

Oceanside Star | Thursday, December 16, 2010

Logging permit said pending



BC Forest Services has indicated that a cutting permit for the Nanoose Bay Forest DL33 could be approved within the week, Annette Tanner, mid-Island spokesperson for the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, said in a news release Monday.

"Not only is this approval possible just before Christmas," Tanner said, "but the approval could most likely be granted before the completion of a Forest Practice Board's investigation into three complaints launched by the public that address the sustainability issues for that Crown Land Coastal Douglas-fir forest, which is close to extinction because of the many red- and blue-listed species that it contains."

Support to preserve the forest has come from not only the Regional District of Nanaimo but also all the regional districts and municipalities on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast, she said.

"The survival of the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone and the ecosystem services which it provides towards the livability of Vancouver Island's east coast," Tanner said, "has been compromised by the lack of Crown land and public control and inter-

est possible on the corporate-owned E&N lands that dominate a fifth of Vancouver Island and almost all of the Coastal Douglas-fir forests.

"We need to determine nature's financial benefits to the community that this ecosystem provides. Services such as carbon sink offsets, flood control in the winter, water quality and quantity provisions during low-flow summer months, mushroom and salal picking, all have an irreplaceable value."

A financial assessment must first be completed, Tanner said. "Making a profit logging Crown land at present is extremely challenging, considering the current U.S. housing market, and resulting low lumber values. I have been told that the costs of similar logging operations have often exceeded expected revenues."