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INFORMATION BULLETIN

Private Managed Forest Land Council Fines TimberWest \$30,000

The Private Managed Forest Land Council has determined that TimberWest Forest Corp. contravened the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* (the Act) on Block T141 in the Beaufort Range area near Port Alberni. The Council determined that four of the 26 culverts inspected had not been installed in a manner that would prevent excavated soil from entering directly into a stream, or that would minimize soil erosion. The Council has levied an administrative penalty of \$7,500 per culvert, for a total penalty of \$30,000. In addition, the Council has issued a remediation order requiring TimberWest to provide a report prepared by a qualified professional confirming that all necessary measures have been taken to minimize the potential for future soil erosion from their roads in the block, and to monitor the drainage structures during periods of high stream flow. TimberWest has already implemented remedial measures on the four culverts that were the subject of the contravention.

This determination is the result of an investigation undertaken in response to a complaint made on January 5, 2006 by a landowner whose property is downstream of the cutblock.

While four culverts were found to be inadequately installed, the contribution of sediment from forest practices within the block was found to be insignificant in comparison to the natural sediment levels caused by the high flows that resulted from the heavy rains in the latter part of 2005 and early 2006. Fish and fish habitat were not significantly affected.

The streams that were the subject of the investigation are tributaries to Beaver Creek and the Stamp River, which supplies water to the Beaver Creek Improvement District. The forest harvesting activities on Block T141 had little effect on the water quality problems experienced by the community following the rain-on-snow event of January 4 and 5, 2006.

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