

October 13, 2015

Re: Proposed Logging in the Glade Watershed by Kalesnikoff and ATCO FSP #579

Castlegar, West Kootenay, BC

It was with great concern that I realized that our forests and watershed were going to be logged. I can't fathom why logging would even be considered in a watershed. Prior to 1975, and traditionally for over 100 years 'the protection of intact forested drinking water sources was a well-established legislative tradition.' (*Watershed Sentinel*). After 1975 this changed for the worse, and watersheds became fair game.

But by 1994 there were government initiatives to 'accelerate the restoration of logging impacted watersheds': Because, after logging, they *needed* to be restored due to the damage done. There are companies out there who specialize in this restoration: "slope stabilization, erosion control and riparian habitat restoration". Which is sort of ironic, as some of these same companies likely tell the logging companies that it is okay to go ahead and log: 'we'll fix it later'.

But what if it can't be fixed later? What if the damage to our community water source is so egregious that the Glade water supply to the community is depleted, or destroyed? What then? It was stated at the public meeting (September 2015) by Tyler Hodgkinson (Forest Manager Kalesnikoff) that Kalesnikoff (and ATCO, I presume) would assume responsibility. But you can't put the trees back, and you can't undo the roads. The trees are the primary cleansers and keepers of our water eco system. Whatever steps are taken by the logging companies, the hydrologists, and the specialists to mitigate the damage, an entire ecosystem cannot be expected to retain its original primary value if it is destroyed by logging.

And, of course, nature and the environment have a hand here too- quite possibly, despite the companies 'best practices', maybe one man-made gully will break it's banks during a heavy rainstorm and wash half a mountain side into our water source. Weather changes of extremely dry weather are making trees much less stable, as evidenced in this area as of last year, and higher than normal sudden rainfalls (also as evidenced in this area last year) can wash away roads and ditches and hillsides. Hopefully my concerns won't be considered 'fear- mongering'.

At the public meeting everyone at the top table seemed to ‘know exactly how the residents of Glade feel’ -- well, I don’t really believe that: because if that was the case, there wouldn’t be logging planned for our watershed. Both Kalesnikoff and ATCO representatives went to great lengths to reassure us in regards to the qualifications of their experts: working to try and ascertain the best way to mitigate the damage that will be caused by the logging, but even that is suspect. While credentials may be completely valid and all are certified by a professional body, and all went to great lengths to say that they were their own persons and would not be influenced by their employer’s goals, it was also stated that logging companies don’t even listen to their own experts sometimes.

In regards to the proposed logging, our concerns are as follows:

1. That proposed logging will cause the destruction and/or contamination of our only community water source, and the water sources of other Glade residents on creeks
 - a. If our water source is damaged or contaminated, there will be health repercussions, huge monetary repercussions, damage to our lifestyles and businesses in Glade
2. That proposed logging will result in destruction of fish habitat
3. That proposed logging will cause the destruction of an eco system that currently supports all measure of creatures and birds including bob cat, cougar, deer, owls, coyotes, birds, salamanders, fish, insects, plant life
4. That proposed logging will cause the destruction of the sign posted hiking trails through the woods
5. That the proposed logging will cause direct damage and /or stress to the ferry and our roads from the consistent movement of heavy machinery and loaded logging trucks
6. That the proposed logging roads will open the forests up to more motorized sports that cause their own brand of damage

We do not want Kalesnikoff and ATCO logging in our watershed and the forests above Glade.