



INFORMATION BULLETIN

MARCH 25, 2008

UNINTENTIONAL HARVESTING OCCURS ADJACENT TO BEECH CREEK

In the Summer of 2005 an experienced and competent logging contractor working for TimberWest removed all of the streamside trees along an almost 200m portion of one side of Beech Creek located within CW500. TimberWest's logging plan for CW500 had identified the area as a buffer and the boundaries of the intended clearcut area had been marked in the field. The contractor mistakenly believed that he had been authorized to remove the trees within the buffer between the identified clearcut and the edge of Beech Creek. The removal resulted in insufficient trees being retained within a portion of CW500 to conform with the requirements of section 18 of the Private Managed Forest Land Council Regulation that was in effect when the event occurred.

TimberWest promptly cleaned up and planted the affected area. Additional trees were also retained on the opposite bank of Beech Creek. A specialist retained by the Council in 2007 concluded that fish habitat and water quality within CW500 were not significantly impacted during or since logging.

The Council determined that TimberWest exercised due diligence in respect of the events within Block CW500. Aspects of the due diligence included:

- establishing an environmental management system, including standard operating procedures;
- assessing the risk inherent in operating in the area;
- retaining a timber harvesting contractor who was experienced in working
 - with TimberWest and TimberWest's procedures,
 - in that geographical area and terrain, and
 - on private managed forest land;
- laying out and marking the areas to harvest, including the particular clearcut area, which provided a 30 m buffer between the identified area and Beech Creek;
- providing the contractor with a logging plan map for CW500 that identified the clearcut area and the associated buffer;
- responding to inquiries from the contractor and holding a pre-work conference to review the logging plan.

Under section 29 of the *Private Managed Forest Land Act*, as TimberWest has been found to have exercised due diligence, TimberWest cannot be found to have contravened the regulation.

Any inquiries in respect of this Bulletin may be made to the Executive Director at (250) 386-5737.