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INFORMATION BULLETIN – NOVEMBER 19, 2007

Private Managed Forest Land Council Finds No Contraventions Relating to Logging at Kweishun Creek, Cruickshank River Watershed.

The Private Managed Forest Land Council has determined that TimberWest Forest Corporation did not contravene the Private Managed Forest Land Council Regulation relating to the harvesting of Block CK106 at Kweishun Creek, approximately 25 kilometres southwest of Courtenay on Vancouver Island.

The Council retained Shawn Hamilton and Associates, consulting fisheries biologist, to inspect the area in response to a complaint from the United Steelworkers. The complaint expressed concerns that the felling of trees into a small lake may have resulted in possible siltation of the lake and creek affecting aquatic species, and fish habitat. The United Steelworkers subsequently sent a letter one month later to Council stating that they now understand that the body of water referred to as a lake is actually an area that had flooded temporarily due to a natural obstruction in a stream. The Council acknowledges this letter as a withdrawal of the United Steelworkers complaint.

The site inspection revealed that the “lake” is actually a seasonally flooded meadow in a section of Kweishun Creek. A natural rock barrier downstream of this meadow causes Kweishun Creek to flood occasionally due to this natural obstruction of the creek. There is no evidence of impacts to downstream fish habitat or drinking water quality resulting from the harvesting of Block CK106. There was no harvest within five metres of Kweishun Creek and there was no evidence of soil erosion or damage to the seasonally flooded meadow.

The Council is an independent provincial agency established in 2004 under the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* to administer the Managed Forest Program and protect key public environmental values on private Managed Forest land in British Columbia. The mandate of the Council is to encourage forest management practices on private managed forest land, taking into account the social, environmental and economic benefits of those practices including regulating forest practices relating to soil conservation, reforestation, and the protection of water quality and fish habitat.

The Council's block assessment report is posted on the Private Managed Forest Land Council website at <http://www.pmflc.ca>. For more information, contact Stuart Macpherson, Executive Director at (250) 386-5737, or execdirec@pmflc.ca.