

BACKGROUND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Report Released for China Creek and Honna River Watersheds

The Private Managed Forest Land Council has released a report into forest management activities in both the China Creek and Honna River watersheds. The focus of the study was on forest practices on private managed forest land in relation to water quality. Council initiated the study in the spring of 2013 in response to forest management concerns it received from the Forest Practices Board (the Board).

Approximately 84% of the private managed forest land in the China Creek watershed and 14% in the Honna River watershed is owned and managed by Island Timberlands. The study reviewed all aspects of planning and operational standards in use with the ongoing development of these lands. Council also looked specifically at the areas of concern as expressed to it in the spring of 2013 by the Board.

The results of the report revealed some interesting facts;

- It found that Island Timberlands was performing above the coastal average in areas of terrain stability, blowdown and hydrological assessments, important components in the maintenance of water quality.
- It found Island Timberlands performance against its forest management certification standards to be in high compliance.
- The report revealed legacy issues associated with previous forest management activities as possibly the greatest concern to land owners in the management of non timber resources.
- The study identified minor isolated instances of sediment generation relating to road construction and maintenance, bridge maintenance, and riparian blowdown which could cumulatively impact water quality.
- And finally with respect to the areas of concern brought to Council attention by the Board; outside of legacy issues associated with past forest management activities, it was the development of non forest related industries (eg. independent power projects, abandoned mines) that could possibly have the greatest impact on water quality and fisheries resources in the watersheds that were studied.

A copy of the report for China Creek and Honna River watersheds may be found on the Private Managed Forest Land Council website at: <http://www.pmflc.ca>

The Private Managed Forest Land Council is an independent provincial agency established under the Private Managed Forest Land Act to administer the Managed Forest Program. The Council regulates key public environmental values on private managed forest land in British Columbia

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