

Susan Dixon, President
Allison/Borgeson Lake Ratepayers Association
c/o 1120 Burgess Way
Kamloops BC
V1S 1S9

Attn: Mr. Charles Van Hemmen

October 3, 2012

Dear Sir:

RE: Proposed TOLKO and BC Timber Sale Logging in Anderson Creek and Hackett Creek watersheds.

I am writing to express my concern with the statements you made during the phone conversation we had re the clear cut logging that is soon to take place around Stringer Lake.

I understand that you have been in communication with the Ministers Office, Tolko, etc. and have heard that our association has been trying to influence the decision to log in our watershed.

During our phone conversation I also heard loud and clear that you felt that Tolko and BC Timber Sales had adequately and scientifically addressed any issues around the logging of that area and that as professionals they had a right by law to log in the way they see fit.

I also understand that you have read Michael Milne's hydrology report and feel that based on his recommendation that the proposed logging will not affect our water source.

Our Association does not believe that our concerns have been adequately addressed. I feel that you were dismissive and condescending in regards to our concerns. It was obvious that you had made up your mind based on the discussions and reports you had read from Tolko and the hydrologist. Given the tenor of our discussion and the point you made during our conversation that what we were really concerned about was whether it would be seen from the lake I knew you were not prepared to make any concessions around our concerns. As citizens who have a concern for our water and our valley and who have properties in the area, we have a right to care and have input about what companies are doing on the crown land around us.

On November 9, 1995 my father and his partner, Mr. Tom Stout and Mr. Les McKenzie, attended a meeting of the Merritt Forest District Lakes Local Resource Use Plan Committee. Please find the minutes and summary of the status of the lake as designated by this committee attached. Please note that Allison Lake was denoted to be class A, designated with a management goal of preservation. It was determined then that the visual landscape extends beyond the lake management zone (LMZ). This committee with approximately 22 members (nine of which were government representatives including Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Environment, and Regional District representatives) agreed that the lake should be designated for preservation for recreation/ fishery / water.

Our association expects that your ministry is familiar with this goal and will make decisions around

logging in the area that result in the preservation of this lake. As the Allison Creek watershed is the headwaters of Allison Creek and the main supplier of water to Allison Lake, science indicates that proper care of the watershed is crucial for preservation of the lake. Proper care of watersheds does not include building roads and clear cut logging and there is ample scientific evidence to show this.

In reading Michael Milne's report I see that he does indicate our concern with the whole Allison Creek watershed. Given that there is logging all around these headwaters and given that our lake- the reservoir for the one hundred some odd lots in the valley- was down 21 feet in a dry year (lower by far than anything seen over the past 70 years), we are justified in being concerned especially when we are currently in a dry period again that has lasted 60 days. We are right to be worried about the future of our water source. Mr. Milne's report speaks to the effect of only this one logging area and as manager you know that there is logging going on all around the watershed of Allison Creek.

As well, Michael speaks to the narrow buffer on the lake and how it should be enlarged due to blow down mainly because this is a recreational lake (and has been for over 60 years). Our association would like to see the footprint of the logging pulled back from the lakeshore to the recommended distance of 200 metres so that the recreational value of this lake is preserved and so that the snowpack does not melt prematurely. Just because the main water source of the subdivision is from the water reservoir of the lake does not mean that our identified watershed is not important. At least we have one area that is identified as being worth treating carefully while our citizens group works with the regional district and elected representatives to treat all of it in such a way to ensure there is water for our citizens as well as for the preservation of the lake for recreation and fishery.

We also as mentioned are still concerned with logging roads, etc. being built in an area above the old road that Michael identifies as having a landslide risk. Does your science tell you that there **will not** be faster runoff that will contribute to a possible landslide that will definitely impact the subdivision below? **Can we get that assurance in writing?**

Yours very truly

Susan Dixon
President
Allison/Borgeson Lake Ratepayers Association
cc. Steve Thomson, Harry Lalli, Brad Hope