

December 19, 2011

OPEN LETTER TO TIMBERWEST FOREST CORP.

RE: PETITION - Please don't carry TimberWest wood products until they can certify they are not suppliers of "hot" wood from DL33, a rare endangered forest in Nanoose Bay, British Columbia

Attention: Ms. B.E.F. Park, Interim Chief Executive Officer & Interim President
Ms. S. Handel, Communications Coordinator

Dear Ms. Handel,

Your November 29, 2011 email suggesting that logging DL33 meets SFI's sustainability requirements, is deceptive in the extreme. The Forest Practices Board report you refer to (FPB/IRC/173 dated January 2011) states on page 2:

"In a June 2010 report, *Conservation of Imperiled Coastal Douglas-fir Ecosystem*, the Board found that harvesting mature and older forest in the CDF, such as that found in good condition on DL33, is not consistent with a vision of overall ecosystem integrity."

and just so it's clear to you, again on page 5:

"The primary plant association for the CDF (Douglas-fir/dull Oregon grape) is **red-listed**, classified by the BC Conservation Data Centre as **globally imperiled**, and designated a **species at risk under FRPA**. There are two additional plant associations present on DL33 that are **globally critically imperiled**, also classified as **red-listed**, but have no designation under FRPA. **Most of the area to be harvested on DL33 is comprised of these three plant communities.**" (Emphasis mine)

and to put your sophistry in context, the whole quote leading up to your statement that the Forest Practices Board investigation concluded "that the Nanoose First Nation meet or exceed all legislative requirements in their harvest planning" is, on page 13:

"Thus, this investigation deals with cutblock planning for stand-level protection of biological resources and groundwater in a cutblock that, by modifying a forest stand that is currently in good ecological condition, **will further compromise the already tenuous overall condition of the ecosystem. In the circumstances**, the licensee's cutblock planning meets and, in some instances, exceeds FRPA requirements." (emphasis mine)

In other words, NO HARVESTING SHOULD OCCUR IN DL33, but the conventional logging the Licensee states it will carry out will meet the legal requirements. Everyone in the industry is well aware that under FRPA "self-regulation" is really "deregulation", and the legal requirements mean very little.

And you should also know another operative word is "planning", as in "the licensee's cutblock planning". According to the Forest Practices Board report the Licensee claims this included wonderful things such as largely interconnected retained areas, leaving ALL old-growth trees, 10% in wildlife tree retention, and overall reserves totaling about 19%, among other "mitigating" measures.

On December 18th we measured a stump with a 54" diameter and there were many in this size range on the ground in DL33. Somehow I don't think anyone would call this "second growth". It is old growth.

Last week Calvin Ross, Acting District Manager of SIFD, advised Annette Tanner of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee that in order to get their volume of 15,000M3, the Licensee will be clearcutting within the cutblocks. That is to say, all the "planning" is just that and clear-cutting is proceeding. I don't think anyone can call this "meeting or exceeding FRPA requirements", in fact I understood there was to be no more clear-cutting in B.C.'s forests.

Also, we wonder where the additional 2,000M3 (approximately 65 logging truckloads) which Snaw-Naw-As Forest Services Ltd. contracted to provide TimberWest from DL33, is coming from? We note from your Offer to Purchase document that expected volume will be approximately 17,000M3, not the 15,000M3 provided under the Licence.

The more than 500 signatures of concerned citizens on the referenced petition (attached in pdf format and online at <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/don-t-buy-bc-s-timberwest-hot-endangered-cdf-wood-produ/signatures.html>) suggest that morally and ethically you are on the very low road. Perhaps you might like to read the comments, which begin on page 13 of the 29 page petition, and then rethink your apparent belief that you are buying sustainably harvested timber.

We await your response.

Sincerely,

Kathy McMaster, Barb Murray (bearsmatter@gmail.com), Phil Carson (phil@screenweavers.com)
on behalf of Friends of DL33 and the remaining CDF remnant mature and older forests

www.nanoosebayforest.com