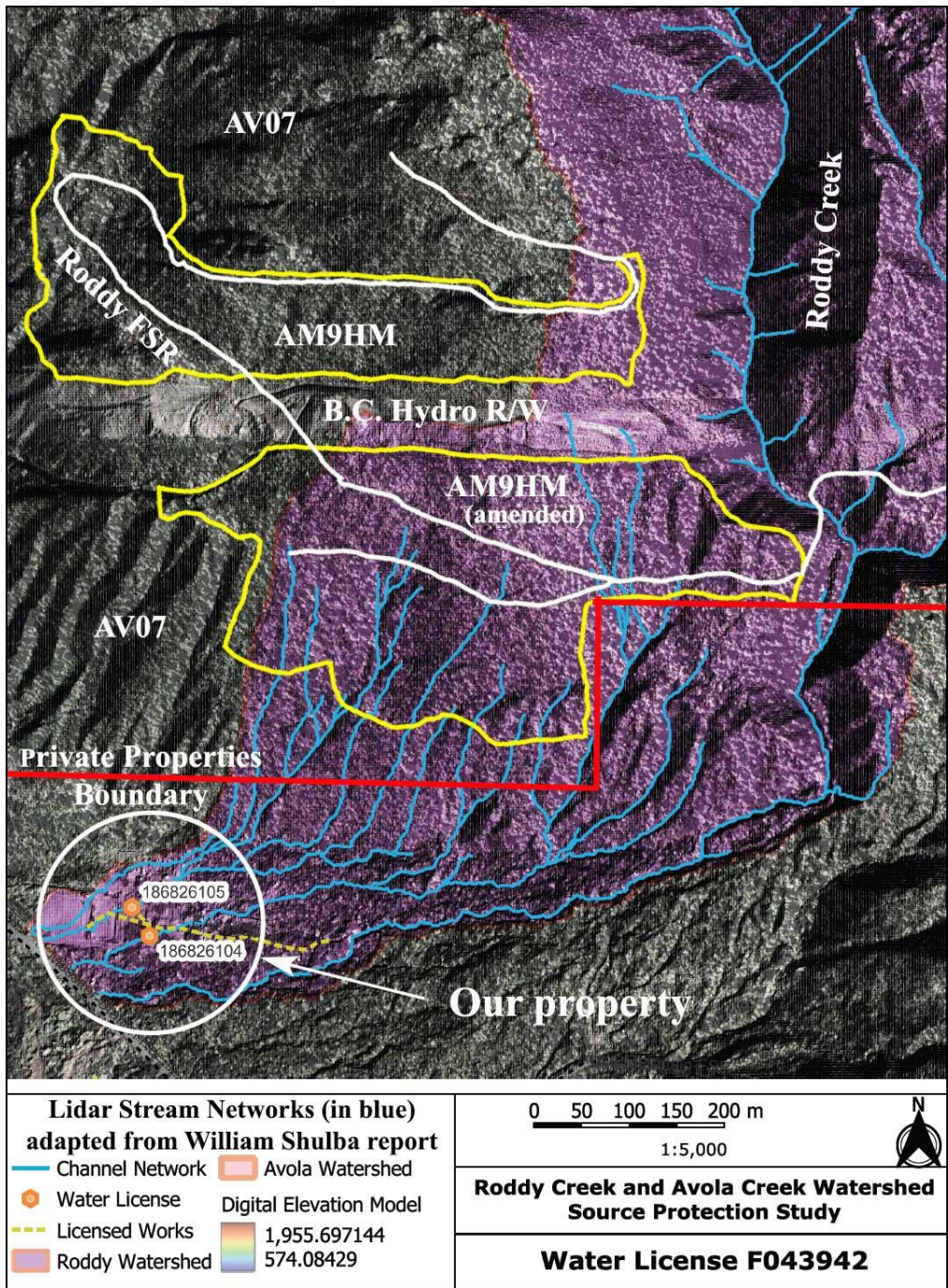
*Right:* looking down the road prism profile (located in above photo) into steep forest slope above property.



It is our sincere belief, and now constant fear since 2021, that the newly placed Roddy Creek FSR, the planned logging of AM9HM, the added road construction of this steep forest slope by B.C. Timber Sales (BCTS), and the consequential alteration of the complex water run-off regime above our property, will be a long-term hazard, threat and liability to our safety, our home, and our domestic and irrigation water supply (Water License F043942). Logging of the steep slope above our property will guarantee



catastrophic flooding of both it and our water system. Allowing logging this close to our property is a de facto eviction notice. With more and more extreme weather from climate change and deforestation removing the forest cover from the slopes exposes us to certain extreme danger.



As the above lidar stream image shows – data transferred from our July 2022 hydrology report (see attached report) – the logging will further interfere, interrupt and expose multiple surface streams and active springs on very steep slopes that drain directly onto our property, our house, and water system. Our July 2022 hydrologist report by William Shulba, *Roddy Creek and Avola Creek Watershed Source Protection: Direct Impacts from Forestry Practices on Licensed Water Sources*, recommends against the



continuation of “intensive forestry operations ... for the protection of the drinking water licenses” both in “the Avola and Roddy Creek watersheds.” We provided a copy of this report to the Forest Practices Board (FPB) in the summer of 2022, before the announced bidding process of October 1 to December 31, 2022.

On November 18, 2021, we had a site inspection tour with BCTS staff, BCTS contractors, and FPB staff of our property, the lower Roddy Creek channel, and the Roddy FSR. At the northern construction project section of the Roddy FSR, we discussed the two major Roddy Creek crossings. The BCTS hydrologist consultant and FPB investigator had numerous recommendations to help alleviate mounting problems with the creek crossings and associated problematic road prism areas. During this meeting, Nels brought up special concerns for discussion with BCTS staff related to the proposed logging of block AM9HM, repeatedly asking for a site inspection that day of the southern construction area of Roddy Road and the cut-block area. BCTS staff declined to do so on each occasion, making unsubstantiated assertions and comments that the lay out boundaries of the cut-block area would not affect our property, water supply, or the Roddy Creek watershed. BCTS staff assured us that BCTS’ hydrologist would investigate further and report back to us with the findings; none of this happened.



Andrew Mann, BCTS, November 18, 2021, Roddy FSR tour.



November 15, 2021  
photo of Roddy Creek  
crossing at Roddy FSR  
build out

Above: general location of meeting area and discussion with BCTS and Forest Practices Board staff on November 18, 2021. Nels requested BCTS staff to walk up over the hill (shown in the top right of photo above) where the southern construction section of the Roddy FSR was being built (photos below). Staff refused to walk this section.





*Left:* Roddy Creek flow (bottom) and logging of timber on steep slope for road right-of-way above Roddy Creek, November 15, 2021. Beyond this area is where BCTS refused to go on November 18, 2021. *Below:* photo of same area, September 3, 2022.



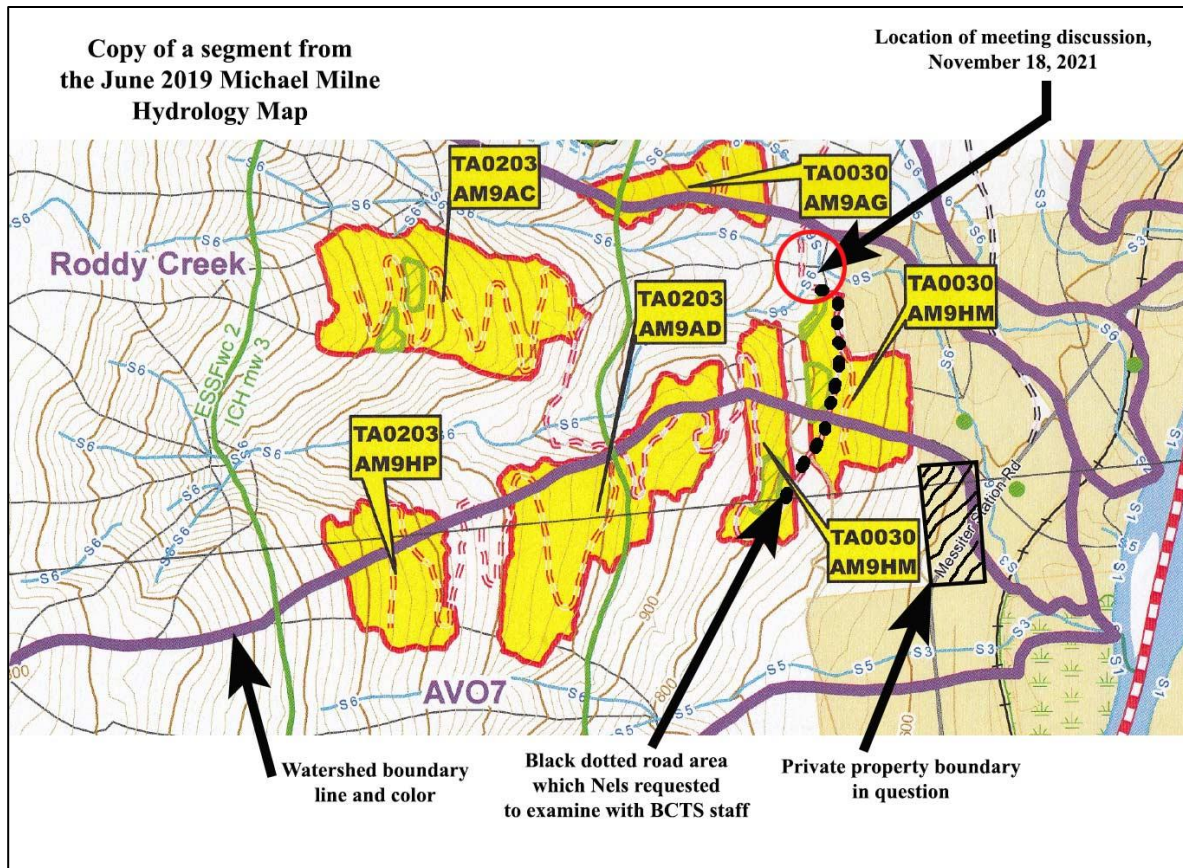
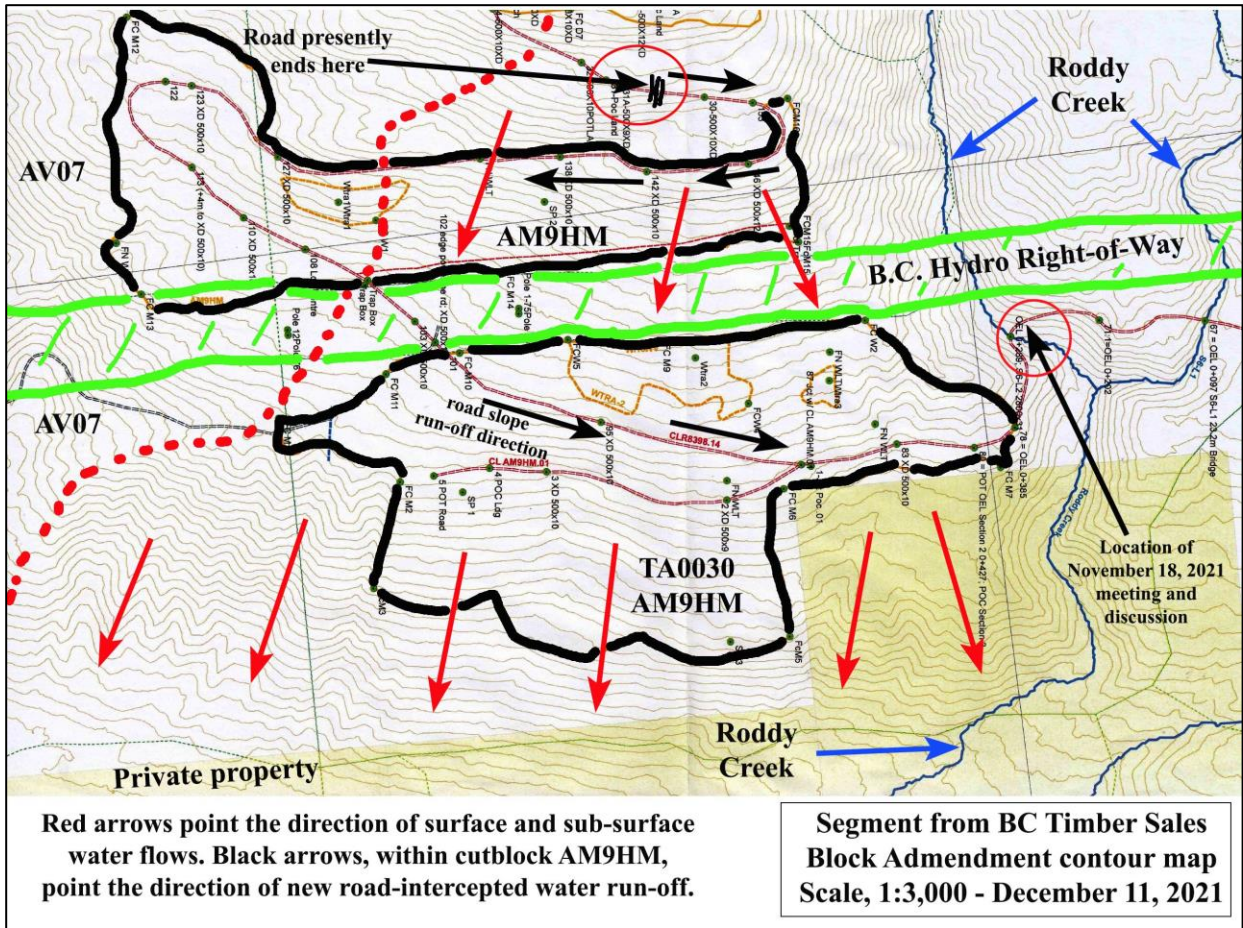
*Below, left:* same area, September 11, 2022, with new, deep-filled road, showing exposed, fragile clay-silt, vertical bank and very steep cut-slope, above Roddy Creek. *Below, right:* Same area, September 15, 2022, looking north, with Nels at bottom of vertical cut-slope, showing scale, and Roddy Creek behind Nels.



*Right:* unique cloak mitigation of now troublesome cut-slope above Roddy Creek, September 29, 2022. How much did this mitigation cost? How long will it be effective? How often will it leak, collapse under gravitational pressure, and pollute Roddy Creek?

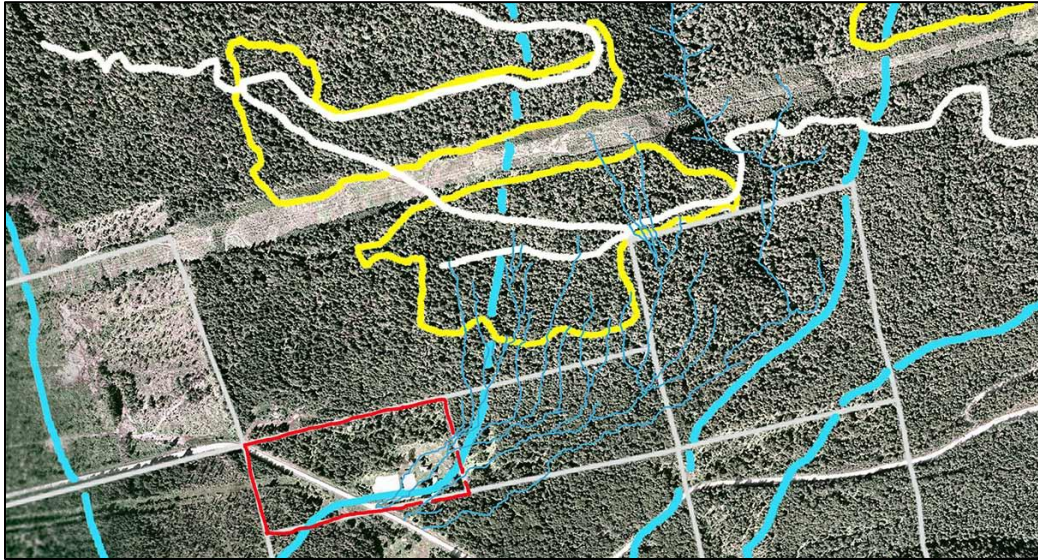




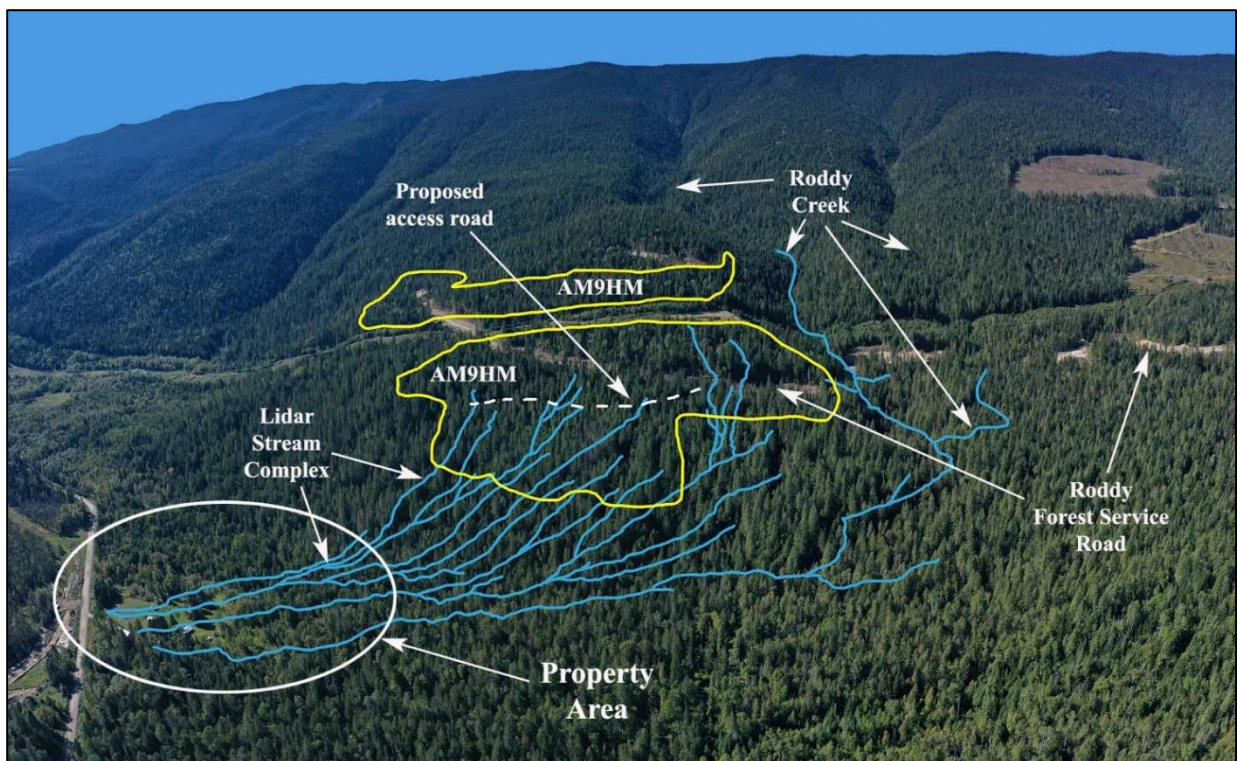




We remain dumbfounded as to why competent and caring professional foresters and engineers would even consider or authorize by professional seal such logging and road access plans directly upslope of, and adjacent to, our property and water source. **We therefore insist that BCTS take the honourable, right and sensible action to immediately rescind the cut-block and road proposals referred to above, and to immediately remove block AM9HM from BCTS's advertised bidding process within the Kamloops Region's Avola Working Unit.**



Above: recent Google Earth image with cut-block AM9HM boundaries (yellow lines), Roddy FSR route (thick white line), watershed boundaries (thick blue lines), lidar streams (thin blue lines), and our property (red boundary lines). The positioning of AM9HM boundaries taken from BCTS bidding application KMZ file information on government's website.



Above: aerial photo, September 2022, with approximate lidar stream data locations and cut-block boundaries.







showing all contributing factors, comprehensively covering all matters such as the build out, supervision, inspections, travelling times and costs, materials, hauling, and all related contracts of the Roddy FSR and planning of Timber Sale Licenses TA0030 and TA0203.



*Above, left:* standing forest in AM9HM, December 5, 2021.  
*Above, right:* blasted bedrock next to Roddy Creek, October 16, 2021.  
*Left:* northern construction section of Roddy FSR, August 22, 2021.



*Right:* partially blocked culvert on northern section of Roddy FSR, and erosion of downslope prism of Roddy FSR, September 6, 2021.





From the onset of our informational knowledge of this project, we have requested a review of cut-block AM9HM. As our repeated pleas have been ignored, we are reaching out to higher government authorities to step in and save our home and future security before it is too late!

The urgency of this situation demands BCTS to promptly comply with our stated requests.

Sincerely,



Beth Patterson and Nels Olson

(Sent, under separate cover, signed paper copies to each department)

(Attachment: report by William Shulba, *Roddy Creek and Avola Creek Watershed Source Protection: Direct Impacts from Forestry Practices on Licensed Water Sources*)

Cc:

- **BCTS Timber Sales Manager** "[Jason.Stafford@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jason.Stafford@gov.bc.ca)"
- **BCTS Operations Manager (acting)** "[David.Patton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:David.Patton@gov.bc.ca)"
- **BCTS Woodlands Manager** "[Rick.Takagi@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rick.Takagi@gov.bc.ca)"
- **Minister of Environment and Climate Change** "[ENV.MINISTER@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ENV.MINISTER@gov.bc.ca)"
- **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change: Environmental Protection Division Assistant Deputy Minister** "[Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca)"
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