

COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

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July 19, 2022

Sent by email: grace.chomitz@gov.bc.ca

Grace Chomitz, Planning Forester, BC Timber Sales
Okanagan Columbia Timber Sales Office
2501-14 Avenue
Vernon, BC V1T 8Z1

Dear Ms. Chomitz:

Re: Sicamous and Wiseman Creek Community Watershed Harvesting

Thank you for your letter to the CSRD Board of Directors dated May 31, 2022. In the letter BCTS stated that it was committed to implementing the recommendations of the Terrain Stability Report, by M.J. Milne and Associates Ltd. and Azimuth Forestry and Mapping Solutions Ltd.

The CSRD Board of Directors may be supportive of remediation efforts engineered to make the Wiseman and Sicamous Creek watersheds more resilient; however, doing so while harvesting timber has been determined to be detrimental. BGC Engineering Inc, the engineers hired to conduct a post wildfire assessment of the area through EMBC funding, have determined that harvesting the salvage timber in the Wiseman Creek watershed will increase the risk of post wildfire landslides to the community below.

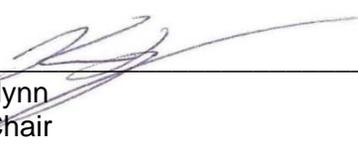
During the BCTS presentation to the Board of Directors at the April 21, 2022, Regular Board meeting, BCTS emphasized that remediating the legacy roads, trails, and diversions is critical to improving the resiliency of the watershed. These legacy works were completed during past harvesting and are the responsibility of BCTS to remedy. Although harvesting while conducting the remediation is more cost effective, in this case the engineers hired through EMBC funding have determined that this option would significantly increase the public safety risk. The Board is responsible for considering the safety of its residents first and foremost, and it is for this reason that the Board is disappointed in the decision by BCTS to continue with the remediation through harvesting rather than remediating the current situation without harvesting the salvage timber.

The CSRD Board of Directors implores BCTS to re-evaluate all technical reports conducted pertaining to terrain stability in the Sicamous and Wiseman Creek Watershed and reconsider completing the legacy remediation work without harvesting the salvage timber.

Yours truly,

COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

Per:


Kevin Flynn
Board Chair

KF/cr

cc: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests – sent by email: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

ELECTORAL AREAS

A GOLDEN-COLUMBIA
B REVELSTOKE-COLUMBIA

C SOUTH SHUSWAP
D FALKLAND-SALMON VALLEY

E SICAMOUS-MALAKWA
F NORTH SHUSWAP-SEYMOUR ARM

MUNICIPALITIES

GOLDEN
REVELSTOKE

SALMON ARM
SICAMOUS