



PO Box 31059
314-3980 Shelbourne Street
Victoria, BC V8N 6J3

INFORMATION BULLETIN – APRIL 4, 2008

Private Managed Forest Land Council Accepts Finding of Erosion Assessment Report in the Beaufort Range

The Private Managed Forest Land Council (Council) has accepted the findings in the Erosion Assessment Report recently completed by an independent technical expert. The Council has concluded that TimberWest Forest Corporation (TimberWest) did not contravene the *Private Managed Forest Land Council Regulation 2007* (the regulation) in respect of the flooding that occurred in November 2007 in Block T141 in the Beaufort Range area near Port Alberni.

During the week of November 12, 2007, a severe winter storm crossed central and southern Vancouver Island and battered the Port Alberni region. The storm resulted in flooding of the streams on Block T141 which TimberWest had logged in the Fall of 2005.

The Council initiated an inspection of the environmental condition of the road system and streams on Block T141 following receipt of a complaint from an adjacent landowner. Madrone Environmental Services was retained to inspect the effectiveness of the road deactivation and maintenance work completed by TimberWest and to provide an opinion on the probable cause of the flooding and sediment that flowed onto the neighbouring property. The technical expert retained by Council conducted a detailed site inspection of Block T141 on December 15, 2007.

The technical expert found that TimberWest's road deactivation work on the block that had been carried out to date on the road system within Block T141 had withstood the storm well and had been effective in handling the run-off. This was evident as there had been no washouts of crossing points and sediment production into the main stream was relatively minor. The expert attributes the bulk of sediment production below the TimberWest property to have been the result of the destabilized stream channel downstream of the Log Train Trail crossing and the extreme storm event. The expert concluded that TimberWest's activities were not a significant contributor to the amount of sediment deposited downstream as a result of the storm.

Council is satisfied with the findings of the technical expert as set out in the Erosion Assessment Report. There does not appear to have been a contravention of the regulation in respect of the flooding that occurred in November 2007 in Block T141. Council notes that under the regulation TimberWest remains responsible for maintaining any non-deactivated roads located within Block T141.

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 investigation reports, summary reports, and block assessment reports 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.