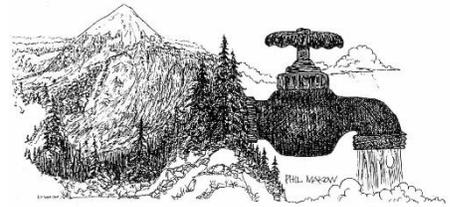


B. C. TAP WATER ALLIANCE

Caring for, Monitoring, and Protecting
British Columbia's Community Water Supply Sources

Email – info@bctwa.org

Website – www.bctwa.org



March 13, 2019

Attention: Ray Crampton, District Manager, Vernon Forest District

In our February 25, 2019 correspondence to you we forwarded concerns about the Peachland Community Watershed, requesting confirmation on whether government has, or has not, approved proposed logging cutblocks and road locations by two licensees, BC Timber Sales and Tolko Industries Ltd., before our, and the public's, review analysis of the Watershed Assessment report. We have received no written response to our stated concerns.

A recent discovery from aerial imagery confirms that government had approved logging and road access permits. At least three of Tolko's 32 proposed cutblocks (tabled in our February 25th correspondence) were harvested sometime between late 2018 to January 2019: K20, KP 1142 (114.5 hectares), K23, KP 1058 (14 hectares), and K20, KP 1123 (7.2 hectares).

The discovery, which is contrary to what you verbally stated to me on February 8th, and which you did not voluntarily identify, is undoubtedly the reason why government has failed to provide us with a written response. This revelation leads us to ask many questions relating to the recent Peachland Watershed Assessment review draft and final report processes ongoing since the Summer of 2017:

- When were these three (or other) completed cutblocks and road access permits approved?
- Why did government not inform the public of these harvesting and road access approvals?
- How many other road permits and cutblock permits did government approve?
- Why was the Watershed Assessment withheld from the public, and why was it necessary for the public to conduct a Freedom of Information request for this document?
- Why were the maps in Appendix A of the Watershed Assessment not provided when the Assessment report was provided to Freedom of Information from the Vernon District Office?
- Why did government approve Tolko's cutblock KP 1162 that is 114 hectares in area? And, right next to this cutblock, why did government approve adjoining, and exceedingly large, cutblock operations in the Wilson Lakes area by two licensees, Tolko and the Westbank Community Forest, totalling some 300 hectares in area, not including adjoining cutblock hectares in the Trepanier watershed (see stitched image below)?



- Why did government not provide a consolidated map of tenured licensee operations in the Peachland Community watershed to Peachland area citizens when they began repeatedly asking for one on the day of and since your meeting with Peachland District Council in June 2017?
- On what dates were the proposed cutblocks identified on the Watershed Assessment maps first surveyed and presented to government by Tolko for consideration, and on what dates did BC Timber Sales register and survey the six proposed cutblocks in the Greata sub-basin?

In addition, we have recently identified discrepancies and errors in the Peachland Watershed Assessment final report Appendix A maps produced by Forsite. These concerns, when verified, will alter and increase the ECA (Equivalent Clearcut Area) computations provided in tables and figures in the final report, which means yet another revision of the final report by the report author, and a revision of the pdf map documents by Forsite. Furthermore, seeing that the Assessment requires revision, the added cutblocks and road locations recently completed by Tolko should also be included to provide an up-to-date accounting. We anticipate informing you of our findings concerning our ongoing review of the 2018 Peachland Watershed Assessment.

We are deeply concerned and troubled not only by government's approval of Tolko's harvesting operations in late 2018 to early 2019 before the public's opportunity for a review analysis of Rob Scherer's November 2018 Watershed Assessment report for the Peachland Community Watershed, but also troubling are the delaying tactics undertaken by government and the licensees to withhold the report from public scrutiny. They indicate the failure of Professional Reliance and the failure of government in its fiduciary oversight of community watersheds.

We request that you provide written answers to the questions posed above and look forward to your earliest response.

Sincerely, Will Koop,
Coordinator.

Cc. Joe Klein, Peachland Watershed Protection Alliance
Taryn Skalbania, Peachland Watershed Protection Alliance
Peachland District Mayor and Council
Colin Johnston, Manager, BC Timber Sales, Vernon District Office
Gerry MacDougall, Kamloops Regional Executive
Dianne Nicholls, BC Chief Forester
BC Forest Practices Board