

Harvesting in Watersheds: Presentation Overview

Overview

Harvesting within consumptive Watersheds is an emotional issue for those that have the perception they will be negatively impacted. Though people's emotional connections to the watershed are important it is imperative that policy decisions made are based on past and present practice and the best known science available.

Conducting forestry operations in a watershed, and clean drinking water from a watershed are not mutually exclusive. The ILMA companies and other Forest companies can operate responsibly in a watershed and have been doing so successfully for countless decades. Past practice is evidence that responsible forestry can (and does) happen in watersheds. There are ILMA members that have over 85% of their operating area inside consumptive Watersheds. They work extensively preparing plans so that harvesting can take place while maintaining the quality and quantity of water that existed before operating in the watershed.

It is often said, "look they have overcut everywhere else and now they have to come here" The facts are, that almost all crown watersheds are part of the Timber Harvesting Landbase (THLB) and have been used to calculate the Allowable Annual Cuts (AAC) in this province. The THLB is made up of a variety of age classes and of those only the mature ones are harvested. As some of these watershed reach the age of maturity harvest planning begins.

Local politicians and members of the RDCK continuously tell us that they support the ILMA companies, the work we do, and the impact that we bring to the region. The challenge starts now. Support is easy when there is no opposition. We need support for responsible forestry in community and domestic watersheds.

There are ways we can work together to help educate each other on the issues we each face.

1. We need your assistance in getting the DM the authority to further restrict access on some roads where there are consumptive water intakes. The current legislation is very explicit on when access can be restricted. This needs to be broadened.
2. Many of the major watersheds have a history of disturbance attributed to almost century old logging and mining practices. Some of this disturbance has been detrimental to the natural evolution of the drainage patterns within the watershed. Access to funding to help mitigate these historic disturbances could help stabilize the affected watersheds.
3. Educating the public of the history of harvesting in watersheds, what the planning process involves and how the competing interests are managed for.
4. A portion of Stumpage revenue going into a mitigation fund managed by the Regional Districts to help with the above three points.

Below is a brief outline of the presentation we have prepared for you. The concerns we see, a history of harvesting, current practice, timber supply and working together to maintain an industry that supports the communities that you represent.

Concerns with Development

Public Concerns

Water Quality & Quantity
Landslides
Loss of Habitat & Biodiversity
Loss of Old Growth
Public Access

Licensee Concerns

Public Education & Research
Stumpage Revenue staying with the Community from which it originates
Timber Supply
Historic Roads & Unauthorized Recreation Trails

Historical Harvesting Activities

Cause

No Hydrological Assessments of Equivalent Clearcut Area Analysis

No Drainage Planning

No Buffering on Streams or Machine Free Zones

No Monitoring or Limiting Access

Effect

Increased Peak Streamflow
Landslides

Increased Sedimentation
Drainage Diversions
Landslides

Disturbed Stream Channels
Increased Sedimentation

Public Dumping
Unsanctioned Recreational Trails
Drainage Diversions

Current Forest Management

Forest Range and Practices Act:
11 Core Values



Forest Stewardship Plan



Planning of Harvesting Activities

Timber Supply- Kootenay Lake

Timber Supply Reduction

1992: 296,890 Ha
2002: 257,850 Ha
2008: 219,324Ha
2010: 208,540 Ha

Primary Causes

Park expansions
Caribou Habitat
Visual Quality Objectives

Working Together

Access

Education & Research

Watershed Management
Planning

Stumpage Revenue