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For immediate release: November 30, 2015

Review Concludes Private Forest Activities Not Related to Boil Water Advisory in Comox Lake Watershed

Victoria, B.C. – British Columbia’s Managed Forest Council today released a report into its review of soil conservation related to forest management activities on private forest lands within the Comox Lake watershed. The impetus for the review came from a Council commitment to examine forest management activities and compliance reporting in light of a boil water advisory issued last year by the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD).

The review assessed whether forest management activities caused the deposit of significant amounts of sediment into streams that then could have contributed to water turbidity that resulted in the CVRD issuing a boil water advisory on Dec 11, 2014. The review also examined whether there were any erosion-causing events that landowners were required to report to Council.

“Section 26 of Council Regulation is clear,” said Rod Davis, Chair of the Council. “Owners are legally required to notify Council within 24 hours of becoming aware that a landslide or debris flow has deposited material into a stream. Such notifications alert Council to potential impacts on water quality and can trigger investigations into forest management activities. Failing to protect drinking water or to provide notification of slide events can result in significant fines for owners.”

The review, which included an extended overview flight of the watershed, a review of various water related studies for the watershed, and interviews with owners and stakeholders, concluded there is no evidence of significant erosion or mass wasting events directly related to forest management activities in the watershed that would have contributed to the extended boil water advisory issued by the CVRD on Dec 11, 2014. As a result, there was no requirement for owners of managed forest land in the watershed to report on landslides or debris flows in accordance with Council regulations.

The full text of Council Review of Soil Conservation Events related to Forest Management Activities with the Comox Lake Watershed can be found on our website at: www.mfcouncil.ca

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