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INFORMATION BULLETIN – MARCH 5, 2009

Private Managed Forest Land Council completes review of Island Timberlands' harvesting adjacent to Englishman River

The Private Managed Forest Land Council (Council) has completed its review of Island Timberlands' harvesting on an island within the Englishman River. The Council has considered the technical report of Mr. Shawn Hamilton, RP Bio, and the recommendations of Mr. Stuart Macpherson, RPF, the Council's Executive Director. The Council has concluded that Island Timberlands' timber harvesting on the island within Block 291312 (the Island) did not contravene the *Private Managed Forest Land Council Regulation 2007* (the regulation).

The Council initiated an inspection of the post-harvesting condition on the Island following receipt of complaints from concerned citizens. As part of the inspection process, Shawn Hamilton and Associates, consulting fisheries biologists, were retained to provide a technical assessment report of the post harvesting condition on the Island. In particular, the consultant was requested to comment on whether there has been, or is likely to be, any material harm to fish habitat or drinking water quality in the Englishman River downstream of the harvesting. The Executive Director prepared an inspection report for Council after having reviewed the technical assessment report, conducted interviews and inspected the post harvesting condition on the Island. The inspection report advises Council that there is no evidence to suggest that the harvesting on the Island resulted in a contravention of the regulation and recommends that the matter not proceed to an investigation.

Council is satisfied with the findings of the technical assessment report with respect to the post-harvesting condition on the Island. Trees in excess of what is required by the regulation were retained and there is no evidence to suggest that there will be a detrimental impact on downstream fish habitat or drinking water quality. Twenty one (21) trees were harvested and an estimated 6 danger trees were felled for safety reasons. The total number of trees harvested is estimated to less than 5% of the merchantable trees on the Island.

The Council accepts the Executive Director's inspection report finding that there is no evidence that there has been a contravention of the regulation. Accordingly, the Council accepts the Executive Director's recommendation that an investigation is not required.

The Council is an independent provincial agency established in 2004 under the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* to administer the Managed Forest Program and protect key public environmental values on private Managed Forest land in British Columbia. The mandate of the Council is to encourage forest management practices on private managed forest land, taking into account the social, environmental and economic benefits of those practices including regulating forest practices relating to soil conservation, reforestation, and the protection of water quality and fish habitat.

The Council's inspection report and technical assessment report are posted on the Council's website at <http://www.pmflc.ca>. For more information, contact Stuart Macpherson, Executive Director at (250) 386-5737, or execdirec@pmflc.ca.